

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Period of Report</b>
Cllr Fairclough	Cabinet Member for Transportation	December 2014

## **Strategic Transport**

### **A5758 Broom's Cross Road (Thornton to Switch Island Link)**

- Formation of the road foundation complete except for a short section at the culvert in Netherton Brook
- Installation of drainage system continuing
- Realignment of Long Lane and new junction with A565 completed
- Kerb laying and preparation for surfacing complete between Thornton and Brickwall Lane
- Surfacing of the new road has started at the Thornton end of the route
- Works at Switch Island largely complete – some overnight working remains to be completed in the New Year
- Monthly updates produced and distributed and published on website
- Progress update provided to local press at end of November

### **Port Access**

- City Region Port Access Steering Group continues to meet every two months, being chaired by Sefton Chief Executive (next meeting planned for 26/01/15)
- Programme of interventions continuing. Measures include rail infrastructure requirements, promotion of coastal and inland shipping, short term highway improvement measures and an assessment of the options for long term major highway improvement.
- Network Rail's Northern Ports and Trans-Pennine rail capacity study to identify infrastructure requirements on the strategic rail network is expected to be complete by the end of the year.
- An initial options assessment and business case appraisal for a long term major highway option has been considered by the steering group. A report is due to be presented to the Combined Authority in the near future.
- Government announcement in the Roads Investment Strategy for development of a scheme to improve port access and address the A5036.

### **LTP & Growth Plan**

- Sefton is continuing to work with Merseytravel and the other Merseyside authorities on the delivery of the LTP3 implementation programme. An update on the 2014/15 LTP Capital Programme was reported to Cabinet Member – Transportation in November.
- Work continues at the Combined Authority level, led by Merseytravel, on the preparation of the next LTP (Transport Plan for Growth). This is expected to be published in April 2015.
- Sefton is contributing to the development of a City Region package of sustainable transport interventions in line with the funding announced in the CR Growth Deal. Initial feedback from the DfT is positive and an announcement on funding is expected shortly.

### **Local Transport Schemes**

- Work on delivery of the LTP Capital Programme for 2014/15 has been continuing. This includes 20mph zones in 7 areas following on from the areas implemented in 2013/14. Work continues on the design of traffic management measures to be implemented on the Northern Perimeter Road/Lydiat Lane following completion of Broom's Cross Road and on the land acquisition for the South Road junction improvement.
- Work is also continuing on schemes fully or partly funded through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. Proposals to improve links between Thornton and the Dunning's Bridge Road area and to improve accessibility in Seaforth village are expected to start on site early in the New Year. Proposals for pedestrian and cycle improvements at the entrance to the Port will also be implemented early in the New Year.

### **Local Sustainable Transport Fund**

- The current funding package from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund finishes at the end of March 2015. This has implications for the work of Sefton Travel Team, the Active Sefton programme, the recently established Travel Training service, the Cycle Hire scheme and the Sefton and West Lancashire visitor economy support. Opportunities for securing future funding for these initiatives are being explored, but as yet, no funding has been confirmed.

### **Network Management**

#### **Permit Scheme**

- The permit scheme has been approved by the Secretary of State and the statutory instrument has been published
- The commencement date is set for 2nd February 2015 with charging commencing on 2nd March 2015.
- Systems are currently being installed and updated.
- Workshops are being held over the coming months in preparation

#### **Street Works**

- BDUK works to install superfast broadband mainly aimed at small businesses has commenced. The performance of the supplier has been very poor and the works are very badly organised. Officers continue to manage the process as well as possible to ensure the Council asset is protected.

### **Highway Management**

#### **IPI Reshaping**

- The revised IPI structure has now been populated and the move to sit everyone on 3rd floor of Magdalen House is being programmed for January 2015.

#### **Highway Asset Management**

- The Yotta Horizons asset management system has been purchased and implementation is ongoing.
- The Government has recently indicated a possible change in funding mechanism for highway maintenance based on whole life costings so development of the Horizons system will benefit the Council should the opportunity to bid for additional Government support present itself. The first year's draft funding has now been allocated based on the new mechanism.

