

## **ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL**

<b><u>COMMITTEE:</u></b>	COUNTY COUNCIL
<b><u>DATE:</u></b>	14 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010
<b><u>TITLE OF REPORT:</u></b>	GAERWEN TO AMLWCH RAILWAYLINE
<b><u>PURPOSE:</u></b>	TO CLARIFY THE COUNCIL'S POSITION
<b><u>REPORT BY:</u></b>	HEAD OF SERVICE (HIGHWAYS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT)
<b><u>ACTION:</u></b>	TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The railway line from Gaerwen to Amlwch was closed to passenger transport in 1964 as part of Dr Beeching's railway cuts, with the line kept open for freight traffic to Octel at Amlwch until 1993.

### **2.0 DEVELOPMENTS SINCE CLOSURE**

- 2.1 Since 1993 the disused line has been the subject of various proposals to open the whole or part of it to either a heritage railway or as a cycle track. However, there have been no developments and the line remains the property of Network Rail, whilst the track is overgrown and the boundary fences and structures, such as bridges and retaining walls, continue to deteriorate with little or no maintenance work undertaken.
- 2.2 The County Council's meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007 resolved "that this Council's preferred options for the Line is that of a cycle, walking and bridlepath route".
- 2.3 Since that date there has been renewed hope of reopening the railway line with the Welsh Assembly Government commissioning a feasibility study for a train service between Bangor and Gaerwen and the potential for external private funding for a heritage railway between Llangefni and Amlwch.
- 2.4 At their meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 the Executive Committee unanimously resolved in favour of a train service between Gaerwen and Llangefni and that the matter should be taken to the County Council to review its original decision.
- 2.5 In the current financial climate it appears highly unlikely that external funding will be available for reopening the railway for cycling, walking or as a bridleway.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That in view of recent developments that the County Council preferred option for the future use of the Gaerwen to Amlwch line is for it to be reopened to rail services.

Report by Head of Service (Highways and Waste Management)  
020.40 /