

Restoring Your Railway – Devizes & Corsham Stations

Ideas, Infrastructure & Ideas Subgroup

18 Jan 2022

DfT's Restoring Your Railway (RYR) Fund

- The Department for Transport (DfT) launched a £500 million Restoring Your Railway Fund in January 2020.
- Invited MPs, local councils and community groups to propose how they could use funding to reinstate axed local services and restore stations.
- Funding is split in 3 ways to support projects at different stages of development:
 - Ideas Fund
 - Advanced proposals
 - Proposals for new and restored stations

Restoring Your Railway – Ideas Fund Bids

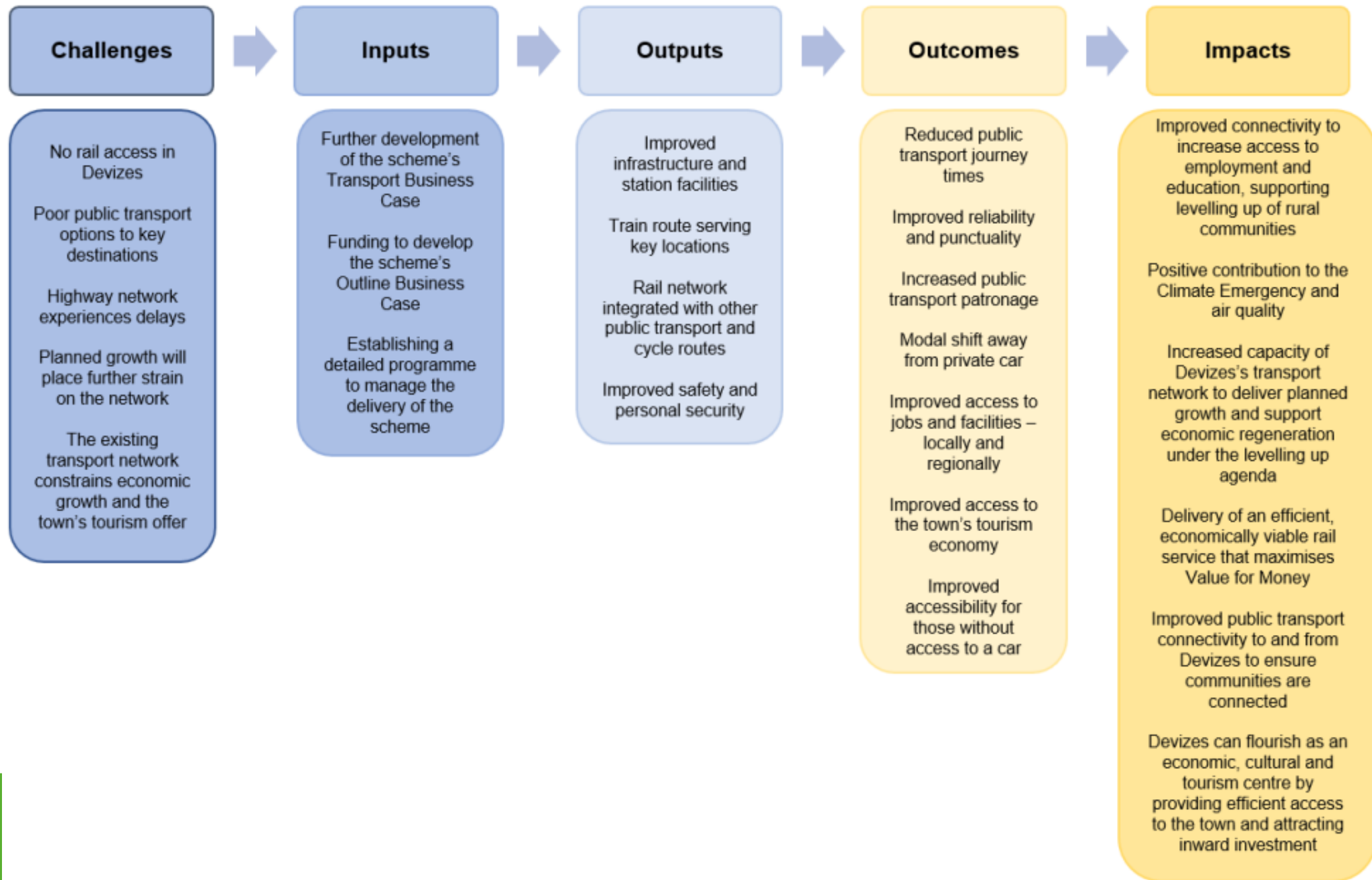
- Round 1:
 - Devizes Gateway Station: successful bid. SOC submitted in November.
 - Melksham Single Track Improvement: unsuccessful bid.
 - Westbury Station Hub: unsuccessful bid.
- Round 2:
 - Restoring secondary services on the GWML: unsuccessful bid.
- Round 3:
 - Corsham Station: successful bid.
 - Wilton Junction Station: unsuccessful bid.

