



**COUNCILLOR STUART
WHITTINGHAM**

CABINET

Monday, 25 March 2019

TRANSPORT PLAN FOR GROWTH 2019/20

Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, said:

“Working with Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram and our partners in the Liverpool City Region, we have been able to attract more than £1 million to Wirral to bring about a programme of transport infrastructure improvements throughout the borough, as part of our Transport Plan for Growth.

“This is great news for residents – major investment into our transport network to bring about real improvements.”

REPORT SUMMARY

On the 1st February 2019, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority awarded £1,150,000 of Integrated Transport Block funding to Wirral Council, to support the delivery of the Liverpool City Region Transport Plan for Growth during 2019/20. This report seeks Cabinet approval to accept the £1,150,000 and allocate it to priorities and projects as outlined in the report.

Wirral’s Transport Plan for Growth supports the Wirral Plan 2020 pledge to provide Transport and Technology Infrastructure fit for the future by ensuring that Wirral has safe, affordable, well maintained and efficient transport networks for residents to access community services, leisure facilities and commute to work.

This is a Key Decision and affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Approve the acceptance of £1,150,000 of Integrated Transport Block funding allocated to Wirral Council by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to support the delivery of the Transport Plan for Growth Programme;
- 2) Approve the proposed programme for this funding as set out in Appendix 1;
- 3) Delegate authority to the Interim Director Highways and Streetscene, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, to make necessary adjustments to the priorities within the programme should the need arise due to financial or other factors.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure that the transport capital programme (Integrated Transport Block) reflects the Wirral Plan and the Transport Plan For Growth short-term implementation priorities, and has the flexibility to ensure delivery of the most effective schemes within the financial year.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 None. The proposed programmes and projects identified within this report enable the Council to comply with its Statutory Duties as set out in the Highways Act 1980, Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, Road Traffic Act 1988, Local Government Act 2000 and the Traffic Management Act 2004 and address the priorities of the Liverpool City Region Transport Plan for Growth, and the Council's Wirral Plan pledge to ensure that Wirral has safe, affordable, well maintained and efficient transport networks for residents to access community services, enjoy our leisure facilities and commute to work.

3.0 TRANSPORT PLAN FOR GROWTH

- 3.1 The Liverpool City Region Transport Plan for Growth was endorsed by the Merseytravel Committee on the 12 February 2015 and approved by the Combined Authority on the 6th March 2015.
- 3.2 The Government has empowered authorities such as the Combined Authority to deliver sustainable growth. Transport policy is a key part of this and the Transport Plan for Growth is fundamental to the regeneration of the Liverpool City Region. It provides a platform for building on previous programmes of transport schemes and initiatives and ensures that the Local Transport Plans (LTP) remain relevant and up to date, focussing on the national agenda for growth, and facilitates a joint commitment amongst City Region partners to align resources in an effective and efficient way. All core Department for Transport (DfT) funds such as the Integrated Transport Block are to be allocated to deliver the priorities of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 3.3 On 1st February 2019, the Combined Authority approved the allocation available for 2019/20 for each district, which included £1,150,000 Integrated Transport Block for Wirral.
- 3.4 The Transport Plan for Growth builds on the vision and aims set out in the Merseyside and Halton LTPs. Both LTPs support the 2011 White Paper "Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon: Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen" which sets out the Government's commitment to providing a transport system that supports economic growth whilst also addressing air quality and carbon reduction.
- 3.5 The Transport Plan for Growth is the key policy framework for future transport provision and consolidates Merseyside and Halton LTPs to provide a "strategic direction for transport which supports growth, regeneration and carbon reduction". The Plan articulates how transport in the Liverpool City Region will

support wider strategic priorities in relation to health, housing, land use planning and economic development. Three priorities for transport have been defined:

- Growth
- Low Carbon
- Access to Opportunity

The Transport Plan for Growth is clearly aligned with the Growth Plan and other strategic plans guiding the Liverpool City Region and it is integral to, and supportive of, the City Region-wide work being undertaken in terms of housing and planning, employment and skills, economic development and the visitor economy.

The Transport Plan for Growth demonstrates how transport supports the wider strategic priorities of the City Region in terms of:

- Freight and Logistics
- Housing and Land-use planning
- Economic Development and Regeneration
- Employment and Skills
- Health and Wellbeing
- Carbon Reduction and Air Quality
- Connecting Communities
- Visitor Economy

Key priorities within the Transport Plan for Growth aim to deliver the following outputs/outcomes:

Table 1:

Priorities	Output	Outcomes
Growth	Supporting Freight and Logistics	Strengthening the City Regions competitiveness, support Superport and access to the Port, reduce the impact of freight movement on local communities, promote the use of rail and make a major contribution to skills and employment opportunities.
	Maintaining and efficient and reliable highway network	Ensuring the network allows for the efficient and safe movement of people and goods, provides a safer environment for cycling & walking, and maintenance of existing assets central to achieving this.
	Closer integration with other sector strategies and plans	Provide a robust planning framework linking transport and future developments such as housing, tourism and infrastructure development in ways that can encourage the right level of investment, reduce long distance travel, improve accessibility and provide a

		framework for future funding.
Low Carbon	Lowering transport emissions	Reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality and improve health and provide a stimulus to the creation of new technologies in support of the City Region low carbon priorities.
	Delivering active travel	Improve and expanded facilities to encourage cycling and walking makes a significant contribution towards health and wellbeing, and to facilitate an efficient and healthy transport network.
Access to Opportunity	Improving Public Transport	To introduce further Bus Quality partnership schemes on key routes and continued investment on the rail network. This is to manage costly and inefficient congestion on the highway network. It will have a direct impact in disadvantaged areas, creating greater opportunities to travel, access employment and encourage a switch away from the private car, and foster wellbeing.
	Improve access to key employers and services	Supporting people who live in our most disadvantaged communities to access training and employment opportunities and other services that impact on their quality of life.
	Improving road safety	Introduce measures to encourage carbon reduction, promote sustainable transport and reduce the number and severity of road casualties.

The Liverpool City Region Transport Plan for Growth will be delivered using funds from several sources including Highways Maintenance Funding, the Combined Authority's transport levy, the Local Growth Fund, European Funding and the Integrated Transport Block.

4.0 WIRRAL'S TRANSPORT PLAN FOR GROWTH PROGRAMME

4.1 Overview

Each of the Liverpool City Region partner authorities have developed their own Capital Programme which, when combined, form a Liverpool City Region-wide Implementation Plan. The programme also supports the Wirral Plan 2020 pledge to provide 'Transport and Technology Infrastructure Fit for the Future' and the Connecting Wirral Transport Strategy to 'ensure that Wirral has safe, affordable, well maintained and efficient transport networks for residents to access community services, enjoy our leisure facilities and commute to work'.

Appendix 1 presents the proposed Transport Plan for Growth delivery programme of £1,150,000. Wirral's Transport Plan for Growth programme has been formulated to reflect the key Transport Plan for Growth priorities and support the delivery of the outcomes set out in Table 1.

4.2 Growth

Road Safety initiatives have a major impact in reducing the number and severity of casualties on Wirral's roads and, thereby making a contribution to tackling the negative impacts on the local economy and supporting the Council's Growth Plan.

Such schemes and programmes address the obligations required as part of the Council's Statutory Duties (as set out in the Highways Act 1980, Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, Road Traffic Act 1988, Local Government Act 2000 and the Traffic Management Act 2004) and are proven with evidential information (e.g. DFT Road Safety Research Report no.108 'contribution of Local Safety Schemes to Casualty Reduction') to reduce road accident casualties.

A number of proposed schemes and projects identified as having a direct impact on 'driving growth & improving road safety' will also by their very nature exhibit cross-benefits with other priority headings such as 'enabling access to opportunity' or 'supporting a low carbon environment'.

4.3 Enabling Access to Opportunity

Schemes have been developed that will encourage walking and cycling where it is safe and attractive to do so, thereby promoting a carbon friendly, sustainable and healthy alternative mode of transport supporting the Council's priority to 'drive growth' and to 'enable access to opportunity'. These schemes are also designed to complement the terms of reference adopted by the Wirral Active Travel Forum that advocate and promote safe, accessible and usable facilities and routes across the borough, making walking and cycling more attractive and accessible to residents, visitors, employees and businesses. This investment in infrastructure and safety for cyclists and pedestrians will also contribute to reducing the number and severity of casualties on the road network.

