

**Agenda Item No:**

**Report To:** Joint Transportation Board

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**Report Title:** Feedback on the Winter Maintenance Programme for the Ashford Borough

**Report Author:** Danny Sheppard



<b>Summary:</b>	Following the recent extreme winter weather conditions in the County, Kent Highway Services will be producing a report in late March outlining how Kent as a whole fared during the winter weather, and a further report looking at the winter programme policy as a whole would be discussed at debated in July. The KCC Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste has welcomed feedback from local Members and Parish Councils regarding their experiences of the recent inclement weather and local gritting priorities. Members' views are therefore sought.
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**Key Decision:** NO

**Affected Wards:** All

**Recommendations:** That Members of the Joint Transportation Board make any comments they wish to make regarding their highway experiences in the recent inclement weather and on local gritting priorities with particular regard to the Ashford Borough. These comments to be fed back to Kent Highway Services for their reports in late March and July 2010.

**Policy Overview:** N/A

**Financial Implications:** None at this stage

**Risk Assessment** N/A

**Other Material Implications:** None at this stage

**Background Papers:** KHS' Joint Transportation Board Update – published in Ashford Borough Council's Information Digest – March 2010

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**Report Title: Feedback on the Winter Maintenance Programme for the Ashford Borough**

**Issue to be Decided**

1. Members are invited to make any comments they wish to make regarding their highway experiences and on local gritting priorities in the Ashford Borough during the recent inclement weather, with particular regard to the Ashford Borough, to be fed into Kent Highway Services' review of these subjects taking place between March and July 2010.

**Background**

2. Following the recent extreme winter weather conditions in the County, Members were keen to receive an Update Report from Kent Highway Services (KHS) on the Winter Maintenance Programme for the Ashford Borough. The KCC Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee (POC) met on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010 and following that meeting KHS issued an update to all Joint Transportation Boards (available via the Ashford Borough Council Information Digest) stating that they would be producing a report in late March outlining how Kent as a whole fared during the winter weather, and a further report looking at the winter programme policy as a whole would be discussed at debated in July. The KCC Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste, Nick Chard said he welcomed feedback from local Members and Parish Councils regarding their experiences of the recent inclement weather and local gritting priorities. Members' views are therefore sought. It is then expected that KHS' report will come to the June Joint Transportation Board meeting and recommendations can then be made to the KCC POC prior to formal sign off by the Cabinet Member.
3. In terms of the wider County the KHS Update advised that adequate salt stocks had been maintained by Kent and thanks must go to all those responsible for winter maintenance including farmers, Boroughs/Districts and Commercial Services. Particular thanks were expressed to the gritting crews. In terms of the early lessons learned, dedicated gritting lorries had been put in place for Bluebell Hill and Detling Hill and Nick Chard was exploring the possibilities for distributing portable salt bags. The aim was to make communities feel empowered during winter weather.

**Handling**

4. Comments made at this meeting will be fed back to the KCC Cabinet Member to be included in Kent Highway Services' review of the Winter Maintenance Programme taking place between March and July 2010.

**Portfolio Holder's Views**

5. Not a Borough Council Function. KCC's Cabinet Member has asked for local Members' views.