

## **CABINET MEMBER - TECHNICAL SERVICES**

### **REPORT TO CABINET**

**15 April 2010**

#### **1. Thornton Switch Island Link**

Good progress is being made with compiling the Planning Application submission and to ensure the application is complete and robust as possible it will be submitted in early April 2010. In preparation for the Planning Application, the recent public exhibition proved very successful. A number of issues were raised that are being further assessed, but generally there continues to be strong support for the scheme amongst local residents, businesses etc. A full report on the consultation will be included within the Planning Application.

Authorisation to submit the Planning Application was approved at my Cabinet Member Technical Services meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010, and also for the Assistant Director Transport and Spatial Planning to enter into any necessary agreement with the Highways Agency to permit the Council to carry out works on the trunk road at Switch Island.

#### **2. Lancashire County Council, LTP3 – Rail Access to Southport**

Lancashire County Council is currently developing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Local Transport Plan, and has established a Task Group of Members to review rail priorities for inclusion in the Plan.

Stakeholders with an interest in potential rail improvement schemes have been afforded the opportunity to make representation to the Task Group in support of the proposal.

I have authorised a draft paper to be submitted to the Task Group that has been circulated to all Southport Ward Councillors for comment, and will be formally considered at my meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

#### **3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Local Transport Plan for Merseyside**

Development of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Local Transport Plan for Merseyside is progressing for submission later this year, and to become operational in April 2011. It will be in two sections, a longer term strategy/policy document with supporting shorter term implementation plans. LTP3 is now the responsibility of the Integrated Transport Authority (formerly the PTA), but the ITA must reflect the views of the Local District Authorities and a wide range of stakeholders and the public.

Consequently, an initial phase of wide consultation on the “Challenges and Opportunities for Future Transport Provision in Merseyside” was launched on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010.

A report on the process and a review of Sefton’s Transport Priorities will be considered over the coming weeks.

#### **4. SMBC/Capita Symonds Technical Services Partnership**

The Highway Maintenance programme for the new financial year (2010/11) is currently being shared with Area Committees for consultation. Following the impacts of the severe winter, an additional £900k funding has been made available, and assessments are currently ongoing to identify and prioritise those locations that should be treated.

The Architects team have been appointed as Technical Advisors for BSF (Building Schools for the Future) schemes in Sefton.

Design works are already underway for a number of school extension projects, as well as the Litherland High School project, which is scheduled for overall completion by August 2011

A phased relocation of all Arvato staff from Balliol House to St Peters' House is now complete. The Property team are now focussing on the relocation of SMBC's Legal, Personnel and Children's Services staff