

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 would like to start this month by thanking the Council's highways team, who have worked tirelessly during the winter months to prepare for and respond to extreme weather conditions, often under challenging circumstances.

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.

Unexpected adverse weather caused problems during February, and I want to take this opportunity to also thank residents for their patience and understanding during a challenging period.

I was pleased that due to our ongoing good financial management we have been able to secure an additional £500,000 to improve the condition of our roads.

The investment will see pothole repair works take place on unclassified roads across the borough. We recognise that for those who live on them and use them regularly, the upkeep of minor roads is every bit as important as main roads. This new capital bid comes in addition to the annual investment which will amount to around £5m on highway maintenance plans.

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

Members can also be updated this month on our programme to replace every streetlight in the borough with new, energy efficient LED bulbs.

We are currently out to tender on the £10m scheme and, once we have a contractor in place, work will commence within weeks. This is a big job which will bring huge benefits – including an annual saving of £700,000 on energy costs.

This investment is fantastic news for every Wirral resident. It brings benefits which are almost immeasurable. It is also much better for the environment, with the new lights providing more light while using less power.

Members will be aware of the continued investment in the region's rail network, which is resulting at the moment in extensive platform upgrades throughout the region. Merseyrail passengers are being reminded to continue to keep checking information and plan their journeys as the rolling programme of platform upgrades continues.

Information for passengers about the remaining four phases in the programme will be published in the coming weeks. More on this is available on [Wirral View](#).

Finally, I would like to draw Members' attention to an event being organised to help support the 'OMD Telephone Box' in Meols.

Working with Wirral Festival of Firsts, the Friends of 632 3003 have organised the event for July 13 from 7.30pm at the Railway Inn.

Headlining the event will be OMD tribute 'Manoeuvres' and all cash raised during the show will go towards maintaining the phone box for the upcoming year. The event is free to attend.

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