

TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE NETWORK RAIL UPDATE MEETING Held in Room 12, The Community College, Burnley Road, Todmorden on Wednesday 20th November at 1:00 pm

Present:	Todmorden Town Councillors: Cllr Ruth Coleman–Taylor [Chair], Cllr Michael Taylor, Cllr Tony Roberts, Cllr Andy Hollis and Cllr Pat Taylor. Todmorden Ward Councillor: Cllr Sylvia Dacre Calderdale Council: John Lewer West Yorkshire Combined Authority: Helen Ford Network Rail: Rory Kingdon
Apologies:	Cllr K White (Mayor of Todmorden)
Minutes:	Susan Miles – Assistant Town Clerk

1. Introductions and Welcome

The Chair, Cllr Coleman-Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Following introductions around the table, Cllr Coleman-Taylor thanked Mr Kingdon for joining the meeting and invited him to provide an update.

2. Update on Progress

Mr Kingdon started by saying that Todmorden had been successful in securing an allocation from different bodies of £2.4m to install two lifts at Todmorden railway station. He explained that the status of the project was Governing railways Investment Report (GRIP) stage 3. The GRIP 3 report (where one option is to be selected from the options identified) is due to be submitted to the Department of Transport (DFT) on 1 December 2019 for review. Assuming this is approved, the next stage will be GRIP 4 where the option decided upon will be developed. Following this GRIP 5 is the detailed design phase followed by GRIP 6 which is the start of physical construction. Mr Kingdon explained that it would be 18 months/2 years after the GRIP 3 approval before the work would start on the site. When concern was expressed about the long lead-in time, Mr Kingdon explained that working through the procedures stipulated by the regulatory framework to ensure health and safety was a lengthy process.

3. Accessible Toilets

Mr Kingdon said that it was important, to include an accessible toilet in the plans. This could not be 100% guaranteed though. Concern was expressed about any impact on the Platform One Art Gallery. Mr Kingdon explained that the detailed work on this had not yet been done but one option would be to use part of the current Platform One Art Gallery for the accessible toilet. It was suggested that the current toilet in the Platform One Art Gallery could be improved upon to make it accessible. Others commented that there had previously been another toilet in the station behind the ticket machine. There is also another toilet downstairs by JB Taxis. Mr Kingdon said that these suggestions would be considered.

4. Design

Mr Kingdon confirmed that a network design consultancy would be brought in to do the design, possibly Murphy's, who had done a great deal of work in accessibility recently.

5. Positioning of Lifts

Mr Kingdon said that it was 95% likely that one lift would be on the right-hand side near the entrance to the railway station. There will be another lift at the end of the underpass.

6. Drainage/Flood Prevention

Mr Kingdon explained that existing gullies will be kept clear. Concern was expressed about reports of flooding in the subway. It was thought that the water comes off the platforms and pools in the spot where one of the lifts are likely to be. Also, there was currently no drainage between the station threshold to the steps. Mr Kingdon said that drainage will be considered in the plans, but subways, by their nature, are relatively damp places.

7. Ongoing Updates and Communication About the Project

Concern was expressed about how the Town Council and the public will receive updated communication about the project as it progresses. Although Mr Kingdon is happy to receive emails and calls about the project, it was agreed that it would be better if updates were channelled through the Town Clerk. It was believed that this would aid the flow of consistent, up to date and relevant information. It was suggested that updates could usefully be done when threshold decisions/actions are taken.

Action: The Assistant Town Clerk to send the email address of the Town Clerk to Mr Kingdon.

8. Concern About Train Capacity and Timetables

Concern was expressed about the impact of the proposed accessibility improvements on train capacity/overcrowding and on train timetables. It was commented that trains were already very overcrowded, and the additional space required for wheelchairs and other equipment is likely to exacerbate this situation. Also, where wheelchair users need to use a ramp to alight a train, this may require longer waiting times at stations. Mr Kingdon said that the new Northern trains were good quality and that there had been no significant impact experienced at stations/on the overcrowding of trains or a delay to timetables where accessibility access had been improved.

9. Responsibility for Aspects of the Railway Station

Mr Kingdon said that broadly speaking, the physical aspects of the railway station was the responsibility of Network rail whilst the less tangible aspects were the responsibility of the company providing the rail service. A question was raised about which body is responsible for signage as there is a spelling mistake on the sign facing Burnley Road. Mr Kingdon was unsure who was responsible for the signage, but he would investigate it.

10. When will Payment of Agreed Budgets be Required?

Mr Kingdon explained that the budget allocation payments will be requested at the 'back end' of the project rather than being paid up front. He confirmed that the allocated funding is being made up as follows:

- Department for Transport - £2M
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority - £260,000
- Network rail - £60,000

Calderdale had also paid just under £40,000 for the GRIP 1-2 report.

11. Thanks and Closure of Meeting

Cllr Coleman-Taylor thanked Mr Kingdon for his very helpful presentation. She then closed the meeting.