

# Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 3/13

Date: 25 April 2013

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Business Support Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## **Purpose:**

**At the committee meeting on 3 April 2013, under the item on Revenue Budget Monitoring, Members asked for further information on the actual cost to the Council of one day's inclement weather.**

## **Background**

Medway Council provide an annual winter service, which runs from mid October to mid April.

There are four categories of precautionary salting routes:

**Primary Routes:** approximately 360km in length, which consist of A, and B class roads, bus routes and other roads that carry significant numbers of vehicles during the morning peak hour. Also included are the main High Streets of Chatham, Gillingham and Rochester together with the main administration building car parks.

**Secondary Routes:** approximately 180km in length, these are devised from roads or sections of roads that lie beyond those included in the Primary Routes, which will require precautionary salting under severe weather conditions. This group consists of roads that carry medium amounts of traffic, which lead into or cut through large housing and industrial estates and reduce the distance vehicles have to travel before reaching a Primary Salting Route.

**Third Tier Routes:** are routes devised from roads or sections of road which lie beyond those included into primary or secondary routes that will require precautionary salting under extreme weather conditions, usually a snow or ice emergency. These include quieter roads, which are mainly located within housing estates to further reduce the distance vehicles have to travel before reaching a Primary or Secondary salting route. Quieter roads such as cul-de sacs would not generally be included.

Spot Salting Routes: routes devised from sections of road that have been identified as requiring occasional spot salting due to seepage etc.

In addition to precautionary salting we operate an Emergency Salting service following direct requests from the emergency services or members of the public; for example a funeral service taking place.

### **Associated Costs**

Over the recent cold period from January through to March, Medway Council spent £444,000 providing the winter service of treating roads, pavements, car parks and the provision of salt bins. On a typical night where temperatures fall below freezing the council will spend around £3,700 per evening treating the roads to prevent ice forming.

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