

This matter is being dealt with by:

Jenny Hawkes

Reference: 2016/0214

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**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

20 FEB 2017

Private and Confidential

To be opened by addressee only

Edwinstowe Parish Council
Village Hall
Mansfield Road
Edwinstowe
Nottinghamshire
NG21 9NJ

Dear Sir/Madam,

15th February 2017

Petition requesting the extension of the Robin Hood Line to Edwinstowe and Ollerton

I am writing to inform you that a decision regarding a request for the extension of the Robin Hood Line to Edwinstowe and Ollerton was made at Transport and Highways Committee meeting on 9th February 2017. The relevant section of the report is below:

***Petition requesting the extension of the Robin Hood Line to Edwinstowe and Ollerton
(Ref: 2016/0214)***

1. *A 621 signature petition was presented to the 12th January 2017 meeting of the County Council by Councillor John Peck. The petition requests the County Council do everything possible to enable the extension of the Robin Hood Line to Edwinstowe and Ollerton.*
2. *The County Council supports the extension of the Robin Hood Line from Shirebrook to Ollerton, with intermediate stations at Warsop and Edwinstowe; and has been working hard since 2009 to try to secure funding to enable this to happen. Nottinghamshire County Council alone has paid for all the work undertaken to date to develop this scheme, amounting so far to nearly £225,000. No financial contribution of any sort whatsoever has been received from any other body towards any aspect of taking this scheme forward.*
3. *Currently, to enable the re-opening of the line to passenger services, funding is needed for five elements:*
 - i. *Development and design*
 - ii. *The renovation of the old stations in Warsop and Edwinstowe and construction of a new station at Ollerton*
 - iii. *Bringing the tracks, signalling and related infrastructure up to passenger line standards*
 - iv. *Alterations to Network Rail's test track; and*
 - v. *An annual revenue subsidy.*
4. *The costs of the above works are outside the scope of the County Council as the capital costs have been estimated to be in excess of £20m, with an ongoing annual revenue cost of nearly £1m per year. The only available funding sources for the capital works are either through the Local Growth Fund (negotiated between central Government and the Local Enterprise Partnership) or the New Station Fund. In order to access funding from either of these allocations, all of the match funding and other funding elements required for the project must be already committed. These multiple funding processes are outside the control of the County Council and for this scheme to move forward it therefore needs a co-ordinated commitment from within central Government.*

5. *The County Council therefore met with the new Rail Minister on 21st November to raise these issues and the Minister agreed to ask their officers to look into the scheme further. It should, however, be noted that the main funding mechanisms for any works, the Local Growth Fund and New Stations Fund, have already been allocated up to March 2021 and March 2020 respectively. The County Council is therefore unable to apply for funding for any works to extend the Robin Hood Line from these funding allocations until 2020 at the earliest. The Council will continue to seek opportunities to promote the extension and secure the necessary funding.*

6. *It is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.*

The decision will be reported for information to the next available Full Council meeting. Agendas and reports for Full Council are available via the following link:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings-and-committees/committees>

If you have any queries in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jenny Hawkes
Principal Officer LTP and Travel Planning
Nottinghamshire County Council