

## **Report of the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste**

### **1. Introduction**

I have been asked to report as follows for Full Council on 29 April 2021:

By Councillor Hannaford on:

- *any opportunities to work with Great Western Railway and Network Rail to make St Thomas Railway Station more accessible for disabled people and those with mobility issues.*

### **1. Response**

I have sought advice from our rail industry partners who have explained that the St Thomas Station site has significant complexities which would make delivery of lifts on both platforms challenging. Such a scheme would need external funding and there is huge competition for funds as numerous stations across the UK were not constructed to current accessibility standards. The Government's Access for All programme specifically supports delivery of obstacle free, accessible routes from station entrances to the platform. While national funding has been allocated for 2019-2024, I would be happy to explore with Network Rail and GWR what scope there is for including Devon stations, including St Thomas in future rounds. That said, through working with rail partners, we have ensured that new stations at Cranbrook, Newcourt and Marsh Barton Station are designed to enable step-free access for all to leisure, retail, work and education opportunities. Also, as part of the South West Rail Resilience Programme between Teignmouth and Dawlish, there will be a new accessible footbridge with lifts installed at Dawlish station as well as ramped access to the beach from the promenade.

**Councillor Andrea Davis**

Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste