

Cabinet – Thursday 11 July 2019

Written question from Cllr Karl Love to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council

In the light of a number of objectives within the infrastructure and transport section of the Corporate Plan will the Cabinet Member seek an urgent resolution to the long awaited, now 8 months overdue, government approval for new rolling stock for the Islandline? This would reduce the risk of the line being closed and a necessity for a replacement bus services being introduced, due to unsafe rolling stock, inability to source spare parts and inability to deliver a number of council objectives. The Islandline infrastructure is in desperate and urgent need of attention and is facing a rapidly approaching total shut down, if the decision is delayed further and no action taken.

Response

Cllr Love thank you for your question.

I can assure you that this administration is doing all it can to encourage the Department for Transport (DfT) to respond to South Western Railways (SWR) Costed Option Submission to refurbish the Permanent Way, Stations and Rolling Stock of Island Line.

Our MP has discussed the matter directly with the Secretary of State for Transport and last October I (Cllr Ward) discussed the issue personally with the Rail Minister.

SWR are in regular contact with the DfT and the indications are that a decision will not be made until Brexit has been decided, but there is a confidence that agreement will be given.