

LABOUR GROUP UPDATE REPORT

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
John Fairclough	Cabinet Member Transportation	September - November 2012

1.	<p>Thornton Switch Island Link – A5758 Broom’s Cross Road</p> <p>The Council has prepared a Statement of Case for the Public Inquiry for the Thornton Link scheme, which is scheduled to be held in the first week of February. There has been a meeting and exchange of correspondence with the ‘statutory objector’ to try and resolve issues about temporary land use and concerns over drainage. Preparation of evidence for the Inquiry will take place during December and the public notices of the Inquiry will be published in January.</p> <p>The detailed design stage of the project is effectively complete and a revised target cost estimate for construction is being reviewed by the Council’s agents, Capita.</p>
2.	<p>Port Access</p> <p>Access to the Port of Liverpool is one of the key transport related elements in the Liverpool City Region deal. Sefton is leading on this issue on behalf of the City Region and the implications of this for staff resources are being addressed. The first meeting of the port access steering group was held in November and a further meeting has been planned for January.</p>
3.	<p>LTP3</p> <p>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 3rd March 2011. An update on the 2012/13 LTP Capital Programme dated 10th October was reported to Cabinet Member – Transportation.</p>
4.	<p>Local Transport Schemes</p> <p>Work on delivery of the LTP Capital Programme for 2012/13 has been continuing, including the safety scheme on the Formby Bypass (now complete), pedestrian and access improvements on Washington Parade (almost complete), Phase 2 of the Hightown to Formby section of the coastal path (started on site) and the preparation of a planning application for the proposed junction improvements on the A565 in Waterloo (South Road/Haigh Road). Consultation on the introduction of several new low speed zones has been completed and reported to the relevant Area Committee.</p>
5.	<p>Local Sustainable Transport Fund</p> <p>Work is continuing on the delivery of Sefton’s two LSTF projects. On the Sefton and West Lancashire Visitor Economy Project, the following actions are in progress :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress on the cycle hire scheme and proposals for charges in 2013/14 are being reported to Cabinet Member in December. • Kew Park and Ride is now closed for the winter and a report on the 2012 operations and proposed dates for 2013 is being reported to Cabinet Member in December. • The Sustainable Visitor Travel Officer continues to liaise with a range of stakeholders and has been developing proposals to raise the profile of the area

	<p>as somewhere to visit if you want to walk, cycle and enjoy wildlife. The ewn website is nearing completion and the photo competition calendar will be available in December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 2 of the Hightown to Formby section of the coastal path is being partly funded through LSTF and the rest of the LSTF capital budget is allocated for canal towpath improvements near Burscough. Both schemes are currently under construction . <p>The Merseyside LSTF Project provides the staff costs for the Sefton travel team of three officers. The travel team continues to work with existing businesses and their employees, as well as people entering employment or training. The travel team is also publicising the local improvement grant scheme for local employers to improve sustainable transport access to their sites.</p> <p>Work is underway on the delivery of an initiative to provide support and advice to school leavers on transport choices, which will involve the education staff based at the EcoCentre. Initiatives to support active lifestyles in local communities are being delivered together with Sefton CVS, NHS Sefton and the Council's Active Sefton team. A programme of capital works will also be delivered, to provide improved access for walking and cycling to employment sites, to local centres, to schools and colleges and within residential areas. Schemes to improve accessibility in the Bridle Road area and to upgrade the path across Bootle Golf Course are scheduled for delivery in the New Year.</p>
6.	<p>Street Lighting</p> <p>Successful delivery of lamp conversions to energy efficient white light is ongoing and will be completed by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Substantial delivery of the LED Demonstration Projects implemented.</p> <p>Procurement & delivery of the LED project for the Illuminated signs and bollards circa 3040 units also ongoing.</p> <p>Street Lighting replacement schemes currently being delivered.</p> <p>Street Lighting Service Consultation has now closed with over 500 responses received. Results reported to Cabinet with recommendations on 13th December 2012</p>
7.	<p>Highways & Engineering Design</p> <p>Implementation of Highways Resurfacing & Surface Treatment Programmes is ongoing. The vast majority of both carriageway and footway schemes have been completed. The Council Website is being updated to indicate completion against programme.</p> <p>The department recently responded with success to flooding incidents across the borough and in particular in the Sefton East Parishes and Formby areas. A review of the incident has been undertaken with a briefing of Senior members scheduled for 13th December 2012.</p> <p>Defra has announced a bidding process for assistance with flooding issue from a community engagement perspective, rather than capital funding for infrastructure. Officers are compiling a draft bid which will be presented to Cabinet Members for consideration in the near future</p>
8.	<p>Winter Service</p> <p>The winter service policy and operational plan has been reviewed again during the summer with all Members asked for and comments. The policy and plan has been</p>

