

# Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

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

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## New 15-year Local Transport Plan welcomed by rail alliance

The new Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan for 2025-40 was today (Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July) adopted by the Board of the recently-established County Combined Authority, which will become the new transport authority from April 2026. The Plan provides the agenda for transformational change in all modes of transport across the area over the coming years.

Welcoming the moment, newly-elected Chair of the Devon and Cornwall regional branch of Railfuture, which initiated the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance in late-2023, Tim Steer said “This is a vitally necessary point of reference for all those campaigning for sustainable transport improvements. It’s also a very satisfying reward for our constructive, sometimes challenging, engagement in the preparatory consultation process to which we contributed, with data-driven evidence in support of our case.”

Railfuture’s national Board Director for Infrastructure and Networks, Roger Blake, who is also Acting Convener for the two-dozen-strong Alliance of partners and stakeholders, added “This completes the twin building blocks of regional transport planning for years to come, following the adoption in March by Peninsula Transport of their Strategic Implementation Plan 2025-50. Both plans include favourable references in particular to the pressing need for the modernisation and extension – to Bideford – of North Devon Line passenger train services. We must continue to drive the expansion of sustainable transport capacity, connectivity and choice to address the challenges of congestion, car-dependency and carbon emissions, and the Alliance will continue to champion those causes for Northern Devon.”

ACE Rail: Reconnecting Bideford to the rail network

***railfuture***

*Campaigning for a bigger better railway*