

FULL COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2016

Written question from Esme Mutter, Stroke Association to Councillor Jonathan Bacon, Leader and Executive Member for Resources, Organisational Change and Children’s Services

On 8th February, the Isle of Wight Council’s Chief Executive responded to the DfT’s consultation on the next South Western rail franchise, setting out the resolution agreed by Full Council last September in support of Island Line remaining as a fully integral part of the South Western rail franchise for the entire duration of its post-2017 period.

Alongside this, the Chief Executive’s letter enclosed a copy of “The Future of Island Line - Options Report” by Christopher Garnett, which set out recommendations which run contrary to the resolution of members last September, before stating that the Council expects to formally consider the report in March.

Can the Leader therefore confirm whether elected members will be considering this report at the scheduled Full Council meeting on 16th March, and if so, does he (or any of his Executive colleagues) intend to make a recommendation that members should endorse Mr Garnett’s conclusions (particularly given that a substantial amount of officer time has been devoted to supporting this work which runs contrary to last September’s resolution)?

Response

The Chief Executive’s response set out in full the Council’s formal position in respect of Island Line as agreed in September 2015. It also included a reference to other representations to government in September 2015 seeking its commitment to invest sufficient funds in Island Line to make the service sustainable.

‘The Future of Island Line - Option Report’, prepared by Christopher Garnett will be discussed at the March meeting of Full Council. The report will be considered without recommendations because it will not have had the benefit of being discussed by the Executive Committee prior to consideration by the March council meeting.