

## **Statement from Network Rail**

Ahead of the full council motion this evening at Swindon Borough Council, for which Network Rail may be mentioned, please find below a statement from us which has been agreed by our property and media colleagues (copied in):

*"We welcome any third party wishing to discuss investing in the railway; and we are currently restructuring to be more open for business so we can put passengers first.*

*"Unfortunately, we were not able to further the discussions with Laurie Marsh and Jock MacKenzie as their proposal would not be compatible with Network Rail's constitution or obligations.*

*"Additionally, there are also concerns about placing public assets into a new body, particularly without a competitive process to show value for public funds.*

*"We continue to work with Swindon Borough Council and Great Western Railway on proposals for rejuvenation of the railway station and surrounding area. Once there is a viable plan this will be put out to the market to enable companies to bid for the work."*