

Dorset and BCP Councils Local Transport Plan Survey

Overview

We're creating a new Local Transport Plan (LTP) that will guide how people and goods move around Dorset and the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) area from 2026 to 2041.

This joint plan between Dorset Council and BCP Council sets out a long-term vision to make travel easier, safer and more inclusive. The plan looks at how we can improve travel choices, reduce congestion, cut pollution, and make it easier for people to get to work, school, health care and leisure. It also supports our goals to tackle climate change, protect the environment, and help our communities thrive.

This new plan helps us:

- Support a growing population
- Respond to climate change
- Reflect how people live and work today
- Make everyday journeys easier and more reliable

Ensure everyone can access jobs, services and opportunities

Section 1– About You

This section will help us identify the groups of people responding to our survey. Please tick one option for each question.

Question 1.1 – Where do you live? (required)

I live in the Dorset Council area	✓
I live in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council area	
I don't live in the Dorset Council area or BCP Council area	
I'm not sure	

Question 1.2 – Where do you work or study? (required)

I work or study in the Dorset Council area	
I work or study in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council area	
I work or study outside of the Dorset Council and BCP Council areas	
I am currently not in employment, self-employment, or studying	
I'm not sure	Not applicable

Question 1.3 - I am responding as

An individual person (or on behalf of someone)	
An organisation or group (please tell us the name of your organisation or group below)	✓
A Business (optional: please tell us the name of the business below)	
A Parish or Town Council Member (please tell us the name of the council below)	
An Elected Member	
Other (please specify below):	
Railfuture Wessex - see "Introduction" on our appended comments	



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Section 2 – Our Vision

We have a plan for how people will get around from 2026 to 2041. We want to make travel easier, safer, and better for everyone—whether you walk, bike, take the bus, or drive. Over the next 15 years, we'll work on giving people more ways to travel, making roads and paths safer, helping people stay healthy, and cutting down on pollution. We made this plan by listening to people who live and work in our area, including families, businesses, and local groups.

Our transport plan contains a vision, or big idea, which shows what we want travel to be like by 2041:

*Our travel will be transformed through **innovation** and **digital connectivity**, creating accessible and **inclusive** travel choices for our residents, workers and visitors. Our transport network will support **sustainable economic growth** in our urban and rural communities, contribute to our **decarbonisation** targets and **protect** our unique local environment.*

In other words, we want travel to be **smarter** and **easier** for everyone. We will use **new technology** to help people get around in ways that are **simple**, **fair**, and work for everyone — whether you live here, work here, or are just visiting. Our transport plan will help towns and villages grow in a good way, keep the air clean, and take care of the special places in our environment.

We would like to hear how much you agree or disagree with the vision for our transport plan. Please tick one option for each question.

Question 2: Our Vision

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
2. How much do you agree or disagree with the vision for the transport strategy?	✓					

Section 3 – Our Objectives

To achieve our vision, our transport plan includes six objectives. We would like to know how much you agree or disagree with these objectives being part of our transport plan.

We would like to know how much you agree or disagree with each objective being part of our transport strategy. The objectives and a brief description of each is included below.

The objectives are not presented in any order of priority.

Question 3: Our Objectives

A: SAFEGUARD THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

We will significantly reduce local transport emissions to achieve our locally set Net Zero target by 2045. We will improve local air quality and protect and enhance the local environment, including Dorset Heathlands and our designated National Landscapes, and increase biodiversity.

What does success look like?



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- By the end of the LTP period carbon emissions from transport will be reduced in line with local and government targets.
- A comprehensive and accessible charging/refuelling network that supports a faster transition to zero-emission vehicles.
- Improved choice, allowing people to get to where they need to go by zero emission transport options.
- Public transport, walking, wheeling and cycling are the preferred option for many journeys.
- Digital technologies have reduced the need to travel.
- National air quality limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and particulate matter (PM) concentrations in the LTP area are fully met.
- A nature positive approach to transport design, delivery and maintenance, including increasing tree planting and installing sustainable drainage systems.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
3.1 How much do you agree or disagree with objective A being in our transport strategy?	✓					

B: IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We will enable active lifestyles by providing comprehensive walking, wheeling and cycling routes, and deliver safe, inclusive and integrated sustainable travel networks. We will unlock a shift in travel behaviour by providing healthy transport options, particularly for short distance urban trips. We will increase transport choice to reduce social deprivation and inequality and provide greater access to local services.

