

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member – Environment and Transport
Date:	6 September 2011
Title:	Accessibility Improvements to Andover Railway Station
Reference:	3230
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Hannah Baker

Tel: 023 80427010

Email: hannah.baker@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- a) That a contribution of £170,000 be confirmed for payment to Network Rail towards the implementation of a pedestrian access and ramp to the island platform at the north side of Andover railway station.
- b) That a contribution of £150,000 be confirmed for payment to South West Trains towards the implementation of improvements to the waiting facilities and information services on the island platform at Andover railway station.
- c) That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member, to make detailed arrangements for the contributions at the appropriate time, with conditions attached if necessary.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1. The Andover Town Access Plan identified the need for improvements to access and customer facilities at Andover railway station (north side). As a result, a partnership scheme is proposed to facilitate a number of accessibility improvements to create access from the north side of the station. These works will facilitate a subsequent stage of the project which is for Network Rail to provide additional car parking.

2.2. The scheme includes the following key elements:

- (i) removal of the railway sidings and provision of hard standing to facilitate pedestrian access towards the platform;

- (ii) a pedestrian ramp (Disability Discrimination Act compliant) from the hard standing to the island platform; and
- (iii) improvement of waiting and information facilities on the island platform to include, refreshment facilities, public conveniences and information screens.

The balance of funding is to be provided by the Department of Transport under the 'National Station Improvement Programme' (item iii) and by Network Rail for costs associated with items (i) and (ii).

Network Rail and South West Trains will procure and manage delivery of the project.

2.3. Approval of the scheme will contribute towards:

- (i) 'Making Hampshire safer and more secure for all' - improvements to pedestrian facilities help encourage healthy options for travel which can make a positive contribution to our carbon footprint by reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality.
- (ii) 'Maximising well-being' – by ensuring that the railway station can be accessed by all sections of the community, including the mobility impaired and disabled.
- (iii) Enhancing our quality of place – by ensuring excellent facilities and planning proactively for the future development and travel needs of Andover.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 Various options to provide direct access to the platform from the land on the north side have been considered.
- 3.2 Prior to the proposal to alter the sidings, the favoured option under consideration was the re-opening of the old tunnel which was backfilled in the 1920s. However, due to the significant costs, the alternative to alter the sidings would provide a better and more cost effective solution.
- 3.3 The provision of additional parking spaces in the existing car park on the south side of the station was considered. This would potentially take the form of a decked level to the existing car park, however this solution was rejected as it was not economically viable.
- 3.4 To do nothing was rejected. It would not seem sensible to be inactive on pursuing accessibility improvements given the other partners' willingness to proceed with the development of a station master plan.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None.

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by: ----- Executive Member for Environment and Transport Councillor M J Kendal	Date: 6 September 2011
---	---