How you can help
Help reduce traffic, be Travelwise. If driving conditions are bad – do you really need to travel? Consider making your journey by rail or bus. You can obtain free timetables from Traveline 0871 2002233. If you do need to travel in your vehicle please remember:

- Never assume a road has been salted
- Approximately 80% of roads are not routinely salted.
- Allow extra time for your journey and reduce your speed.
- When visibility is poor due to rain, fog and snow use dipped headlights – see and be seen.
- Watch out for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders – they can be difficult to see in bad conditions.
- Try your brakes after going through deep water, braking lightly will help to dry them out.
- In high winds watch out for sudden gusts and debris on the road.
- In fog, you think you are travelling slower than you really are – slow down and don’t use tail lights of the vehicle in front as a guide.
- Give snow ploughs and gritters plenty of room – be patient, don’t follow close behind.
- Don’t park where it may block a salting route.

Please remember
- Never assume a road has been salted.
- It takes time for the salt to become effective, if snow has fallen it also needs traffic movement.
- Showers or rain will wash salt off roads leaving them prone to icing.
- In very cold weather even salting will not stop ice from forming.
- Forecasts are not always accurate and it takes over 3 hours to salt the network.
- When freezing or snow follows rain there may not be enough time to treat all the network before temperatures fall to zero.

HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY
Devon County Council is responsible for over 12,800 km (8,000 miles) of road from major A roads to narrow country lanes. This is the longest network in England.

Winter service is an important part of the Council’s maintenance work and up to £5 million is spent each year on roads affected by winter weather. This involves salting major roads where there is a risk of ice, clearing snow and reacting to floods and fallen trees. We will, within the available resources, provide as safe a passage as possible for users of the highway.

The Council’s contractor, Skanska, has a workforce based at strategic locations to provide an effective response to any problems that may occur. However winter weather can still make roads treacherous. With over 90% of all crashes attributed to human error the real key to driving in winter is to drive with due care for the conditions.

Devon County Council’s primary salting network provides reasonable access to about 80% of the population and 70% of Devon’s traffic.

In severe winter weather the County Council does not have enough resources to respond at a very local level. It has established a Snow Warden Scheme which encourages Town and Parish Councils to develop their own local snow plans and engage trained volunteers to increase their local resilience in such conditions. Devon County Council provides support to this scheme in terms of training, salt and advice, as resources permit.

Never assume a road has been salted

What we do
• Undertake precautionary salting on major roads when there is a risk of ice or snow.
• Monitor road conditions and direct resources to where problems are occurring.
• Clear the major routes of snow.
• Provide roadside salt bins and bags for self help.
• React to highway flooding and fallen trees.
• Try to keep delays to a minimum.

What we are unable to do
• Undertake salting or other work on the motorway or trunk roads as these are the responsibility of the Highways Agency.
• Salt all roads as this would be an enormous and costly task.
• Always keep roads free of ice and snow.

When we salt
Often you will wake up to find frost on your car but will see that the roads have not been salted. This is because the decision is based on road and not air temperatures. Salting will take place:
• When roads may be wet and road temperatures are forecast to be at or below freezing.
• When snow is forecast – but it takes time and traffic for salt to melt snow.

Salting is usually completed before freezing but rain may occasionally delay treatment leaving roads liable to freezing until they are salted.

Where we salt
2650 km (1650 miles) of road are on the precautionary salting network shown on the map overleaf. This includes major roads and routes to larger settlements, as well as accesses to emergency services such as hospitals, fire stations etc, to make travelling as safe as possible. BUT please remember approximately 80% of roads are not routinely treated.