

Keep Island Line in Franchise
“KILF” CAMPAIGN
Isle of Wight Council elections: the future of Island Line

We asked the candidates whether, if elected, they will:

- 1) Advocate Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.
- 2) Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.

The responses from the candidates are set out below, in ward order.

BRADING, ST HELENS & BEMBRIDGE (two seats)	
Jonathan Bacon (Independent)	Reply received on Facebook: <i>The answers would be 'yes' and 'yes'. The key is to look longer term and the most efficient combination of rolling stock and infrastructure for a long term future.</i>
Roger Bartrum (Green Party)	<i>Thank you for your emails this week. I have been taking an interest in Island Line over the past couple of years and would like to thank KILF for its work in making the sometimes very complex issues understandable for island residents.</i> <i>As a candidate I am keen to protect the Island Line rail service and think it should be kept in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>If elected I think it is essential that I, and other green councillors insist the new leadership make representations to the DfT. Investment is long overdue and both rolling stock and housing stock is an embarrassment currently.</i>
John Graney (Liberal Democrat)	No response received to date.
Gordon Kendall (Independent)	No response received to date.
Michael Murwill (Conservative Party)	<i>I whole heartedly support the aims of the KILF and when/if elected I will do all I can to support the line.</i> <i>We need to improve the infrastructure and public transport on the Island, to reduce the strain on the roads.</i>
Hugh Street (Labour Party)	Response from IOW Labour Party: <i>All the Labour Candidates, along the line and in Ventnor, will if elected:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Advocate the Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> 2. <i>Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i>
Brian Tyndall (Conservative Party)	<i>Thank you for your email and details of the KILF Campaign.</i> <i>You can certainly look for my support in this matter, not only for the Island, but as I live in Brading for the Town itself.</i>

GODSHILL & WROXALL	
Patch Barry (Green Party)	<p><i>I am not as familiar on this matter as I should like to be so I will perhaps offer some general principles by which you can predict my likely future action on this matter.</i></p> <p><i>I am 100% in favour of a train service for the island. I certainly would not like to see its services or quality reduced, if anything, where ethical and practicable I would be favour of expansion.</i></p> <p><i>My preferred option for running the trains would be community or public enterprise yet I appreciate reality might dictate such a proposal as inferior to the one KILF currently suggests.</i></p> <p><i>So... I look forward to expanding my knowledge on this matter and if elected exploring realistic options with KILF (as you have done your homework and I haven't) to secure a better future for our train service.</i></p>
Rodney Downer (Independent)	<p><i>In reply to your first question I would advocate Island Line being retained in the South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network. It is most important to keep the rail service.</i></p> <p><i>The second point I would make representations to the new administration, to make representations to the DfT. Also ask government to support First Group plans for investment in Island Line.</i></p>
Ewan Smith-Wainwright (Conservative Party)	No response received to date.

HAVENSTREET, ASHEY & HAYLANDS	
Vanessa Churchman (Conservative Party)	No response received to date.
David Logan (Green Party)	No response received to date.
Sue Lyons (Labour Party)	<p>Response from IOW Labour Party:</p> <p><i>All the Labour Candidates, along the line and in Ventnor, will if elected:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Advocate the Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i>
Malcolm Ross (Liberal Democrat)	No response received to date.
Sandy Stephens (Independent)	No response received to date.

