

MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: Cllr Mark Coker

Date received: 12/12/2022 7:21:31 PM

To the Cabinet Member for: Cllr Jonathan Dreaan Jonathan.Dreaan@plymouth.gov.uk

Question: over the past few days the city has been struggling to keep moving. what actions were taken to keep our city centre and shopping centres free from ice? why were busses in the city not able to serve certain routes? why have we got some unfilled grit bins in the city? with the forecast of heavy frost and ice and possible snow why was only 40% of the network of plymouth treated? was this a cost cutting exercise to save money putting the travelling public at risk? will you commit to reviewing the Citys grit bin provision which this weekends problems has revealed as inadequate?

Answer: Over the weekend of cold/freezing weather, Plymouth Highways treated 930km of road network, resulting in 105 tonnes of salt being deposited over a three day period – a 100% increase on last year. We have continued to treat the roads in accordance with our winter highways operational plan, as we have done consistently each year. We do not have the resources to treat pavements and so have 450 + salt containers dispersed around the city so that residents can treat pavements etc. These are inspected and re-filled regularly, but there have been incidents of residents helping themselves to the contents.

This year the frost has been harsher than in previous years, albeit over a short period – as supported by Met Office statistics. It has been further exacerbated by additional precipitation falling as rain/sleet, rather than snow in some areas. Rock salt will not provide a failsafe solution in all weather conditions and the advice has been not to venture out, unless journeys are absolutely necessary.

We continue to review the location and quantity of grit bins and are committed to optimising their location.

Signed: Councillor Jonathan Dreaan

Date: 22/12/2022

Written questions:

- will be replied to within 10 working days
- will be published on the last Friday of each month