Devizes Gateway Station

- Development of SOC involved close working with local partners including Danny Kruger MP, Devizes Development Partnership, SWLEP, Great Western Railway and Network Rail.
- Overall the SOC puts forward a strong strategic case.
- Station is viable from an operational (train service) perspective.
- However, estimated BCR is poor (with associated infrastructure) to low (without associated infrastructure) although this is sensitive to key assumptions.



shire Council



Estimated Scheme Costs

- The estimated scheme costs (2021 prices and with 56% optimism bias) are:
 - Devizes Gateway Station: £29.7m
 - Bedwyn Loop: £9.8m
 - Westbury Additional Platform: £8.6m.
- The respective CAPEX costs are: £19.1m; £6.3m; and £5.5m.
- A high level benchmarking exercise was undertaken against costs for 6 new stations in the West Midlands CA – these ranged from £15.8m to £22.4m.
- Annual operating costs for both the station and the extended train services have been estimated by GWR to be £1.7m per annum.

Funding

- DfT will fund up to 100% of further development costs up to FBC/Final Investment Decision. Devizes Town Council has committed £34,000 to the development of the OBC.
- In terms of scheme delivery, the DfT will consider the level of local contribution when assessing whether a scheme should proceed to delivery.
- The DfT states that 15-25% of the costs of transport infrastructure projects are routinely sourced from local contributions although it is appreciated that this may not be possible in all areas.
- Funding sources that will be explored include Wiltshire Council's ITB, S106s / CIL and the Levelling Up Fund. Potential to also investigate land value uplift / land value capture (e.g. E-Rail model).

Outline Programme

Milestone	Date
Further business case development: scheme development, modelling, construction methodology, finance and funding options	2022-2023
Planning, design, approval and procurement	2023-2025
Construction and testing	2025-2027
Operation	2027

Corsham Station

- DfT feedback:
 - A strong bid with well described benefits.
 - Potential catchment for the station is significant.
 - Main challenge is the development of a suitable train service.
 - Further investigation into heavy rail alternatives is recommended.
- SOC scope required by Feb 22 and SOC document by Sept 22.
- Atkins to be commissioned.
- To work with Corsham Town Team which includes Michelle Donelan MP – SWLEP involvement?
- To liaise with Great Western Railway and Network Rail.

Provisional Objectives

- **Improve connectivity** to and from Corsham.
- **Respond to popular demand for a station to meet local needs** and accommodating housing and population growth.
- **Improve local business efficiency and sustainability** by providing more attractive rail access to local businesses.
- **Reduce public transport journey times** to nearby key employment centres.
- **Provide an affordable travel option** particularly for those households without cars, students and young people.
- **Reduce car modal share for journeys to and from Corsham**, thereby reducing peak period congestion and contributing to meeting targets on greenhouse gas reduction.
- **Contribute to rebalancing and growing the economy** in line with SWLEP and WGSTB strategies.
- **Improve sustainable transport access for international and national visitors** to Corsham through marketing of the Great West Way and Cotswolds AONB.

Questions / Comments?