What does success look like?

- More journeys are undertaken using active modes or public transport using high quality transport networks.
- Our streets prioritise active travel, provide an attractive and safe environment for making healthy travel choices.
- A connected network of walking, wheeling and cycling routes make travelling safer, inclusive and easy to access by everyone.
- Communities are healthier and happier from having access to a wide variety of transport options with high quality supporting infrastructure.
- Residents are benefiting from increased levels of physical activity and improved mental health, and this has reduced the burden on health care resources over time.
- There are more frequent transport services improving access to local facilities.



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- The adverse impacts of road transport emissions on public health have been minimised.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
3.2 How much do you agree or disagree with objective B being in our transport strategy?	✓					

C: CREATE ACCESSIBLE AND PROSPEROUS PLACES

We will improve access to goods, services, employment, education opportunities, and visitor attractions. We will improve connectivity within and between rural and urban areas. We will support the delivery of sustainable and well-connected development to meet the housing and employment needs of the area. We will improve access to local, regional, national and international gateways including Portland Port, Port of Poole and Bournemouth Airport.

What does success look like?

- Successful and vibrant places with economic growth and activity focused on locations that are accessible by a range of sustainable transport options, while essential car journeys can be undertaken easily and reliably.
- Improved access to opportunities and services across the whole of the LTP area and a more equitable transport offer for those areas with the greatest need.
- Economic hubs and international gateways are well connected to the local, regional and national transport network via reliable routes, promoting enhanced travel opportunities by a range of sustainable transport modes.
- New developments are located in accessible and well-connected places, serviced by a range of transport options. More people are choosing to walk, wheel, cycle or use public transport.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
3.3 How much do you agree or disagree with objective C being in our transport strategy?	✓					

D: ENABLE A SAFER TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

We will reduce the number of casualties, non-injury collisions and fear of danger on our transport network. We will support the Dorset Road Safety Partnership towards its goal of zero people killed or seriously injured on our roads by 2050. We will provide a safe environment for children travelling to school, leading to more journeys being made by sustainable forms of travel, and reducing congestion associated with the school run.

What does success look like?



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- Our streets will be safer and favour moving people rather than motorised vehicles, with space prioritised for walking, cycling and public transport modes.
- Considerable progress is made in working towards zero deaths and serious injuries by the end of the LTP period.
- There is a significant increase in the number of schools actively engaging in travel planning, travel training and there are more school streets. More older children travel independently to school.
- People will feel increasingly safe and comfortable travelling independently using all forms of transport at all times of the day and night.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
3.4 How much do you agree or disagree with objective D being in our transport strategy?	✓					

E: A RESILIENT AND FIT FOR PURPOSE TRANSPORT NETWORK

We will plan and adapt to improve the resilience of our transport systems and infrastructure. Our transport network will be well managed, resilient and well-maintained. We will reduce congestion and disruption to improve journey time reliability for all journeys. We will reduce the carbon emissions from construction and maintenance of transport infrastructure.

What does success look like?

- Infrastructure is planned, designed, delivered and maintained to be resilient to the effects of climate change, extreme weather, and incidents.
- Services and routes return to normal as quickly as possible after incidents on the network and the impact of any disruption on people and businesses is managed.
- All assets are planned and sustainably managed.
- All new infrastructure is resilient and sustainably constructed.
- Funding opportunities are maximised to ensure the network can operate efficiently and effectively.
- The councils are working more collaboratively with utility companies and developers ensuring that emergency and planned road works and disruption is kept to a minimum.
- The network can adapt to changing travel demands and traffic patterns (including any changes in the makeup of road users and introduction of new travel modes and technologies) during the LTP period.



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	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
3.5 How much do you agree or disagree with objective E being in our transport strategy?	✓					

F: PUBLIC TRANSPORT THAT IS INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE

We will improve our public transport networks to widen opportunities to access local facilities. Services will be attractive, safe, inclusive and reliable. We will work with partners to increase service frequency and improve connectivity within and between urban and rural locations.

What does success look like?

