

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 SEPTEMBER 2010

**Statement from: Cllr W S Webb, Executive Councillor for
Highways & Transport**

ACCESSIBILITY AND POLICY

Local Transport Plan - The current Local Transport Plans (LTP2) expires on 31 March 2011, and the next LTP (LTP3) needs to be in place by 1 April 2011. Due to a current lack of information, Lincolnshire propose to produce a 'light touch' LTP3 which will simply roll forward the strategies and policies of the current LTP2 for a maximum of two years. During this time a more fundamental review of local transport will be carried out taking into account expected announcements from central government on both national transport strategy and future funding levels, leading to the adoption of LTP4.

CallConnect – On 5 July Rutland County Council joined LCC, Northamptonshire & Peterborough City Council in a partnership that now provides two CallConnect services in Stamford and the surrounding area.

Concessionary Fares - We will not be in a position to decide on scheme details until the DfT have undertaken their consultation on reimbursement, and we know the outcome of the government's spending review.

Wheels to work – The launch of the new countywide scheme enables people who have difficulty accessing work and/or training to loan motor scooters. The County Council has provided funding to acquire the vehicles, but it is being run as a social enterprise by Access Your Future. The recipients are fully trained to ride and maintain the vehicles, which are returned once they can afford their own transport.

LINCOLN TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The various elements of this latest adopted Transport Strategy for Lincoln are progressing as follows:

Lincoln Park & Ride - The western site already identified may be critical in any support for servicing the castle area, particularly if the HLS bid for Lincoln Castle Revealed is successful and we have to cater for a significant increase in visitor numbers.

Lincoln Eastern Bypass - Due to the impending Comprehensive Spending Review, Government endorsement to proceed with the scheme is still awaited.

Lincoln East West Link – Following the public consultation, designs will be re-appraised and issues raised through the consultation process will be addressed where possible. Further work will be carried out on the environmental impacts of the scheme, and findings will be presented with the planning application early in 2011.

We are starting to develop ideas for the pedestrianisation of the High Street,

between Tentercroft Street and St Mary's Street, and also possible improvements to the main pedestrian crossing points on the High Street (the railway line, Wigford Way and Tentercroft St/St Mark's St).

Lincoln High Street Environmental Improvements – As a result of the workshop held in February, a public consultation was held in June 2010 which confirmed public and stakeholder support for the scheme. The scheme is due to commence on site in January 2011, and will have a construction contract duration of six months.

Bailgate Restored - The scheme is now substantially complete, and the 'snagging' work should be finished in the next few weeks. Although this may require a further road closure, this will be undertaken with minimal disruption to residents/traders and visitors. Despite being a difficult scheme to deliver in terms of the construction constraints, it has been generally well received, and the team has received many favourable comments from locals.

South West Quadrant, Teal Park - A Revised Masterplan was issued to NKDC in August 2010. Programming work with our Framework Contractor is ongoing as the design is further developed.

Gainsborough Transport Strategy - Work on preparing a transport strategy is nearing completion, and a public exhibition of the strategy was held in late June. As a result of the consultation, work is now proceeding to incorporate some of the improvements which were identified by the public as being key. These include a Real Time Bus Information system for Gainsborough, increasing the amount of off-road cycling facilities, the provision of a number of pedestrian/cycling signalised crossing points at key locations in the town, and improving junctions for traffic flow.

Grantham Transport Strategy - Work has commenced on site for Phase 1A of the Town Centre Enhancements, and Phase 1B is currently being designed with a commencement date later this financial year.

Grantham Southern Relief Road - The Inspector's report on the SKDC Core Strategy within the Local Development Framework has been received, and a proposal for the adoption of the strategy will be put before SKDC Members over the next few months. This will then provide the planning framework to progress the Grantham Southern Relief Road.

Boston Transport Strategy - The A16/A52 Online Widening works on the A52/A16 are underway, with the Highway works on the A16 due for completion towards the end of September, to be followed by works on the A52. Walking & cycling improvements, signage upgrade, junction improvements and improvements to Public Transport infrastructure are also being developed for implementation in the current year as part of Boston Transport Strategy.

A1073 Spalding to Eye Improvements - Although well advanced in its construction, and scheduled to complete earlier than planned, stability issues have arisen on the embankment approaching Car Dyke Bridge, within the Peterborough section of the

scheme. The embankment will now require investigation, and further work to ensure the long-term durability and safety of this section of the road. Geotechnical experts are carrying out tests to determine the best course of action to stabilise the embankment but, until the issue has been resolved, we are unable to open that section of road. However, following discussions with Peterborough City Council, on 8 August vehicles were diverted onto the 14km section of road within Lincolnshire, from the A16 to the new roundabout south of Crowland. Utilising this initial section of road allows some of the local communities to start benefiting from improved safety, and relief from congestion, in advance of the entire road opening.

As this project is led by Lincolnshire County Council, we are naturally disappointed that this section has not been able to open as early as anticipated. However, Peterborough City Council supports us in our decision to use the Lincolnshire section of the road whilst we seek to resolve the issues on the southern section. We look forward to the new road being fully opened in due course, and for the region to benefit from the important strategic link to the East of England.

BRIDGE STRENGTHENING BLOCK

Network Rail Bridge No. 21, Dunstan Road, Metheringham - The works to re-deck the existing bridge started on site on 24 May, followed by a road closure on 8 June. A temporary footbridge has been provided for the duration of the work and a CallConnect service is ensuring that the existing commercial bus services are retained. The works are programmed to be completed by 23 September, when the bridge will re-open to unrestricted traffic.