

COUNCIL
11 JULY 2016

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Stuart Whittingham
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Highways 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

The transport strategy, *Connecting Wirral*, which underpins all of the pledges we have made in the Wirral Plan, is to be presented to Cabinet for approval on 27 June, ahead of this full Council meeting.

The strategy includes a number of priorities within my portfolio, and the progress made in delivering these is summarised below:

Priority - Keeping traffic moving safely and efficiently

I am pleased to report that the contract to carry out the design and construction of the two Docks Bridges on Tower Road has been awarded to Dawnus Construction Holdings Ltd from 1 June 2016. Their activities are underway to complete site investigations and surveys, the design and subsequent off-site fabrication during 2016, with the main construction works being carried out January and August 2017.

The Council has been allocated £206,000 from the Department of Transport's Pothole Action Fund, and officers and our contractor are preparing programmes of work which will enable us to remove a further 3,900 defects from our roads through a combination of discrete patching and surface treatment of whole sections of road, alongside our structural maintenance programme for 2016/17. Details will be published on the website.

Considerable work has now been undertaken to develop a long term pipeline of major transport schemes in collaboration with city region partners. Wirral has submitted 19 schemes to the City Region for further assessment for prioritisation alongside other non-

transport themes to be developed towards the eventual position whereby there is a complementary approach across all the themes. In the interim, the identified schemes will be developed and prioritised as part of our Growth Plan actions and priorities to ensure that they are ready as funding opportunities arise.

Priority - Encourage healthy active travel

I am encouraged that during the last financial year, our Travel Solutions programme assisted over 2,200 people to access employment using sustainable modes. In 2016/17 we are continuing to work with in excess of 40 agencies across Wirral, as well as develop links with new agencies, to support job seekers to overcome barriers to employment.

The Road Safety Team is continuing to deliver the 'Mind your Business Programme' engaging with businesses to encourage safe and sustainable travel and reduce the numbers of people killed and seriously injured on our roads.

The Business Travel Support programme are also continuing to deliver in the current financial year with many events planned to help staff to travel to work using sustainable modes. They are continuing to engage new businesses, as well as maintaining high levels of support with existing businesses.

For the Sustainable Transport Enhancements Programme (STEP), funding from the City Region is supporting people to travel to and from businesses in our growth zones. Capital schemes to introduced new cycle and walking infrastructure has been completed in several areas in 2015-16, with 2016-17 schemes currently in preparation.

Delivery of our public health funded Business Travel Support package, similar to the Travel Solutions Scheme, is already benefiting areas in the Growth Zones, assisting employees to travel to work and access opportunities.

During 2015, Wirral took part in the National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey, with a comprehensive and independently monitored survey being issued to 3,300 homes in Wirral. Survey participation in 2015 involved approximately 100 local highway authorities, and the results are both interesting and encouraging. The results are summarised in the *Connecting Wirral* strategy and full details of Wirral's satisfaction levels, as well as for other participating authorities, can be viewed at <http://nhtsurvey.econtrack.com/> . Wirral will be participating in the 2016 survey, along with 105 other authorities and I am committed to using the findings in understanding resident's perceptions of our success in delivering the transport strategy to meet our pledge commitments.