**Council Meeting 10 (a)**

**31st January 2018**

**Motion submitted under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**Winter Gritting Service**

This Winter, Calderdale Council has let its residents down. Residents in many parts of the Borough were left stranded due to their roads being removed from the winter gritting routes as part of the implementation of a new policy.

This new policy failed to consider many basic aspects of Calderdale’s road network, geography and topography. This meant that many residents who lived in rural areas and/or roads with steep gradients were badly affected and were left without a winter service. This resulted in a series of avoidable accidents; impaired  the ability of residents and the emergency services to access some routes; and created significant concern and anxiety for many residents, particularly those most vulnerable. This has especially been the case in many rural Wards such as Greetland & Stainland, Ryburn, Luddendenfoot, Todmorden and Calder.

Eventually, this Council acknowledged both the weaknesses in its new policy and the problems in delivering the changes to the service. After several poorly communicated amendments to its new policy, it listened to those Councillors and members of the public who had requested that the full winter service be reinstated and performed a U-turn in restoring the vast majority of the original routes on the gritting list.

Therefore, this Council:

a) Acknowledges the weaknesses in the new winter gritting policy that it attempted to implement; the problems that it had in delivering the winter service; and thus accepts full responsibility for its inadequate provision of gritting during the first part of this winter.

b) Will recognise the diverse nature of Calderdale’s road network, geography, and topography, and seek to provide a comprehensive gritting service for Calderdale residents, both urban and rural. Furthermore, it will consider these factors, alongside the gradient of roads, when making any future changes to its winter gritting policy.

c) Calls upon the Leader of the Council to issue an apology to all of those residents who were affected by these changes, especially the most vulnerable and those left isolated and in need of urgent medical care.

**Proposed by Cllr Benton**

**Seconded by Cllr**