



To: Cathaoirleach and Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

Re: Winter Maintenance Plan 2023/2024

Date: 16th October 2023

A Chara

The Winter Maintenance Season for 2023/2024 will extend from the 16th October 2023 to 30th April 2024. Daily monitoring of the road network conditions will be undertaken in this period and winter maintenance resources will be deployed in accordance with the provisions of the Winter Maintenance Plan 2023/2024.

Members are advised that the service delivery target for the Priority 1 and 2 network is to keep these roads frost/ice free 24hrs a day, 7 days a week. This service is provided from the Council's Machinery Yard through the deployment of salt spreaders under the direction of the Duty Engineer.

Notwithstanding the provision by Kilkenny County Council of winter maintenance services, it is the duty of individual road users to ensure that they drive in accordance with prevailing conditions and no assumptions should be made that frost or icy conditions do not prevail on certain areas of the road network.

The total length of the road network to be treated (Priority 1 and 2) is 427km. The routes are selected based on their strategic importance, volumes of traffic and in consideration of the logistics involved in designing the overall routes. Four vehicles will be deployed to deliver the service and, with a capacity of between 12 and 13 tonnes of salt per vehicle. Additional capacity is not achievable without significant capital investment.

A full copy of the Winter Services Plan 2023/2024 will be displayed on the Council's website.

MD Engineers will also present Elected Members, at individual Municipal District Committee Meetings, with the details of the proposed Priority 3 Routes for 2023/2024. These are the routes that do not receive treatment to the standard pertaining to Priority 1 and 2 but which are treated periodically during periods of particularly severe weather.

Elected members attention is also drawn to the provisions of the Severe Weather Plan which provides for the pooling of resources in the event that particularly severe weather events occur. This includes liaison with the IFA, local schools and other emergency service providers.

In conclusion I recommend approval of the Winter Services Plan 2023/2024 in line with the details set out in this memo to Elected Members.

Tim Butler
Director of Services