



Subject:	Update on gritting in communities and proposed measures to deal with future requests.
Date:	6 th March 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier Asst. Director of City and Neighbourhood Services Fintan Grant City Park Manager North, City & Neighbourhood Services

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This paper outlines measures City and Neighbourhood Services (CANS) have taken over the winter months to help communities deal with the effects and potential hazards caused by snow and ice in streets and neighbourhoods not currently being treated by other statutory organisations. It also seeks to set out parameters and limitations to what CANS can deliver and to ensure that the necessary approvals are in place to proceed with future requests.
1.2	Members are asked to consider if the Council should assume responsibility for this function and any subsequent liability as a need and demand exists for this service which is currently not being provided by other statutory organisations. For clarity “grit and gritting” are the terms commonly used when describing the substance

1.3	that is used to treat icy paths and roads. Although it is called grit, what is used on the roads is actually rock salt, which lowers the freezing point of moisture on the road surface, so it stops ice forming and causes existing ice or snow to melt.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notes the work undertaken up to this point and agrees to the proposed way forward.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Gritting of roads is the statutory responsibility of the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) Roads, however an agreement is in place between the DFI Roads and the Council in which council resources are used to treat predefined areas when severe icy conditions are forecast. This protocol is triggered when a prolonged cold period is expected or experienced.</p> <p>3.2 The areas agreed include arterial routes into the city and streets in and around the city centre. DFI have also installed grit boxes throughout the city to allow people to avail of grit to treat areas around their homes. The grit boxes are replenished by DFI on an ongoing basis as required.</p> <p>3.3 The demand from communities, through their elected Members, for access to grit however far outweighs what is available in the DFI grit boxes and requests for additional grit are being placed upon the Council to supply and deliver bags of grit to areas most in need.</p> <p>3.4 In order to help and support communities during the snow and ice the following note was sent to Members on 15 January 2018 and subsequent actions were taken as a precautionary measure to alleviate the pressure on people going about their daily lives:</p> <p>As a precautionary measure grit will be made available at distribution points at council locations in each area of the city. Staff will not be available to distribute the grit at these sites.</p> <p>Please note that salt/grit is provided in 25 kilo bags and is for distribution in smaller amounts and must be supervised by Members or their representatives.</p> <p><u>Grit and salt collection points</u></p>

[30 x 25kg bags at each venue]

West Belfast

- **Black's Road Park**
- **Sally Gardens**
- **Suffolk Community Centre**
- **Whiterock Leisure Centre**
- **Dunville Park**
- **Hammer Community Centre**

South Belfast

- **Malone House**
- **Ozone**
- **Olympia Leisure Centre**
- **Markets Community Centre**

East Belfast

- **Dixon Park**
- **Avoniel Leisure Centre**
- **Tommy Patton Park**
- **Short Strand Community Centre**

North Belfast

- **Highfield Community Centre**
- **Ballysillan Leisure Centre**
- **Ligoniel - Wolfhill Community Centre**
- **Loughside – car park**

3.5 Subsequent to this note further requests were made by Members and additional bags of grit were delivered to the same locations as required. The grit is currently delivered to the sites in 25kg bags which are difficult to handle due to their size and weight and therefore a new method is being proposed to reduce the risk of injury due to lifting.

3.6 It is difficult to quantify the amount of grit required to meet demand in these circumstances and to be assured that the grit being delivered is being used to the best effect to provide safer access to homes and streets. It is proposed that 2 grit boxes are installed by the Council at the locations listed above, which are Council premises, and the grit replenished either as required or after a certain limit has been reached.

3.7 This would allow residents in these neighbourhoods to have access to grit in the required

	quantities to treat the areas around their homes and would reduce the risks of manual handling.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
	Current Costs
3.8	To supply 30 bags of grit to each location above is approx. £1710
3.9	Due to increased demand the cost to date this year is approx. £3500. This does not include the operative's time and use of vehicles etc. which are covered in existing revenue budgets. Members should note that staff involved in providing this service are diverted from work allocated as part of the planned winter maintenance programme.
	Proposed Costs
3.10	A one off cost of £4300 to purchase 2 grit boxes for each location. (36 in total)
3.11	The recurring cost to refill all the grit boxes is £1800 per fill.
3.12	For the purposes of planning and budgeting, it is proposed that the number of times the boxes are replenished is limited (four) to allow managers to plan expenditure and reduce the impact this reactive emergency work has on planned maintenance and development work during the winter months.
3.13	The above costs can be found within existing revenue budgets.
3.14	The measures proposed can be monitored for effectiveness over the next winter period and aligned as appropriate with a further paper being brought to committee if required.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.15	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None