

COMMITTEE: **DISABILITY ADVISORY AND ACCESS FORUM**

DATE: **9TH APRIL 2009**

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON TOWN CENTRE
REGENERATION - DEMOLITION OF
FOOTBRIDGE FROM LUTON
STATION TO BUTE STREET**

REPORT BY: **HEAD OF ENGINEERING AND
TRANSPORTATION**

CONTACT OFFICER: **Philip Cunningham 547106**

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES		ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	✓	CONSULTATIONS ✓
STAFFING		OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: SOUTH AND HIGH TOWN

PURPOSE

1. To update the Forum on progress with the proposed demolition of the Footbridge between the Station and

Bute Street and its replacement with a ground level facility.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2. The Forum is recommended to strongly support the Statement of Case for the proposed diversion of the public right of way which allows for the demolition of the footbridge between the Station and Bute Street and its replacement with a ground level route as shown on the drawing No P1234 - 004.**

REPORT

3. A report on the Town Centre Redevelopment was presented to the DAAF meeting on 7th February 2008. This report updated the Forum on the progress of various large projects and initiatives in the town centre. A further update report was made to the DAAF meeting on 3rd December 2008. At this meeting it was resolved

‘That the Disability Advisory & Access Forum strongly support the demolition of the footbridge between the Railway station and Bute Street and its replacement with a ground level route as detailed on Plan Number P1234 – 004A.’

4. As previously reported to the Forum, the demolition of the footbridge and diversion of the public right of way was considered by the Regulation Committee on 12th March 2008, with a revised design again being considered by the Regulation Committee on 5th November. A diversion order was published for the amended design.

5. The new route particularly benefits people with mobility problems.
6. The attached draft Statement of Case (Appendix A) sets out the case for the diversion of the public right of way and its replacement with a ground level route. The appendices to the Statement of Case are still being completed.
7. There have been fewer objections to this revised scheme (four as opposed to the original twelve letters of objections). The Order, the plan, the four letters of objections and the Statement of Grounds will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate for confirmation, which will allow the Council to proceed with the diversion. As there have been objections, it is highly likely that the Planning Inspectorate will hold a Public Inquiry in order to decide whether the diversion can be confirmed.

EQUALITIES

8. Equalities Impact Assessments have been carried out on the closure of the bus station and bus station car park for the Luton Dunstable Busway. The primary purpose of diverting the public right of way and providing a ground level replacement facility is to improve accessibility.

APPENDIX

9. APPENDIX A – STATEMENT OF CASE (draft dated 27/01/09)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

Equalities Impact Assessment for closure of bus station and
bus station car park and Luton Dunstable Busway
Regulation Committee 12th March 2008
DAAF Meeting 7th February 2008
DAAF Meeting 3rd December 2008
Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan
Luton Gateway – Master Plan
Reports to each of the five Area Committees in January
2009