

FULL COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH 2017

Written question from Lee Wilson to Councillor Ian Ward, Executive Member for Transport and Infrastructure (including car parking)

At Full Council meetings in [September 2015](#) and [March 2016](#) you voted in support of agreed resolutions that Island Line should remain as a fully integral part of the South Western rail franchise for the entire duration of its post-2017 period. At the latter meeting you (and a majority of other members present) also explicitly voted to disagree with the conclusion of Christopher Garnett that Island Line should not be part of the wider franchise.

In light of this, and the twice affirmed settled will of Full Council that Island Line should remain in the South Western rail franchise for the entire duration of its post-2017 period, can you advise whether you will – as the relevant Executive Member - oppose any recommendation by Christopher Garnett in his upcoming Infrastructure Transport Taskforce report that advocates the removal of Island Line from the wider franchise at any point during the new period commencing this summer?

Response

The council is awaiting the decision of the DfT with regard to the award of the franchise for SW trains, which includes Islandline, but is aware that there is likely to be a clear expectation from DfT that there will be a requirement for the successful bidder to work with local stakeholders to ensure the longer term sustainability of the line and the council would welcome the opportunity to do so. The council has yet to receive the report of the Infrastructure Task Force and is as yet unable to comment on what may or may not be included within that report, but will in due course discuss any recommendations included within it.