
To: INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY BOARD

On: 7 NOVEMBER 2018

Report by: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Heading: LOCHWINNOCH RAILWAY STATION ACCESS

1 Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 28 June 2018 the Council discussed a Motion on the accessibility of Lochwinnoch Train station and the parking provision. Council agreed “to write to Network Rail and Scotrail to ask for a review of parking provisions at Lochwinnoch Train Station including disabled parking spaces. Council will also request that the relevant authority request or make provision for disabled facilities at platform 2 at Lochwinnoch where no such facilities exist. In addition, Council also agreed, “to upgrade both the footpath at the bridge on the A761 adjacent to the train station and provide a suitable crossing to the train station to ensure it is fully accessible”.
- 1.2 Network Rail owns Lochwinnoch Railway Station car park, the railway station buildings and those structures associated with the operation of the railway station. Scotrail operates the buildings and infrastructure on Network Rail’s behalf.
- 1.3 At the current time there are around 20 spaces within the Lochwinnoch Train Station Car Park. This includes 1 disabled space and an area to drop off/ pick up. During recent site visits to the train station it has been noted that a number of commuters park on the access road to the station car park which creates the potential for obstruction within the area. There is currently no disabled access provision at Platform 2 within the train station.
- 1.4 The Council wrote to Network Rail, Scotrail and local MSPs to raise the matter with the Transport Secretary and received a response from Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity in September 2018. A copy of this letter is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. The cabinet secretary advised that there were currently no plans to extend the car park at Lochwinnoch train station. The

letter also states that based on current criteria, Lochwinnoch train station would not meet the criteria at this time for consideration of accessibility investment. The Council intends to write to the UK Government Department for Transport in relation to the accessibility of Lochwinnoch train station.

- 1.5 In relation to the improvements to the footpath at the bridge and the A760 (not the A761 as detailed in the Motion), a review has been undertaken by Environment & Infrastructure and the following interventions are planned to address the concerns raised:

- Clear the vegetation encroaching on the north footway of the A760 (from 110m west of the RSPB Visitor Centre to the road-over-rail bridge),
- Leave a clear width of 1.5m for the footpath, and
- Install a dropped kerb pedestrian crossing, with adequate advance road signs, at the entrance to the footbridge which runs parallel with the road-over-rail bridge.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board;

- 2.1 Notes the response received by the Council from the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure & Connectivity as attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.2 Approves the interventions set out at section 1.5 of this report above to improve accessibility on the footpath and road crossing on the A760.

3. Background

- 3.1 Network Rail owns Lochwinnoch Railway Station car park, the railway station buildings and those structures associated with the operation of the railway station. Scotrail operates the buildings and infrastructure on Network Rail's behalf.
- 3.2 There are around 20 spaces within the Lochwinnoch Train Station Car Park. This includes 1 disabled space and an area to drop off/ pick up. A number of commuters park on the access road to the station car park. Platform 2 at Lochwinnoch Train Station does not have disabled access provision.

4. Response to letters - Network Rail, Scotrail and Local MSPs

- 4.1 The Council wrote to Network Rail, Scotrail and local MSPs. A response was received from Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity in September 2018. A copy of this letter is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. The Cabinet Secretary advised that there were currently no plans to extend the car park at Lochwinnoch train station. The letter also states that based on current

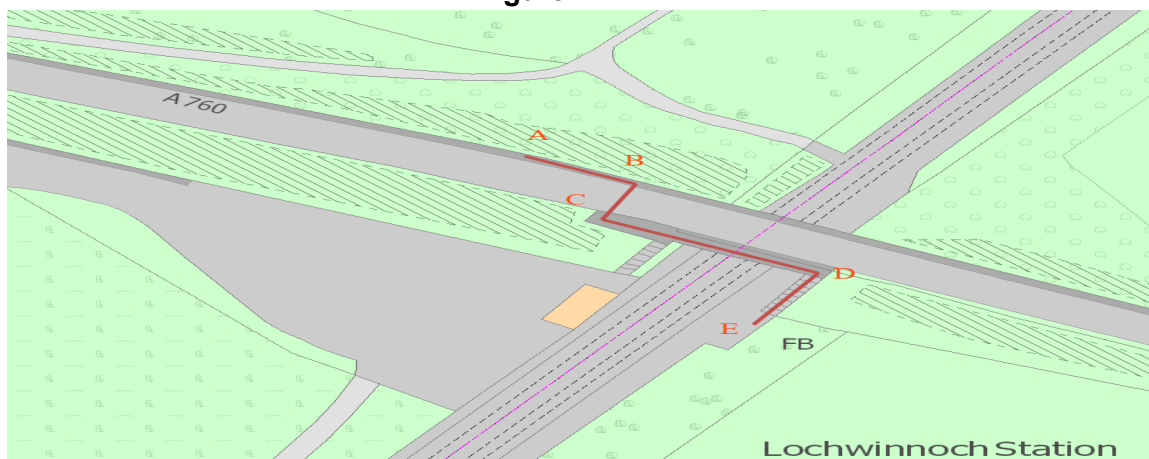
criteria set by the UK Government Lochwinnoch train station does not meet the criteria at this time for the accessibility investment.