- The system is already providing useful and relevant data on the deterioration of the highway network and the repairs backlog.
- Outputs from the system have recently been used to support a bid to DfT for additional pothole funding
- The scanner surveys have been completed, a data accuracy check is due this week with an update to the highway repairs backlog report to be prepared once uploaded, hopefully by the end of September.

### **Highway Maintenance**

- £219,000 Additional funding for pothole repairs resulting from winter deterioration of the network provided by Government to supplement highway maintenance budgets has been expended.
- A further £300,000 additional funding has also been allocated for 2014/15
- A condition of the funding is to place the evidence of expenditure on the Council's website before the end of April 2014.
- A bid has been sent to DfT for further additional Pothole Funding. The bid was successful in achieving £380,965 and is to follow the approval process and be fully expended this financial year.
- The team are currently working with the Highways Agency with the view to deliver physical upgrades and maintenance repairs to the service roads that are adjacent to the A5036T. Subject to final approvals the works are due to commence in January 2015. All works are to be funded by the Highways Agency.
- Steady State Analysis using Horizons Asset management software has been utilised to demonstrate the 10 year funding necessary to maintain the Sefton Council Network in a similar condition over the analysis period. However, it is recommended that authorities do not attempt to maintain a Steady State utilising the Performance since this is poor Asset Management and leading to a 'Worst-first' maintenance regime, which increases the Whole Life Costs of maintenance, complaints and litigation, instead that they utilise asset sweating principles to deliver cost effective solutions. Latest Performance Indicators indicate that the existing budget of circa £3 million per year is not sufficient to halt the deterioration of the network and that additional investment is urgently required to assist in delaying the deterioration of the network. However, the Performance Indicator projections clearly demonstrate the need for the development of a long term investment strategy to halt the significantly increasing deterioration of the network. This strategy would require large investments upfront with increased annual maintenance budgets to maintain the network at that level similar to what Blackpool Council and other local authorities are doing.

### **Mayrise Mobile**

- Implementation of the system is continuing. There have been a number of IT issues to overcome and we are progressing well with finding adequate solutions.
- Much of the data gathering can also be input into the Horizons system to improve the robustness of deterioration data.
- Training is commencing on Street Lighting and Street Works modules
- Highway maintenance to follow, once a service review of inspection timescales and geographic locations are determined to enhance service delivery where possible based on a risk assessed approach.
- Partnership discussions taking place with contractor to coordinate systems for maximum efficiency of operation

### **Street Lighting**

- An additional LED lighting pilot has been approved for installation on sections of the Formby ward, following installation, an engineer's assessment will be taken to see if this pilot can be expanded to approximately 1000 units this financial year.

There have been approximately 100 units installed with only one issue raised to date.

- LED lighting has now been installed on sections of the A565 Formby Bypass.
- Part night switch off on the A565 and A59 has so far proved to be a successful cost saving initiative due to the configuration of the lighting and the rural environment. A further review of other potential sites is ongoing.

### **Traffic Signals (UTC)**

- There is currently a cross boundary proposal being considered to link part of the Councils UTC systems with that of the five neighbouring authorities (Liverpool / Knowsley / St Helens / Wirral and Halton). If successful the project could provide greater coordination of traffic flow and incident/event management across Merseyside. The technical details are being considered along with the implication of ongoing costs. If agreement is reached to proceed, there is now a draft programme for implementation which would see Sefton going live in late February / early March.

### **Parking Services**

- Following Cabinet approval a tender has been issued for the replacement of existing pay and display machines with 151 new machines. The machines will be capable of taking card and contactless payments
- Majority of new machines to be solar powered with mains machines only used on car parks where heavy use prevents solar powered machines being installed
- The new machines will be installed during March and April 2015
- Tender also being prepared for introduction of cashless parking (pay by phone)