

**What
Really
Matters?**

Budget Option
Highways
Winter
Maintenance

Savings

2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
85	0	0	85

Option summary

The Council spends £375,000 per year in this area during an average winter. This budget option would see the Council make savings of £85,000 through rationalising the service.

The costs of the service include the provision of the Council's salt storage depot, the gritter fleet and people on standby, and variable costs depending on the severity and duration of winter weather, associated with salt usage and gritter drivers, highway inspectors and the like being called out. The gritter fleet and salt are both owned by the Council, with gritter drivers being provided by the Council's highways contractor.

The proposal is intended to reduce these costs by removing salt bins from the highway and reducing our fleet of gritters from 10 down to 9 (and therefore reducing the extent of the gritting routes).

Potential impact

Whilst the salt in grit bins is used to limited effect it provides some safety benefits on those local roads with nearby access to a bin. There will be a risk of increased slips and falls on untreated roads, and this is likely to impact mostly on those with restricted mobility and those who are more prone to injury when falling, such as the elderly.

Many residents are already aware that the grit bins only bring limited benefits – due to the inefficient spread of the salt, and its low effectiveness on quiet roads when the temperature of the road is colder. There are also a number of operational factors including the fact that the time taken to refill all grit bins often exceeds the period of bad weather.

Reducing the impact

The Council will encourage residents to clear snow, and particularly assist those who are not able to themselves. Information will also be provided for how to drive and walk on icy roads and pavements.