- Local bus services will operate at higher frequencies, with extended operating hours, becoming a more viable option for getting around without the need to drive.
- More people will use public transport to get to work, school and other key services like hospitals, and user satisfaction will increase.
- Social deprivation will be reduced across the area as more people feel confident and able to access bus and rail services.
- Transport services will be fully integrated so people can make seamless connections between public transport, active travel and sustainable car use.
- Mobility hubs will consolidate services including deliveries, travel information, charging facilities and social spaces to transform our transport interchanges into places that benefit the whole community.
- Digital technologies will make travelling by public transport easier and simpler for everyone and improve the user experience.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
3.6 How much do you agree or disagree with objective F being in our transport strategy?	✓					

Section 4: Our Policies

We would like to know how much you agree or disagree with each policy in our transport strategy. Pages 28-53 of our transport plan show the policies in full or a summary of them are included below. Please tick one option for each question.



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Question 4: Our Policies

How much do you agree or disagree with each policy being in our transport plan?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
4.1 Objective A: Safeguard the climate and environment						
Policy A1: Reduce transport carbon emissions on a pathway compatible with national, regional and local budgets and net zero commitments	✓					
Policy A2: Accelerate the uptake of zero-emission vehicles through the delivery of supporting infrastructure			No view			
Policy A3: Improve local air quality and reduce noise and light pollution to protect our health and the natural environment	✓					
Policy A4: Take a nature positive approach to transport design, delivery and maintenance to boost biodiversity		✓				
4.2 Objective B: Improve health and wellbeing						
Policy B1: Establish a joined up, safe and attractive active travel network supported by appropriate infrastructure	✓					
Policy B2: Promote the benefits of travelling actively within our communities	✓					
Policy B3: Improve local access to health and leisure opportunities, green spaces, public rights of way and tourist destinations	✓					
Policy B4: Active Travel Infrastructure for Sustainable Development	✓					



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How much do you agree or disagree with each policy being in our transport plan?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
4.3 Objective C: Create accessible and prosperous places						
Policy C1: Improve sustainable access to our key tourism areas and manage the seasonal peaks in travel demand	✓					
Policy C2: Maintain and improve connectivity and sustainable access for goods and people to local, regional, national and international gateways	✓					
Policy C3: Improve access to education, training, employment and leisure/visitor destinations	✓					
Policy C4: Promote sustainable and cost effective travel options and provision of local facilities in new developments using a 'vision led' approach	✓					
Policy C5: Deliver and support residential and business behaviour change initiatives to encourage safe, healthy and greener travel	✓					
4.4 Objective D: Enable a safer transportation... system						
Policy D1: Improve the safety of all road users in accordance with the Dorset Road Safety Partnership Strategy and support its vision of zero road casualties by 2050			No view			
Policy D2: Promote and co-ordinate road safety initiatives around schools to encourage sustainable forms of travel			No view			



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How much do you agree or disagree with each policy being in our transport plan?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
Policy D3: Improve personal safety for all journeys to ensure everyone can travel safely and go about their daily lives with comfort and ease	✓					
4.5 Objective E: A resilient and fit for purpose transport network						
Policy E1: Maintain and enhance a resilient transport network that is adaptable and can withstand the impacts of weather and climate change	✓					
Policy E2: Manage our highway infrastructure and make the best use of road space to manage congestion, minimise traffic disruption, and improve journey time reliability for all journeys			No view			
Policy E3: Embrace innovations in technology and materials to reduce carbon emissions and improve the effectiveness of network management and monitoring			No view			
4.6 Objective F: Public transport that is inclusive and accessible						
Policy F1: Work with partner organisations to improve the connectivity within and between rural and urban areas and attractiveness of public transport as a travel choice	✓					
Policy F2: Prioritise local bus services to make journeys quicker and more reliable		✓				
Policy F3: Embrace new technologies, digital data and shared mobility models to transform how people access and use public transport	✓					



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How much do you agree or disagree with each policy being in our transport plan?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
Policy F4: Deliver high quality transport interchanges and clear passenger information to improve journeys involving more than one form of transport	✓					
Policy F5: Deliver inclusive design that improves the travel experience of people with specific needs	✓					

Section 5 – Implementation Plan

We have a plan for better travel, and now we need to put it into action. That’s what the Implementation Plan is for—it’s like a step-by-step guide to help us get things done over the next five years from 2026-2031.

Our plan will:

- List the jobs we need to do first, next, and later.
- Show who’s doing what – like which teams or groups are in charge.
- Set timelines – so we know when things should be finished.
- Check progress – to make sure everything is going well.

