

"Celebrations, consultations and competitions ... oh my!"



Christian Wolmar, Honorary President of Railfuture, presents award to Councillor Andrea Davis

Devon honoured to receive Railfuture award

Britain's leading independent organisation campaigning for better rail services has honoured us with a prestigious award. Railfuture named us a 'torch bearer in rail development' and presented Councillor Andrea Davis, our Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, with its Judges' Special Award.

The accolade from the judges of Railfuture's Rail User Group (RUG) awards is in recognition of our sustained delivery of rail projects across Devon. This was the first time <u>Railfuture</u> has presented an award to a local authority. We were praised for a series of rail and public transport improvements including:

- the opening of Marsh Barton Station as the most recent of three new stations in the Devon Metro,
- being awarded Department for Transport (DfT) funding for the Strategic Outline Business Case for the Tavistock to Plymouth Restoring Your Railway project,
- our role in the reopening of the Dartmoor Line, followed by securing Levelling Up funding for a new rail station on the east side of Okehampton,
- strengthening bus and rail integration with dedicated bus links including connections between Tavistock, Bude and Launceston with the Dartmoor Line and providing additional funding for bus services in rural North Devon to enhance connections to Barnstaple Railway Station.

They also highlighted that these projects had been achieved through Devon's close work with train operators and other key stakeholders.