



## CABINET – 16TH JULY 2014

**SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF BEDLINOG LINE / DOWLAIS PARK AND RIDE**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER**

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- 1.1 The report, which informed Members of the potential to extend the current freight line between Ystrad Mynach and Cwmbargoed to Dowlais Top to facilitate the potential future reinstatement of a passenger service, and sought comments on the proposed recommendation contained therein, was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 1st July 2014.
  - 1.2 The report highlighted the key findings of the Sewta Rail Strategy Review 2013, further detailed within Appendix 1 of the report, and Members were advised that the project was currently at stage 1 of the Governance for Railway Investment Projects (GRIP) process. A number of queries were raised by Members in relation to funding and public consultation, and Officers confirmed that these matters would become clearer during the next stage of the process, which addressed the feasibility of the project.
  - 1.3 It is envisaged that Merthyr Tydfil Council would take the lead in developing the scheme further, supported by Caerphilly County Borough Council, including thorough discussion with Network Rail and Arriva Trains.
  - 1.4 Following discussion on the content of the report, the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee, by a show of hands and the majority present, recommended that for the reasons contained therein, the report be submitted to Cabinet for approval, thereby facilitating Officers and Members to make formal representations to the Welsh Government to ensure the scheme is recognised and considered as rail priorities are developed.
  - 1.5 Members are asked to consider the recommendation.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 1st July 2014 – Agenda Item 7(1)