

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Cllr Fairclough	Cabinet Member for Locality Services	September 2017

Strategic Transport

Port Access

- The City Region Port Access Steering Group continues to meet every two months, being chaired by Sefton Chief Executive. The most recent meeting was in October 2017
- The programme of interventions is continuing including rail infrastructure requirements, promotion of coastal and inland shipping, short term highway improvement measures and detailed studies into the options for long term major highway improvement. Work on the doubling of the rail line into the Port has been delayed and is now expected to take place in 2018.
- The announcement by DfT of the preferred route option for the major highway improvement to the Port was made on 1st September. Highways England will undertake detailed assessment work and will carry out a further consultation, probably early in 2018.

LTP & Growth Plan

- Sefton is continuing to work with Merseytravel and the other Merseyside authorities on the delivery of the transport capital programme.
- Work has started on the sustainable transport intervention proposals for Years 3-6 as part of the City Region programme. Sefton has three schemes approved as part of the programme, amounting to almost £3m of allocated funding. This consists of three phases of improvements on the A565, in Seaforth, Waterloo and Thornton, as well as a cycle route between Maghull and Kirkby and East-West cycle improvements in Southport.
- The Public Inquiry for the CPO and Side Road Orders for the North Liverpool Key Corridor scheme has been held. The remaining Sefton based objector, WJ Leech, removed their objection during the Inquiry on the condition that the agreed modifications to their premises be included in the scheme. Heads of Terms were also agreed and the acquisition is now proceeding. The only objector attending the Inquiry withdrew from the Inquiry on the first morning after Heads of Terms were agreed with Liverpool CC. However, as their objection remained, the Inspector continued with the Inquiry, examining the Council's witnesses. Works are progressing on the Leeds Street junction and the Contractor is currently planning for the Phase 2 works in Sefton.
- The detailed design of the M58 Junction 1 scheme is progressing. Highways England has approved some of the necessary departures and the scope of the statutory undertakers diversion works have been agreed. Some modifications are

progressing to the junction of the farm access track following completion of the Safety Audit. The Planning Application was approved in September. The necessary agreement with Highways England to allow the works to progress is being finalised. Negotiations are progressing with the landowners with the hope that all land can be secured by agreement. A CPO will be made and notice published in October if Heads of Terms haven't been agreed. Works are programmed to start in early 2018.

- Work has commenced on-site for the construction of Maghull North Station. There are two key possessions before Christmas which will determine the progress of the scheme. A press event is being arranged for 24th November. Opening to passengers is scheduled to coincide with the start of the Summer timetable in May 2018.
- The Council was awarded £180,000 of City Region Feasibility Fund towards the project development work on the Southport Eastern Access and the Maritime Corridor projects. The funding is being used for option development and testing and development of a strategic outline case for Southport Eastern Access and for traffic modelling and option testing for the Maritime Corridor. Consultants have already started work on both initiatives.

Local Transport Schemes

- The Transportation Capital Programme for 2017/18 has been approved and work has commenced on the delivery of the programme.

Sustainable Transport

- Proposals for a new, inland pedestrian and cycle route at Crosby Coastal Park, which will avoid the issue of wind-blown sand on the promenade and proposals for a major upgrade of the Coastal Road cycle route have been submitted as possible schemes to be funded through the European Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) fund.
- The Council has been awarded £24,600 through the DfT Cycling and Walking to Work Fund to provide additional support for cycling through the existing community hubs, particularly aimed at jobseekers.

Street Lighting

- As part of the budget savings proposals the in-house street lighting maintenance service is to be outsourced to an external contractor. Tenders are now out to and are due for return in November. It is currently anticipated that the new Contract will commence mid-January 2018.

Traffic Signals

- Tenders for the LCR joint Traffic Signal maintenance Contract have now been returned and are currently being assessed. The proposed start date for the Contract still remains as 1st April 2018.
- Consideration continues to be given to upgrading the existing video wall in the traffic signals control room. The current equipment has now exceeded its operational life and is causing some regular maintenance issues with associated

costs. Outline costings have now been received. Subject to available resources a procurement exercise will be undertaken later this year to renew the equipment.

- Discussions are continuing on beginning to migrate some of the traffic signal communication circuits from analogue to digital technology. This work will need to be developed and delivered over the next few years as the current analogue circuits provided by BT are to be withdrawn after March 2020. Without the communication circuits the Council will be unable to monitor and coordinate the traffic signals remotely. There is now a strong possibility that some funding via LGF3 may become available to part fund this exercise.

