

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	COUNCILLOR HARRY SMITH
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
CO-ORINDATING CHIEF OFFICER	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT

Executive Summary

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

1. Delivery of the Highway Services Contract 2014 - 2018

Council will be aware that formal award of the Contract was delayed due to the need to extend the statutory 'Standstill' period required in public contracts. This arose because of the very close result in the tender process between the successful and second place bidders; and naturally the unsuccessful bidder required satisfaction that the council had met all of the requirements of its procurement processes – this was demonstrated and mobilisation of the new contract is now well underway.

I am pleased that we have been able to confirm the appointment of BAM Nuttall Ltd, who are now working closely with both the existing provider, Colas Ltd, and council officers, to ensure that the transition from one provider to another is as smooth as possible from 1 April 2014. In particular, BAM Nuttall have been meeting with employees of Colas Ltd, and their representatives, during February and March to facilitate the transfer of those employees to their new employer.

2. Repairs to Storm Damaged Highway infrastructure

The severe storms and tidal overtopping have had a significant impact on roads, footways and street furniture, such as bins and seats. Works to fully repair the damaged pavements and furniture, costing approximately £250,000, has been progressing steadily, despite further storms and the completion of the planned repairs is expected to be completed by mid March.

3. Structural Maintenance Programme for 2014/15

The highway maintenance part of the Council's Capital Programme is now completed for this year and the Structural Maintenance Programme for 2014/15 was approved in February 2014, and includes a range of surface treatment and resurfacing schemes for both footways and carriageways. I am pleased to report that in addition to the funding provided through the Local Transport Plan and

other government grants, the Cabinet has approved an additional programme of maintenance schemes to unclassified and residential roads totalling £500,000.

4. Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract 2014 - 2018

The procurement process for new traffic signal maintenance contract is near completion, with the appointment of Motus Traffic Ltd, based in Lancashire, and the contract will be in place by 1st April 2014.

Major Scheme Submission – Dock Bridges

The specialist consultant has started work on the technical feasibility for replacement bridge designs and life expiry modelling for the Dock Bridges. This work will be completed by June 2014 and is necessary to support the Major Scheme Business Case (MSBC). Consultants will shortly be invited to tender for preparing the full MSBC document. A consultant will be appointed this month and will work with the technical consultant and the Council to produce the MSBC for its submission to the Local Transport Body for consideration in the prioritisation of funding in December 2014.

6. Public Health Outcomes Fund – Rights of Way Improvements

The health benefits of access to the countryside and walking are well known, and I am pleased that a project funded by the Public Health Outcomes Fund has enabled the improvement of the surface of two sections of public rights of way at Limbo Lane and Roman Road, together with the replacement of 48 stiles with gates across the Borough, which will allow easier access onto our public footpaths for greater numbers of people.