

Mouchel Parkman study progress

North Area Panel 16 January 2007, item 5

Committee: North Area Panel

Agenda Item

Date: 16 January 2007

5

Title: Audley End and Great Chesterford Stations – Mouchel Parkman Study

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Item for decision

Summary

This progress report sets out the current position on the funding of works identified in the Mouchel Parkman study. The Panel requested this progress report at its last meeting.

Recommendations

That the Panel note the current situation.

Background Papers

Mouchel Parkman Audley End and Great Chesterford stations summary document.

Impact

Communication/Consultation	By ECC / Network Rail
Community Safety	Improved access to railway stations for people with disabilities
Equalities	Improved access to railway stations for people with disabilities and provide social inclusion.
Finance	ECC and DfT funding
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	None
Ward-specific impacts	Wenden Lofts and The Chesterfords
Workforce/Workplace	Officer / Member input to ECC and Network Rail

Situation

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- 1 At its meeting on 12 September 2006, the Panel received a report on a study prepared by Mouchel Parkman for Essex County Council about the condition of and access to Audley End and Great Chesterford stations. Having considered the report the Panel resolved, *inter alia*, that the study be referred to the next meeting of the Uttlesford Transport Forum with a further report to the next Panel meeting.
- 2 The Transport Forum met on 24 October and received a short presentation on the Mouchel Parkman study from Linda Smart, who is ECC's Transport Development Manager. She emphasised that the final published report was very large and detailed and as a result a summary had been prepared. The summary omitted recommendations that ECC considered were either beyond the scope of LTP2, were too expensive or over-ambitious.

Works Funded from LTP2

- 3 The Transport Development Manager explained that LTP2 funding (£25k) is available this current financial year for works to the forecourt area of Audley End station. ECC's contractors are able to undertake these works promptly, which would include items such as improved circulation for buses, cycle parking, passenger shelter / flagpole and telematics whilst retaining the same number of car parking spaces. A plan of the remodelled forecourt area was shown to the Forum, which welcomed the proposals.
- 4 The Transport Development Manager explained that LTP2 funding (£25K) is also available this financial year for works at Great Chesterford, where the main need is for car and cycle parking (including spaces for people with disabilities). Issues requiring resolution are the condition of the access road, the extent of works that can realistically be done with the available funding and identifying any dangers to / from the running line. The representative from the Parish Council strongly supported these proposals and was keen for impetus to be maintained.
- 5 The need to spend the money in this financial year means that further local consultation on the works is unlikely if timescales are to be met. An update on the schemes that can be done will be given by ECC at the next Transport Forum meeting in January 2007.

"Access for All" Funding

- 6 On November 10, the Government announced that Audley End station has been included in the second round of the DfT's "Access for All" funding. This is a ring fenced fund of over £370m through to 2015, which will improve facilities at stations for people with disabilities. The aim is to provide an obstacle free accessible route from station entrances to and between all platforms. Officers understand, therefore, that this will include access to the northbound platform. The funding is provided over and above commitments

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made in franchises, ongoing renewal of stations and major station improvement projects. The works will be carried out by Network Rail following engagement with relevant stakeholders and will be completed between 2009-11. The scale of the improvements at Audley End has yet to be identified.

- 7 A consequence of this announcement is that the bid that had been made by ECC with the help of the Uttlesford Access Group for small schemes funding (up to £250k) under "Access for All" has been rejected. The reason for rejection was to consider whether the bid was still necessary in the light of the November 11 announcement. Had this bid been successful, it would have match funded ECC's contribution for this financial year and would have been used for works to Audley End station falling within the remit of "Access for All". However, the level of funding would have been small compared to what is likely to be available in 2009.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
None	None	None	None