

# COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Meeting date: 7 July 2020

From: Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

## ASKAM STATION IMPROVEMENTS REPORT

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 *The purpose of this report is to update local members on the outcome of the Askam Station Improvements Report (which was undertaken as part of the Whitehaven Parking Study).*
- 1.2 *Cumbria County Council (CCC) has been working in partnership with Sellafield Limited (SL) and Barrow Borough Council (CBC) to undertake the Askam Station element of the Whitehaven Parking Study (the Study). The Study has considered parking needs and improvements in Whitehaven town centre and at three railway stations (Bransty, Corkickle and Askam in Furness). The Study will inform the planning, development and management of parking in these locations. It will also help to inform future design work for proposals to enhance the stations and encourage sustainable modes of travel.*
- 1.3 *The Study has been undertaken by consultants WSP and was funded by SL through the Sellafield Planning Performance Agreement (PPA).*

### 2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 *The Whitehaven Parking Study has been prepared jointly with the co-operation of the partners and was developed with support and input from stakeholders representing a range of statutory and non-statutory groups (including local councillors, landowners, businesses and interest groups).*
- 2.2 *The Study identifies an improvement strategy for the management and future development of parking, and improved opportunities for walking and cycling, and to encourage travel by rail.*
- 2.3 *If the improvements are taken forward, the Study will help to deliver the following Council Plan outcomes:*
  - *People in Cumbria are healthy and safe*
  - *Places in Cumbria are well-connected and thriving*
  - *The economy in Cumbria is growing and benefits everyone.*

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

#### **3.1 That Cumbria County Council Local Committee for Barrow;**

- ***Endorses the proposals of the Askam Station Improvements Report (as set out in the Appendix),***
- ***Agrees to continued partnership working with Barrow Borough Council and Sellafield Limited to explore the opportunities to secure funding and to co-ordinate delivery of the improvements.***
- ***Supports the use of the report to inform future infrastructure planning and the development and management of parking measures and station improvements in Askam;***

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Consultants WSP were appointed in February 2019 to undertake the Whitehaven Parking Study, which includes the Askam Station Improvements Report. The Study considered parking issues and potential station improvements in Askam.
- 4.2 The Study has resulted in a parking strategy for Whitehaven and a station improvements report, including Askam. The Station Improvements Report identifies schemes to create parking and other improvements at Askam railway station and the surrounding area. A summary report setting out the background to the study and an outline of the recommendations is set out in Appendix 1. This summary report (or a similar briefing document) can also be used by Barrow Borough Council (BBC) and SL.
- 4.3 Local Members have been briefed at key points during the study work, with a final joint briefing of local Members (CCC and BBC) taking place on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Members have indicated their support in principle throughout the process and keen to find a solution to the issue of on-street commuter parking around the station. A stakeholder workshop was held in Barrow at the Nan Tait Centre on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 to discuss and receive feedback on the issues and improvement options.
- 4.4 The final output of the study is a Station Improvements Report which has identified a package of schemes for Askam station and the surrounding area.
- 4.5 The delivery of the improvements is subject to funding being secured. The Study was prepared using a robust evidence based approach and provides the basis to support the partner organisations in seeking to secure funding from internal and external sources. It is recognised that further scheme development will be required for some of the improvements and at that stage further stakeholder engagement/ public consultation will be undertaken.

- 4.6 To maintain momentum and support the delivery of the improvements, CCC will establish an officer delivery group with the partners to explore funding opportunities and to co-ordinate and monitor progress. There is regular dialogue with Sellafield Limited on transport and movement matters, which provides an opportunity for dialogue. Updates on progress on the delivery of the packages of improvements will be reported through the partner organisation's committee structures, including to Members of Local Committee.

## **5.0 OPTIONS**

- 5.1 To accept the recommendations of the Askam Station Improvements Report, to use the document to inform planning and parking policy and support the establishment of an officer delivery group to maintain momentum and help the partners work together to deliver the improvements. This option recognises that the study has given proper consideration to the issues, has met its objectives and is therefore a sound basis to move forward. The officer delivery group will enable the joint working on the study to continue and offers the best chance to deliver parking improvements in Whitehaven.
- 5.2 To accept the recommendations of the Askam Station Improvements Report and to use the document to inform planning and parking policy. Do not agree to the establishment of an officer group to consider the delivery and ongoing review of the proposals. This option would risk losing momentum and failing to capitalise fully on the study work.
- 5.3 To reject the recommendations of the Askam Station Improvements Report. This option assumes that the study has not met the objectives and is not a sound basis to proceed.
- 5.4 The first option, set out in paragraph 5.1, is the recommended way forward.

## **6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct resource or value for money implications arising from the recommendations in section 3. The resource implications of any planning and implementation proposals would need to be considered as they are identified.

## **7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Local committee is empowered to liaise with other bodies delivering services in the area, to seek to co-ordinate planned activities, and to improve services for the residents of the area by working together as effectively as possible. You may determine how best to make representations to the relevant decision maker on community regeneration and infrastructure development by establishing working groups or sub-groups to progress key areas of work between meetings of the local committee.

## 8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Askam Station Improvements Report presents a coherent programme of measures to improve the station and parking situation in Askam. The Study has been developed with the co-operation of the partner organisations. Whilst the delivery of the improvement measures is subject to funding being secured, the Study provides an evidence base to support the partner organisations to secure funding from internal and external sources. The establishment of an officer delivery group will help to maintain momentum and help the partners work together to deliver the improvements.

**Angela Jones**  
**Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure**

13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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### APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Askam Station Improvements - Joint Summary Report  
Appendix 2 – “APPENDIX A: Askam Improvement Options”

Electoral Division: Dalton North

Executive Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

***N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and necessary approvals have been obtained.***

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**  
*[including Local Committees]*

*No previous relevant decisions.*

**CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

*Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.*

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

*No background papers.*

**REPORT AUTHOR**

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