

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING: 20 FEBRUARY 2015**

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

### **LINCOLN EASTERN BYPASS**

As a result of the Department for Transport receiving a significant number of objections to the republished Orders, the Department has indicated that a Public Inquiry will be required. A number of suitable venues have been investigated, and the Council are awaiting a response from the Department as to the actual date of the Inquiry - likely to be in June /July 2015.

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

### **LINCOLN EAST WEST LINK**

Work in the former coal yard, and the demolition of properties on Tentercroft Street, is now well underway.

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

Excellent progress is being made on the improvement works on Canwick Road. The work is inevitably causing some traffic delays, particularly in the morning peak. However, these are as predicted and road users continue to be advised to find alternative routes or travel modes. The scheme is currently on programme for a May completion.

### **BRAYFORD WHARF EAST FOOTBRIDGE**

A joint meeting with the Office of the Rail Regulator (ORR), City Council, Network Rail and LCC has taken place, and there is now a clear understanding of the process required to deliver this scheme, and for the crossing to remain open. Work is currently scheduled to start late summer 2015.

### **HIGH STREET FOOTBRIDGE**

Demolition works are now programmed to commence in March, and the bridge is scheduled to be open for general use by Christmas 2015. The traffic management arrangements for this scheme signify the start of the transformation of the road network in this part of the city.

### **MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEMES - COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

The Communications Plan has now been fully implemented, with a specific web page dedicated to the major schemes ongoing in Lincoln. Updates are posted on a weekly basis, and a weekly newsletter is available by signing up via the website, on Twitter or on Facebook. As at 23 January, some 450 people had signed up and the

number is increasing by around 100 each week. By the time the High Street works commence, we will also have access to Lincoln BIG's SMS network to further promote the website and newsletter.

### **GRANTHAM - SOUTHERN QUADRANT LINK ROAD (SQLR)**

Despite the further delays to this project, the S.73 change to planning has been discussed/agreed with officers and is now in the process of formal submission.

### **GRANTHAM - KING31 INCLUDING A1 CONNECTION**

Design of Ph1 is complete, and documentation ready for tender.

### **HOLBEACH - A17/A151 PEPPERMINT JUNCTION**

The County Council have secured £2.415M Single Local Growth Funds from the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership for a strategic junction improvement to unlock growth potential at Peppermint Junction. This scheme will deliver a new roundabout, planned for Spring 2016.

### **WINTER MAINTENANCE**

Since early December, temperatures and gritting turnouts have been near to the 20 year average. Salting operations (to 28 January) used 13,000 tonnes of salt, with a further 22,000 tonnes available in depot or on quayside. At present, our new salt supplier is replenishing salt to depots from our strategic stocks held in Southampton.

### **LINCOLNSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

Although all collision reports for last year are not yet submitted, the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on Lincolnshire's roads during 2014 is predicted to be below 400 - a reduction from the previous year's total of 415.

Unfortunately, the number of people killed last year was higher than the previous year, increasing from 36 to 43. However, the figure of 36 was the lowest figure ever recorded in Lincolnshire, and the overall trend does continue downward. Nevertheless, LRSP will rigorously analyse the collision data to ensure that road safety interventions they develop and implement during 2015 remain the most appropriate and effective.

Community Speedwatch continues to thrive and I am pleased to report that 69 communities are now taking part - 48 of which are using the vehicle activated signs, as well as the high profile passive signs. Highways staff and the Road Safety Partnership have worked together to develop a portable post and socket system to enable communities to mount the vehicle activated sign, even when there is no suitable street furniture in the vicinity. Communities requiring this assistance will be provided with the first two posts and sockets free of charge.

Over the last five years, LRSP has developed and implemented a variety of driver training courses designed to enhance driver knowledge, skills and awareness in order to improve road safety. More than 13,000 clients attended courses last year, and any income from these courses will be used to reduce budget pressures on both the Police and County Council during this difficult period of financial restraint.

## **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Improving services to our citizens**

Following a successful first phase of delivering services to the public using the new technologies within the CSC, further development is currently being finalised and tested to launch the next service: Highways enquiries.

The project to replace SAP with Agresso is making good progress, although finding sufficient experienced payroll staff to test the new payroll caused some re-planning. It is expected that the remaining testing and system preparations will be complete to allow 1 April target date for 'go live' to be achieved.

The preparations for the launch of Mosaic (the Council's new social care and public health case management system) continue, with challenges to complete the complex data migration and good feedback from social work practitioners following training. Links from Mosaic into the new CSC customer relationship management system (Lagan) and new ERP system (Agresso) are being tested to ensure automatic sharing of financial and customer information. IMT are looking to launch a pilot of improved technology to enable remote working - this will support the new Mosaic system and, hopefully, prove itself for use by other service areas if the pilot is successful.

### **Business intelligence**

Following the establishment of the Enterprise Data Warehouse team through the restructure of Information and Commissioning, officer working groups for Business Intelligence and Geospatial Information systems are being established. These are supporting the functional and operational requirements for improved systems being implemented by our new IMT Service Provider, Serco. Staff training on implementing an 'Open Data' approach has started, and recruitment of key skills is in progress.

### **Data centre relocation**

The complex plan to migrate IT systems from the Council's premises to new dual resilient data centres has been prepared. The migration will be over a 12 month period (approx) starting in April 2015. The project will enable a number of improvements to be made during the transition process, which will reduce downtime of systems and improve our ability to be agile in the adoption of new technology in the future.

### **Information Assurance**

A recent internal audit report has highlighted some procedural improvements, which are already being undertaken, as well as wider cultural issues to be resolved across

the organisation. Promotion of good practice continues across the Council and is generally being well received, leading to increased demands on the key skills in this team.

LCC has elected to be part of the Local Authority Information Commissioner's Office audit programme. As well as ensuring positive engagement and transparency with this key audit function, it will give the Council the opportunity to benefit from the expertise of ICO staff.

## **LINCOLNSHIRE BROADBAND PROGRAMME**

The main BT project has now delivered 300 upgraded roadside cabinets and provided faster broadband to 74,504 premises, which equates to approximately 47.5% of the programme total. The programme remains on schedule, despite significant problems with the discovery of Asbestos in Gainsborough Exchange, which held up the completion of 3000 premises.

The team are seeing excellent results on the back of their continuing work to drive 'Take up' of the improved services, and we are currently running at a figure of 11.66% Take up across the whole project area. This continued improvement results from localised engagement with parish councils and Community 'Champions' with 44 cabinets now above 20% - of which 10 cabinets are over 30%.

The Team continue to attend parish council meetings and discuss local plans and progress - this approach is well received by those parishes.