

Appendix 3.

Shropshire Council Part 1 ESIA: initial screening and assessment

Please note: prompt questions and guidance within boxes are in italics. You are welcome to type over them when completing this form. Please extend the boxes if you need more space for your commentary.

Name of service change

Shropshire Highways and Environment: Updated Winter Service Policy.

Aims of the service change and description

Shropshire Council as a Highway Authority has a statutory duty to undertake and plan for a winter service, via an operational plan and overarching policy.

The winter service is part of a package of works that enables Shropshire Council to fulfil its statutory responsibilities as detailed in Section 41(1a) of the Highways Act 1980. Further the winter service is key to supporting rural and market town communities, supporting the economy of Shropshire and preserving and enhancing the reputation of the Council.

The UK Roads Liaison Group has produced a document entitled “Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure – A Code of Practice”. This code will apply across the United Kingdom and has thirty-six recommendations that all highways authorities should implement. Winter service is one of these thirty-six recommendations. The code is designed to promote the establishment of an asset-managed approach to the highways infrastructure. Hence, as the highways authority, Shropshire Council must ensure that the requirements of the National Code of Practice are achieved.

The code of practice comes into effect on the 1st October 2018.

Although sometimes called ‘Winter Maintenance’, the particular network management requirements during winter are not ‘maintenance’ in the traditional sense, but specialist operational services. Therefore, the term ‘Winter Services’ has been adopted by Shropshire Council.

Winter service deals with regular, frequent and reasonably predictable occurrences like low temperatures, ice and snow, as well as exceptional events. Whilst the effects of climate change are likely to result in an increased frequency and intensity of severe winter events, these can be taken into account in winter service planning. Therefore, Winter Service can and should be subject to the same regime of plan, deliver, review and improve, as other aspects of the highway maintenance regime.

Shropshire Council’s term maintenance contractor, Kier, provide the winter service by provision of staff to deliver and maintain the council owned gritting fleet (a risk-managed approach) and utilising external procurement to facilitate the delivery of salt and distribution on the road network.

Following an internal review involving Highways Staff, Kier contractor staff, Insurance officers and wider discussion at July 2018 Environment and Scrutiny

Committee, the updated Winter Service Policy and associated documents were endorsed.

Reference is made in the documentation to Cabinet about usage of the council's web site with necessary information, bespoke videos, social media and interactive maps and info graphics to further expand and provide detailed information

Cabinet are being asked to approve the updated Policy and Plan for the authority's winter service.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change
All who live in, work in and visit Shropshire, and therefore make use of the road network in order to access facilities, services, education and employment, etc.
Evidence used for screening of the service change
<p>The current Highways Act, Code of Practice , operational review of issues raised during the previous winter plus formal discussion at July 2018 Scrutiny Committee has contributed to developing the updated policy.</p> <p>After every winter, a joint review of the winter service operation is undertaken to ensure that the complex, dynamic nature is understood and that a quantitative and qualitative evaluation is achieved. This review has formed the basis of the revision to the policy and plan.</p> <p>Once the review was completed, the revised Policy and Plan with an accompanying report was presented to Environment and Scrutiny Committee in July of 2018, the issues were widely discussed and the paper and supporting documents were approved. Key issues arising from the Environment and Scrutiny Committee were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A request that a Member pre-winter briefing is held in October, to support understanding of the legal requirements the service and the operational pressures that arise during the winter service period.• A pilot for a Snow Volunteer scheme to be developed through a working group of Member's and Officers to take this initiative forward.• Developing more formal arrangements with Town and Parish Councils (workforces) to support snow and Ice removal particularly in town and village centres. <p>It should be noted, that the key driver is legislative requirement for this report.</p> <p>Further comparative work with other local authorities was also undertaken as part of evidence gathering processes. This included the following analysis.</p>

- Clear information that 28% of the 5,100 kilometres of highways are identified in the defined gritting network. For comparison:
 - North Yorkshire County Council has a defined gritting network of 54%
 - Suffolk County Council has a defined gritting network of 51%
 - Worcestershire County Council has a defined gritting network of 30%

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change

A review of the legal and national code of proactive requirements has been undertaken.

A service review of information received and operational issues raised was also undertaken. The previous procurement process also considered service users, and was subject to previous Cabinet reports and ESIIAs.

The service review involved Highways Staff, Kier contractor staff, Insurance officers and wider discussion at the July 2018 Environment and Scrutiny Committee.

As a further audience will be town and parish councils, this audience's contributions will need to be picked up in actions to review the impact of the proposed policy during its implementation.

Potential impact on Protected Characteristic groups and on social inclusion

Using the results of evidence gathering and specific consultation and engagement, please consider how the service change as proposed may affect people within the nine Protected Characteristic groups and people at risk of social exclusion.

