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Transportation SPC
26th April 2018, Swift Room (Room 057), Buvinda House

18th April 2018

To: The Cathaoirleach and Each Member of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

Dear Member,

I wish to confirm that the next meeting of the Transportation SPC will be held on **Thursday 26th April 2018 at 4.00 p.m.** in the **Swift Room – Room 057, Buvinda House, Navan.**

The Agenda is set out below.

Yours faithfully,

Jimmy Young
Senior Staff Officer

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- 1.0 Confirmation of minutes of meeting held 24th January 2018**
- 2.0 Matters arising from the minutes**
- 3.0 Review of Winter Gritting Season 2017-2018**
- 4.0 Notices of Motion**

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden to Meath County Council March meeting

“The members of Meath County Council call on the Transportation SPC to investigate the use of feeder hoppers (fixed & mobile) at various locations throughout the county to better utilise existing resources and, where appropriate, expand the gritting routes. If the SPC deems the proposal feasible, a proposal for full adoption be brought before the Council. This is an attempt to address the problems highlighted to Councillors at the previous review of the gritting routes.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The Winter Maintenance Plan represents the best prioritised extent of coverage based on road classification, historic weather data, average daily traffic counts, and available funding.

A review of the winter gritting network takes place at the end of each season setting out any issues encountered during that period. A full review was presented to the Transportation SPC in 2017. It was agreed that certain parameters should be considered



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and a criteria for including any new roads set out in a policy document, which was subsequently approved by the Council.

The Transportation SPC will include the proposal in the above motion, for investigation, in its review of the Winter Maintenance Plan for 2017/2018 at the end of the current season.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**, was unanimously adopted. It was also agreed that **Councillor Trevor Golden** would be invited to attend the Transportation SPC in the context of the adopted motion.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch to Trim MD March meeting

“Trim Municipal District would like to commend Meath County Council on their efforts to keep roads open during the recent adverse weather conditions. However we recommend that at least one access route out of all villages in the county is also prioritised in order to avoid some constituents being isolated.”

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

Meath County Council prepares a Winter Service Plan describing the winter service to be provided for the following winter season. Prior to preparing the current plan a sub group of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee carried out a strategic review of the proposed winter gritting service. The current plan sets out the gritting routes as Priority 1 Routes, covering the national road network and priority 2 routes covering 80% of the regional road network and some strategic local roads. The network stretches to 580km of roadway that is treated every night when ice is predicted to form on untreated road surfaces. This network is treated with the Council's ten gritting trucks which all have snow plough attachments fitted.

The recent Storm Emma gave rise to prolonged snowfall over several days and high winds, resulting in very significant snow drifts throughout the County.

The Council's strategy in treating the road network before and during this storm was to carry out significant pre-salting of those Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes before the onset of snowfall and the blizzard conditions. Following the blizzard conditions of Thursday night and Friday morning of the 1 & 2nd March respectively, snow ploughing and gritting commenced on Priority 1 and 2 Routes.

In tandem with this operation each Municipal District deployed their own resources and additional hired equipment to clear snow from the remaining regional road network and principle towns and then continued to open access to other towns and villages and then to more rural parts of the network until the entire network was accessible.

Sections of the network and in particular the more heavily trafficked routes received further treatment to bring those roads up to full capacity. In exceptional circumstances, where medical emergencies arose, resources were diverted to provide assistance in these cases.

The significant accumulations of snow did require significant effort with all available resources to clear. The Council endeavoured to restore access to the complete network as quickly as possible.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**.

A short discussion followed with the approach taken during extreme weather was



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further outlined, including the use of contractors. It was requested that this motion be referred to the Transportation SPC for consideration as part of their review of the winter gritting programme.

The motion was adopted.

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden to Meath County Council April meeting

“To call on the Transportation SPC to designate HGV routes throughout the county and propose any by-laws required. The purpose of such routes: divert HGV traffic to higher capacity routes (National & Motorway), reduce HGV traffic in towns & villages, improve Road Safety on Regional and Local Roads.”

Response: It is recommended that this matter be referred to the Transportation SPC and that the SPC extend an invitation to Cllr Trevor Golden to attend the meeting to contribute to the discussion.

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch to Trim MD March meeting

“Trim Municipal District calls on Meath County Council to develop a policy in reference to the allocation and retention of School Traffic wardens in the County in order to provide clarity regarding this issue going forward.”

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

Section 96 of the Road Traffic Act 1961 makes provision for local authorities to make arrangements relating to school wardens. Pursuant to the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the making of such arrangements is a reserve function to be performed by the Municipal District Members subject to the provisions of Section 131A of the Local Government Act. The provision of a school warden must be within the available revenue budget for the Municipal District.

It is recommended that requests to provide a school warden would be assessed on a case by case basis in consultation with the Council’s Road safety Officer, technical staff, school principal and Municipal District Members. Technical solutions including the provision of signalised pedestrian crossings should be considered as possible solutions where appropriate. In this context, consideration should be given to what appropriate arrangements can be put in place locally, to provide cover, should for whatever reason the designated school warden not be available to attend for work on any given day or other extended period and the impact of providing such cover may have on the delivery of other services within the Municipal District.

Meath County Council’s Road safety Plan 2013 -2020 includes measures to support schools in road safety education and awareness. The Plan also includes an objective to encourage individual responsibility for all road users including a measure to encourage schools and parents to develop and promote road safety through school travel transport plans and strategies.

Through the planning process the Council encourages schools to consider road safety as an integral part of the designs for new schools and proposals for extension of existing schools and to prepare mobility management plan to assess the different travel modes to be used by staff and students using the school and that where feasible appropriate measures are included to ensure the safety of all travel modes to and from the school.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor**



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Enda Flynn.

A short discussion followed on the need to provide school wardens for younger children who are not traffic aware and who are not accompanied, e.g. on school buses. It was agreed to refer this to the Transportation SPC for further consideration. The motion was adopted.

5.0 AOB