LAKE NORTH	
Bob Blezzard (Liberal Democrat)	<p><i>Thank you for your message. I am pleased to respond as follows:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. I fully support Islandline being retained in the wider South West Trains Franchise and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>2. If elected I will be delighted to ask the new Council leadership to make strong representations to Government to pressure First Group/MTR to make substantial investment in the Islandline infrastructure. I would want this to include the provision of a passing point at Brading to allow for a 30 minute service. I know that some funding is being provided for station upgrading and I want to see Lake station receive its fair share of that funding.</i> <p><i>I would add that I wish to see the funding for free travel by Island residents with bus passes which was withdrawn by the Council in 2012 reinstated. This would demonstrate that the Council values the service provided by Islandline. It is a matter I have previously raised both at Council meetings and at a public meeting but without a satisfactory response from the former Independent administration.</i></p>
Deborah Gardiner (Labour & Co-operative)	<p><i>Response from IOW Labour Party:</i></p> <p><i>All the Labour Candidates, along the line and in Ventnor, will if elected:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Advocate the Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>2. Urge the IOW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i>
Tig Outlaw (Conservative Party)	<p><i>Thank you for your email regarding the future of Island Line. I am delighted to offer my wholehearted support for the KILF campaign. Island Line is a service I use every week, indeed on Friday, Saturday and Monday this Easter weekend. Island Line is also the reason I moved to Lake many years ago. In a period of job insecurity I moved my family to Lake as it would widen my job opportunities through the possibility of commuting. I am happy to say my own job security has improved but Island Line remains a vital part of the Islands transport infrastructure. Many residents do rely on the line to commute, allowing them to stay Island residents who would otherwise need to consider relocating. It is also of course crucial to the Islands tourist industry.</i></p> <p><i>Of course much of this is preaching to the converted but I do want residents of Lake North and KILF supporters as a whole to know that I recognise Island Line's importance not just to me and my family but to the wider community and its future prosperity.</i></p> <p><i>From a practical perspective, you are absolutely right to point out the important role Isle of Wight councillors may play in Island Line's future. As a result I feel it is important that candidates understand the issues and the potential threats to Island Line's future. Whilst I recognise it has an important role, I do have some concern that the Islands 'Infrastructure Transport Task Force' may put forward some ideas that will somewhat muddy the waters. Any proposals that are uncostered and unrealistic alternatives may dilute the essential role that I believe the IOW Council should take in pressing the DfT to help First Group MTR deliver the much needed investment to improve the service. It is important that the IOW Council support proposals that are deliverable and not wish lists.</i></p> <p><i>Let me be clear, yes Island Line will need financial investment but so would any alternative such as a tram, and I believe a tram would cost a whole lot more than the sensible and deliverable plans outlined by First Group MTR.</i></p>

	<p><i>The only alternative that would cost less, the alternative that we should all fear is for Island Line to be replaced with a dedicated bus service. I believe that would destroy the Island's tourist industry and would be disastrous for the Bay area in particular. Whilst inside the franchise there is a duty and a responsibility on the DfT and First Group MTR to maintain the lines future, any attempt to deliver a sustainable future outside of the franchise unrestrained by such duties could easily lead to such an outcome.</i></p> <p><i>In conclusion, if elected as councillor for Lake North I will strongly advocate for Island Line to remain as an integral part of the wider South Western franchise and that it remains an integral part of the national rail network. I will also urge the council leadership to lobby the DfT to support First Group MTR in delivering an improved and more sustainable future for Island Line as a 'full' and 'undiluted' part of the wider franchise.</i></p>
Gerry White (UKIP)	<i>I am in favour of keeping the island line going so why did the Isle of Wight Council take island line out of the free travel pass system on the island and depriving them of a large income.</i>

LAKE SOUTH	
Stewart Blackmore (Labour Party)	<p>Response from IOW Labour Party:</p> <p><i>All the Labour Candidates, along the line and in Ventnor, will if elected:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Advocate the Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>2. Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i>
Paul Brading (Conservative Party)	<p><i>Having lived locally all my life I regularly use the train service.</i></p> <p><i>Island Line is vital to the Isle of Wight, especially to Lake which I hope to be elected to represent. Yes, investment is needed and the best way of attracting this, and protecting the future of the service, is undoubtedly for Island Line to remain within the franchise.</i></p> <p><i>I have discussed this in detail with current serving Councillor Ray Bloomfield, who I know has raised motions on this at County Council, and if elected to succeed Ray I will continue the work to fight for this aim.</i></p>
Chani-May Courtney (Liberal Democrat)	No response received to date.
John Fleming	No response received to date.
Adrian Whittaker (Independent)	<i>I am full supportive of the Island Line campaign. If elected I would support it 100%.</i>

