

**Winter Service Policy and
Operational Plan 2025 – 2026**

Group Manager - Roads and Transportation

Midlothian Council

2025 -2026

Road Services, based at Fushiebridge depot, will manage and carry out all gritting / snow clearing requirements to discharge Midlothian Council's duties under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, as laid out in the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan.

Routine Gritting (frost and / or ice forecast)

Roads: Priority routes will be treated in accordance with the decision and treatment matrix to suit forecast conditions. Treatments will, under normal circumstances, take place between 0500 hrs and 2200 hrs daily including weekends. 7 HGV gritters are allocated to these routes to carry out treatment as required by the conditions. Secondary routes will only be treated during normal working hours with Tertiary routes (residential roads) only treated during normal working hours during prolonged cold conditions. Routes can be found at;

https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200270/severe_weather/287/winter_on_midlothian_roads/2

Car Parks: Most public car parks are gritted between 0500 hrs and 0730 hrs using a mini gritter mounted on a pick-up truck.

Footways: Mini tractors with rear mounted gritters are allocated to Penicuik, Loanhead, Dalkieth, Bonnyrigg, Mayfield, and Gorebridge to treat town centre areas of footways and routes to schools. These treatments will generally be carried out from 0500 hrs.

Schools: Facilities Management (FM) staff will grit agreed routes within school boundaries. Road Services have provided grit bins to all school properties and will maintain these bins throughout the winter as requested by facilities staff at each school.

PPP2 Schools and Dalkeith Campus: Land Services provide a routine gritting service to these properties as part of the Facilities Management contract. They are treated using mini gritters mounted on pick-up trucks, normally from 0500 hrs. Road Services will deliver salt to Stobhill Depot in 10 tonne loads as requested by the Operational Manager – Land Services for this purpose.

Snow Sports Centre: The access road and car parks are treated by Roads Services as part of an HGV route, plus grit bins are strategically placed in car parking areas. Any additional salt required by the centre for treating other areas will be delivered in bulk by Roads Services at the request of the centre.

Grit Bins: All active public grit bins will be filled with salt prior to the end of October and will be replenished as required. It should be noted that there will be 1 crew allocated to grit bins during the winter period to top up grit bins as requested by the public using the on-line form available on the council web site at:

[Grit bins in Midlothian | Grit bins | Midlothian Council](#)

NHS Facilities: Midlothian Council, road services will provide mutual aid as requested by the NHS, however the NHS has on contract an appointed contractor to deliver principle winter operations .

Snow Conditions (up to 10cm)

Roads: All priority routes will be cleared of snow and treated with salt / grit before any treatment takes place on secondary or tertiary routes. This service, using HGV snow plough / gritters, will be in operation 24 hours a day until conditions are sufficiently clear along with improving weather conditions. The HGVs based at Fushiebridge may be supplemented by framework contractor vehicles as required by the Group Manager – Roads and Transportation.

Car Parks: Mini gritters will treat car parks after they have been ploughed, as required, by either a shovel machine or framework contractor snow plough.

Footways: Mini tractors will clear town centre footways and routes to schools in Penicuik, Dalkeith, Bonnyrigg, Mayfield, Gorebridge and Loanhead. These tractors will remain working on footways throughout the working day as conditions dictate. (This service may be extended out with normal working hours dependent on prevailing conditions and the availability of resources).

In addition there will be a minimum of 24, 3-man manual crews clearing snow and gritting footways throughout Midlothian. These crews will come from Land Services / Waste Services staff and framework contract partners. These crews will start outside school entrances and work through defined agreed priority routes. Secondary and tertiary routes are unlikely to receive treatment due to the commitment to school entrances and priority routes.

Schools: Facilities Management (FM) staff will clear snow and grit agreed routes within school boundaries.

PPP2 Schools and Dalkeith Campus: As for routine gritting, with the addition of 2 x 90hp tractors with scraper and gritter attachments to clear snow from access roads and car park areas.

Grit Bins: As for routine gritting.

Snow Sports Centre: Road Services will assist with an HGV gritter / plough as part of the priority route when available. One of the 90hp tractors from Land Services will also attend to clearing snow from the access road and car parks.

Stobhill Depot: Waste Services staff will use the large shovel based at Stobhill to clear snow from the roads and parking areas around the facility. Land Services will grit / salt the depot with their mini gritter as required.

NHS Facilities: As for routine gritting but includes snow clearing at the Bonnyrigg Community Hospital when conditions dictate.

Severe Weather / Snow (greater than 10cm lying)

Roads: As for snow conditions, although additional resources may be brought in from framework partners to support the Roads Service HGV's on priority routes.

Focus will remain on priority routes only until these routes are clear and weather conditions improve. Thereafter secondary routes will be treated until clear and only then will tertiary routes receive treatment.

