

Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance



Third annual Convention, Friday 6th March 2026 – Eggesford, Mid-Devon
(Sponsored by Mid-Devon District Council, facilitated by Railfuture)



Convention venue 2026: Fox & Hounds Country Hotel



Credit: Great Scenic Railways

“To achieve delivery of a modernisation programme for North Devon (Tarka) Line passenger rail services between Barnstaple and Exeter, and their extension to Bideford, championing their transformational benefits for communities and businesses and advocating to decision-makers the economic, social and environmental case for developing and investing in the project programme”

Initial NDRDA founder members: Bideford Town Council, Railfuture, Tarka Rail Association (2023).
Barnstaple and Northam Town Councils, Torrridge District Council (2024);
Bishop’s Tawton, Burrington, Chawleigh, Chittlehamholt Satterleigh & Warkleigh, Chulmleigh,
King’s Nympton, and Lapford Parish Councils (2025);
Mid-Devon and North Devon District Councils, Crediton and Holsworthy Town Councils,
Down St. Mary and Morchard Bishop Parish Councils (2026).

Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

Modernising the North Devon (Tarka) Line - fit for the 21st Century

Since the second NDRDA gathering in Barnstaple on Friday 7th March 2025:

Partnerships – 10 new Alliance members: 2 Districts, 2 Towns, 4 Parishes, 1 station Friends, 1 visitor venue

- ~ Mid-Devon and North Devon District Councils
- ~ Crediton and Holsworthy Town Councils
- ~ Bishop's Tawton, Chawleigh, Down St. Mary, and Morchard Bishop Parish Councils
- ~ Friends Of Barnstaple Railway Station
- ~ Burton at Bideford Art Gallery & Museum

Policies – two long-term transport strategies, two other long-term plans

- ~ Devon & Torbay Local Transport Plan 2025-40 - endorsed by DCC, adopted by Combined County Authority
- ~ Peninsula Transport Strategic Implementation Plan and Delivery Plan 2025-50
- ~ Devon & Torbay Local Growth Plan 2025-35 - *"Mid and North Devon face significant transport challenges due to limited strategic road links and sparse public transport coverage,"*
- ~ Devon & Torbay Corporate Plan 2025-35 - *"support and lobby for upgrades to the Tarka rail line"*

Projects

- ~ GWR confirm lease from Angel Trains of 26-strong 2/3-car fleet of 'Coradia' Class 175s - 68 extra carriages
- ~ Alstom confirm 8-year Technical Support & Spares Supply Agreement with GWR for Class 175 fleet
- ~ Barnstaple rail station bus integration enhancements revised scheme agreed by Devon CC

Presentations

- ~ N. Devon & Torridge Maritime Network, from Railfuture's newly-elected regional branch chair Tim Steer
- ~ NDRDA study funders' workshop, from NDRDA adviser Peter West, SLC Rail Strategy Director Ian Baxter
- ~ North Devon UNESCO Biosphere draft Strategy 2025-35, proposed support from NDRDA
- ~ Crediton Town Council, from Railfuture's Devon & Cornwall regional branch chair Tim Steer
- ~ House of Commons Petition to *"Future-proof the Tarka Line!"* from North Devon MP Ian Roome

