

2 October 2012		ITEM: 8
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SALT BIN PROGRAMME		
Report of: Daren Spring, Street Services Manager		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
Accountable Head of Service: Daren Spring, Street Services Manager		
Accountable Director: Andrew Murphy, Director Environment		
This report is Public		
<i>If the report, or a part of this, has been classified as being either confidential or exempt by reference to the descriptions in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, it is hereby marked as being not for publication. The press and public are likely to be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any confidential or exempt items of business to which the report relates.</i>		
Date of notice given of exempt or confidential report: not applicable		
Purpose of Report: To provide a review of the pilot programme and to advise of changes proposed to the programme for the 2012-2013 winter.		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Salt Bin programme that was piloted in winter 2011 -2012 was largely successful in achieving the aim of involving the community in gritting areas that they considered to be high priority but that fell outside of the standard gritting programme. A few changes to the pilot have been proposed, including a more simple application form and clarity over refilling and relocating the bins.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 It is recommended that the success of the programme be acknowledged and that with the inclusion of proposed changes, the programme be continued for the winter of 2012-2013.**

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 For the 2011/2012 winter, a pilot Community Salt Bin programme was introduced. The programme was implemented by the Environment Directorate with support and guidance from the Highways Department.
- 2.2 The key objective of the scheme was to supplement the standard winter maintenance programme by involving communities. The anticipated benefit of the scheme was gritting salt would be readily available to residents for areas that they assessed as requiring treatment that fell outside of the standard gritting programme.
- 2.3 To initiate the programme, Community Forums, schools and children's nurseries across the Borough were invited to apply for a salt bin. These groups were targeted as being visible within communities, also to ensure that insurance requirements were addressed.
- 2.4 A key requirement of the applications was that the salt be used on public highways areas and not private property. It was also agreed that only one bin would be provided per application.
- 2.5 Below is a summary of the pilot process that was implemented during the winter maintenance period for 2011-2012:
- An initial communication was sent to target groups at the end of September 2011, including copies of the policy relating to the scheme and the application form
 - The initial email received a poor response and a second communication was issued with a reminder of the closing date which had been set for the beginning of November
 - 15 x 400 litre salt bins were purchased at a cost of £2,550.
 - In all 13 applications were received (some after the closing date) and in all instances a salt bin was delivered to the site identified by residents
 - The majority of the salt bins were deployed prior to Christmas in 2011. The exception was a late application where the bin was delivered 3 working days after the application was received
 - The salt bins were filled with a mixture of salt and sand which is effective in increasing traction when applied to footpaths.

3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The feedback from residents included two recommendations that the Environment Department has rejected as changes to the programme. These were:
- That the Council provide all tools and equipment that may be required for the spreading of salt – such as gloves and shovels
 - That the salt bins be removed from their location during the summer months and return as winter approaches.

3.2 The reasons for rejecting those recommendations were largely due to the practicalities of providing additional equipment and the operational impact of having to remove and replace salt bins during the year.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

4.1 In March 2012, residents who had participated in the programme were contacted and asked to provide feedback on the pilot scheme. The feedback received was positive, and the programme was deemed to have been a success. Some of the suggested improvements from participants included:

- A more streamlined application form
- Allowing for more than one bin to be deployed per application
- A clear process for replenishing salt stocks during the winter season

4.2 Given the positive feedback from residents it is proposed that the programme be continued.

5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 Consultation with residents who participated in the programme was completed and has been referred to in the body of the report.

6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

6.1 The Community Salt Bin programme supports the Corporate Priorities of creating a cleaner, greener and safer borough as well as building pride in place. Gritting areas additional to the standard regime

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Tony Cutbush**
01375 652217
ACutbush@thurrock.gov.uk

The financial implication of the programme includes the cost of purchase of additional salt bins. These are priced at approximately £170 each and the cost can be contained within the existing budget for that service.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652087**
David.lawson@bdtlegal.gov.uk

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **To be verified**
Telephone and email:

There are no direct Diversity and Equality implications arising from this report.

This is still to be verified and notification of verification will be provided at the meeting.

7.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- None

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: D Spring

Telephone: 01375 413612

E-mail: dspring@thurrock.gov.uk