

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Stuart Whittingham
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Highways & Transport
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

I am pleased to start my update to Council this month with exciting news for the future of our transport network.

A consultation is underway on proposed major public realm and road safety improvements along the A554 Tower Road at Wirral Waters. If approved, the scheme will bring significant improvements for pedestrians and cyclists and greater connectivity with other transport modes. The changes will also improve the road's current safety record by introducing better traffic management with lower speeds and new crossing points.

From a regeneration perspective, improvements to the image and environmental quality of Tower Road will enhance the appeal of Wirral Waters to investors and will create market confidence by making the area more appealing and attractive to new businesses.

Tower Road is an important route for commuters, businesses and local people. These improvements are vital, and much-needed. They will take an under-used street and transform it into an attractive and modern space. I encourage everyone to take part in this consultation. I am delighted we've been able to work in partnership with Peel to get such a major project off the ground and I hope Wirral residents will be pleased with the result.

Read more in [Wirral View](#).

Our highways team are now on standby 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout the winter months, ready to respond when temperatures – or the forecast – demand it.

There are 737 miles of roads in Wirral, but it is not affordable to grit every one of them. So instead, the team prioritises 288 miles of well-used major roads and bus routes including known problem areas, such as significant hills and exposed areas, and deploys the gritting fleet along 10 pre-planned routes.

A map of gritting routes in Wirral can be viewed on the [council's website](#). Members can read more about this in [Wirral View](#).

Work is ongoing to make sure every penny of available funding is invested in improving Wirral's roads and street lights. Members will be aware that we are moving forward in replacing every street light in the borough with an energy efficient LED bulb. We are also in the midst of a major programme of highway improvements, with roads set to be improved and resurfaced throughout the borough.

As we move into the winter period, it is more important than ever for residents and Members to report potholes as they develop. The cold weather increases the likelihood of potholes opening and they are undoubtedly a cause for concern for many residents, not just in Wirral, but nationwide.

Each year, 14 council inspectors routinely check every road in Wirral on a weekly and monthly schedule, but potholes can develop over a very short time and even appear between inspections which may mean the council is not aware of it. This is why it is useful for the public and Members to report them.

Read more about this in [Wirral View](#).