

## **Winter Resilience – Assistance to Communities**

### **Guidance Notes**

As in previous years, The Highland Council will offer assistance to communities who wish to take action in their own areas to help clear snow and ice from footpaths. Whilst the Council operates a fleet of over 40 footpath gritting tractors, we acknowledge that resources are insufficient to clear every path. We recognise that communities may themselves be able to treat a more extensive path network, earlier.

#### **The following assistance is offered:**

1. Provision of salt, in grit bins in urban areas or in heaps in rural areas, at locations to be agreed with the community. Larger heaps can be provided where appropriate (up to 10 Tonnes) for example in a car park or village square.
2. Provision of snow shovels and snow pushers.
3. Provision of gloves and high-visibility vests.
4. Provision of Health and Safety Advice to volunteers.
5. Provision of public liability and personal injury insurance to volunteers who have pre-registered through the community council and are working on its behalf.

#### **In return, the community is asked to:**

1. Nominate an individual to act as liaison person with Highland Council to manage the operation of the volunteer scheme and place requests for salt and equipment.
2. Compile a list of volunteers willing to help clear snow and ice from footpaths.
3. Identify which paths it would like to treat.
4. Identify locations for salt storage.
5. Decide how many snow shovels and pushers it requires.
6. Identify places to store the equipment provided (which may be at volunteers' homes).

Volunteers will be expected to provide their own warm clothing, suitable footwear, transport and food and drink.

For the Council to respond timeously it is important that arrangements, particularly delivery of equipment and salt, are put in place before the onset of bad weather or in intervals between bad weather events. Response may be delayed if the request is made when snow is already lying and all available staff are out dealing with it.

If your community wishes to take up this offer please complete the attached Winter Aid Application Form and return it to your **local** Roads & Transport Area Office either by email or post.