

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2012**

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

### **Lincoln Transport Strategy**

Good progress continues to be made in delivering various elements of adopted Transport Strategy for Lincoln.

#### **Lincoln Eastern Bypass**

A new planning application for a single carriageway scheme is on target to be submitted this month. However, subject to funding becoming available, full dualling of the scheme remains the long term aspiration for the Council.

#### **Lincoln East West Link Road**

The planning application was presented to the County Council's Planning and Regulation committee on 1 October. The committee were mindful to approve the application, subject to the Secretary of State for Communities approving the Conservation Area Consent. I am very pleased to announce that this consent was granted on the 15 November, and we now have full consent for the scheme to proceed. Work can now commence on changing the road layout.

#### **Lincoln Park & Ride**

Improved accessibility is seen as vital to maximise the benefits from the enhancements currently being carried out at the Castle, due for completion in April 2015.

Previous work has identified an economic case for the provision of Park and Ride facilities for the City. Specific analysis has also been carried out on a site to the Western side to be developed first. We are now completing this analysis by reviewing the 'ride' element of the routes into Lincoln and what bus priority measures may be required.

The target is to have at least a first phase implemented by April 2015, to support the 'tourist offer'. This could be extended later to encompass wider patronage.

#### **Lincoln South West Quadrant – Teal Park**

Teal Park development spine roads are now complete, dedicated as Highway Maintainable at Public Expense and open to traffic. The Contractual obligations between St.Modwen (Siemens landlord) and LCC, including compliance dates, have now been met and the LCC owned plot housing Siemens development has now been formally handed to St.Modwen. All A46 road works are planned to be complete very early in the New Year. Outstanding works after this point will be construction works associated with the attenuation pond/reservoir within Teal Park, and minor road street furniture and finishing up details within the project. Anglian Water will be installing a new public foul water sewer between November and February 2013 at the southern end of Kingsley Road which should have minimal disruption to motorists.

#### **Grantham Southern Relief Road**

Considerable progress is being made in the identification of a southern perimeter route for the relief road, in conjunction with landowners and South Kesteven District

Council. Issues regarding the development of the adjacent Phase I of the scheme, and the associated road linking the A1 and the B1174, are under discussion with a view to a timely completion.

### **Spalding Western Relief Road**

During the development of the planning application for Phase 2, which involved further discussions with South Holland District Council and local developers, a better way forward has emerged. The planning of phases 2 and 3 are now being linked together, which will enable it to become more aligned with the developing South East Lincolnshire Local Plan. This is also in line with many of the views expressed during the initial public consultation for Phase 2.

This means the planning application for Phase 2 has now been put on hold while possible routes for Phase 3 are explored, with further consultation likely to take place next summer. It is expected that the entire route for both phases will then be protected within the adopted South East Lincolnshire Local Plan.

### **Transportation**

#### **Rail**

A consultation response putting forward the case for improved Lincoln - London direct services has been submitted to DfT regarding the new East Coast Main Line rail franchise. However, the timescale for the start of the new franchise (previously December 2013) is now unclear, following the well-publicised problems with the letting of the West Coast Main Line franchise.

The Leader has recently met with other authorities served by this line to organise joint statements in an effort to influence Network Rail in finding improvements that would increase the number of paths on this line. 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)**

The Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) is now delivering the Access LN6 programme. An extended bus service has been implemented to allow journeys directly to businesses in the Doddington Park, Whisby Road and Teal Park areas. An additional new service will be launched in the New Year. Part of the grant will be used to tell local people about all transport available in the area to encourage more use of sustainable transport.

A community audit is underway which will engage local people, businesses and stakeholders to help target projects at the right people. Work with partners at Hykeham Station to secure improved facilities continues.

#### **Bus Awards**

Stagecoach East Midlands in partnership with the County Council finished runners-up in the Environment category at the UK Bus Awards for the work done on the Lincoln Bio Buses.

## **Winter Maintenance**

We continue to work closely with the Met Office to monitor and discuss the weather outlook, and make preparations for the potential of a colder than average winter. We have taken delivery of 15 new replacement gritters this winter as part of the on-going lease replacement programme. This now means that none of the 48 gritters available to treat the 43 routes is more than 10 years old. We started this winter with nearly 35,000 tonnes of salt available, and a substantial programme of driver training in place.

The annual Gritter Blessing took place on Monday, 26 November - this forms an integral part of our programme engaging with the public on road safety at this time of the year. Please follow 'Gritter Twitter' if travelling early on these wintry mornings. But we are ready to go!

## **Civilian Parking Enforcement**

Confirmation has been received from the Department for Transport that Lincolnshire County Council has the powers for Civil Parking Enforcement, and APCOA who provide the Enforcement Officers. Warning Notices were issued to motorists from 19 November, but the 20 Enforcement Officers began issuing Penalty Charge Notices from 3 December 2012.

## **Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership**

The number of people killed or seriously injured on Lincolnshire's roads to October 2012 is 338 - 69 less than for the corresponding period last year (a reduction of 17%). The number of fatal casualties this year (to 20 November) is 30 - 14 less than the same period last year (a reduction of 32%). These figures indicate a sustained reduction in fatal casualties since 2007 - very welcome news though, of course, I would only be content with NIL returns in both cases.

Members will be pleased to hear that, following the reduction of speed limit to 50mph on the A52 between Boston and Skegness, this section of road has recently been identified by the European Roads Assessment Programme (Euro RAP) as one of the most improved roads in the United Kingdom. A noticeable transformation from 2006 when it was identified by Euro RAP as the 7<sup>th</sup> highest risk road in the UK. Similar measures are soon to be implemented on the B1188 between Branston and Ruskington, and it is hoped these will be equally as effective at reducing road casualties.

Councillors may be aware that a pilot scheme is currently being carried out in an attempt to deter 'drive - through' at the Monks road school in Lincoln. The school crossing patrol officer serving that school is to wear a body camera which, it is hoped, will provide evidential quality information which will enable the police to prosecute offending motorists. Advanced signing will inform road users that video surveillance is in operation. The pilot will be evaluated early in the New Year and, if successful, will be rolled out to other schools where 'drive - through' has been identified as a problem.

During 'Road Safety Week' in November, LRSP in conjunction with Lincs FM promoted road safety issues each day covering the following areas -

- Drivers, pleasure and work
- Walkers
- Cyclists
- Safety Cameras
- Motorcyclists

This campaign is intended to raise awareness of the importance of being visible (See and be Safe), particularly at this time of year, but also covers other issues including seat belts, mobile phones, drinking and driving, and speeding .