

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 18th April 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Cabinet Member (Planning & Transport)
Councillor D Mackenzie

SUBJECT: **PROVISION OF NEW RAIL HALTS -
BILTON AND KNARESBOROUGH EAST**

WARD/S AFFECTED: Granby, High Harrogate, Woodfield, Bilton and
Knaresborough Wards

FORWARD PLAN REF: N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 At the Council meeting on 7th March 2007, Councillor Kevin Hawkins proposed the following Notice of Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Christine Willoughby:

That this Council calls upon NYCC to enter into immediate negotiations with Northern Rail and Network Rail to provide new rail halts for Bilton and for Knaresborough East.

- 1.2 The Notice of Motion was referred to the former Cabinet Member (Planning and Transport) who subsequently met with Councillors Hawkins and Rothwell on 21st March 2007.

2.0 RESPONSE TO THE NOTICE OF MOTION

- 2.1 At the meeting with Councillors Hawkins and Rothwell the main issues discussed were: -

1. The rail halts have been identified in NYCC's Local Transport Plan for many years but there has not been much progress;
2. There is strong local support;

3. The station in Knaresborough is not accessible and there is little parking other than in the nearby residential streets;
 4. Many commuters currently drive to Cattal or Pannal, where there is better parking; journeys that would be unnecessary if the 2 new stations were provided; and
 5. Both stations were included and received support in the Harrogate and Knaresborough Integrated Transport Study.
- 2.2 The provision of the 2 new stations will play an important role in improving access to public transport and they will also make a significant contribution in our efforts to reduce traffic congestion. In addition, they will meet one of the key objectives within the City Region by improving connectivity.
- 2.3 It was generally accepted in the discussion with the local Members that the full cost of the new stations could not be met from the County Council's Local Transport Plan because of the cost, which would probably be in excess of £1m for each station. It was, therefore, agreed that other potential sources of funding should be examined, such as Yorkshire Forward, via Renaissance Knaresborough, and the City Region.
- 2.4 If the new stations are introduced it is likely that revenue to the train operating companies will increase. Therefore, I feel that Northern Rail and Network Rail should also contribute to the cost of the new stations.
- 2.5 At the meeting with the local Members the former Cabinet Member agreed to support the Notice of Motion and to raise the issue at the next Joint Executive Member meeting with NYCC. I concur with that decision and I will now take up the matter.

Background Papers – None

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact Mr J D Burton, Head of Highways & Transport if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at the Department of Development Services, Knapping Mount, West Grove Road, Harrogate, by telephone on 01423 556606 or by Email – john.burton@harrogate.gov.uk.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT / POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

		Implications are		
		Positive	Neutral	Negative
A	Economy		✓	
B	Environment		✓	
C	Social Equity			
i)	General		✓	
ii)	Customer Care / People with Disabilities		✓	

iii)	Health Implications		✓	
D	Crime and Disorder Implications		✓	

If all comments lie within the shaded areas, the proposal is sustainable.