

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING 19 DECEMBER 2014

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

LINCOLN EASTERN BYPASS

LCC received many letters of objection, as well as a few in support, during the period up to 5 December.

The Orders were republished on 23 October with the objection period ending on 5 December. During this time, LCC received many comments to pass to the Secretary of State for Transport. On 1 December, written confirmation was received by Karl McCartney MP that the original DfT funding of £50M was ring-fenced and protected until the construction of the bypass.

LINCOLN EAST WEST LINK

The £10.5M contract for the construction of the road has been awarded to Balfour Beatty Ltd - this commenced on 3 November. Site mobilisation and preparation for the demolition of a number of properties along Tentercroft Street, most notably the former Gadsby/Bridge McFarland building, are currently ongoing. The requirements of English Heritage mean that as much of the original building materials as possible need to be salvaged for reuse in the replacement building. The initial phase of the construction of the road itself will be confined to the areas in and adjacent to the former coal yard, and it will be some months yet before construction work impacts significantly on the existing network.

WHISBY ROAD SCHEME

Eurovia Ltd are making good progress with the construction of the improved footway /cycleway link from North Hykeham Station to Whisby Road.

CANWICK ROAD SOUTH PARK TO HALL DRIVE (LOCAL PINCHPOINT FUND)

Eurovia Ltd have commenced works on the improvement scheme but, prior to Christmas, they will comprise mainly of site mobilisation, some tree removal /environmental works and limited utility diversions - with very little impact on traffic during this period. Meetings have been arranged to discuss the scale of the works programme, and potential mitigations to minimise the impact. Works are scheduled for completion by the end of May 2015.

BRAYFORD WHARF EAST FOOTBRIDGE

Progress is continuing with a revised layout for the proposed bridge, and is subject to further approvals in terms of planning and highway design. The Office of the Rail Regulator (ORR) will seek to arrange a meeting with LCC Highways in the near future to discuss the issue of a full crossing closure on Brayford Wharf. This is not an option that LCC, or anyone else other than the ORR, believe is acceptable and

we will be re-stating the collective concerns of the whole community on this proposal. Work is currently scheduled to start early summer 2015.

HIGH STREET FOOTBRIDGE

Demolition works are programmed for January, requiring the closure of the northbound carriageway of the High Street between Tentercroft Street and St Marys St/Wigford Way. The County Council's traffic signals and signs team are currently working on revised layouts to facilitate movements around the diversion routes. In addition, some full road closures will be required overnight or at weekends to allow major structural elements, such as bridge beams, to be installed. By October 2015, the bridge is scheduled to be open for general use.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEMES - COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Following the successful workshops in July and early November, a communications plan has been developed to deal with the consequences of the forthcoming works and events programmes. The implementation of the plan is scheduled for later this month.

SKEGNESS COUNTRYSIDE BUSINESS PARK ACCESS

A planning application for a new roundabout on the A52 will be considered at February's Planning & Regulation Committee. Tenders are currently being prepared, and the work is scheduled to commence on site in spring 2015.

GRANTHAM:- SOUTHERN QUADRANT LINK ROAD (SQLR)

The Judicial Review was heard on 30 October 2014, and subsequently dismissed by the Court. The claimant has indicated he will challenge this decision (again) at the Appeal Court. This further delays our project, and we are considering ways in which we can progress within our planning permission to make a start on site.

GRANTHAM:- KING31 INCLUDING A1 CONNECTION

LCC are currently considering a construction start date of early 2015.

SPALDING WESTERN RELIEF ROAD

LCC is continuing to work with South Holland District Council and developers to push forward with the relief road and the financial delivery model. A bid for Single Local Growth Fund 2 support towards the delivery of Phase 1 (Holland Park) has been submitted and, if successful, will assist with kick-starting Phase 1, and efforts to deliver Phase 3 in the vicinity of Spalding Road.

SPALDING TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The transport strategy has been drafted, and went to scrutiny in October. Subsequently, some minor amendments have been made, and I will make a decision with regard to this strategy early in the new year.

RAIL SERVICES

The Department for Transport have recently confirmed their funding commitment towards improved services between Lincoln and Nottingham for the next three years. Together with funding from the authorities and LEPs, this will see additional services stopping at both Hykeham and Swinderby, and improved journey times. The County Council is contributing £60,000 per annum. A final timetable is in preparation, with new services due to start in May 2015.

On 27 November, it was announced that the East Coast Main Line franchise is to be awarded to a Consortium between Stagecoach and Virgin – more details will follow in the near future. It is hoped that the benefits to Lincoln will include:

- an additional 6 trains from and 5 trains to London from May 2019
- upgraded train interiors introduced between 2015 and 2017
- station now served by new high speed IEP trains from 2020 providing:
 - more reliable services
 - more seats
 - more luggage space
 - faster journey times
 - improved wi-fi and mobile coverage

It is hoped that the benefits to Grantham will include:

- introducing open plan ticketing making staff more visible at stations from 2018
- additional cycle parking spaces from July 2017
- new electric vehicle charging points
- upgraded train interiors introduced between 2015 and 2017
- station now served by new high speed IEP trains from 2020 providing:
 - more reliable services
 - more seats
 - more luggage space
 - faster journey times
 - improved wi-fi and mobile coverage

Discussions continue in respect of the Northern Rail franchise as part of the Rail North partnership, with particular emphasis on trying to secure improved Lincoln – Gainsborough – Sheffield services.