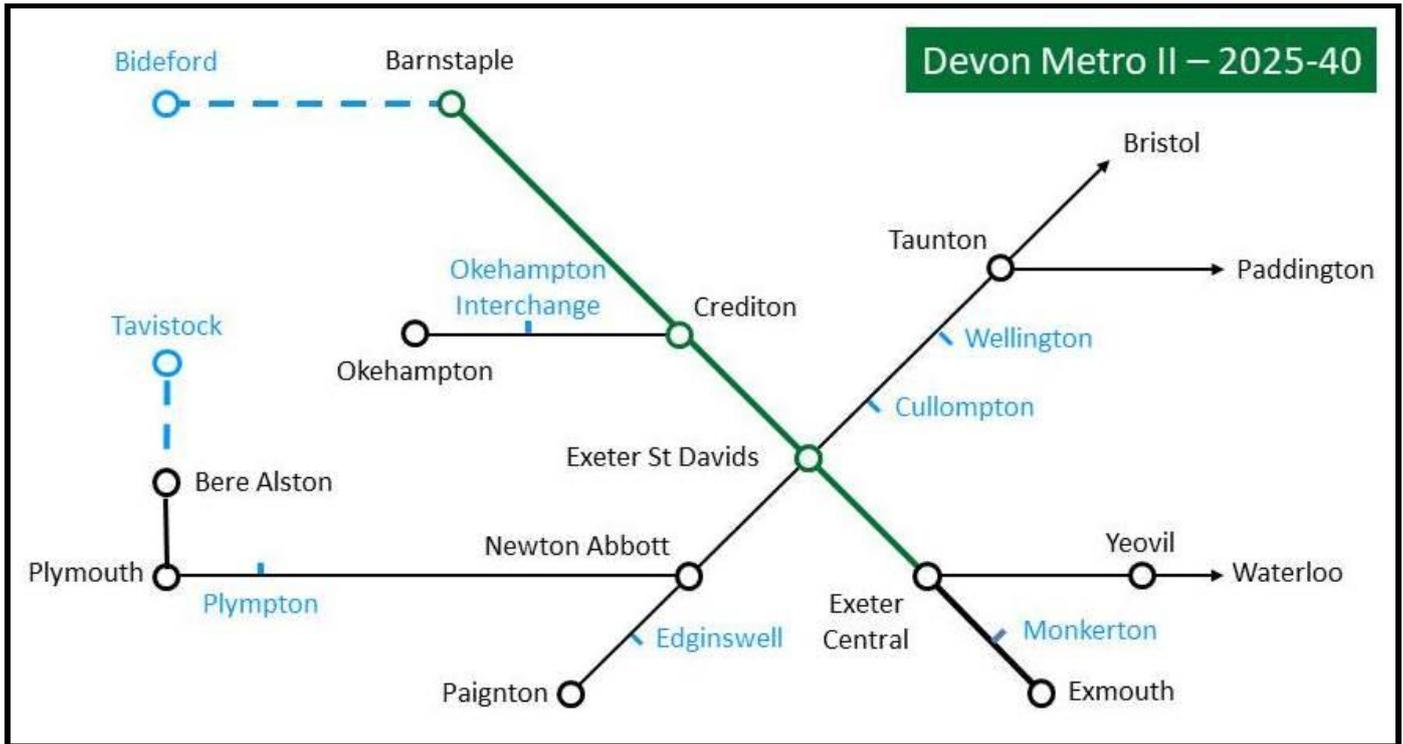
Publications

- ~ INRIX 2025 - Barnstaple 1 of 3 most traffic-congested urban areas in Devon & Cornwall, 10 in South West
- ~ NDL journeys growth 11% April '24-March '25, 30% above best pre-pandemic year April '17-March '18
- ~ Barnstaple's 43.3% post-pandemic usage growth is 2nd highest of 18 Peninsula Transport 500k+ stations
- ~ NDL stations usage 11.7% overall growth in footfall at 12 stations in year to 31st March 2025
- ~ NDL post-pandemic station usage growth of Tarka + Dartmoor Lines far outstrips 8 other D&C branch lines
- ~ NDL station usage + 2021 Census population give North Devon lowest per capita usage of 10 Devon areas
- ~ Devon leads 4 South West service groups in regional rail usage growth; SW 3rd strongest of 11 GB regions
- ~ Devon and Cornwall 4th and 5th strongest of 40 sub-regional service groups in regional rail usage growth
- ~ South West 4th strongest contributor to cross-regional journeys growth in 2024/25 of 11 GB regions
- ~ NDL journeys growth 8.3% January-December '25, 37.2% since 2019, each 4-week period in 2025 a record
- ~ Preliminary Strategic Business Cases for modernisation, and for extension, of North Devon Line services

Press

- ~ press releases issued (5), news reports (36 in 2026, 70 in 2025 when 'Mosh pit' entered the NDL lexicon!)
- ~ interviews given (5) - The Voice local radio, BBC Radio Devon (twice), ITV News, BBC One Spotlight
- ~ regular page in Railfuture's quarterly house magazine *Railwatch*; mentioned in "Green Signals" podcasts

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Promoted by Railfuture Devon & Cornwall regional branch

