



Subject:	Response from the Minister for Infrastructure re Gritting of Greenways and Minor Roads throughout the City
Date:	9th March, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a response from the Minister for Infrastructure in relation to the gritting of Greenways and minor roads throughout the City.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the response.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that at its meeting on 12th January it was agreed that the Council write to the Department for Infrastructure regarding the gritting of Greenways and minor roads throughout the City.

3.2	A response has now been received from Minister Mallon, a copy of which is attached.
3.3	The Minister has advised that to assist the safe movement of traffic in wintry conditions, the Department sets aside sufficient funding to salt the main through routes across Northern Ireland, however, it is not possible to salt all of the roads given the competing demands on DfI's finite resources, many of which are safety related. She adds that footways are not included in the gritting schedule.
3.4	The Minister goes on to add that in periods of extreme conditions, following heavy snowfall or prolonged freezing conditions, the Department works in partnership with local Councils to remove snow and ice from footways and pedestrian areas.
3.5	In respect of greenways specifically, she advises that the majority of greenway type paths throughout Northern Ireland are owned by local Councils and notes that responsibility for maintenance of those paths falls to Councils. The small number of greenways owned by the Department do not currently meet the criteria for inclusion in the salted network. She advises that although she would like to be able to expand the gritting service to these greenways and many other routes, unfortunately it is simply not practicable to do so at present, due to the severe budget constraints and many other pressures faced by the Department.
3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Copy of response from the Minister for Infrastructure.