

Askam Station Improvements Report Joint Summary Report

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Cumbria County Council (CCC), Barrow Borough Council (BBC) and Sellafield Limited (SL) have been working in partnership to undertake the Askam Station Improvements Report, which is part of the Whitehaven Parking Study. The Report identifies parking needs and improvements at Askam Station. The Report will also help to inform future design work for proposals to enhance the station and encourage sustainable modes of travel.
- 1.2 Consultants WSP were appointed in February 2019 to undertake the Study, which is funded by SL through the Planning Performance Agreement (PPA).
- 1.3 This Joint Summary Report is being used by each of the partner organisations to provide a consistent overview of the preparation of the Report; an outline of the packages of improvements and next steps to be support their delivery and implementation.
- 1.4 The packages of improvements presented in the Report have been developed in partnership and include the following:
- A description of each intervention
 - Design and strategy considerations and potential benefits/disbenefits
 - Risks to delivery
 - An indicative cost
 - The purpose of the intervention and key considerations
 - An indicative delivery programmes (from when funding is secured and approvals obtained to deliver the project).
- 1.5 The delivery of the packages of improvements is subject to funding being secured. The Report provides the evidence (based on a robust assessment and defined methodology) to support the partner organisations in seeking to secure funding from internal and external funding sources. It is recognised that further scheme development will be required for some of the packages of improvements and at that stage further stakeholder engagement/ public consultation will be undertaken.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the partner organisations; Barrow Borough Council; Cumbria County Council and Sellafield Limited:**
1. **Endorse the proposals of the Askam Station Improvements Report for (as set out in the Appendix),**
 2. **Agree to continue to work together to explore the opportunities to secure funding and co-ordinate delivery of the improvements;**
 3. **Support the use of the strategy and station improvement reports to inform future planning policy and the development and management of parking in Askam.**

3.0 Background

3.1 The objectives of the study were to:

1. Develop a robust and integrated strategy to address the parking requirements and to manage parking in Askam and the impacts on the village and its users
2. Meet the needs and requirements of Sellafield by encouraging staff to use rail travel, and sustainable transport modes reducing pressure on limited staff parking
3. Support and help deliver Sellafield's Transformation Plan, Transport and Movement Strategy and Accommodation Strategy
4. Ensure that parking is appropriate, in the right locations and best meets the requirements of businesses, commuters, visitors and residents
5. Reduce environmental emissions and traffic congestion, by reducing the total volume of traffic movements through the town centre and encouraging sustainable alternatives.
6. Enable improvements to railway stations to encourage a greater number of Sellafield staff and other commuters to use rail, thereby reducing traffic on the A595, reducing congestion and accidents.

Askam

3.2 The boundary area for the study was the centre of Askam and the immediately adjacent residential areas, as defined on the map below:



3.3 A clear and robust governance structure was put in place to ensure the people involved in the preparation of the study understood their role. A Project Board, with senior officers from each of the partner organisations was established to provide strategic

direction. A Project Delivery Group of technical officers from each of the partner organisation and the appointed consultants (WSP) was also established to ensure that all technical knowledge and advice was captured in the preparation of the study.

3.4 At the start of the preparation of the study, the Project Delivery Group developed a Communication and Engagement Plan. This plan set out the approach to stakeholder engagement and identified the range of stakeholders to be involved. Whilst no wider public consultation was undertaken as part of the preparation of the study, it is recognised that further scheme development will be required to support the delivery of some of the packages of improvements and at that stage further stakeholder engagement and public consultation will be undertaken.

3.5 The study has been carried out in stages as set out below:

- **Baseline and Issues:**
 - Confirm existing parking supply at the station
 - Identify access arrangements and main linkages to the station
 - Develop future scenarios to forecast parking demand
 - Define the problems / deficiencies with parking
- **Improvement Options:**
 - Confirm existing parking supply at the station
 - Identify access arrangements and main linkages to the station
 - Develop future scenarios to forecast parking demand
 - Define the problems / deficiencies with parking
- **Strategy and Improvement Plans:**
 - Produce concept designs and cost estimates
 - Develop a parking strategy and programme for the delivery of the improvements
 - Prepare Station Improvement Plans

4.0 Askam Station Improvements

4.1 The potential package of improvements aim to address localised parking issues in Askam village related to the railway station and to improve the station environment. The following schemes were identified, from which a preferred set of options:

- ID A02 Extend short stay restrictions on Duke St;
- ID A04 Road markings and signage;
- ID A05 Greater enforcement of parking restrictions;
- ID A06 Promote use of Bowls Club car park for station users;
- ID A07 Negotiate arrangement for station users to park in Rugby Club car park;
- ID A09 Negotiate arrangement for station users to park in Duddon Sports & Social Club car park (not recommended to proceed);
- ID A10 Partial use of REC02 site (for 9 houses) (not recommended to proceed);
- ID A11 Construct car park on vacant land along Dalton Road (not recommended to proceed);
- ID A16 Askam Station refurbishment;
- ID A17 Reconfigure Askam station entrance;
- ID A18 Install cycle parking at Askam station; and
- ID A19 Work with Sellafield to address inconsiderate parking behaviour.

These potential improvements are shown in more detail in Appendix A.

5.0 Implementation

- 5.1 The package of improvements presented in the Report has been developed jointly with the co-operation of partners and in consultation with stakeholders. The delivery of the improvements is subject to funding being secured. The Report provides the evidence (based on a robust assessment and defined methodology) to support the partner organisations in developing policy and in seeking to secure funding from internal and external funding sources. It is recognised that further scheme development will be required for some of the improvements and at that stage further stakeholder engagement and public consultation will take place. Consultation would also be carried out before the implementation of any improvement that has potential impacts on residents, businesses and other stakeholders.
- 5.2 To maintain momentum, the partners will establish an officer working group that will meet regularly to review progress, identify funding opportunities and support the delivery of the packages of improvements. Updates on progress on the delivery of the packages of improvements will be reported through the partner organisation's committee structures.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 The Report presents a coherent strategy with a package of improvements for Askam. The Report has been developed with the co-operation of the partner organisations and the engagement of stakeholders. Whilst the delivery of the improvement measures is subject to funding being secured, the Report provides a robust evidence base to help the partners secure funding from internal and external sources and to support policy development. The establishment of an officer working group will help to maintain momentum and help the partners work together to deliver the improvements.

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