1. Have the intended audiences and target groups been consulted about:
 - their current needs and aspirations and what is important to them;
 - the potential impact of this service change on them, whether positive or negative, intended or unintended;
 - The potential barriers they may face.
2. If the intended audience and target groups have not been consulted directly, have their representatives or people with specialist knowledge been consulted, or has research been explored?
3. Have other stakeholder groups and secondary groups, for example carers of service users, been explored in terms of potential unintended impacts?
4. Are there systems set up to:
 - monitor the impact, positive or negative, intended or intended, for different group
 - enable open feedback and suggestions from a variety of audiences through a variety of methods.




5. Are there any Human Rights implications? For example, is there a breach of one or more of the human rights of an individual or group?




6. Will the service change as proposed have a positive or negative impact on:

- fostering good relations?
- social inclusion?

Initial assessment for each group

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have on a group, through inserting a tick in the relevant column. Please add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.


Protected Characteristic groups and other groups in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two ESIIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Low positive or negative impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>
Age (please include children, young people, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group eg child for whom there are safeguarding concerns eg older person with disability)				
Disability (please include: mental health conditions and syndromes including autism; physical disabilities or impairments; learning disabilities; Multiple Sclerosis; cancer; HIV)				
Gender re-assignment (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				
Marriage and Civil Partnership (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				
Pregnancy & Maternity (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				
Race (please include: ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, gypsy, traveller)				
Religion and belief (please include: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Non conformists; Rastafarianism; Sikhism, Shinto, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				

Sex (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				
Sexual Orientation (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				
Other: Social Inclusion (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities; people with health inequalities; households in poverty; refugees and asylum seekers; rural communities; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable)				

Guidance on what a negative impact might look like

High Negative	Significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place or no evidence available: urgent need for consultation with customers, general public, workforce
Medium Negative	Some potential impact, some mitigating measures in place but no evidence available how effective they are: would be beneficial to consult with customers, general public, workforce
Low Negative	Almost bordering on non-relevance to the ESIIA process (heavily legislation led, very little discretion can be exercised, limited public facing aspect, national policy affecting degree of local impact possible)

Decision, review and monitoring

Decision	Yes	No
Part One ESIIA Only?		
Proceed to Part Two Full Report?		

If Part One, please now use the boxes below and sign off at the foot of the page. If Part Two, please move on to the full report stage.

Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change
<p>The screening indicates that the impact in equality terms of this updated Winter Service Policy is neutral or positive for Protected Characteristic groupings in the population. It is assessed as having a positive impact for the groupings of Age, Disability and Social Inclusion.</p> <p>An effective winter service policy is likely to be of assistance to the young and old, to their carers, to families, to people with disabilities, and to people living in rural communities who are at risk of exclusion from essential facilities and services if</p>

their physical access to these is affected or disrupted by adverse weather conditions, at whatever time of the year.

The expanded use of social media, videos, info graphics and the piloting of Snow Volunteers will further support local communities.

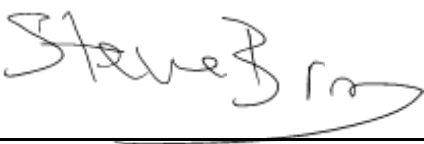

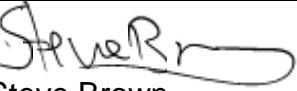
Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change

From an ongoing engagement angle, the Highways service consults via the annual National Highways and Transport Survey in which residents of Shropshire participate, as well as further internal customer liaison via Shropshire Council on line surveys, customer complaints, liaison with Local Joint Committees (LJCs) and Town and Parish Councils, and other forums where opportunities for engagement may arise.

From an outcomes angle for communities, engagement with all Members as community leaders, and through Cabinet and Portfolio Holder, will help the service and therefore the Council to ensure that information, feedback and concerns are raised with Highways and that actions may then be identified as necessary to mitigate any negative impacts.

The community leadership role for Members is considered likely to be of particular significance in aiding households at risk of exclusion from access to facilities and services due to adverse weather conditions. This is an area where review of actions is likely to be useful in further aiding the potential positive impact of this proposed Winter Service Policy upon communities.


Scrutiny at Part One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer carrying out the screening</i>		27 th July 2018
<i>Any internal support*</i>		
<i>Any external support**</i>	 Mrs Lois Dale, Rurality and Equalities Specialist	27 th July 2018
<i>Head of service</i>	 Steve Brown	27 th July 2018

**This refers to other officers within the service area*

***This refers either to support external to the service but within the Council, e.g. from the Rurality and Equalities Specialist, or support external to the Council, e.g. from a peer authority*

Sign off at Part One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer's name</i>		27 th July 2018
<i>Head of service's name</i>	Steve Brown	27 th July 2018