

# Cabinet Member's Report

<i>COUNCILLOR</i>	<i>COMMITTEE</i>	<i>DATE</i>
John Fairclough	Cabinet Member for Technical Services	5 August 2010

## 1. Third Local Transport Plan for Merseyside

The outcome of the consultation on "Challenges and Opportunities for Future Transport on Merseyside" has been reported and with regard to Sefton's responsibilities maintenance of our existing assets, road safety and maintaining journey time reliability on the highway network have emerged as key priorities.

The results will now be analysed and linked to current projections for demands for transport improvement to permit outline strategies and indicative delivery plans to be produced for consultation in the Autumn 2010.

The partnership is still working towards delivering a Third Local Transport Plan for Merseyside in April 2011.

## 2. Pear Tree Junction Improvement

The long awaited improvement to this junction to address serious road safety issues has now been completed. Initial indications are that traffic conditions have substantially improved and no major local issues raised.

## 3. Hawthorne Road/Linacre Road Junction, Bootle

Preliminary work for this major junction improvement have now commenced, with full construction works programmed to commence early in the school summer holiday period. The works are programmed to take 12 weeks to complete.

## 4. Thornton Switch Island Link

The Planning Application for the scheme was submitted on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Determination will take up to 16 weeks and the scheme funding is still subject to review by the Government to be announced further to the Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010.

## 4. SMBC/Capita Symonds Technical Services Partnership

A review of uncommitted capital expenditure is underway leading to a report to Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

The Highway Maintenance Programme for the financial year 2010/11 was approved by Cabinet Member in early April 2010 and is currently being acted upon. This is being supplemented by the inclusion of the £900,000 funding for the winter maintenance allocation has been further supplemented by a revenue allocation of Section 31 Grant direct from the Department of Transport amounting to £248,800.

The programme of additional schemes utilising thin asphalt treatments has been reviewed by elected members on a Ward-by-Ward basis and the pot hole repairs prior to treatment are already underway this needs to be completed prior to application in order to secure a warranty from the Specialist Contractors.

The revised Grounds Maintenance contract, which now includes for large areas of grass previously left unattended, has now been in operation since April 2010 and although there were some teething problems around new routes etc it appears to be improving the overall service.

The Council have already received some favourable comments from members of the public.

The Capita Symonds Architects Group provides a comprehensive service for the delivery of all major capital projects.

Works on behalf of Children's Services for the Primary Capital and 14-19 World of Work Diploma programmes generally continue to progress well. The Litherland High School replacement project remains on programme to complete in the spring of 2011. These and other projects that have commenced on site are contractually committed and not subject to the capital programme review.

Although the Southport Cultural Centre project has received authority to proceed, and works have commenced, the project is not fully committed contractually and the costs and benefits of curtailing this scheme is being identified as part of the capital expenditure review.

Tenders have been invited for the demolition of Balliol House and the cost for the Southport Market refurbishment and Netherton Activity Centre projects have been established. Subject to the Capital expenditure review authorisation to proceed with these projects will be sought at the 5<sup>th</sup> August Cabinet meeting.

The Capita Symonds Building Maintenance team continue to provide a day-to-day responsive and planned maintenance service. The emphasis remains the need to ensure that statutory requirements in terms of property related testing and inspections are met.