

COUNCIL – 20 JULY 2022

NOTICES OF MOTION

Submitted to Council in Accordance with the Council Procedural Rules

1 Review of Winter Service (Gritting) Programme Assessment Criteria

Proposed by Councillor Rob Moreton

Background

Cheshire County Council (CCC) was previously responsible for delivering winter maintenance services across the whole of the county until its abolition in 2009. During a review carried out in 2016 it was found that approximately 203 km of roads on the gritting routes did not meet the existing CCC policy.

In 2016 the previous industry code of practice was replaced by “Well Managed Highways Infrastructure”, developed by UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) and recommended a shift from defined, prescriptive guidance to a risk-based approach, categorising roads in order of importance.

The Council undertake precautionary treatments after carrying out detailed weather forecasting that considers factors such as air temperature, dew point, humidity, precipitation, cloud cover and road surface temperature.

During the 2021/22 Winter Season, there were 88 treatment days carried out in the High East (Macclesfield), a further 50 treatment days in the East (Macclesfield) and 44 treatment days in the South (Wardle).

An operational review of the winter service is undertaken annually, in order to identify operational issues that have occurred. In addition, the Highways Service may also look to amend the secondary gritting routes which are implemented during periods of long and severe winter weather.

As part of an operational review following the 2021/22 Winter Season, 20 Members of Cheshire East Council, across 17 wards, attended a meeting to discuss the winter service within their respective wards.

Six Town & Parish Councils have formally expressed interest in procuring additional gritting services. In summary the additional ‘top up’ services requested by these Town & Parish Councils would reintroduce 20.75km of highway network back into the winter gritting network.

Notice of Motion

Council resolves that: prior to carrying out the next planned operational review of the Winter Service (Gritting) Programme for the 2022/23 season and in advance of any changes to secondary gritting routes, the scoring assessment criteria and threshold for inclusion in the Winter Service (Gritting) Programme should also be reconsidered.

2 Safer School Streets

Proposed by Cllr Suzie Akers Smith and Seconded by Cllr Lata Anderson.

Background

Many towns and villages across the Borough have asked for a Safer School Street. It is a big change but is necessary if we want to bring in the benefits to children as described below.

See the following link to the School Streets Initiative:

<http://schoolstreets.org.uk/>

A Safer School Street is a road outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction applies to school traffic and through traffic. The result is a safer, healthier and more pleasant environment for everyone.

School Street Schemes offer a proactive solution for school communities to tackle air pollution, poor health and road danger reduction. A School Street Scheme will encourage a healthier lifestyle and active travel to school for families and lead to a better environment for everyone.

Recently in Congleton a young girl was knocked over by the driver of a car. Luckily she escaped with cuts and bruises, but if the school had a Safer School Street, there would have been no cars to knock her over and would create a safe place for children to access their local school without worrying about speeding motor vehicles.

Notice of Motion

That Council creates a process that allows a Safer School Street to be created for all schools, where supported by those schools, which will provide a safer environment and enable children to walk and cycle to school safely.

3 Sprinklers Save Lives and Protect Property from Fire

Proposed by Councillor N Mannion

We want our Council to be a leader in securing the fitting of sprinklers in buildings in our Borough.

We want it to lead by example: fitting sprinklers during major refurbishments of its buildings; specifying the fitting of sprinklers in buildings that are constructed on its behalf; and prioritising the fitting of sprinklers in buildings that it owns where specific risks exist (for example, where people sleep).

We wish to do all that we can to secure the fitting of sprinklers in the following building types:

- Care homes, Extra Care Facilities and Specialised Housing
- Flats and apartment blocks (below 11m)*
- Houses in Multiple Occupation

OFFICIAL

- Schools
- Large High Bay warehousing**

We know that legislative change is required to national planning and building policy in this area. However, we know of the success that local authorities have had in shaping local development policies through for example, neighbourhood planning and supplementary planning documents.

Therefore, we recommend:

1. Our council explores local policy options to promote and secure the fitting of sprinklers in the above building types when they are built, or if they undergo a major refurbishment.
2. Our council writes to the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and local Members of Parliament to promote changes to the law to require sprinklers in at least the above building types.
3. Our council writes to the Secretary of State for the Department for Education to strongly oppose the proposed removal of sprinkler provisions from the revision of the design guide for fire safety in schools (Building Bulletin 100) and to request that the requirement for sprinklers in schools is strengthened rather than removed.

This proposal has the unanimous support of the Cheshire Fire & Rescue Authority and is now being submitted to each of the four Councils that are covered by the Fire & Rescue Authority.

Background Information

Sprinklers save lives, protect property and benefit the environment.

There have been no recorded fire deaths in a building fitted with correctly installed and maintained residential sprinklers.

Only the sprinkler affected by the fire will activate using a controlled quantity of water.

There is a 1 in 16 million chance that a sprinkler will discharge due to a manufacturing defect.

Sprinklers are cost effective

It is a well-known fact that many businesses that suffer from significant fires and fire damage never return to operation. Sprinklers can safeguard against this and will significantly improve business continuity.

Cheshire Fire Authority has worked with Registered Social Landlords across Cheshire to secure the fitting of sprinklers in high-rise buildings. To date 17 high-rise buildings out of a possible 21 have been fitted with sprinklers with a

further one in the fit-out stage. All were part-funded by Cheshire Fire Authority.

The following link takes you to videos showing the effectiveness of sprinklers and a comparison of a fire in a room with and without sprinklers fitted.

<https://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/business-safety/sprinklers/how-sprinklers-work/watch-how-sprinklers-put-out-fires>

* Flats and apartment buildings above 11m are now required to be fitted with sprinklers

** High Bay Warehousing does not need sprinklers until they exceed 20,000m². As an example it can be 200m long and 100m wide before it needs sprinklers.