RYDE EAST	
Mary Collis (Conservative Party)	<p><i>I agree absolutely that Island Line should be retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise and as part of the rail network. If elected I would definitely lobby for the post-election leadership to make representation to the DfT in support of this and also that they ask the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for investment in Island Line and therefore securing its future in the wider franchise.</i></p> <p><i>I have recently been actively involved with Community Rail. I have co-written a children's book and been involved with putting on a number of shows at various railway stations on the island and the mainland in order to raise awareness and encourage people from childhood upwards to support the railways and appreciate their great value as a means of transport.</i></p> <p><i>I can confirm that whether elected or not, I would be very happy to totally support the aims of the KILF and work with them in every way possible to secure the future of Island Line.</i></p>
Lawrence Fontana (Liberal Democrat)	No response received to date.
Michael Lilley (Green Party)	<p><i>I totally support the Island Line remaining in the franchise.</i></p> <p><i>The Island Line is crucial in connecting Ryde to the Bay area. As a Ryde Town Councillor seeking re-election and a candidate to represent Ryde East in the Isle of Wight Council elections, if elected I would support the campaign to keep the Island Line within the current franchise. This line is a vital part of our transport network on the Island. Within my ward, many residents rely on St John's Station to get trains to work everyday whether to catch the Cat at the Pier Head or to go to bay area. The Line is also essential to tourism and the economy of Ryde and Bay area. Lastly I have a deep personal affection for the Line which I first travelled on as a child. It is an important part of the Island's heritage.</i></p>
Roger Whitby-Smith (Independent)	Yes – if re-elected most certainly.

RYDE NORTH EAST	
Nancy Farrell (Green Party)	No response received to date.
Zarah Groves (Labour Party)	<p>Response from IOW Labour Party:</p> <p><i>All the Labour Candidates, along the line and in Ventnor, will if elected:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Advocate the Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i>
Wayne Whittle (Conservative Party)	<i>As a tenant of the Esplanade Station and Cllr for same my support goes without saying and must do as I have a clear interest.</i>

RYDE NORTH WEST	
Adrian Axford (Conservative Party)	No response received to date.
Stephen Courtney (Liberal Democrat)	No response received to date.
Julian Critchley (Labour Party)	<p>Response from IOW Labour Party:</p> <p><i>All the Labour Candidates, along the line and in Ventnor, will if elected:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Advocate the Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>2. Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i>
Phil Jordan	No response received to date.
Ewald Widiner (Green Party)	<p><i>Should I be elected as County Councillor I will support the KILF CAMPAIGN!</i></p> <p><i>I will advocate that the Island Train Line should be retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, as part of the national rail network. Further I will urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including to ask the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment into the Island Line and thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i></p>

RYDE SOUTH	
Charles Chapman (Conservative Party)	<p><i>I believe the greatest disservice that was ever done on the island was the cutting of the Railways (How much now could go the Railway reliving our Roads of Heavy Traffic).</i></p> <p><i>Keeping our Island Railway Line which is both a provider of Jobs and a welcome boost as a Tourist attraction and access point. I would support the extension of this line were ever possible, not forgetting the Steam Railway which connects to Island Line.</i></p> <p><i>Let's have more Railway.</i></p>
Karen Lucioni	<i>Yes I absolutely support this as set out in your email, however I would really like the opportunity to learn more.</i>
Mick Lyons (Labour Party)	<p>Response from IOW Labour Party:</p> <p><i>All the Labour Candidates, along the line and in Ventnor, will if elected:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Advocate the Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>2. Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i>

RYDE WEST	
Janet Beckett (Liberal Democrat)	No response received to date.
Conrad Gauntlett (Conservative Party)	<i>Count me in, as I am all for keeping the franchise as it is.</i>
Jim Moody (Labour Party)	<p>Response from IOW Labour Party:</p> <p><i>All the Labour Candidates, along the line and in Ventnor, will if elected:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Advocate the Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>2. Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i>
Alex Pointing (Green Party)	No response received to date.
Ian Stephens	No response received to date.

