

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – JOBS, ECONOMY AND
TRANSPORT**

10 September 2013

Report of the Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services

ROBIN HOOD LINE CCTV REPLACEMENT

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To approve expenditure proposals for the replacement Robin Hood Line CCTV.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The Robin Hood railway line, between Nottingham and Worksop, was reopened to passengers in stages in the 1990s. The final section between Mansfield Woodhouse and Worksop, including the four Derbyshire stations at Shirebrook, Langwith – Whaley Thorns, Creswell and Whitwell, was reopened in May 1998.

The project was planned to alleviate some of the economic and accessibility issues in the area arising from the closure of collieries. It was initiated at the time when the railway network was still nationalised and original plans envisaged that, once the project's business case was made and capital funding secured, operation would pass to the then British Rail and any revenue deficits would be met by them.

Before the Derbyshire section reopened, British Rail was privatised and new financial arrangements meant that any revenue deficit funding would have to be found by the local authorities involved, including Derbyshire County Council. Despite the project being a success in terms of passengers carried, the new financial model resulted in the local authorities having to fund very substantial revenue deficits. Subsequent discussions with the then Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) generated an agreement that the SRA would fund the revenue deficits for a Monday – Saturday operation but ancillary costs, such as CCTV provision, would remain with the local authorities. This relieved the Authority of the majority of the annual financial burden of providing the service.

This agreement has continued for a number of years. However, the age of the equipment and the ongoing cost to the Authority of the system's maintenance has prompted a review of current arrangements. The current annual revenue cost for monitoring, maintenance and line rental of the CCTV system is £66,000. Negotiations with Network Rail and, principally, East Midlands

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Trains have agreed that CCTV monitoring will be funded by the railway industry, rather than the County Council, subject to Derbyshire County Council agreeing to fund a “one-off” replacement CCTV system to current railway operating standards. All future on-going monitoring, maintenance and replacement costs would then be funded by the railway industry. The original redundant CCTV equipment also needs to be dismantled and removed at an estimated cost of up to £40,000. Approval is therefore being sought for this process.

(3) **Financial Considerations** This project was approved to go into the 2013/14 Capital Starts Programme by Full Council at its meeting on 6 February 2013, based on a £200,000 project estimate in order to make savings in future years.

The £200,000 original costings have been driven down and the replacement system has been delivered by East Midlands Trains for £59,461, based on an early completion. Costs for the removal and disposal of the old equipment are being investigated but are not expected to exceed £40,000. Therefore, the project should be delivered for around half of the original estimate.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(4) **Key Decision** No.

(5) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(6) **Background Papers** Report to Cabinet dated 29 January 2013. Correspondence held in the Environmental Services Department. Officer contact details - Kevin Williams, extension 36747.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

- 7.1 Approves the payment of £59,461 to East Midlands Trains to replace the Robin Hood Line CCTV equipment in order to transfer ongoing responsibility to rail industry.
- 7.2 Approves the expenditure of up to £40,000 to remove and dispose of redundant CCTV equipment at Derbyshire Robin Hood Line stations.

Mike Ashworth
Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services