

Peninsula Transport

Peninsula Transport Regional Rail Priorities

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CORNWALL COUNCIL

Devon County Council

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Somerset Council

TORBAY COUNCIL

Regional Context

- **Devolution**
  - Devon, Torbay and Plymouth Mayoral Strategic Authority
  - Local Government Reorganisation

- **Growth**
  - Exeter, East Devon and Teignbridge – 49,000 housing target including 10,000 at Marlcombe
  - Plymouth – c.25,000 jobs, 10,000 new homes in city centre
  - North Devon and Torridge – 5-Year Housing Land Supply c.6,700 homes

- **Resilience**
  - Climate – 7 named storms in 25/26 season
  - Ageing infrastructure & rolling stock

Devolution

- **LGR**
  - Changing of structure and boundaries of local councils
  - Decision for Plymouth, Devon and Torbay has been withdrawn

- **Devolution – an opportunity**
  - Transfers powers, funding and strategic decisions from the government to the region.
  - Supports collaboration across transport, housing, skills and economic growth.
  - Government confirmed Devon, Plymouth and Torbay to be taken forward as a Mayoral Strategic Authority subject to council consent
  - Offers significant opportunity for the region to taken on additional powers, particularly around strategic transport
  - A strong regional voice to better compete for funding and align transport, housing and economic growth

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Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP)



Delivery plan for the Transport Strategy

- Sets out strategic priorities across all modes
- Provides advice to ministers for investment
- Schemes grouped according to relative strategic impact on region
- Priorities include Enhanced rail mobile connectivity, interoperable ticketing, reliable EV charging, better freight connectivity, walking and wheeling connectivity and safer and more resilient roads

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Rail Priorities

- **Rolling Stock –** ensuring a strategy for the replacement of ageing local rail fleet
- **Peninsula Rail Task Force** – well established rail advocacy for the region
- **Peninsula Railcard** – expansion of Devon & Cornwall Railcard to provide improved offer for residents
- **Metro Schemes** – learning from established Devon Metro and Mid-Cornwall Metro to develop local rail services further
- **Enhanced Rail Wifi –** rollout of technology already proven by Peninsula Transport funded trial
- **Station Accessibility** – working with Network Rail to understand 'quick win' opportunities and thinking about longer term solutions
- **Resilience** – Ongoing support for resilience works across the network, including South West Resilience Programme Phase 5



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Delivering Economic Growth across Devon

Devon Metro Network

Delivery of a modern metro system will enhance residents' quality of life, by providing faster and more frequent journey opportunities, and help unlock sustainable growth across the county.

Scale of growth planned for Devon

Housing and employment growth across Exeter and Devon means large increases in people travelling in and around Exeter, to access employment, education and housing.

Delivering housing growth

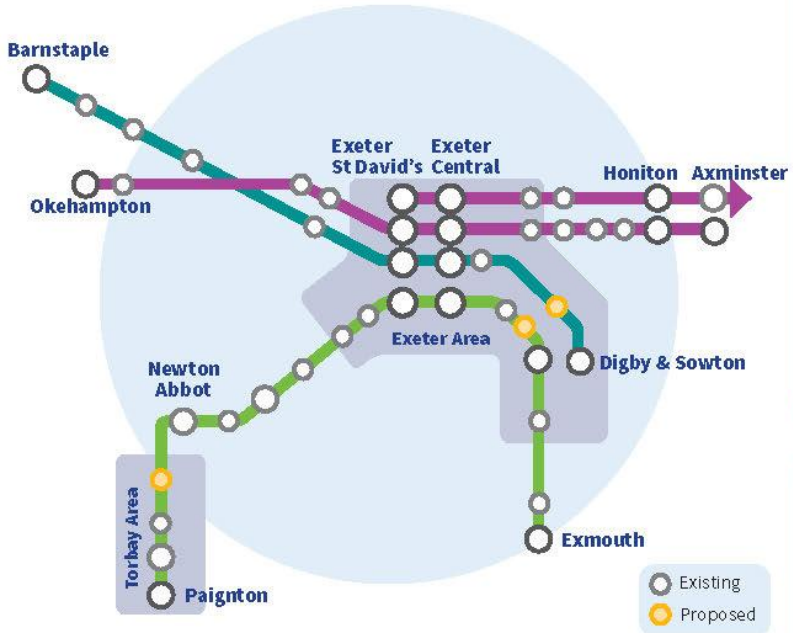
- **80,000 houses** to be delivered across **Devon by 2040**, with **20,000** within the **catchment of the Devon metro network**.
- Only **3,300 dwellings** planned in the next Local Plan period (to 2042)

Improved access to Jobs and Education

- Exeter has one of the **largest travel to work areas in the country**, with **25,000-30,000 new jobs** due to be created.
- Growth is planned around key Exeter employment areas and Enterprise zones:
  - Science Park
  - Exeter City Centre
  - Sky Park
  - Sowton Industrial Estate

Devon Metro System Network

Limited stops at some intermediate stations omitted.



Using rail to drive economic growth

- **More frequent and faster journeys,** to increase rail's mode share and ensure development growth can be accommodated
- **Increased capacity,** to reduce crowding and enhance the passenger experience
- **A joined-up metro system** with new direct links and improved connections at hubs

Supplementary initiatives

The following schemes will enhance the Devon Metro, improving passenger experiences and increasing usage.

- **Peninsula Railcard** – expanding the geography of the Devon and Cornwall railcard to include Somerset, and removing restrictions on times of use to reduce commuting costs.
- **Improved onboard wi-fi -** building on the GWR wi-fi pilot to enable passengers to be better-connected and more productive on the move.
- **Upgraded Rolling Stock** – GWR are introducing more modern rolling stock, improving the quality and comfort of passenger journeys on the network.
- **Accessibility improvements -** to provide step-free access.

Devon Metro | Infrastructure Needs

North Devon Line - route wide modernisation

- Resignalling to increase capacity and resilience.
- Line speed upgrades and crossing upgrades/closures.
- New sections of double track.
- Platform upgrades to accommodate larger services.
- Barnstaple station upgrades.

West of England and Avocet Line

- New sections of double track.
- Digby & Sowton Station - new platform and bus interchange facilities.
- Rebuild of Polsloe Bridge Station.
- New station at Monkerton.

Proposed Service improvements

Devon Metro would introduce improved service frequencies on key routes:

- **Exmouth <-> Paignton: Every 30 mins**
- **Barnstaple <-> Exeter Central: Every 30 mins**
- **Exeter Central <-> Digby & Sowton: Every 15 mins**
- **Exeter St Davids <-> Honiton/Axminster: Every 30 mins**

Outcomes for Passengers

- **Better access to jobs/education** through more frequent services and new direct links.
- **Increased service reliability** due to track and signalling upgrades and rolling stock.
- **Reduced congestion and improved road safety** on key routes through a modal shift to rail across Devon.

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