We have five local area plans to meet the different transport needs of each part of Dorset and BCP. This helps us focus on what each area needs most, tailored to local people, places, and priorities.

You can just answer questions related to the areas plans you have reviewed or are interested in, maybe for example the ones where you live, work or visit – you can skip the others and just leave them blank.

If you have specific comments on the area plans, there is an opportunity to add these in section 6. The full Implementation Plan can be found at dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/local-transport-plan or bcpcouncil.gov.uk/local-transport-plan.

Please tick one option for each question.

Question 5: Area Plans

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
How much do you agree or disagree with the schemes / interventions included within the BCP area plan?		✓ see our appended comments				

5.2 South Eastern Dorset Area Plan

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure



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			nor disagree			
How much do you agree or disagree with the schemes / interventions included within the South Eastern Dorset area plan?		✓ see our appended comments				

5.3 Central Dorset Area Plan

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
How much do you agree or disagree with the schemes / interventions included within the Central Dorset area plan?		✓ see our appended comments				

5.4 Northern Dorset Area Plan

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
How much do you agree or disagree with the schemes / interventions included within the Northern area plan?		✓ see our appended comments				

5.5 Western Dorset Area Plan

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
How much do you agree or disagree with the schemes / interventions included within the Western area plan?		✓ see our appended comments				

Section 6 – Your opinion and additional comments

We'd like to know what your overall support is for our transport strategy, as well as any comments you wish to make.

	Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor don't support	Don't support	Strongly don't support	Not sure
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6.1 To what extent do you support or not support our Transport Strategy?		✓ see our appended comments				
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6.2 What single thing would assist you most to meet your travel needs?	Not applicable
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<p>6.3 Do you have any other comments that you wish to make related to the questions in this survey on our transport strategy and Implementation Plan?</p> <p>Your comments may relate to the vision, themes, objectives, or policies; or you may have general comments on the transport strategy or Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Please let us know what you are commenting on within your response, by referencing the relevant question number, or topic area listed above.</p> <p>You can comment on as many or few areas as you wish. (Up to 1250 words or 5 pages of text – you can write on the back of this survey or email us at ltf@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or ltf@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)</p>	<p>We have appended a 3-page list of comments.</p>
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Section 7 – Your Preferred Mode of Transport

7.1 - Please select your most often used methods of transport over the last 12 months.

Tick one option for each column.

	Most used	Second most used	Third most used
Walking or wheeling			



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Pedal bike			
E-bike			
Beryl bike or e-scooter hire			
Mobility scooter			
Bus			
Train			
Taxi			
Car or van as a driver			
Car or van as a passenger			
Motorcycle or moped			
Other (please specify below)			
Not applicable			

Section 8 - About You (Additional Details)

We collect diversity information to help ensure that any changes we make do not unfairly affect specific community groups. It also helps to make sure our consultation responses come from a representative sample of residents.

8.1 Please tell us your postcode. This will help us understand if there are different views from residents in different areas.

Not applicable (See foot of page 21)

8.2 Please select your age group

Under 18	
18 - 24	
25-39	
40-49	
50-59	
60-64	
65+	
Prefer not to say	Not applicable

8.3 – Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	Not applicable

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted or is likely to last 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability



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to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

8.4 – What is your sex?

Male	
Female	
Prefer not to say	Not applicable

A question about gender will follow to answer if you are aged 16 or over

If you are one or more of non-binary, transgender, have variations of sex characteristics, sometimes also known as intersex, the answer you give can be different from what is on your birth certificate.

If you're not sure how to answer, use the sex registered on your official documents, such as passport or driving licence, or whichever answer best describes your sex.

The next question gives the option to tell us if your gender is different from your sex registered at birth, and, if different, to record your gender.

8.5 Is your gender the same as the sex you were registered at birth?

Yes	
No	
If you answered no, please enter the term you use to describe your gender. This is voluntary, so you can leave it blank if you prefer. Not applicable	

If your gender is not the same as the sex recorded on your birth certificate when you were born (for example, you are transgender or non-binary), tick "No".

If you answered no, please enter the term you use to describe your gender. This is also voluntary, so you can leave it blank if you prefer.