SANDOWN NORTH	
Ronald Anderson (Labour Party)	<p>Response from IOW Labour Party:</p> <p><i>All the Labour Candidates, along the line and in Ventnor, will if elected:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Advocate the Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>2. Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i>
Debbie Andre (Independent)	<p><i>Thank you for the detailed report on your valiant efforts so far to "keep island line in the franchise" and for giving me the opportunity to respond.</i></p> <p><i>My responses are as follows:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Advocate Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</p> <p><i>If elected, I will support and progress any plans to keep Island Line within the National Rail network, currently within the South Western Rail Franchise, as I believe that this will provide a degree of protection and longevity for this vital service which, with the right management team in place, will support the island's economy and deliver a more environmentally friendly form of transport for both residents and visitors alike.</i></p> <p>Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</p> <p><i>I fully support making representations to the DfT to facilitate and encourage investment, looking at all viable alternatives in terms of 21st century innovation that could replace the existing rolling stock, with minimal changes to the existing infrastructure, which may also encourage investment from a wider sphere. I am also in favour of seeking to extend the current provision to provide much more efficient access to major towns on the island.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you again for all your efforts.</i></p>
Kevin Arlette (UKIP)	No response received to date.
Rajesh Patel (Conservative Party)	No response received to date.

SANDOWN SOUTH	
Eric Lawson (Green Party)	<p>1) Advocate Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</p> <p><i>If elected for Sandown South in the IW Council, I intend to work very hard with all parties working towards keeping the Island Line within the South Western Rail Franchise.</i></p> <p><i>The Island Line service is vital to a wide cross section of the Sandown community, supporting commuters, students, tourists and providing employment opportunities, directly via the trains service and also indirectly via various cafes and other retail outlets situated along the route. The benefits of the island line being within a larger operation ensures viability whereas an independently run service has a high risk of failure in the medium to long term.</i></p> <p>2) Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</p> <p><i>In my ambitious plans to create a Sandown Town Strategy and to re-focus the IW Council support on Sandown, I envision an efficient, affordable and enjoyable island line train service. Encouraging tourists to Sandown Bay is central to the regeneration of Sandown. Parking is an issue along the seafront and public transportation, in addition to a car parking strategy that works for locals and tourists, is a vital part of the solution.</i></p>
Ian Ward (Conservative Party)	<p><i>I will do my best to help residents get the best deal and best service we can. To achieve that we should consider every option available then choose what is best for our residents.</i></p>

