

MINUTES

Meeting: Devizes Area Board

Place: Online Meeting

Date: 15 March 2021

Start Time: 6.30 pm Finish Time: 9.00 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Anna Cuthbert, Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Simon Jacobs (Chairman), Cllr Laura Mayes (Vice-Chair) and Cllr Philip Whitehead

Wiltshire Council Officers

Dominic Argar (Assistant Multimedia Officer), Andrew Jack (Community engagement Manager) and Tara Shannon (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

Town and Parish Councillors

Erlestoke Parish Council Devizes Town Council Little Cheverell Parish Council West Lavington Parish Council Worton parish Council

Partners

Wiltshire Police
Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

Total in attendance: 53

Minute No	Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision
87	<u>Welcome</u>
	The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting, ran through the procedures for remote meetings and invited Members to introduce themselves.
88	Apologies for Absence
	Apologies for absence had been received from:
	 Georgina Keily-Theobald, Headteacher, Downlands School Ralph Plummer, Headteacher, Lavington School
89	<u>Minutes</u>
	The minutes of the last meeting were considered. It was;
	Resolved:
	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2021.
90	Declarations of Interest
	Cllr Richard Gamble and Cllr Peter Evans both declared an interest in agenda item 16, Area Board Funding. In particular the grant application from the Wiltshire Museum as they were trustees, and the application from the Devizes Development Partnership as they were directors. Therefore, they would not vote on those items.
91	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u>
	The Chairman, along with Cllr Laura Mayes, made the announcements as detailed within the agenda.
	In addition, under the Last Area Board before the May elections announcement the Chairman thanked everyone who had been involved in the last 4 years. Particular thanks were passed on to the retiring councillors who were not standing again at the May elections and a brief summary given of some of the work they had undertaken during their tenure. The retiring councillors were:
	 Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Richard Gamble and Cllr Anna Cuthbert.
	Cllr Nigel Carter (Devizes Town Council), Cllr Wes Parfitt (Chair of Little

Cheverell Parish Council), Cllr Julia Ford (Chair of West Lavington Parish Council), Cllr Stan Jonik (Chair of Erlestoke Parish Council) and Liz Starling (Clerk of Worton Parish Council) also passed on thanks and good wishes to the retiring councillors.

92 Partner Updates

Updated were received from the following partners:

• Wiltshire Police

Inspector Tina Osbourn gave an updated to the meeting and detailed overall crime figures for December 2020 to February 2021 at 251 incidents. Further breakdowns on these figures could be found in agenda supplement 2. Priorities were detailed as school engagement and speed enforcement operations working alongside community speed watch and known speeding sites.

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS)

Station Manager David Geddes was in attendance and apologised that he had been unable to attend the previous meeting. The DWFRS were consulting on their community safety plan which could be viewed at http://www.dwfire.org.uk/community-safety-plan/. Prevention work was continuing and Safe and Well visits could be requested at https://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits/ for those over 65 or with long term health conditions. The DWFRS were also checking on the fire safety of business as they reopened after lockdown, supporting the vaccine rollout and looking to recruit on call firefighters. More information could be found at https://www.dwfire.org.uk/workingfor-us/on-call-firefighters/.

Schools Updates

Mark Lascelles, Headteacher at Dauntsey's gave a brief update. Mr Lascelles stated that the schools were glad to been able to reopen and it was also good for the bus companies and school suppliers. It was stated that the school was worried about mental health issues caused by the lock down and there were also concerns regarding the exams in summer.

Julian Morgan, Headteacher, Devizes School gave an update stating that they were also glad that students and staff were back at school. There had been challenges with lateral flow testing, but in general things were going well. They school was as COVID safe as possible and there were numerous logistical challenges to implementing this which had been overcome. Mr Morgan agreed that the exams in summer were a concern. In response to questions Mr Morgan stated that the school was had support but there were pastoral and academic challenges.

Simon Down, Deputy Head, Lavington School echoed his colleagues' comments. Mr Down stated it was great to have the students back in school. Andre Jack, Community Engagement Manager had been working

proactively with the school and they had a grant application in which would be considered later in the meeting. Resilience and self-esteem were a focus for the school and it was hoped that they could return to outdoor learning.

The Chairman and other Councillors passed on their thanks to all the schools for their hard work over the last year.

Healthwatch Wiltshire

The Chairman directed the meeting to the written update in the agenda.

