



**THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)**

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Cabinet Member for Transport decision meeting
<b>Subject:</b>	Rail Safety in Portsmouth
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
<b>Report by:</b>	Felicity Tidbury - Assistant Director Economy, Transport and Planning
<b>Report author:</b>	Peter Shelley, Bid Manager
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Peter Candlish, Cabinet member for Transport
<b>Wards affected:</b>	Baffins, Central Southsea, Charles Dickens, Copnor, Cosham, Farlington, Fratton, Hilsea, Milton, Paulsgrove, St Thomas

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1. **Requested by:** Full Council
  2. **Purpose:** A report regarding rail safety in Portsmouth.
    - 2.1 Following a Notice of Motion debated by Portsmouth City Council on 17th October 2023 on Rail Safety, see Appendix C, the Cabinet Member for Transport was requested to engage with Network Rail to identify areas of the rail network within Portsmouth that require safety improvements, which include possible access point locations onto railway lines. To bring a report back to full council with an action plan of prevention improvements.
  3. **Information Requested** A report to full council setting out an action plan of prevention improvements for the safety of the rail network within Portsmouth.
    - 3.1 A meeting was held with Network Rail management at which they were asked to identify any points where access to rail tracks was possible.
    - 3.2 Network Rail provided details of a location in Highbury where they had increased the fence height but were still concerned that a pile of spoil adjacent to the railway line could be used by trespassers to gain access to the railway by climbing over the fence.
    - 3.3 Council officers investigated the spoil and liaised with residents. Council officers were able to confirm the reported that the spoil had been removed in February 2024.



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- 3.4 This action complemented a letter from council group leaders to Ms Ellie Burrows, Managing Director, Southern Region, Network Rail requesting that Network Rail develop awareness training for schools and colleges that are local to Portsmouth.
- 3.5 Ms Burrows replied with details of the safety training materials that Network Rail had developed and the contact that they had made with Portsmouth schools and colleges to offer free face to face rail safety sessions, provide schools with access to rail safety materials and the opportunity for schools to join a remote rail safety session.

**4. Action Plan**

4.1 An action plan below details the actions taken to respond to the concerns raised.

Action	Detail	Owner	Timescale
Engagement with schools and colleges	Network rail have contacted Portsmouth schools and colleges, offering rail safety sessions, rail safety materials and online sessions.	Network Rail	Written to in June 2023 and ongoing.
Inspection of railway boundary and increased fence height where required	Following the Cosham fatality Network Rail undertook a full inspection of the railway boundary. They increased fence height where they identified it was appropriate.	Network Rail	Completed Autumn 2023
Liaison with resident regarding removing spoil adjacent to rail line	Network Rail identified spoil on private residential land which could be used to gain access to the railway.	PCC	Completed February 2024
PCC/ Network Rail engagement	Regular meetings will be held with Network Rail to provide updates, feedback and identify opportunities for collaboration.	PCC/ Network Rail	Ongoing

**Table 1: Action plan for rail safety in Portsmouth**

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Signed by (Director)



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**Appendices:**

A: [Letter to Network Rail on Rail Safety](#)

B: [Response from Network Rail](#)

C: [Notice of Motion 17 October 2023](#)

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Location</b>
Notice of Motion on Rail Safety debated by Portsmouth City Council 17th October 2023	<a href="#">Agenda for Full Council on Tuesday, 17th October, 2023, 2.45 pm Portsmouth City Council</a>