

rail***future***

campaigning for a bigger, better railway

Devon and Cornwall

18.10.2025



Connect Bude

Campaigning to re-connect Bude and Holsworthy

What is Railfuture?

- Railfuture is Britain's leading independent organisation campaigning for a bigger better railway.
- The campaign voice for freight and passenger services.
- Supporters of rail investment to bring sustainability and prosperity to industries and communities in Devon and Cornwall.
- Railfuture is not affiliated to or funded by train companies, political parties or trade unions, and is funded solely by members' subscriptions and legacies.
- We observe all government and industry guidance, eg DfT's Transport Appraisal Guidance and Treasury's Green Book, in development of business cases to support our campaign projects.

What is Railfuture supporting?

- The Fighting Fund contributed to Connect Bude's initiative to investigate enhancing the bus service between Bude and Okehampton, as reported on Connect Bude website in April 2024 and March 2025.
- Initiated the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance.
- Transformational modernisation of the North Devon – Exeter to Barnstaple passenger service. The line that services North Devon, Mid Devon and Exeter. This line is also used by Torridge, West Devon and North Cornwall residents.
- The North Devon line extension to service a new to rail market in the greater Bideford area in the Torridge district.

What is Transport Appraisal Guidance?

Department for Transport states:

- **Informed Decision-Making:** TAG helps ensure that transport investments are well-justified, cost-effective, and aligned with strategic objectives.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Guidance helps ensure that transport plans and projects contribute to wider strategic priorities like economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Appraisal processes, guided by the guidance, make the rationale for transport investments transparent and accountable to the public.

What is the Treasury's Green Book?

- ▶ The Green Book: appraisal and evaluation in central government.
- ▶ Provides framework for assessing value for money of alternative proposals for meeting government objectives.
- ▶ Concerns about previous over-emphasis on benefit-cost ratios (BCRs).
- ▶ Review published in June marks a new approach. Government departments will collaborate with local and regional partners to identify combinations of long-term interventions needed to unlock growth in a particular area through place-based business cases.
- ▶ Reassuring that this is already the approach taken by advisers to the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance in developing preliminary strategic outline business cases for modernisation and extension of North Devon Line services, transforming transport from inhibitor to enabler of local economic growth.

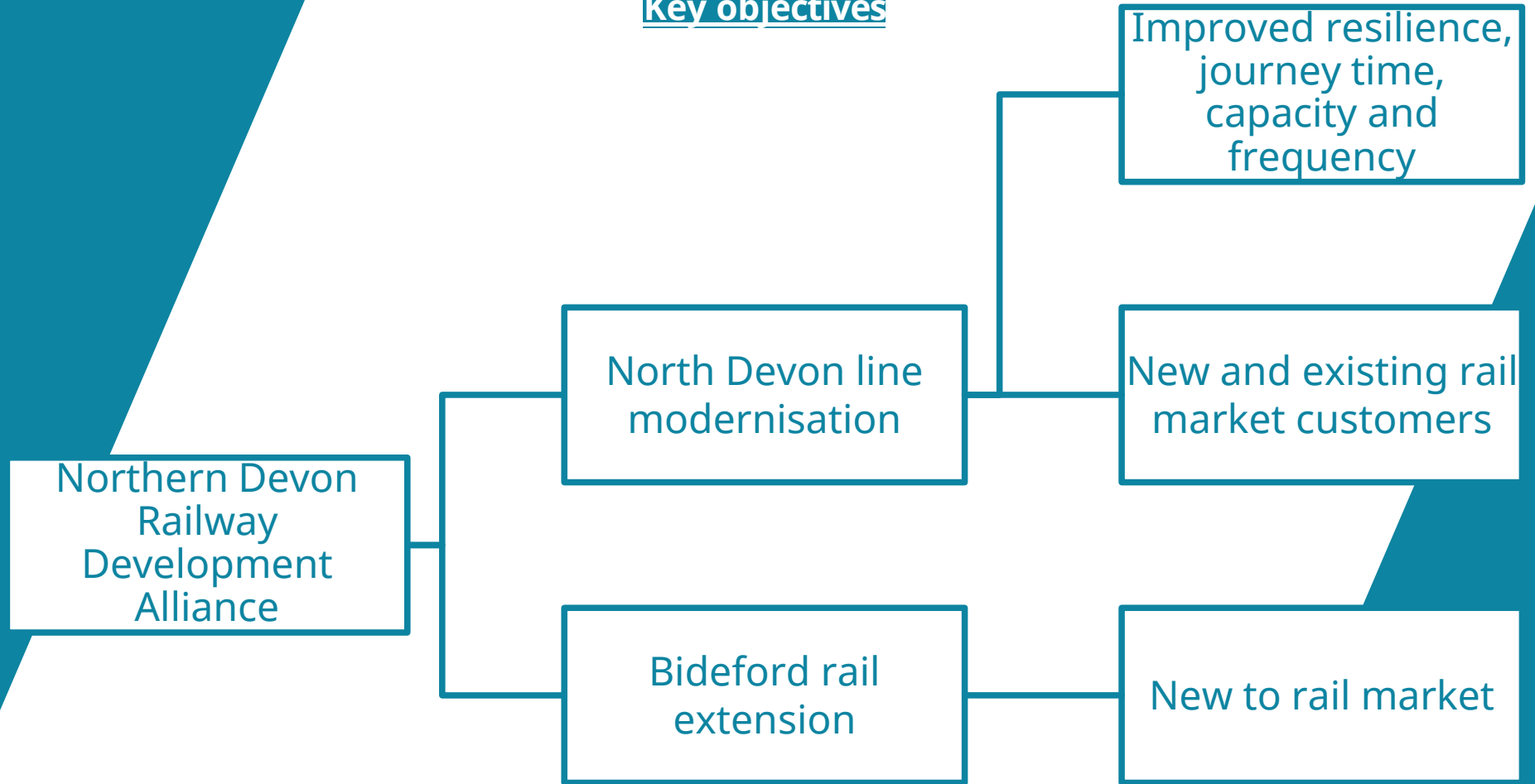
5 case Business Case

The 5 'Business Case dimensions'

- *Strategic - WHY?*
- *Economic - VALUE FOR MONEY*
- *Financial - FUNDING /AFFORDABILITY*
- *Commercial - PROCURING THE SCHEME*
- *Management - DELIVERY*

The Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

Key objectives



Formal transport Business Case process



Strategic Implementation Plan 2025-2050

www.peninsulatransport.org.uk



Devon and Torbay
Combined County Authority

Local Transport Plan 4

2025-2040



Alliance funded studies and workshops



Who are the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance stakeholders?

Railfuture, Navantia UK Appledore shipyard, Petroc college, South West Business Council, District Councils of Torridge and Mid-Devon,

Town Councils of Bideford, Barnstaple and Northam, Parish Councils of Bishops Tawton, Burrington, Chawleigh, Chittlehamholt Satterleigh & Warkleigh, Chulmleigh, Kings Nympton, and Lapford, Devon County Council,

Peninsula Transport / Peninsula Rail Task Force, Great Western Railway, Network Rail, Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership, Friends of Barnstaple Railway Station, South West TravelWatch, North Devon Line Rail Promotion Group (the former Tarka Rail Association).

Thank you for listening

Tim Steer

Railfuture

Devon and Cornwall regional branch chair

- *The August 2025 report from SLC Rail (slide 9) for the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance's Preliminary Strategic Business Case for extension of North Devon Line services to Bideford was funded by Torridge District Council (via its UK Shared Prosperity Fund), Railfuture's Fighting Fund, Bideford and Barnstaple Town Councils, and Devon County Council's Locality Budget.'*