

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2018**

**Statement from: Councillor R G Davies, Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT**

### **HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

#### **Highways**

In the recent Chancellors budget there was an allocation of £420m for local authorities to repair damaged roads and invest in keeping bridges open and safe, which should mean up to an extra £14m for Lincolnshire.

We have now entered the winter maintenance season and have already been out gritting a number of times. This year we have 50% of our gritting routes being covered with treated brown salt as we transition across from our pre-wet and white salt system we have used historically.

In October, myself and officers from highways attended the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils (LALC) AGM at Navenby. It was pleasing to hear the positive comments about the amount and quality of the work we are doing. I am keen to work with LALC and will meet with them again shortly.

#### **Highways 2020**

The current phase, Selection Questionnaire, is the initial procurement stage where the authority assesses the suitability of applicants to perform the contract. The applicants returned their Selection Questionnaires on the 9 November and it is anticipated that the successful applicants will be issued an invitation to tender in January 2019. Issuing the documentation to these timescales will allow all parties adequate time to assess and consider their bids whilst retaining a suitable mobilisation period ahead of the contract start date of the 1 April 2020.

#### **Rail Issues**

The Government has announced a 'root and branch' review to look at the structure of the whole rail industry, including increasing integration between track and train, regional partnerships and improving value for money for passengers and taxpayers. The review is to be led by independent chair Keith Williams and it is due to report next year, with the implementation of reforms resulting from the review planned to start from 2020.

Further Northern Railways service improvements in Lincolnshire are now due to start in May 2019. These are the hourly weekday services proposed to run into Gainsborough Central station from Sheffield/Retford and the journey time improvements on the Lincoln-Sheffield services.

Meetings continued with the three shortlisted bidders for the new Department for Transport's (DfT) East Midlands rail franchise up to the deadline for their submission

of bids on the 5 September. DfT currently expects to announce the new franchisee in April 2019, with the franchise itself starting in August 2019.

### **Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP)**

There have been 41 fatal injuries on Lincolnshire's roads so far in 2018 compared with 42 this time last year and 52 in 2016. The following table displays courses completed as of the end of October, compared with 2017.

To end October	2018	2017	Difference
Speed Awareness	12,987	12,505	+ 482
Driver Alertness	164	256	- 92
Motorway	367	0	+367
What's Driving Us	211	236	-25
Driving 4 Change	4	2	+2
Ride	6	6	
Taxi Driver	81	70	+11
Pass Plus	22	31	-9
Mileage for Life	56	108	-52

North East Lincolnshire is progressing with the A18 route as lead authority. This bid has a total of £2,282,000 and has a start date in this financial year. Approximately £300,000 of this allocation is for works inside Lincolnshire.

There are currently 239 parishes engaged in Community Speed watch (CSW) activity or are considering doing so in the very near future. To date, 47 Parishes have expressed an interest in undertaking the new phase of CSW which enables volunteers to monitor vehicle speeds. The first two training sessions have now been completed in the Boston / South Holland area for 60 parishioners. Two police service volunteer applications are currently being progressed and they will operate in the East Lindsey area. The first CSW data has been processed & letters successfully sent to drivers.

### **Single Local Growth Fund (SLGF) 3**

Work is expected to commence on the A46/A15 Nettleham and A46/A158 Riseholme Road Roundabout projects in May 2020.

### **Lincoln Eastern Bypass**

The main works on site are currently focussed on completing the Market Rasen Rail Line Bridge, diverting utilities and commencing the bulk earthworks excavation. Work continues on constructing temporary bridges over the River Witham to enable the earthworks movement and construction of the permanent bridge. The archaeology excavation works are now complete resulting in a start of the post excavation investigations which will take several years to complete.

## **National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF)**

LCC secured a grant of £5.4m from DfT based upon a number of named schemes; the last identified project to be completed was the Wolsey Way/Wragby Road Junction Improvements in Lincoln. LCC's NPIF tranche 2 bid was also successful for A46 Dunholme/Welton roundabout improvement which has an estimated cost £5.2m. The DfT awarded LCC a £2m grant. Planning approval was granted in February and work has been progressing on detailed design and land acquisition in parallel with the legal orders process.

## **Grantham Southern Relief Road**

This scheme is a 3.5km road with a five span viaduct carrying the road over the East Coast Mainline railway, has a current budget of £101.6m and consists of three phases. The works will be funded from SLGF grant from the Lincolnshire Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) grant and developer contributions with LCC forward funding the developer contributions. The King 31 Phase 1 from the B1174 running towards the A1 is already complete.

