

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 SEPTEMBER 2012

Statement from: Councillor W S Webb, Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport

Lincoln Transport Strategy

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

Lincoln Eastern By Pass

Following legal advice a new planning application for a single carriageway scheme is to be submitted in December 2012. Full dualling of the scheme remains a long term aspiration for the Council. Subject to receipt of a satisfactory Planning Approval and progress through the necessary Statutory Orders process, I remain hopeful that a scheduled opening date in 2017 can still be achieved.

Lincoln East West Link Road

The public consultation stage of the planning application is now completed and the project team have responded to all the comments received. The next stage is that the application will be determined by the planning committee in October. Subject to receipt of planning consent, an application for Conservation Area Consent, which is needed to allow the demolition of buildings in a conservation area, will go to The Secretary of State for Communities for determination. It is anticipated that this will be in December 2012.

Negotiations are continuing to assemble the land required for the new road and also to agree compensation to any businesses affected. Where owners have requested, we have completed the purchase, otherwise we are seeking to agree terms at this stage.

Assuming planning permission and conservation consent is granted, we will proceed with the detail design and commence the Legal Orders needed to create and change the road layout.

Lincoln South West Quadrant – Teal Park

Whilst resources have been concentrated on Teal Park development site to ensure contractual compliance with key dates, these dates can now be met. Highways Agency has raised no issues. LCC's highways related Planning Conditions now over 90% complete; the main one outstanding is the Surface Water Condition, driven by approval process for the creation of a Reservoir. The foul water Condition has been accepted by NKDC, with LCC having requisitioned a new sewer to AWS's newly identified discharge point.

Boston Transport Strategy

Following constant monitoring of the Brothertoft right turn restriction trial, a final decision was taken on 3 September to make the right turn restriction permanent.

Grantham Southern Relief Road

Detailed work has commenced on the preparation of the Planning Application for the Relief Road, it is anticipated this will be submitted by April 2013. To support this, work has commenced on the Environmental Impact Assessment, the conceptual design of the Viaduct and preliminary design of the highway. Further analysis continues on the viability study to determine the funding for the S.106 Agreement. Liaison is also continuing with the landowners and South Kesteven District Council with regards the MasterPlan proposals for 4000 house development of Southern Quadrant.

Spalding Western Relief Road

Good progress has been made with all elements of the planning application for Phase 2. Once the roundabout location has been agreed the design can be finalised and all elements of the planning application can be completed to allow the application to be submitted before the end of 2012.

Transportation

Rail

We are responding to the current consultation on the new franchise for the Inter City East coast Main Line that is proposed to commence in December 2013. We are continuing to press our case for increased direct services between Lincoln and London to help boost the County's economy, and in particular to increase tourism. We also continue to work with other Councils and partners to improve journey times between Lincoln and Nottingham and to increase stops at North Hykeham.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF)

£4.899M has been awarded by the Department for Transport to provide sustainable transport projects and infrastructure in the North Hykeham and Birchwood areas of Lincoln. The grant will allow us to improve the facilities at North Hykeham train station, increase bus services and create walking and cycling links to the Teal Park development, and work with local businesses and the community to promote the sustainable transport options in the City. This work has already started and will continue until March 2015.

Transport

We are busy ensuring that 26,000 students continue to receive daily transport to schools and improve our engagement with bus operators to deliver the best possible levels of public transport within a challenging environment.

Local Transport Plan

We are in the process of developing our 4th Local Transport Plan which will provide our direction on local transport strategies for the foreseeable future. We are engaging with stakeholders and will complete the plan by April 2013.

Highways Alliance

The Lincolnshire Highways Alliance's innovative use of collaborative NEC contracts has allowed it to deliver an effective and efficient highway service during a period of considerable challenge. Works delivered by the Alliance contracts range from the filling of potholes through to the building of major works such as the Tritton Road junction improvements, and the design of schemes such as the Grantham Southern Relief Road and Lincoln Eastern Bypass.

Grass Cutting

Some concerns have been highlighted with the quality and timeliness in the delivery of services. The main issue has been a late start for the programme of cyclic works, including grass cutting and weed spraying. The initial delay was caused by a change in sub-contractor, compounded by a wet and relatively warm spring-growing season. Additional resources were brought in by May Gurney to bring the works back on programme.

Surface Dressing

Further concerns have been raised about two quality issues on surface dressing sites in Lincoln and Stamford. Whilst 99.5% of the 5.5 million square metres of surface dressing, completed since the start of the Alliance contracts, have been delivered successfully, an improvement in the response to the small amount of remedial work is being developed.

The flexibility of the Alliance and its contracts will allow it to continue to deliver efficiencies which will be critical to the maintenance and improvement of existing levels of service.

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership

I am pleased to inform you that Councillor Richard Davies has now joined the LRSP Strategic Board. The other LCC Board Members are Councillors Peter Bedford and Graham Dark. The composition of the Board will change again in November this year following the abolition of the Police Authority and the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The road safety team located within the LRSP has completed its restructure necessitated by the Core Offer review. Three road safety officer posts have been disestablished, in addition to the two engineering posts that were disestablished last year. The new road safety structure now consists of two teams - one serving North and East Division, and the other West and South Division. Each team comprises one Road Safety Officer supported by two Road Safety Advisors. The Road Safety Officers will be based at Lincoln and North Kyme, and will report to the Principal Road Safety Coordinator. The primary role of these teams will be to continue to deliver a programme of road safety education to schools and colleges, and to supervise the school crossing patrol service.

In addition to the road safety team, a number of posts exist to support the Life Skills Academy at North Kyme. These posts are funded from income received from various training and educational programmes, including LCC's driver information programme and the national driver retraining schemes eg speed awareness workshops.

Members may recall that last year was the first of the three year financial model agreed between the Police and County Council to fund safety cameras exclusively from the income received by speeding offenders opting to attend speed workshops as an educational alternative to prosecution. Over 4000 offenders have attended workshops in Lincolnshire since April 2012 which provides an excellent opportunity to promote road safety.

Finally, I would like to say a big 'thank you' to Steve Willis, who has been promoted recently to the position of Assistant Director, leaving the Divisional Highways Manager's post in Boston after 11 years. His successor, Satish Shah, will take up post on 1 October, and I look forward to working with him.