

**COUNCIL**  
**15 OCTOBER 2018**

**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	Councillor Stuart Whittingham
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	Highways & Transport
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	David Armstrong – Corporate Director for Delivery Services

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

**TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE**

I am delighted that this month the management of Wirral's vital highway improvements and maintenance came back under council control. While our funding continues to reduce, we must make the best of what we have and continue to use our resources effectively to keep our highway network safe, in good condition and of a quality which encourages business and makes getting around our borough easy.

Routine maintenance – and work to fix many of the potholes on Wirral's 1,100km road network – is well underway and improving the quality of our highways.

Wirral has secured £2.5 million from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to carry out a structured programme of maintenance across the borough's roads in 2018-19. A further £563,000 is being spent in Wirral to tackle potholes.

A further £1.3m of investment, over more than 90 locations around the borough, is scheduled before September 2018, employing a range of specialist resurfacing processes, including HRA.

Alongside the planned works, a programme of reactive maintenance – mainly to address potholes – is taking place. In Wirral, with a set budget in place, work has to be prioritised according to risk to public safety; a dangerous pothole is considered to be one which is 40mm or more in depth, extending over an area in any one direction of 300mm and with sharp edges.

Members can use this [interactive map](#) to find out more about planned and current road improvements.

I was delighted to be able to agree a major investment in a council service to help residents with disabilities and special educational needs get to school, college and day centres.

We have invested £250,000 to modernise our Assisted Travel Service making it easier and more efficient for those residents that use it.

As part of the funding boost, a new website called - 'My Route' will be launched providing a single point of contact to communicate any updates or travel changes between service users, parents, transport providers and schools. With the new process, users will be able to receive immediate notifications of any changes made to drivers, routes or any last minute changes due to adverse weather or other unforeseen circumstances. This will help people prepare and to plan ahead, while maintaining safety and safeguarding standards.

Read more in [Wirral View](#).

It is also important to update Members on our ongoing work to replace every street light in the borough with a more modern, energy efficient LED bulb. We are expecting to appoint a contractor to deliver this important work very soon, with work starting as soon as possible. I will make sure Members are fully informed every step of the way.

Finally, I want to update Members on a new development in council-operated car parks. The council has joined forces with JustPark to introduce this cashless payment option for all users of its car parks.

For those who download the app and sign up to use the JustPark service, it will spell the end of that frustrating search for the correct change to pay for a parking space in Wirral and should also eliminate the risk of motorists overstaying and landing themselves a parking ticket. As well as allowing people to pay without cash, the app will also send drivers a reminder of when their payment is due to expire and will give them the option to top up from their phone wherever they are.

This new solution means it couldn't be easier for people to pay for and manage their parking in our public car parks. Machines will still accept coin and card payments, but this additional option means they shouldn't have to worry any more about tendering the correct amount or getting back to their vehicle by a set time. I think this development will be roundly welcomed.

More available in [Wirral View](#).