

Forward Planning  
Mid-Devon District Council  
Phoenix House  
Phoenix Lane  
Tiverton  
Devon  
EX16 6PP

***please reply to:***

20 Linden Close  
Sticklepath  
Barnstaple  
Devon  
EX31 2HD

[planmiddevon@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:planmiddevon@middevon.gov.uk)

[tim.steer@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:tim.steer@railfuture.org.uk)

Dear MDDC Forward Planning,

2026-07-10

## **Plan Mid-Devon 2026-46 – Scoping Consultation**

We are responding on behalf of the regional branch of our national membership organisation.

Railfuture is Britain's leading and longest-established, independent national voluntary organisation campaigning exclusively for a better railway across a bigger network for passenger and freight users, to support sustainable economic growth, environmental improvement and better-connected communities. We seek to influence policy makers and decision takers at local, regional and national levels to implement pro-rail policies in development and transport planning.

**1. Full name**

Tim Steer

**2. Organisation name (if applicable)**

Railfuture Ltd, Devon & Cornwall regional branch

**3. Please provide your postal address**

20 Linden Close, Sticklepath, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 2HD

**4. Please provide your email address**

[tim.steer@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:tim.steer@railfuture.org.uk)

**5. Do you wish us to keep your contact details and use them to consult you on future stages of Plan Mid Devon? The Council intends to use the email address provided as the default form of communication.**

Yes

**6. Do you wish us to keep your contact details and use them to inform you of the progress of Plan Mid Devon through the various statutory stages set out in Regulation 20(5)(d) of [The Town and Country \(Local Planning\)\(England\) Regulations 2026](#). The Council intends to use the email address provided as the default form of communication.**

Yes

**7. Please provide any further information on how you wish to be consulted during the preparation of Plan Mid Devon. The Council will consider all requests, but cannot guarantee to meet them all.**

n/a

[www.railfuture.org.uk](http://www.railfuture.org.uk) [www.railfuturescotland.org.uk](http://www.railfuturescotland.org.uk) [www.railfuturewales.org.uk](http://www.railfuturewales.org.uk)  
[www.railwatch.org.uk](http://www.railwatch.org.uk)

8. Please provide any comments on what Plan Mid Devon should contain. The Notice of Scoping Consultation includes a list of potential contents of Plan Mid Devon, separated into contents that are likely to be in the plan, and those which may be in the plan (these can be found on pages 5, 6 and 7 of the Notice of Scoping Consultation).

Demonstrate awareness of strategic context, including Mid-Devon becoming part of a new unitary authority before the plan-making process is complete, the need to align so far as is possible with an emerging new Spatial Development Strategy, recognition that there already is a Combined County Authority which may change its structure and powers / responsibilities before the plan-making process is complete.

9. Are there any other matters which you would like to comment on in relation to Plan Mid Devon?

Noting that the Council's social channels appear to be four - Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, and YouTube - we would advocate broadening awareness of and engagement in Plan Mid-Devon by socialising further through a wider range of different outlets, such as via Instagram and TikTok, given the quite different demographics generally understood from research to favour a broader choice of specific channels than the four currently offered.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Steer  
Chair, Railfuture Devon & Cornwall regional branch

Roger Blake BA MRTPI (Rtd) MTPS  
Acting Convener, Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance  
Infrastructure & Networks Director, Railfuture national Board