

## **Winter Service Provision(Cold Weather/Snow) - Briefing Note** **Windsor Town Forum – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

The Royal Borough is prepared for the bad weather; we have over 700T of salt in stock (which is enough salt to do approximately 25 runs) and 4 large gritting vehicles ready to treat the main roads. Duty officers monitor the weather 24/7 throughout the winter months and instruct the contractor when ice and snow are expected.

During the recent snow, we gritted over 15times clearing the Primary and Secondary routes and using over 300T of salt. The Borough used all our available resources (ranging from the highway and street cleansing teams, parks team, car park attendants) to clear snow from footways starting in the most vulnerable areas – approaches to schools, hospitals, etc.

As well as keeping the Boroughs primary network moving we have tried to promote 'self help'. Additional funding has been allocated over the last few years which meant that parish councils, care homes, schools and residents associations have more salt bins and snow shovels for use in community areas and footways which were particularly hazardous during the severe weather. We hope this will encourage self-help so that people can salt and clear footways and minor roads - which in turn will allow the gritters and larger snow ploughs to keep the major routes open.

To date the borough has sited over 159 bins throughout the borough and provided 31 bins to schools.

We have also asked for help from farmers in times of snow, to clear the snow from rural roads that the larger gritting vehicles are unable to access. This is purely on a voluntary basis; so far one farmer has offered to help.

The Council winter service webpage is continuously updated, giving the latest information on the forecast, gritting routes, any particular areas where road users should stay away from and all contacts for winter services, allowing residents to log of any requests for salt bin refills. Residents can also follow the latest gritting decisions on twitter.