LCC have signed a section 6 agreement with both the DfT and Highways England which resulted in the legal orders including the Line Orders for the Trunk Road and compulsory purchase orders for outstanding land required being advertised on 2 March 2018. Objections were received to the advertised orders and a statement of case was therefore served to the DfT on the 12 June 2018 in response to the objections. LCC are actively engaging with the objectors to remove these and thus ideally remove the need for an inquiry; however an Inquiry is likely to occur. Land negotiations to acquire any outstanding plots of land by agreement are continuing to progress during this period. The design for Phase 3 the Southern Quadrant Link Road is complete.

## **Spalding Western Relief Road**

In February, South Holland District Council (SHDC) in collaboration with LCC were successful in securing £12m from the HCA for delivering section five. A meeting with Homes England on 6 April 2018 highlighted the positive partnership working on the development of the scheme. Further costs and programme details have been provided via an additional paper and supplementary evidence to Homes England on 30 April 2018. Homes England have confirmed that the project is still going through the due diligence stage with a confirmation expected in January 2019.

Traffic modelling work has been commissioned to WSP and surveys have been completed with the analysis of the data currently taking place. LCC is also working on the detailed design and liaising closely with SHDC, Homes England, Network Rail, Environment Agency and Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board as the scheme continues to be progressed.

## **North Hykeham Relief Road, Lincoln**

An Outline Business Case is currently being prepared, funded by the Advance Design Block to continue the progress for this major scheme in preparation for

funding opportunities to enable the delivery of the next stage. A number of community engagement events were held in June for updating key stakeholders on progress and ensuring compliance with the DfT funding bid process. A paper was submitted to Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee and the Executive, where all the recommendations were approved, which included a bid basis of requesting 70% funding from the DfT and basing the road as a dual carriageway standard. This road will be a key link in the Lincolnshire Coastal Highway from the A1 through to Skegness as well as completing the circulatory around Lincoln.

### **Lincolnshire Coastal Highway**

We are investigating potential improvements to the A158 across the county from the A1 to the North Sea coast around the Skegness locality. The sifting of the longlist of projects against assessment has been completed and a shortlist of options was developed. This work is being progressed to the next stage which entails a scoping report of costs, benefits and deliverability. Once complete a further paper will be produced and presented to the Informal Executive at a later date which will then inform investment decisions along the route.

### **Network Rail Footbridges, Lincoln**

This is a Network Rail owned and managed project which consists of constructing a new iconic footbridge over the rail line on Brayford Wharf East. Following an appeal process, planning permission was granted to Network Rail in January 2018. Morgan Sindall have been awarded the tender to design and build the footbridge which commenced on site in October and will continue for approximately six months. LCC are working closely with Network Rail to drive a coordinated approach between all parties.

### **Boston Distributer Road**

The Council is leading the development of a Strategic Case Summary with support from Boston Borough Council to ask Government to provide funding for the development of a business case to take forward the Boston Distributor Road Project. The Boston Transport Strategy Board are also supporting this submission by LCC to the DfT, for a funding bid of £1m for the development of an Outline Business Case. This is to support the case for the Boston Distributor Road (BDR) around the west side of Boston. The Strategic Case Summary will be submitted early in the New Year. The BDR will assist in the delivery of new developments, improved connectivity and the management of congestion in a strategically important and sustainable local economy. This would result in an acceleration of the strategy currently presented within the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan

### **Boston Quadrant**

Boston Quadrant is a developer led scheme for a new football ground with mixed commercial and residential use. This includes a link road between A16 and London Road with a new roundabout on the A16 and signalised junction on London Road. The Boston Quadrant forms what will become the first section of the proposed BDR.

Quadrant 1 is well underway, with the installation of a new roundabout south of Boston on the A16 complete.

### **Lincoln Transport Strategy**

Work has commenced on the development of a new Lincoln Transport Strategy to support the economic and spatial development of the Lincoln urban area. The current Lincoln Integrated Transport Strategy (LITS) was developed by LCC in 2006 and updated in 2008 with a progress review conducted in 2013. Since the adoption of LITS, LCC has made significant progress in securing funding for and completing a number of major transport schemes, improving public transport and enhancing access for pedestrians and cyclists. Of particular note over recent years have been the completion of the A46 Teal Park Dualling, the East-West Link in the city centres and a number of pinch-point schemes. The strategy is being completed in partnership with key stakeholders and CoLC, NKDC and WLDC and there will be an extensive engagement exercise with various bodies and the general public. The new strategy is programmed to be completed summer of 2019.

### **Go Skegness**

Junction improvements to improve accessibility at Scarborough Avenue commenced mid October 2018.

