

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING: 15 MAY 2015

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

LINCOLN EASTERN BYPASS

The date for the Inquiry has been set to commence on 11 August 2015 at the Doubletree by Hilton on the Brayford in Lincoln. A Pre Inquiry meeting has been arranged at the Epic Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, on 18 May, commencing at 2pm.

The scheme is being progressed as a single carriageway under the current funding arrangements.

LINCOLN EAST WEST LINK

The scheme is on site and progressing. It should be complete by the target date of November 2016.

Demolition of all properties is complete, with the heritage building at the High Street /Tentercroft Street junction recently having been taken down to ground level in readiness for the new lane, and replacement property.

The temporary footbridge and utilities bridge over the Sincil Drain is installed and in use, and work will start on the demolition of the road bridge shortly.

The scheme is having minimal impact on traffic movement in the city.

HIGH STREET FOOTBRIDGE

Network Rail have commenced works – during May, they intend to demolish 179 High Street and replace with a new building. The bridge is scheduled to be open for general use by Christmas 2015.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEMES - COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

As of the beginning of April, almost 600 people had signed up to the weekly updates. The rate of new sign ups has slowed, but it remains very popular with those who receive it.

It was intended that, by the time the High Street works commenced, we would have access to Lincoln BIG's SMS network to further promote the website and newsletter. However, a survey of levy payers undertaken by BIG revealed that there was very little interest in this avenue of information. Therefore, the decision was taken not to implement this as it did not offer value for money.

SKEGNESS COUNTRYSIDE BUSINESS PARK

My colleague, Cllr Davie, will say something about this project. I will limit my commentary to reporting that we expect construction of the new roundabout on the A52 to start in the Autumn.

GRANTHAM - SOUTHERN QUADRANT LINK ROAD (SQLR)

The S.73 change to planning application has been agreed with officers and is now in the process of formal submission to South Kesteven District Council - expected May 2015.

GRANTHAM - KING31 INCLUDING A1 CONNECTION

Design of Phase 2 the Highways England link onto the A1 is due to commence shortly. Heads of Terms have been agreed with the landowner which is intended to lead to full legal agreement for contribution to limit the funding gap to acceptable level.

SPALDING WESTERN RELIEF ROAD

The County Council is continuing to work with South Holland District Council on our aspirations to deliver a full western relief road for Spalding. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with the development of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan. By linking the two pieces of work, it will ensure that the transport infrastructure can be delivered, which is needed to support the forecast growth of the area. We are currently considering route options for the northern section of the relief road, and the public will be able to comment on these through a formal public consultation in November, alongside the Local Plan public consultation.

WINTER MAINTENANCE

The winter of 2014/15 has proven to be slightly colder than the 20 year average, particularly for January and February. Salting operations have used 24,000 tonnes of salt, compared with 13,000 tonnes in 2013/14 and 40,000 tonnes in 2012/13. Our new salt supplier is actively looking to move the county's strategic stocks from Southampton to a closer location, ready for the winter of 2015/16.

LINCOLNSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The provisional number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on Lincolnshire's roads during 2014 is 396, below the target of 427. However, this figure is still to be ratified by the Department for Transport (DfT), and could change. National casualty reduction figures produced by DfT for year ending September 2014 show a 4% increase in the number of KSI casualties. Lincolnshire experienced a 7% decrease for the same period.

Unfortunately, owing to a spate of recent fatal casualties, there have been 10 road deaths this year (compared to seven for the corresponding period last year). LRSP

are continuing to monitor this trend to identify any causal factors that can be addressed.

Take up of community speed watch continues to increase: 96 communities have now signed up to the initiative, 65 of which are using the vehicle activated signs, as well as the high profile passive signs.

I am pleased to inform you that, from this year, LRSP overheads will be funded directly from income from the wide variety of driver training courses designed to enhance driver knowledge, skills and awareness in order to improve road safety. This is a very positive move, and means that for the first time none of the partner agencies that make up the partnership will be required to make any financial contribution to support the LRSP overhead costs.

TOTAL TRANSPORT PILOT FUND

The Authority has been successful in bidding for funding to look at ways of delivering joined up local transport in rural and isolated areas. An integrated approach to transport provision will incorporate work with schools, hospitals and other local organisations to deliver local services more efficiently.

The £400,000 funding secured will allow for some feasibility studies to be carried out and the introduction of some pilots, the outcomes of which will be reported back to the Department for Transport.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Successful Transition to Serco

Staff and Services were successfully transferred to Serco on 1 April 2015, following a phased implementation of CSC services before the 'big push' on the evening of 31 March.

The teams at Mouchel, Serco and LCC worked well together, before and during the move, to ensure a smooth transition of staff, equipment and services. Disruptions were minimal, and all staff were working with appropriate equipment and able to handle internal staff and citizen queries on time.

Much appreciation must go to everyone involved for their continued hard work, patience, professionalism and commitment to make the transition a success.

Improving Staff Self-Service and Support

Whilst there are a number of new technology initiatives due to be launched following the transition to Serco, the move and benefits of a self-service approach are already evident.

Staff are benefitting from a single telephone number, coupled with an effective routing system, which allows calls to be directed to the right person, first time.

Increasing numbers of staff are electing to use the 'MyPortal' self-service tool, which has become the home page on the Council's internet browsers. The services available from 'MyPortal' are due to be widened and improved upon as part of a 'Phase 2' development project which is already underway.

Citizen Self-Service

Improvements to the working practices and technology available to the Council's Customer Service Centre continue after the move to Serco. A number of new self-service channels are available, with many more scheduled for release over the next few months enabling an improved experience for the citizens of Lincolnshire.

Agresso

The Council's new ERP system Agresso, which replace SAP, is now live for most Finance and People Management functions. A successful April payroll was undertaken using the new system, and improved online access to personal information and payslips is available.

A number of functionality enhancements and improvements (following user feedback) are planned for release to ensure that the benefits of the new system are maximised. Finance teams from Serco and LCC are currently finalising year-end activities on the legacy SAP system, which is due for decommissioning at the end of June.

The implementation of a new ERP system in just twelve months is a significant achievement, and is a testament to the dedicated hard work of the project team over the implementation period.

Broadband

The Lincolnshire Broadband Programme has been broken down into eight phases of deployment, with each phase comprising of a number of premises to be enabled. For the purposes of this programme, LCC applied BDUK's State Aid guidance and established that there were a total of 156,667 eligible premises in the county. This figure places Lincolnshire as the third largest Intervention Area in the UK in terms of numbers of premises, and provides a very challenging target. As we entered April 2014, we had already enabled 17,393 premises with faster broadband against a target figure of 14,923 - at the close of March 2015, we had completed 91,443 premises against a target figure of 90,336. The actual download speeds delivered in this period were 8% above the projected speeds for the Intervention Area.

There were significant operational challenges during the year, but it is pleasing to note that the close collaboration between BT, District and LCC Planners, Highways and the Programme Team continues to keep the programme on target to deliver the required coverage. The programme is very well positioned to deliver the key objectives as defined previously in this report.

In addition to the first phase, the programme team are currently analysing a response from BT to an Invitation to Tender for a second phase, where it is hoped to move countywide coverage up from the existing target of 90% Superfast coverage to meet a revised Government objective of 95% Superfast UK-wide coverage by 31 December 2017. The results of the tender will clarify what can be achieved.