

PRESS RELEASE

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Network Rail is to be commissioned to carry out a technical evaluation on the potential re-opening of the Portishead railway line.

This follows a report carried out for us in to the feasibility of re-establishing rail passenger services along the Portishead to Bristol corridor.

"Since this first study was completed, we have met with Network Rail to see how we can take the project forward," said Cllr Elfan Ap Rees, deputy leader and executive member for strategic planning. "As the owners and custodians of the national rail network, all improvement/re-opening projects have to adhere to Network Rail processes and requirements."

The outcomes of the study would include what is operationally feasible and to identify any operational conflicts with existing passenger and freight trains; a report to agree and confirm the project objectives; an engineering report setting out track and signal plans; and preliminary design and costing.

"This is another important step forward. The re-opening of this line for passenger services would play a large role in improving the transport infrastructure and promoting safe and sustainable travel," added Cllr Ap Rees. "I understand that the scheme is recognised as 'do-able' by Network Rail."

The study which will cost £164,000, will be funded from the Ashlands (Persimmon) section 106 developer contribution.

Nick Yates

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