

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 12 JULY 2013**

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

### **East/West Link**

The East/West link is progressing well. The design phase is on track including highway design, structures, traffic signals, drainage and the replacement to the heritage property on the High street/Tentercroft St junction.

Property acquisition is also on plan and the authority now own 347 High St, 1-9 Tentercroft St, 11-13 Tentercroft St, 46 Tentercroft St, 47 Tentercroft St, 120 Portland St and the former Coal Yard and also the long leases to 6 of 7 Central Lincolnshire Industrial. Terms have been agreed on a number of the remaining key properties. Offers have been made on all other properties and major parcels of land required. We are working to acquire as much property and land required for the scheme by negotiation but there are a number of small unregistered parcels that will need to be acquired through compulsory purchase powers as well as the extinguishment of historic covenants. Executive papers to publish Compulsory Purchase and Side Road Orders were approved the Executive on 2 July. Publication is expected later this month.

We aim to commence construction work on site during 2014.

### **Newark Road Junction improvements**

A scheme to reduce congestion on Newark Road at its junctions with Brant Road, Rookery Lane and Hykeham Road started on 8 July. This is one of a number of similar schemes that form part of the Lincoln Transport Strategy designed to ease congestion at key points in the city and its environs, facilitating growth. The scheme cost is approximately £2m and has received a grant of £1.3m Local Pinch Point funding from the Department for Transport.

The scheme will be completed by the end of November in time for the Christmas Market.

### **Whisby Road Improvements**

The scheme to improve Whisby Road between Doddington Road and the new Teal Park Development will start towards the end of July. The scheme includes widening the road to current standards together with the provision of new footway/cycleways. Due to the large number of utility companies' infrastructure that has to be diverted and the programme complexity this work will take 12 months to complete.

### **Lincoln Eastern Bypass**

A new planning application for a single carriageway scheme was submitted in December 2012 and received planning permission on 10 June 2012. Orders to acquire land, amend existing highways and allow navigation under the Witham crossing are currently being prepared. They are expected to be published later this month, following endorsement by the Executive on July 2. The scheme is still on

programme to start in late 2014/early 2015, with an expected opening by the end of 2016.

### **Spalding Western Relief Road**

The County Council is continuing to investigate the possible route options for phases 2 and 3 of the relief road to highlight the various challenges and opportunities following consultation. The County Council, working in partnership with South Holland District Council, intend to hold public consultation on the potential route options for phases 2 and 3 of the relief road in autumn this year. Furthermore, the County Council is keen to help facilitate the planned housing growth and to this end is working with the District Council, Network Rail and the developer of Holland Park to identify how we can best support early delivery of phase 1 of the relief road.

### **Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership**

The number of people killed or seriously injured on Lincolnshire's roads up to the end of April 2013 is 101. This is 26 less than for the same period in 2012 and represents a reduction of about 20%. The number of fatal casualties that have occurred to date is 16, which is one less than for the corresponding period last year. These reductions are welcome and mean that the downward trend in killed and serious casualties is continuing.

I accompanied Lincoln's Member of Parliament, Karl McCartney on a tour of the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership on 7 June. Mr McCartney visited the Life Skills Academy at North Kyme and then the LRSP Headquarters in Lincoln. I am pleased to inform Councillors that Mr McCartney was very impressed with the multi-agency approach to road safety and intends to invite the other Lincolnshire MPs to visit LRSP. Any councillors who also wish to visit the LRSP would be very welcome and should contact me in the first instance.

Many councillors will be aware of the '2 Fast 2 Soon' theatre in education programme. In order to make the programme more accessible, the programme is being revamped and future programmes will be delivered in schools rather than transporting children to theatres. A new script is currently being prepared which will have the same impact as the original production. It is hoped to pilot the new production in September at the Epic centre and councillors will be invited nearer the time. Following the pilot, the new programme will commence in schools October.

### **Road Maintenance**

Surface dressing continues to remain ahead of programme. We have completed over 1.3 million square metres and have around 1.0 million square metres left to complete. Dressing has been completed in East Division ahead of the summer season and has now started in South Division so that all areas have had work delivered, which will be highly visible to the public. The programme throughout all Divisions should be completed by the end of August.

Recycling works have commenced in West Division, offering a very cost effective treatment solution and we will complete around 21km of network also by the end of August. This is the first time a major programme of this type of work has been delivered. Work is now ongoing to identify sites for various treatments next year so that patching and preparation can be undertaken and these programmes are likely to

increase significantly over the next few years following our asset management plan. Other works are seeing the teams approach one of their busiest times of the year with the programme of carriageway and footway works through the summer.

### **Information Management & Technology**

Arrangements for future services from 2015 are progressing through the Future Delivery of Support Services Programme (FDSS). Competitive dialogue is underway with three suppliers.

A revised operating model under the current contract is currently being implemented to deliver £1.3 million savings this year and in future years from base budgets that have been underwritten by our current supplier Mouchel.

Procurement of an improved case management system for social care is underway and has just passed Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) stage.

### **Summary**

Across the highways, transport and IT portfolio further work is underway to find financial savings and service improvements, particularly around response and communications.

Finally I would like to thank the officers across the county who have not only supported me through the 'deep end' but also continue to do such an important job for the people of Lincolnshire.

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