A programme of improvements will also continue to be identified, prioritised and implemented to support the delivery of the Liverpool City Region Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2018-2028).

Opportunities to draw on external funding in this area to complement the ITB programme will also be explored. Such schemes by their very nature help to promote a healthy lifestyle and contribute to a reduction in Wirral's carbon footprint. Should any such funding application be successful, the Interim Director Highways and Streetscene, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, shall be given delegated authority to identify suitable additional, enhanced or replacement schemes.

4.4 Supporting a Low Carbon Environment

A number of schemes and projects within the programme directly support the priority of a ‘Low Carbon’ Environment’, in particular through the investment of infrastructure and improvement of facilities for cyclists and pedestrians. Other schemes and projects may include the implementation of the ‘next generation’ technology to improve information systems and help maintain free-flowing networks, increase journey opportunities and integrate a wide range of transport uses such as the replacement of existing obsolete or ageing technology and the upgrading of pedestrian facilities.

In order to continue to support sustainable travel, funding has also been allocated to implement measures to encourage active travel and reduce single occupancy car trips.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All schemes are funded from the Combined Authority allocation for Integrated Transport Block (ITB) funding for 2019/20 totalling £1,150,000 and will be added to the Council’s Capital Programme for 2019/20.

6.0 LEGAL

- 6.1 The Council has statutory duties as defined by the Highways Act 1980, Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, Road Traffic Act 1988, Local Government Act 2000 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 7.1 All schemes are funded from the Combined Authority allocation for Integrated Transport Block (ITB) funding for 2019/20 and will be added to the Council’s Capital Programme for 2019/20. Existing staff resources will be used for the detailed investigation, design and supervision of these schemes, supplemented by external support where required. Future revenue maintenance costs will be met from the Highway Maintenance Revenue Budget.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 8.1 Failure to undertake the identified programme of works could result in the Council not meeting its Statutory Duties as set out in the Highways Act 1980, Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, Road Traffic Act 1988, Local Government Act 2000 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.
- 8.2 Failure to undertake the identified programme of works would also result in a failure to support the delivery of the priorities of the Liverpool City Region Transport Plan for Growth and the Council’s pledge to ensure that Wirral has Transport and Technology Infrastructure Fit for the Future. Consequently, this could result in the loss or clawback of funding.
- 8.3 The list of schemes identified has been prepared with initial estimates, however it should be noted that final schemes will be subject to the costing of

detailed designs and statutory undertakers' works and further detailed investigations will be required prior to any final scheme being designed. Some of these schemes may also be subject to the requirement of a Traffic Regulation Order(s), and delivery may be dependent on resolving objections to proposals during consultation.

- 8.4 Should any of the schemes identified be found to be not viable upon further detailed investigation, or be completed for less than the indicative cost, it is recommended that the Interim Director for Highways and Streetscene, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport shall be given delegated authority to identify suitable additional or replacement schemes.

9.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Detailed scheme proposals will be subject to further Public and Ward Councillor consultation as appropriate and engagement with other interested bodies (Merseytravel, Active Travel Forum etc.).

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 As part of the development of LTP3, a comprehensive Integrated Assessment (IA) was carried out in accordance with Government LTP Guidance. The IA included a number of assessments, including an Equality Impact Assessment that can demonstrate that there are no negative implications associated with the implementation of these activities on the 'protected characteristics'. The proposed programme of works that supports the Transport Plan for Growth strategy includes measures to assist the transport needs of all sections of the community.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Mark Smith**
Interim Director Highways and Streetscene
telephone: (0151) 606 2103
email: marksmith@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1:

2019/20 Transport Plan for Growth (Integrated Transport Block) Proposed Programme

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority - 'A Transport Plan for Growth':

<https://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/about-us/local-transport-delivery/Documents/8375%20Plan%20for%20growth%20WEB%20FINAL.pdf>

DFT Road Safety Research Report no.108 'Contribution of Local Safety Schemes to Casualty Reduction':

