

CABINET MEMBER TECHNICAL SERVICES
REPORT TO CABINET – 10 JUNE 2010

1. Third Local Transport Plan for Merseyside

Development of the 3rd 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” has been completed and consideration of priorities is underway.

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

2. Pear Tree Junction Improvement

A major junction improvement scheme of the Prescott Road/Bank Lane junction in Melling known locally as the Pear Tree junction, to address long standing road safety issues, will be completed in the coming weeks. The scheme will provide a conventional roundabout slowing traffic on A506 and improve vehicular movements at the junction.

3. Hawthorne Road/Linacre Road Junction, Bootle

A major improvement of this junction is planned to progress in June 2010. This will provide major capacity and pedestrian road safety benefits and is funded through LTP and Section 106 monies.

4. SMBC/Capita Symonds Technical Services Partnership

The Highway Maintenance programme for the financial year 2010/11 was approved by Cabinet Member on the 7th April 2010 and is currently being acted upon as is the revised Grounds Maintenance contract which now incorporates the grass cutting of most of the sites that had become problematic since the Housing Stock Transfer.

Following the impacts of the frost damage due to consecutive years of severe winter weather, the initial addition of £900,000 funding has been further supplemented by £248,400 of ring fenced revenue funding with Section 31 Grant direct from the Department of Transport.

A programme of additional schemes utilising thin asphaltic treatments has been produced with geographic equity in mind.

This programme is currently being reviewed by elected members on a Ward by Ward basis prior to acceptance at Cabinet on 10th June 2010 this programme has been produced rather quickly in order to meet the narrow window of opportunity for such weather sensitive treatments in order to commence applications in late June when the temperatures are at their best.

The Capita Symonds Architects Group provides a comprehensive service for the delivery of all major capital projects.

The Maghull Leisure Centre (The Meadows) was completed recently; it is now open to the public and operating well. The St Peters House refurbishment contract has also been completed, the building is now fully occupied by Arvato staff and the move of the relocation of the data centre will be concluded this week. These projects were both completed on time and within budget.

Works are progressing on site for a number of projects on behalf of Children's Services, in particular the delivery of the Primary Capital and 14-19 World of Work Diploma programmes. The Litherland High School replacement project is well advanced with works due to complete on programme in the spring of 2011.

Preparation works are underway for the demolition of the now vacant Balliol House. Tenders for this and the refurbishment of Southport Market will be received shortly. The Preferred contractor has been selected for the Netherton Activity Centre Project and they will now work in co-operative partnership to complete the design and agree a target cost for the works to commence in the autumn. The Southport Cultural Centre project has received authority to proceed and works will commence on site during June.

The Capita Symonds Building Maintenance team continue to provide a day-to-day responsive and planned maintenance service. Particular emphasis is currently being placed upon ensuring that the statutory requirements in terms of property related testing and inspections are met.

Capita Symonds will be moving to St Hugh's House as per the contract.