

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) - 6 November 2018

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
John Fairclough	Cabinet Member Locality Services	October 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 for the major highway scheme is scheduled to be heard on 23rd October 2018. The Chief Executive has submitted evidence on behalf of the Council.
- Highways England has continued with the design and assessment of their preferred option. 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. Highways England is planning the statutory consultation with the local community and key stakeholders for autumn 2018, although the exact date is not yet determined. If the statutory consultation takes place in autumn 2018 as programmed Highways England hope to be able to submit their application to the Planning Inspectorate in summer 2019.

LTP and Growth Plan

- Sefton is continuing to work with the LCR Combined Authority, Merseytravel and the other local 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. The Council successfully negotiated the withdrawal of the single objection to the Compulsory Purchase Order, which has now been signed by the Secretary of State. We are still awaiting sign off by Highways England before the notices can be served. The Council continues to seek acquisition by agreement and is also discussing with landowners' representatives the possibilities of securing early access to the land. This has been agreed in principle but the details are being finalised. Highways England has approved all the necessary departures and the Safety Audit Work has been

undertaken. Acquisition of one of the plots of land in Sefton's section of the scheme has been completed and the other plot will be secured through the CPO process. Vesting of the site should take place in October.

- 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 works along Regent Road are continuing. The scheme is programmed for completion in 2019.
- Maghull North station has been completed and opened in June 2018. A planning application has been received for the installation of a sculpture to commemorate the work of Moss Side hospital.
- Work continues 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 has been completed and we await the final report. The forecasting work for the Southport Eastern Access scheme indicates that there should be a viable business case. City Region funding is being used for both projects and strategic outline cases for both projects are expected to be completed in the autumn.
- The programme of Local Growth Fund schemes on the Key Route Network includes proposals for a major junction improvement at the Dover Road junction on the A59 Northway. An outline design has been prepared, some site investigation has been completed and discussions with the main landowner are ongoing.
- Bids have been submitted to the CA for feasibility funding for Bootle, Crosby and Southport town centres. The bids were compiled with support from Regeneration colleagues. The funding has been made available through the Metro Mayor's Transforming Cities Fund.

Local Transport Schemes

- Delivery of the Transportation Capital Programme for 2018/19 is continuing following approval of the programme by Cabinet Member in June 2018.

Sustainable Transport

- The Combined Authority is still 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 was expected in the summer however this is still awaited.
- 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.

Highway Development and Design

Planning Applications

- Since the beginning of June 2018, the team has processed 237 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.

Section 38 Highways Act 1980 legal agreements

- There has been a considerable increase in submissions and the subsequent processing of these at times, lengthy and complex applications, particularly following the approval of planning applications for Local Plan sites.

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, a number of new applications have also been received.
- The team are currently managing a number of 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.

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 with a submitted masterplan document now under consideration.
- 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.
- 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.

Permit Scheme

- The third-year review of the Permit scheme has been completed and published in accordance with legislative requirements. Permit fees levels have been analysed and evidence is such that a revision to those fees is appropriate. Part of this process includes consultation with interested parties. The consultation period ended on Friday 31st August 2018. A report recommending revised fees is on the Cabinet agenda for 1st November 2018.

Winter Service

- The revised policy and operational plan was presented to Overview & Scrutiny (Regeneration & Skills) Committee on 18th September. There were no significant issues raised by committee.

Street Lighting

- The Councils new Street Lighting contractor is continuing to deliver services to a high standard which is reflected in the early KPI reports. There is currently no backlog of faults which are being responded to within 5 working days.
- 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 continues to function well across the city region.
- The Council has entered into an Agency Agreement with the LCRCA to facilitate the delivery of the UTC Communications upgrade to digital along the KRN. This project is being funded 100% by the Combined Authority and work is continuing.

Highway Maintenance

- All works for general maintenance, resurfacing, weed spray and grass cutting continue to be delivered with no relevant operational issues. Weed spraying is now completed for the winter and the last few grass cutting sites are being completed imminently.

Cleansing Services

- Green garden waste collections (in terms of green waste presented for collection) have recovered following the very hot and dry summer period from June to August. However, overall tonnages and the “recycling credit” it generates to support the collection operation, will be substantially reduced by year end, and this will ultimately reflect in the Councils’ recycling rate which currently stands at just below 39%.
- A yearly update report was presented to this Committee in September, appraising Members of the issues and obstacles that the refuse, recycling and food waste service are currently experiencing. The report also made many references to potential pressures to services going forward. The Committee thanked the entire refuse, recycling and food waste operation for the excellent work during the last 12 months and this has in turn been passed on to every member of the waste collection operation.

- There will be changes to the refuse, recycling and food waste collections over the forthcoming Christmas period, especially as Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day are all mid-week days this year. Arrangements are in place to advise residents of the changes and this will be communicated to households in mid-December. It is anticipated that the collection arrangements will be 'back on schedule' by January 7th 2019.
- The Street Cleansing operation is currently preparing itself for its busiest period of the year, with events for Halloween, mischief & bonfire nights, plus Remembrance Sunday and numerous Christmas lights 'switch-ons' throughout the Borough. This is in addition to the usual leaf fall removal which is also operating and will continue until early December. All leaves are recycled at a composting facility within Sefton and it is hoped that last year's 600 tonnes collected will be exceeded.