Highway Maintenance

- The resurfacing of Lord Street Southport has been completed to programme.
- This year's micro asphalt surfacing programme remains ongoing and should be completed by November, weather permitting.
- The grass cutting and weed spray programmes for this calendar year are now virtually complete.

Winter Service

- The annual review of the winter service policy and operational plan was approved by O&S Committee on 19th September 2017
- Revised guidance from the Department for Transport is still awaited
- Procurement for winter service is currently underway and is due to be placed on the chest imminently. The existing contract expires in June 2018

Key Route Network

- Work continues across the region on KRN issues.
- Benchmarking of service levels and standards is continuing to establish levels of consistency and allow gap analysis to be undertaken.
- A report is being taken to Cabinet on 2nd November to seek approval to give consent for Transport for the North to become a sub national transport authority. Consent is required from all 37 authorities. Any further specific needs will be reported back to Cabinet in due course.

Road Safety

- The LCR road safety strategy has been finalised and has been signed off with a joint foreword by both the Mayor and the Police & Crime Commissioner. The strategy was launched at a road safety event at Crosby Police Station on 12th October.

Burial and Cremation Service

- Fee changes – Following the introduction of new 'offers' within the service to generate and/or re-direct business within core hours, there has been increased uptake of both the 'direct cremation' offer and the early mid-week times offer at Southport Crematorium.
- Bootle Cemetery – Section 106 works - Improvements to paths are being undertaken, as well as introducing a one-way system, with parking bays. This will

greatly improve the visitor experience and reduce the incidence of cars damaging grave lawns and driving over graves.

- Duke Street Cemetery - A draft entrance improvement scheme has been developed and will shortly be shared with elected members as it has been proposed to at least part fund improvements via area/ward budget provision.
- Thornton Garden of Rest – Crematorium upgrade - The new cremators which have recently been installed have been subject to their annual emissions test. All have passed with particularly good results.

Catering Services:

- Almost 4,000 free meals were supplied by Sefton Council Catering Services to children over the summer holidays. Catering Services ran it's annual Children's Access to Food Programme for the second year to provide for the neediest children in the borough.
- The programme is designed as a replacement for free school meals during the holidays, ensuring that those who are in most need continue to receive help and hot meals. In total, 3981 meals were served across Sefton during a six week period. During the scheme it was noted that there was a definite reduction in families requesting food vouchers for the food bank at one Centre because they were able to access free meals.

Transport & Vehicle Maintenance:

- Inspections have been undertaken and the necessary authorisations have been granted by VOSA for the installation of the tachograph equipment at Hawthorne Road Depot. A visit in early September by the relevant inspector provided the necessary certification and the service is now fully operational. This will not only provide a saving for our own fleet but also generate additional income from private external contractors utilising the services offered by the Council.
- MOT services for the public continue to show a marked increase over the first five months of the financial year. Plans have been developed to further promote and market the services on offer to a wider audience.
- A new one way system has been introduced at the Council's busiest Depot in Hawthorne Road, Bootle. This allows for easier access and egress for the Council's vehicle fleet, whilst also accommodating the requirements of HGV vehicles arriving for Tacho calibration services and members of the public arriving for MOT services.

Cleansing Services:

- Plans are now underway to deliver this year's leaf clearance programme. Each year the Council collects in excess 600 – 700 tonnes of leaves in the autumn period. All of the leaves collected are sent for composting and recycling. However, recent changes by Government to legislation requires that all leaf debris needs to be dealt with at a certified location in a manner which keeps it away from general compost produced from the garden waste. This is an attempt to stop any contamination of the compost by any of the fumes or toxins apparently absorbed

by the leaves on roadsides, or swept up from the pavements along with the leaf debris. A contractor has been sourced and so all leaf debris within Sefton will be recycled according to current guidelines.

Sefton Arc:

- Sefton Arc continues to develop and deliver a range of services to premises across the region.

The services currently offered include:

- Installation of intruder alarms/Fire alarms/CCTV systems/Access control.
 - Maintenance and serving of the above
 - All aspects of Guarding and response including Key holding
 - “ArcAngel” – our own BS8484 compliant device. This unit as well as being BS approved is Police approved via the “Secure by Design” accreditation scheme
 - Emergency Lighting testing and maintenance
 - Periodic testing of electrical systems
 - All aspects of electrical work. Sefton Arc are NICEIC approved
 - All aspects of Assistive Technology
- Sefton Arc is now the only public sector organisation in the whole country to achieve National Security Inspectorate (NSI) Gold accreditation for the design, installation, serving and commissioning of Fire alarms in accordance with ISO9001(2008). This has opened up new opportunities for Sefton Arc to deliver services to other local authorities and work is currently being undertaken to promote the services accordingly.