If you would like to record that you have variations of sex characteristics, sometimes also known as intersex, you can use this write-in box. If you would like to, you can also write-in your gender (for example: 'intersex, non-binary').

8.6 What is your sexual orientation?

Please only answer this question if you are 16 years old and over. This question is voluntary, so you can leave it blank if you prefer.

Heterosexual or Straight	
Gay or lesbian	
Asexual	
Bisexual	
Other	
Prefer not to say	
Other please specify	Not applicable



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“Heterosexual or Straight” means that a person is attracted to people of the opposite sex

“Gay or Lesbian” means that a person is attracted to people of the same sex

“Bisexual” means that a person is attracted to more than one sex

“Asexual” means that a person experiences little or no sexual attraction to others.

“Other” – enter your answer

8.7 – What is your ethnic group?

White: British	
White: Irish	
White: Gypsy	
White: Irish Traveller	
White: Other	
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	
Mixed: White and Black African	
Mixed: White and Asian	
Mixed: Other	
Asian or Asian British: Indian	
Asian or Asian British: Pakistan	
Asian or Asian British: Chinese	
Asian or Asian British: Other	
Black or Black British:	
Arab	
Other ethnic group (please specify below)	
Prefer not to say	Not applicable

8.8 Please provide your email address if you would like to be contacted for any follow-up questions to your responses.

tony.smale@railfuture.org.uk
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Your contact details will be stored securely and disposed of once the consultation is completed.

Thank you for your response. After the consultation closes, we’ll review all the feedback and make changes where needed before the plan is finalised in 2026. Once adopted, the plan will help us secure funding and start delivering improvements in your area.

THREE PAGES OF ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FOLLOW ...



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Response to Dorset and BCP Councils Local Transport Plan (LTP4) 2026-2041 Strategy

1. Introduction

The Wessex Branch of Railfuture is grateful for the opportunity to comment on Dorset and BCP Councils’ draft Local Transport Plan, LTP4. Our branch area covers essentially Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

Railfuture is Britain’s leading, longest-established, national independent voluntary organisation campaigning exclusively 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.

We have a number of comments about specific policy objectives which do not fit questions on the LTP Survey form, so we have listed these comments below:

2. Response to Strategy Document

Page ref.	Comments
56	Our Grid Capacity: the Strategic Energy Planning mentioned here needs to cover not only future road vehicle requirements but also upgrades to railway power supplies for greater resilience, for additional services on the SW main line and for eventual decarbonisation of other lines in Dorset, either through electrification or by means of lineside battery charging.

3. Response to Implementation Plan

Page references in **bold** relate to the “Implementation Plan by area”. Page references with item numbers relate to the tables in the Plan annexes.

Page ref.	Comments
7	Great British Railways enhanced connectivity: in addition to the examples given, we suggest the Plan should include continued support for passenger services between Swanage and main line destinations, the exact nature of these services to be decided by GBR and SR acting in partnership. We also suggest the council should support the long-term aspiration of direct services between Weymouth and the South West (requires reinstatement of the south-to-west curve at Yeovil Jn).



