



**PENZANCE
COUNCIL**

**PENLEE CENTRE
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PENZANCE
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TOWN CLERK: JAMES HARDY

NOTICE OF MOTION TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Please note that Standing Orders 2, 11 and 12 apply to motions. Written notice of a motion must be submitted to the Proper Officer at least seven clear days (*not including weekends, bank holidays or the day of the meeting*) prior to the meeting.

Section A – To be completed by Councillors

Title of Motion:	South West Rail Resilience Programme
Should this motion be referred from Penzance Council to a Committee and, if so, which?	N/A
Proposed by:	Cllr Stephen Reynolds
Seconded by:	Cllr Peter Lapin
Proposed motion which will form a resolution for consideration at the meeting:	1. Disappointment be expressed at the decision to place on hold the delivery of the final phase of the South West Rail Resilience Programme. 2. A statement to this effect be sent to the Minister for Rail, Lord Peter Hendy of Richmond Hill.
Background (<i>to be provided by the proposer</i>)	The following announcement was recently made by HM Government, as part of a series of decisions on road and rail infrastructure projects: <i>“The delivery of the final phase of the South West Rail Resilience Programme is on hold but preliminary works to support cliff monitoring and drainage are progressing. We have already invested significantly in securing the cliffs and making the coastline more resilience in the South West and need to focus our investment on other projects around the country. We will keep this scheme under review as the preliminary works complete and for funding at future fiscal events.”</i>

	The South West Rail Resilience Programme is the package of works required to stabilise and protect the main line into Devon and Cornwall along the coastal stretch through Dawlish and Teignmouth, which is at increasing risk from extreme weather events and rising sea levels. The decision announced by the government effectively postpones completion of this vital work indefinitely. Penzance is a railway town: it is the terminus of the iconic GWR line, and the railways are a major part of the local economy. In recent years there has been investment in the maintenance depot at Long Rock, and the extension to Ponsandane sidings. The railway is a lifeline for local residents and businesses alike, and a major driver of sustainable tourism in the area. More broadly, the line through Dawlish serves hundreds of thousands of people across Devon and Cornwall, and there is no alternative rail link. Any prolonged interruption to rail services would have major effects on the economy of large swathes of our communities. It is important that the Council speaks up on issues that while outside its remit, nonetheless affect residents and businesses – especially in this case, given Penzance's status as a railway town. The Council can lead by example, so other town councils affected by this decision can follow the lead and can speak with a common voice.
Implications (including financial and staffing / resources) anticipated by the proposer:	Marginal financial and staffing / resources implications, mainly involvement of Town Clerk in correspondence with the Minister. Reputational implications: positive, shows Penzance Council taking a lead on national issues that affects it. Alignment with strategic priorities: particularly good fit with Our People, Our Environment, Our Resilience and Well-Being.
Proposers signature	Confirmed by email
Seconders signature	Confirmed by email

Section B – To be completed by officers

Additional background information	None.
Financial and budgetary implications	None.
Legal and procedural implications	None.
Staffing and resource implications	None other than those already listed by the proposer.
Motion accepted or rejected by the Proper Officer <i>(including reason for rejection if applicable)</i>	Accepted.
Meeting date	23 July 2025
Referred to Committee <i>(if applicable)</i>	N/A
Motion carried, amended or failed at the meeting(s)	
Detail of amendments <i>(if any)</i>	
Minute reference(s)	