

# Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project/proposal T19 - E5 Highways Winter Maintenance  
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Department Economy, Transport and Environment  
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## **Description of Service / Policy**

Hampshire County Council has a duty under the 1980 Highways Act to act as the local highways authority responsible for maintenance and accessibility of 5,300 miles of road network. Providing access to the network is a universal service for the travelling public in Hampshire. The County Council aims to maintain main road surfaces free of ice and snow, and to ensure safe passage at all times where reasonably practical and within the resources available to the Council. The new Highways Contract is due to start in August 2017, which provides the opportunity for winter service review.

Geographical impact\* All Hampshire

## **Description of proposed change**

To review and rationalise the Council's salting network and associated operational activities with the aim of optimising the use of available assets and technology to reduce the cost of providing the service.

## **Engagement and consultation**

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

No specific consultation has been carried out on this proposal, however, the County Council carried out a major public consultation exercise over the Summer 2017 on a range of options for finding further budget savings including increasing council tax, using reserves and making changes to the way in which services are delivered, which may mean reducing or withdrawing certain services. The outcome of this consultation will be presented to Cabinet in October 2017.

When decisions are made to pursue the options, further specific consultation will be carried out with stakeholders on the detailed options where required.

## **Impacts of the proposed change**

This impact assessment covers Service users

### **Statutory considerations**

### **Impact**

Age Impact	Medium Potential reduction in salting network may impact upon the accessibility for older residents of Hampshire, who may be less confident driving or walking along the highway in winter conditions. Equally, the changes may impact upon younger people, particularly pupils and students accessing schools and colleges.
Mitigation	Wide range of outward facing communication on salting provision, including the dates, times and routes covered.

Disability Impact	Medium Potential reduction in salting network may impact upon the accessibility for residents of Hampshire with a disability, who may be less confident driving or walking along the highway in winter conditions.
Mitigation	Wide range of outward facing communication on salting provision, including the dates, times and routes covered.
Sexual Orientation	Neutral
Race	Neutral
Religion and Belief	Neutral
Gender Reassignment	Neutral
Gender	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral
<b>Other policy considerations</b>	
Poverty	Neutral
Rurality Impact	Medium If the salted and/or ploughed network has to be reduced, it is more likely to affect the less used and populated areas.

***Additional Information***