

**To receive a report on GWR Customer and Community Improvement Fund and consider any actions and associated expenditure**

**Report to:** Full Town Council

**Date of Report:** 03/01/2025

**Officer Writing the Report:** Development and Engagement Manager

**Pursuant to:** Meeting minutes from FTC meeting held on Thursday 5 December 2024; Minute Number 289/24/25.

**Minutes:**

It was proposed by Councillor Bickford, seconded by Councillor P Samuels and RESOLVED:

1. To endorse the draft 'case for better rail services' and support the 'Saltash Platform Train Interface Improvements', in line with Saltash Town Council Strategic Priority – Travel and Transport.
2. To delegate to the Town Clerk working with the appropriate Members to partner with train operating companies to bring both reports to fruition over the coming years.

**1. Officers Recommendations**

Members are asked to consider supporting the next steps in the development of Saltash Railway Station's improvements through the following:

- 1) Approve the application for the Customer Community Improvement Fund (CCIF) to be submitted by 31 January 2025, and delegate authority to the Development and Engagement Manager to manage this process.
- 2) Should STC be awarded the grant, provide match funding for the CCIF to support the feasibility study being carried out by Network Rail for the project's development options. This could involve contributing up to the average of 20% in match funding. For a detailed breakdown of potential costs, **please refer to Section 4.**

## **2. Report Summary**

In the FTC meeting that took place on Thursday 5 December 2024, members discussed the draft strategy for Saltash railway station, focusing on the need for future improvements to both rail services and station facilities.

After years of lobbying, Network Rail has acknowledged that the station platform is non-compliant and has provided a document outlining the initial stages of rail infrastructure improvements for Saltash station, including platform upgrades. **Please refer to this link to view the report: [25. Saltash Platform Train Interface.pdf](#)**

The proposed next steps will involve carrying out a feasibility study and incorporating additional surveys and reports to identify further health and safety enhancements for access at Saltash Station, as well as outlining the potential future actions for the project.

## **3. STC Business Plan**

This initiative directly supports STC's Strategic Priority for Travel and Transport by significantly improving the station's accessibility and facilities. By enhancing the station's infrastructure, this project will not only benefit local commuters but also contribute to creating a more inclusive and efficient transport hub for the community.

## **4. Budget Overview**

A quote from Network Rail, who will carry out the feasibility study, is still pending. However, they have been contacted regarding this request. The estimated cost for the study is between £60k and £70k, with an official cost to be provided once the quote is received.

A funding opportunity has become available through the Customer Community Improvement Fund, which opens on Monday, 6 January 2025, and closes on 31 January 2025. This fund supports railway improvement projects and offers up to £50k in funding, which could help advance this initiative.

Members are asked to consider approving STC applying for this funding, and if awarded, supporting the project with match funding. Additionally, there is potential support from Cornwall Council (CC) to support with match funding, **please note**, further conversations with CC will be had if approved.

Basing the project cost using the maximum estimate of 70k, please refer to Table 1 to see how the costings could be broken down. **Please note**, this is based on an estimated total cost, and the exact cost will be provided once quotes are obtained.

**Table 1**

<b>Project Cost (Estimate)</b>	<b>CCIF (If awarded full amount)</b>	<b>CC Match Fund (Matching 14.29%)</b>	<b>STC Match Fund (Matching 14.29%)</b>
£70k	£50k	£10k	£10K

### **Budgets**

Members are asked to consider using General Reserves for this match funding request, however, other options with available funds are shown below:

**Budget Code:** 6224 PF (Professional Costs) for the year 2024-25

**Budget Availability:** £13,679 up to 31 March 2025

**Signature of Officer:**

