

**Name of meeting** Cabinet  
**Date** 22 August 2017  
**Title of report** Dewsbury Rail Station Gateway

**Purpose of report**

Cabinet is requested to consider expenditure of £450k from the Strategic Priorities Capital Plan which will ensure delivery of the Dewsbury Rail Station Gateway scheme.

<b>Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	Yes  Two or more electoral wards Spending exceeds £250k
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a></b>	Yes  July 24 2017
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	Yes
<b>Date signed off by Strategic Director &amp; name</b>	Naz Parkar - 10.08.17
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director - Finance, IT and Transactional Services?</b>	Debbie Hogg - 4.08.17
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director - Legal, Governance and Commissioning?</b>	Julie Muscroft - 9.08.17
<b>Cabinet member Economy</b>	Cllr Peter McBride Strategic Planning Regeneration and Transport  Cllr Naheed Mather Strategic Housing, Regeneration and Enforcement

**Electoral wards affected: Dewsbury East**

**Ward councillors consulted: None**

**Public or private: Public**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The proposed scheme involves the delivery of a high quality public space that will enhance the station forecourt, enabling comfortable pedestrian connectivity and the conditions for efficient transport movement around the space.
- 1.2 The total cost of the planned scheme is £950k of which £500k has already been secured from the Highways Local Transport - Integrated Transport Block, equally split over 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- 1.3 It is proposed to allocate £450k from the Regeneration Capital Plan for this scheme.

## 2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 Kirklees priorities in the Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Plan 2016-2036, include regenerating Huddersfield and North Kirklees. In Dewsbury, the aim is to achieve a transformational economic overhaul which includes ambitious proposals for housing growth to kick-start this revival. The North Kirklees Growth Zone (NKGZ) is a key asset in this respect.
- 2.2 The West Yorkshire Combined Authority is developing a West Yorkshire Transport Strategy to align transport policies, strategy and delivery with the objectives and targets of the refreshed Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). The refreshed Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) sets an ambition for 'good growth' by combining productivity, social and environmental outcomes.
- 2.3 Improving transport cuts across all four SEP priorities, but is central to Priority 4 (Infrastructure for Growth) which details requirements for investment in transport infrastructure and services to support the growth and regeneration of prioritised locations within the city region.
- 2.4 One of the key priorities of The Kirklees Economic Strategy is to seek to bring about improvements to the physical infrastructure: making it easier for businesses to succeed and for people to access work. The strategy recognises the importance of Dewsbury and its town centre and calls for transformational change by building on its strategic location within close proximity to Leeds.
- 2.5 At a localised level the Council is developing a series of transport interventions in and around the town centre which concentrate on bringing about improvements to make Dewsbury a better connected, more accessible town centre. The emerging implementation plan for Dewsbury is setting the scene to bring about transformational change.
- 2.6 Over 1.7 million passengers currently use Dewsbury Railway Station. It is a key economic asset for the town providing connectivity across the region the north and the UK, however currently the environment around the station provides an unattractive and poor sense of arrival into Dewsbury. As a gateway into Dewsbury, this really is a fundamental part of the town which will make a huge difference to the thousands of people who live, work and commute every day.
- 2.7 A proposal is being developed alongside Transpennine Express (TPE) to enhance and improve the 'sense of arrival' by redevelopment and public realm upgrades to the station forecourt and resulting changes to the surrounding infrastructure.
- 2.8 The proposed scheme (Appendix A) design includes:
  - Amendments to the current station parking facilities;
  - The part pedestrianisation of the area directly outside the railway station building to vastly improve surface connectivity, create a much greater public realm space and reduce conflict between different road users;
  - Retention of some aspect of drop off in the forecourt, along with facilities for taxis, cyclists and designated parking, all of which help to maintain the vibrancy of the area;

- The re-design of current crossing arrangements between the Railway station and Wellington Road to create a straight across pedestrian crossing, which sets out a clear pathway in line with main pedestrian desire lines; and
- Some highways redesign to enable all of the above mentioned improvements to be made whilst minimising any negative impact on junctions and road users.

2.9 The transformation of the Station Forecourt as part of the NKGZ is a vital first step in attracting inward investment to Dewsbury in providing a sense of arrival and uplifting the impression of the wider Town Centre and providing the catalyst for transformational change.

2.10 Kirklees Council in conjunction with WYCA will continue to work with Transpennine Express to encourage further improvements to the facilities at the station to enhance the experience of travelling to/from Dewsbury.

### 3. Implications for the Council

#### 3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

None

#### 3.2 Economic Resilience (ER)

Improved transport provision within and between Kirklees towns and with neighbouring towns and cities supports the district's economy. It will support the growth and diversification of the economy by encouraging sustainable access to employment and training opportunities.

#### 3.3 Improving Outcomes for Children

None

#### 3.4 Reducing demand of services

None

#### 3.5 Legal/Financial or Human Resources

##### 3.5.1 Legal

The Council has the necessary powers to carry out the scheme works.

It should be noted though that part of the scheme works will be carried out on land that most likely is in the ownership of Network Rail and therefore it will be necessary to obtain the approval of Network Rail and possibly also the Transpennine Express as franchisee to lawfully carry out the work on that part of the station forecourt that is not in the Council's ownership.

Part of the scheme works will also be carried out on Council land that is subject covenants in favour of Network Rail and therefore it may be necessary to obtain the consent of Network Rail to lawfully carry out these works.

### 3.5.2 Financial

The total cost of the planned scheme is £950k of which £500k has already been secured from the Highways Local Transport - Integrated Transport Block, equally split over 2017/18 and 2018/19.

It is proposed to allocate the balance of £450k from the Regeneration Capital Budget.

### 3.5.3 Human Resources

N/A

## 4. **Consultees and their opinions**

- 4.1 Cabinet is asked to approve £950k of capital expenditure funded as per 3.5.2 above to the scheme.
- 4.2 As part of the project plan a wider engagement and consultation exercise will be carried out. Where required, specific consultation will take place with individuals prior to implementation.
- 4.3 To date local ward members have been informed of the planned scheme in addition to briefings made to portfolio holders.

## 5. **Next steps**

- 5.1 Subject to Cabinet approval, the draft project plan milestones are as follows

Consultation	September/October 2017
Detailed Design	October through to December 2017
Publish Traffic Regulation Orders	December 2017
Procurement	May 2018
Appoint Contractor	June 2018
Start Construction	July 2018
Scheme Complete	December 2018

## 6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

Cabinet is requested to:

- 6.1 Agree capital expenditure of £950k for the Dewsbury Rail Station scheme.

## 7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

- 7.1 The portfolio holders for Economy - Cllr Peter McBride and Cllr Naheed Mather were briefed on the 31 July 2017 on the content of this report and were supportive of the scheme.

8. **Contact officer**

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9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

9.1 None

10. **Director responsible**

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