

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Stuart Whittingham
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Highways and Transport
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Mark Smith, Head Of Environment & Regulation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1. MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES FOR 2014/15, INCLUDING THE POTHOLE REPAIR FUND

The highway maintenance part of the Council's Capital Programme is now nearing completion, with the surface dressing programme completed since my last report, and the resurfacing programme on primary routes now underway.

The surface dressing programme enabled the Council to try out a new pre-patching technique which has proved very successful, and has enabled officers to develop proposals and negotiate reduced rates for the Pothole Fund programme which utilise this material. I am pleased to inform Council that we will be able to repair more than the 8,800 pothole commitment made on award of the Pothole Fund.

The initial programme of pothole repairs is underway with an initial programme of approximately 1,000 potholes being filled in each of the four Constituency Areas, before moving on to the next phase. Details of the streets being treated and the numbers of pothole filled or to be filled have been published on the Council's website.

2. MAJOR SCHEME SUBMISSION – DOCK BRIDGES

Development of the Major Scheme Business Case (MSBC) has progressed to detailed traffic and cost modelling of the alternative solutions, and this work is still on schedule for completion in December. I will be reporting to Cabinet in January 2015 for approval of the Business Case before its final submission to the Local Transport Body.

3. LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND

Local Sustainable Transport Fund is additional grant funding provided by the Department for Transport to deliver sustainable transport improvements to support economic growth. The current programme ends in March 2015. A bid for funding for 2015/16 was submitted by Merseytravel, on behalf of the City Region - however this was unsuccessful. Feedback has been requested from the Department for Transport (DfT) in respect of the reasons for this decision.

In Wirral, the project has been extremely successful and monitoring has continued to show that over 70% of people we have assisted remain in employment after 6 months.

In order to continue delivery of some elements of the project in 2015/16 discussions are taking place with the DfT to ascertain if any of the existing budget, which was originally allocated as contingency but has not been required, can be used in 15/16.

4. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION GROWTH DEAL

Following submission of the Growth Plan to the Government earlier this year, it was announced in July that the Liverpool City Region has been allocated £232.2m from 2015/16 to 2020/21.

From this total, £41.4m has been ringfenced for a package of sustainable transport improvements across the Local Enterprise Partnership area, with a guaranteed £6.9m in 2015/16. Liverpool City Region partners are currently in discussions over the minor works programmes to be delivered using this funding.