

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Stuart Whittingham
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Transport, Technology Strategy and Infrastructure
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	David Armstrong, Assistant Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1. TRANSPORT AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

As part of the Council's continuous improvement of its highways and transportation service, and to ensure that best practice is being followed as part of the Department of Transport's Highways Maintenance Incentive Fund Self-Assessment process, the Council has joined with over 100 authorities as part of the National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey.

The independently conducted Survey has been sent to 3,300 randomly selected households in the Borough, and the results will be available in February 2016. The Council has always taken a robust approach to the objective survey data regarding the condition of highway infrastructure. The annual Public Satisfaction Survey outcomes, and our ability to benchmark with a wide range of other authorities, will complement this in our measurement of success in delivering this crucial universal service.

A major scheme to upgrade the Dock Bridges, to deliver the £7.12 Million replacement of the 'A' and 'C' Dock Bridges has now entered the procurement phase to appoint a Design and Build contractor. A number of firms have expressed an interest in the scheme, through submission of Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQ) and assessment of those PQQ documents will be completed, a tender shortlist approved and tenders invited during December 2015.

During the last month, further work has been carried out on site to determine more thoroughly the subsurface ground conditions to be experienced by our eventual contractor.

Installation of over 7,500 street lighting LED lighting units with Central Management System control began on 25 August, and it estimated that 3,700 units will have been completed by the end of December, at a cost of approximately £1.45 Million and with energy savings of over 1.3 Million Kilowatt-hours (kWh). The project remains on target for completion in March 2016.

A programme to ensure residents have access to safe and sustainable transport continues, supporting residents to access employment and training opportunities, and work with local businesses to encourage safe and sustainable travel to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads.

Between April 1st and 30th September 2015 the scheme received 1301 client referrals and is working in partnership with 39 agencies across Wirral. 24 events have taken place with employers since April and during this time 350 cycles have been safety checked, with more than 3000 items being issued to support cycle safety e.g. lights and reflective bands.

Very positive feedback has been received from large employers such as The Contact Company, Land Registry and Premier Foods. Businesses have received advice and support on developing policy and procedures to support safe business travel, and practical driving/riding sessions have been delivered to their employees.

2. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION TRANSPORT PLAN FOR GROWTH - PIPELINE SCHEMES

Work is ongoing across the Liverpool City Region to develop a long term 'pipeline' of transport schemes to 2020 with a series of workshops being held in all districts regarding regeneration, housing and planning proposals which will impact on future transport provision.

Wirral's workshops were held in early October (to identify issues) and early November (to identify solutions) and then recently to evaluate those solutions. The LCR Transport Advisory Group are currently developing an appraisal process for identified schemes to be filtered through, which will then enable a pipeline of transport schemes to be agreed and prioritised at both a local and City Region level. The pipeline will ensure that the City Region and Wirral are well placed to access and capitalise on future funding opportunities.

3. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION GROWTH DEAL - SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT ENHANCEMENTS PACKAGE (STEP)

Works are ongoing to deliver the Sustainable Transport Enhancements Package (STEP). All 2015/16 schemes have been, or are in the process of being, consulted upon and subject to the outcome of the consultation, schemes will be completed by the end of the financial year.

STEP revenue schemes are all progressing well with numerous applications being received from businesses for grant support for sustainable transport measures. A Business Travel Support Officer has been appointed for 12 months using the funding, to assist businesses in the Growth Zone to support their employees to travel sustainably and promote safe and sustainable transport across the area.

4. PARKING ENFORCEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT

A one year extension to our Enforcement Contract has been approved until November 2016, and a review of the contracted services will be carried out in 2016 to take account of changing technology and to allow for further possible efficiency savings from tendering other services within the same contract. This includes

possibly cash collection and banking services (money collected from the Pay & Display machines) and 'Cashless Parking'; the use of mobile phone technology to pay for car parking. Work will start on tendering for a new contract during the first quarter of 2016.

5. TECHNOLOGY – MERSEYSIDE CONNECTED

The Merseyside Connected superfast broadband programme is now in the last phase of roll out delivery and is on course to be completed in June 2016. This is a circa £15.9m investment that in Wirral has already delivered 95 new superfast broadband street cabinets linked by a network of new connections across the Borough. This represents the second highest investment in Merseyside. As an illustration of this investment each cabinet costs around £20,000 to install, power and commission. In the near future we will reach the 100th Wirral Cabinet.

As of October 2015, the total number of premises (TPP) in Wirral stood at 11,317 with 95 Cabinets live and ready for orders. This represents 89% of the planned deployment in Wirral. The planned total of Cabinets live by June 2016 is 113 subject to successful deployment of street works. The Business Support element of the Merseyside Connected Programme has been successfully completed, delivering and in some cases surpassing all of the contracted targets. It has delivered;

- 500 Business Engagements - 100% of target
- 316 Business Assist – 105% of target
- 250 Business Improvements (GVA) – 100% of target
- 151 New Jobs – 101% target

The Broadband Voucher Scheme is a related support measure to help businesses pay for new superfast broadband connections. A grant of up to £3,000 was available per business and as the scheme is drawing to a close a total of 192 Wirral based companies have been issued with an offer of a voucher and a total of 116 businesses have actually claimed this offer and drawn down their grant.

The Draft Project Evaluation Report is wide ranging in scope. One of the key headlines is the Value for Money section. The headlines are;

- It is modelled that the project up to 2024 will have a Gross Value Added (GVA) impact (across Merseyside) of £115.9 million.
- The Benefit Cost Ratio is 11.8 – that is every £1 of public money invested is expected to generate £11.80 in net economic benefits across the sub region up to 2024.