

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 18 NOVEMBER 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

2009/10 TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME - PROGRESS REPORT

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 As part of the process of improving financial and performance planning, this report provides a progress update on the Technical Services Capital Programme and Members are asked to note the report.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 15th January 2009 Cabinet approved a report from the Director of Technical Services advising members that in November 2007 the Department for Transport (DfT) approved a Local Transport Capital Settlement for Wirral of £6,507,000 for 2009/10. This report set out a proposed Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital programme for approval. This was a key decision included on the forward plan.
- 2.2 Members will be aware that this settlement has subsequently been allocated across 4 sub-blocks comprising Congestion, Road Safety, Air Quality & Environment and Accessibility.
- 2.3 On 19th March 2009 Cabinet approved a further report on the 2009/10 Transport Capital Programme setting out project details relating to proposed schemes within the Road Safety & Air Quality and Environment (Walking Strategy & Cycling Strategy) sub-blocks.

3.0 REPORT

- 3.1 This report highlights the progress in the delivery of those elements of the Capital Programme Congestion, Road Safety, Air Quality & Environment and Accessibility sub-blocks undertaken by the Traffic Management Division accounting for £2.01M of the total £6.057M allocation.

4.0 CONGESTION

- 4.1 Schemes and Initiatives primarily focussed on reducing / managing levels of Congestion and the negative impact of the motor vehicle, and / or promoting Public Transport and the effective movement of Freight.
- 4.2 £425,000 allocation for Public Transport Improvements, Bus/Rail Projects, Strategic Signing & UTC - Telematics / CCTV projects.
- 4.3 **Bus / Rail projects**

Cloughton Road Bus Station Improvements

Works to introduce a double Puffin Crossing to link pedestrian safety to Birkenhead Market together with substantial improvement to existing bus stop arrangements were completed on site in September 2009.

4.4 **Traffic Management**

Speed Limit and Traffic Regulation Order Review

Work has been completed on the assessment of existing speed limits, which started in April 2009. This involved detailed analysis of existing accident records, collection of survey data through the deployment of over 170 Automatic Traffic Counters (ATCs) and analysis of each route including function of the road and levels of vulnerable road user activity.

A speed limit review workshop involving Wirral Traffic Management Officers, Merseyside Police and Consultants has been held to assess the suitability of existing speed limits and discuss whether any amendments are required. A number of issues were covered including accident analysis, cost and safety benefits, enforcement, maintenance of proposed schemes, changes in driver behaviour and consistency of speed limits. It is anticipated that the formal statutory consultation process for phase 1 schemes will commence during November 2009.

The review of existing Traffic Regulation Orders is currently ongoing. It is anticipated that the review of TROs will be completed by November 2009 with a view to advertising any changes in parallel with the speed limit review.

4.5 **UTC - Telematics / Intelligent Transport Systems**

Surveys are now being undertaken for new CCTV cameras and Variable Message Signs to link to new Intelligent Transport System and Urban Traffic Control Unit. It is expected these works will be complete by February 2010.

5.0 **ROAD SAFETY**

5.1 Schemes to reduce road accident casualties and ensure a safe and well-maintained highway asset.

5.2 £950,000 allocation for Local Safety Schemes, School Travel Improvements and Major safety Schemes.

5.3 **Local Safety Schemes - £500,000**

A41 / Hooton Interchange, Eastham

An Order has been issued to carry out carriageway resurfacing works, revised lane signing and changes to the road marking arrangements. Works are expected to start on site late October / early November 2009.

A41 New Chester Road / Allport Road, Bromborough

An Order has been issued to carry out carriageway resurfacing works. Works are expected to start on site late October / early November 2009.

Barnston Road, Barnston

Works to introduce 'cats-eye' road studs were completed in July 2009.

Brimstage Road, Brimstage

Phase I (of II) works to introduce new specialist carriageway markings, amended signing, marker-posts and 'cats-eye' road studs on Brimstage Road between Heswall railway-bridge and Brimstage Village were substantially completed in July

2009. All outstanding works from Phase I, along with proposals for Phase II will be carried out in conjunction with planned structural maintenance works for Brimstage Road between Clatterbridge Interchange and Brimstage Village.

Chester Road ('Gayton Arms' roundabout to Borough Boundary)

Detailed design work on this scheme is currently being finalised and subject to Committee approval, it is hoped that works to introduce a traffic regulation order to reduce the speed limit will be introduced on site late in 2009.

Fender Lane, Bidston

Detailed design work on this scheme is currently being finalised and subject to Committee approval, it is hoped that works to introduce a traffic regulation order to reduce the speed limit will be introduced on site late in 2009.

Heron Road, Meols

Works to introduce new specialist road markings, signing amendments, marker-posts and 'cats-eye' road studs were completed in July 2009.

Milner Road/Whitfield Lane, Heswall

An Order has been issued for Works to introduce improved road markings and signing. Works are expected to start on site shortly.