	<p>presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committee and approved by Cabinet Member for adoption. The document was not presented to Cabinet in line with their previous resolution.</p> <p>Footway gritting units have been renewed and all vehicles have been serviced as usual and are ready for winter. Winter forecasts have now commenced with officers monitoring conditions 24/7 from 15th October until the end of the season.</p> <p>As at 12th December 2012, 15 carriageway gritting operations have been undertaken, as opposed to 4 operations by the same time last year.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Building Works – Sefton Client Team/Capita</p> <p>Major Capital New Build and Refurbishment Works</p> <p>Southport Cultural Centre: as previously - the project has been delayed due to an increase in the works carried out; this has led to a significant increase in cost. The project is however now well advanced and substantive completion, to allow Council fit out works to commence, should be achieved prior to Christmas. Final completion of the main contract will be achieved in February 2013.</p> <p>Southport Market Refurbishment: the scheme achieved completion in early June 2012. The market has operated successfully since with occupancy levels are higher than budgeted within the project business plan. Some issues relating to ventilation and over heating have been reported, particularly on hot days, and measures to overcome this are being explored.</p> <p>Aintree Davenhill Primary: landscape works are now complete following completion of the Phase 3 works and demolition. The school remain delighted with their new accommodation.</p> <p>Crosby High School: Works to provide additional teaching accommodation was completed in time for the commencement of the September term. A new staffroom has subsequently been provided with the relocation of the former shop mobility unit from Tulketh Street Car Park. The school are happy with the works and have written to commend the contractors and the staff involved in the project.</p> <p>Meols Cop High School: works to provide additional teaching accommodation and library is progressing well and remains on programme for completion in the early spring of 2013.</p> <p>Birkdale Primary School: Tenders for this innovative project have now been received and, subject to approval, works will commence in January. The phased completion will provide the additional classroom accommodation for commencement of the September 2013 term as required and full completion, including new kitchen, dining and IT provision will be achieved in December 2013.</p> <p>Southport Pier: Tender documents have been prepared to invite suitably qualified and experienced consultants to bid to carry out a full feasibility study and provide options for the ongoing and long term maintenance of the pier structure. In the meanwhile Capita Symonds will carry out periodic structural inspections to ensure that any immediate work requirements are identified.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Minor Capital and Maintenance Works</p> <p>Minor Capital and Maintenance Works</p> <p>The Children’s Schools and Families minor Capital and Planned Maintenance programme for 2012/13 is, in most instances, complete - although where it has not</p>

been possible to carry out works over the summer holiday period these works have been programmed for completion during forthcoming holiday periods..

The Client team, Capita Symonds and Children's Services are working cooperatively to identify priorities for the 2013/14 programme.

Accommodation Strategy

The strategy's main objective is to consolidate accommodation into the most economical, mostly Council owned, buildings; allowing outlying facilities to be released to yield revenue savings and potential capital receipts. It also aims, through rearrangement of accommodation, and co-location of related functions, to achieve operational benefits, which in themselves can also yield revenue benefits.

Works to accommodate staff of the Place Directorate and Corporate Services in Magdalen House and Bootle Town Hall, and Peoples Directorate support services within Merton House and Bootle Town Hall are complete.

Proposals for the consolidation of the Council's training functions have been developed and will be implemented in early 2013.

The Peoples Directorate's accommodation requirements are now emerging as their new structure and operational requirements are defined. Discussions relating to the accommodation requirements for rationalised and consolidated Adult and Children's social care functions have taken place and option appraisal and feasibility works have commenced.

Revenue Works

Capita Symonds continue to provide day-to-day reactive responsive maintenance cover to the Councils building stock and many of the schools in the borough