

## CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY – COUNCILLOR JONES

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### **Highways Maintenance – potholes, carriageway and footway repairs.**

The Yeadon Way scheme is progressing well and is currently on programme for completion by the end of March 2015. The design of the works has been adapted on site following further investigations into the ground conditions and cost effective methods of stabilisation are being installed. Significant effort has been made to keep the wider public informed regarding the works and this has directly led to minimal impact on other traffic routes and businesses.

Work to the surrounding watercourses and land drainage is already providing great benefit to land owners and allotments in the vicinity to the road.

### **Relationships with Blackpool Transport**

In July 2014, the Council submitted a bid to the Government's Clean Vehicle Technology Fund (CVTF), in partnership with Blackpool Transport Services (BTS). This sought the sum of £500,000 to enable 30 buses to be fitted with an emission control technology package. The Council's air quality monitoring system is regularly recording town centre concentrations in excess of the recommended annual average EU limits of 40ug/m<sup>3</sup> of Nitrogen Dioxide.

Initially, the Council's bid was unsuccessful, however, new resources were made available in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's autumn statement and Department for Transport (DfT) has now indicated that the full £500,000 requested will be made available. BTS has confirmed that it is keen to proceed with the project.

The technology package will be fitted to older buses, which are more polluting than newer vehicles. BTS has a relatively old fleet profile and these measures will be a stopgap measure before superior vehicles, also more attractive to current and prospective passengers, can be secured. The technology package is intended to be in use for five years, before the recipient vehicles are retired.

This project does not commit Council resources beyond officer time in preparing the bid and administering the grant achieved. BTS has committed £43,489 as match funding to this project. The project is in line with the Council's environmental and Local Transport Plan objectives, to improve air quality and promote public transport such that the former is not compromised.

### **Equality and Diversity**

#### Faith Calendar

The 2015 calendar of key faith festivals has been published. This popular publication is part funded by the Hospital Trust and is aimed at promoting awareness, mutual respect and understanding across our community. The Calendar now covers the most important dates for 11 faith/ belief traditions, Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, Sikh and Zoroastrian.

#### Equality Objectives – performance report published

We have now published an extensive report charting our progress in advancing the Council's equality objectives and ambitions. The report is available on the web site and on request in the usual accessible formats.