

## Provision of a Winter Service

A revised policy is being submitted for public consultation. The main changes to be brought in by the new policy are:

### Network Hierarchy

- The highway network has been re-prioritised to take account of the former trunk roads that the Council now has to maintain.
- The hierarchy has been redesigned to more closely match the maintenance category of each road.
- Pedestrian routes have also been put into a hierarchy

### Treatment to prevent ice forming

- All bus routes should be treated
- Pedestrian routes where there is high risk will be treated (City centre and local shopping centres).
- Some minor roads no longer used as bus routes will be excluded
- Footpaths and cycle routes remote from the highway will not be treated

### Snow clearing

- High priority roads to be cleared first plus some links to emergency service centres
- Roads lower down the hierarchy only to be treated and cleared once roads higher up the hierarchy are clear and safe
- Footways to be cleared of snow and ice in accordance with position in hierarchy of footways.
- Footpaths and cycle routes remote from the carriageway will only be cleared as the lowest priority

The policy also suggests that each Department of the Council should carry out its own risk assessments and decide whether they need to treat areas directly under their control such as pedestrian routes within a school boundary or routes for employees from the highway to an office for example. Each Department will then have to make its own arrangements for the treatment.

The Consultation will go to identified stakeholders in the next month and to the public in January 2006. Maps of the proposed treated network and the draft policy will be available on the Council web site.