

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: RAIL STATIONS INVESTMENT FUND**  
**Meeting: EXECUTIVE**  
**Date: 8 OCTOBER 2013**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Committee report is to update Members on the recent study undertaken, on behalf of Falkirk Council, into the Scottish Station Investment Fund and the findings of an appraisal looking at new railway stations at Bonnybridge and Grangemouth. The study was commissioned following agreement by the Economic Strategy and Development Committee on 18 September 2012.

**2. SCOTTISH STATIONS INVESTMENT FUND**

- 2.1 Falkirk Council in association with the Regional Transport Partnership, SEStran, appointed consultants to carry out an audit of the current railway station provision within the Falkirk Council area which looked at car parking provision, access arrangements etc. The audit also included a list of station enhancements that could benefit from accessing the Scottish Stations Investment Fund. This would involve preparing a bid to the Scottish Government.
- 2.2 The audit recommends a number of minor improvements within station boundaries, such as additional tactile paving, which would be the responsibility of the rail companies. It also recommends a few improvements to adjacent bus stops and car parks which the Council can consider.
- 2.3 Falkirk Council has proposals to increase car parking at Falkirk High Station with the construction of a 51 space car park on Slamannan Road. Falkirk Council can bid for funding for these proposals through the Station Investment Fund.

**3. FALKIRK NEW STATIONS**

- 3.1 Falkirk Council, through SEStran, appointed a consultant to review and update previous work undertaken investigating the possibility of new railway stations at both Bonnybridge and Grangemouth.
- 3.2 The review and update was carried out using the general principles of the STAG format and looked at options appropriate to the problems and issues of public transport provision in both the Bonnybridge and Grangemouth areas.

- 3.3 Also included in the appraisal were the current and future proposals for the rail network in the Falkirk Council area. This included the current electrification project (EGIP), future Greenhill Junction Improvements, increase in rail freight into and out of Grangemouth and a possible High Speed Rail link between Glasgow and Edinburgh.
- 3.4 At present there is no plan to electrify the railway line north of Cumbernauld, which would have included Camelon, Larbert and Grahamston stations and the line to Grangemouth docks. Any electrification of this part of the network will form part of the 100km per annum proposed by the Scottish Government and Network Rail. There is no timetable for the delivery of this section of the network, the 100km per annum will follow on from the current Control Period 5 (CP5) which is not due to finish until 2017.
- 3.5 The report concluded that it would be advisable to delay any detailed full STAG appraisal and Business Case until the current EGIP project is completed and decisions made on Greenhill Junction Improvements and High Speed Rail between Glasgow and Edinburgh. A copy of the Executive Summary is appended to this report.

#### **4. POLICY, FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

##### **4.1 Policy**

Improvements to the rail network and services are supported by the Local Plan and Local Transport Strategy.

##### **4.2 Financial Implications**

The Council has an obligation to construct the car park for Falkirk High Station on Slamannan Road as, through grant funding from SEStran, the site was acquired and stabilised. The current estimated cost of the scheme is £960,000. The financial costs to the Council may be reduced if the Council is successful in its bid to the Scottish Government's Station Improvement Fund.

##### **4.3 Personnel Implications**

There are no direct significant personnel implications.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 It is recommended:**

- That further detailed appraisal work on potential new stations is delayed until more details are available on the following:
  - Timetable for completion of the EGIP Project in the Falkirk Council area
  - Greenhill Junction Improvements
  - High Speed Rail link between Glasgow and Edinburgh
- That, in partnership with SEStran, Falkirk Council submits a bid for funding of the Falkirk High Station Car Park from the Scottish Government's Station Improvement Fund.
- That the Council liaise with SEStran, who are submitting a bid for minor improvements at existing railway stations in the SEStran area, to include any appropriate or eligible improvements to stations in the Falkirk Council area.

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Director of Development Services

Date: 26 October 2013

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## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Delivering Strategies: Falkirk New Stations Fund**