Depending upon the prevailing road conditions - shovels and haulage vehicles from framework partners may be brought in to remove snow to ease the passage of vehicles. This snow will be taken to designated stockpile sites.

Car Parks: The mini gritters will treat these car parks, as required, after they have been ploughed. Mechanical shovels from framework partners will be used to clear car parks.

Footways: As for snow conditions, with the addition of a mini excavator (if required by conditions) to assist each 3-man crew.

Grit Bins: As for snow conditions.

Schools: As for snow conditions; however, HGV snow ploughs or mechanical shovels will clear the access into the school grounds and a car parking area once priority routes have been cleared. Playgrounds will NOT be cleared as a priority.

PPP2 Schools and Dalkeith Campus: As for snow conditions.

Snow Sports Centre: Land Services will provide a 90hp tractor with scraper and gritter attachments to assist in keeping the centre open.

Leisure Centres: All Leisure Centre grit bins will be filled by Road Services upon request from Leisure Centre staff. Requests for refilling of grit bins should be made to [Grit bins in Midlothian | Grit bins | Midlothian Council](#)

Leisure centre staff will be responsible for keeping access points clear and gritted. A Land Services tractor with scraper and gritter attachments will assist in clearing Loanhead and Penicuik Leisure centres after clearing the Snow Sports centre.

NHS Facilities: As for snow conditions; if conditions dictate then, subject to availability, additional staff will be deployed from Roads Services, Building Maintenance, Land Services or framework contractors to maintain access.

Severe Weather / Snow (greater than 10cm lying) cont'd

Social / Care Facilities: BMS crews will clear around all social / care facilities as per the list provided to BMS manager; crews are to liaise with facility managers to ensure all access points and fire escapes are clear.

Aaron House will be assisted with snow clearance when the HGV plough is available.

Public Buildings: BMS crews will clear around all public buildings as per the supplied list, after completion of clearing around social / care facilities

When and if waste collection services are suspended, Waste Service staff will assist BMS to carry out snow clearing and gritting around Public Buildings as per list provided to the Operations Manager - Waste.

The Operations manager - Waste will be responsible for the provision of suitable vehicles to provide 3-man crews to clear the snow. Upon completion of clearing listed facilities the Waste Services manager will liaise with the Roads Operations and Asset Manager to obtain additional workload.

Waste Services: Should waste collections be suspended and central location collection points instigated, Roads Services will provide a mechanical shovel or plough to clear the designated areas to assist in this service. Liaison will be between the Operations manager - Waste and the Group Manager – Roads and Transportation .

Stobhill Depot: Waste services staff will use the large shovel based at Stobhill to clear snow from the roads and parking areas around the facility. Land Services will grit / salt the depot with their mini gritter as required.

Public / School Transport: The majority of bus routes are on main priority treatments routes and will be cleared as a priority.

If locations are identified where there are issues with pinch points or abandoned vehicles restricting bus routes parking restrictions will be invoked as required. The Police will assist Public Transport Unit staff in removing vehicles causing an obstruction. Roads Services will place out 'No Waiting' cones at these identified locations prior to any snowfall (forecast based decision).

Road Services will provide deploy the nearest available resource to assist in clearing any identified problem areas to improve the movement of public transport.

The Operational Manager - Travel Team will appoint a member of their staff to co-ordinate communication with the bus operators and the Roads Service teams to ensure problems are identified early and current information is available to the bus operators.

The School Transport Co-ordinator will identify to the Roads Duty Officer any problems with school transport and, where available, resources will be allocated to assist.

Communications: All winter communications between services should be through the Group Manager – Roads and Transportation or the email winterroadsdutyofficer@midlothian.gov.uk

During periods of severe weather, the Road Services depot telephone 0131 270 5730 will be diverted to the Contact Centre (CC) by agreement with the Head of Customer Services. The Group Manager – Roads and transportation will update the CC on current operations so that this message can be relayed to the public.

The Group Manager – Roads and transportation will update via email the ‘Weather Event Group’ when forecasts of significant severe weather are issued. This group consists of the Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Chief Officers, relevant operational managers, Police Scotland area command team, Senior Communications Officer and Contingency Planning Officer.

This e mail group supplements but does not replace the wider Severe Weather Group distribution list managed by the Contingency Planning officer.

Salt Stocks: The Group Manager – Roads and transportation will procure and maintain sufficient salt supplies for Road Services to discharge their duties under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 which includes maintenance of sufficient stock to provide resilience in severe weather conditions.

Reports on usage and stock levels are submitted to the Scottish Government who monitor stock levels across Scotland and have the authority to order the transfer of stock between authorities.

All other council services will be supplied with salt by Roads Services upon request and provision of a cost code. This facility may be restricted if the Scottish Government reallocates stock from Midlothian to support other authorities.

Icicles: BMS will inspect and monitor public buildings and council housing during severe weather and will make arrangements for dealing with any icicles that may cause a danger to the public.