

## West Lothian is Winter Ready with Multihogs

West Lothian sees its fair share of bad weather in the winter, but this year the area is more than prepared to deal with the effects of it: two Multihog multi-purpose implement carriers with gritter, snow plough and snow blower attachments have been delivered to West Lothian Council in readiness for the approaching winter season.

The very harsh conditions during the last few years prompted the council to look into new methods for treating and clearing its network of around 950 km of roads and 1000 km of footways. With an increasing focus on the best possible use of budget and maximum utilisation of vehicles, the Multihog stood out from other equipment due to its ability to be fitted with wide ranging attachments for very cost effective operation.

After watching a video of the Multihog in operation, Supervisor of Road Services Tom Ward and his team saw at first hand at a demo how quick and easy it is to change the demountable attachments. “The Multihog’s versatility and manoeuvrability made it a very attractive proposition,” says Tom. “By augmenting our existing winter resilience fleet with the two Multihogs, we will be able to improve the effectiveness of our snow clearing service across West Lothian.”

The heavy duty snow blower with centre drive cutting wheels makes light work of deep snow removal, and the Multihog’s ability to simultaneously operate front and rear attachments comes into its own with the combination of the rear mounted 1m<sup>3</sup> capacity gritter and front mounted hydraulic lift, tilt and angle snow plough. The Multihog’s powerful performance will enable efficient clearance of farm roads, rural secondary routes and schools, whilst its compact dimensions also make it ideal for accessing more confined spaces such as link areas around shopping complexes. “Although I’m not exactly keen on the snow, I am really looking forward to seeing the Multihog at work,” says Tom. “My team were very impressed with the quality of manufacturing. Multihog’s developers also collaborate with some excellent attachment companies, such as the German manufacturer of the snow blower for example.”

When the winter season is over West Lothian Council will be looking to maximise the investment in the two Multihogs by adding other applications to their remit. A patch planer that was put through it paces at the original demo is likely to be first on the list, thanks to its ability to carry out permanent carriageway repairs in a fraction of the time needed by a larger machine that cannot travel under its own power. Hedge cutting and sweeping are also areas to be investigated. Tom sums up: “The beauty of the Multihog is that it is never likely to sitting idle whatever the time of year.”