

Forum Area or Division:	Eden - Kirkby Stephen
Reference:	CGA/758-21
Group Name:	Stainmore Railway Company Ltd
Community Development Officer:	Kellie Bradburn- Sims
Community Development Assistant:	Amy Frith
Amount Requested:	£7,500.00
Total Project Cost:	£25,300.00

APPLICATION REPORT

Application Summary

Stainmore Railway Company are a 'Not for Profit' limited company established in 2006. The company is run entirely by volunteers, all profits generated are re-invested into the work of the railway company.

The company are located at and care for Kirkby Stephen East historic station and steam railway, which originally opened in 1861. The station is home to a number of historic Victorian and other vintage locomotives, carriages and wagons, as well as a small railway museum.

Due to the pandemic, SRC have been unable to operate passenger trains since their local community 'Santa' service in December 2019 but plan to recommence public trains from next April.

The railway reopened to the general public as a static museum when all restrictions were finally removed in July. However, many visitors indicated they are still very wary of being in confined spaces with others outside their immediate group and reluctant to book passenger experiences which provides an important source of income for the railway renovation. Other heritage railways have shared similar feedback with SRC on passenger services following COVID. As a result, those who have recommenced passenger services have done so with compartment coaches rather than 'open' stock, enabling visitors to be kept as safe as possible in discreet family groups whilst travelling.

To enable SRC are able to provide the same offer the company are undertaking the renovation of a 7 compartment 1903-built North Eastern Railway coach. To complete the renovation and return the coach to operational condition, further funding is required to cover the repair costs estimated at £25300.

Though the majority of the repair work will be undertaken by volunteers, specialist work will need to be sourced for elements of the repairs. The renovation project will aim to be completed by the end of March 2022 ready to relaunch passenger services at Easter.

The COMF funding will ensure that passenger services provided at SRC are able to resume in COVID secure environments and with digital elements where appropriate.

Key Themes Met

COMF Capacity Building Fund;

The project meets the criteria of the Capacity Building Fund by enabling the Stainmore Railway Company to:

- Deliver a new service and meet demand created by the pandemic

The project also supports Cumbria County Council's vision, included in the Council plan, that it will be an effective and efficient organisation that delivers the best possible services for the people of Cumbria within its available resources, protects the most vulnerable and works with other in the community to shape the services and help find solutions for the future.

in addition, the project supports the strategic priorities of Eden Districts Corporate Plan 2019 - 2023 'Creative': which aims to

support businesses to respond to national and global changes, and help to develop cultural activities that add to town centre vibrancy.

Number of People Benefiting

100 +

Breakdown of Project Costs

Total Project Costs: £25,300

£14,000 - Specialist external repainting and internal redecorating of compartments (includes £1,000 Gold Leaf and £1,000 general materials)

£5,000 - Specialist timber repairs (materials and labour)

£3,500 - Specialist upholstery repairs to compartment seats

£2,000 – 28 sections of toughened safety glass for compartment windows (to replace the current material)

£800 - Canvas and canvas bond (to replace section of roof canvas which has to be removed to replace water-damaged boards)

Project Income:

Stainmore Railway Company fundraising £14,000 confirmed.

COMF Capacity Building Fund £7500

Further funding will be raised by the Clerestory For Kirkby appeal to cover the shortfall in funding.

Previous CCC Funding

None

Grant Amount Recommended

£7500

Officer comments

Comments from Elected Member(s) / Neighbourhood Forum / Grant Panel

Member Signature:

Date: