

CABINET MEMBER - TECHNICAL SERVICES

REPORT TO CABINET - 25th NOVEMBER 2010

1. Thornton Switch Island Link

Following its review of the transport major scheme programme, the Government announced on the 26th October 2010, that the proposals for the Thornton Switch Island Link would receive funding support. The Council will be asked to review the costs of the scheme and provide the Department for Transport with an updated cost estimate for the scheme in December 2010. The revised cost estimate will be submitted to Cabinet on the 16th December 2010 for approval and if the revised costs proposals are accepted by the Department, funding would be confirmed in January 2011.

The planning application will be considered at the meeting of the Planning Committee on the 15th December 2010.

If the planning application is approved and subject to the need for a Planning Inquiry when referred to Government Office, the construction of the scheme could commence in Spring/Summer 2012 and take 12 months to complete.

2. LTP capital Programmes

Progress on the 2010/11 programme of integrated transport, maintenance, bridges and street lighting programmes and make good progress.

Work has recently been completed on a traffic calming scheme on Lambshear Lane/Kenyons Lane, Maghull and safety improvements to Ledsons Canal Bridge, Maghull should commence in December 2010 and take 6-8 weeks to complete.

3. The walking and cycling development officers within the Council's Travel Awareness and Road Safety Team have delivered an expanded range of programmes throughout this year which has resulted in an increasing number of Sefton residents taking part in the projects.

The Active Walk programme now has 17 regular walks which over the last few months has included evening walks as well as weekend ones. The evening walks have been particularly popular with over 50 people registering for them and have included exploration of the local rights of way network. The led walks are only possible as a result of the dedication of over 60 volunteer walk leaders who regularly lead the weekly and fortnightly walks. They are recruited, trained and supervised by Stephanie Boote, Sefton's Active Walks co-ordinator. Approximately 400 people regularly participate in the walks.

The cycling development officers have worked with over half the schools in the borough (both high schools and primary schools) and a number of community groups and workplaces to deliver cycling sessions. The sessions have included 'Bike it' breakfasts for parents/carers and children (a reward for cycling into school) in which over 6000 children and 600 adults have taken part. 550 children have been taught to ride without stabilisers. Approximately 1900 children and 100 adults have received bike maintenance training. Around 500 year 6 children have taken part in 'transition projects' to equip with the skills to safely and confidently cycle to their new high school. 690 high school pupils have used our Computrainer (cycling simulator) and over 450 people of all ages and abilities have taken part in our family cycle rides. Almost 300 children have taken part in competitive training sessions in preparation for the inter school races (Tour Series).

The delivery of these programmes is only possible because of the strong partnerships we have with NHS Sefton, Sustrans, CTC and British Cycling who fund the walking and cycling development posts

and the input from the Sefton Council's road safety staff. Volunteers from the local cycling clubs have on occasions also assisted with the sessions.

4. **SMBC/Capita Symonds Technical Services Partnership**

The Highway Maintenance Programme for the financial year 2010/11 is progressing and the supplementary programme has been merged in some instances to ensure efficiency and less disruption to members of the public.

The programmes of supplementary schemes are progressing as follows

- Pre-patching ahead of application of treatments 100% complete.
- Surface dressing (Tar spray and chip) 95% complete
- Micro-Asphalt thin surface treatment 15% complete

Colas the micro-asphalt contractor has once again failed to commence work for the third time and have indicated a further revised date of the 8th November 2010 to commence the works. This date even with double the number of gangs will require 3 to 4 weeks and weekend working to complete as the autumn period also brings with it shorter working daylight hours and low temperatures. This remaining 60% of the micro-asphalt programme is now at risk of failure as this is a weather sensitive treatment which should have been completed by the end of September 2010 when ambient temperatures are higher to be as effective as was intended. If the treatment is not applied prior to the onset of the icy cold winter weather there is a risk of severe surface breakdown on these roads which this process was designed to prevent.

The revised Grounds Maintenance contract, which now includes for large areas of grass previously left unattended, has improved the overall situation a great deal and complaints have reduced substantially, however there are still some complaints regarding cutting frequencies which are sometimes affected by weather conditions. The trial utilising a growth retardant on the Formby Bypass is reaching its conclusion and a report of its effectiveness will be prepared upon completion of this years programme.

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

The Children's Services sponsored programme of works providing accommodation for the new 14-19 World of Work Diploma is complete, the facilities all commencing operation at the commencement of the September term.

The Primary Capital programme providing funding to primary schools, which would not benefit from the BSF programme, is now ostensibly complete although works at Lander Road Primary School will continue through to June 2011.

The Litherland High School replacement project remains on programme to complete in the spring of 2011.

The Southport Cultural Centre project is well underway and the Netherton Activity Centre replacement and Southport Market refurbishment contracts have now commenced on site. These projects will both be concluded in the autumn of 2011.

The Balliol House demolition contract has also commenced with a target completion date of May 2011.

The Capita Symonds **Building Maintenance team** continue to provide a comprehensive day-to-day responsive and planned maintenance service. Particular focus is currently been placed upon statutory testing and inspection requirements and Capita Symonds have invested in new software to monitor adherence to these requirements.