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| <b>Committee</b>      | Communities Scrutiny Committee                           |
| <b>Date</b>           | 28 September, 2022                                       |
| <b>Title</b>          | Salt Bins  |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b> | Councillor Berwyn Parry Jones                            |
| <b>Author</b>         | Steffan Jones, Head of Highways and Municipal Department |
| <b>Purpose</b>        | Winter Maintenance Service Update – Salt Bins            |

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In January 2022, we contacted the Community and Town Council's informing them that the Department will re-establish the management of salt bins as part of the Winter Maintenance Service. I am pleased to report that this change has been operational since the winter.

## 2. Background and Current Situation

- 2.1 The Highway Maintenance Service has a winter maintenance procedure which is active from the 1st of October until the last day of April. This includes the gritting of first priority routes and second priority routes together with the provision of salt bins. First priority routes include all class one and two roads and some class 3 roads. Second priority routes would include all other class three and unclassified roads.
- 2.2 Salt Bins - salt bins are located in troublesome/difficult locations which include steep slopes, junctions and sharp turns located on the second priority routes.
- 2.3 The table below indicates the number of salt bins within each area along with the method of recording/identification.

| Area          | Number of Bins | Recording/Identification  |
|---------------|----------------|---|
| Arfon         | 344            | A register of the locations in the form of a spreadsheet.                       |
| Dwyfor        | 119            | A register of the locations in the form of a spreadsheet.                       |
| Meirionnydd   | 134            | A register of the locations in the form of a spreadsheet and all bins numbered. |
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>597</b>     |   |

- 2.4 The salt bins form part of the Winter Maintenance Service and are maintained throughout the Winter season. The Highways Maintenance Service commits a specific budget for the Winter Maintenance Service which now includes the provision of salt bins together with their maintenance.
- 2.5 Requests for new salt bins are agreed with the Community or Town Council and the Service will look at re-locating rather than introducing new bins in the first instance. 3.1 highlights the considerations taken before providing a new bin.

- 2.6 Salt bins will be noted within 'Map Gwynedd' in order to share details/locations of each bin.
- 2.7 Similar to that recorded within the Meirionnydd area, the intention is that each salt bin will have a specific number on it in the Dwyfor and Arfon area. This will enable the Community/Town Councils to report on any bins that need attention in a simple and effective way and select the salt bin when submitting an application/inquiry through the online service.

### **3. New Arrangements/Procedures**

- 3.1 Arrangements for dealing with a new request for a bin - If a Community or Town Council contacts the Service in order to receive a new bin, we would consider the following points:
- Is the bin located on a public road?
  - Is the location on a current first priority or second priority gritting route?
  - Would a gritter be able to treat the road if the need arises?
  - Is there another salt bin nearby? (Is that bin in use?)
  - What is the gradient of the location? Highland or coastal?
  - Steep or flat road?
  - Are there running water problems?
- 3.2 If the request for a new bin meets the requirements set out in 3.1, there will be a further discussion between the area office/Community or Town Council.

### **4. Next Steps Before the Winter Season**

- 4.1 The Service will replenish all salt bins following inspections which will take place before the end of September and the Highway Inspectors will inspect the salt bins throughout the Winter season and arrange to fill them as is needed.
- 4.2 The Service will monitor the arrangements over the Winter season actioning any problems that arise. This is important as each season is different e.g. last Winter was quite mild.