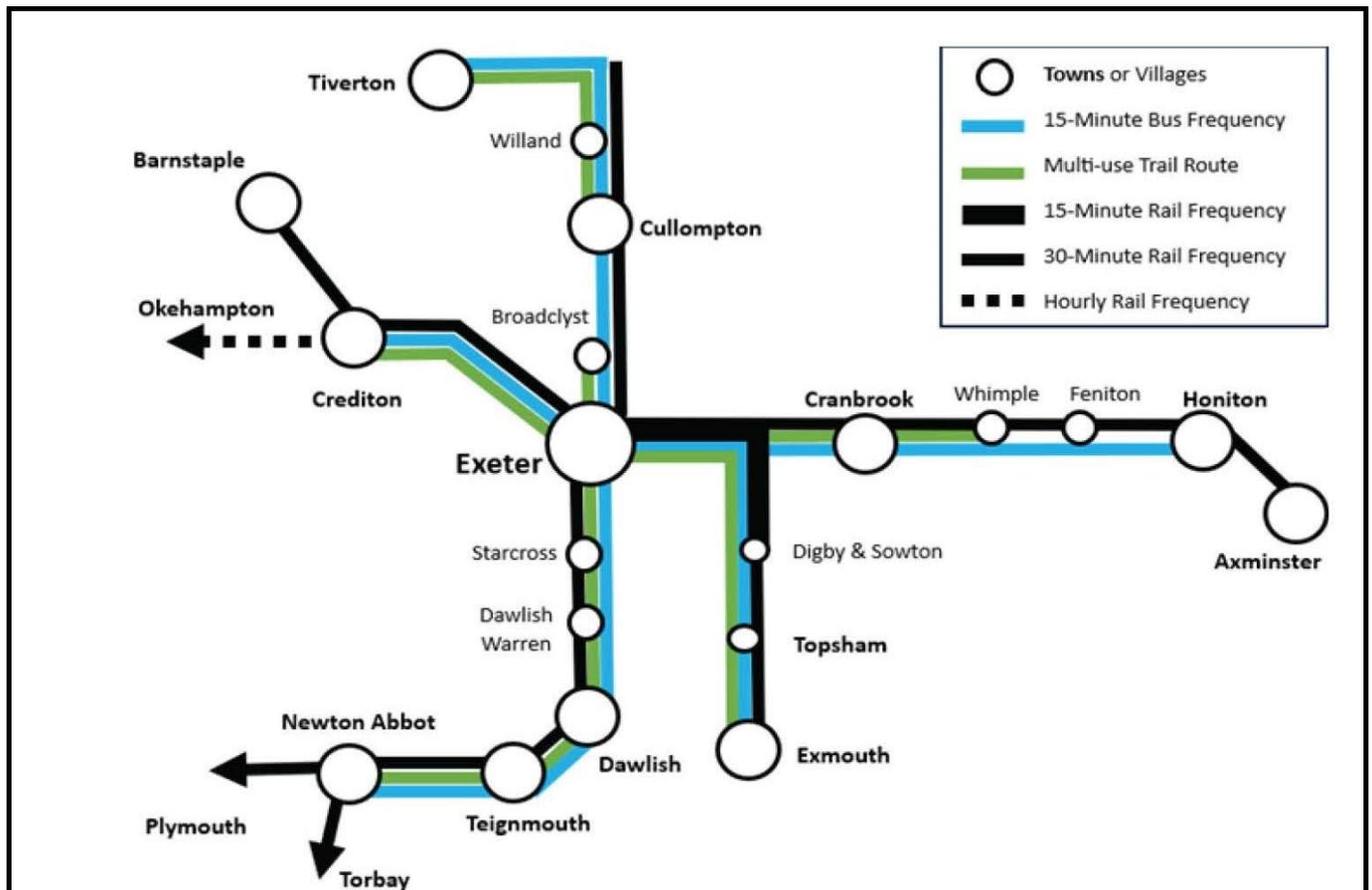


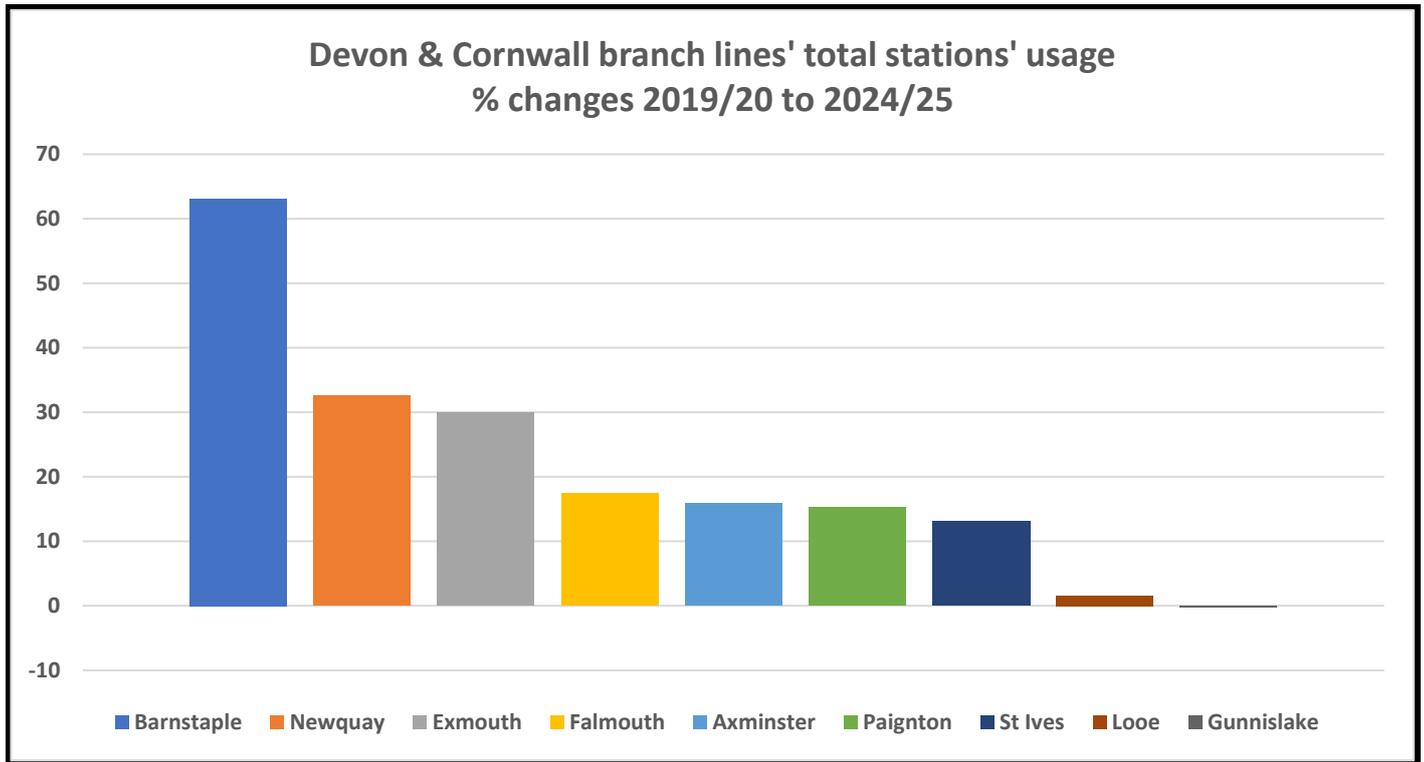
Figure 15 - The connected city region with consistent standard of sustainable transport.

Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 4

Extract from Local Transport Plan 4, 2025-40 – adopted by Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority
