

please reply to:

Mike Southgate, Wessex Branch Chair
Hanover Court, Southdown Road
Shawford
Winchester
Hants
SO21 2BY

Email: mike.southgate@railfuture.org.uk

18 December 2025

Hampshire County Council's draft Transport Strategy for Fareham and Gosport

The Wessex Branch of Railfuture is grateful for the opportunity to comment on Hampshire County Council's draft Fareham and Gosport Transport Strategy. Our branch area covers essentially Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

Railfuture is Britain's leading, longest-established, national independent voluntary organisation campaigning for a better railway across a bigger network for passenger and freight users, to support economic growth, environmental improvement and better-connected communities. We seek to influence decision makers at local, regional, and national levels to implement pro-rail policies in transport and development planning.

Railfuture Wessex believe a greater emphasis should be placed on the environmental and economic benefits of rail especially because services in this area are electric powered. Proposals should be accelerated to build a rail station at Knowle Rail Halt (for Welborne) on the Eastleigh-Fareham railway on the land reserved as part of the section 106 agreement. This is essential for developing sustainable transport corridors in Fareham and Gosport, improving public transport links beyond Fareham and Gosport, and on to Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester. This would benefit residents with employment, leisure and education opportunities. Welborne residents and those who work in Welborne should also be able to walk or cycle between the new railway station and their homes and workplaces. The new railway station would also provide convenient access to train services for many existing homes and businesses in the area around the Welborne development.

This station should be built as soon as possible after the start of the housing development. This will contribute to immediate improvements in air quality and reductions in carbon emissions by ensuring that new residents have alternative transport options available from occupancy to reduce dependency on the private car. This planned new railway station at Knowle Rail Halt should be included in the list of railway schemes in the Action Plan.

Railfuture Wessex supports rail infrastructure improvements for rail services in the Solent area. Including improved access to Fareham, Portchester and Swanwick Railway Stations for pedestrians, cyclists and buses and the delivery of step free access at Portchester and Swanwick Railway Stations referred to in the Action Plan. Railfuture Wessex would welcome improvements to train services and frequencies at Fareham, Portchester and Swanwick Railway stations.

www.railfuture.org.uk www.railfuturescotland.org.uk www.railfuturewales.org.uk
www.railwatch.org.uk