



## **Joint Transportation Board Update**

**Following a Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee (POC) meeting on 22 January 2010, this report has been produced for Joint Transportation Boards (JTBs), to cover highways and transport issues across the County.**

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### **Winter Service**

Adequate salt stocks were maintained by Kent and thanks must go to all those responsible for winter maintenance including farmers, Boroughs/Districts and Commercial Services. Particular thanks are to be expressed to the gritting crews.

In terms of the early lessons learned, dedicated gritting lorries have now been put in place for Bluebell Hill and Detling Hill and Nick Chard is exploring the viability of distributing portable salt bags. The aim is to make communities feel empowered during winter weather.

Overall, Nick Chard welcomes feedback from Parishes and local communities regarding local gritting priorities. A report will be produced in late March outlining how Kent as a whole fared during the winter weather, and a further report looking at the winter programme policy will be discussed and debated in July.

### **Kent Permit Scheme**

A scheme aimed at cutting congestion on Kent's roads by better co-ordinating roadworks carried out by utility companies was launched on, Monday 25 January. Under the Kent Permit Scheme a company planning to dig up a road must apply for a permit from Kent Highway Services for any non-emergency work.

This will allow Kent Highway Services to better co-ordinate the timing of roadworks, so that gas, water, telecoms and electricity companies work on the same part of the road at the same time, reducing the number and duration of roadworks – and minimising their impact on motorists and other road users.

### **Freedom Pass**

From September 2010, the scheme is going to be extended again to allow students in years 7 to 11 to travel beyond the County boundary. There are 2,252 children attending schools outside Kent, in Medway, Sussex and London, who will benefit from this Cabinet decision.