

## **Press release – August 2026**

### **Another new station for Devon's rail network**

The official opening of the Dartmoor Line's second station, Okehampton Interchange, on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July, and its opening to passengers on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August, are applauded by Railfuture's Devon & Cornwall regional branch. Chair Tim Steer commented: "This station opening is a tribute to the dogged persistence of key individuals in a wide range of organisations, such as the local campaign group OkeRail, West Devon Borough Council, Devon County Council, Great Western Railway, and Network Rail, among others.

"This new station has been an integral part of the planned Devon Metro network ever since its launch with the previous Local Transport Plan in 2011. It is now a fitting conclusion to that 15-year plan as the baton of local transport authority is passed from the County Council to the Devon & Torbay Combined County Authority which, a year ago, adopted the next Local Transport Plan with an updated Devon Metro network to 2040.

"Credit goes to West Devon Borough Council who four years ago saw a funding opportunity and collaborated with the County Council to apply to the second round of the previous government's Levelling Up Fund. The bid was one in a package of five schemes around the county, all supported by match funding from the county and district councils, in what turned out to be a winning formula. It is especially noteworthy, we think, that the lion's share of this transport project's funding came not from the Department for Transport, as would usually be expected, but instead from the former Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; funding for transport schemes can come from non-transport sources."

Okehampton Interchange is the seventh new or reopened station in Devon since the mid-1990s and the fourth new Devon Metro station since 2011. Ivybridge had opened in 1994 and Digby & Sowton in 1995, then Newcourt and Cranbrook both opened in 2015, Okehampton reopened in 2021, and Marsh Barton opened in 2023. That record of sustained achievement will continue with the opening of the next new Devon station at Cullompton, together with neighbouring Somerset's Wellington, in 2028/29. The appetite for yet more continues unabated, with proposals at varying stages of development for new stations at Plympton, Laira, Edginswell, and Monkerton, plus at Tavistock and Bideford when extended services reach the termini of proposed line reinstatements.

Railfuture's national Board Director for Infrastructure & Networks, Roger Blake, who is also the Acting Convener for the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance of around four dozen partner and representative stakeholder organisations, added: "New and reopened stations bring access to the rail network closer to their now better-connected communities, stimulating opportunities for wider choices of jobs, further and higher education, health care, leisure and social outlets, as well as supporting those communities' economic growth as more accessible and desirable locations. The whole history of railways has been, and continues to be, about bringing socio-economic prosperity to the places which they reach."

Railfuture is Britain's leading and longest-established, independent national voluntary organisation campaigning exclusively for better rail services over an expanding network for passengers and freight, to support sustainable economic growth, environmental improvement and better-connected communities. It advocates on behalf of all rail users, nationally and through 14 branches, with 20,000 affiliated and individual members, its independence based on funding solely from members' subscriptions and legacies.

Full details of Railfuture's Devon & Cornwall regional branch: [Railfuture | Devon and Cornwall Branch](#)  
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