

LOOE TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE LOOE VALLEY LINE WORKING GROUP MEETING
(PART OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE)**

held in the Tourist Information Centre, The Guildhall, East Looe on
Thursday 12th May 2011 at 7.00pm

REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor M Gregory
Councillors E B Galipeau, A Toms and
Mrs E Hannaford

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk – Mrs Anne Frith
Mr A Brown

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were none.

2. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LVL PROPOSAL FROM
MR BROWN**

Mr Brown had provided a report for consideration, part of which is confidential. (See Part attachment).

Mr Brown went through the report and explained where he is up to with his talks with the various organisations and informed the group that the meeting with Liskeard Town Council had allayed some of their concerns and identified their issues with this proposal.

Due to the recent announcement that First Great Western are not extending their franchise due to expire in 2013 things are a little uncertain regarding the future of the Looe Valley Line and other branch lines.

The Department of Transport have indicated that they are happy with the initial proposal and willing to discuss the matter further. Initial discussions have also taken place with Cornwall Council.

Mr Brown brought Councillor Mrs Hannaford up to date as she had not been involved in previous meetings although she had attended the meeting with Liskeard Town Council.

Councillor Mrs Hannaford, and the rest of the group, all agreed that the risks need to be identified, financial viability and sustainability ascertained and a failsafe plan put in place.

It was agreed that Mr Brown completes Stage 1 of his original proposal and then come back to report progress and seek approval to proceed to Stage 2.

The Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Looe Valley Line Project

Update to Environment and Public Protection Committee – Looe Town Council 13/01/11

Interaction with stakeholders to date;

DfT

There is a major review underway of UK Railway funding to identify opportunities to reduce costs and improve business performance sponsored by the Coalition, being carried out by a team lead by Sir Roy McNulty

His interim report is critical of the substantial rise in costs since privatisation, (X3). Key recommendations are;

- Regional railways (e.g. Looe Valley Line) account for 61% of the costs and attract high subsidies. Action is needed to reduce these costs and subsidies
- To reduce the costs there needs industry reform
- A need for better relationships between Train Operators and Network Rail
- Reform of franchising arrangements
- Route or area based alliances to improve performance

DfT have been given details of our vision, advised of the feasibility review project and given access to the two papers previously presented to the Committee. This information has been passed to the McNulty review team to input into final considerations of industry reform

This has been taken as an agreement to carry on with the feasibility assessment. Further discussions will be progressed to facilitate getting access to industry data not in public domain

Cornwall Council (CC)

Met with Councillor Hicks –cabinet responsibility for Transport – and Councillor Toms

It was confirmed that the Council is responsible for Transport policy and deployment in the County

Presently activity is biased toward bus rather than rail, but CCC recognised that this needs to change in future

CCC generally considers the vision as an opportunity but need to have more detail on scope and costs of options to achieve the vision