

## LABOUR GROUP UPDATE REPORT

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
John Fairclough	Cabinet Member Transportation	September to October 2011

### 1. Thornton Switch Island Link

The key issue for the project remains the publication of the Statutory Orders. An agreement has been reached with the Forestry Commission and a contract for an exchange of land, with various accommodation works, has been drawn up and is being finalised. It has also emerged that Back Lane is not registered with the Land Registry, so cannot be transferred to Council ownership until it has been formally registered. However, once it has been registered with the Land Registry, it will be possible to complete the agreement with the Forestry Commission. Once that has been completed, the reports authorising the making of the Orders can be taken to Cabinet and an Orders Publication Date can be confirmed.

Discussions are also underway with the Highways Agency and VOSA to start drafting the agreement relating to the proposed works at Switch Island. Negotiations with other land owners are also proceeding alongside the Orders process.

The project team has been reviewing the programme with the intention of mitigating the delay caused by the negotiations with the Forestry Commission. It is proposed to take a report to Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> October requesting authorisation to commence the detailed design stage of the project. This will give renewed impetus to the project and also help to bring the project back towards the original timetable.

### 2. Port Access Study

Stage 2 of the Port Access Study has been completed. The study has assessed the future transport requirements of the Port, including the impacts of potential Port expansion, and identifies short term and long term packages of transport interventions as a means of accommodating transport access to and from the Port. A final draft of the Non Technical Summary of the study has been prepared and will be published early in October, following a workshop to be held with Members.

### 3. LTP3

Sefton is continuing to work with Merseytravel and the other Merseyside authorities on the delivery of the LTP3 implementation programme. Sefton's LTP programme addresses the transport priorities approved by Cabinet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011. An update of the 2011/12 LTP Capital Programme (report dated 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011) was recently reported to Cabinet Member - Transportation and a further update report is planned for October.

### 4. Local Sustainable Transport Fund

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken on the delivery of Sefton's two LSTF projects. The Sefton and West Lancashire Visitor Economy Project has made a positive start and the following actions have taken place :

- Review of the Southport Cycle Hire Scheme and identification of opportunities for expansion and development.

- Kew Park & Ride was operated daily during the school summer holidays and at weekends up until the first weekend in October. A coordinated advertising and signage campaign was implemented and will be developed and refined for next year.
- An officer has been appointed (from the redeployment list) to develop & promote the visitor offer. The officer will coordinate the activity, liaise with the private and community sector participants and raise the profile of the area as somewhere to visit if you want to walk, cycle and enjoy wildlife.
- A stakeholder event has been organised and will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> September in Southport. Approximately 80-90 people are expected to attend.
- A governance structure has been agreed with West Lancashire and Lancashire Councils and this will be reported to Cabinet Member in October.

The Merseyside LSTF Project provides £725,000 of funding over the next 3½ years. It will provide the staff costs for the existing travel team (once the existing ESF funded project finishes) and for an additional member of the team. There will be a wider scope for the travel team and a focus on working with existing businesses and their employees, as well as people entering employment or training.

## **5. Winter Service Procurement**

The contract has been awarded to Vaisala with Metegoup as the forecast provider. The documents have been sent to Legal to complete the necessary documentation.

## **6. Blue Badge Scheme**

The Department for Transport are beginning to progress the proposals to amend the Blue Badge scheme and officers in Sefton are involved in a number of working groups which will progress the details of the changes.

The amendments to the scheme which include the establishment of a National Blue Badge Database to assist with enforcement, a more secure badge design which will be centrally printed and distributed and the introduction of an on-line application form through Directgov is due to be implemented on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012. There will be a charge for this service and to enable authorities to meet this cost it is also proposed to increase the maximum that can be charged for a Blue Badge from £2 to £10. The above will be the subject of a series of reports through Cabinet Member over the coming months. The first of these is being presented to Cabinet Member in late September