CCG B&ANES, Swindon and Wiltshire

The Chairman directed the meeting to the written update on page 33 of the agenda.

• Update on the medical centre.

Dr Richard Sandford-Hill, (Member of the project board for the Devizes new build and the Devizes PCN board) gave an update. Dr Sandford-Hill stated that the full business case for the centre had been approved by the CCG in January. It then had to go on for further approvals, which had not yet been received. It was hoped that the building for the centre would start in the summer. CIL monies had been applied for in order to help fund the project.

Town and Parish Councils

Devizes Town Council (DTC) was working with the NHS so the Corn Exchange for being used to administer vaccines. It was hoped that capacity could be doubled there in order to speed up the rollout. DTC were working with the Devizes Indies in order to ensure that Devizes town was safe and would thrive. The plans to open up the Market Place were exciting and it was hoped that it would be a great place to visit.

Devizes indies

Ida McConnell if Devizes Indies gave an update. During lockdown the group had been undertaking social media campaigns; highlighting offerings of different shops and raising awareness for when they come out of lock down and working with DTC and the Chamber of Commerce on future plans.

The group had also been working with Sustainable Devizes on plans for a sustainable high street and the possibility of introducing an e-cargo bike delivery service in Devizes.

Plans for the future included:

- Tales from the town encouraging traders to share stories of lockdown in their windows
- Liaising with Daventry Retail Forum
- o A grant application for a GAZEBO to promote events and raise

awareness, for use at the regular Thursday Market.

- IndieDAY at the start of summer, restrictions allowing
- An online map with QR codes on car park signs & lamp posts around town
- Online Resources for retailers

Sustainable Devizes

Graham Martin of Sustainable Devizes gave an update to the meeting. Sustainable Devizes had been working with the Air Quality and Sustainable Transport Group. The group had also been working with DTC and Devizes Indies on the possibility of e cargo bikes and a sustainable delivery service in Devizes.

The group highlighted their desire that Devizes as a tourist town needed more electric vehicle charging points and raised the possibility that renewable energy could be used to provide power for these.

Cllr Gamble thanked Mr Martin for the group's helpful ideas.

Mr Martin stated that there was a lot of complexity to these issues and no one entity would have the solution. However, he felt that if everyone could work together then alternative solutions could be found. Mr Martin confirmed that he had received written responses to questions he asked of the board.

The Chairman thanked all speakers for their contributions.

93 Wiltshire CIL - Community Connector Work

Nicola Harris of Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living gave an update to the meeting on their Community Connector Work. It was explained that approximately a year ago the group had been awarded a grant by Devizes Area Board. Lock down had affected plans and been a massive challenge, however there had been positive outcomes. When permitted by restrictions socially distanced events had been held such as a walking group, a men's group, a boot camp and all of these really helped to bring people together.

The Chairman thanked Ms Harris for the update and the good work.

94 Community Status Report

Andrew Jack, Community Engagement Manager, gave an update on the Community Status Report which was published in agenda supplement 1.

The officer explained that the idea behind the report was to produce a summary of the key issues that were emerging for the local community.

This was so that would make decisions, spend money and support projects that were relevant to the needs of people living in the Devizes Community Area.

The report was an ongoing and organic exercise that the Area Board would continue to undertake with the whole community.

Emerging themes so far included:

- The Devizes area was a very rural population with a slightly higher than average older population.
- A key issue was therefore around isolation access to services, loneliness.
- Support and positive activities for young people was difficult due to the rural area, distance into town and three separate secondary schools.
- Unemployment rates, those claiming universal benefit and debt had increased during COVID.
- Devizes had a high number of independent businesses. Support was needed to keep town centre vibrant.
- Average house prices were lower than average but still excluded younger and local buyers – the demand for affordable housing is high.
- The internet opened some doors, but also can excludes other people.
- There is a lot of support for protecting the environment and to promote eco-friendly living.
- We know we need to do more to facilitate sustainable modes of travel
- Communities will need support to get back up and running when it is safer to do so

Next steps for the project were stated as:

- The Area Board would look at which issues it could make the most difference to and create a rolling programme (a bit like the CATG process) focusing upon a maximum of 5 issues at any one time
- All local organisations and partners would be encouraged to consider where they are best placed to make a difference and then take action.
- For now it was asked that the report was accepted noting it was a continuous work in progress and any future input was welcomed.

95 Devizes Gateway Station

Tamara Reay, Noel Woolrych & Catharine Symington of the Devizes Development Partnership gave an update to the meeting on the Devizes gateway project. The presentation slides are appended to these minutes.

