



**A place to start,
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Staveley Town Deal Board

16th February 2022

Update on Barrow Hill station

Item 8a

1. Background

As noted at previous Board meetings, the project to enhance delivery of a railway station at Barrow Hill has a critical dependency with the government's Restoring Your Railways programme. In particular, a government decision is pending as to whether re-opening the Barrow Hill line for passenger services between Chesterfield and Sheffield will go ahead. A Strategic Outline Business Case was submitted in February 2021 and, at the time of writing, no further decisions regarding the project have been announced by government. A decision is said to be imminent and officers are working on the assumption there will be an approval for the project to go ahead to the next stage (producing an Outline Business Case). Should this be announced, it would give significantly more confidence in the prospect of the line being re-opened, which in turn would provide a firmer basis for developing the Town Deal project for Barrow Hill station.

2. Latest position

In the absence of a government decision, further work has been undertaken led by Derbyshire County Council and South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to prepare for the next stage of the business case development for the re-opening of the whole line. This will feed directly into the Outline Business Case once an announcement is made. In terms of the Barrow Hill station Town Deal project, a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) has been developed and considered by the CBC Internal Programme Board at its meeting on 9th February 2022. The SOBC provides a high-level case for the type of enhancements that could be made to a station in order to deliver outputs and outcomes in line with the Town Investment Plan. However, whilst a decision on the wider line re-opening is awaited, it is not sensible to develop this further to the provide the level of detail that would be required for the Town Deal Board to take a view on whether to approve the project.

The Internal Programme Board is therefore not yet in a position to make a recommendation about the project to the Town Deal Board. In turn, the project sponsors (Derbyshire County Council working together with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority) are not in a position to develop the case for the project further until a government announcement is made about the line re-opening. Given this, it will not be possible to seek Town Deal Board approval in time to return a summary document to government by the deadline for these in March. Since the delay has been caused by government itself, it is deemed appropriate to request a formal extension to the March deadline in order that the Town Deal Board can



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receive a properly developed business case and make an informed decision about the project. Until that can happen, it would be prudent to maintain the current allocation for the project, whilst recognising that this position cannot be maintained indefinitely.

3. Recommendations

Given the above position, it is recommended that the Board:

- 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.