

Consultation on reduction in winter maintenance budget

Introduction

The Council Savings Programme (CSP) is our response to national austerity measures and the sharp fall in the amount of grant funding received from central government. From 2011 – 2017 the Council has already saved £63.6million, mainly through efficiency measures and we have identified a further £10.5m per annum of future savings to take place between 2018 - 2020. All areas of the council have been given outline savings targets on this journey towards 2020.

Our Winter Highway Maintenance service has been identified as an area which could contribute towards these savings.

Winter Highway Service on our road and footpath network is essential for public safety and keeps the network accessible and thus supports the economy. The Winter Service itself involves treating the highway by:

- a. Precautionary salting to reduce the risk of ice forming.
- b. Post salting to melt ice and snow that has already formed.
- c. Snow removal.

This consultation is regarding the **proposed reduction of precautionary salting routes**. (Enquiries about snow can be answered on a case by case basis by contacting us through any of the methods listed in *'how to have your say'*)

We carry out the above with a fleet of 11 gritters. We don't have the resource to treat all of our 1537km of highway, so we treat a percentage the network in line with a hierarchy which places higher importance on busier roads, bus routes, links to key towns and villages, and routes to hospitals schools. This results in approximately 538km being treated during standard precautionary salting. These routes are our Primary Routes.

Our network hierarchy starts at 1 for most important (motorway) and 9 for least important. Our treated routes are generally grouped within the banding 2-6.

In addition to Primary Routes we also have Secondary Routes. These are the next level of prioritised routes on the network that will only be gritted in times of a forecasted substantial increase of risk for example snow, freezing rain and when resources allow us to treat. We have 67km of secondary network and these are done using the same gritters as the Primary Routes

Key points of the proposals

The Council proposes to reduce the number gritters being used to make savings in financial terms (£100,000). The only option to achieve the full saving is to reduce the fleet by two gritters, and to reduce the amount time spent by drivers treating the highway network. This means removing approximately 30km of roads from the precautionary salted network. All of the 30km are from hierarchy 6 grouping.

Once formally agreed, changes will be implemented in time for winter 2018/19.

How did we come up with this proposal?

Firstly, we carried out an exercise to make sure our current routes were as efficient and effective as possible. We found that we could be more efficient in treating the routes we already salted but this efficiency could only realise half of our saving target. It was therefore necessary to remove routes to make the full savings.

Next, we looked at our network hierarchy to make sure that any routes we proposed to remove were the least important overall amongst our treated network. We worked from a 'bottom up' approach so only looked at removing roads from the hierarchy 6 band and those with least bus usage and without being a being a direct route to a school or important establishment without an alternative route

The list of roads to be removed are shown below and also on a map which can be downloaded from our webpage: <https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/WM18> or viewed in libraries

| Street | Town/Locality |
|--|---|
| OLD DOWN ROAD | BADMINTON |
| SIBLAND ROAD | THORNBURY |
| ABBOTS ROAD/COURT FARM ROAD (PART) | HANHAM |
| TORMARTON ROAD/SHIRE HILL/MARSHFIELD ROAD (PART) | MARSHFIELD/TORMARTON |
| ASHWICKE ROAD/ST MARTINS LANE | MARSHFIELD |
| BRAEMAR AVENUE | FILTON |
| CLAYPIT HILL/DODINGTON ROAD (Part)/GIBBS LANE/SODBURY LANE | CHIPPING SODBURY/DODINGTON/WESTERLEIGH |
| GREENBANK ROAD / HOLLYGUEST ROAD (PART) | HANHAM |
| ORCHARD VALE | KINGSWOOD |
| PARK LANE | WINTERBOURNE/FRAMPTON COTTERELL |
| PERRINPIT ROAD | FRAMPTON COTTERELL |
| SISTON LANE | SISTON/PUCKLECHURCH |
| SPRING HILL | KINGSWOOD |
| WEBBS HEATH/GOOSE GREEN | SISTON |
| CHURCH ROAD (PART) | KINGSWOOD |

Useful questions and answers

What percentage of the roads get gritted at present?

We salt about 34% of our roads, so 66% of the network currently doesn't get salted when ice is forecast. When we have snow, the percentage treated can reduce as we concentrate on the more strategic routes like the A4174, A403, A38.

If a route is removed will it get grit bins or be added to the secondary routes?

We will look carefully at both criteria and decide on the most appropriate action. Some routes could be added to secondary routes with minimal impact to the routes taken by gritters, others will be impractical, so we may decide to place grit bins out

How do we decide what to do next?

We are interested in hearing from all residents in South Gloucestershire, and in particular young people, older people and disabled people, as these are the groups most likely to be affected by the proposed changes. The feedback we receive will help us make a final decision on routes to be treated.

The consultation is open from 11th April 2018 and closes at midnight on **18th June 2018**
Please ensure your response reaches us by this date.

How to find out more:

- Visit our webpage <https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/WM18> to download the **Initial Equalities Impact Assessment** to see how the potential changes could affect different groups, view and download **map of the roads in South Gloucestershire which will be affected**; or download or view a list and examples of the road hierarchy
- Request to view a hard copy of the map at libraries
- Attend a **drop-in session** to speak to members of the StreetCare team - we will be available at the following locations and days to answer your questions and receive your thoughts and views on the proposal

| Town / Village | Time and Date | Location |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Kingswood | Monday 23 rd April 18:00 – 20:00 | Kingswood Civic Centre, Committee Room 1, High St Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 9TR |
| Marshfield | Wednesday 25 th April 10:00 – 12:00 | Marshfield Community Centre, Large Hall. Hayfield, Marshfield, Chippenham, SN14 9PG |
| Yate | Wednesday 2 nd May 15:00 – 17:00 | Yate Outdoor Sports Complex, Meeting Room. Broad Lane (Behind Brimsham Green School), Yate, Bristol, BS37 7LB |

How to have your say:

- Go to our webpage to complete our **online survey**
- A **paper copy** of the survey can be picked up from libraries and returned by freepost to the address below - no stamp needed
- Attend a **drop-in session** as listed above
- Telephone 01454868154
- Email: consultation@southglos.gov.uk
- Write to: *Freepost, RTXL-YJXJ-BXEX South Gloucestershire Council, Corporate Research & Consultation Team, Council offices, Badminton Road, Yate, BRISTOL, BS37 5AF*