EITEM

CYFARFOD	Y CYNGOR
DYDDIAD	26 Chwefror 2009
TEITL	Uwchraddio gallu Rheilffordd Dyffryn Conwy i gludo nwyddau
PWRPAS	Adrodd yn ôl ar rybudd o gynnig a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor
AWDUR	Sioned E. Williams, Pennaeth Gwasanaeth Economi ac Adfywio
ARWEINYDD PORTFFOLIO	Y Cynghorydd Dewi Lewis

1. CEFNDIR

1.1. Fe gyflwywnyd rhybudd o gynnig mewn perthunas â chynllun uwchraddio Rheilffordd Dyffryn Conwy a darparu terfynfa nwyddau amlfodd ym Mlaenau Ffestiniog yng nghyfarfod o'r Cyngor ar 31 Orffennaf 2008. Bryd hynny, fe benderfynwyd mabwysiadu'r cynnig isod :

"Fod y Cyngor hwn yn ysgrifennu at Mr Ieuan Wyn Jones, A.C., Dirprwy Brif Weinidog Cymru a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth i ofyn iddo awdurdodi grant "freight facilities" ar gyfer uwchraddio Rheilffordd Dyffryn Conwy a darparu terfynfa nwyddau amlfodd ym Mlaenau Ffestiniog ar gyfer pob cwmni fyddai'n bwriadu defnyddio'r rheilffordd ar gyfer nwyddau, cyn gynted ag sy'n bosib.

Byddai awdurdodi'r grant yn creu o leiaf 50 swyddi yn y Blaenau, datblygu a diogelu rheilffordd Dyffryn Conwy i'r dyfodol a helpu'r amgylchedd gan wneud cyfraniad sylweddol tuag at gynllun Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i sicrhau fod 25% o agregau Cymru yn agregau eiliol drwy ddefnyddio gwastraff llechi a'i gludo ar y rheilffordd o'r Blaenau i'r byd.

Bod y Cyngor hefyd yn ysgrifennu at y NDA a National Rail i'w hannog i fuddsoddi yn sylweddol i uwchraddio'r rheilffordd a phob cyffordd berthnasol er mwyn galluogi'r gwasanaeth niwclear i ddatgomisiynu Gorsaf Niwclear Trawsfynydd trwy ddefnyddio'r lein"

1.2 Pwrpas yr adroddiad yw cynnig diweddriad ar y sefyllfa.

2. SEFYLLFA BRESENNOL

2.1 Yn seiliedig ar benderfyniad y Cyngor, fe lythyrwyd gyda Dirprwy Brif Weinidog Cymru, Prif Weithredwr Network Rail, a Phrif Weithredwr Awdurdod Dadgomisiynnu Niwcliar i geisio eu cefnogath a'u ymrwymiad i'r cynllun arfaethedig. O dderbyn eu ymateb, credir fod cyfle i ymchwilio ymhellach i'r

cyfleoedd, galw a'r budd fyddai'n gysylltiedig gyda'r bwriad, a fyddai yn darparu sail achos busnes unrhyw gais am fuddsoddiad.

2.2 Yn ystod mis Tachwedd 2008, bu i ddirprwyaeth o Gyngor Gwynedd ymweld â'r Dirprwy Weinidog Cymru a thrafod bygythiadau sy'n wynebu'r ardal, a cheisio ymrwymiad o'r Cynulliad i roi ystyriaeth bellach i'r cyfleoedd o uwchraddio cyfleusterau Rheilffordd Dyffryn Conwy.

2.3 Yn dilyn trafodaethau pellach gyda swyddogion Adran Economi a Thrafnidiaeth (AE&T) y Cynulliad, mae cadarnhad wedi ei dderbyn bellach o'u bwriad i gomisiynnu gwaith i ymchwilio i'r cyfloedd, angen a buddion fyddai'n gysylltiedig gyda'r cynllun.

2.4 Er fod y cynllun wedi ei ddatblygu'n wreiddiol o gyfloedd i gludo gwastraff lechi, bydd y gwaith yma hefyd yn ceisio adnabod defnyddwyr eraill sy'n cludo nwyddau yn Meirionydd. Bydd hefyd yn ystyried unrhyw effaith neu fudd ar wasanaethau teithwyr ar y rheilffordd.

