

**Summary:** Environment Directorate progress against delivery of the Commissioning Plan for Hyndburn in the first quarter of 2014/15

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**CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Both capital schemes, due for delivery in quarter 1, have either been completed or are progressing as planned, and are detailed below.

**PROGRESS AS EXPECTED**

**Capital schemes carried over from previous quarters for delivery in quarter 1 2014/15**

**Flood Risk Management and Drainage**

- **Whitebirk Drive, Knuzden Brook (Rishton and Clayton-Le-Moors)** – flood mitigation works have been carried out in the area.

**Traffic Signals**

- **Eastgate Abbey Street and Plantation Street Junction (Accrington South)** – traffic column replacement works have been completed.

**Trading Standards**

**Illicit Tobacco** – this is a partnership between health professionals and Smoke Free East Lancashire to address the high smoking rates and prevalence of counterfeit, non-duty paid and niche tobacco in the area. This issue adversely affects the health of those residents in deprived and priority neighbourhoods, and provides a cheap source of tobacco for children. 23 complaints about illicit tobacco were dealt with from East Lancashire. A number of targeted inspections were carried out in with 9 seizures made, one of which was in Hyndburn. 7 East Lancashire traders were successfully prosecuted for the supply of illicit tobacco this quarter.

Intelligence has been shared with partners including Trading Standards North West, the police and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to enable strategic analysis of the district's problems. Trading Standards also contributed to the Smoke Free East Lancashire Progress Meetings.

**M65 Burnley / Pendle Growth Corridor Improvements**

In November 2013, LCC commissioned Jacobs UK Ltd to produce a route management strategy for the M65 Corridor between Junction 6 and Colne. The strategy includes a number of small-scale interventions to tackle existing and/or future pinch-points on the highway network to support the growth ambitions of Burnley, Pendle and Hyndburn, for delivery over the three year period from 2015/16. The county council has recently secured an £8m contribution towards the £12m programme from the Government through the Lancashire Growth Deal, with the county council providing the balance through the East Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan. The programme comprises of a range of measures including signalisation at most of the M65 junctions, together with improvements at the A646/A679 junction at Rose Grove, and others in Burnley town centre, and on the approach to Accrington town centre from the M65. It also includes improvements to railway station infrastructure to support existing investment at Burnley Manchester Road, and forthcoming service enhancements that will also benefit Accrington and Rose Grove stations, and encourage greater use of the sustainable transport infrastructure.

**M65 Gateway Study**

The M65 is the main route connecting East Lancashire with the M6 and M61 at Bamber Bridge near Preston. It plays an essential role in the economy of this part of the county, connecting people and businesses internally, as well as providing the primary means of access to the M6, particularly for freight. Congestion is already evident during peak periods on the two lane section between the M61 and Junction 6 at Whitebirk, and is exacerbated by limited capacity, traffic flow composition and close proximity of some junctions. To ensure that the M65 continues to support the East Lancashire economy effectively, this study will investigate what may be necessary to improve capacity, reliability and safety between Junctions 2 and 6, and when such works might become necessary. It will also consider the parallel A6119/A677 route to the north of Blackburn, which provides a crucial link to the Enterprise Zone at Samlesbury and the M6 at Junction 31. The study will commence in the autumn and be completed by the end of March 2015.

**Accrington Town Centre**

Detailed costs options are being developed for the proposed scheme to improve the area in front of the Market and Town Hall. Once completed, the options will be discussed with Hyndburn Borough Council.

**SERVICE UPDATE**

**Road and Street Maintenance**

2014/15	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	13/14 Target
<b>Hyndburn</b>													
Monthly % of defects filled within 20 working days	100%	100%											90%
Cumulative % of defects filled within 20 working days		100%											
<b>Lancashire</b>													
Cumulative % of defects filled within 20 working days	94%	95%											90%

Between April and May 2014/15, a total of 994 highway defects were identified by regular Highway Safety Inspections (HSI) or reported by the public in Hyndburn. 100% of these defects were repaired within 20 working days.

**Environment and Community Projects**

**Partnership Working** - As part of LCC's sustainable food initiative we are working with an organisation called Aawaz (a community organisation that works with hard to reach non English speaking women) to build their language and other skills. We will be working with them to create a community kitchen and regenerating the centres back yard into an outdoor teaching and urban food growing space in Accrington. This will enable the centre users to gain cooking and food hygiene skills and to run a luncheon club, as well increase their ability to make healthy lifestyle choices for themselves and their families and hopefully increase their confidence and improve community cohesion and well being.

**Community Rail Partnership (CRP) Programme Improvements**

Community work continues at Accrington station and the schools project has now seen around 6000 pupils pass through the purpose built resource centre at Accrington station. A Customer Information Service is being provided at the station by Northern Rail and a bus departure screen will also be installed as part of the Pennine Reach bus project.

**Pennine Reach**

Works are now on-going. A Public Inquiry for the Compulsory Purchase Order of Accrington bus station took place in June 2014 and we are now awaiting the decision of the Secretary of State which we expect to receive by the end of quarter 2 2014/15.

**Todmorden Curve**

The latest date for service commencement is May 2015 due to issues with signalling and the availability of rolling stock. This further delay is of great concern and urgent discussions are taking place with Network Rail and Northern Rail to resolve the issue.

■ = Progress as expected  
■ = Progress not as expected  
■ = Issues identified  
■ = Information