

Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

Summer workshop, Thursday 9th July 2026 – Exeter

(Sponsored and facilitated by Railfuture)



Programme

12:30

Arrivals, finger buffet lunch, soft drinks, tea and coffee

13:30

Welcome and introduction

Roger Blake, Acting Convener, NDRDA

13:35

Group photograph

13:40

Statements

Ian Roome MP, North Devon and
Steve Race MP, Exeter

13:45

A new transport authority for Devon & Torbay

Sean Anstee CBE, Director of Operations, Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority

14:05

North Devon Line modernisation – developing the business case – with video messages from

Mark Hopwood CBE, Managing Director, Great Western Railway, and
Jo Grew, Joint Route Strategy Director, GWR and Network Rail Western

Andrew Robinson, Senior Strategic Planner (Western), Network Rail and
David Whiteway, Regional Growth Manager (West), Great Western Railway

14:35

Concluding thoughts

Peter West OBE CMILT, independent adviser, NDRDA

14:40

Open forum

15:30

Conclude

**Northern Devon
Railway Development Alliance**

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

Delegates attending summer workshop of NDRDA, Thursday 9th July 2026 in Exeter

Barnstaple Town Council - Deputy Mayor of Barnstaple – Cllr Julie Hunt
BaTC - Town Clerk – Rob Ward

Crediton Town Council - Mayor of Crediton – Cllr Steve Huxtable

Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority - Director of Operations – Sean Anstee CBE

Devon County Council – Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Bio-diversity – Cllr Jacqi Hodgson
DCC - Deputy Director, Planning – Jamie Hulland

Exeter City Council - Leader – Cllr Phil Bialyk

Great Western Railway - Regional Growth Manager (West) – David Whiteway

Mid-Devon District Council - Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Regeneration – Cllr Steve Keable
MDDC - Director of Place & Economy – Nick Bryant

Network Rail - Senior Strategic Planner (Western) – Andrew Robinson

North Devon Line Rail Promotion Group (formerly Tarka Rail Association) - Chair – David Northey

Peninsula Transport - Programme Director – Hannah Shrimpton

Railfuture Devon & Cornwall regional branch - Chair – Tim Steer
Railfuture - Infrastructure & Networks Director – Roger Blake (Acting Convener, NDRDA)

West Devon Borough Council - Principal Economic Development Officer – Andrew Elliot