2.5 Mae dau brif gam wedi ei adnabod ar gyfer y gwaith sydd i'w gomisiynnu, sef :

a) Asesu'r galw presennol ac amcanol i'r dyfodol, a'r budd fyddai'n gysylltiedig gyda chludo nwyddau i neu o Flaenau Ffestiniog a'r ardal o'i gwmpas gan ddefnyddio Rheilffordd Dyffryn Conwy

b) Yn ddibynnol ar y galw yn a) uchod, paratoi asesiad cychwynnol o addasrwydd yr isadeiledd presennol i gludo nwyddau ac adnabod gwelliannau i'r isadeiledd byddai eu angen

2.5 Tra fod gryn waith wedi ei wneud dros y blynyddoedd mewn perthynas â'r bwriad, mae'n ymddangos fod amgylchiadau ac rhai ystyriaethau elfennol wedi newid yn ystod y 5 mlynedd ddiwethaf. Er hynny, rhagwelir y bydd modd defnyddio gwybodaeth blaenorol sydd ar gael, a'i ddiweddaru yn ôl yr angen.

2.6 Mae swyddogion o'r Cyngor yn cyd-weithio'n agos gyda swyddogion AE&T ac mae trefniadau ar gyfer apwyntio ymgynghorwyr eisoes ar waith. Rhagwelir y bydd yr ymgynghorwyr wedi eu apwyntio ddiwedd mis Chwefror, a bydd yr astudiaeth wedi ei chwblhau erbyn diwedd mis Mai.

3. ARGYMHELLIAD

3.1 Nodi a derbyn cynnwys yr adroddiad.

ITEM

MEETING	FULL COUNCIL
DATE	26 February 2009
TITLE	Upgrading of Conwy Valley Railway line to transport freight
PURPOSE	To report back on a notice of motion previously adopted by the Council
AUTHOR	Sioned E. Williams, Head of Economic and Regeneration Service
PORTFOLIO LEADER	Councillor Dewi Lewis

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 A notice of motion regarding a proposal to upgrade Conwy Valley Line and to provide a multi-modal freight terminal at Blaenau Ffestiniog was discussed during the Full Council meeting on 31st July 2008. It was resolved to adopt the following motion :

"*That this Council writes to Mr Ieuan Wyn Jones A.M., Deputy First Minister of Wales and Minister for the Economy and Transport to request him to authorise a Freight Facilities Grant to upgrade the Conwy Valley Line and to provide a multi-modal freight terminal at Blaenau Ffestiniog - that would be available to any future rail freight users - as soon as possible.*

Authorising this Grant would create at least fifty jobs in Blaenau Ffestiniog, develop and future-proof the Conwy Valley Line, and deliver considerable benefits to the environment, whilst contributing significantly to WAG's aspiration regarding aggregates (i.e. that secondary aggregates should form 25% of aggregate produced in Wales), by utilising Blaenau slate waste and transporting it from Blaenau to the world.

That the Council also writes to the NDA and National Rail encouraging them to invest substantially to upgrade the railway line and every relevant junction in order to enable the nuclear service to decommission Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station by using the line"

1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the matter.

2. CURRENT SITUATION

2.1 Based on the Council's decision, letters were sent to the Deputy First Minister, Network Rail Chief Executive and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Chief Executive to seek their support and commitment to the proposed scheme. Based upon their responses, there may well be an opportunity to investigate further the

opportunities, demand and benefits associated with such a proposal, which would also provide a business case for any application for investment.

2.2 During November 2008, a delegation from Gwynedd Council met with the Deputy First Minister to discuss threats facing the area, and to request that the Assembly gives further consideration to the opportunities of upgrading the Conwy Valley Line facilities.

2.3 Following further discussion with officers from the Assembly's Department for Economy and Transport (DE&&T), confirmation has been received of their intention to commission work to investigate the opportunities, demand and benefits associated with the scheme.

2.4 Although the scheme was originally developed based on the transport of slate waste, this work will also consider other possible freight users in Meirionnydd. It will also consider any impact or advantages on passenger services.

2.5 Two key stages have been identified in respect of the work to be commissioned :

a) Assess the current and projected demand, and benefits resulting from the transportation of freight by rail from and to Blaenau Ffestiniog and surrounding area using the Conwy Valley Line

b) Depending on the demand identified in a) above, undertake a preliminary assessment of the suitability of the existing infrastructure to transport freight, and identify infrastructure improvements and provisions are needed

2.5 Although significant work has been undertaken over the years in respect of the scheme, it does appear that circumstances and key considerations have changed during the last 5 years. Nevertheless, it is hoped to make use of information that may already be available, and update as required.

2.6 Gwynedd Council officers are working closely with DE&T officers, and arrangements to appoint consultants are underway. Consultants are expected to be appointed before the end of February, and the work expected to be completed before the end of May.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To receive and note the contents of the report.