

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 2018**

**STATION BUILDING AT LONG HANBOROUGH**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND STRATEGIC HOUSING**

**(Contact: Will Barton, Tel: (01993) 861482)**

(The decision on this matter will be a resolution)

**1. PURPOSE**

To consider a funding request from Great Western Railway towards the cost of installing a modular station building at Long Hanborough Railway Station.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (a) That a contribution of £10,000 towards the installation of a modular station building at Long Hanborough Station be approved, to be funded from the Environmental Related Service earmarked reserve; and
- (b) That the contribution shall be conditional upon the receipt of evidence of successful funding bids for the estimated cost of the project.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. Rail travel on the North Cotswolds Line has increased substantially over the last 10 years with Long Hanborough station seeing significant growth in passenger numbers as shown in the table below.

**Long Hanborough Station annual passenger numbers:**

<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>
76,580	83,976	105,290	104,050	119,210	137,454
<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	
172,684	201,284	243,568	271,496	238,580	

Source: Government Office of Rail and Road (ORR) and GWR

- 3.2. Despite the drop off in 2016-17 caused by the opening of Oxford Parkway at the end of 2015, GWR expect to see numbers increase again. New Intercity Express Trains are being introduced on the North Cotswolds Line during 2018 with more seats and an improved passenger experience than the existing trains. Timetable improvements in December 2018 will provide an hourly service throughout the day, with additional services at peak times.
- 3.3. The key investment at Long Hanborough during the recent period of growth has been car parking. A new car park providing 241 spaces was opened in 2013 and a further 48 spaces were added in 2016.
- 3.4. While car park development has kept up with passenger numbers, there has been no investment in other passenger facilities. The station has no staff presence.

#### **4. MODULAR STATION BUILDING**

- 4.1. GWR has acquired a Modular Station Building that was previously used at Abbey Wood station but has now become redundant with the opening of a new permanent Crossrail station. The plan is to install this building at Long Hanborough and with it provide a ticket office and staff presence; a waiting room; toilet; and a retail outlet.
- 4.2. The installation of the station building is seen as the first phase in the development of Hanborough as a Strategic Park and Rail location. Future phases are being developed to include land on the west side of the line for additional car and cycle parking and additional rail infrastructure including signalling, track and the possible reinstatement of the former island platform, to facilitate rail service improvements.
- 4.3. GWR estimate the total cost of installing the station building to be £250,000. They propose to finance this as follows:

Network Rail National Stations Improvement Programme (NSIP)	£125,000
GWR Station Development Match Fund	£100,000
WODC	£10,000
OCC	£10,000
Cotswolds Line Promotion Group	£5,000

- 4.4. GWR are applying to the NSIP for half of the funds which will need to be matched. The GWR Station Development Match Fund is overseen by the Department for Transport (DfT) and requires their sign off. One of the criteria for approval is to demonstrate local support and investment hence the approaches to WODC, OCC and the CLPG.

#### **5. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS**

- 5.1. The Council could decide not to support the request but that would make it harder for GWR to demonstrate local support and put approval of their Station Development Match Fund at risk.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. In June 2017 the Council established an Environmental Related Service earmarked reserve and allocated £150,000 from underspends against the revenue budget in 2016/17. It is proposed that the contribution of £10,000 is funded through the Environmental Related Service reserve.

#### **7. RISKS**

- 7.1. There is a small risk that GWR are not successful in putting together a funding package. This risk can be mitigated by ensuring our funds are only released on receipt of a fully costed plan with evidence of other funding

#### **8. REASONS**

- 8.1. The installation of a new station building at Long Hanborough contributes to the following Council priorities:
- Protect the environment whilst supporting the local economy
  - Working with communities to meet the current and future needs and aspirations of residents.

Giles Hughes  
Head of Planning and Strategic Housing

(Author: Will Barton, Tel: (01993) 861482; EMail: [william.barton@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:william.barton@westoxon.gov.uk))

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Background Papers:

None