

Barking & Dagenham

LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING & DAGENHAM

WINTER SERVICE 2022/23

POLICY STATEMENT

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Winter Service – Statutory Duties

1.1.1 Highway Authorities have a statutory duty to maintain the highway in a safe condition. This general duty as set out in the Highways Act 1980, embraces winter service. In addition to this statutory duty, highway authorities may take preventative measures against the accumulation of snow and ice.

1.1.2 The recent judgement of *Goodes v East Sussex* has led to an amendment of the Highways Act 1980, Section 41 (1) (duty of the highway authority to maintain the highway). Section 41 (1a) has been inserted and reads: - “In particular, Highway Authorities are under a duty to ensure, so far as reasonably practical, that safe passage along the highway is not endangered by snow or ice”.

1.2 Winter Service Standards

1.2.1 In order to respond as quickly and efficiently as possible to its responsibilities the Council has adopted policies and standards for each of the winter service activities. These are detailed within this document. The operational details for winter service activities in Barking & Dagenham are detailed in the Winter Service Plan. The plan compliments this Policy Statement.

1.2.2 The Council provides a winter service which, as far as reasonably possible will:

- Minimise the loss of life and injury to highway users, including pedestrians and preventing damage to vehicles and other property.
- Keep the highway free from obstruction and thereby avoiding unnecessary hindrance to passage.

2. WINTER SERVICE OBJECTIVES

2.1 Salting

2.1.1 Objectives

- To prevent the formation of ice on carriageways (precautionary salting)
- To facilitate the removal of ice and snow from carriageways and footways (post salting)

2.1.2 Roads to be included within Primary, Precautionary Salting Routes.

Routine precautionary salting will be carried out on pre-determined primary routes. This will cover the following roads:

- Class “A” and “B” roads and bus routes.
- Other roads forming part of main traffic systems.
- Other roads identified by Highways Reactive Maintenance (based on local knowledge and experience) and approved by the Head of Service. These are roads that have been identified as particularly hazardous in frosty/ice conditions.
- Barking Town Centre pedestrian precinct.

2.1.3 No other footways, pedestrian precincts or cycleway shall be specifically designated as routes for precautionary salting.

2.2 Snow Clearance

2.2.1 Objectives

- To prevent injury or damage caused by the effects of snow
- To prevent obstructions caused by the accumulation of snow (section 150 of the Highways Act 1980)
- To reduce the delays and inconvenience caused by the effects of snow

2.2.2 Snow clearance on carriageways will be carried out on a priority basis, as detailed in paragraph 6.2

2.2.3 Snow clearance on footways will be carried out on a priority basis, as detailed in paragraph 6.3

2.3 ROADSIDE SALT BINS

2.3.1 Objectives

- To provide salt bins for the use of persons (including, motorists and pedestrians) with the means of salting small areas of carriageway and footway, where ice is causing difficulty.

3. WINTER SERVICE - GENERAL

3.1 Winter Service Contractors

3.1.1 Winter Service activities will be undertaken by the Highways Direct Services Organisation. These activities will be based upon the Council's Winter Service Plan.

3.2 Winter Service Season

3.2.1 In the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham the weather is unpredictable, and the occurrence and severity of snow and ice varies through the season and varies from year to year. Ice and occasionally snow is most likely to be experienced in November, December, January and February, however, both can occur earlier and later. The Winter Service period for the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham will run from the beginning of November until the end of March. However, contingency plans will be in place for immediate response, when required, outside of these dates.

4. WEATHER INFORMATION

4.1 Weather Information Systems

4.1.1 An effective and efficient winter service is only possible when reliable and accurate information about weather conditions is available at the appropriate times throughout the decision-making process. The Council utilises the best weather forecast information currently available from Meteogroup using Road Master or comparable provider to ensure that decisions are based on the most accurate data available.

4.2 Weather Forecasts

4.2.1 The London Borough of Barking & Dagenham receives detailed weather forecasts from Meteogroup using the "Road Master" Service. This service is specifically designed to assist highway authorities with winter service activities. Access to weather forecasts will be available throughout the winter months and not limited to the Councils Operational Winter Service Period.