Mount Road, Bebington

An Order has been issued for Works to improve street lighting, carriageway resurfacing works, improved road markings, marker-posts, 'cats-eye' road studs and signing. Works are expected to start on site shortly.

Pulford Road - Higher Bebington Road, Bebington

An Order has been issued for Works to introduce physical Traffic Calming features (speed-cushions) and vehicle actuated signing. Works are expected to start on site shortly.

Raby Hall Road, Raby/Bromborough

Detailed design work on this scheme is currently being finalised. An order for works to introduce new specialist carriageway markings, amended signing, marker-posts and 'cats-eye' road studs will be issued before the end of November 2009.

Thornton Common Road - Neston Road, Thornton Hough, Raby

Detailed design work on this scheme is currently being finalised. An order for works to introduce new specialist carriageway markings, amended signing, marker-posts and 'cats-eye' road studs will be issued before the end of October 2009.

Willaston Road - Clatterbridge Road

Detailed design work on this scheme is currently being finalised. An order for works to introduce new specialist carriageway markings, amended signing, marker-posts and 'cats-eye' road studs will be issued before the end of October 2009.

Additional (Local Safety) Schemes

Due to savings that may be made on the capital expenditure within the LSS programme it may be possible to programme a number of additional local safety schemes.

On 19th March 2009, Cabinet resolved that in the event it proves impractical to proceed with an approved scheme or unallocated finance becomes available, the Director of Technical Services be authorised to select a suitable alternative from the reserve list in consultation with the party spokespersons.

Such schemes would be identified and prioritised based upon the potential accident savings and expected first-year rate of return.

5.4 **Major Safety Schemes - £300,000**

M53 Junction 3

Scheme design now completed and works to be tendered late November 2009. Works to commence on site February 2010 after A552/M53 bridge works completed by Highways Agency.

North Wallasey Approach Road

An Order has been issued for works to introduce a Road Restraint System (Safety Barrier) on the North Wallasey Approach Road - eastbound link road between the A554 and A551. Works are expected to start on site late in 2009 and be completed prior to Christmas. Additional road markings and signing arrangements are currently being finalised with an order for these works imminent.

5.5 **School Travel Improvements (Safer Routes To School) - £150,000**

Weatherhead High School

An order has been issued for works to introduce improvements to the existing school bus stop arrangements.

St George's Primary School

An order has been issued for works to provide pedestrian guardrail.

Castleway Primary School

An order has been issued for works to provide a new footpath and footway crossing.

Sandbrook Primary School

The formal public consultation period advertising my proposals to introduce a limited waiting traffic regulation order and footway improvement works commenced recently. Subject to no objections and Committee approval, it is hoped that works will be introduced on site late in 2009.

Irby Primary School

An order has been issued for works to provide pedestrian guardrail.

Stanton Road Primary School

The formal public consultation period advertising my proposals to introduce a 'flat-top road hump' commenced recently. Subject to no objections, it is hoped that works will be introduced on site late in 2009.

Brookdale Primary School

The formal public consultation period advertising my proposals to introduce a limited waiting traffic regulation order commenced recently. Subject to no objections and Committee approval, it is hoped that works will be introduced on site late in 2009.

Mount Primary School

An order has been issued for works to provide specialist road markings.

St Anselms School

An order has been issued for works to introduce improvements to the existing school bus stop arrangements.

South Wirral High School

An order has been issued for works to introduce improvements to the existing school bus stop arrangements.

Liscard Primary School

An order has been issued for works to provide specialist road markings.

Hoylake Holy Trinity School

An order has been issued for works to introduce improved road markings.

Meadowside School

An order has been issued for works to provide new (replacement) signing.

Black Horse Hill Primary School

An order for works to provide a vehicle actuated sign is imminent.

Sustrans 'Bike-it' project

There are currently 17 'Bike it' Schools within Wirral. Embedded within each of these schools is a 'Bike it' Crew, made up of pupils and 2 adult Bike It Champions who are responsible for progressing the initiative.

During 2008/09 the Sustrans 'Bike It' Bronze, Silver and Gold School Mark was piloted in Merseyside 'Bike it' Schools to encourage the schools to maintain momentum once the 'Bike it' officer moved to a new batch of schools. This scheme has now been launched nationally in well over 600 schools.

SRTS promotional activities

This allocation supports a wide variety of activities to promote sustainable modes of transport e.g. Crafty's Road Safety Calendar, equipment for walking buses, Junior Road Safety Officer's high visibility jackets and School based competitions which promote cycling and walking. It is expected that this budget allocation will achieve its full spend by March 2009.

6.0 AIR QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENT (Walking Strategy & Cycling Strategy):

6.1 *Schemes to improve air quality, the quality of life and the environment and promote healthier communities.*

6.2 £450,000 allocation for Pedestrian Signals, Dropped Kerbs, Pedestrian Refuges, Signing and Cycling Schemes.

