

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## CABINET

2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2012

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>LOCAL TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT - ADDITIONAL FUNDING: INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK (ITB) 2011/12</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORT SERVICES COUNCILLOR HARRY SMITH</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report draws Members' attention to a recent letter, dated 14 December 2011, announcing an extra £50 million allocated nationally to the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) of the Local Transport Settlement 2011/12, resulting in an additional £1.915 million being allocated to Merseyside. At its meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012, the Merseytravel 'Local Transport Plan Delivery, Bus & Merseytram Committee' recommended approval for an allocation for Wirral of £193,000 for this financial year.
- 1.2 The additional funding presents an opportunity to enhance the 2011/12 Transport Capital Programme that was approved by Cabinet on 17 March 2011 (minute 352 refers).
- 1.3 A copy of the letter received by Merseytravel from the Department for Transport (DfT) is attached to this report as **Appendix 'A'**.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Cabinet:

(1) Accept the provision of the additional funding from Merseytravel and approve the proposed projects and schemes identified within this report, subject to final approval by the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority (MITA) at its meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012;

(2) Delegate authority to the Director of Technical Services, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transport Services and Party

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Spokespersons, to make necessary adjustments to the priorities identified within the proposed projects should the need arise.

### **3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 3.1 This additional funding will be used to achieve the Corporate Plan goal “have a safe and well maintained highway network for all users” and support the LTP3 goal to “ensure the transport system promotes and enables improved health and well being and road safety”.

### **4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 Further to the Chancellor of the Exchequer’s Autumn Statement, the DfT wrote to the Chief Executive of Merseytravel in its role as the MITA to confirm an extra £50 million that was to be allocated nationally to the 2011/12 Local Transport Settlement. According to the DfT’s current Integrated Transport Block needs-based formula, an allocation of £1.915 million has been made to Merseytravel.
- 4.2 Following the Local Transport Act 2008, the MITA has formal statutory responsibility for the Local Transport Plan (LTP), however, Merseyside’s LTP implementation programme is delivered by the Merseyside Transport Partnership (MTP), comprising of Merseytravel and the five Merseyside District Councils. Merseytravel’s Local Transport Plan Delivery, Bus & Merseytram Committee considered a report on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012 on the distribution of the additional £1.915 million and agreed to allocate £193,000 to Wirral Council. Members should note that this allocation requires ratification by the MITA at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012.
- 4.3 This funding is particularly welcome following the reduction in LTP capital funding since 2010/11, and presents an opportunity to deliver additional transport projects during 2011/12 in accordance with the Corporate Plan goal “have a safe and well maintained highway network for all users” and support the LTP3 goal to “ensure the transport system promotes and enables improved health and well being and road safety”.
- 4.4 A copy of the letter dated 14 December 2011 from the DfT is attached to this report as **Appendix ‘A’**.

### **5.0 PROPOSED PROJECTS (Additional £193,000 for 2011/12)**

- 5.1 It is proposed to utilise the additional £193,000 funding to undertake projects to convert four ZEBRA crossings to signal-controlled PUFFIN crossings. The proposed projects will allow the achievement of the Council’s Corporate Plan goal to “have a safe and well maintained highway network for all users” and to
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reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.

- 5.2. **Appendix 'B'** lists all the last remaining old style 'ZEBRA' crossing facilities remaining within the Borough.
- 5.3 It is proposed to convert the following four of the remaining pedestrian 'ZEBRA' crossings to the newer 'PUFFIN' type signalised crossing facilities:

<u>Location</u>	<u>£</u>
Price Street, Birkenhead ( <i>'Single' PUFFIN</i> )	£35,000
Welton Road (Croft Retail Park), Bromborough ( <i>'Single' PUFFIN</i> )	£35,000
Pensby Road / Grange Mount, Heswall ( <i>'Single' PUFFIN</i> )	£40,000
Wallasey Road / Liscard Grove / Newton Road, Liscard ( <i>'Dual' PUFFIN</i> )	£83,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£193,000</b>

- 5.4 The proposed conversion from ZEBRA to the newer signalised PUFFIN type pedestrian crossing facility would be expected to reduce the number of accidents at these locations, reduce delays, eliminate the potential for the common driver and pedestrian confusion over who has priority as well as increasing pedestrian convenience and safety particularly for school children, persons with disabilities and older people.

