

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 22 FEBRUARY 2013

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

Lincoln Transport Strategy

Lincoln Eastern Bypass

A new planning application for a single carriageway scheme was submitted in December 2012, and has now been validated. However, subject to funding becoming available, full dualling of the scheme remains the long term aspiration for the Council.

Lincoln East West Link Road

Following the receipt of planning permission and conservation area consent, work is now proceeding on the next stages of the scheme:

- The completion of the detail design, and the preparation of tenders for the works.
- The publication of compulsory purchase and side roads orders, which is a legal process to enable the County Council to make amendments to the highway and complete necessary land assembly.

These processes will run together, and it is hoped that we should be in a position to start construction work late in 2014.

Lincoln South West Quadrant – Teal Park

Following the successful re-programming of our works, Siemens have now taken occupancy of their office building on the Teal Park site, and the workshop facility is due for occupation in March. A bus service now operates around Teal Park to support this.

The recent freezing weather conditions, and high ditch water levels, having hampered project progress, LCC's site setup will remain on Teal Park until all works are completed. Traffic is now using the new road although some finishing works, such as landscaping, are ongoing.

Anglian Water is now progressing with the installation of the new public foul water sewer to serve Teal Park – this is also due for completion in February. These works are largely away from the highway, thereby causing little disruption to motorists.

Grantham Southern Relief Road

A Planning Application is expected to be submitted in the next month or so.

Spalding Western Relief Road

The development of possible relief road options is proceeding in line with the development of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan to ensure the road will support future growth in Spalding and across South Holland. Public participation on the preferred options report is expected soon. This will be followed by public consultation on the relief road options during summer 2013.

As part of the revised way forward, the County Council, District Council and developer of Holland Park are discussing how best to deliver phase 1 of the relief road to support the Local Plan and facilitate growth.

Transportation

Rail

Lobbying for improved Lincoln-London services will continue as opportunities arise. Discussions continue with other authorities served by the ECML to put pressure on Network Rail to look into improvements that would increase the number of paths on this line.

Discussions are taking place regarding the possible devolution of the Northern and Trans-Pennine rail franchise from DfT to a group of local transport authorities led by Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs) in the north of England. Currently, these franchises provide services between Lincoln and Sheffield and connections to the ECML at Retford, and we will be looking to protect this position.

Local Transport Plan

We are in the process of developing our fourth Local Transport Plan which will provide direction on local transport strategies for the coming years. Following consultation with key stakeholders, and consideration by Highways, Transport and Technology Scrutiny Committee, a final version of the Plan is being prepared to place before Full Council in April 2013.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF)

The Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) continues to deliver the Access LN6 programme. The new bus service (44A for Teal Park) has reported an increase in numbers since its inception last year, with one organisation reporting that almost 20% of their 100 employees are using the service.

Small grants are being awarded to schools in the LN6 area to improve cycle infrastructure. A new cycling website called *Love to Ride Lincoln* launched in January and will form part of a workplace cycle challenge taking place in LN6 in the Spring.

Work continues with partners at Hykeham Station to secure improved facilities, including a multi-modal hub with improved cycle parking and secure cycle storage.

Concessionary Bus Passes

The administration of concessionary fares was transferred from the District Councils to the County Council. This means that we have some 150,000 passes to renew before 31 March 2013 – around 500 applications each day are being processed. We have requested pass holders to apply as soon as possible, as this is placing a heavy workload on staff. There will be times, undoubtedly, when renewals are not delivered as soon as we would like and I urge you to ask the public to be patient. We have requested that bus operators honour passes that may be slightly out of date, to ensure that no one loses the right to travel.

Highways

Winter Maintenance

We have used around 25,000 tonnes of salt so far this winter, and have restocked with 5,000 tonnes and have another 10,000 tonnes on order. We have undertaken a programme of engagement to ensure that the public are aware of key messages related to our level of preparedness.

Area Maintenance Team Efficiencies

We continue to develop and improve our use of this valuable resource and are exploring further opportunities to improve their efficiency and capacity.

Civilian Parking Enforcement

The start of Civilian Parking Enforcement has been well received by many businesses in Lincolnshire as short term on-street parking is made available to the public. The number of Penalty Charge Notices issued is broadly in line with our predictions.

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership

Some 427 people have been killed or seriously injured on Lincolnshire's roads during 2012. This is 56 less than for 2011, representing a reduction of about 12% on that year. The number of fatal casualties last year was 39, a reduction of 7 (15%), which is the lowest figure ever recorded – and these reductions are very welcome.

Regrettably, there have been 5 fatal casualties so far this year, which demonstrates how difficult it will be to sustain these reductions and highlights that there is no room for complacency.

LRSP had representation at most of the County's major events and many local events last year, promoting road safety to all who visited their displays. The climax of the season was a presence at the Lincoln Christmas Market, where an estimated 10,000 visitors passed through the display vehicle.

LRSP will continue to target resources where they will provide the greatest impact on casualty reduction. Priorities for 2013 will include 17-24 year old drivers/riders, two-wheel motor vehicles, 60+ years drivers, and car drivers with specific focus on business users. The acclaimed *2 Fast 2 Soon* training programme, and mature driver courses, will continue during 2013. The police remain committed to reduce motor cycle collisions and injuries resulting from non-wearing of seat belts, driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs, speeding and driving whilst using a mobile phone.

Councillors may be aware that the Life Skills Academy at North Kyme is a Driving Standards Agency (DSA) accredited training centre. I am pleased to advise that it has recently developed training modules in order to deliver courses to award Certificates of Professional Competency for drivers of Light Goods Vehicles and Public Service Vehicles, and these have been approved by the DSA at the first attempt – quite an achievement, I understand.