

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING 21 FEBRUARY 2014**

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

### **LINCOLN EASTERN BYPASS**

As a result of a number of objections to the Orders, a Public Inquiry was held on 4 February 2014 at the Bentley Hotel. A planning application for a non-motorised user bridge at Hawthorn Road to enhance the LEB scheme was submitted on 8 November 2013 and planning permission was granted on 13 January 2014. Tender documents for the construction of the works were issued on 13 January 2014 with a return date of 7 April 2014. Subject to confirmation of the Statutory Orders and completion of the final processes the scheme is still on programme to enable a start this financial year, with an expected opening by the end of 2016.

### **LINCOLN EAST/WEST LINK PHASE 1**

As a result of a number of objections to the Orders, a Public Inquiry is scheduled to commence on 11 March 2014. However, work is ongoing to acquire the remaining properties, and remove the objections.

### **LINCOLN CANWICK ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

Approval to publish Orders was obtained on 7 January 2014, and the Orders to acquire land and amend existing highways were published on 23 January 2014. The closing date for objections is 7 March 2014. Detailed design work is ongoing and a start date on site by late 2014 is still considered achievable.

### **ROAD MAINTENANCE**

Further external assurance of the effectiveness of the Alliance has been provided by the Cost Quality Customer Statistical Benchmarking work carried out with Leeds University. This pioneering work suggests that the Alliance presently delivers highway maintenance and street lighting services which are in the upper quartile for efficiency nationally.

### **SPALDING WESTERN RELIEF ROAD**

Public Consultation for the route options for Phase 2 and 3 of the relief road is now programmed for late 2014

### **WINTER MAINTENANCE**

As of the 28 January, 8,700 tonnes of salt had been used on 45 countywide salting runs – this is slightly below the 25 year long term average.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **Hykeham Station**

East Midlands Trains and Lincolnshire County Council joined forces to provide passengers in Hykeham with brand new facilities to improve their journey. These include 20 new car parking spaces with two accessible spaces, improved surfacing, CCTV, lighting, signage and new secure cycle storage. As a transport hub, there is also a rental station for Lincoln's new short-term bike hire scheme, and increased bus services along Station Road. The work was supported by Access LN6. The work will be further enhanced in the near future as a result of local development in the area.

### **Lincoln – London Rail Services**

In January 2014, the Department for Transport (DfT) announced the shortlisted bidders for the replacement Inter City East Coast rail franchise due to start in February 2015. The three companies selected are East Coast Trains Ltd (First Group), Keolis/Eurostar East Coast Limited and Inter City Railways Limited (Stagecoach and Virgin). The Invitation to Tender (ITT) will be issued at the end of February 2014, with prospective operators having at least three months to prepare their bids. During this period, we will engage with the applicants to lobby for enhancements for Lincolnshire within the new franchise, in particular the inclusion of improved Lincoln-London services.

### **LINCOLNSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

The provisional number of people killed or seriously injured on Lincolnshire's roads is 402 to the end of 2013. This is 24 less than in 2012, and represents a 5.6% reduction. The number of fatal casualties for the same period is 36 - 3 less than 2012. Of course, these reductions are welcome but mature drivers, young drivers and motorcyclists remain our most vulnerable road users. However, cyclists are emerging as a group of some concern as their casualty rate continues to show an increase over the three year annual average.

In an effort to reduce the number of casualties in the 17 to 24 year old age group, the Prince Michael Award winning 2Fast2Soon production has been re-scripted and improved. 'Kirsty's Story' was prepared in order to have a greater impact than the original production. The event also includes an interactive discussion session which takes place immediately after the 'play' and which covers the fatal causations of driving with mobile phones, the non wearing of seat belts, drink, drugs and speeding.

By the end of 2013, some 2,000 students had watched the theatre production, and bookings for 2014 suggest that around a further 2,500 students will attend before the end of the school year. A Young Drivers training scheme will also be developed in the next financial year.

Performance Plus training courses, production of the Lincolnshire Biker magazine, additional information signing on 'biker' routes, and a significant engagement programme are initiatives that will continue to target motorcyclists. It is also intended

to deliver a number of courses directed toward mature drivers throughout the County during 2014.

Speed camera enforcement continues to be deployed at 50 fixed and 75 mobile high risk locations, with motorists being offered the opportunity to attend educational speed awareness courses as an alternative to prosecution. Motorists are also able to attend our 'What's Driving You' courses in an effort to educate motorists detected committing a range of other driving offences. LRSP are currently looking at implementing the national RIDE scheme for motorcyclists.

93 collision sites were investigated by LRSP Highways engineers resulting in 25 accident reduction schemes being implemented.

Road Safety Officers have carried out educational training in 100% of the identified 'high priority' schools and since September have visited 52 Primary schools (62% of all Primary schools) and 19 Secondary schools (37% of all Secondary schools). Additionally, project schemes including HGV awareness has been carried out.

## **IT**

### **Improving Broadband Through the onlincolnshire programme**

The main contract with BT continues to perform ahead of the contractual timetable. Our current estimate is that over 19,000 premises will have been upgraded by the end of March – 30% more than scheduled.

Steps are in hand to improve our detailed knowledge of individual addresses affected by BT works so that we can focus our communications about changes more finely. This will become more important as the programme gathers pace until hundreds of premises are upgraded every week.

The contract with AB Internet for fixed wireless broadband on the coast continues to develop. There have been some delays with planning permissions and securing sites for masts, but these are now resolved.

Officers have continued to work with Broadband Delivery UK on proposals to fund the last 10% of premises to superfast speeds through the Superfast Extension Programme (SEP). We are hopeful that government will make announcements and financial allocations soon.

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