

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>6 SEPTEMBER 2010</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>SALT BIN POLICY</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</b>

### **5. Summary**

The report summarises how Streetpride salt bins are provided and maintained and sets out proposals to change the way they are managed. The proposed salt bin policy is attached in Appendix A.

### **6. Recommendations**

That the proposed policy for the management of salt bins is agreed.

## **7. Proposals and Details**

Streetpride currently provides salt bins at known and anticipated trouble spots off the precautionary salting network and at very steep locations on the salting routes. A risk assessment is undertaken at sites where a salt bin has been requested although the current policy does not define specific criteria for this assessment.

A review of Winter Service has been undertaken following the experiences of the severe weather between December 2009 and March 2010. The provision and management of salt bins formed part of this review.

The new policy defines six specific criteria that will need to be assessed for each salt bin application. For a bin to be provided the proposed site must meet one or more of these. The new criteria are:

- Gradients steeper than 1 in 10
- Approaches to junctions that are on an incline
- Sharp bends
- Sites that are sheltered from sunlight for prolonged periods
- Heavily pedestrianised areas and footways such as town centres and busy shopping areas
- Locations that are commonly used by vulnerable users

Each bin will remain on site throughout the year and not be collected and returned to the depot at the end of the winter season as in previous years.

The savings produced by not taking in bins are proposed to be used to fund the provision of additional bins meeting the criteria up to a maximum of twenty five new bins per annum (currently 314). Salt bins will not be provided for use on unadopted highways, private properties, residential parking areas and garage sites and should a bin become misused or vandalised then it will be removed.

Any sites meeting the criteria but not able to be funded will be reconsidered for future years.

## **8. Finance**

Winter Service is financed from the Streetpride Revenue budget.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

During the severe weather of the 2009/ 2010 winter season we received an unprecedented number of salt bin requests over this period. It is extremely difficult to predict how many salt bin requests we will receive each year and therefore how many extra bins we will need to provide in the future.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Rotherham Safe – Winter services are designed to meet the legal duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Copy of proposed salt bin policy is attached to the report.

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **Salt Bin Policy**

Salt bins are provided and filled before the start of the winter season and they are to remain on site throughout the year. They are provided and maintained for "self-help" so that highway users can treat adopted roads and footways themselves. The siting of a salt bin is dependant upon there being a suitable location available which does not obstruct pedestrians.

#### **Sites for salt bin provision will meet one or more of the following:**

- Gradients steeper than 1 in 10
- Approaches to junctions that are on an incline
- Sharp bends
- Sites that are sheltered from sunlight for prolonged periods
- Heavily pedestrianised areas and footways such as town centres and busy shopping areas
- Locations that are commonly used by vulnerable users

#### **Where salt bins are not provided**

Salt bins are not provided for use on unadopted highways, private properties and any residential parking areas or garage sites.

#### **Removal of salt bins**

Should a site prove problematic because of regular misuse of the salt for private driveways etc or the salt bin becomes vandalized then RMBC reserve the right to remove the salt bin.

#### **Parish Council Salt Bins**

Parish Councils that have been granted permission by RMBC may provide and maintain their own salt bins at locations in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement. These salt bins are of a colour that distinguishes them from RMBC's salt bins and they display a telephone number for contacting the Parish Council.