

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL
PORTFOLIO HOLDER DELEGATED DECISION
by
COUNTY COUNCILLOR PHYL DAVIES
(PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HIGHWAYS, RECYCLING & ASSETS)
APRIL 2018

REPORT AUTHOR: Senior Manager Highways Technical Services

SUBJECT: Strategic Salt Storage

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

- 1.1 Following the national shortage of salt stocks during the winter 2009/10 an independent review by David Quarmby was commissioned by the Department of Transport. One of the findings of the report encouraged a build-up of salt reserves to ensure national resilience.
- 1.2 In Wales, the Salt Union, a forum of all local authorities, the WLGA, and the Welsh Government (WG) agreed to set targets to achieve sufficient stock levels to ensure Wales was more resilient. Failure to increase stock levels will place the authority at risk, for it may not be able to access WGs emergency salt stocks.
- 1.3 Powys currently has a stock capacity of approximately 23,000 tonnes with an agreed target stock level of 32,500 for county and trunk road routes. Agreement has been reached with NMWTRA and WG to utilise Parc Hafren for the trunk proportion. Therefore there is an approximate shortfall of 6070 tonnes on the county stock.
- 1.4 In an average year, Powys CC uses approximately 22,000 tonnes. Barns usually require re-stocking prior to Christmas and/or late February. Increasing salt storage will reduce the reliance on winter re-stocking, which is undertaken at a higher cost than summer re-stocking.
- 1.5 Capital funding of £1.486M has been made available to provide the additional Strategic Salt Storage.
- 1.6 This report considers the preferred option for creating the additional capacity.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The Authority utilises the capital funding to increase its salt stock with 2no. new additional salt barns constructed at Newtown and Llangammarch subject to appropriate approvals such as planning.
- 2.2 The proposal makes best use of existing depot facilities. These depots have been selected based on current stock facilities, usage of salt and sustainability of stock levels through the winter season.
- 2.3 That a further business case is made to increase salt stocks at Brecon and Penybont, and declare Crickhowell and Presteigne surplus to requirements.
- 2.4 A virement has been made to roll forward the capital funding to make provision for construction of Llangammarch in 2018/19 and Newtown in 2019/20.

3. Options Considered / Available

- 2.5 Option 1 – to build new additional salt barns to increase salt stock at Newtown and Llangammarch at an estimated cost of £1.5M (see Appendix A for the Feasibility report)
- 2.6 Option 2 – Not to progress the implementation. This places the authority at risk of not gaining access to emergency salt stocks at times of shortage. It also prevents other benefits, such as summer stocking, and maintenance of barns.
- 2.7 Option 3 – Store out of County such as other LA storage, dockyards, salt mine. Stocks provided in this way would have annual costs, place significant logistic issues and place the Authority at the risk of being dependent on a third party.

4. Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 4.1 It is preferred to implement Option 1. This makes best use of existing facilities, provides salt where it is considered most beneficial and facilitates the associated benefits such as summer stocking and barn maintenance.

5. Impact Assessment

- 5.1 Is an impact assessment required? No
- 5.2 If yes is it attached? N/A

6. Corporate Improvement Plan

- 6.1 Improves the resilience of the winter service of Powys and contributes to Wales wide resilience.

7. Local Member(s)

- 7.1 Local Members have been informed and have not raised any issues with providing the additional salt storage facilities at these locations.

8. Other Front Line Services

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? No

If so please provide their comments

9. Communications

Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes

The Communications Manager has stated 'The report is of public interest and requires news release and use of appropriate social media to publicise the decision'

10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

- 10.1 The Highways and Enforcement Solicitor has no comment on the report.
- 10.2 The Finance Manager for Place and Resources notes the contents of the report, there is capital funding in place to provide additional salt storage and a virement has been made to roll forward the capital funding to make provision for construction of Llangammarch in 2018/19 and Newtown in 2019/20. The ability to replenish stock salt stocks in the summer months will be cheaper than replenishing the stock during the winter months.

11. Scrutiny

Has this report been scrutinised? No, it has not been selected by the scrutiny committee for review

12. Statutory Officers

The Head of Financial Services (Acting Section 151 Officer) notes that the funding is already in place within the Capital Programme to proceed with the proposal.

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

13. Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If the Portfolio Holder has an interest he should declare it, complete the relevant notification form and refer the matter to the cabinet for decision.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
1 To spend the allocated Capital budget to design and construct additional salt facilities at both Llangammarch and Newtown depots.	1. To increase resilience of the winter service and ensure Powys has access to WG emergency salt stocks at times of national shortage.
2 Decisions regarding detailed design and depot layouts to be approved by the Infrastructure Board.	2. To maintain governance

Relevant Policy (ies):	Winter Plan		
Within Policy:	Y / N	Within Budget:	Y / N

Relevant Local Member(s):	All Members
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Shaun James / Adrian Jervis
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	Immediate upon decision being made.

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Background Papers used to prepare Report: