

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
19TH OCTOBER 2020**

**NOTICE OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL (8TH JULY 2020)
AMMAN VALLEY RAILWAY LINE**

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To consider a Notice of Motion on the Amman Valley Railway Line.

Reasons:

Council at its meeting held on the 8th July 2020 referred a Notice of Motion in respect of the Amman Valley Railway to the Executive Board.

The Executive Board will need to formally consider this motion and consider the proposals therein.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO

Exec. Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Councillor Hazel Evans - Environment

**Directorates Chief Executive
/Environment**

Stephen G Pilliner

Head of Transport and Highways

Sjpilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Llinos Jenkins

Executive Board Support Officer

LISJenkins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
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NOTICE OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL (8TH JULY 2020)
AMMAN VALLEY RAILWAY LINE

Council at its meeting held on the 8th July 2020 (Minute 8 refers) referred the following notice of motion to the Executive Board: -

This Council:

- Believes that with coal transportation along the Amman Valley Railway line coming to the end of its life, we should look to develop a modern, environmentally friendly, passenger railway.
- Reaffirms its resolution of October 18th, 2017 in calling for the development of a Swansea Bay and Western Valleys Metro to include the Amman Valley, and other Carmarthenshire communities.
- Notes that the Welsh Government has already commissioned a feasibility study into the development of a Swansea Bay and Western Valleys Metro, following a budget agreement with Plaid Cymru in 2017.
- Expresses its disappointment that the Feasibility Study into the development of the Swansea Bay and Western Valleys Metro has not yet been published.
- Calls on the Welsh Government to publish the feasibility study and to ensure that work is undertaken to identify the potential of reopening the Amman and Gwendraeth Valley railway lines to passengers.

The modern rail would connect the Amman Valley and the Gwendraeth Valley with Llanelli and Swansea.

The line could help reduce transport poverty, help residents to travel to work and bring tourists into our valleys, creating jobs in the years to come. This line was established in 1842 and we must preserve it for our future generations.

It is essential that a feasibility study be carried out, with the line being mothballed as soon as possible to ensure that any future plans remain affordable to the public.”

Executive Board may wish to consider the content of the Notice of Motion within the wider context of national policy, regional transport policy and current developments.

The development and management of the railway system in Wales is the responsibility of the Wales Government. The Wales Government manage the passenger rail services franchise for the Wales and the Borders, the UK Government is responsible for the mainline franchises such as the Great Western and Cross-Country services. The rail track is not devolved, it is the responsibility of Network Rail who will discuss infrastructure development with the Wales Government.

The development of a modern passenger railway system for Carmarthenshire to support wider connectivity to Wales and beyond for all our residents is considered a key component of a future transport plan. The proposal must sit within the wider objective of improving rail journey times from Cardiff through to Carmarthen to ensure the rail journey is competitive with the car journey and that a Metro system is part of the wider transportation system, serving the whole of the Swansea Bay City Region.

The development of the Metro concept is being led by the City and County of Swansea as part of the regional transport collaboration arrangement, funded by the Wales Government and supported by Transport for Wales. The work is extensive and includes traffic modelling, rail and bus studies. Under the current governance arrangements, Local authorities will need to approve future investment priorities. The development of the Amman Valley line is included as one of the rail priorities for investigation.

In responding to the Notice of Motion Executive Board may wish to:

- Confirm support for the development of a modern passenger railway system for Carmarthenshire.
- Confirm that the Amman Valley is included in the list of schemes put forward for inclusion in the wider Metro work.
- Request an update report on the progress with the Metro project and workstreams and governance.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	No
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: S.G.Pilliner . Head of Transportation and Highways

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The motion put before Council is an Executive function and formally referred to the Executive Board for debate and decision.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: S.G.Pilliner . Head of Transportation and Highways

1. **Scrutiny Committee** Not applicable
2. **Local Member(s)** Not applicable
3. **Community / Town Council** Not applicable
4. **Relevant Partners** Not applicable
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** Not applicable

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED YES**

Cllr Hazel Evans supported the NoM at the County Council meeting on the 8th July 2020

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Council Meeting 8 th July 2020 Link to agenda and minutes		http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=155&MId=3238&Ver=4