 (Note: two Barnstaple trains per hour and, with two Paignton tph, extending across Exeter to / from Digby & Sowton)

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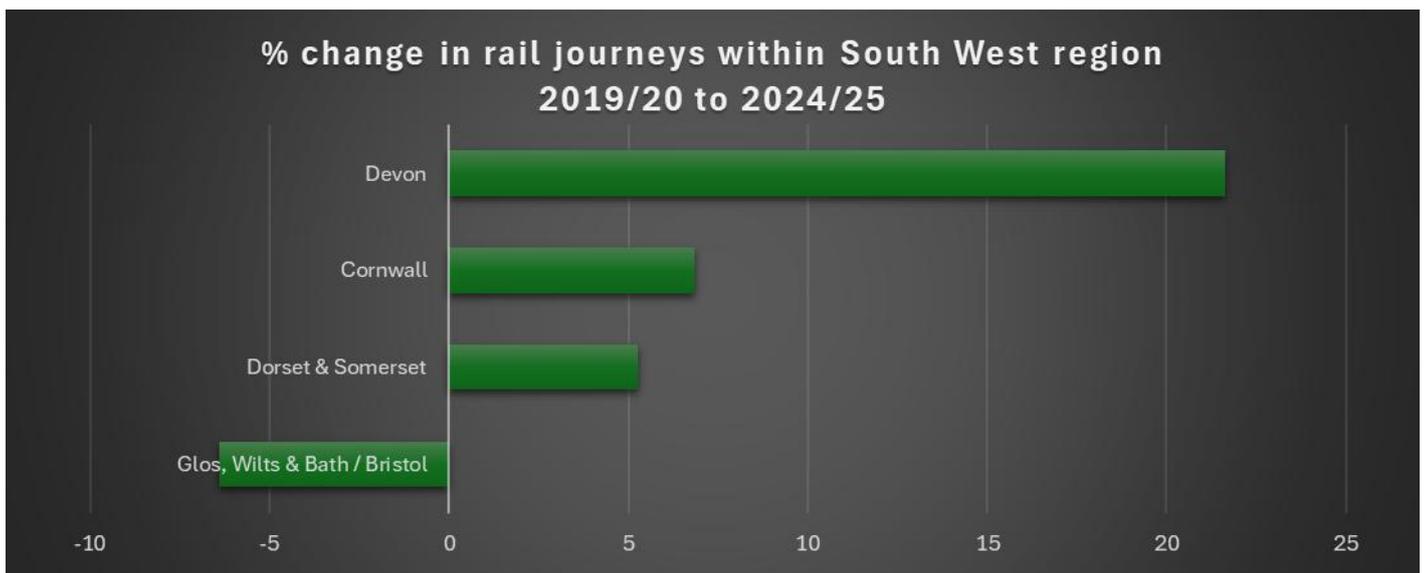
Devon & Cornwall branch lines' post-pandemic station usage



