

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 3rd DECEMBER 2025

POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Getting ready for winter (gritting and flood ready)

As the Lead Member for Environment and Transport, I am pleased to report that our gritting team is ready for winter; their nightshift arrangements started on 3rd November 2025 for precautionary salting. The team have already been out gritting on seven nights so far this year, with the first treatment being carried out on Monday 17th November. All our salt deliveries have been received, and the depots are stocked ready for the season.

In addition, as part of our annual process all operational procedures have been reviewed.

- The service has been audited (twice) internally and by the British Standards Institution;
- Route optimisation has been completed for our gritting routes;
- New route guidance equipment has been installed in all our gritters;
- All gritters have been serviced and calibrated to ensure accurate salt spreading to 1 gram/m²;
- Winter specific forecasts are provided 24/7;
- 25 farmers across the County are available to support with snow clearing across the County and over 20 parish councils have snow wardens appointed;
- Revenue budget provision for the winter service for the financial year is £2m but actual expenditure will depend on severity of weather conditions.

When not gritting at night or supporting the response to flooding, the team complete urgent requests for pothole repairs, gully emptying and responding to emergency defects.

To ensure the team are fully ready to support during adverse weather, the highway depots have been stocked with sandbags, flood signs and road closed signs etc.

The highways control room continually monitors weather forecasts and severe weather alerts ensuring operational teams repeat a check of resources on receipt of any weather alert – this includes putting additional staff and resources on standby outside of standard working hours.

Response to Storm Claudia

An amber weather warning issued for Storm Claudia starting at 6am on Friday 14th November to Saturday 15th November kept the highways staff busy attending to fallen trees and flooded roads throughout the period.

The teams worked 24/7 from Thursday 13th November through to Monday 17th November in response to the storm with gritting duties then starting again on Monday night. On Thursday night, ahead of the adverse weather, teams delivered road closed signs, flood boards and cones to the side of the road at known flooding hotspots ready for response teams to attend and close the road as swiftly as possible when flooding started. This has been the first trial of pre-delivery of the signs and cones to hotspots ahead of flooding and I am pleased to report this helped the operational teams respond quickly to flooded roads that needed to be closed.

The service took over 340 calls from Friday through to Sunday; 22 trees fell across the highway and were removed; flood boards were put up at 32 other locations.

Nine roads were closed due to flooding:

- Mythe Lane, Witherley (Third-party responsibility – main river);
- Slash Lane, Sileby (Flood plain, not defective highway assets);
- Fosse Way Syston (Flood plain, not defective highway assets).
- Melbourne Rd Castle Donington (Flood plain, not defective highway assets) .
- Ratby Lane, Ratby (Flooding from Rothley brook, not highway asset)
- Mountsorrel Lane, Sileby (Flood plain, not defective highway assets)
- Lubbesthorpe Way Braunstone (lane Closure) (Needs investigation)
- Main St Lockington Hemington under the A50 (Pump failure – poor highway design feature)
- Layby Off A563 Westbound Soar Valley Way (Local issue needs investigation)

Officers also supported the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Resilience Partnership multi agency response over Friday and Saturday.

Since the previous flooding in January 2025, the highway and drainage teams have:

- Emptied 75,000 gullies, 8,000 of them on the high-speed road network, as part of the routinely scheduled maintenance;
- Carried out an additional cleanse of 5,000 gullies in response to the flooding in January with another 2000 programmed following Storm Claudia; and
- Programmed inspections of a further 22 highway culverts in locations affected by Storm Claudia.

Reports of two properties internally flooding as a result of Storm Claudia have been verified by the Council in its capacity as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), one in Coalville and one in Ratby. The LLFA has been in direct contact with those

affected offering support in the aftermath of the event. A further two properties in Lutterworth are also reported to have been internally flooded and the LLFA is also working to support those affected and verify this claim. No formal investigations are known to have been triggered as a result of this storm.

The LLFA continues to promote the Be Flood Ready messaging. A number of multi-agency public drop-in events have been coordinated across the County, including most recently in Broughton Astley and Loughborough to help support this campaign.

I am pleased to confirm that our highway, operational and drainage teams responded quickly and performed well during these latest adverse weather conditions that affected Leicestershire.

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