96 | Air Quality

Cllr Richard Gamble, Chair of AQST gave an update to the meeting. There had been an excellent meeting held on 16 February and the notes from that meeting were on page 37 of the agenda pack. As a quick summary Cllr Gamble highlighted the following issues that were discussed:

- Cycle parking:
 - More was needed for Devizes
 - Needed to be in area of high footfall to provide security
 - "Sheffield hoops" recognised as not suitable in visually sensitive areas
 - Use of temporary parking units to trial best locations
- Potterne to Devizes off-road cycle route on hold no site visits during lockdown
- London Rd cycle route alternative, parallel route being considered
- Bus services in Wiltshire at 40% of normal passenger numbers
- Town bus service re-tendered Faresaver operating from 1st March
- Other routes looked at Lay Wood, urgent care centre and to Salisbury
- Air quality currently good all locations in Devizes comply

Cllr Gamble thanked all members of the group for their hard work.

97 Petition regarding B3098 changes within Market Lavington for Public Safety

Mr Chris Boaden introduced his petition regarding the B3098 (Church and High Street) changes within Market Lavington for Public Safety.

Mr Boaden thanked the Board for allowing him to raise this issue at the meeting. Some of the issues had been raised by the Parish Council with the CATG. He was disappointed with what he perceived was Wiltshire Council's inaction over years on road safety in Market Lavington. He challenged Wiltshire Council data and the Atkins survey and stated that the Parish Council had alternate data showing that action needed to be taken here. Mr Boaden had moved there 8 months ago and since then an elderly lady had broken her able as the result of a collision and a teenager had been badly injured in an accident. Mr Boaden welcomed any changes that would make the roads safer there.

Cllr Whitehead explained that he had worked with Market Lavington Parish Council over several years to make the roads there safer. Accidents which were reported to Wiltshire Council were recorded, to identify hot spots, so that a priority list of areas to work on could be produced and this had to be worked on in order. CATG had been introduced to help with these sorts of issues. So, whilst Wiltshire Council was aware of the problems there were other areas with a higher priority. Cllr Whitehead confirmed that working with the parish Council and CATG was the way to drive this forward and thanked Mr Boaden for his petition. It was,

Resolved:

To note the petition and suggest that Mr Boaden raised the issues with the Parish Council so it could be brought to CATG.

98 Community Area Transport Group (CATG)

Cllr Gamble, Chairman of the CATG gave an update to the meeting. Points raised included:

- Rotherstone & Avon Terrace, Devizes Progress had been made on changes to TRO. A Cabinet member report had been prepared and submitted.
- Low Road, Little Cheverell No HGV signage.
- Various streets for Devizes town centre Agreed assessments for new 20mph limits.
- Conscience Lane, Rowde a new footpath was being developed. It would need a substantive bid for full funding.
- Other projects being considered were for Stert, Potterne and Bromham.
- PC representatives needed to attend CATG for their requests to be discussed.

There was a full report on pages 41-56 of the agenda. Cllr Gamble thanked all of those who worked on and attended the CATG.

Resolved:

To note the update and approve the recommendations within it.

99 Youth Updates

Steve Dewer of WYFC gave a brief update to the meeting. He had undertaken a survey looking at the effects of lock down on young people. This had highlighted some key points which they would use to help support young people. The popup youth café would be utilised as soon as restrictions allowed. The last year had been a challenge, fundraising and engaging with young people had been very difficult. Any support people could offer would be welcomed. The Chairman stated he understood the difficulties and thanked Mr Dewer for his work and the update.

The grants as detailed in the agenda were introduced by the Chairman. John Chandler spoke in support of his application for Potterne Youth Club and the Chairman thanked him for all the good work the youth club did. After which it was,

Resolved:

 To grant Wiltshire Youth for Christ, £5,000.00 towards a new youth worker for the Devizes Area.

- To grant The Bridge Project, £5,000.00 towards a Thrive hub worker in two Devizes Schools.
- To grant Potterne Youth Club, £2,700.00 towards the Potterne Community Garden Re-Generation.
- To grant the Area Board Initiative, Devizes School, £4,700.00 towards supporting students returning to school.
- To grant the Area Board Initiative, Lavington School, £4,700.00 towards supporting students returning to school.

