

**Meeting:** St Oswald & Netherton & Orrell Area Committee  
 Formby Area Committee  
 Crosby Area Committee  
 Sefton East Parishes Area Committee  
 Litherland and Ford Area Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010  
 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010  
 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010  
 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010  
 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**Title of Report:** Thornton to Switch Island Link – Public Consultation and Exhibition

**Report of:**  
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This report contains	Yes	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> Information/		√
<b>EXEMPT</b> information by virtue of paragraph(s).....of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (If information <u>is</u> marked exempt, the Public Interest Test must be applied and favour the exclusion of the information from the press and public).		√
Is the decision on this report <b>DELEGATED?</b>		

**Purpose of Report**

To advise Area Committee of progress in the development of the proposed Thornton to Switch Island Link and to advise the Committee of the public consultation and exhibition planned for February 2010.

**Recommendation(s)**

It is recommended that:

- (i) the contents of the report be noted

## **Corporate Objective Monitoring**

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1.	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2.	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3.	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4.	Improving Health and Well-Being	√		
5.	Environmental Sustainability		√	
6.	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7.	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8.	Children and Young People		√	

## **Financial Implications**

	<b>2008/ 2009 £</b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

## **Departments consulted in the preparation of this Report**

None

## **List of background papers relied upon in the preparation of this Report**

Report to Cabinet of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009 – Thornton Switch Island Link Layout Approval and Public Exhibition Proposals

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 In September 2008, the Thornton Switch Island Link Road Scheme was granted 'Programme Entry' into the Department for Transport's (DfT) programme of major transport schemes, (ie schemes costing in excess of £5.0m). The purpose of this report is to inform Area Committees of the progress on the scheme since that time and to advise the Committee of a forthcoming public exhibition of the proposals.
- 1.2 Following a detailed tender process, in May 2009, Cabinet approved the award of an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) contract to design, develop and construct the Thornton Switch Island Link scheme to Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering Ltd. The contract includes Balfour Beatty's partnership with Jacobs as design engineers. In September 2009, Cabinet approved the revised governance arrangements for the scheme and the revised programme and funding profile.
- 1.3 The project team has been developing the design of the scheme in preparation for submitting the planning application in April 2010. This report will provide an overview of the progress of this stage of the project and the activities involved in the next stage of the scheme.

## **2.0 Scheme progress and public exhibition**

- 2.1 Since the appointment of the contractor and their design partner, the Council's project team, which also includes Capita Symonds, has been developing the design of the proposed Thornton to Switch Island Link. A series of additional site surveys was also undertaken in September and October 2009. Discussions have also been held with statutory consultees and key stakeholders and the issues raised have been taken into account in the scheme proposals. The design of the scheme has also taken account of the concerns and comments raised by the public at previous consultations on the scheme. A full environmental assessment of the scheme is being completed and will be submitted with the planning application.
- 2.2 The proposed layout of the scheme was approved by Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> December, including details of the horizontal and vertical alignment of the scheme, drainage systems, provisions for public rights of way and preliminary landscaping and environmental mitigation proposals. The alignment approved by Cabinet is attached as Annex 1.
- 2.3 The planning application for the scheme is proposed to be submitted at the beginning of April 2010. Cabinet approved the proposal to hold a public exhibition of the proposals in advance of the submission of the application. The aim of the exhibition is to inform the public of the scheme details and giving the public a chance to raise any questions and concerns that they may have. It will also enable to project team to identify and assess issues raised by the public and to address those concerns within the planning application where appropriate.

- 2.4 The public exhibitions will take place between 2pm and 8pm at St Frideswyde's Church, Water Street, Thornton, on Tuesday, February 2, and St Benet's Parish Club, Chapel Lane, Netherton, on Wednesday, February 3. Members of the project team from the Council, Capita Symonds, Balfour Beatty and Jacobs will be available to explain the scheme and answer questions. Members will be invited to attend the exhibition and the exhibition will also be publicised as widely as possible in the local area.
- 2.5 In addition to the public exhibitions, it is proposed to offer individual discussions and consultations to the residents most affected by the scheme proposals (i.e. on Chapel Lane, Rothwells Lane and Holgate). Individual discussions will also be offered to the local landowners and farmers who would be affected. Reports will be presented to all the relevant Area Committees and offers will be made to the Parish Councils for one of the project officers to attend their meetings and explain the scheme proposals.
- 2.6 Updates on the scheme proposals and the development of the project are also provided on the scheme website at [www.sefton.gov.uk/thorntonlink](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/thorntonlink).

### **3.0 Conclusion**

- 3.1 The Council has made progress on the proposed Thornton to Switch Island Link and Cabinet has approved a scheme layout that will form the basis of the planning application for the scheme. A public exhibition of the scheme proposals is planned for February in advance of the planning application being submitted.