

Press release – June 2026

A new Local Plan for Northern Devon

Railfuture's Devon & Cornwall regional branch is welcoming the launch of the first of three public consultations to support development of a new joint Local Plan for Northern Devon. It will supercede the current joint Local Plan for 2011-31, adopted by North Devon and Torridge District Councils in late-2018.



Regional branch chair Tim Steer commented: “This opening consultation is our opportunity to contribute views on what we see as the key issues, on what to include in the local plan, and on how we suggest that the two Councils need to engage with people. The consultation is backed by an updated Baseline Evidence report, which includes a ‘SWOT’ analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

“I’m especially pleased to see that a paragraph has been included in the updated Baseline Evidence report to highlight where the current Local Plan 2011-31 supports opportunities for improving rail connectivity, with references to ambitions for reinstating passenger rail services on both the Bideford-Barnstaple railway line and the Lynton-Barnstaple railway line.

“I’m also particularly pleased to see that the Scoping Consultation says that the Councils will work with infrastructure providers to prepare an Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which will evidence the infrastructure needed to support the planned growth. I’m further encouraged to read that the Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be informed by a range of separate studies including on transport.

“This is everyone’s chance to say how the new local plan could support communities to grow and thrive. This includes thoughts about:

- What people value about northern Devon;
- The issues which are most important for the area;
- Potential opportunities for the future of northern Devon;
- How best to reach people in order to include as many as possible in making the plan.”

This consultation will close on Tuesday 11th August. The timetable for local plan preparation indicates that the next consultation, on its proposed content and supporting evidence, will take place in early-2027.

Railfuture is Britain's leading and longest-established, independent national voluntary organisation campaigning exclusively for better rail services over an expanding network for passengers and freight, to support sustainable economic growth, environmental improvement and better-connected communities. It advocates on behalf of all rail users, nationally and through 14 branches, with 20,000 affiliated and individual members, its independence based on funding solely from members’ subscriptions and legacies.

Full details of Railfuture’s Devon & Cornwall regional branch: [Railfuture | Devon and Cornwall Branch](#)
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