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme5/rsrr108findings.pdf>

Draft Rights of Ways Improvement Plan 2 for Merseyside 2018 - 2028:
<http://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/about-us/local-transport-delivery/Pages/Public-Rights-of-Way-Strategy.aspx>

LTP3 Integrated Assessment
<http://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/about-us/local-transport-delivery/Documents/LTP3/Annexe%2014%20-%20Integrated%20Assessment.pdf>

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
CABINET Transport Plan for Growth Programme 2018/19	26th March 2018
CABINET Transport Plan for Growth Programme 2017/18	27th Feb 2017
CABINET Transport Plan for Growth Programme 2016/17	18th July 2016
CABINET (Local Transport Capital Funding & The Integrated Transport Block (ITB) Programme 2015/16)	20th July 2015

APPENDIX 1

2019/20 ITB – TRANSPORT PLAN FOR GROWTH CAPITAL PROGRAMME – PROPOSED PROJECTS

LOCATION	OUTCOMES	CONNECTING WIRRAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY PRIORITIES	SUPPORTING PRIORITIES	£
Asset Improvement – Grove Road/Rolleston Road, Wallasey	Upgrade pedestrian facilities and traffic signal cables	Keep traffic moving safely and efficiently; Encourage healthy active travel	Promote cycling/walking; Accessibility/connectivity; Reduce pollution/carbon; Improve road safety	£130,000
Asset Improvement – Old Chester Road/Bebington Road, Bebington	Upgrade traffic signals including LED signal heads, Puffin type pedestrian crossing facilities and change signal staging to assist buses	Keep traffic moving safely and efficiently; Encourage healthy active travel	Promote cycling/walking; Public transport improvements; Accessibility/connectivity; Reduce pollution/carbon; Improve road safety	£130,000
Asset Improvement – Technology at various locations	Upgrade traffic signals including Pelican to puffin conversions, installation of LED signal heads and replacing obsolete equipment	Keep traffic moving safely and efficiently; Encourage healthy active travel	Promote cycling/walking; Accessibility/connectivity; Reduce pollution/carbon; Improve road safety	£190,000
Local Safety Schemes	Home Farm Road & Meadow Crescent Traffic Calming; Poulton Road (Oxton Road to Wheatland Lane) Route Action Measures; Wheatland Lane (St Pauls Road to Poulton Road) Pedestrian Facilities; Eastham Village Speed Reduction Measures	Keep traffic moving safely and efficiently; Encourage healthy active travel	Promote cycling/walking; Accessibility/connectivity; Reduce pollution/carbon; Improve road safety	£200,000
Local Journey Strategy Schemes	Bidston Avenue Primary School pedestrian route improvements; Church Lane Woodchurch School pedestrian access improvements; Gayton Primary School pedestrian access improvements; St Georges Primary School safety measures; Sacred Heart Primary School pedestrian route improvements; Stanton Road pedestrian route improvements; School flashing light LED upgrades	Keep traffic moving safely and efficiently; Encourage healthy active travel	Promote cycling/walking; Accessibility/connectivity; Improve road safety	£150,000

SUD (Sustainable Urban Development) Bidston Golf Club Bridges	Two new bridges over River Birkett overflow plus path linking Leasowe/ Moreton to Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone	Encourage healthy active travel	Linkages to growth sites; Promote cycling/walking; Accessibility/ connectivity; Reduce pollution/carbon	£100,000
Docks Link Safety Improvement	Upgraded Vehicle Restraint System barriers to meet current design standards and ensure vehicle safety	Keep traffic moving safely and efficiently; Linkages to growth sites	Improve road safety	£100,000
Pedestrian Access Improvements – various locations	Dropped kerb facilities focusing on key strategic routes to employment, healthcare, shopping areas etc.	Keep traffic moving safely and efficiently; Encourage healthy active travel	Linkages to growth sites; Promote cycling/walking; Public transport improvements; Accessibility/ connectivity; Reduce pollution/carbon; Improve road safety	£100,000
Public Rights of Way Improvements – various locations	Various low-cost measures to improve Wirral's Footpaths, Bridleways and 'Byways Open to All Traffic'	Encourage health active travel	Promote cycling/walking; Accessibility/ connectivity	£50,000