

Summary: Environment Directorate progress against delivery of the Commissioning Plan for Rossendale in the second quarter of 2014/15

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CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

10 out of 12 capital schemes, due for delivery in quarter 2, 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.

PROGRESS AS EXPECTED

2014/15 Capital schemes programmed for delivery in quarter 2

Urban Unclassified

- **Carriageway resurfacing works have been completed in the following locations:**
 - Old Lane and Knowsley Crescent – (Whitworth)
 - Full length of Rook Hill Road (Rossendale East)
 - Cooper Street from Hammerton Street to Blackthorn Lane (Rossendale East)
 - Full length of Ashworth Road (Rossendale East)
 - Full length of North Street (Whitworth)
 - Full length of Ullswater Way (Rossendale North)

Rural Unclassified

- **Tong Lane from Bent House to Slack Gate (Whitworth)** – carriageway resurfacing works have been completed in the area.

Local Priorities Response Fund

- **Whitworth Rake from Waingap Crescent to the track (Whitworth)** – carriageway improvements works have been completed in the area.

Capital schemes carried over from previous quarters for delivery in quarter 2 2014/15

Bridges

- **Maintenance works have been completed at the following locations:**
 - Ewood Bridge on Blackburn Road (Rossendale South)
 - Hodge Clough on Helmshore Road (Rossendale West)

PROGRESS NOT AS EXPECTED

Capital schemes programmed for delivery in quarter 2 which have been delayed

A, B and C Roads

- **Burnley Road from Mill Street to Town Centre (Rossendale East)** – part of the surface dressing works to the carriageway have been completed. A section remains incomplete due to building site connections obstructing the works. These remaining works will be reprogrammed once the area has been cleared. It is anticipated this will be done during 2014/15.

Capital scheme carried over from previous quarters for delivery in quarter 2 2014/15 which has now been delayed

Road Safety

- **Newchurch Road in Stacksteads (Rossendale East)** – the consultation period has been extended due to the numerous works required which will involve speed reduction, bend awareness, footway widening, and signs and markings. It is anticipated that the scheme will be completed by the end of quarter 4 2014/15.

SERVICE UPDATE

Bacup Town Centre

The proposed plans to remodel the centre of Bacup have been subject to public and stakeholder consultation. The plans aim to create a pedestrian friendly area which is less dominated by traffic. The result will be a 'shared space' with fewer barriers and better pedestrian links between key parts of the town centre. Responses are now being considered for the proposed plan and the Townscape Heritage Initiative are preparing a consultation report. The next stage will be to carry out more detailed designs.

Rawtenstall Bus Station

A funding mechanism for the County Council to contribute £100,000 for Rossendale Borough Council to proceed with the design works has been agreed subject to mechanisms for evaluating value gained from contribution. A sustainable revenue budget for the operation of the bus station will need to be identified before final authority can be given to the balance of £3.4 million of expenditure.

Environment and Community Projects

Adrenalin Gateway - As part of the Adrenalin Gateway project and building upon the enthusiasm for cycling generated by the Tour de France being so close to our area, LCC has supported a number of cycling events in Rossendale by providing venues and some organisational assistance. These have included:

- The Manchester and district midweek mountain bike race at Lee Quarry. This was a short circuit cross country race on the technical mountain bike trails at Lee Quarry.
- Mary Towneley Loop guided rides - these guided rides attract people from all over the UK to come and have a go at a 47 mile off road mountain bike ride. It's a great challenge and not everyone manages it first, or even second time around!
- Pennine Mountain Bike Association (PMBA), Enduro - Enduro Mountain Bike racing has really taken off in Europe during the past few years, and in this quarter we hosted the final round of the northern PMBA series at Lee Quarry and Facit Quarry.
- Cyclocross - this quarter has seen us host our first Cyclocross event at Landgate Quarry. This event was organised by Rossendale Road Club with some assistance from LCC. It was a great event well attended by a wide age range of participants from all over the North West. The course was described by one participant as 'like a mini three peaks'!

These events have brought hundreds of people into the Rossendale area which is fast building a reputation as an excellent place to visit and participate in off road cycling, which is an important tourism area for the district. This in turn supports local bed and breakfast businesses, cafés, shops and pubs, as well as giving many local people a sense of pride in their area.

Road and Street Maintenance

2014/15	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	14/15 Overall (Apr - Aug)	14/15 Target
Rossendale							
Monthly % of potholes filled within 20 days	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%	90%
Cumulative % of potholes filled within 20 days	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Found 2703 Fixed 2691	
Lancashire							
Cumulative % of potholes filled within 20 days	94%	95%	98%	99%	99%	97% Found 31728 Fixed 30670	90%

Between April and Aug 2014/15, a total of 2,703 highway defects were identified by regular Highway Safety Inspections (HSI) or reported by the public in Rossendale. 2,691 (100%) of these defects were repaired within 20 working days. Between 99 - 100% of all footway and carriageway defects have been repaired within 20 working days throughout the year to date.

Trading Standards

Letting/Property Management – this is an on-going project with districts and other partners to build an 'intelligence package', relating to problems caused by rogue landlords and letting agents, and to target problem areas around Rossendale. A joint letter to traders is to be sent out in conjunction with district housing departments to cover the new requirement for letting agents to be part of a recognized adjudication scheme; as well as all other relevant legislation. Joint visits will also be carried out where problem premises are identified, with the aim of reducing aggressive practices, unclear fees, double fee-charging to tenants and landlords, and issues with the non-return of deposits.

East Lancashire Strategic Cycle Network

The East Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan commits the county council to develop and implement a strategic cycle network in East Lancashire. A number of potential links have been identified in the masterplan that could form part of this network, linking communities to employment and offering potential for tourism and recreation. A proposal was submitted to Government by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership in March 2014, which included a bid for £2.6m in 2015/16 from the Local Growth Fund towards delivery of the strategic cycle network. In July, the Government approved this bid, with the proviso that the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and its partners (LCC and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council) commit a further £3.29m, totalling an investment of £5.9m. In Lancashire, the proposed programme comprises of three routes: the 'Valley of Stone' in Rossendale, Accrington to Ramsbottom (National Cycle Network Route 6) and the Huncoat Greenway in Hyndburn. A programme of works is yet to be established however it is anticipated that preparation works will start in 2014/15.

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