

FULL COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2015

**Written question from Mr David Pugh to Councillor Jonathan Bacon, Leader and Executive Member for Resources and Children's Services**

The Leader told the County Press last week that the local authority is asking an independent person to create and lead the proposed taskforce to look at the future of Island transport provision.

However in light of the Island's MP stating earlier this year that he had persuaded the Government to set up the taskforce, can the Leader advise:

- (a) whether the Government will be setting it up themselves;
- (b) if not, whether the Government have indicated to the local authority whether they will be providing any funding to support the Council in engaging the services of an independent person to create and lead it; and
- (c) if not, will he instead ask the DfT - as part of the tender specification for the South Western rail franchise - to require the bidders to put forward their own technical, cost-effective solutions for the future of Island Line, and in doing so negate the need for the establishment of a locally-funded taskforce?

### ***Response***

I can advise that I am not aware of the government taking any action to establish the task force or provide any funding towards its operation. The DfT has set out its views that it wishes to proceed with the development of an outcome based specification for the delivery of Island Line which will therefore address many of the issues raised. There is however a need to ensure the specified outcomes are properly informed by a good understanding of the needs of the Island from the Island Line service.