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Staveley Town Deal Board

8 December 2023

Item 6

Barrow Hill Rail Station Project Funding Package

1. Recommendations

- a) To note the previously agreed funding decisions, and their associated delivery milestones.
- b) To approve the removal of enhanced bus services and demand responsive travel from the Barrow Hill Rail Station project (£215,000) due to Town Deal funding being ineligible to support revenue bus service running costs, as it is a capital allocation.
- c) To approve the retention of £102,000 from the bus service allocation for review in August 2024, for On Station Facilities.
- d) To approve £113,000 of the bus service allocation to be received back to the Programme for reallocation to existing projects.
- e) To note previous approval for the virement of £102,000 from the rail station project to the Wheels to Work project to support implementation of real time information provision in Barrow Hill and Staveley and of £20,000 to Staveley 21 to deliver leisure-based wayfinding signs
- f) To approve retention of £333,000 (includes (c)) to support on-station facilities at Barrow Hill, subject to preparation of a revised business case and appropriate mechanisms being agreed with the Department for Transport and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to virement Town Deal funds to the Barrow Hill Restoring Your Railway project; and to ensure that the funding is retained for future investment in Staveley should the Barrow Hill Line not be delivered.

2. Purpose

To agree a revised project programme and funding strategy for the Barrow Hill Railway Station project, and virement of resources to ensure successful delivery of transport aspirations for Barrow Hill and Staveley.

3. Background

The Town Deal Board has previously received updates on the deliverability of a programme of transport infrastructure measures to support the future delivery of a new railway station at Barrow Hill associated with a £934,000 Town Deal funding package. The project is intended to maximise the quality of station facilities and its accessibility to and from Barrow Hill and Staveley, which is proposed to be delivered as part of the Barrow Hill Line (BHL) Restoring Your Railways Fund project. Funding decisions made by the Town Deal Board to date are:



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| Phase 1 Package (Approved July 2023) Sub total £122,000 | |
| Real time bus information signs on Route 90 | £102,000 |
| Leisure based wayfinding and finger posts (Staveley 21) | £20,000 |
| Phase 2 Package – Getting to the Station (October 2023) Sub Total £300,000 | |
| Pedestrian crossings and routes to the station | £200,000 |
| Covered and secure cycle parking | £15,000 |
| Expanded electric/ bicycle scheme | £36,000 |
| Scheme development (of which £12,000 has already been claimed and £22,000 in contract) | £49,000 |
| Community and Greenspace (retained subject to future approval) | |
| Community green space (Allotments and community garden) | £60,000 |
| Information on local attractions and historical background | £6,000 |
| Total | £488,000 |

In October 2023, the Town Deal Board agreed to retain a proportion of the remaining £333,000 towards delivery of on-station facilities at a new Barrow Hill rail station. The retention of the funding would be subject to a) a review of deliverability of public transport service improvements, and b) clarification by Summer 2024 that there was adequate confidence of the delivery of the Barrow Hill Line (BHL) from the Department for Transport (DfT) and Network Rail (NR), and appropriate financial mechanisms were in place with Department for Transport and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to retain Town Deal funding for station improvements during business case preparation and approval, and ensure it is protected for reallocation to other projects in Staveley and Barrow Hill if it did not proceed. These agreements would need to consider the current Town Deal funding horizon of March 2026.

4. Review of Bus Service Improvements

At the October 2023 Town Deal Board it was reported that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had advised that all funding associated with the Barrow Hill Station is capital funding (used for purchasing or improving assets) and therefore ineligible for (revenue) running costs associated with an enhanced bus service or demand responsive bus. Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council have explored whether there is potential to virement funding between the Town Deal funding and Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding to provide the enhanced bus services. However, it has been confirmed that this is not possible due to all BSIP revenue funding already being allocated to projects. It is therefore recommended that the proposals for enhanced bus services and demand responsive bus services, a sum of £215,000 are removed from the Barrow Hill rail station project. The County Council has though confirmed that BSIP will provide enhanced bus services in North-East Derbyshire under its existing programme. It is therefore recommended that from this funding, £102,000 be retained in the Rail Station project to support on-station facilities, which totalled £333,000 and an allocation of just £231,000 was reported. The remainder, some £113,000 be returned to the Programme for reallocation amongst existing projects who have made a request for additional funding assistance.



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5. On-Station Facilities

The Town Deal Board will recall from its October 2023 meeting that the DfT and NR will be developing the business case for BHL on the basis of Minimal Viable Product (MVP), to maximise the value for money assessment from the Restoring Your Railways Fund. Since the October 2023 Board, it should be noted the DfT and NR have set out revised milestones for business case preparation, with a decision to proceed to full business case now expected in August 2024 (previously June 2024).

It is anticipated that this MVP approach would deliver a new rail station with facilities necessary for operation, but without the enhanced passenger facilities proposed by the Town Deal fund. The DfT and NR are currently seeking confirmation of external funding contributions to support the delivery of rail stations along the BHL; and the Town Deal funding remains the primary funding source to deliver enhanced station facilities at Barrow Hill.

Retention of funding towards Barrow Hill Station will enable DfT and NR to develop the Outline Business Case with greater certainty of external funding being available and inform early rail station concept designs. A meeting has been arranged for 6th December with Government departments to discuss options for retaining Town Deal funding throughout the BHL business case process, as agreed at the October 2023 Town Deal Board meeting. This meeting will also seek to clarify retention of Town Deal funding beyond its March 2026 horizon should a late decision be made to not proceed to delivery. A verbal update of the outcome of this meeting will be provided to the December 2023 Town Deal Board meeting.

6. Project Milestones

It is proposed that the following milestones are monitored against for the delivery of the Barrow Hill Rail Station project subject to Town Deal approval of the retention of remaindering funding to on-station facilities:

December 2023: Virement of £102,000 from this project to Wheels to Work project to delivery Real Time Bus Information and virement of £20,000 from this project to Staveley 21 for way finding and signage. Milestones for Staveley 21 to be agreed to deliver leisure-based wayfinding signs.

March 2024: Approval of a revised Barrow Hill Station Project Full Business Case
Joint Government/ Town Deal funding agreement for retention of Town Deal funding for on-station facilities.

Agreement with Rural Action Derbyshire to deliver expanded package of electric bicycles to support access to Barrow Hill railway station, which could fall within the existing Wheels to Work project.

Discussions are also underway to clarify milestones and delivery approach for completion of community and greenspace projects. This is connected to the Borough Council's Housing scheme and will also require input from Barrow Hill Community Trust.

May 2024: Delivery of Real Time Bus Information Signs
Completion of BHL Outline Business Case for DfT



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| August 2024: | DfT decision to proceed to Barrow Hill Line Full Business Case |
| March 2025: | Completion of pedestrian improvements and covered cycle shelter. |
| March 2025 | Completion of electric/ bicycles project. |
| December 2025 | Completion of BHL Full Business Case and decision to proceed to construction. |

7. Business Case Implications

The recommendations set out in this report to bring forward transport measures ahead of a DfT decision whether to deliver the Barrow Hill Line project are considered to retain a Medium value for money assessment. This is because measures which support getting to the station have been assessed as having potential to deliver medium or high value for money contributions to the overall business case. Should the Board decide to accept the recommendations set out in this report, the County Council will seek to commission an updated revised Business Case and secure Board approval before undertaking delivery of measures from March 2024.