

Weather update

The big freeze continues with temperatures expecting to fall tonight to at least -5 degrees C. We are not expecting any significant amounts of snow until Sunday or Monday, when a large amount of snow is expected to come in from the continent accompanied by strong easterly winds that will give blizzard conditions. Thereafter, it is expected to be dry and cold for some time. The cold period is expected to last for 2 weeks.

The council will be salting all priority 1 roads from 1900 hrs today, this will include all the estates, spine roads and bus routes.

Please listen to local radio broadcasts as well as they should be carrying up to date information on the weather, but you can find a detailed breakdown of weather conditions by region, and other travel advice at <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>.

Gritting update

The council used 120 tonnes of salt to grit the main roads last night. Our current salt supplies currently stand at 310 tonnes before tonight's run. With the cold weather expected to last for another two weeks and no positive indications of new salt deliveries we need to prioritise our salt stocks accordingly. The delivery of salt is now dependent on the national salt cell, which will prioritise supplies to all local authorities.

Once temperatures get below -5 degrees C salt becomes less effective so please take extra care when driving and when walking on icy pavements.

Refuse/recycling collections have been partially resumed, in areas which are accessible. Residents are asked to be patient until a full collection service can be resumed.

Food supplies

The UK has a highly effective food supply chain, providing wide consumer choice. The food retailers have robust and resilient business continuity plans to deal with any threat of disruption. Supermarkets have confirmed that they are not experiencing panic buying.

Buses

Contact the local bus companies for up to date information

Social Care Visits

Where necessary staff are making visits on foot to ensure all vulnerable people are being looked after.

Helping vulnerable people

If you have an older neighbour or a relative, look out for them during the cold weather to make sure they are safe and well. Meals on wheels are being supported by volunteer 4x4 drivers from the Council in estate areas to ensure everyone receives hot meals.

Emergency services and external partners operations continue without significant problems.