

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) – 17th March 2015

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Cllr Fairclough	Cabinet Member for Transportation	January 2015

Strategic Transport

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

- Formation of the road foundation complete
- Installation of drainage system, lighting and sign poles continuing
- Kerb laying and preparation for surfacing ongoing between Brickwall Lane and Chapel Lane
- Surfacing continuing at the Thornton end and at Brickwall Lane
- Construction of VOSA vehicle testing site at Switch Island continuing
- Monthly updates produced and distributed and published on website

Port Access

- City Region Port Access Steering Group continues to meet every two months, being chaired by Sefton Chief Executive
- 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.

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), due for approval by Combined Authority in March 2015.
- The City Region package of sustainable transport interventions in line with the funding announced in the CR Growth Deal has been agreed in principle and the business case will be completed at the end of February for Combined Authority approval.
- Sefton has four schemes in the package amounting to approximately £1.75m of capital funding over the next two years.

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 Dunnings Bridge Road area and to improve accessibility in Seaforth village **started on** site early in the New Year. Pedestrian and cycle improvements at the entrance to the Port are also about to start.

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

- Scheme commenced on 2nd February 2015, whilst charges have been introduced penalty payments will not start until 2nd March 2015.
- Systems for the scheme commencement were installed / updated in good time.
- Workshops were held in the months leading up to the introduction of the scheme and training internally continues.

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 are on-going.

Highway Management

Highway Asset Management

- The Yotta Horizons asset management system is providing key evidence of the significant backlog of highway network improvements and was instrumental to justify the recent SCIG funding approval for Highway Maintenance Surface Treatment improvements at £1.1M.
- We have recently bid for the DFT Challenge Fund, one for improvement works along the A59 with Liverpool CC taking a lead on this joint Bid, this bid also includes LED installations, Safety Barrier replacement and Highway works.
- The scanner surveys for 2015/16 need to be progressed and we may also need to invest in Asset Collection on Footways to comply with the Whole Government Accounts process. Work has started on the review and implication of these requirements.

Highway Maintenance

- The team are currently working with the Highways Agency with the delivery of physical upgrades and maintenance repairs to the service roads that are adjacent to the A5036T. All works are progressing well and the Highways Agency has indicated they are impressed with the delivery to date.

Town Lane Kew, Southport highway resurfacing scheme is currently in the planning stages and is due to start on site mid March 2015. There will be local diversion routes in place and access to the hospital will be maintained.

Mayrise Mobile

- Implementation of the system is continuing very well and it is hoped we can implement the system within the next two months and fully utilise the benefits of the system in line with asset management principles.

Street Lighting

- The provisional street light renewals programme has been prepared for 2015/16 and will be submitted for the relevant approvals in March.
- As part of the budget proposals to be considered by the Full Council on Thursday 5th March, there is an option to seek to reduce the street lighting energy bill by £530,000 per year from 2016/17. To achieve this a number of options are to be considered including the part night switch off of some street lights across the Borough.
- We have recently bid for the DFT Challenge Fund, one for LED upgrades to all lighting stock on our Main roads with St Helens taking a lead on this joint Bid, it is hoped we may find out the outcome by April 2015
- We have also been successful in a SCIG bid for Street Lighting structural replacement and upgrades. This funding is on hold awaiting the outcome of the Challenge fund Bid as this funding has been highlighted as Match funding if the bid is successful.

Traffic Signals (UTC)

- Development is continuing in relation to the cross boundary project 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. The draft programme for implementation has been delayed and an updated programme is currently awaited.
- The possibility of a 'Combined Authority' traffic signal maintenance contract was discussed at the last MDEG meeting. Initial discussions have subsequently been held with the respective signal teams across the Merseyside Authorities. A briefing note is to be taken to the next TAG meeting for discussion.
- Traffic signal works at Switch Island as part of the new link road scheme are nearing completion. During March and April there will be a phased introduction of the new traffic signal equipment in readiness for the completion of the link road.
- We have been successful in negotiating a 10% saving on the BT line rental for traffic signals communications for a 2nd year in a row. •

Parking Services

- Contract for the replacement of existing pay and display machines with 151 new machines has been issued to Parkeon Ltd following tendering exercise. The machines will be capable of taking cash, 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 April / May 2015
- Tender also being prepared for introduction of cashless parking (pay by phone)

IPI Reshaping

- The revised IPI structure has now been populated and the move to sit everyone on 3rd floor of Magdalen House is being implemented with completion expected in March 2015.