EXTRA MONEY

With the additional grants, LCC have recycled around 15 miles of unclassified road network, patched nearly 1000 sites across the county, surface dressed an additional 0.5million square metres (or 40 miles of carriageway), and are in the process of re-surfacing an additional 11 miles of our main network.

WINTER MAINTENANCE

The first gritting run across the county took place on the night of 5 November. This mild start to the winter season is not unprecedented, but The Highways Alliance has

fully mobilised its resources and systems for when the winter season fully starts. All 48 front line, and spare, gritters have been serviced and are located at their winter depots.

LINCOLNSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

At previous meetings I have provided councillors with information on Community Speedwatch. I am really pleased to say that community groups have welcomed the initiative - 62 have already signed up, (35 will be using the reactive signs), and 56 have made their payments.

I can report further progress on the upgrading of the safety cameras from wet film to digital, with a provider being selected following a procurement exercise. Ten sites will be upgraded at this time with an average speed system being provided on the A15 at Metheringham crossroads. This will replace the two static cameras currently sited either side of the crossroads. LRSP are now assessing the options of extending the digital upgrade.

Up to the end of September, the numbers of Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) was 284 compared to 312 for the same period last year. Unfortunately, the statistics are not so positive with regard to fatalities - at mid-November the figure was 36 (from 32 collisions), compared to 32 at the same time last year. We will continue to analyse the causes of all KSI's to identify what interventions - education, engineering or enforcement - would be appropriate.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

The new IMT strategy (the right data, to the right people, in the right place at the right time) is currently being aligned with key deliverables from our new IT Service Provider contract with Serco. We are currently ensuring that Technical, Information, Operational and Financial strategies are collated into a single IMT Strategy document. This will enable an ICT roadmap to be developed which can be used as the basis for discussions with service areas in regards to their requirements and allow the deliverables to be validated and prioritised.

Improving services to our citizens

A phased approach to rolling out the service improvements has been agreed, with the first stage going live at the Customer Service Centre this month.

Following 'go live' of the new case management system (Mosaic) in April, the new customer relationship management system (Lagan) will be integrated with Mosaic to ensure joined up information to further improve services for citizens. Future stages will deliver self-service options for those who choose to benefit from this type of efficiency.

Business intelligence

The recent Consultation within the Information and Commissioning has developed a new structure with the required skill sets to enable the Council to be able to provide the necessary governance and support to Service Areas adopting the new technology. The new structure also provides individuals with responsibility for the development of corporate strategies and working groups to support Geospatial data

usage, as well as traditional data storage, analysis and reporting. A new role has been created to develop the way the Council publishes information to the public and to commissioning groups (business, health colleagues etc) - it will be responsible for developing the Council's approach to 'Open Data'.

Data centre relocation

An initial migration plan has been developed, and is being reviewed by the team. The migration will be over a 12 month period (approx.) starting in April 2015.

Information Assurance

Information Assurance is part of the Governance function provided by the Information Management and Technology Service Area, and provides guidance to the Council in respect of Information Governance, Information Security and Records Management.

There has been a significant increase in the level of activity across the team due to increased information sharing, records management and security incidents - also because of an increase in the demand for information governance support across partnership arrangements.

Work has been undertaken to refresh and bolster existing policies, as well as to create new policies to fill some recently identified gaps. This will underpin working arrangements with Serco, and ensure that we are able to meet the commitment to achieve ISO27001 compliance for the Council by April 2016.

Information Security Policy

Policies, which inform the information security policy framework, have been reviewed, revised and are much improved. Covering a greater number of security requirements than previous policies, they are designed to support colleagues in the secure processing of sensitive data across the Council. Development of this policy set will be a continuing activity to ensure the maintenance of a robust and effective information security management system.

Improvements have also been made across wider information governance policies: including a refreshed Data Protection policy; a Freedom of Information policy; and a new Records Management policy. Procedural guidance is also being developed to support each policy.

Information Sharing

To support effective information sharing, and to assist in the unpicking of complex information sharing practices, changes have been made to the way the team approaches this area of work.

A privacy impact assessment has been developed and implemented and, even at this early stage, it is clear that it provides improved clarity and consistency. This assists the Information Governance Team, and project leads across the Council, to identify privacy risks at an early stage. The maturity of privacy impact assessments will improve as it becomes business as usual, and will continue to be developed.

To further support a consistent approach, a single information sharing agreement has been designed and adopted, thereby achieving a more efficient way of

working. This will be supported by an information sharing policy which is currently work in progress.

The team are currently working with Internal Audit to ensure the Council has assurance that best practice is being adopted.

LINCOLNSHIRE BROADBAND PROGRAMME

The main BT project has now delivered 241 upgraded roadside cabinets and provided faster broadband to 59,111 premises, which equates to approximately 37% of the programme total. This excellent progress keeps the programme well on track in terms of both delivery timescales and numbers.

The team are also working very hard with local communities, parish councils and community champions to drive 'take up' of the enhanced services. We are working to a Marketing Plan that is certainly driving percentage take up in a positive direction. We have seen examples where localised marketing has achieved above 20% take up in the first few months following cabinet upgrade completion - this is a very encouraging result, and above expectation.