4.3 Winter Service Officer

4.3.1 The Highways Service Manager – Reactive Maintenance will act as the Winter Service Officer (WSO) throughout the Operational Winter Service Period. They will be responsible for the following: -

- Receiving forecast information from the Meteogroup
- Monitor current weather conditions
- Issuing salting instructions
- Revising salting instructions when necessary

5. SALTING

5.1 Planning of Precautionary Salting Routes

5.1.1 Primary Precautionary Salting Routes have been developed for lengths of highway that qualify for treatment whenever ice, frost or snowfalls are expected. Each Primary Precautionary salting route will have a vehicle dedicated to it. Secondary Precautionary salting routes have also been developed and will be treated during prolonged winter weather conditions. An emergency resilience network has also been developed whereby additional crews and resources can be called upon to decrease the time it takes to carry out precautionary and post salting activities during extreme circumstances

5.2 Precautionary Salting

5.2.1 Precautionary salting will take place on scheduled precautionary salting routes. This is carried out on a pre-planned basis to prevent the formation of ice, frost and / or the accumulation of snow on carriageway surfaces and pedestrian areas.

5.3 Post Salting

5.3.1 Post salting will take place on scheduled precautionary salting routes for the treatment of ice, frost and snow that has already formed on carriageway or footway surfaces. Post salting may also be required on roads or sections of road outside of the scheduled precautionary salting routes.

5.4 Instructions for Salting of Primary Routes

5.4.1 Instructions for precautionary salting of primary routes, when road surface temperatures are expected to fall below freezing, shall be issued unless:

- Road surfaces are expected to be dry
- Frost is not expected for form on the road surface
- Residual salt on the road surface is expected to provide adequate protection against ice or frost forming

5.4.2 Instructions for precautionary salting of primary routes will also be issued if snowfalls are expected.

5.4.3 Instructions for precautionary salting of primary routes will be issued daily (including instructions indicating no action is to be taken by the WSO, during the operational winter service period.

5.4.4 Instructions for post salting may be issued by the WSO or members of the Reactive Maintenance section.

5.5 **Trunk Roads**

- 5.5.1 Winter Service for the A12, A406 and A13 are the responsibility of the respective agents, and they will issue their own Winter Service Policies and Plans.

6 **SNOW CLEARANCE**

6.1 **Instructions for Snow Clearance**

- 6.1.1 The WSO or the Service Manager of Highways are responsible for issuing snow clearance instructions. Snow clearance will initially take place on scheduled Primary Precautionary Salting Routes based on the priorities given in paragraph 6.2.1. Subsequently, snow clearance will take place on Secondary Precautionary Salting Routes and other roads and footways using priorities listed in paragraph 6.2.1.

6.2 **Snow Clearance Priorities on Carriageways**

- 6.2.1 Snow clearance on carriageways should be based on the priorities given below: -

- All "A" roads
- Other roads on primary precautionary salting routes
- Barking Town Centre pedestrian precinct
- Links to stations, schools
- Other routes as resources permit

6.3 **Snow Clearance Priorities on Footways**

- 6.3.1 Snow clearance on footways should be based on the priorities given below:

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- On footways in and around shopping centres, and on routes to stations.
- On footways on main arteries.
- Other footways as resources and time permit

7 SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

7.1 Persistent Ice on Minor Roads

7.1.1 During longer periods of cold weather, instructions for salting action to deal with persistent ice on minor roads for those that are not included within the precautionary salting routes may be issued.

7.2 Ice Emergencies

7.2.1 During prolonged periods of severe and persistent icing the WSO or Service Manager may declare an ice emergency covering all or part of the Borough. In this event managers will agree a course of action with the Director of My Place to deal with the situation, possibly utilising other Council labour and contractors.

7.3 Snow Emergencies

7.3.1 In the event of significant snowfalls the WSO or Service Manager may declare a snow emergency covering all or part of the Borough. In this event managers will agree a course of action with the Director of My Place to deal with the situation, possibly utilising other Council labour.

8 ROADSIDE SALT BINS

8.1 Provision of Roadside Salt Bins

8.1.1 Roadside salt bins will be sited at potentially hazardous locations.

9 BUDGETS

9.1 Winter Service Budget

9.1.1 The budget for the operational winter service period forms part of the Highway Maintenance Budget.

9.2 Ice and Snow Emergencies

9.2.1 There is no specific budget allocation within Highways & Network management section for ice and snow emergencies. The cost of dealing with periods of icy conditions or significant snowfalls will have to be met from the existing Winter Service Budget or, if this budget has insufficient funds, by virement from the Reactive Highway Maintenance budget.

10 COMMUNICATIONS

10.1 Neighbouring Authorities and other Agencies

10.1.1 Details of the winter service actions for Barking and Dagenham will be transmitted daily to neighbouring highway authorities and other agencies so that activities can be regionally co-ordinated.

10.2 The Media

10.2.1 Internal comms will be informed when instructions for precautionary salting of routes are issued.

10.3 Publicity during Ice or Snow Emergencies

10.3.1 Liaison with the news media, particularly local radio stations, is of the utmost importance and links will be established and maintained during ice or snow emergencies. Internal comms will lead on this with regular updates from the WSO.