

## CABINET MEMBER'S REPORT

Councillor	Portfolio	Date
John Fairclough	Cabinet Member Technical Services	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2011

### 1. Thornton Switch Island Link

On the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011, the Department for Transport announced that they will provide funding for the scheme, as set out in the Council's Best and Final Funding bid. The Department for Transport confirmed its contribution of £14.5m to the overall estimated cost of £18.5 at current prices in a formal funding approval letter.

Further to the Council's Planning Committee approval of the Planning Approval on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010, the matter was referred to the Government Office. Government Office have subsequently responded advising that they will not be 'calling in' the application. Hence the formal Planning Decision letter approving the application was issued on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

A report will be presented to Cabinet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011, detailing the revised scheme programme and funding profile.

### 2. LTP3

Consultation on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Local Transport Plan by the Integrated Transport Authority is now complete and a revised draft will be available in mid February 2011.

The Department for Transport have advised of LTP Capital Settlements for 2011/12 and 2012/13 with indicative allocations for 2013/14 and 2014/15. Funding for the maintenance programme has been reduced by approximately 7%, but funding for the Integrated Transport block used to fund minor schemes, safety, access, awareness programmes has been reduced in 2011/12 by over 65% from previous years down to £980k, although does increase in later years.

A report will be presented to Cabinet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011, to seek approval to the third Local Transport Plan and the framework of an Implementation Plan for 2011/12 of subsequent years.

### 3. Local Transport Schemes

A wide range of schemes are being implemented at present including a pedestrian crossing in Sefton Village, safety schemes in Spencers Lane/Waddicar Lane, Melling and Park Lane, Netherton, cycling and safety scheme on Wennington Road, Southport and improvement works to Millers Bridge, Bootle. After a substantial delay whilst statutory undertaken diversions were completed, the safety and capacity improvement to the Hawthorne Road/Linacre lane junction in Bootle has recommenced.

### 4. Highways Maintenance Issues SMBC /Capita Symonds Technical Services Partnership

The Highway Maintenance Programme for the financial year 2010/11 is although progressing this and the supplementary programme has slowed somewhat due to the extremely low temperatures that have been experienced recently.

The programmes of supplementary schemes has halted as this contains substantially weather sensitive treatments and the current situation is :-

Pre-patching ahead of application of treatments 100% complete.

Surface dressing ( Tar spray and chip)

This treatment was showing some serious problems prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> December snow and ice and has since then suffered substantial breakdown and negotiations with the contractor are currently ongoing.

Micro-Asphalt thin surface treatment	50% complete work suspended due to weather.
--------------------------------------	--

The surface dressing (Tar spray and chip) has now suffered wholesale breakdown to the extent that the roads are having to be continually swept (Parked cars permitting) to remove as much loose chipping as possible to keep the highway safe in the interim period. The reasons for this breakdown are currently under investigation and dates for the rectification are being discussed. This as with other thin surface treatments are weather sensitive and are primarily undertaken in the summer months when road temperatures are high enough for adhesion and drying processes to work efficiently. The contractor is currently attempting to return to Sefton as soon as possible however temperatures are not likely to increase sufficiently in the near future and it is unlikely that this work will be corrected until May 2011 at the earliest.

The micro-asphalt contractor failed to deliver the programme of Micro Asphalt treatments even following the Council's serious concerns being expressed in writing in October 2010 and the micro-asphalt programme therefore remains only 50% complete. The remainder of the micro-asphalt programme, which contains roads that were contained within the original April 2010 approved programme, will remain undelivered until the spring of 2011, contractor and budgets permitting.

It is already evident this early in the winter period that carriageway deterioration that freezing weather causes is already evident on many of the Council's roads. New potholes in the carriageways are appearing every day and there is now a risk of severe surface breakdown on many roads some of which these processes were designed to prevent.

It is currently necessary to review the remaining budgets in order to carryout increased demand repairs to these roads to prevent massive amounts of insurance based claims which may have to delay previously planned schemes until next financial year budgets permitting.

### **Highways Grounds Maintenance**

The final year modified Grounds Maintenance contract has performed better than the previous year mainly due to the inclusion of many of the sites that were left unattended following the Housing Stock Transfer which caused the greatest amount of complaint, however the trial utilising a growth retardant on the Formby Bypass has now reaching its conclusion and a report of its effectiveness continues to remain unavailable from Capita.

This Contract as with most of the other highway maintenance related contracts is currently in the retendering exercise and it should be noted that to achieve the level of saving required in the current budgetary process the existing frequency of grass cutting in future is not attainable.

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

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 contract has commenced and is progressing well. These projects will both be concluded in the autumn of 2011.

The Balliol House demolition contract has also commenced and is currently ahead of programme towards a completion in May 2011.

Unfortunately ROK Building Ltd was placed in administration during November and this has delayed progress on the Southport Market, Lander Road School and Kew Woods School projects. Capita Symonds are in discussions with the administrator and are exploring options to recommence works with an alternative contractor as soon as possible.

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.