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7, 22, 27, 48 item 68 & 55 item 13	<p>Dorset Metro: we strongly support the Dorset Metro concept which promises additional stopping services between Brockenhurst and Wareham, enabling better connectivity between stations in the BCP conurbation.</p> <p>We suggest one additional train per hour initially to prove the concept, building to the target two tph. In the longer term, a trial extension of the service to Swanage under battery power should be considered which could lead to more regular trains. Firstly however, there needs to be permanent solutions to the problem of unsafe foot crossings at Poole and Wareham since more frequent train services will exacerbate these difficulties.</p>
7, 23, 31, 52 item 113 & 59 item 15	<p>Heart of Wessex Line: we strongly support proposals for a regular hourly service between Weymouth and Bristol via Yeovil. However, on a largely single-track railway, increased frequency comes at a cost of reduced reliability unless adequate infrastructure enhancements are put in place, most notably additional passing loops. We also support reinstatement of the south-to-west chord at Yeovil Junction as this will enable HoW trains to call at the station, markedly improving connections to Exeter and beyond.</p>
7, 22, 27, 29, 31, 34, 48 item 56, 52 item 110, 59 item 16 & 62 item 10	<p>Access to Stations: we strongly support measures to improve station accessibility. The councils should work with partners to audit accessibility at all Dorset and BCP stations then draw up a realistic and properly-funded work plan. Some low-cost interventions, such as better signage of walking routes, are always worth considering. It is wholly unacceptable that Pokesdown was identified for remedial action some ten years ago, but work has yet to start on the much-needed reinstatement of lifts.</p>
19, 47 item 41	<p>Bournemouth Town Centre Sustainable Access Package: we strongly support measures to improve walking and wheeling routes between the station, town centre and seafront. There's a need to eliminate awkward underpasses and those road crossings where motor traffic has priority.</p>
19, 46 item 34	<p>Reopening Hamworthy freight branch: it is already "open" so doesn't need "reopening"; however, it remains unused despite renovations carried out by Network Rail about 5 years ago. The same applies to the aggregate transfer sidings at Wool; these were upgraded at considerable cost but have since languished unused. We are hopeful these assets can be brought back into use.</p>
19, 23	<p>Feasibility work for a BCP Mass Transit scheme: we are pleased to note that this will be "revisited", since the intention to proceed with a study was included in the previous local transport plan, LTP3. If the chosen mode is a rail-based metro, then we urge that the Hamworthy branch line should be considered as a western arm of the scheme. We do not see any potential for "heavy rail" passenger services on the Hamworthy branch line in view of the short walking distance between the line's quay-side terminus and Poole station.</p>
21	<p>Resilient transport network: the Plan should acknowledge that the railway through Poole is vulnerable to the effects of climate change and sea level rise, and disruptive remedial works may be needed.</p>
22, 27, 31, 48 item 66	<p>Decreased journey times: we support this aim, but it should not be at the expense of reliability or of service frequency at intermediate stations.</p>



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22, 48 item 67	Increased Sunday frequency: we strongly support this aim. Growth in rail travel is especially strong in the leisure market, which spans the full week including Sundays. There is also strong demand for weekends away by rail, especially amongst college and university students. Spare rail capacity on Sundays could be used for the introduction of additional direct services, eg Bournemouth-Brighton.
23	Network Rail to deliver overhead electrification: this is very unlikely and we can find no reference to overhead electrification (other than the proposed “electric spine” project for Birmingham-Reading-Southampton) in NR’s Wessex Route Strategy. We suggest instead that the council supports those aspects of NR’s strategy where interventions would benefit Dorset rail travellers, eg: Woking flyover (for improved operational resilience) and southern access to Heathrow.
19, 23 46 item 30-32	Coach routes to fill missing gaps in the rail network: we support this and in particular we urge Dorset Council to promote a rail-link coach service between Dorchester South and Axminster stations, running hourly and included in rail ticketing and timetables. We also urge BCP Council to promote the introduction of a Rail-Air coach service linking the conurbation with Bournemouth Airport. Options include whether to link the airport from either Bournemouth Interchange or Christchurch station.
33	Gillingham and Sherborne stations: we agree these are important for North Dorset residents, but so too are stations at Salisbury, Tisbury and Yeovil. There should also be a policy to support service improvements, line redoubling and electrification on the West of England Line.
36	Western Dorset is not directly served by a railway station: there could be 2 or 3 “virtual stations” on the Dorchester-Axminster rail-link coach service which we have proposed above.
47 item 42	Poole Travel Interchange: we support the consideration of relocating Poole railway station if it brings benefits for rail users. Problems at the present site include poor bus-rail interchange, poor waiting facilities and curved platforms leading to long stepping distance.
50 item 95	Rail freight intermodal sites: Poole Quay and Winfrith are mentioned but there is also potential for intermodal sites at: Furzebrook (petro-chem and quarried stone), Wool (aggregates) and Weymouth (sea-rail transfers).
55 item 8	Sustainable travel routes: We strongly support measures which will encourage tourists to travel by rail and bus. This can be achieved through marketing, better bus-rail integration and easier ticketing. The council should seek to introduce a multi-mode day ranger ticket covering Dorset.
58 item 7	Weymouth Town Centre masterplan: this should include measures to encourage more bus services to call at the station forecourt.
19 67 (objective C)	Freight facilities map and freight consolidation centres: potential sites for rail freight facilities (as well as road) should be shown on the “freight facilities” map. Palletised rail freight could be handled at locations such as Bournemouth station or the Bournemouth Traincare depot at Westbourne.

A D Smale

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9 Oct 2025



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