



Devon and Cornwall

04.07.2026

Fremington Breakfast Club


Steer Family history

in a bad condition.

HALF A CENTURY IN RAILWAY SERVICE

Mr. W. Steer Retires in Barnstaple


Mr. William Steer, of 2, West View, Barnstaple, retired last week after nearly half-a-century in the railway service. He started working at Crediton in 1899 and was a signalman for 37 years. He was stationed at Instow and Portsmouth Arms, and spent 27 years as a signalman at Barnstaple. He served under five stationmasters: Messrs. Heath, Samson, Ford, Cawsey, and Kelland.



Mr. Steer has two sons, both of whom are employed at the Barnstaple Junction station.

Railman retires

Mr. Bill Steer, of 20, Linden Close, Barnstaple, has retired after 41 years with the railway service. He joined at Barnstaple, where he has remained ever since. He was leading railman



Mr. BILL STEER

in the parcels office. He has been presented with a gold watch by the management and cigars and an electric cigarette lighter by his colleagues.

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.

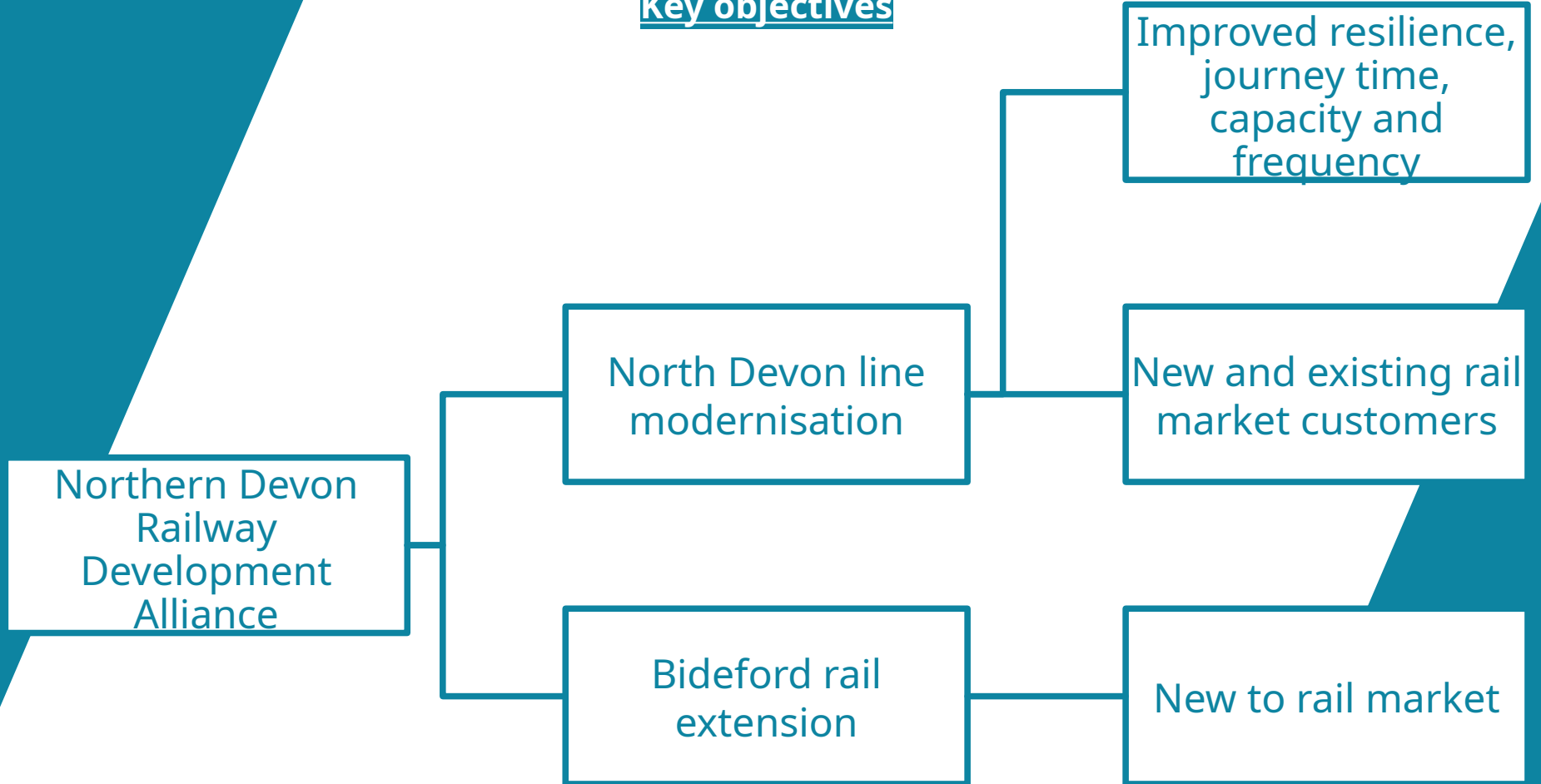
What is Transport Appraisal Guidance?

