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**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
25 JUNE 2001**

**REPORT ON: WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY AND LEVEL OF SERVICES
2001/2002 – IMPLICATIONS OF LOSS OF THE TRUNK ROAD
CONTRACTS**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 237-2001

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend a future winter maintenance policy and level of service 2001/2002 as a result of the local authority/private partnership losing the trunk road maintenance contracts.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Committee is asked to note the formation of the Winter Maintenance Working Group and remit the Director to bring forward the full Winter Maintenance report on service levels in September.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications at this time, however, the Winter Maintenance Policy and Level of Service 2001/2002 report will identify any changes to the revenue budget.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The use of salt as a de-icing agent has potentially detrimental effects on the roadside environment due to its capability of damaging vegetation by dehydration. Salt can also cause damage to bridges and other structures by accelerating corrosion of structural steel and steel reinforcement within concrete.
- 4.2 Any new developments therefore which may ultimately lead to a reduction in the use of salt can only have a beneficial effect on the environment in close proximity to the public road network.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The winter maintenance policy and level of service will contribute to the continued activity of elderly and mobility impaired citizens within the limits of available resources.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Dundee City Council and Tayside Contracts were part of a local authority consortium/private partnership that tendered for the trunk road contracts for

northeast Scotland that commenced on 1 April 2001 for a period of five or seven years.

- 6.2 Unfortunately, this consortium were unsuccessful in their bid and the effects of this loss could have a considerable effect on the level of service provided by Tayside Contracts to Dundee City Council as the local roads authority.
- 6.3 The level of service most affected could be winter maintenance.
- 6.4 Tayside Contracts have subsequently been able to reduce the effect by obtaining sub-contract work both in road maintenance and winter maintenance from the successful trunk road contractor.
- 6.5 Even so Tayside Contracts has had to reduce its resources as they reported to their joint committee on 5 March 2001, "Implication resulting from the loss of Trunk Road Contracts and reductions in Council's budgets."
- 6.6 Initial discussions with Tayside Contracts have indicated that in future they will be able to continue to provide the same level of service for winter maintenance but because of their reduction in manpower (particularly drivers) they will have to out source drivers for footway gritters.

7 PROPOSALS

- 7.1 Tayside Contracts will have sufficient resources (labour and plant) to continue to provide the same level of service for winter maintenance on carriageways.
- 7.2 Agreement, in principle, has been reached that Leisure and Parks personnel will be made available to supplement any labour shortfall Tayside Contracts will have to ensure that the same level of service for winter maintenance on footways is maintained.
- 7.3 It has been agreed that the Dundee nightshift (one gritter) will continue, however supervision during the night will need to be reassessed since Perth and Kinross Council have indicated that their Perth Control Room facility will not be available in future having previously been a predominantly trunk road resource. Investigations will therefore be made with a view to providing a winter maintenance control room in Dundee.
- 7.4 Investigation associated with the Winter Maintenance Best Value Review (although not complete) indicated that pre-wetted salt was an appropriate continuous improvement that would benefit Dundee City Council.
- 7.5 As a result of the foregoing proposals and their effect on the winter maintenance service it has been agreed that a small short life working party consisting of officers from the Planning and Transportation Department and Tayside Contracts should be set up to report back on the future management, operation and level of service of winter maintenance in Dundee.

8 CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Support Services, Director of Corporate Planning, Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection, Director of Leisure and Parks, Director of Tayside Contracts and Chief Constable, have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

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30 May 2001

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