SHANKLIN CENTRAL	
Michael Beston (Conservative Party)	<p><i>As an Isle of Wight tourism business owner and Shanklin resident, I fully and wholeheartedly support the KILF (Keep Island Line in the Franchise) campaign. My view is that it's absolutely imperative that Island Line remains as a vital part of the Islands transport infrastructure, I also advocate that it must be retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i></p> <p><i>After speaking to many local Shanklin residents during my election campaign, it has become very clear that residents, who rely on this vital link, share the same concerns. Losing this key part of the town's transport route to Ryde and beyond would be severely damaging not only to our residents transport services, but of course to our highly valued Island tourism industry.</i></p> <p><i>During consultations, it would appear that most Shanklin Residents are keen to support the KILF stance of retaining our Island line in the wider South Western Rail Franchise. My observations as a Shanklin resident confirmed there was very little, or minimal action taken by the previous Independent administration or indeed by Independent Shanklin Councillors to save Island Line in the long term. Absence of such action had left the future of Island Line seriously at risk.</i></p> <p><i>If elected as an Isle of Wight Councillor, I will ensure there is a well informed voice in the Council Chamber, and indeed at Shanklin Town Council. I will also strongly advocate for Island Line to remain as an integral part of the wider South Western franchise, and the national rail network. I will also urge the post election council leadership to lobby the DfT to support First Group MTR in delivering an improved and more sustainable future for Island Line.</i></p>
Elizabeth Evans (Labour Party)	<p>Response from IOW Labour Party:</p> <p><i>All the Labour Candidates, along the line and in Ventnor, will if elected:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Advocate the Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>2. Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i>
Jon Gilbey	No response received to date.
Robert May (Green Party)	<p><i>I thank you for this opportunity to outline where I stand on Island Line.</i></p> <p><i>I'm Robert May standing for the Green Party in Shanklin Central.</i></p> <p><i>I strongly support keeping Island line in the wider South Western franchise, as this service is a vital link for so many people, I would hate to see the service lost, as I feel this would have a devastating affect on Shanklin. But this is only a short term goal as the Green Party is committed to bringing rail services into public ownership and control. The current fragmented structure does not put the passenger and the total journey experience at the centre of planning and has created a costly, wasteful, uncoordinated outcome.</i></p> <p><i>And should I be elected by the people of Shanklin Central on the 4th May, then yes I will be urging the Isle of Wight Council's new leadership team to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective. I agree that Island Line needs much investment and support asking the government to support First Group MTR's plans.</i></p>

SHANKLIN SOUTH	
Doreen Armstrong (Labour Party)	<p>Response from IOW Labour Party:</p> <p><i>All the Labour Candidates, along the line and in Ventnor, will if elected:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Advocate the Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>2. Urge the IOW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i>
Nick Belfitt (Liberal Democrat)	No response received to date.
Lorraine Briar (Green Party)	No response received to date.
Andrew Green (Independent)	<p><i>Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on Island Line.</i></p> <p><i>As the independent candidate for Shanklin South & Luccombe I consider the inclusion of Island Line within the South West franchise as integral to the economy of the Shanklin Bay Area and the Island's East Coast. Many words have been stated about Island Line's future in the South West franchise and the need for investment. However as a season ticket holder, the biggest issue I have observed is 'revenue protection', as many people travel free without paying. Therefore as an ex-director of First Group I will work with the new franchisee to help them invest in improved services e.g. earlier train from Shanklin to catch the first fast cat of the day. As well as secure the line's long term future and the much needed development.</i></p>
Richard Priest	No response received to date.
Chris Quirk (Conservative Party)	<p><i>As a founder member of KILF I am committed to its objectives and if elected I am committed to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Keeping Island Line as part of the South Western Franchise and National Rail Network.</i> <i>2. Urging the IOW Council to support First Group's investment plans when submitted to DfT.</i> <p><i>Whilst most Shanklin Residents appear to support the KILF position, there was minimal action taken by the Independent Councillors for Shanklin or the Independent administration, and by their inertia the future of Island Line was left seriously at risk. Saving Island Line in the long term required action, and in the absence of leadership by the Independent Administration that action was driven by the cross party group Keep Island Line (in the) Franchise, better known as KILF.</i></p> <p><i>Within KILF I personally have made a significant impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Organised the original public meeting that established KILF.</i> <i>• Put the question to the 250+ attendees that gained unanimous support for KILF's position.</i> <i>• Attended the DfT Consultation on the Island and created ongoing lines of communication with the DfT Civil Servants that presented.</i> <i>• Attended the London meeting of the South Western Franchise consultation where KILF's pre-briefing of Journalists led to Island Line being the main topic of discussion at the London consultation.</i> <i>• Met with representatives of the potential bidders before and after the London consultation.</i> <i>• Met with senior DfT bidders before and after the London consultation.</i> <i>• Wrote letter to Claire Perry, then Undersecretary of State for Transport, explaining the Island's needs.</i> <i>• Attended the South Western Franchise Parliamentary debate.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spoke personally with Claire Perry following the Parliamentary debate and hand delivered information on Island Line • Subsequently had a positive ongoing exchange with Claire Perry. • Lobbied all IOW Councillors to support Ray Bloomfield's resolution to support Island Line remaining in the wider South Western Rail Franchise. • Presented to Chris Garnett consultation on behalf of IOW Council. • Presented to Transport Task Force (although it was a sham as most members of the task force did not attend most of the presentations). • Now standing for IOW Council to ensure there is a well-informed voice in the Council Chamber.
Sonja Ward (UKIP)	<p><i>I confirm that I wholeheartedly believe our Island Line should remain as part of the nationwide rail service, otherwise we are surely at risk if left to be totally self-sustaining. The proposals suggested by First Group MTR sound promising and just what we need of course.</i></p> <p><i>I do indeed support KILF and thank you for what you have achieved so far on behalf of our Island community, and if elected I would continue to see this through to the positive outcome we so need.</i></p>