### **Passenger Transport Services**

The Poacher Line Community Rail Partnership won two awards at the 2018 National Community Rail Awards. The partnership won 'Best Marketing & Comms' for the RAF100 campaign and 'Most Improved Station' in the Bronze category for Radcliffe on Trent station. The County's bus network is in a period of flux, some service alterations are reflective of changes in school movements whilst others are due to commercial consolidation. Transport successfully established over the summer break for approximately 19,000 scholars, with 766 new contracts being established. In addition, a new contract let for refreshed e-learning to be undertaken by over 4,000 drivers and passenger assistants engaged in LCC transport contracts. Details are being worked on to introduce a charge for Bikeability Training.

Funded by the DfT, a review of fleet vehicles with the Energy Saving Trust has commenced. This review seeks to reduce fleet costs & emissions, identify where Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) can meet the operational and financial needs of LCC, and evaluate the impact of potential changes.

IT

### **Broadband**

Since the last report in September, the Lincolnshire Broadband Programme (OnLincolnshire) has delivered superfast Broadband to a further 2000 premises county-wide. This puts us on target to achieve the goal of 97% Superfast coverage by December 2019. Customer take up continues to grow well beyond expectations and it now 53% of all premises are now enjoying faster broadband. In an effort to

further increase take up, OnLincolnshire has recently been awarded £10k. It is hoped that we can further increase the projected £10.6m we will get back from BT under the clawback agreement.

Unfortunately, we are still unable to reach a satisfactory outcome with BT regarding deployment to West Lindsey, under the existing contract. BT, Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) and the Minister have agreed that they will not support further deployment of Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC). This technology would have delivered the best value for money solution by far. We are now considering whether to deploy a much lower level of Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) in West Lindsey, to add them into the Contract 3 Tender, or a combination of both. We do know that FTTP will prove to be cheaper in Contract 3 due to BT's modified financial assumptions. Finally, BDUK has recently announced a further £200m of funding, to improve rural broadband in what they term an 'outside in' project.

### **Support Services**

The Serco contract containing the provision of Information Management Technology (IMT) services has now been extended to run through to 2022. Serco continues to demonstrate commitment to improving service delivery and the synergy between the LCC IMT function and the Serco team.

### **Strategy**

The IMT strategy is now being looked at by external consultants and will contain the proposal of moving the retained client function towards being an enabling service. That is a service able to assist the broader council with business transformation, modernisation and issues where technology can contribute to improvement. It will also play back how LCC might invest to undergo a digital transformation journey, to drive higher efficiency and service satisfaction through the adoption of recent digital advances.

### **Projects**

IMT are about to commence their communications plan for the current portfolio of work moving into the delivery stages. It will include messages on Microsoft Office Mail Migration, moving all user mailboxes to Microsoft Office 365 cloud services and supporting information and advice. The team are working through compatibility issues and problems that may occur during the update for Office 365.

Work is planned to allow councillors and staff the option to use personal smart phones for LCC Email & Calendars and describe a road map to other capabilities that business functions could pursue.

The Business Intelligence Service are now building their environment in Microsoft Azure to support, assist and enable the analysis of data within the business by providing modern supported business intelligence tools and assistance to start on the journey to further improve our 'data driven' decision making.

Work is on-going regarding the migration away from the GCSx email system for secure mail which is being discontinued by the Cabinet Office. The current plan being tested is to simply provide historical GCSx email in a folder of the standard corporate email in Office 365 which is approved for such use.

Work is progressing on the new LCC public websites. Jadu have commenced the build work for the Test, Development & Production environments and analysis is underway to provide the information required to plan the migration of the transactional web content. At the same time the project and Corporate Communications teams are at work preparing the general content ready for upload. The Comms will explain the migration of IMP, the document management system to a cloud service and the roadmap to unlock the potential of that platform and the new capabilities it will bring.

With regard to the Lincoln Campus network refresh project and related projects to provide HiSpeed Guest WiFi for our partners, over the recent months a lot of build work has occurred out of hours and the plan is on track to complete Q1 2019. This will provide a significant upgrade in network speed and resilience in Lincoln.

It has been confirmed that the recent outage of Network services was caused by external factors outside LCC's control and mitigating configuration has been completed by emPSN and KCom to reduce the probability of re-occurrence. Business continuity (BC) arrangements proved to be well organised and managed, with IMT working closely with the broader BC function.

### **Information Management**

Cyber security continues to be improved and is becoming a key focus area now that the highly significant risks of Storage and Network failure are reducing allowing more resource to be targeted at returning us to a position of assurance and compliance. This work will take some months and is fraught with significant challenges.

When we consider that all the work mentioned is only a part of the work in flight within the IMT function it is clear this small team needs our continued support because it is increasingly becoming an essential component of unlocking the potential of this organisation.

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