

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Head of Housing and Waste Management</b>
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<b>Portfolio Leader:</b>	<b>Environment</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Report Track:</b>	<b>Cabinet: 17/04/14</b>

**CABINET**  
**17 APRIL 2014**  
**WINTER GRITTING PROGRAMME**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To consider the continued gritting of “neighbourhood” car parks as part of the winter gritting programme for 2014-15 and future years.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Council’s six “neighbourhood” car parks continue to be gritted during the winters of 2014-15 and future years.
- 2.2 That the revised Winter Gritting Programme detailed in Appendix 1 is agreed.

**3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 The six “neighbourhood car parks” in Chadsmoor, Heath Hayes and Norton Canes were included in the Council’s 2013-14 Winter Gritting Programme, funded from existing resources within the Environment Portfolio.
- 3.2 Funding was for 2013-14 only and consideration needs to be given to whether these car parks should continue to be gritted as part of the programmes for 2014-15 and future years.
- 3.3 The costs of gritting these additional car parks are considered to be “marginal”, as the fixed costs (in relation to vehicle hire and standby allowances) are already covered within the agreed budget for the town centre car park and bus station programme. The additional cost is estimated to be £35.00 for each “gritting occasion”.
- 3.4 It is considered that subject to “average” winter conditions this additional marginal cost can be accommodated within the agreed budget. However, additional funding would be required if severe weather conditions occur

frequently during the winters of 2014-15 or future years. This however can be addressed for the medium term by carrying forward the under spend arising from the mild winter in 2013-14 and any future mild winter.

- 3.5 It is therefore proposed that the six “neighbourhood” car parks should continue to be gritted during the winters of 2014-15 and future years and a revised Winter Gritting Programme is attached as Appendix 1.

#### **4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 An evaluation of the 2013-14 Winter Gritting Programme is a specific action within the Environment Portfolio section of the agreed 2014-15 “Place” Priority Delivery Plan.

#### **5 Report Detail**

- 5.1 Following consideration of the results of the 2012-13 pilot scheme, Cabinet on 25 July 2013 agreed to continue winter gritting of Council owned town centre car parks and bus stations during the winters of 2013-14 and future years. The Corporate Director subsequently agreed that the six “neighbourhood” car parks in Chadsmoor, Heath Hayes and Norton Canes would also be gritted during the winter of 2013-14 only, financed from existing resources within the Environment Portfolio.
- 5.2 A schedule of the car parks and bus stations included in the 2013-14 winter gritting programme is attached as Appendix 1.
- 5.3 The 2013-14 Programme operated for the period 1 November 2013 to 31 March 2014. During this time daily reports were received from Staffordshire County Council detailing any actions they were taking as the Highway Authority, following receipt of weather forecasts. On the basis of this information and local weather reports, a decision was made daily whether or not to grit.
- 5.4 Gritting was undertaken on 37 separate occasions following frost forecasts but as a result of the “mild winter” no snow clearance activity was required. In comparison, gritting was undertaken on 92 separate occasions during 2012-13 and was combined with snow clearance on 32 occasions.
- 5.5 Complaints were limited to one occasion when the Civic Centre car park was not gritted due to problems with the “barrier card”.
- 5.6 The total cost of the 2013-14 programme is estimated to be £16,000 which includes £1,600 for gritting the six “neighbourhood car parks”. The agreed 2013-14 winter gritting budget was £27,500 and hence, budget savings of £13,100 are estimated. In comparison £26,000 was spent in 2012-13.
- 5.7 Cabinet need to determine whether the six neighbourhood car parks should continue to form part of the Winter Gritting Programmes for 2014-15 and future years. The costs of continuing to grit these car parks is considered to be “marginal” and relate to a small amount of extra employee time together with

additional fuel and grit. This is estimated to be £35.00 for each “gritting occasion”, as the element of “fixed costs” in relation to vehicle hire and standby allowances are already covered within the agreed budget for the town centre car park and bus station programme.

- 5.8 It is considered that subject to “average” winter conditions this additional marginal cost can be accommodated within the agreed budget. However, additional funding would be required if severe weather conditions occur frequently during the winters of 2014-15 or future years. This however can be addressed for the medium term by carrying forward the under spend arising from the mild winter in 2013-14 and any future mild winter.

<b>6 Implications</b>
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**6.1 Financial**

There is an ongoing amount of £27,500 in the budget for winter gritting. The carry over of the under spend in 2013-14 (and subsequent years) will enable non average or severe weather conditions winter gritting requirements to be accommodated within the overall winter gritting budget.

**6.2 Legal**

The Council as landowner owes users of its car parks a duty to take reasonable care to ensure that they are reasonably safe (Occupiers’ Liability Act 1957 and Occupiers’ Liability act 1984).

**6.3 Human Resources**

None

**6.4 Section 17 (Crime Prevention)**

None

**6.5 Human Rights Act**

None

**6.6 Data Protection**

None

**6.7 Risk Management**

In gritting and/or clearing of snow from Council owned car parks there may be a risk of increasing the Council’s liability for injury in that we would “create” the hazard ourselves (e.g. icy surfaces on areas previously cleared of snow). This may also affect the Council’s ability to defend claims that may arise from injuries caused by slipping on snow and ice.

**6.8 Equality & Diversity**

The winter gritting of the Council's owned town centre car park and bus station has been subject to a previous Equality Impact Assessment. The outcome was that the programme had a positive impact for certain of the protected characteristics with no identified negative implications.

**6.9 Best Value**

None

**7 Appendices to the Report**

Appendix 1: Winter Gritting Programme

<b>Previous Consideration</b>		
Gritting Trial on Council Town Centre Car Parks	Cabinet	20 September 2012
Gritting of Council Town Centre Car Parks	Cabinet	25 July 2013

**Background Papers**  
None

**WINTER GRITTING OF COUNCIL OWNED CAR PARKS AND BUS STATIONS**

<b>Location</b>
<b><u>Cannock</u></b>
Avon Road
Beecroft Road
Backcrofts
Danilo Road
Civic Centre **
Girton Road (railway station)
Cannock Bus Station
<b><u>Hednesford</u></b>
Anglesey Street (rear of Co-op)
Anglesey Street (railway station)
Victoria Street jct Rugeley Road
<b><u>Rugeley</u></b>
Taylors Lane
Market Street
Forge Road (both)
St. Pauls Road
Market Hall Rooftop
St. Joseph's Church
Wharf Road (railway station)
Rugeley Bus Station
<b><u>Chadsmoor</u></b>
Moss Street
Church Street
Burn Street
<b><u>Heath Hayes</u></b>
Bank Street
Hednesford Road
<b><u>Norton Canes</u></b>
Burntwood Road (rear of the Co-op)

\*\* Civic Office rear and Members car parks are pay and display outside normal office hours.