

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
John Fairclough	Cabinet Member Transportation	November 2012 – January 2013

1. Thornton Switch Island Link – A5758 Broom's Cross Road

The Council has prepared a Statement of Case for the Public Inquiry for the Thornton Link scheme and expert witnesses have prepared proofs of evidence. The Inquiry starts on the 5th February and is expected to last no more than 2 days. Three of the four objections to the Orders, including the 'statutory objector' have been withdrawn, so only one non-statutory objector remains. *Note that one additional written objection was received via the Department for Transport the week before the Inquiry was due to start.* Preparation of evidence for the Inquiry took place in December and the public notices of the Inquiry were published in January.

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.

2. Port Access

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. The first meeting of the port access steering group was held in November and a further meeting was held January. Membership of the group, terms of reference and a set of key messages have been agreed. A proposed work programme is being developed.

In addition, a bid for Trans European Transport Network (TEN-T) funding is being prepared to support some feasibility and options studies for the port access interventions. A report is being presented to Cabinet in February to seek approval for Sefton Council to be the accountable body for the bid and any resulting project.

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 3rd March 2011. An update on the 2012/13 LTP Capital Programme is being reported to Cabinet Member – Transportation in February.

4. Local Transport Schemes

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 (also complete), Phase 2 of the Hightown to Formby section of the coastal path (currently 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.

Work is also continuing on some schemes fully or partly funded through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. Improvements along Bridle Road and to the path across Bootle Golf Course have been approved and work will commence this financial year.

5. Street Lighting

Successful delivery of lamp conversions to energy efficient white light is ongoing and

will be completed by the end of the financial year.

Substantial delivery of the LED Demonstration Projects implemented.

Procurement & delivery of the LED project for the Illuminated signs and bollards circa 3040 units also ongoing.

Street Lighting replacement schemes currently being delivered.

Following the street lighting consultation and subsequent approvals by Cabinet, officers are now working to implement the proposals and will provide regular updates to Cabinet Member. Identification of the £15,000 energy saving through the initiative to turn off selected street lights at certain times on A565 and A59 has been completed. Funding is being sought to implement the replacement of a further 4500 units with lower energy white lighting. This will be presented to Members for approval in the future. Introduction of replacement 'slipper columns' has commenced and progress will be reported to Cabinet Member in due course. This does not provide a saving but more efficient use of already restricted budgets.

6. Highways & Engineering Design

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.

The Government has announced an allocation of additional local highways maintenance funding. In accepting the funding, we have had to agree to report to Department for Transport how the funding has 'complemented (rather than displaced) our planned highway maintenance expenditure'. The allocation to Sefton is £426,000 in 2013/14 and a further £219,000 in 2014/15. Work is ongoing with Capita to identify the works which will be undertaken with this funding and the programme will be presented to cabinet Member in due course.

Following the flooding incidents during the autumn and winter, officers have been working on the flood investigation report and have kept Members updated on progress. The report was originally due to be published in November, however, Members were keen to include an action plan based on the findings. This has delayed publication as officers engage with United Utilities and The Environment Agency. A note to explain the delay has been approved by Cabinet Member and is being sent out to residents. The report has now been finalised and shared with Cabinet Member for approval. Following this, the report will be published.

There has been an ongoing issue of highway flooding on the Coastal Road in Birkdale. Officers have been working with contractors to alleviate the problem which has been hampered by the exceedingly high water table after unusual rainfall. The works have caused some disruption due to the need to close the road southbound for safety reasons and it is hoped to be able to reopen it in the coming days.

Members will be aware from the last report that a Defra bidding process for resilience funding is underway. Sefton submitted a pre qualification questionnaire on Monday 14th January which was successful. The Council has now been asked to put a bid together. Defra has £5m to distribute amongst a maximum of 20 authorities. The funding is not for physical works but guidance and advice and helping people and communities be better prepared to cope with flooding incidents. Our bid will target Seaforth, Maghull and Formby. The timescales for the bid are extremely tight, with an application date of 19th February imposed. Officers will submit the bid on time and will keep Cabinet Members informed of progress

7. Winter Service

As at 18th February 2013, 50 carriageway gritting operations have been undertaken and 30 footway operations, as opposed to 29 carriageway and 8 footway operations by the same time last year.

**8. Building Works – Sefton Client Team/Capita
Major Capital New Build and Refurbishment Works**

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 majority portion of the building was handed to the Council on 3rd January 2012 and library and other fit out works are now progressing in these areas.

The main contract works are due to be completed in February 2013 but the date for final completion of the fit out works is still to be confirmed. It is currently proposed that the Ground Floor and Library areas will be opened to the public at the end of March 2013 with the remaining areas becoming available in May 2013. All efforts are being made to achieve these timescales.

Every effort is also being made to keep costs to a minimum but there are additional costs which will be reported to Members in the near future.

Southport Market Refurbishment: the scheme achieved completion in early June 2012 and the market has generally operated successfully since. Some issues relating to ventilation and over heating have been reported, particularly on hot days, and measures to overcome this have been identified and are to be implemented shortly.

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.

Birkdale Primary School: Works have now commenced on site and remain on programme for a phased completion which 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.

Southport Pier: Tenders have now been invited from 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 have carried out interim structural inspections to ensure that any immediate work requirements are identified.

Feasibility Works: Feasibility studies are underway for proposed works to provide:

Sports Hall and Circulation Modifications at Crosby High School

Additional Classrooms at Kew Woods Primary School

Accommodation alterations at Hillside High School

Minor Capital and Maintenance Works

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

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 in the former City Learning Centre at Ainsdale have also now largely been implemented.

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