- 4.2 The Council has not received a response to the initial letter sent to Scotrail and will write to them again, including sending an update on the review as stated in the Cabinet Secretary's letter

5. A760 Footpaths and Accessibility

- 5.1 To access Platform 2 on foot from the A760 pedestrians follow the paths marked A and B shown in figure 1 below. The footpath has become overgrown and will be cut back to provide a path that is around 1.5 meters wide.
- 5.2 At the natural crossing point at point B (of figure1) directly opposite the opening to the railway station Platform 2, the kerb is raised and the surface on the railway side of the A760 is rough. The kerb will be dropped at point B in figure 1 and the hardstanding improved at point C in figure 1 next to the entrance to platform 2.
- 5.3 The signage to alert to a crossing will be enhanced along with road markings indicating the crossing point.
- 5.4 The works set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3 will be undertaken before the 31st December 2018.
- 5.5 The points shown from C to E on the map in figure 1 is Network Rail Infrastructure.

Figure 1





Appendix 1

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and
Connectivity

Michael Matheson MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Mr Ken Graham
Head of Corporate Governance
Renfrewshire Council
Renfrewshire House
Cotton Street
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PA1 1TT

Our ref: 2018/0028765

11th September 2018

Dear Ken,

Thank you for your letter of 3 July 2018 concerning parking provisions and accessibility concerns at Lochwinnoch train station.

Firstly I would like to acknowledge Renfrewshire Council's planned upgrades to the local footpaths which will improve access to Lochwinnoch station. I'm sure this will be welcomed by the local community and passengers using the station.

It is recognised that car parking spaces at many stations are at a premium and that is why ScotRail are working to deliver an additional 1,000 spaces across the network during this franchise. There are currently no plans to extend the car park at Lochwinnoch station, however I have asked officials to work with ScotRail to review this along with demand for disabled parking provisions and to consider as part of future opportunities.

I understand the difficulties passengers experience when using Lochwinnoch station. However, with the limited funding available, we are having to prioritise which stations receive improvements.

As you know, currently accessibility legislation is reserved to the UK Government and this means investment needed to make stations accessible is decided by them. The nomination for stations for the next control period (CP6) is currently being developed by the Department of Transport (DfT) and we are required to submit proposals based on a criteria set by them. Unfortunately my officials assessment suggests that Lochwinnoch does not meet the criteria set.

Whilst I am not able to commit to delivery of improvements for your station in the short term, my officials will continue to review the priorities list for future opportunities should the criteria change and more funding become available.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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www.gov.scot



I would like to assure you that the Scottish Government is keen for all stations to be accessible and will continue to invest in accessibility projects within our affordability window.

It should be noted ScotRail do have policies in place to support passengers that require assistance when travelling including providing accessible transport options if a station is not fully accessible. Further information regarding ScotRail's accessibility policy can be found at: <https://www.scotrail.co.uk/plan-your-journey/accessible-travel>

I also understand ScotRail's Social and Inclusion Manager is reviewing facilities at Lochwinnoch and will be in contact to discuss.



MICHAEL MATHESON

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – The works as outlined at 1.5 shall be met from within existing departmental resources.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community / Council Planning** –
4. **Legal** – None.
5. **Property/Assets** –
6. **Information Technology** – None.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. Some negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified and not all can be fully mitigated. Despite the potential for adverse impact it is believed that it is reasonable and proportionate to take the action recommended in the report and a full explanation for this decision is contained within this report. In addition, Scotrail do have policies in place to support passengers that require assistance when travelling including providing accessible transport options if a station is not fully accessible. Further information regarding Scotrail accessibility policy can be found at: <https://www.scotrail.co.uk/plan-your-journey/accessible-travel>.
8. **Health & Safety** – None.
9. **Procurement** – None.
10. **Risk** – None.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
12. **CoSLA Policy Position** - None

List of Background Papers: None

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