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PRESS RELEASE

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PLAID CYMRU ADOPTS RAILFUTURE IDEAS TO DEVELOP RAILWAYS

Rail campaigners in Wales have welcomed the news that Plaid Cymru is considering adopting some of its ideas for developing the railways. Plaid wants to take over the franchise in Wales currently being run by Arriva Trains Wales and put it in the hands of a not-for-profit company when the present franchise ends in eight years time.

“This is brilliant news, it’s virtually what we suggested last year” said John Rogers, from the pressure group Railfuture Wales, who originally proposed the idea. “Plaid have confirmed to us that this is going into their next manifesto”

“We think this would be a step towards a better Welsh railway network. It would allow £10 million a year extra to be used to invest in more trains for more frequent services throughout the country, rather than going towards Arriva Trains shareholders”

But he wants to go further. “The next step is to get the powers to take over responsibility for running the tracks from Network Rail. Integrating track and train will allow for greater efficiencies, and a non-profit company will better serve the public, following the blueprint of Glas Cymru”

“Perhaps in the longer term too there might be a possibility to share services to London with First Great Western”

Notes for editors:

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Railfuture is Britain's only completely independent voice on railway development. We are not affiliated to or sponsored by any political party, trade union, or private industry. We are funded almost entirely by our members.

Rail is a vital part of an integrated efficient transport system serving a modern, vibrant, environmentally sustainable economy. We are pro-rail but not anti-road. Railfuture maintains that investment in rail travel and rail freight is vital to the future of the UK economy and environment.

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