

Lewes District Council
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please reply to:

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roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk

2023-12-29

Dear Sir / Madam,

“Re-imagining Lewes District – Delivering the Vision 2024-28”

Railfuture is Britain’s leading, longest-established, independent national voluntary organisation campaigning exclusively for a better railway across a bigger network for passenger and freight users, to support economic (housing and productivity) growth, environmental improvement and better-connected communities.

We seek to influence decision makers at local, regional and national levels to implement pro-rail policies in transport and development planning.

1. In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

Name of organisation or group: Railfuture

2. Where in Lewes district do you live?

n/a

3. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority: 'Delivering high quality, responsive services to local people'?

Strongly agree.

4. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority: 'Continuing to support local people through challenging times'?

Strongly agree.

5. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority: 'Providing leadership to the district in tackling the climate and nature emergencies'?

Strongly agree.

6. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority: 'Creating sustainable community wealth'?

Strongly agree.

7. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority: 'Building genuinely affordable homes'?

Strongly agree.

8. How much do you agree or disagree with how we propose to work with people and partners?

Strongly agree.

www.railfuture.org.uk www.railfuturescotland.org.uk www.railfuturewales.org.uk
www.railwatch.org.uk

9. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposed priorities?

Taking the unifying intent of all the 2024-28 Vision's priorities in the round, and in recognition of a current and over-lapping public consultation on Spatial Strategy and Policies Directions for the next Local Plan to 2040, we note with appreciation that the latter includes Policy IC10 "Former Lewes to Uckfield Railway Line" as an element in the Infrastructure & Community Facilities theme. In order to reflect that emerging policy commitment in the Council's Corporate Plan for 2024-28, recognising the socio-economic and environmental benefits which rail already brings to the wider area, and that those benefits could be further embedded by restoring a rail link between Lewes and Uckfield, we advocate inclusion of the following additional element within the 'Creating sustainable community wealth' priority of the final 2024-28 Vision:

We will develop opportunities to enhance long-term community prosperity through improved public transport connectivity, by supporting further work on developing the business case for restoring a Lewes-Uckfield rail link, to allow the strategic, economic and environmental case and the implications of restoring such a link to be more fully evaluated.

It will be seen that this supports Priority 4 "A great place to live and work" within the 'Community Wealth and Wellbeing' theme.

10. If you would like us to update you on the outcome of this consultation please enter your email address below.

roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk

Yours faithfully,

Roger Blake BA, MRTPI (Rtd), MTPS
Railfuture
Vice-Chair London & South East regional branch
Director for Infrastructure & Networks, national Board