
TITLE: SOHAM STATION

Committee: Development and Transport Committee

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[M346]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 Update on progress with Soham Station.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are requested to;

a) Note the contents of this report.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 Officers were instructed to report back to Development and Transport Committee following a meeting that took place with Network Rail/DfT and Cambridgeshire County Council at the end of November 2012. The meeting was held to discuss progress on Soham station and to identify any additional work required in order to submit a full business case to the Department of Transport for inclusion in the longer-term franchise agreement.

3.2 Following this meeting, Atkins on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council have put together a brief for the work that needs to be undertaken to satisfy the requirements of DfT and the rail operator Greater Anglia. Essentially the study will focus on railway patronage and revenue at a potential new station at Soham versus the consideration of an alternative bus rail link. It will also update the model produced in 2011 with any newly available data and provide outputs adopting latest service assumptions.

3.3 Government recently announced the launch of a new stations fund providing a total sum of £20 million to support new station projects around the country. The funding will be distributed through a competition so that all promoters of new stations which meet the conditions have an equal opportunity of securing a funding contribution. Network Rail are administering the application process and the fund.

Proposed new stations must be developed to the option selection stage 3 as defined in the Governance for Railway Investment Projects (GRIP). The proposals must have the written support of relevant train operating companies and Network Rail. While the New Stations Fund will contribute towards the cost of construction, bidders must have available match funding and most importantly be able to deliver a scheme by March 2014.

3.4 Initial advice from both Cambridgeshire County Council and Network Rail concluded that Soham station was not yet advanced enough as a project in order to submit a bid. The recent announcement to double track the line between Ely and Soham

would have significant implications for any station design and further work is required to get to a single option point which Network rail have now agreed to help take forward.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Work has now commenced on the additional work required in order to submit a full business case to the Department of Transport for a new station at Soham. Atkins who are undertaking the study on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council/ECDC are due to present their findings mid April. A full business case can then be sent to DfT in May so that due consideration can be given for a new station at Soham as part of the new longer-term franchise agreement.

4.2 The reinstatement of Soham Station has also been raised as a priority project for the District Council with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership. There may be a possibility to bid for future capital funding pots distributed by Central Government via the LEPs including Growing Places Fund and any future new station funds. This potentially could be match funded with other District Council funds in the future including Community Infrastructure Levy.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The cost of the patronage and revenue study is £29, 393 (excluding expenses) of which Cambridgeshire County Council have agreed to contribute £14, 696. ECDC's 50% contribution of £14, 696 has been met from existing Local Plan consultancy budgets.

5.2 Equality Impact Assessment not yet required.

Background Documents

None

Location

Room FF102,
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Ely

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