100 <u>Health and Wellbeing Group</u>

The applications for Health and Wellbeing as detailed in the agenda were introduced by the Chairman, however he clarified that there was only £900 left in the HWB budget. It was,

Resolved:

- To refuse the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, £899.00 towards their Natural Connections - Nature-Based Wellbeing Programme due to a lack of funds. However, the applicant was invited to reapply in the next financial year.
- To refuse Care Home Volunteers, £456.50, to recruit, train & support volunteers, due to a lack of funds. However, the applicant was invited to reapply in the next financial year.
- To refuse Wiltshire Service Users' Network, £900.00 towards their Devizes Walking Buddy Scheme due to a lack of funds. However, the applicant was invited to reapply in the next financial year.
- To grant Alzheimer's Support, £900.00 towards supporting Sidmouth St Day Club

Area Board Recap of the last 4 Years

Cllr Laura Mayes (Vice Chair of the Area Board) gave an update on the last 4 years of the Area Board. Points raised included:

- 22 Area Board meetings (+1 community briefing) held in four years, including Wiltshire Council's last face to face meeting prior to COVID.
- The Board covered the town and 16 parishes and 33,000 people live in the Community Area.
- Operates three different sub-groups
 - o Community Area Transport Group

- Health & Wellbeing Group
- Air Quality & Sustainable Transport Group.
- The Board had an annual budget of approx. £90,000
- The Board had an audience of 40+ at face to face meetings
- The Board (via the CEM) communicated with 1,000+ each week via the Our Community Matters website and newsletter.

Details of grant monies awarded were given along with details of some of the groups/projects these grants had helped and their locations in the Community Area.

The following successful events had been held:

- Pop-up Youth Club on The Green, summer 2020
- Devizes Health & Wellbeing Day, 2019
- Careers Fair, Devizes School, October 2019

Cllr Mayes thanked Cllr Jacobs for Chairing the Area Board for the last 8 years.

102 Area Board Funding

The Chairman introduced the grants as detailed in the agenda, noting that there was not enough funding left to award all grants in full. Representatives of the organisations applying for grants spoke in support of their applications. It was,

- To grant Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club, £2,500.00 of the £5,000.00 applied for, towards a new pavilion at Walled Garden. The amount was less than requested due to a lack of funds remaining in the budget. The board invited the applicant to reapply for further funds next financial year.
- To grant Wiltshire Museum, £2,262.13 towards a new boiler and temperature control.
- To grant Devizes Town Council, £2,405.00 towards supporting independent businesses in Devizes.
- To grant All Cannings Community Shop Society Ltd, £2,500.00 of the £5,000.00 requested towards a new shop getting ready to build. The amount was less than requested due to a lack of funds remaining in the budget. The board invited the applicant to reapply for further funds next financial year.
- To grant Devizes and District Foodbank, £2,500.00 of the £3,000.00 requested towards a new delivery van. The amount was less than requested due to a lack of funds remaining in the budget. The board invited the applicant to reapply for further funds next financial year.

	 To grant Devizes Development Partnership, £3,144.73 towards new CCTV cameras + move to new location. £2,644.73 would be awarded now and the remaining £500.00 would be awarded in the new financial year via the delegated authority of the CEM. To grant Avon Road Community Assoc., £804.95 towards new goalposts for Avon Rd Park in the new financial year via the delegated authority of the CEM.
103	Open Floor
	There were no questions.
104	<u>Urgent items</u>
	There were no urgent items.
105	Close
	The Chairman announced that the next meeting of the Devizes Area Board would take place on 18 May 2021, time to be confirmed. This would be a special meeting to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.
	The next full meeting of the Devizes Area Board would be held on 21 June 2021 at 6.30pm.



Devizes Gateway Station

Plans to restore rail access to the Devizes Community Area

Tamara Reay, Noel Woolrych & Catharine Symington - DDP





Agenda

- Background
- **Project Update** Page 14
 - **Station Location Assessment**
- **Train Service Options**
- **Online Demand Survey**
- **Next Steps & Timeline**
- Questions

Restoring Your Railway

Background

- DDP and Wiltshire Council successful bid to RyR(1) early 2020
- DfT funding for feasibility study Strategic Outline Business Case
- SOBC which transport mode will best solve the "strategic" transport issue?