Source: Office of Rail & Road - [Estimates of station usage | ORR Data Portal](#)

Table 1415a Time series of passenger entries and exits by station, GB, annual data, April 1997 to March 2025

South West region service groups' post-pandemic journeys



Source: Office of Rail & Road - [Regional rail usage | ORR Data Portal](#)

Table 1575: Regional passenger journeys, South West, annual data, April 1995 to March 2025

Tabulated and presented by Railfuture Devon & Cornwall regional branch
on behalf of the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

North Devon Line from Exeter > Mid-Devon > North Devon



North Devon Line from Exeter > Mid-Devon > North Devon > Torrington (tbc)



Delegates invited (A = apology) to 3rd annual Convention of NDRDA, Friday 6th March 2026 in Eggesford, Mid-Devon

Barnstaple Town Council - Mayor of Barnstaple – Cllr Janet Coates
Barnstaple Town Council - former Mayor of Barnstaple – Cllr Louisa York (A)
Bideford Town Council - Mayor of Bideford – Cllr Peter Lawrence
Bideford Town Council - former Mayor of Bideford – Cllr Jamie McKenzie
Bishop's Tawton Parish Council – Cllr Graham Hayward
Burrington Parish Council – Cllr John Short
Burton at Bideford Art Gallery & Museum - Chair of Trustees – Robert Millward
Chawleigh Parish Council – Cllr Steve Godly (A)
Chittlehamholt Satterleigh & Warkleigh Parish Council – Cllr Malcolm Neal
Chulmleigh Parish Council – Cllr Ed Tyldesley
Crediton Town Council - Mayor of Crediton – Cllr Steve Huxtable
Cllr Jim Cairney
Cllr Guy Cochran

Town Clerk / Deputy – Rob Ward (A) / Jess Foy (A)
Cllr Gerrard Sables
Cllr Marsh Pullen
Town Clerk – Janine Gardner
Parish Clerk - Jacqui Hutchings (A)
Parish Clerk – Angela Snell
Director – Harriet Cooper (A)
Parish Clerk – Lucie Moorese
Parish Clerk – Linda Stapleton
Parish Clerk – Sue Squire (A)
Town Clerk – Rachel Avery

Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership - Manager – Richard Burningham MBE
Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority - Vice-Chair – Cllr Julian Brazil (Leader, Devon CC) (A)
Devon County Council - Cabinet Members – Cllr Jacqi Hodgson, for Climate Change & Biodiversity; Cllr James Buczkowski, for Finance (A);
Cllr Simon Clist, for Assets & Resources (A); Cllr Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin, for Rural Affairs & Broadband.
DCC - Bideford East – Cllr Mark Barry
DCC - Deputy Director for Planning – Jamie Hullah (A)
DCC - Transportation Strategy Manager – Hannah Clark (A)
Down St. Mary Parish Council – Cllr Alan Clark
Exeter City Council - Leader – Cllr Phil Bialyk; also Devon Districts Forum rep, Devon & Torbay CCA
Exeter City Council - Cabinet Member for Climate, Ecological Change & Communities – Cllr Matt Vizard (A)
Exeter City Football Club – Customer Relations & Supporter Liaison Officer – Richard Knight
Exeter & North Devon Colleges Group - Group Principal & CEO – John Laramy CBE DL (A)

Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority - Director of Operations – Sean Anstee CBE
Braunton Rural – Cllr Graham Bell
Chulmleigh & Landkey – Cllr Ed Tyldesley
Senior Transport Planning Officer – Chris Burrige-Barney
Parish Clerk – Anthony Martin