## 6.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 6.1 Failure to undertake the identified programme of works, due to the tight timeliness of delivery, would result in a lost opportunity to benefit from introducing additional Capital schemes that will address the Council's Corporate Plan goal "have a safe and well maintained highway network for all users" and support the LTP3 goal to "ensure the transport system promotes and enables improved health and well being and road safety".
  - 6.2 Reliability of the existing equipment and the ability to maintain the equipment is reducing year on year. Further wear & tear and any repairs required to the equipment use up increasingly limited revenue resources.
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## **7.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 7.1 Alternative projects have been considered (see remarks in Appendix B) but the ones identified in the report have been selected as they offer benefits of timeliness of delivery within the current financial year (2011/12).
- 7.2 The proposed projects identified within this report will further enhance the Council's opportunity to address the Council's Corporate Plan goal to "have a safe and well maintained highway network for all users" and to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.

## **8.0 CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Where appropriate, consultation will be undertaken with adjacent properties potentially affected by the changes, and Ward Members.

## **9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

## **10.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 10.1 Existing staff resources will be used for the detailed investigation, design and supervision of these schemes. Future maintenance costs will be met from the Departmental Maintenance Revenue Budgets.

## **11.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 As defined by the Highways Act 1980, Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, Road Traffic Act 1988, Local Government Act 2000 and the Traffic Management Act (TMA) 2004. Traffic signals including pedestrian crossings are part of the public highway. The Council has a duty under the Highways Act (1980) to adequately maintain the public highway. The Council has a duty under the Traffic Management Act (2004) to reduce delay and congestion on the road network. Puffin crossings can cancel a pedestrian demand should the pedestrian decide not to cross or crosses in a gap in traffic. This results in traffic not being stopped unnecessarily, helping to support the Council's duty under the TMA (2004).

## **12.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out.
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## 13.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

13.1 Climate change and sustainability are top of the political agenda for many authorities, including Wirral, and this project submission will strongly support this agenda by replacing 'Zebra' Crossings with 'Puffins'. New 'Extra Low Voltage' (ELV) signal equipment will also have a lower energy consumption and reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that is produced. LED (Light Emitting Diode) optics consume approximately 80% less power than a standard 50 Watt signal halogen lamp. These are used instead of signal lamps that would require replacing every six months.

## 14.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

**REPORT AUTHOR:** *Mark Redman*  
*Principal Asst Engineer*  
telephone: (0151 606 2110)  
email: [markredman@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:markredman@wirral.gov.uk)

## APPENDICES

**Appendix 'A'** - Local Transport Settlement 2011/12 (Additional Funding):  
Confirmation letter from Department for Transport dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

**Appendix 'B'** - List of existing ZEBRA crossings

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
<b>CABINET</b> (Local Transport Capital Funding & The Integrated Transport Block (ITB) Programme 2011/12)	<b>17<sup>th</sup> March 2011</b>
<b>CABINET</b> (Council Capital Programme 2011/12)	<b>21<sup>st</sup> February 2011</b>
<b>CABINET</b> (Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement)	<b>13<sup>th</sup> January 2011</b>

**Existing ZEBRA crossings****APPENDIX 'B'**

<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Remarks</u></b>
Allport Lane (Bromborough Precinct)	Further investigatory work required - not prioritised for inclusion in 'Proposed Projects' for 2011/12
Caldy Road / Ludlow Drive, West Kirby	Further investigatory work required - not prioritised for inclusion in 'Proposed Projects' for 2011/12
Church Road / Whitfield Street, Tranmere	Potential Conversion of Zebra to Puffin crossing as part of HMRI project
Meols Drive, West Kirby	Conversion of Zebra to Puffin crossing to be funded from Section 278 Legal Agreement (implementation imminent)
<b>Pensby Road / Grange Mount, Heswall</b>	<b>Prioritised for inclusion in list of 'Proposed Projects' for implementation 2011/12</b>
<b>Price Street, Birkenhead</b>	<b>Prioritised for inclusion in list of 'Proposed Projects' for implementation 2011/12</b>
Old Chester Road / Pembroke Court	Conversion of Zebra to Puffin crossing to be funded from 2012/13 Transport Capital programme (Walking Strategy)
Rock Ferry-New Ferry Bypass, Bromborough	Petition received for improved crossing facilities. Improvements to be funded from LSS (for implementation 2012/13)
Sandy Lane / Kirby Park, West Kirby	Further investigatory work required - not prioritised for inclusion in 'Proposed Projects' for 2011/12
Upton Road / Warren Drive, Upton	Further investigatory work required - not prioritised for inclusion in Proposed project for 2011/12
Valley Road, Bidston	Further investigatory work required - not prioritised for inclusion in 'Proposed Projects' for 2011/12
<b>Wallasey Road / Liscard Grove, Liscard</b>	<b>Prioritised for inclusion in list of 'Proposed Projects' for implementation 2011/12</b>
<b>Welton Road (Croft Retail Park), Bromborough</b>	<b>Prioritised for inclusion in list of 'Proposed Projects' for implementation 2011/12</b>