

Appendix A

Benchmarking data with other Local Authorities

Requests were made for winter maintenance data, such as miles of road precautionary gritted, to a number of comparable Local Authorities which were either equal to Sheffield in terms of size (other core cities such as Manchester, Birmingham and Nottingham) or with a similar topography and climatic zones (Bradford, Barnsley and Wakefield). Data was also requested from a number of other notable Local Authorities from across the country including combined rural and urban Welsh authorities.

Precautionary Gritting

Benchmarking the proposed changes in Sheffield against those willing to disclose precautionary gritting figures from other Local Authorities showed that the average percentage of the highway network which received precautionary gritting was 38.3%. This represents significantly less than the 50% figure which could potentially result from Sheffield's review of the precautionary gritting network. The highest figure benchmarked against matched the 50% proposed by Sheffield.

Grit Bin Provision

The same local authorities were also benchmarked against Sheffield with regards to their grit bin provision. Sheffield currently provides and maintains 2012 grit bins on the highway network. The average figure provided by other authorities in response to this query was 343 grit bins. The highest figure received was 500 grit bins.

This suggested that when benchmarked against similar authorities, Sheffield currently provided almost six times as many grit bins than the average even when compared to those with similar topographic and climatic domains to Sheffield.

In terms of grit bins per kilometre of highway network, Sheffield currently provides 1.01 grit bins per kilometre of adopted highway network. The average of the authorities who provided benchmarking data was 0.36 grit bins per kilometre.

Snow Wardens

A small number of other authorities contacted as part of the preparation for the consultation advised that they provide some form of community volunteer or Snow Warden scheme.

None reported volunteer figures in excess of the 500 individuals provided with equipment by the Council during the 2013/14 winter period.



A number of Local Authority officers specifically cited that they had been put under political pressure to introduce such a scheme following elected members having seen regional media coverage of the scheme in Sheffield rather than proactively seeking to do so for service improvement reasons or other benefits.

Conclusion

The data gathered shows that Sheffield provides a significantly higher winter service level than other Local Authorities across the country. This outcome provided further justification for reviewing the Winter Service in Sheffield.

