

**COMMITTEE:           DISABILITY ADVISORY AND ACCESS FORUM**

**DATE:                   5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

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

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

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**IMPLICATIONS:**

<b>LEGAL</b>	✓	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY</b>
<b>EQUALITIES</b>		<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>
<b>FINANCIAL</b>	✓	<b>CONSULTATIONS</b> ✓
<b>STAFFING</b>		<b>OTHER</b>

**WARDS AFFECTED: SOUTH AND HIGH TOWN**

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## **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**
  - (i) **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008, with a revised design again being considered by the Regulation Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
DAAF Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008  
DAAF Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008  
Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan  
Luton Gateway – Master Plan  
Reports to each of the five Area Committees in January  
2009