

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Stuart Whittingham
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Highways and Transport
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Kevin Adderley, Strategic Director- Regeneration and 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. MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES FOR 2015/16 AND BEYOND

Delivery of the current year's Structural Maintenance Programme has made good progress with approximately 93% of the planned work already carried out at a value of £3.2 Million.

Members may recall that the government has announced indicative capital maintenance allocations for a five year period, and officers are now preparing our first detailed three year maintenance programme, with the eventual goal to have a five year rolling capital maintenance programme with the front three years developed in detail.

2. HIGHWAY SERVICES CONTRACT

The second year of the contract with BAM Nuttall is now mid-way through, and the opportunities for planning the current year's programmes are evident, with good use of the summer months for delivery of the main road surfacing and surface treatment programmes. Performance on the contract continues to be a focus for both partners, and the number of customer complaints attributable to the contractor's activities is again considerably lower than in any year since records were collected in 2009/10.

3. MAJOR SCHEME SUBMISSION – DOCK BRIDGES

The preferred option for the replacement of the two bridges has now been agreed, including agreement in principle with Peel Ports regarding 'A' Bridge, of which they are the owners/operators.

Outline design of the two replacement structures is ongoing with procurement arrangements also underway. The formal Notice of the forthcoming procurement has already been published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and it is expected the pre-qualification process which is now underway will be completed in November 2015, and tenders for the detailed design and construction of the bridges will be invited in December 2015, with construction expected to commence in Spring 2016, and the project completed in 2018.

4. STREET LIGHTING STRATEGY DELIVERY

Installation of over 7,500 LED lighting units with Central Management System control began on 25 August, and it estimated that 990 units will have been completed by the date of this Council meeting, with the project due for completion in March 2016.

The viability of a second phase of conversion to LED, for some or all of the remaining street lighting units has been carried out and this is presently being assessed for rate of return on the investment required, and the likelihood of securing an interest-free loan on part or all of the investment.

5. SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT - PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDED TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

The programme continues to support residents to access employment and work with local businesses to encourage safe and sustainable travel to work to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads.

The Travel Solutions team received 780 referrals from 1st April to 31st August 2015, and have worked closely with organisations such as Mencap, NAC Academy and Princes Trust. The Business Travel Team is working with numerous local businesses such as Unilever, The Land Registry and Sainsburys, and has delivered Bike Maintenance Sessions at 18 organisations. The Mind Your Business Road Safety team continue to engage local businesses and among other events, held a very successful Drink and Drugs Seminar at the Emergency Services Training Centre.

6. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION *TRANSPORT PLAN FOR GROWTH*- PIPELINE SCHEMES

The Liverpool City Region Transport partners are developing a long term 'pipeline' to provide the City Region with a new programme of proposed transport investment beyond the current Local Growth Fund programme period; beyond 2020. The outcome of the pipeline process will be a dynamic list of prioritised interventions, at a district and City Region level from which quick and effective decisions can be made in response to new funding opportunities as they arise.

LCR funding to support this process has been provided and specialists will be engaging with each district, including Wirral, regarding regeneration, housing and planning proposals and opportunities which will impact on future transport provision.

7. PACKAGE (STEP)

Wirral secured £1,700,000 of capital investment over 2015/16 and 2016/17 for the delivery of STEP schemes to support the ambitions of the LCR Strategic Economic Growth Plan. Cabinet have approved the delivery of 7 schemes to support Growth Zones two and five, the Mersey Waterfront and A41 Corridor respectively, and work is ongoing to deliver the schemes.

Wirral have also been successful in bidding for £105,000 of revenue funding to support the delivery of the STEP capital programme which will enable the delivery of LCR Wide Business Grants Programme for local businesses, the employment of a second Business Travel Support officer and provide additional funding to expand the existing Public Health funded Mind Your Business Programme.

8. ACTIVE TRAVEL FORUM

Consultation has been undertaken into a proposal to combine the Pedestrian and Cycle Forums. Given due consideration to all of the comments received, myself and the Chair of the Pedestrian and Cycle Forums made the decision to operate as a single Active Travel Forum.

The proposal will be taken to Annual Council, scheduled to be held in May 2016, to disband the Pedestrian and Cycle Forums in favour of the creation of an Active Travel Forum where, in accordance with Council Constitution, Elected Members will then be appointed to the Forum. A joint forum is in line with local and national policy and will strengthen the voice of both Forums in light of the approach of the Combined Authority and the new approach to funding streams for Active Travel schemes.

The first meeting of the Active Travel Forum took place on 23 September.