

**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Stuart Whittingham</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>Highways And Transport</b>
<b>CO-ORINDATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Kevin Adderley, Strategic Director – Regeneration &amp; Environment</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

**1. HIGHWAY SERVICES CONTRACT 2014 – 2018**

Members will recall that the new Highway Services Contract was awarded to BAM Nuttall from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. Our need for a contractor who will work with the Council to achieve its objectives, and in a collaborative way, has already been evident through the way all parties have worked together to deliver a successful start to the relationship during what was a short period of time between award and start of the contract.

**2. STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME FOR 2014/15**

The highway maintenance part of the Council's Capital Programme is now well underway for this year, and includes a range of surface treatment and resurfacing schemes for both footways and carriageways, including the additional programme of maintenance schemes funded from the Council's Capital Programme to unclassified and residential roads totalling £500,000. I am able to report that our new contractor, BAM Nuttall, have now completed approximately a third of the £2.792m programme for this year.

**3. POTHOLE REPAIR FUND**

Members will probably be aware that the Government announced an additional £168 Million Pothole Repair Fund, and invited local highway authorities to apply for a share of the fund. The Council submitted a bid and I'm pleased to announce has been successful in securing £462,000.

This money will enable us to repair at least 8000 potholes and we will look to tackle as many defects in carriageways which fall below the actionable intervention criteria as the grant permits. This will benefit all users; and particularly cyclists who are more likely to notice those defects which are, perhaps, 20 – 40 mm in depth.

We will of course continue to repair defects which are unsafe; meeting the criteria in the Council's highway maintenance policy; when they are identified, using the highways revenue budget.

#### **4. MAJOR SCHEME SUBMISSION – DOCK BRIDGES**

The specialist consultants have progressed work on the technical feasibility and the Major Scheme Business Case for replacement bridge designs for submission to the Local Transport Body for consideration in the prioritisation of funding in December 2014. The Council's project board, which includes a representative from Peel Ports, will be asked to approve a draft business case in September.

#### **5. LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND**

The Local Sustainable Transport Fund is additional grant funding which has been secured for a four year period ending in March 2015. The Council has a corporate priority to improve access to employment and opportunities which is measured by the number of referrals to the Travel Solutions Scheme. The target for referrals was continually exceeded during the last financial year and produced an annual outturn of 2400 people. Monitoring shows that of the people assisted over 70% remain in employment after 6 months.

The Council, along with other partners in the Liverpool City Region (LCR), is bidding to the Department for Transport for further funding to deliver a similar scale and type of projects into 2015/16. A decision is expected on this funding bid in late summer 2014.

#### **6. TRANSPORT AND THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION GROWTH PLAN/STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN**

The LCR Growth Plan/Strategic Economic Plan was submitted to the Government in March 2014. Wirral Council contributed to the Plan and in terms of transport infrastructure to support economic growth, identified a programme of £10.67million over the six years from 2015/16 to 2020/21. Wirral Council have also submitted an application for £3.73m of funding from the Major Schemes element of the Growth Plan for Wirral Docks bridges (replacement of A and C Bridges on A554 Tower Road) which is discussed in Item 4 above. Announcements on the funding are expected later in the year.

#### **7. TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2014-2018**

The new traffic signal maintenance contract was awarded to Motus Traffic from 1 April 2014. Working with this new contractor over the short period has been positive and the contractor responded effectively to the short timescale for service mobilisation. The contractor has also introduced new fault management software which will enable improved fault monitoring and issue of works.