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Sent via email to Staffordshire
District, Borough, Town and
Parish Councils

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My Ref: PM He109/ES

Date 6th May 2026

Dear Chief Executive and Town Clerk,

Gritting Bin – Proposed approach to enhanced provision via Staffordshire County Council (SCC) commissioned services.

SCC currently own and manage in the region of 3000 grit bins across Staffordshire. These are split approximately into:

- 1800 Strategic grit bins. These are filled prior to the commencement of the winter season and refilled once during the winter maintenance season.
- 1200 Community grit bins. These are filled once prior to winter season commencement.

In addition to SCC managed grit bins, there are other grit bins provided by other authorities (for example, Parish councils across the county). The location, management and operating arrangements of these grit bins is poorly recorded, leading to confusion and a mistaken assumption that they are SCC's responsibility.

When compared with other similar authorities, Staffordshire's grit bin provision is favourable. For example, Derbyshire have c2000 grit bins in total which is significantly below our provision of c3000.

Despite the level of provision, there continues to be pressure from communities and elected members, alongside District, Borough, Town and Parish councils to increase grit bin provision. However, there exists a defined set of criteria by which SCC assess and provide grit bins. Many of the requests from other local authorities and communities do not meet these conditions.

To agree to these requests would bring significant financial pressure on the County Council budgets that cannot, in the current environment, be absorbed. Therefore, this proposal seeks to set out possible approaches to address the requests for additional grit bin provision while protecting SCC from the implications that arise.

Request from all Districts, Boroughs, Town and Parish Councils

Firstly, an exercise in recording all bins provided by others needs to be undertaken to establish the exact baseline position. This will be achieved through:

District, Borough, Town and Parish councils providing the following details:

- The total number of bins provided by you for community use, alongside the location of each grit bin if sited on the highway. If sited on the highway, confirmation of whether SCC approval/agreement for each location has been sought and received.
- Confirmation as to whether public liability insurance provision is held by you covering the bin(s) concerned. If not, a request can be made for SCC highways to provide this at an annual fee per bin (see schedule 1), payable each year in advance. Approval of location and confirmation of insurance are a condition of approval to siting on the highway.
- Confirmation that any grit bins sited on the highway continue to be serviced/refilled by the relevant local authority. Alternatively, a request for SCC to provide a filling/refill service for these bins can be made. This service will come with an annual fee per bin (see schedule 1), payable in advance (pre-winter maintenance season commencing). For example, 10 grit bins provided by the requesting authority but filled by SCC will require a single total payment of £1,000 to cover the prewinter season fill service of all 10 grit bins.
- We request that every grit bin on the highway under your authority's ownership be marked accordingly with clear reference to your organisation, so the public know who to contact in the first instance. This will be a condition of any approval they remain sited on the highway.
- Following the above any grit bin sited on the highway not notified and without official ownership and recording of the above details will be removed by SCC.

We request this exercise is carried out as soon as possible with responses returned no later than 31/07/2026. This will allow time to add these to the map before the next winter maintenance season planning activities.

Any future bins to be provided by you on the highway will need to meet the approval requirements set out in this proposed plan before deployment, with agreement on the ongoing insurance and maintenance arrangements.

In addition, SCC can undertake the provision on your behalf of the if requested to do so for a one-off charge (see schedule 1). Going forward all requests for new grit bins on the highway, requests for SCC to fill grit bins on highways, and payments for requested services must be received by 31/07 each year to allow for inclusion in the next year winter maintenance plans.

Your replies to this request should be sent initially to me at peter.mason@staffordshire.gov.uk. Going forward an on-line process will be established to make future applications more streamlined. I will write again to advise of this once available.

Schedule 1 – Initial applicable payments (subject to ongoing review)

Item	Fee £	Notes
Public Liability Insurance	10.00	Annual fee payable per bin to be covered on SCC public liability insurance.
Annual pre-season grit fill	100.00	Annual fee per bin to be filled.
Provision of new grit bin	250.00	Per bin provided. The costs include administration costs of adding the bin to the SCC gritting map, approving the location, the initial fill, and the delivery of the bin to the site.
Additional grit fill requests (members only)	100.00 (multiple bins) 200.00 (single bin)	Subject to resources and timing to maximise the number of bins filled at each visit.

Yours sincerely



CLlr Peter Mason

Cabinet Member for Strategic Highways