Department for Transport states:

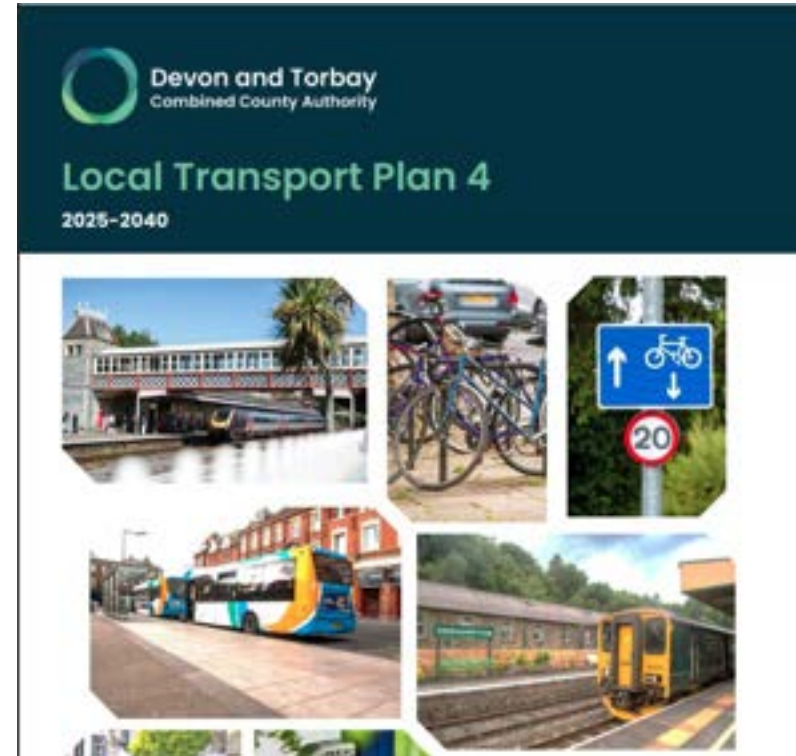
- **Informed Decision-Making:** TAG helps ensure that transport investments are well-justified, cost-effective, and aligned with strategic objectives.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Guidance helps ensure that transport plans and projects contribute to wider strategic priorities like economic growth, social 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.

The Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

Key objectives



Formal transport Business Case process



Alliance funded studies and workshops



Further formal documents

EXETER TO BARNSTAPLE RAIL ROUTE MODERNISATION

Preliminary Strategic Business Case



A NEW TRAIN SERVICE CONNECTING BIDEFORD WITH EXETER AND BEYOND

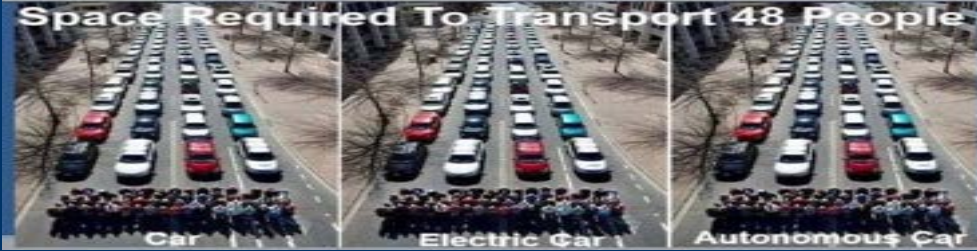
Preliminary Strategic Business Case



5 case Business Case

The 5 'Business Case dimensions'

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



If you are in traffic

 A photograph of a highway with a train on an overpass. Below the overpass, there is a traffic jam of cars. A green cube is labeled '50 people' and a train car is also labeled '50 people'.

You are traffic

We Mean Green.
A single train
removes up
to 500 cars
off our roads.
Get on board.

~~500~~
Cars

Devon County Council's Bideford to Barnstaple railway safeguarding

- In 1999, DCC, TDC & NDC paid a team to carry out a feasibility study (The Maunsell Report). The report stated that the Barnstaple A361 bypass was to be constructed with enough height clearance for a future railway.



Barnstaple bypass

The main line rail link from Barnstaple to Bideford







Defining and protecting a route – 2 ~ multi-modal sustainable transport choices co-existing in harmony

Granite Way, Okehampton



Exe trail, Exmouth



Who are the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance stakeholders?

Railfuture, Navantia UK Appledore shipyard, Petroc college, South West Business Council, District Councils of Torrington, North 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, Braunton, Georgeham, Heanton Punchardon and 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.



Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance annual meetings



Thank you for listening

Tim Steer

Railfuture

Devon and Cornwall regional branch chair