

# Coastal Communities Economic Prospectus

1. Do you give your consent for your details to be passed to Deyton Bell to participate in the Coastal Communities Economic Prospectus

- Yes
- 

2. If your consent is given, please provide the following details:

Name: Roger Blake

Email: [roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk)

Contact Number: 07538492501

Confirm which Local Authority Area you are based in: Railfuture L&SE covers whole SELEP area.

Whether you would be willing to participate in a workshop, phone call or meeting to discuss the Economic Prospectus further: YES

3. What are the key challenges facing your organisation? *Communicating rail development as economic growth-enabling, not just about transport.*

4. What are the key challenges facing your community or town? *Confronting perceptions and realities of peripherality, often based on slow journey times to other economic centres not just physical distance.*

5. How do you feel your challenges are shared with other Coastal Communities? *Much in common.*

6. What do you consider to be the current benefits/positives of being located on the Coast? *Quality living and working environment, attractive to visitors and incomers as potential agents of change.*

7. Other than additional funding, what else would assist you in tackling your communities' issues? *An influx of ambitious and resourceful individuals and market-leading organisations.*

8. Where do you see opportunities for your community/business over the next 5/10 years? *We're among the growing range of local champions of the economic benefits to coastal communities in the east of East Sussex of quicker links with London by rail via an extension of HS1 services from Ashford via Rye, Hastings, St. Leonards, Bexhill, and Eastbourne. This is do-able within a decade.*

9. How much Government focus do you think is on the Coast?

- a great deal
- a lot
- a modest amount YES
- a little
- none at all

10. How could your organisation assist in raising the profile of Coastal issues across the South East? *Demonstrating the art of the possible through alliance-based collaborative working with other agencies and sectors. We are in the Hastings & Rother Rail Users Alliance of six local groups engaging regularly with the train operator over current and future timetabling to secure better journey opportunities, and with Network Rail over infrastructure developments to enable the extension of HS1 services into East Sussex, all with the active support of local MPs and other political representatives and an ever-broadening base of local economic stakeholders.*