

CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

PROGRESS AS EXPECTED

2013/14 Capital schemes programmed for delivery in quarter 3

11 out of 14 capital schemes, due for delivery in quarter 3, have either been completed or are progressing as planned, and are detailed below. For details of the remaining schemes please see the 'Progress not as Expected' section.

Bridges

- **Greyhound Viaduct Bridge (Skerton/Lancaster East) and Higher North Road Bridge in Netherbeck (Lancaster Rural North)** – the design and preparation works are progressing as expected and the progress of these schemes will be reviewed in quarter 4 2013/14.

Road Safety

- **Marine Road East of Central Drive Roundabout (Morecambe)** – construction work to install a zebra crossing has started on site and is progressing as expected, progress will be reviewed again in quarter 4 2013/14.
- **A6 Northbound (Lancaster City Centre)** – work to install signage in the area was completed during quarter 3 2013/14. Works in the area of Spring Garden Street is anticipated to be delivered during quarter 1 2014/15. Work to install trixi mirrors (large curved mirrors designed to increase visibility for pedestrians and road users) has been delayed due to issues with the mirror bracket fastenings.

Local Priorities Response Fund

- **Footway resurfacing works have been carried out in the following locations** - The Croft (Lancaster Rural North), and Mardale Avenue (Morecambe West).

Urban Unclassified

- **Hest Bank Road (Morecambe North)** – carriageway resurfacing is now complete.

Footways

- **Royal Road (Morecambe)** – footway resurfacing work is now complete.

Capital schemes carried over from previous quarters for delivery in quarter 3 2013/14

Urban Unclassified

- **Lindow Square, Street Lighting (Lancaster East)** – works to install the lantern embellishments is now complete.

Footways

- **Albert Road from Morecambe Road (Morecambe West)** – footway resurfacing work is now complete.

Crook 'O' Lune

The east pedestrian and Cycleway Bridge at the Crook 'O' Lune, that links Caton with the River Lune Millennium Park, reopened in December. Work is now focusing on the finishing touches on the area surrounding the bridge.

PROGRESS NOT AS EXPECTED

2013/14 capital schemes programmed for delivery in quarter 3 which have been delayed

Road Safety

- **Morecambe Road (Penhyrn Road toucan) to Aldi (Skerton)** – the outcome of the suggested footway conversion to become a shared footway and cycle path along this route will be decided after a Cabinet Member report has been reviewed during quarter 4 2013/14. If approved this will be delivered in 2014/15.

Bridges

- **Carnforth Canal Footbridge (Lancaster Rural North)** – the scheme has been cancelled due to on going problems with the Canal and River Trust regarding access. The scheme will be re-proposed when the access problems have been resolved.
- **Skerton Bridge on Owen Road (Skerton)** – the delivery of this scheme has been delayed due to issues relating to the mortar mix recommended by English Heritage. It is felt that the mix recommended to protect the stonework is unsatisfactory and will wash out with the arrival of the first tide. LCC are currently awaiting further advice from English Heritage in respect of an alternative method or mortar that could be used.

Capital scheme carried over from previous quarters for delivery in quarter 3 2013/14 which has now been delayed

Road Safety

- **Greaves Park Cycle Path (Lancaster South)** – a planning application for the cycle path works has been submitted and has received objections. Therefore the planned tree felling works have had to be put on hold. Progress of the scheme will be reviewed in quarter 4 2013/14.

SERVICE UPDATE

Road and Street Maintenance: Pothole Repair

In 2013/14 the directorate has a year-end target of fixing 90% of potholes identified through Highway Safety Inspections (HSI) within a 30 day period. In Lancaster 5,300 potholes were identified through HSIs between April and December 2013, of which 4,543 (86%) were repaired within 30 days, although all of the 5,300 potholes identified have now been repaired. A particular issue within Lancaster has been the increase in the number of footway repairs within conservation areas. These require relatively complex masonry repairs which are by their nature more time consuming, additional resources are being utilised to address this issue.

2013/14	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	13/14 Target
Lancaster										
Monthly % of potholes filled within 30 days	100%	97%	99%	98%	94%	96%	89%	65%	63%	90%
Cumulative % of potholes filled within 30 days	100%	98%	98%	98%	97%	97%	95%	90%	86%	
Lancashire										
Cumulative % of potholes filled within 30 days	99%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	97%	94%	93%	90%

A new way of managing defect reporting and repairs has recently been introduced. Ultimately this system will increase efficiency and improve response times in dealing with defects identified through regular inspections and public reports. This new way of working has presented a number of challenges which have been noticeable within this quarter's lower HSI's result. These challenges have now been overcome and, as a result, performance has recovered and productivity has increased.

Following the implementation of this new way of working, proposals for the revision of the defect maintenance indicator will be taken to the Cabinet Committee for Performance Improvement (CCPI) for approval in June following the end of quarter 4 in March.

Environment and Community Projects
Galgate Recreation Ground Masterplan

LCC officers have been working closely with Galgate Football Club and Ellet Parish Council to prepare a bid requesting £50,000 from Sport England for new changing room facilities for the club and parish. This was submitted in December 2013.

In addition, a delivery plan required for the SITA 'Fields in Trust' £21,600 grant bid, has been submitted following revisions to equipment design and costings.

Ryelands Park

LCC have supported the Friends of Ryelands Park Group with £10,000 of funding to match a 'This Side of the River' lottery bid. A new Orchard has been planted on Ryelands Park.

Working with creative artists, the Dukes Theatre will engage with ten schools/community groups to explore connections to their community and create art, stories and installations which were showcased in a community event in Ryelands Park in February half term.

Penny Street/Cheapside: Street works to improve the city centre will start as planned on Sunday 2 March. Works will start at the bottom of Cheapside at its junction with North Road, working towards Horseshoe Corner by the end of April. At the same time works will commence in the far northern corner of Market Square working towards the City Museum, again by the end of April. Whilst this is on-going both Cheapside and Market Square will be closed to all through traffic, however pedestrian access to shops and businesses will be maintained during normal business hours. The appointed contractors, The Landscape Group, will aim to cause as little disruption as possible and will liaise with businesses as work approaches individual properties.

Trading Standards

Scam Advisory: A joint operation between Trading Standards, the Fire Service and the Police saw approximately 30 small retailers in Morecambe visited and advised in relation to receiving high pressure sales visits trying to sell them Fire Safety Risk assessments. Some retailers reported being cold called and threatened with thousands of pounds of fines if they did not sign up. The advisory joint visits by the three agencies, gave advice, leaflets, and support to the retailers, and explained that in many cases the assessments could be done by the retailers themselves.

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN: CAPITAL SCHEMES UPDATE

Heysham M6 Link

After the High Court rejected the legal challenge by objectors, the objectors then requested permission to appeal from the Court of Appeal. On the 28 November the appeal was also refused which meant that the Secretary of State's decision to grant permission to the scheme could not be further challenged. The Department for Transport approved the funding for the road on the 13 December 2013 and the construction period is set to be 2 ½ years giving an expected completion date of August 2016. The Leader of Lancashire County Council set construction of the Heysham to M6 Link Road officially underway during a ground-breaking ceremony on Monday 3 February.

Community Rail Partnership (CRP) Programme Improvements

The Leeds, Lancaster, Morecambe CRP has received a Community Rail Development Fund grant to develop the "Cohesion Project" which will include some small scale work at Wennington station. A separate project involves installing real time train information at Bare Lane Station in Morecambe North in connection with modifications to the level crossing and signalling.