

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills – 3 July 2018)

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Cllr Fairclough	Cabinet Member for Locality Services	June 2018

Strategic Transport

Port Access

- The programme of multi-modal interventions is continuing including rail infrastructure requirements, promotion of coastal and inland shipping, short term highway improvement measures and options for long term major highway improvement. Work on the doubling of the rail line into the Port and improvements to signals at Earlestown West are scheduled to be completed by March 2019.
- The judicial review of the options consultation process is scheduled to be heard on 23rd October 2018. The Chief Executive has submitted evidence on behalf of the Council.
- Highways England is continuing with the design and assessment of their preferred option and submitted requests for access to Council land to undertake surveys and for information to be used in the environmental assessment. The Council has advised Highways England that it considers that work on the scheme should be suspended until the Judicial Review has been concluded and has not granted access to Council owned land. Requests for information are being dealt with as requests under the Environmental Information Regulations.

LTP & Growth Plan

- Sefton is continuing to work with Merseytravel and the other Merseyside authorities on the delivery of the transport capital programme.
- The development of the M58 Junction 1 scheme continues although the start of construction has been delayed because the Council does not yet have access to the land. One objection was received to the Compulsory Purchase Order and the issue will be considered through written representations rather than a Public Inquiry. In the meantime, the Council is seeking to resolve the issue by negotiation and is also discussing with landowners' representatives the possibilities of securing access to the land through agreement in advance of completing the acquisition of the land. Highways England has approved all of the necessary departures and the Safety Audit Work has been undertaken.
- The Notices to Treat for the North Liverpool Key Corridor scheme were served on the landowners at the start of June, which will result in the necessary land being vested in the respective Councils. Contracts have been exchanged with one of the land owners in Sefton's section, and the land should shortly be secured. Works are progressing on the A565. Works within the Sefton section of Derby Road have been re-scheduled to enable stats diversions, but are expected to start in autumn. The detail of the works along Regent Road has been confirmed by Liverpool CC

and the Regent Road works, including the resurfacing of the full length, have started. The scheme is programmed for completion in 2019.

- Construction of Maghull North station is nearing completion and the station is scheduled to open on 18th June 2018. There has been substantial ongoing dialogue with local residents. The Council is monitoring activities in support of residents, particularly noise levels.
- Work continues 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. Schemes for the A565 in Thornton and on Buckley Hill Lane (to relieve Edge Lane) and improvements to Southport East West cycle links are planned for delivery this financial year.
- The traffic modelling and options testing for the Southport Eastern Access and the Maritime Corridor projects is continuing but has taken longer than anticipated. City Region funding is being used for both projects and strategic outline cases for both projects are currently expected to be completed in the autumn.
- The business case for the Local Growth Fund schemes on the Key Route Network was approved by the CA on the 9th March. The programme includes proposals for a major junction improvement at the Dover Road junction on the A59 Northway. Work has started on developing the scheme, identifying static diversions and initial discussions have been held with the main landowner.

Local Transport Schemes

- Delivery of the Transportation Capital Programme for 2017/18 is continuing and the programme for 2018/19 has been approved by Cabinet Member.

Sustainable Transport

- The Combined Authority is waiting to hear whether the bid for the European Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) fund submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in February 2018 has been approved. A decision is expected in the summer. 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 were included in the bid.

Street Lighting

- The Council's new Street Lighting contractor is continuing to deliver services to a high standard which is reflected in the early KPI reports. Working relationships between the Contractor and the Council officers are continuing to positively develop.
- New faults are still being received daily from the public which continue to be recorded and processed accordingly.

Traffic Signals

- The LCR joint Traffic Signal maintenance Contract commenced on the 1st April 2018. To date the Contract appears to be running well not only for Sefton but the other LCR Authorities. Siemens who are the Contractor offered some added value within the Contract submission which will benefit all of the Authorities at no additional cost.
- Discussions remain ongoing 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. The LCR has secured funding to carry out such upgrades on sites along the KRN to which Sefton will directly benefit from.

Highway Maintenance

- The micro-asphalt surface treatment works for this year's Highway Maintenance programme are now complete with the exception of some localised remedial works.
- The carriageway resurfacing works element of the programme remains ongoing.
- The remedial work to the resurfacing works on Lord Street Southport will take place within the next two weeks.
- Spray 2 of this years planned highway weed spray programme is ongoing. Spray 1 was delayed due to weather issues earlier in the year.
- The grass cutting programme remains ongoing. Cut 3 of 8 is nearing completion.

Winter Service

- The annual consultation with Elected Members is currently underway. Councillors have been requested to raise any issues or make any comments of the delivery of the service and the operational plan so that Cabinet Member can consider any changes before the start of the next winter season. The deadline for response is the end of June. The revised policy and operational plan will be presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committee in September as usual

FCERM

- **Green Sefton**

The service restructure that brought together FCERM, Coast & Countryside and Parks & Recreation has now been completed. This new service will all work together to ensure a joined up approach to the vital management, development and oversight of Sefton's coastline, parks and green spaces. The service aims to:

- Improve the way we manage Sefton's natural assets
- Provide a single point of contact and enable more efficient and effective use of resources and offer potential to create new opportunities for income generation
- Enable more community cohesion
- Offer further opportunities for volunteers, residents and other organisations
- Create a more focussed, flexible and collaborative approach to the management, development and oversight of our coastline, parks and green spaces.
- Manage all land assets (excluding highways) in one portfolio

- **Flooding events**

There were thunder storms in northern Sefton on the 31st May that resulted in very heavy rainfall for a period of 30mins causing widespread temporary highway flooding. There were two reports of property flooding in Birkdale, Essex Road where there was significant garden flooding but internal flooding was prevented by mitigation measures that had been installed, this included flood doors. Another property suffered flooding under the floor boards, but again didn't rise high enough to enter the property.