Strategic Issues Connectivity

- **Connectivity** for people (especially young), businesses and tourism
- Sustainable transport traffic congestion and air quality issues in the town and improve impacts in the wider area
- Regional and local strategic plans:
 - SWLEP Rail Strategy 2018 (estimated GVA p.a. £6.56m)
 - Wiltshire Core Strategy (2015) and Devizes Transport Strategy (2012) largest town in Wiltshire without connectivity to the rail network.
 - Emerging Plan Updates: Wiltshire Local Plan and Devizes Neighbourhood Plan

Project Update

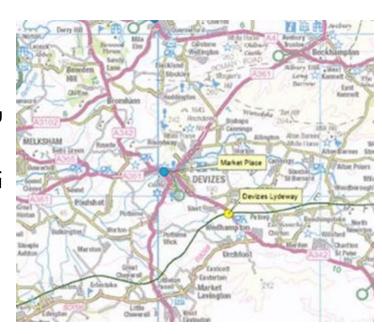
- Atkins (Transport Consultants) formal transport study to include:
 - Options identification and sifting, Station operational feasibility assessment,
 High level demand forecasting, Capital Cost estimation;
 - Scheduled to complete mid April.

Devizes Development Partnership

- Stakeholder Engagement Programme Communities and Local Government organisations, Businesses, Tourism bodies, Schools and Colleges, Environment, Planning and Heritage organisations, Transport organisations;
- Two demand surveys to inform SOBC: i) Devizes Community Area 2500 responses, ii) Bedwyn extension - 450 responses
- Wiltshire Council project management and other transport integration assessment and planning

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Devizes Gateway Station



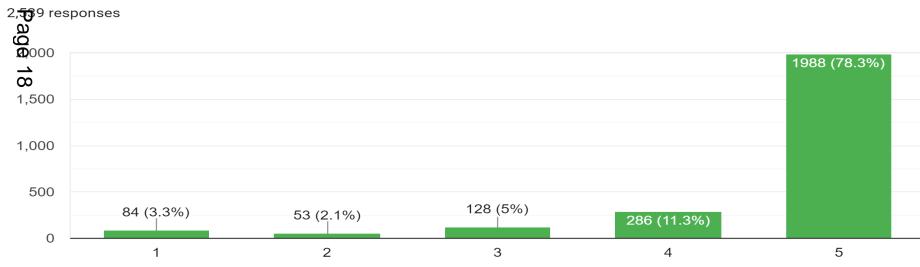
- Station site is 3.4 miles from the Market Place
- East of the A342 close to Clock Inn Park
 - Track is flat and straight
 - Extent of existing railway land
 - Cycle/walking routes & shuttle bus
- Atkins Study will also review other potential sites between A342 and A360 former Lavington station site; Ledge Hill area site + Devizes town.
- And consider improving other transport modes to access rail network at Pewsey, Chippenham etc, as an alternative.

Page 1

Online Demand Survey

Informal Survey distributed across the Devizes Community Area through various platforms 11 - 31 January (2539 responses).

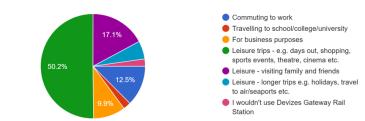
Q1. How likely would you be to use Devizes Gateway Rail Station when it opens?



Survey Responses

Q2. What would be the purpose of your MAIN journey by rail to/from Devizes Gateway? give one answer only

2,539 responses



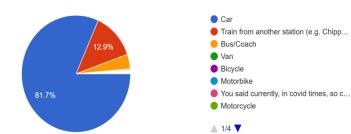
I wouldn't use Devizes Gateway Rail Station

On the station Station

On the station Station

On the station Station Station

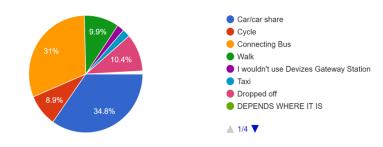
On the station Station Station Station Station niles from Devizes? Tick one only. 2,539 responses



Q4. Where would you travel to/from for your MAIN rail journey? give one answer only 2,539 responses



Q9. How would you prefer to travel to Devizes Gateway Rail Station? Tick one answer only 2,539 responses



Q6. If COVID-19 had not happened in 2020, what would have been the DESTINATION of your most FREQUENT journey this year OVER 10 miles (by any means of transport)?

