

**Name of meeting:** Kirklees Rural District Committee

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**Title of report:** Provision of District Committee funded grit bins

<b>Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Is it in the Council's Forward Plan?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Date signed off by Director &amp; name</b>	<b>Jacqui Gedman Director of Place</b>
<b>Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Is it signed off by the Acting Assistant Director - Legal &amp; Governance?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Cabinet member portfolio</b>	<b>Cllr Steve Hall Place – Planning &amp; Highways</b>

**Electoral wards affected:** Holme Valley South & Denby Dale

**Ward councillors consulted:** Not known

**Public or private:** Public

## **1. Purpose of report**

To advise members of the arrangements for the provision of grit bins. For the District Committee members to consider these arrangements following requests for additional grit bins in the Holme Valley South and Denby Dale Wards.

## **2. Key points**

- 5 grit bins were allocated in 2005/06 on a ward by ward basis with members identifying appropriate locations.
- Additional new grit bins were funded by the former Area Committees and provided by Streetscene & Housing for the sum of £1,300 each for 5 years.
- This covered the purchase, installation & future maintenance and also covered the cost of the filling & refilling of the grit bins for the period.
- Cabinet considered and approved a revised Winter Service Policy on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

- A key recommendation from the Scrutiny Action Plan was adopted to cap the number of grit bins in place for the winter of 2013/14 and that future management, maintenance and re-filling would be part of the winter service budget.
- However, as has been recent practice, Councillors will still be able to review and relocate grit bins to meet changes in demand and patterns of use within their wards.
- Officers have been to each of the District Committees and briefed members on the key points of the Winter Service Policy.
- Councillors Patrick and Ward have requested that officers provide 6 grit bins at locations to be advised and that these grit bins be funded from the District Committee Revenue Budget.

### **3. Implications for the Council**

There would be a future maintenance liability to the Council.

### **4. Consultees and their opinions**

Holme Valley South & Denby Dale Ward Councillors have been consulted on the Winter Service Policy proposals. The local residents who have requested these grit bins have already been provided with a response to these requests.

### **5. Next steps**

### **6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

Officers are unable to support these proposals as they are contrary to the Council's Winter Service Policy. A review of this policy will take place at the end of the winter period and grit bin provision will be one of the issues for consideration.

Officers consider that the demand for additional grit bins will become unsustainable at the current rate and is placing a burden on existing resources.

Officers can support any arrangements requested on self-help gritting by the provision of strategically placed salt piles which is in line with the Council's Winter Service Policy.

### **7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation**

Councillor Steve Hall supports the officer's views as it reflects the Council's Winter Service Policy

### **8. Contact officer and relevant papers**

Aidan Hopson – Principal Technical Officer, Streetscene & Housing 01484 221000

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Martin Bowler – Head of Highways, Streetscene & Housing 01484 221000

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### **9. Assistant director responsible**

Joanne Bartholomew – Assistant Director for Streetscene & Housing