



PRG Press Release

15th November 2022

Portishead railway line receives Development Consent Order

Portishead Railway Group (PRG) is delighted that the Secretary of State for Transport yesterday, 14th November, accepted the Portishead Branch Line Development Consent Order (DCO) application. The announcement is cause for great celebration. It has been a long and arduous journey to get to this most welcome point in the saga of reopening the railway to passenger traffic.

PRG also thanks and congratulates North Somerset Council staff for their hard work that resulted in the success of the DCO application, and Dr Liam Fox MP for his tireless work over many years to support the case for Portishead rail in Parliament and central government. Thanks are also owed to the three other local councils for their patience and support, and to WECA for also lobbying central government.

PRG members, and the people of Portishead and of Pill, are only too aware of the need for the town's rail link with Bristol and beyond, the great benefits of which are well known and demonstrated in the DCO application. Urgent action is now required to push forward with construction so as to help solve the existing road congestion and resulting pollution problems, as soon as possible.

The acceptance of the DCO application is a prime example of local councils, regardless of political affiliation, working together for the common local good.

PRG will now turn its attention to what sort of stations and amenities can be provided at Portishead and Pill, to make this important new alternative transport offer as attractive as possible to those who currently use road transport.

Alan Matthews, Chair of Portishead Railway Group says, "This is a very welcome announcement. The Portishead line has always had a very strong business case and we are pleased that this was recognised by the Secretary of State. We now look forward to seeing the business case and full design so that the contracts can finally be put in place for construction of the line to start."