

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Stuart Whittingham
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Transport, Technology Strategy and Infrastructure
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. TRANSPORT AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

I am pleased to report that the our programme to fit energy-efficient LED lighting to units to all 7,553 street lights on Wirral's main roads is completed with some work remaining to fine tune the remote monitoring of these new lights during March, and this project is resulting in energy savings of over 3.6 million kilowatt-hours each year and savings of £550,000 from the revenue budget due to reduced energy and maintenance costs.

I have approved procurement of a survey of the remaining 28,500 street lights to assess their suitability and cost for conversion to LED, to determine whether similar investment across the remainder of the Borough's street lighting would prove good value for money.

I can also confirm that tenders have been invited from the 6 shortlisted suppliers for the design and construction of replacement structures for 'A' and 'C' bridges on Tower Road, with tenders due to be returned by 18 March. Procedures for the acquisition of land required for the new lifting bridge structures, including construction space for cranes and the like is also well advanced. The appointed contractor will carry out detailed design, and demolition and construction work are on track to commence towards the end of 2016.

I can report that the 'Safe and Sustainable Transport' programme continues to support 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 31st January 2016, the Travel Solutions scheme received 1848 client referrals and is working in partnership with over 40 agencies across Wirral to support job seekers to overcome transport barriers and secure employment.

Officers are working with local businesses to support and encourage sustainable and safer travel options for their employees. Advice and practical support is given to

assist people to develop safer driver habits, and incorporate healthier ways of travelling into their everyday life.

Liverpool City Region Transport Plan for Growth: Forward Programme

Work is continuing ongoing across the Liverpool City Region to develop a long term 'pipeline' of transport schemes. I am pleased that this work will ensure that the City Region and Wirral are well placed to access and capitalise on future funding opportunities, and to support our Growth Plan as well as the Transport pledge. At this stage 60 schemes have been identified in Wirral and of these 19 have been put forward for consideration in the City Region assessment process. The 41 local schemes will be prioritised as part of our own Growth Plan actions, and at both a City Region level and here in Wirral, business cases will be developed for the highest priority schemes to ensure that they are ready as funding opportunities are taken forward.

Sustainable Transport Enhancements Package

Works are ongoing to deliver the majority of capital schemes funded from STEP.

STEP revenue funded schemes are all progressing well with numerous applications being received from businesses for grant support for sustainable transport measures, and Officers are working with businesses in the Growth Zone to support employees to travel sustainably and to promote safe and sustainable transport across the area.

Wirral Superfast Broadband Project

Even more local businesses and homes are set to benefit from faster internet connections, with the 100th new publicly funded superfast broadband street cabinet in Wirral now complete.

This represents an investment of over £2m in the borough and ensures that 11,300 premises now have the benefit of faster fibre-based broadband services. I am delighted that Wirral is on programme to surpass the national target of serving 95% of local premises with the technology.