VENTNOR EAST	
Stephen Gibbons-Roscoe (UKIP)	No response received to date.
Ed Gouge (Labour Party)	<p>Response from IOW Labour Party:</p> <p><i>All the Labour Candidates, along the line and in Ventnor, will if elected:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Advocate the Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>2. Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i>
Billy Hill (Independent)	<p><i>As someone who uses the Island Line train service I understand the importance and requirement of the service in serving visitors and regular commuters alike.</i></p> <p><i>Island Line remaining within the South Western Rail franchise and as part of the National Rail Group is the best outcome for the future of the train service both in the improvement, investment and maintenance of the line and in its continuation being a key connection point to the mainland.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore In addition to supporting Island Line remaining within the South Western Rail franchise and as part of the National Rail Group I would also encourage and support the leadership of the council in highlighting the priorities above to the Department for Transport if elected as the independent councillor for Ventnor East.</i></p>
Jonathan Marks (Green Party)	No response received to date.
Graham Perks (Conservative Party)	<i>Agree with you all.</i>

VENTNOR WEST	
Stephen Cockett (Green Party)	<p><i>Many thanks for the invitation to comment.</i></p> <p><i>Public transport provision is a foundation of Green politics, not only does it provide obvious environmental and economic benefits but it also fulfills a democratic function, as mobility should be a citizens right.</i></p> <p><i>It is therefore very easy for me to answer the questions posed with absolute certainty in my conviction.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. There is no question that Island Line should remain part of the franchise, only by being part of the larger franchise will the necessary continuity of operations be maintained and the required investments be feasible.</i> <i>2. I can give my personal assurance that in the event that I am elected for the ward of Ventnor West, my support will be forthcoming for any actions that bolster the position of Island line within the franchise, including representations to the DfT, either in support of other members or proactively.</i> <p><i>Once again, many thanks for the opportunity to comment.</i></p>
Steve Cooper (Labour Party)	<p>Response from IOW Labour Party:</p> <p><i>All the Labour Candidates, along the line and in Ventnor, will if elected:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Advocate the Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <i>2. Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i>
Richard Curtis (UKIP)	No response received to date.
Gary Peace (Conservative Party)	<p><i>As someone who has used the Island Line over a number of years my position in relation to your questions is as follows:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Advocate Island Line being retained in the wider South Western Rail Franchise, and as part of the national rail network.</i> <p><i>Yes, I would like to see the line retained in the rail franchise.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>2. Urge the IW Council's post-election leadership to make representations to the DfT in support of this objective, including asking the Government to support First Group MTR's plans for much-needed investment in Island Line, thereby securing its future in the wider franchise.</i> <p><i>If elected I will support and encourage all representations to secure the future investment funding from First Group, with a view to securing its long term future within the franchise.</i></p>
Harry Rees (Independent)	No response received to date.