

## **Item 8 – 1<sup>st</sup> July Development Committee.**

### **Todmorden Train Station Accessibility**

#### **Correspondence between Administration & Development Officer and Network Rail**

##### **To Network Rail.**

Good afternoon

I recently got in touch on behalf of Todmorden Town Council to ask for any information regarding the Todmorden Train Station accessibility project.

I was very grateful to receive a quick reply but unfortunately you weren't able to provide much information.

The Council's Development Committee recently discussed the project, the known delays (changing over from Northern to yourselves) and also the lack of information at present.

Local residents are becoming increasingly frustrated, and the Development Committee feel it would be really helpful to have some idea of the current status of the project, and therefore urge you to release any information you can, to ease resident's concerns.

The Committee will be discussing the project regularly at upcoming meetings and would be grateful to receive updates as and when available. These can be sent to [admin@todmorden-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@todmorden-tc.gov.uk)

Kind regards

Jess Norcliffe

##### **From Network Rail.**

Good Afternoon,

Thankyou again for getting in touch and for your patience.

Firstly, in the spirit of Great British Railways, I want to offer a sincere apology on behalf of the rail industry for the unacceptable delay to this Access for All (AfA) upgrade. I fully understand the frustration this has caused.

Like you, we recognise how important this scheme is for a route that has become a real cross-Pennine success story, connecting people in Lancashire and Yorkshire with skills, jobs and leisure opportunities since the Todmorden Curve reopened in 2015. Once complete, the step-free access will make it easier for even more people to travel to key destinations in the North, including Blackpool, Preston, Blackburn, Burnley, Manchester, Leeds and York - opening up journeys that are inaccessible because of physical barriers.

The positive news is that the £6.37 million of Department for Transport (DfT) and Northern funding for the AfA scheme remains in place, and Network Rail is taking this scheme forward with Story Contracting from our supply chain. At present, work is expected to begin in November 2026. I also want to reassure you that, in light of the concerns raised, the team involved is giving this scheme close attention and putting experienced people behind it. We are working to deliver it as quickly as possible, with the ambition of having it completed and available for passengers in autumn 2027.

Detailed plans are currently being developed for two lifts on either side of the subway between platforms 1 and 2. To make the best use of our supply chain, Story Contracting will set up a compound at Todmorden in the autumn straight after completing similar accessible station upgrade works at Chorley station that are due to complete in Winter 2026.

I hope this helps and further communication will shortly be sent out with more detail.

Kindest Regards,

Community Relations