Great Western Railway - Managing Director – Mark Hopwood CBE (A)
GWR - Head of Strategic Service Development – Matt Barnes
GWR - Network Delivery Manager – Steve Lawrence
Holsworthy Town Council - Mayor of Holsworthy – Cllr Jon Hutchings (A); Cllr David Cole, Cllr Nigel Kenneally
King's Nympton Parish Council – Cllr Martin Pailthorpe; also Chair, Friends of King's Nympton Station
Lapford Parish Council – Cllr Bill Graham
Mid-Devon District Council - Vice-Chair – Cllr Sandy Chenore
MDDC - Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Regeneration – Cllr Steve Keable
MDDC - Chief Executive – Stephen Walford (A)
Morchard Bishop Parish Council – Cllr Simon Baker (A)
MP for Central Devon – Rt Hon Sir Mel Stride (A)
MP for Exeter – Steve Race

Business Development Portfolio Director – Tom Pierpoint (A)
Regional Growth Manager (West) – David Whiteway
Town Clerk – Allison Haywood (A)
Parish Clerk – Debbie Cook
Parish Clerk – Rob Martin
Deputy Leader – Cllr David Wulff
Devon Rail Forum rep – Cllr John Downes
Director of Place & Economy – Nick Bryant
Parish Clerk – David Parker
MP for North Devon – Ian Roome
MP for Torridge & Tavistock – Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Cox KC

Navantia UK, Appledore - Bid Engineer – Daniel Burke
Network Rail - Western Route Director – Marcus Jones BEM
NR - Western Route Business Manager – Victoria Storey
NR - Industry Programme Director (South West) – Bogdan Lupu
NR – Programme Director Rail Reconnections, Better Value Rail & National Programmes – Mike Smith
Northam Town Council - Mayor of Northam – Cllr Louis Bach (A)
Northam Town Council - former Mayor of Northam – Cllr Peter Hames
North Devon District Council - Chair – Cllr Helen Walker (A)
NDDC - Chief Executive – Ken Miles
NDDC - Head of Place Property & Regeneration – Sarah Jane Mackenzie-Shapland
North Devon Grecians - Membership Secretary – Nick Rendle
North Devon Line Rail Promotion Group (formerly Tarka Rail Association) - President – Andrea Davis (A)
North Devon UNESCO Biosphere - Foundation Co-ordinator – Andy Bell
Peninsula Transport - Programme Director – Hannah Shrimpton

Infrastructure Director – Ian Joslin
Devon and Cornwall Director – Chris Fuoco
Senior Strategic Planner (Western) – Andrew Robinson
Town Clerk – Guy Langton
Deputy Leader – Cllr Peter Leaver
Devon Rail Forum rep – Cllr Ricky Knight
Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive – Jon Triggs
Chair – David Northey

Peninsula Rail Task Force - Lead Officer – Nigel Blackler OBE

Railfuture - Infrastructure & Networks Director – Roger Blake (Acting Convener, NDRDA)
Railfuture - Policy Director and Board liaison for Devon & Cornwall regional branch – Ian Brown CBE FCILT (A)
Railfuture - Chair, Devon & Cornwall regional branch – Tim Steer; also Chair, Friends Of Barnstaple Railway Station
Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust - Sustainability Manager – Clare Jones (A)
South West Business Council - Chief Executive – Paul Coles; also Chair, Torridge Place Board (A)
Torridge District Council - Chair – Cllr Doug Bushby
TDC - Chief Executive – Steve Hearse (A)
TDC - Head of Communities & Place – Sean Kearney
Transport Focus - Senior Engagement Manager (GWR / NR Western Route) – Nina Howe (A)
TravelWatch SouthWest - Chair – Nick Buckland OBE (A)
University of Exeter - Head of Sustainability Programmes – Nicola Corrigan (A)
West Devon Borough Council - Devon Rail Forum rep – Cllr Anne Johnson (A)
Winkleigh Parish Council - Chair – Cllr Pauline Odulinski OBE

Peter West OBE CMILT (independent adviser, NDRDA)
Sustainability Manager (Travel & Transport) Giovanni Currado
Economic Development Manager – Chris Fuller (A)
Secretary – Bryony Chetwode (A)
Sustainability Manager (Travel & Transport) Giovanni Currado
Parish Clerk – Lucie Moorese

Media - Clearsky Publishing – Ella Sampson
Crediton Courier – Alan Quick
Devon Today – Lewis Clarke
RAIL – Daniel Puddicombe