



West Somerset Railway P.L.C

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New Approach to Investment Approved by the PLC Board

At its November meeting, the PLC Board approved recommendations from the Planning Director and Finance Director that will significantly change the way in which the Company raises money for major projects and new investment in order to deliver its medium and long-term plans.

The PLC will now pursue a programme of fundraising (alongside traditional methods such as Shareholder Appeals and joint work with railway partners on the WSR) which will include:

- Targeted share offers with new shares being raised for specific projects
- Borrowing money on the markets either from banks or other financial institutions
- Taking advantage of new techniques in social media such as crowdfunding
- Taking out mortgages for specific schemes/properties
- Use of legacies and encourage future legacies for specific purposes
- Offering revenue share proposals to local businesses
- Seeking support from high net worth individuals
- Exploring major sponsorship deals with significant commercial organisations
- Exploring commercial business deals for future developments with targeted companies

John Irven PLC Chairman said “the PLC has an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of new projects, locomotive restoration and infrastructure renewal requirements which require significant investment in the railway. Whilst continuing to work with railway partners and other organisations to raise money, traditional ways of fundraising will not be enough to achieve meet the needs of the railway over the next 5 to 10 years. This new policy will enable the PLC to adopt a more flexible approach to new investment and allow more control over timing and application in relation to our development agenda. Our contemporaries in the heritage railway sector have demonstrated how successful they have been in securing large sums of money for specific projects and there is no reason why the West Somerset Railway cannot do the same”.

For more information please contact Steve Williams Planning And Investment Director on 01823-462898 or williams@oakevillage.co.uk