

**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	Councillor Stuart Whittingham
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	Transport & Infrastructure
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Mark Smith, Strategic Commissioner- 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 TRANSPORT AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE**

The Wirral Slab track renewal project – one of the biggest improvements to the rail network in decades – has been completed on time and within budget. The project was part of a £340 million investment in rail infrastructure and services up to 2019.

We know residents had to make alternative travel arrangements during these extensive works and I speak for colleagues at Wirral Council and Merseytravel when I thank them for their patience and understanding. I am confident the completed works will now help support an even better, more reliable service.

A huge infrastructure project is also ongoing, and will lead to much better connectivity between Wallasey and Birkenhead.

The £6.4 million Docks Bridges replacement project is on track and the new 'C' bridge is now complete and open to road traffic. Work on 'A' bridge will commence in Quarter 2 with completion on track for January 2018. Progress on this major project has been regularly covered in [Wirral View](#) and in the [Wirral Globe](#).

Market research organisation Ipsos MORI is currently surveying more than 3300 households to gather their views on highways and transport in Wirral.

We expect the results later this year, and hope they will provide us with a good idea of residents' satisfaction with the services they receive and help us compare our performance with other areas.

On a positive note, I am pleased to report that the phone box in Meols made famous by Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark (OMD) will soon be reinstalled on Greenwood Road.

The phone box has become a popular destination for OMD fans across the world to pay homage to their favourite band. I only learned of the removal at the last minute and immediately recognised the significance of this particular phone box.

I quickly acted to ensure the pay phone was placed in a safe location until it could be returned. I look forward now to working with fans and the local friends group to maintain and promote the phone box in the future. You can read more about this story in the [Wirral Globe](#).