

Business Support and Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committees

BRIEFING NOTE – No 2/18

Date: May 2018

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Business Support and Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) Committees

Purpose: At the meeting of the Business Support O&S Committee on 12 April 2018, the Leader of the Council undertook, in response to a query which arose when he was held to account, to look into whether lifts at Chatham railway station were due to be installed as part of the planned improvement works at the station.

The response has also been sent to the Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment O&S Committee.

Heading: Chatham Railway Station – Access for All

1. Background



CGI: Chatham Station AfA proposals

Proposals for a Network Rail led Access for All (AfA) scheme at Chatham Station have been scoped but as yet the scheme has not been delivered by Network Rail.

The output requirement of the project is to create step free access, including a lift, to and between operational platforms from at least one station entrance. The proposed scheme at Chatham shall therefore provide step free access from the main station entrance, through the gate line, and provide step free access to both platforms. Network Rail is not proposing to make any other changes to the station building or how the station operates i.e. will not be altering the existing level access from the car parks.

Under the Hendy review, which was carried out in 2015, Chatham Station Access for All was one of a number of schemes deferred to Control Period 6 (CP6), which runs from 2019-2024¹.

The AfA scheme proposed for Chatham Station has been signed off by the Department for Transport (DfT). However, due to the financial re-planning introduced by the Hendy Review, funding for a number of stations in the programme was deferred for implementation 'post March 2019'.

Network Rail's understanding is that the DfT remain committed to delivering all stations that have been announced. However Network Rail has no details of how the funding will be allocated going forward or when an announcement by the DfT will be made. The outline design has been completed, but the project is frozen until further announcements on funding for the next control period from the Government.

Lead officer contact:

Janet Elliott, Regeneration Programme Manager, Regeneration, Culture, Environment & Transformation

01634 331023

janet.elliott@medway.gov.uk

¹ Railway funding is governed by 5 year 'control periods' which determines funding and investment in projects, including the Access for All Programme.