

The WSR Plc welcomes the statement issued by the Partnership Development Group confirming the position resolved unanimously at its meeting on 17th February on behalf of the whole of the WSR, including the representative of the WSRA, Ian Aldridge that:

- “1. Partnership Development Group supports implementation of the Coombes Report in full and as soon as possible,
2. Partnership Development Group supports the continuation of the West Somerset Railway Association as a significant support organisation to the West Somerset Railway,
3. Partnership Development Group will do all that it can both collectively and individually to help the West Somerset Railway Association to implement the Coombes Report in terms of the wider issues for the railway family on the understanding that the Coombes Report is implemented in full.”

The statement in full can be found on the WSR PLC

website. <http://westsomersetrailway.vticket.co.uk/index.php>

This resolution endorses the position taken by the PLC as stated on the 22nd January that, having already indicated its support for the findings of the Coombes Review, it was disappointed that the trustees had chosen not to accept its principal recommendations, namely that the Association governance was not fit for purpose, and that all 6 existing trustees should immediately resign with a new board being established to take the recommendations of the report forward. The Plc therefore supported the objectives of, and call for, an EGM as a means being taken by members to implement the recommendations.

The Plc remains concerned about the governance within the WSRA and especially with latest actions of the 6 trustees. In particular we cannot accept the view that they have replaced the chairman Frank Courtney with Ian Aldridge, nor the latter's latest letters to members where he is cancelling the already called EGM on the grounds that it is improperly called, vexatious and inappropriate. Therefore, the Plc reasserts its view of the importance that members of the association have an opportunity at the General Meeting on 27 February to express their opinions by supporting the resolution.

We are concerned about the effect that these actions are continuing to have both on those involved in the operation of the railway and on the reputation of the whole WSR. We believe the PLC has a responsibility to protect this by taking appropriate action as necessary. The Board have a meeting in the afternoon of 27<sup>th</sup> February when we intend to review our position after the outcome of the EGM is known, together with the response of the 6 trustees.

Geoff Pateman, on behalf of the WSR PLC board