

weather information

for businesses in Perth and Kinross

30 November 2010



A message for businesses from the Chief Executive and Leader of Perth & Kinross Council

Perth & Kinross Council is working hard to combat the effects of this week's severe weather, which has caused widespread major disruption across Scotland.

As part of this work, the Council has issued this bulletin to businesses to help keep you informed about the current situation and the work that the Council is doing to keep Perth and Kinross on the move during this spell of severe weather.

Here is an overview of the current situation (as of Tuesday 30 November 2010):

Weather outlook

The Met Office has advised that snow showers will continue over next 24 hours although they will be less frequent and intense. No large accumulations of fresh snow are expected over next day or so but drifting is likely. The temperature will be barely above freezing for rest of the week. The weather will gradually improve but will remain bitterly cold with no sign of any milder conditions up to 27 December. There are no snow melt issues predicted at this time.

Schools

- All nursery, primary and secondary schools were closed again today (Tuesday 30 November) based on the weather and traffic information available.
- Many schools will reopen tomorrow (Wednesday 1 December). Parents and carers can call the Council's Customer Service Centre on 0845 3011100 or check the Council's website at www.pkc.gov.uk for information on individual schools closures. The website will be updated on a regular basis. Parents and carers are also advised to listen to their local radio station for information.
- Members of the public should contact their local Community Campus directly to find out if their campus facilities are open before travelling.

Refuse Collections

- The continued severe weather has made it necessary to continue with the suspension of all refuse collections today (Tuesday 30 November). Road and foot-way conditions, particularly on minor roads, housing estates and in rural areas have made it impossible for refuse collection vehicles and their crews to operate safely.
- Refuse collections will also be suspended tomorrow. During the suspension of collections all refuse collection operatives have been temporarily redeployed to snow clearance and gritting of pavements.
- Road and foot-way conditions are expected to improve later in the week which should allow refuse collection services to return to normal.

- All recycling centres remain closed today due to site access restrictions as a result of the weather.
- Businesses are advised to present their bins on their normal scheduled collection date. If it is not possible to provide a collection service on that day, then the bin should be taken back to the normal storage until the next scheduled collection day.
- Any business that misses a general waste collection can present a reasonable amount of bagged side waste next to their bin. This will be collected on the next scheduled collection day.
- Information for businesses is available at www.pkc.gov.uk The Council's Customer Service Centre can also be contacted on 01738 475000 until 6pm this evening and from 7am tomorrow morning.

Roads and foot-ways

- Perth & Kinross Council carries out gritting according to a priority system for roads and pavements. More information on this is available at www.pkc.gov.uk
- The Council has deployed additional operatives and contractors to help respond to the severe weather conditions.
- All priority routes have been treated and work has now progressed to some non-priority routes. Work on the priority routes is taking longer than usual due to the severity of the weather and driving conditions, and some priority routes are being re-treated due to continued snowfall and drifting snow in some areas. This is taking operatives away from work on non-priority routes.
- Footpaths and carriageways, particularly in the South of the city, are affected by deep hard packed snow. Footpath ploughs are not designed to clear such deep snow and so these footpaths will need to be excavated. Additional resource will be put in place to deal with this work which will be extremely time consuming and resource heavy.
- The Council would encourage all local business owners to help themselves by clearing snow and ice from outside their premises, if it is safe to do so. This will make access easier for your customers.

Public transport

- All local bus services in the Council area are experiencing severe disruption again today due to the weather conditions. This situation is changing on a regular basis. The Public Transport Unit can be contacted on 0845 30 111 30 for further information.

General severe weather advice for businesses

Many businesses can be affected by the consequences of adverse weather. More information on preparing your business for severe weather, and other types of emergencies can be found on the Ready Business website at www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/ready-scotland/Ready/Business

Employees

Falling temperatures could have a detrimental effect on the efficiency and productivity of your workforce. Medical conditions (such as high or low blood pressure, heart disease, epilepsy or diabetes) can be made worse by low temperatures. Other people that could

be at risk from the cold include nursing or expectant mothers, outside workers, manual workers who are physically active, kitchen staff or staff operating equipment or machinery. You can help by:

- Increasing awareness of the impact of extreme temperatures amongst staff.
- Warning staff about any areas where slips and falls could occur during cold snaps.
- Ensuring that you have identified your legal obligations and understand your liabilities with respect to working conditions in the workplace, including thermal comfort and outdoor working.

In very low temperatures:

- Ensure that you have grit/salt supplies and that adequate gritting of access routes is undertaken in snowy and icy conditions.
- For outside workers, increase breaks to avoid hypothermia and consider other measures such as cold weather clothing.
- Encourage staff to wear appropriate footwear to prevent slipping on ice.

The Health & Safety Executive provides information on work place temperature requirements at www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/index.htm

Suppliers, logistics and delivery

Severe weather conditions can wreak havoc with the transport network, meaning deliveries and supplies arrive late or in some cases not at all. Businesses should prepare for this eventuality to continue trading efficiently. If your suppliers cannot get to you because of weather-related disruptions:

- Consider alternative suppliers and/or increasing storage capacity to increase the ability to operate without deliveries.
- Consider sharing suppliers with similar businesses in your area.
- Think about how you get your products to your customers or how your customers get to you. Consider how the routes could be disrupted by extreme weather.
- Make sure the drivers of vehicles transporting your products are experienced and are aware of the risks of driving in extreme weather (i.e. on icy roads).
- If you staff drive for business, make sure they are aware of procedures for driving in severe weather.
- Consider using teleconferences for meetings if you cannot deliver your service in person.

We hope you have found this update and information useful. Further information on Council Services is available at www.pkc.gov.uk You can also contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000. The Customer Service Centre is usually open between 8am and 6pm from Monday to Friday, but will open from 7am until Friday 3 December. May we take this opportunity to wish you a successful trading period in the lead up to the festive period.

Bernadette Malone

Chief Executive of Perth & Kinross Council

Councillor Ian Miller

Leader of Perth & Kinross Council