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## **Staveley Town Deal Board**

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

### **Item 6d**

#### **Barrow Hill Rail Station Project Update**

##### **1. Recommendation**

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) Given the revised situation, it is recommended to make a formal request, through the Chair, to DLUHC for a further extension to the deadline for submitting summary documents for this project to June 2023.

##### **2. Background**

In February 2022, Board approved the following:

- 1) Make a formal request, through the Chair, to government for an extension to the deadline for submitting summary documents for this project. This extension would be for 3 months from the point at which an announcement is made about the line re-opening (during which time the full business case would be developed and assessed).
- 2) Agree to keep the current allocation (£934,000) for the project in place for a maximum period of six months pending a decision by government regarding the line re-opening.

On June 18<sup>th</sup> the Minister of State for Transport announced that the Barrow Hill line project was one of a very limited number of Restoring Your Railway schemes nationally which was to receive further government funding to develop to the next stage of the process.

Whilst this is good news, further work is required to work up the Business Case for the Rail Station. The Town Deal funding is, in effect the only match funding and will provide services and facilities for the Station, as outlined in the presentation to Board on 12 November 2021.

##### **3. Latest Position**

The DfT money will be provided directly to Network Rail to allow them to carry out various activities including:

1. Further capacity analysis looking at various viable timetable options including a 'do minimum' proposals of what could be achieved with little or no new infrastructure beyond the stations and a "do maxim" option of a regular half hourly service and what infrastructure changes would be needed to implement this.



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2. Concept designs for Chesterfield and Sheffield stations including the feasibility of new platform at Chesterfield and the options at Sheffield including the reopening of Victoria station
3. Workshops with the rail industry and local stakeholders to determine and agree full scheme scope including the station locations and overall number. As part of this process Network Rail will also look at how it can deliver the scheme more quickly and at a lower cost.
4. Confirmation of land ownership at stations sites. Where it is not already in Network Rail control this may result in some of the station scheme elements being delivered in a second phase of the project because of the need to undertake a Transport And Works Order process to gain ownership.
5. Developing scoping and contracting strategy for the intrusive mining surveys.
6. Developing scoping and contracting strategies for various elements of the scheme including ecology and archeology surveys, communications plans, planning and consents processes.
7. Developing the full Outline Business Case proposals in detail.
8. If sufficient funding is still available in budget now allocated Network Rail would also look to complete the Outline Business Case as well. If not key elements of it would be done with more funding sought from DFT to complete process.

Items 1-7 are expected to be completed by November 2022.

The Outline Business Case and follow on Full Business Case would be completed in early 2024 with construction work beginning in Summer 2024.

By November 2022, the Project Sponsor should be in a position to know whether the project is to proceed to the next stage, when an update will be brought to this Town Deal Board. The Full Business Case for the Town Deal at this stage, would be prepared, with a view to it being considered in line with our Assurance Framework to seek Board approval by June 2023. Capital works such as the pedestrian crossing could then be factored into the DCC Capital Programme in September 2023. This timeframe would allow Station construction to be delivered and the Town Deal activity to still have time to deliver by the March 2026 deadline.