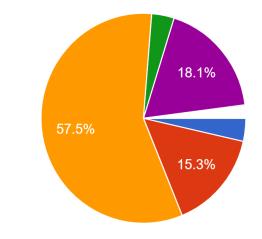
Respondents listed pretty much everywhere in the UK and some abroad





Q12. Are you:

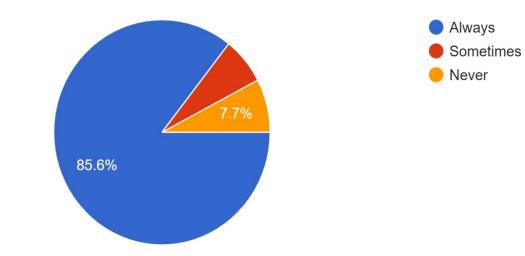
2,539 responses





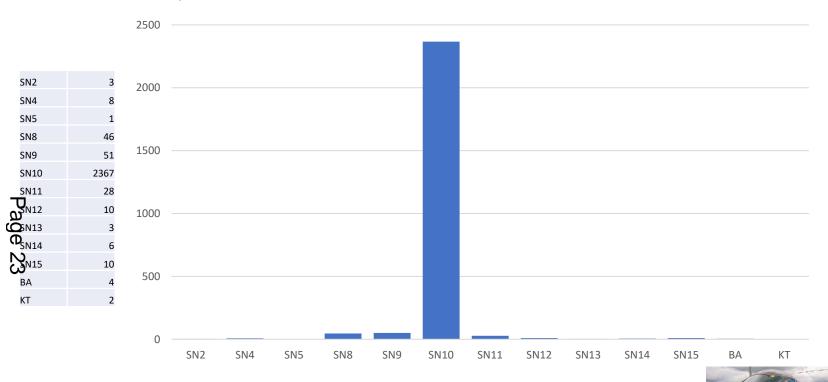


Q13. Do you have access to a car that you are able to drive? 2,526 responses





Post Code of respondents



DEVIZES GATEWAY

- "I think the station would be a **huge benefit to Devizes** and surrounding areas. It will also **ease road congestion.**"
- "You must timetable **early morning westbound services to Bath and Bristol** so people can commute. The line is currently too London centric and does not serve Westbound commuters. An evening Eastbound service to return home required."
- "Absolutely fantastic news for the people of Devizes and surrounding districts and long long overdue. It will be great for the economic growth of the town and really put Devizes on the map."
 - "A regular shuttle bus to meet it would be ideal."
 - "Fantastic idea. The town should be centred around this development with any future growth of the town that side. A **fully lit cycle path** along the old train line would make absolute sense too."

Open Questions: Local Transport Themes

- "We need better faster links to other towns/cities whether it be bus or rail. Our town seems to be isolated."
- "Improve condition of and increase no of cycle routes, to also connect the new station."
- ਨੇ "Bypass to sort Devizes congestion and poor air quality."
 - "SMETS2 Smart meters available for homes for electric car home smart charging.
 More public EV charge points in town car parks."

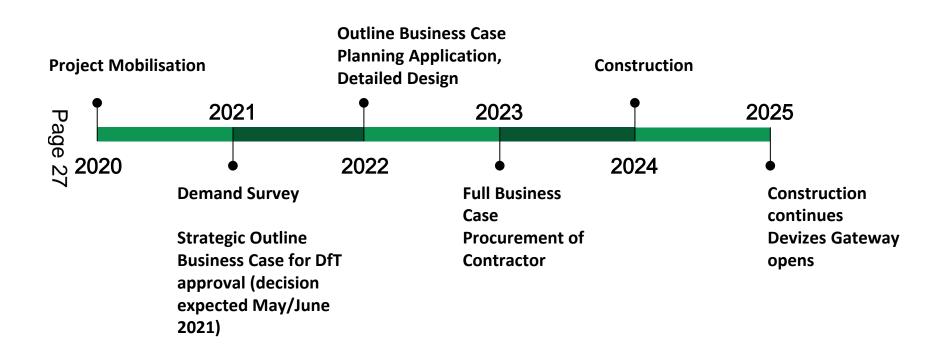
Next Steps

Following SOBC approval (Stage 1), the project is expected to follow DfT's Rail
 Network Enhancement Pipeline 5 stage process:



- Next Stage Outline Business Case & Full Business Case to include options selection, concept design, timetable modelling, passenger capacity and rolling stock requirement, sustainable station access, detailed site surveys etc. Cost c£200k
- Devizes Town Council £34k for Outline Business Case other sources being explored.
- New Station Funding will provide 75% of total capital costs (anticipated c£15m)

Indicative Timeline



Questions?



Business, community and local government, working in partnership for Devizes

