HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	21 January 2014
Title:	Waterside Rail
Reference:	5508
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Andrew Wilson

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1. The decision:

1.1. That, in view of the outcome of both the Waterside GRIP 3 Rail Study and the recent consultation, the County Council will not commit further funding or other resources to this project due to the poor value for money business case, but that the County Council will review this position if there are significant changes in either future funding arrangements for rail projects or local circumstances.

2. Reason for the decision:

2.1. The GRIP (Governance for Railway Investment Projects) studies carried out indicate that at present, the business case for this project is insufficiently strong to warrant pursuing this project further, and that the project would not be successful in securing funding in the short to medium term. The outcome of the studies is endorsed by Network Rail and South West Trains who were both on the Steering Group. It is highly unlikely that this project would receive either support or funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) for the foreseeable future, as project offers ‘poor value for money’ according to DfT appraisal criteria. Network Rail, the rail infrastructure owner does not support further development of the project at this time due to the poor business case.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. To continue with the GRIP study process. This was rejected because the project falls well below the threshold for progression and therefore there is an extremely low chance of this project being delivered in the short to medium term. Therefore any further expenditure at this time would not represent good value for money.

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 Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

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

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

7.1. In making the above decision, the Executive Member received deputations from Jeff Callander, Colin Cooley, Sara Harvey (who handed Councillor Woodward a petition of over 400 signatures), Michael Buckley and New Forest District Councillor Sue Bennison, who all spoke in support of the recommendation that no further work be undertaken to progress Waterside Rail.

7.2. The Executive Member also heard Councillor David Harrison who spoke against the recommendation and in support of Waterside Rail.

7.3. In addition, the Executive Member took account of the email received in support of the rail link from Cllr Malcolm Wade, an email against from Dr Michael Perry and the comments made by Cllr Fawkes.

Approved by:	**Date:**
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Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment **Councillor Seán D T Woodward**	

Dec/5508/AW