

**Minutes of the Corsham Railway Station Town Team meeting  
held on Friday 12 August 2022 via MS Teams**

**Present**

Councillor S Abbott (Chair - Corsham Town Council)  
M Baker (MOD Corsham)  
Councillor H Belcher (Corsham Town Council and Wiltshire Council)  
N Brookes (Atkins)  
Councillor A Crockford (Corsham Town Council)  
P Deaves (GWR)  
Rt Hon M Donelan (MP)  
M Haywood (Network Rail)  
Councillor R Hopkinson (Corsham Town Council and Wiltshire Council)  
W Jiang (Atkins)  
C Johnson (Resident and Corsham Civic Society Rep)  
P Johnson (TransWilts)  
R Murphy (Wiltshire Council)  
C Nuttall (Atkins)  
D Phillips (Wiltshire Council)  
P Tapscott (Resident and Volunteer)  
A Tucker (Atkins)  
Councillor G Ward (Corsham Town Council)  
P Whalley (Resident and Volunteer)  
Councillor A White (Corsham Town Council)  
C Xi (Atkins)

**In attendance** Mrs K Gilby (Finance and Planning Officer, Corsham Town Council)

**TT 106 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from A Cudlipp (Resident and Volunteer), D Martin (Chief Executive, Corsham Town Council), P Pearson (Resident and Volunteer), A Robinson (Network Rail).

**TT 107 Welcome and Introductions**

S Abbott welcomed everyone to the meeting and those present introduced themselves

**TT 108 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 May 2022**

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

**TT 109 Matters Arising from the above Minutes**

Rt Hon M Donelan was now receiving the RYR reports.  
The idea of working groups was not being pursued.  
The Stakeholder List had been circulated and updated with suggested additions.  
A meeting had taken place between D Martin, D Perrett, R Murphy and Atkins to discuss the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

## TT 110 Update from Atkins

Members of the Atkins team provided an update on the strategic case, timetable analysis and economic case (see attached presentation). The Town Team was asked to look closely at the objectives. It was suggested that leisure and education could be covered but, in order to do this, data would be needed. It was queried why objective five was neutral; this was because not all options for the other modes had been explored. It was suggested that the text could be changed to 'not assessed'. Some areas were yet to be finalised. These were: traffic master data on congestion; to expand the section on local development, and stakeholder views and support. P Deaves commented that he may have a solution to the Cheltenham to London service and that he would contact Atkins to discuss this. The level of certainty required was queried. Network Rail was broadly happy with the assumptions that had been made at this stage. The case was not dependant on a particular service but showed that there are feasible options. There was only one possible location for a station at Corsham, which was slightly to the west of its previous site. The rail/road access point would need more work to be done if a 10-car platform was required rather than a five-car platform. The outline costs were: for a five-car platform £13,246,160 or £14,359,927 for a 10-car platform. These figures did not include all costs. In a cost comparison Corsham Station would cost less than the station at Devizes.

**ACTION:** ALL - Any comments on the SOBC Strategic Case chapter and timetable technical note should be sent to R Murphy - [Robert.Murphy@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.Murphy@wiltshire.gov.uk) Please could comments be in the document itself or, if not, clearly referenced to the relevant paragraph/section. The deadline for comments is 5pm on Friday 26 August 2022.

Atkins were thanked for all their hard work so far. The Town Team was very pleased with how things were progressing. Rt Hon M Donelan MP would set up a meeting with the Rail Minister as soon as possible to continue to highlight the case for a station at Corsham.

Next steps would include the economic case chapter and financial, commercial and management case. It was hoped that the final draft would be ready at the end of September/early October.

## TT 111 Community Engagement Survey

Councillor S Abbott updated the Town Team on the community engagement survey which closed on 5 August 2022. Over 1,500 responses had been received. Forty per cent of respondents would use the station more than once a week; the most popular destinations were Bristol and Bath and most of those who responded said that they would walk to the station. The quantitative results would be shared with the Town Team. The qualitative results would require further analysis. It was suggested that the deadline could be extended in order to gain additional responses. This would be considered, although the response rate was felt to be good. **ACTION:** KG to share the quantitative results with the Town Team. **ACTION:** RM/DM/DP to discuss extending the deadline for the survey.

**TT 112 Department for Transport Change Request**

R Murphy explained that whilst it would be possible to meet the current deadline at the end of September, this would not allow time for thorough consideration of responses to the SOBC. He recommended that a Change Request be submitted to DfT so that an as-complete-as-possible SOBC be submitted by the end of September with the final version being submitted by the end of November. This would in effect move the funding envelope forward to November.

Agreed: that R Murphy would submit a Change Request on behalf of the Town Team. **ACTION:** RM

**TT 113 Any other business**

There was none.

**TT 114 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Mid-September, exact date to be confirmed.