

railfuture

campaigning for a bigger, better railway



20.01.2026

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 businesses 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 and Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline, in development of business cases to support our campaign projects.

What is Railfuture supporting?

- Initiated the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance in December 2023, first annual Convention in March 2024, second in March 2025, third to be held in March 2026 - Alliance membership is free.
- Transformational modernisation of the North Devon line – 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.

The Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

Key objectives

Northern Devon
Railway
Development
Alliance

North Devon line
modernisation

Bideford rail
extension

Improved resilience,
journey time,
capacity and
frequency

New and existing rail
market customers

New to rail market

Formal transport Business Case process



Strategic Implementation Plan 2025-2050

www.peninsulatransport.org.uk



Local Transport Plan 4
2025-2040



Alliance funded studies and workshops



Two complementary Business Cases

- EXETER TO BARNSTAPLE RAIL ROUTE MODERNISATION

Preliminary Strategic Business Case. *Publishing by March 2026.*

- A NEW TRAIN SERVICE CONNECTING BIDEFORD WITH EXETER AND BEYOND

Preliminary Strategic Business Case. *Publishing by March 2026.*

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, and Devon County Council.

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

Peninsula Transport / Peninsula Rail Task Force, Great Western Railway, Network Rail, Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership, Friends of Barnstaple Railway Station, Friends Of Kings Nympton Station, South West TravelWatch, North Devon Line Rail Promotion Group, and the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority.

Thank you for listening

*Tim Steer
Railfuture*

Devon and Cornwall regional branch chair

- *The SLC Rail Engineering Feasibility and Economic Appraisal for the Alliance's business case work was funded by*
- *Railfuture, Bideford Town Council, Barnstaple Town Council, Torridge District Council (using UK Shared Prosperity Fund), and Devon County Council.*