



## **PRG Press Release**

### **Department for Transport announces a further delay to the decision**

Portishead Railway Group (PRG) is pleased to learn of the 'minded to approve' decision by the Department for Transport (DfT) but is very concerned that the actual decision on the Portishead Branch Line DCO application has been delayed yet again.

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 required to help solve the congestion and resulting pollution problems.

The DfT's delay to the DCO decision inevitably wastes Taxpayers' money; this decision has been delayed, and delayed yet again, and, as a direct result, a significant funding gap now exists.

PRG therefore strongly disapproves of the DfT's decision to place the burden of closing the recently identified funding gap entirely onto Local Government. In the circumstances of the DofT's serial delays, PRG believes it is appropriate for Central Government to close the funding gap, or at least the majority of it.