

Winter Maintenance

Policy on supplying grit bins

Purpose

Prior to and throughout the winter period there is a need to review both existing salt bin locations and consider the need for any proposed/requested locations. With a limited budget and changing environmental conditions, it is good practice to review where and why we place our winter maintenance provisions.

Legislation

Highway authorities are under a statutory duty to maintain the highway network. This general duty, set out in the **Highways Act 1980 section 41(1a)**, states that those responsible for highways are obliged to ensure '**so far as reasonably practicable, that the safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice**'.

Background

Throughout the year the council receives many requests for the supply and installation of grit bins. Many of these requests centre on the public's experiences of travelling in their immediate environment in winter conditions. Unfortunately, the council does not have the resource or legal obligation to fulfil all requests and therefore has to prioritise those with the biggest need. The following criteria have been set to determine the sites that will be deemed high priority:

- the site must **not** be on a primary gritting route
- the position of the bin **must** be safe in terms of its access for usage by members of the public and maintaining salt stocks.
- the location **must** be deemed to be prone to **additional risk** on a **regular basis** (additional risk *beyond that expected on untreated roads during icy weather*)
- the site must be of benefit to ordinary highways users.
- the stretch of road must be the **only** reasonable route to take (ie. there is no other reasonable alternative)

Each bin location will be reviewed on a regular basis to check for is ongoing suitability evidence of usage/misuse and/or vandalism.