Pedestrian Improvements:

6.3 Pedestrian Signals

Woodchurch Road / Osmaston Road, Prenton

Works to introduce a Puffin Crossing were completed in early October 2009. Carriageway resurfacing works are programmed to commence shortly prior to commissioning.

Old Chester Road / Town Lane, Bebington

Works to introduce a Toucan Crossing (together with associated cycleway facilities) were completed on site in September 2009.

6.4 Pedestrian Dropped Kerbs

Various locations

Works to introduce pedestrian dropped crossings at several sites across the Borough were completed in May 2009.

6.5 Pedestrian Refuge Islands

Hoylake Road / Chapelhill Road, Moreton

Works to introduce a pedestrian refuge were completed on site in October 2009.

Slatey Road / Park Road South, Birkenhead

Works to introduce a pedestrian refuge island are currently in progress on site and are expected to be complete before the end of October 2009.

6.6 Area Forums

Following extensive consultation with the Area Forums during October, funding allocation from the Integrated Transport block has now been divided for various schemes.

6.7 **Cycling**

Mount Pleasant Road / Mount Road, Wallasey

An Order has been issued for works to introduce a Toucan crossing and additional, associated cycle facilities. Works are expected to start on site in November 2009.

Rake Lane / Earlston Road, Wallasey

An Order has been issued for works to introduce a Toucan crossing and additional, associated cycle facilities. Works are expected to start on site in November 2009.

Central Park, Liscard

Works to introduce extensive cycle signing were completed on site in June 2009.

Liscard Town Centre Link, Liscard

Detailed design work on this scheme is currently being finalised. An order for works to introduce a segregated off-road cycle facility will be issued before the end of November 2009.

7.0 **ACCESSIBILITY**

Schemes and initiatives to improve access to jobs, healthcare, education.

£100k has been allocated from the 09/10 Capital Programme for improving "Accessibility" for Wirral, which is made up of several projects, as detailed below:

Contribution to Merseyside Transport Partnership Community Transport Access Grant (CTAG) (£20k)

This is an annual contribution to Merseytravel who administer the CTAG on behalf of the Merseyside Transport Partnership. The CTAG is a pot of money which community groups across Merseyside can submit bids to in order to support accessibility projects.

Travel Training (£25k)

The travel training scheme has now been expanded to 2 full time travel trainers with a third travel trainer funded using non - LTP monies from the Learning and Skills Council to provide travel training for Special Educational Needs Students.

Expansion of WorkWise Scooter Commuter Scheme (£25k)

The Scooter Commuter Scheme provides 10 scooters for loan in Wirral, however due to the demand and the success of this scheme Wirral LTP funding has allowed this to be expanded to allow an additional 15 scooters to be available on Wirral.

Deeside Accessibility Project / Promotional work relating to Borderlands (Wrexham-Bidston) Rail Line (£5k)

In conjunction with Flintshire Council, TAIH and Merseytravel a "How to Get to Deeside Industrial Estate" Guide to assist Wirral residents access employment opportunities available at Deeside has been produced and distributed. In addition a

contribution has been made to the marketing and promotional work of the Borderlands (Wrexham-Bidston) Community Rail Officer.

Other Projects (£25k)

- Information provision via production and distribution of "How to get to Guides" for 2 key locations on the Wirral.
- Greasby Study – supporting work and survey to support development of community project in Greasby area.
- Pedestrian Audits to support the implementation of the Merseyside Pedestrian Strategy.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Capital Programme for 2009/10 reflects the programme reported in March 2009 taking into account subsequent Cabinet decisions.

8.2 The 2009-2010 spend will be closely in line with the budget allocation although there may be minor variations between operational service areas.

8.3 Existing staff and consultants, where appropriate, are used to design, implement and supervise the schemes. Future maintenance is to be met from the revenue budget.

9.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific staffing implications arising directly from this report.

10.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific ethnic minority, elderly persons or equal opportunities implications arising directly out of this report. Some schemes are of particular benefit to children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and pedestrians.

11.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Most of the schemes within the identified programmes have positive Community Safety Implications, through improvements in road safety are designed to complement the Council's corporate objectives of "Making Wirral Safer" and "Improving Transport".

12.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

12.1 A number of schemes within the programme will assist pedestrian movements and thereby support a reduction on the reliance upon the private motor vehicle, which is an aim of national and local policies and is identified within the Local Transport Plan.

12.2 Cycling infrastructure proposals and the development of a borough-wide cycle network supports the aims and objectives of Local Agenda 21.

13.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no specific planning implications arising from this report.

14.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There are no specific planning implications arising from this report.

15.0 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

16.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

16.1 There are no social inclusion implications arising from this report.

17.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

17.1 This report has implications for all Wards.

18.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 No specific background papers have been used in the preparation of this report.

19.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

19.1 That Committee notes the contents of the report.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL SERVICES