

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

**Report to:** Saltash Town Council

**Date of Report:** 04/02/2025

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

**Pursuant to:** Saltash Town Council meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025:  
Meeting Minutes: **315/24/25**

**Officers Recommendations**

Members are asked to consider ratifying the costs associated with the two funding applications submitted to GWR's Customer and Community Improvement Fund (**please refer** to the budget section of this report).

**Please note**, GWR has informed us they will provide their decision on the funding applications by March 2025.

**Report Summary**

The Development and Engagement Manager, in collaboration with Cllr Bickford, have successfully overseen the submission of two funding applications to GWR's Customer and Community Improvement Fund. These were submitted on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. These projects focus on promoting the use of Saltash Railway and celebrating its heritage while addressing community needs.

The funding application has been split into two lower funding requests, instead of one larger funding amount, due to the priorities GWR are putting on small and medium sized projects.

## **Project 1: Promoting Increased Use of the Railway from Saltash**

The project aims to produce two key leaflets to promote affordable, reliable, and sustainable train travel from Saltash Railway for work, school, higher education, and leisure.

*Leisure Leaflet:* The leisure leaflet will promote the Saltash Railway as a convenient and affordable travel option for residents and visitors looking to explore local and regional attractions. It will highlight key destinations accessible by train from Saltash, encouraging local tourism and community exploration. The leaflet will focus on the benefits of using the train for leisure travel, such as reduced reliance on cars, lower environmental impact, and the convenience of affordable rail options. It aims to inspire residents and tourists to choose rail travel for day trips, weekend getaways, and exploring the local area, contributing to a more sustainable and eco-friendly tourism model. This has received support from the Devon and Cornwall Railway Partnership who have offered to support in the design of the leaflet.

*Commuter Leaflet:* The commuter leaflet will focus on the practical benefits of using the Saltash Railway for daily travel to Plymouth, particularly for work, school, and higher education. It will emphasise the affordability, reliability, and convenience of train travel, offering a cost-effective alternative to driving. The leaflet will provide clear information on timetables, ticketing, and the advantages of using the railway for daily commutes, highlighting the positive impact on reducing traffic congestion, lowering carbon emissions, and supporting sustainable commuting.

## **Project 2: Honouring the Legacy and Future of Saltash Railway**

This project is an interactive exhibition celebrating the Saltash Railway's history and its future potential. The exhibition will feature personal stories, the historical significance of the Royal Albert Bridge, and highlight the role of the railway in the community's economic, educational, and cultural development. The project aims to engage residents and visitors of all ages while promoting sustainable transport and local heritage. It will be scheduled to take place at Isambard House between September 12th–28th to coincide with the Railway200 celebrations.

Strong partnerships with local stakeholders, including the Devon and Cornwall Railway Partnership, Saltash Heritage, and Saltash Rail Users Group (SRUG) have

been secured to ensure the successful implementation of these initiatives, with SRUG offering an additional £400 in match funding to split between the projects.

Additionally, the implementation of these projects aligns with STC's Business Plans strategic priorities Travel and Transport and Boosting Jobs and Economic Prosperity by working with key stakeholders to support access to affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport in Saltash and the rural and urban areas, as well as promoting Saltash as a vibrant and welcoming visitor destination.

### **Budget Overview**

Please see below the amount of funding that has been requested from the GWR fund, and match funding from STC.

	<b>Amount of funding applied for from GWR.</b>	<b>Match funding requested from STC.</b>
<b>Project One</b>	£5,000	10% at £500
<b>Project Two</b>	£10,000	10% at £1,000
<b>Total</b>	£15,000	£1,500

### **Budgets**

**Budget Code:** 6282 EMF Funding Bids

**Availability:** £3,620

**Signature of Officer:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Smith', written over a horizontal line.