Highway Development and Design

Planning Applications

- Since the beginning of March 2018 the team has processed 297 planning applications. This includes applications for sites identified in the Council's adopted Local Plan. This has involved liaising closely with case officers from the planning department. The team are currently assessing a number of applications including some of the local plan sites such as land east of Maghull, Lydiate Lane and others. The recent planning committee which closed at 11:35pm, dealt with five local plan sites, which provided for over 675 units.

Section 38 Highways Act 1980 legal agreements

- There has been a considerable increase in submissions and the subsequent processing of these at times, lengthy applications, particularly following the approval of planning applications for Local Plan sites.
The report is as follows: -
- No of live s38 and current developments subject to a s38 application - 27
- No of stalled or no activity (on the part of a developer) - 10
- Number of development sites adopted within the last 6 months (March 2018 to June 2018) -4
- No of submissions awaiting technical approval - 6
- Number of new and recent submissions awaiting administrative set up - 3

Section 278 Highways Act 1980 legal agreements

- There is an on-going increase in the numbers of these type of applications generally due to the approval of planning applications for Local Plan sites. Whilst a number of these schemes have been completed in the last period, an equivalent number of new applications have also been received.
- The team are currently managing 49 live s278 HA 1980 highway works schemes in various stages of development on behalf of the Council and with values exceeding £1.5m. The successful delivery of these schemes is dependent on close liaison with the Legal, Finance and Planning Departments.

Public Rights Of Way (PROW)

- Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2 – Ongoing negotiations with the Liverpool City Region and other neighbouring Authorities
- English Coastal Path – On site route feasibility reviews commenced with Natural England and a final year claim about to be submitted of £5,400 of which covers officer time incurred on the project
- Advising on the preparation of two Schedule 14 Applications for up to nine additional PROW's
- St Lukes Church Road claim is being submitted to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee which all being well, will mitigate the potential for a major Public Inquiry for which the Council would have to bear associated costs

Strategic Highways Development and Future Planning

- The team is continuing to take a lead in managing the transportation issues involved with the Land East of Maghull and this is ongoing.
- The team is continuing to work closely with the Planning Department on new initiatives to ensure a 'One Council' strategic approach to development to ensure that the necessary new transport infrastructure is in place to support new developments coming forward in future years.
- New SPD – the new SPD Sustainable Development and Travel has been through a public consultation exercise with reviews and comments addressed. It is being reported to CM Planning shortly. Officers are assessing planning applications using the new SPD as it now has significant weight in planning terms. This includes requesting vehicle charging points for all new housing and commercial developments.
- The team is seeing more developments affecting the daily operation of the highway and as such, at the request of the Planning Committee, we are asking to see more construction traffic management plans so that we can manage the highway network efficiently and effectively with minimum disruption to users of the highway and with the important benefit of highway safety.

Design

- This part of the team is also supporting the delivery of the Step programme
Current schemes include:
- Feasibility study for Southport Eastern Accesses – to improve the connectivity to Southport Town Centre and the seafront
- A59 Port Capacity – a scheme to improve capacity along the A59 through Maghull, on its approach to Switch Island
- Various cycle improvement schemes to link the eastern side (Kew area) to the centre of Southport and a scheme to link the borough boundary at Kirkby to Maghull.

Cleansing Services

- Green garden waste collections have recommenced in March, and given the somewhat colder conditions, the initial collections were half what they should have been in volume terms. However, the recent warm weather has changed both the presentation rates and volumes, and in April and May we have collected more garden waste than ever before in these months.
- The Cleansing operation continues to have ongoing problems with access to a small but significant number of roads for refuse and recycling (and green garden waste) collections throughout the Borough. A number of alleviation schemes have been developed including the use of (when practicable to do so) a smaller vehicle by re-organising rounds, or the involvement of local Ward Councillors who have petitioned for parking restrictions. This has helped the delivery of the service, however, the problem is deteriorating given the volume of car numbers and the parking habits of those drivers. Additional measures are being developed and will be reported accordingly.
- The Cleansing Manager & Head of Service for Locality Services Provision met the Director of Operations at the Port of Liverpool to discuss ongoing issues around fly tipping and littering by drivers of road haulage companies using the Millers Bridge entrance to the Port of Liverpool, predominately around the Derby Road / Dock Road Industrial Estate. This has been causing severe operational problems for the street cleansing service. The littering issue, which includes offensive

waste, has been raised with the relevant port authorities. A number of interim solutions have been agreed between both parties and a route map on the way forward agreed which will be reported to future O & S Committees.

- The Cleansing operation is providing services & assistance for the various shows across the Borough during summertime, including the Food & Drink Festival, Formby Festival, Air Show, Southport Flower Show, Bootle Festival, Food & Drink Festival, Tall Ships, etc. As these events are organised 'internally' there is minimal 'profit' attached to the services. However, it is also beneficial that local residents and visitors alike see Sefton Council staff delivering such efficient services across a wide and varied range of events.

Transport Vehicle Maintenance

- The Vehicle Maintenance Service is continuing to increase external business with the new Tachograph Calibration Station. In-house tests have also provided a saving to the Cleansing Department on HGV testing. Private MOT's and Taxi Compliance tests have increased by 30% so far this year.

School Crossing Service

- Working with colleagues in Road Safety and Parking Services we are making a concerted effort to reduce dangerous parking at SCP sites across the borough. We have performed spot checks complete with speed gun on a number of locations across Sefton. Whilst still in its infancy it is proving to be a successful deterrent for indiscriminate motorists.