

## AGENDA ITEM No 7

### Tavistock to Plymouth Railway.

Following the success of the reinstated Okehampton to Exeter line Jamie Hlland, Deputy Director- Planning Devon County Council prepared and submitted a bid to Restoring your Railways ideas fund in Autumn 2022. Jamie was responsible for the Okehampton Bid. Prior to the announcement of the successful bid Jamie commented -We are dependent on additional funding for the next stage, which would be the development of an Outline Business Case – this would involve more detailed analysis to demonstrate that the scheme represents good value for money’.

The Business Case and the full Bid proposal is on the DCC website at [Tavistock to Plymouth Railway - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/tavistock-to-plymouth-railway-roads-and-transport)

The restoration of the Tavistock to Plymouth Railway will: -

- Help to minimise traffic congestion and pollution on the A386
- Help to tackle the Climate Emergency, by encouraging modal shift from car to rail
- Provide a sustainable link between Tavistock, the largest town in West Devon, and Plymouth, the largest city in the South West Peninsula
- Increase service frequencies to existing rail stations at Bere Alston, St Budeaux (Victoria Road) Keyham and Devonport
- Improve access to Dartmoor National Park, the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site
- Reduce deprivation in West Devon and Plymouth, by improving access to education employment and services, thus supporting the Government’s ‘Levelling Up’ agenda

On 4<sup>th</sup> October Huw Merriman MP, Minister of State for Rail in a letter to Sir Geoffrey Cox KC MP advised the project to reopen the Tavistock to Plymouth line will be ‘funded to delivery, subject to future updates to the project business case’. ‘Funding will be provided to Network Rail to lead the next stage of work and support close collaboration with Devon County Council to progress the scheme to the required standard’ The capital cost of the reinstatement of the line is estimated to be around £100m. Most of the line is in the ownership of DCC, however, some still needs to be acquired to deliver the route into Tavistock. The project demonstrates the potential to reconnect Tavistock and its hinterland to the railway network and also support regeneration initiatives in Plymouth.

Cllr Mrs Anne Johnson

Tavistock Town Council’s representative on Oke Rail Forum and Tavy Rail

15<sup>th</sup> October 2023