

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

To: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE	Subject: WINTER SERVICE PATROLLING POLICY
From: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
Date: 14 AUGUST 2008	Ref: N/TM/67/05

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 Winter maintenance arrangements (patrolling, gritting and snow ploughing) are normally required to be available from the beginning of November. This report seeks approval for the proposed adoption of an alternative patrolling policy for the winter service.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Reference is made to the Winter Maintenance Policy and Procedures 2007/2008 report, approved by committee on 11 October 2007, at which time committee was advised of the rationalisation and efficiencies possible through better use of the patrolling during winter operations and that this would be subject to reports to committee.
- 2.2 Environment Services are responsible for maintenance of the public road network within North Lanarkshire. This network includes a total road length in excess of 1500 kilometres with associated footways and an extensive network of public footpaths. One quarter of the Roads and Transportation budget for maintenance of these networks is devoted to what is now termed the Winter Service and accounts for a significant element of the workload of the Council's Road Maintenance Partner, Amey Roads (North Lanarkshire) Limited.
- 2.3 The Audit Scotland report on maintaining Scotland's Roads recognises the funding challenge faced by local authorities in respect to a 2004 estimated £1,500M backlog of road repairs. The report also criticised authorities for spending too much on cyclic and winter maintenance and not enough on structural maintenance aimed at improving the condition of roads, footways, lighting and structures. North Lanarkshire has 34% of its lighting stock older than the 30 year design life and 34% of roads should be considered for repair. There is an opportunity to review the level of service and efficiency of winter provision in order to re-invest savings in front line services that have in the past included roads and lighting growth funding.
- 2.4 It is recommended that for future winter operations, efficiencies should be introduced to target patrolling on main and high speed roads, and pre-assessed routes at high level susceptible to freezing. It is intended that the rationalisation of the patrolling routes will target the situation where patrolling occurs following an earlier precautionary gritting operation. An assessment of risk in removal of the additional patrolling on estate roads and culs de sac has indicated a low risk of incidence on roads that have earlier been pre-gritted. The introduction of this policy could annually reduce patrolling by a third, which would equate to over 45,000km of patrols run with a potential saving of £100,000.
- 2.5 These patrols will continue to report on actual conditions and in the event of conditions deteriorating a full treatment of the primary road network will be initiated. There are no proposed changes to the precautionary gritting procedures contained within the Council's

Winter Service Policy and Procedures document. The 2008/09 document will be submitted for Council approval later this summer.

- 2.6 Further rationalisation and efficiency gains from making better use of the winter monitoring and weather technology, and levels of service benchmarked to industry standard will be examined during the 2008/09 winter and will be subject to a future report to committee for approval to commence during the 2009/10 winter season.

### 3. **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The proposed alteration to patrolling will minimise the number of unnecessary vehicle movements increasing fuel efficiency and reducing emissions.

### 4. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 It is recommended that:-

- (a) Committee approves the proposed alteration to winter patrolling procedures



**GRAHAM MACKAY**  
**HEAD OF ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION**  
( 02 July 2008)

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact Colin Nimmo, Roads Asset Team Leader on 01236 616441.