

**Carl Hearn**

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**From:** Natasha Cole <natasha.cole@devon.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 June 2022 15:38  
**To:** Carl Hearn  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Tavistock to Plymouth Railway reopening  
**Attachments:** App 1 Plan on a Page.pdf

Dear Carl

Last year Devon County Council secured some funding through the Government's *Restoring Your Railway* programme to progress a Strategic Outline Business Case for reinstating the railway between Tavistock and Bere Alston, which would enable an hourly service between Tavistock and Plymouth.

The purpose of this work is to set out the rationale for investment and provide enough evidence to Government for the scheme to proceed to the next stage of development, which is where more detailed design of the railway proposals will follow.

My reason for contacting you is because we wish to demonstrate as much support from a range of stakeholders across West Devon and Plymouth including the business, education, and leisure sectors (including the AONB and Dartmoor National Park). We will also be contacting local authorities and politicians to add their support to the scheme.

I have attached a plan on a page to provide more details; however, we have since refined the objectives as follows:

- Enhanced connectivity encouraging mode shift from car to rail for journeys between Tavistock and Plymouth, addressing congestion on the A386 corridor and tackling the Climate Emergency by supporting lower carbon travel
- Facilitate local development, as laid out in the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (JLP)
- Enhanced access to employment, education and healthcare in Plymouth for Tavistock residents and residents of West Devon and North Cornwall
- Provide an improvement in rail services for the communities of St Budeaux, Keyham and Devonport in Plymouth
- Improve visitor access by public transport to the natural environment, particularly Dartmoor National Park

You will see from the above that the strength in our bid is not only in demonstrating improved connectivity through sustainable alternatives between Tavistock and Plymouth but also the improved local connectivity within Plymouth as we expect increased frequency of local rail services to communities including St Budeaux, Keyham and Devonport.

We are aiming to submit our business case later this Summer and so would be grateful of a letter of support **before the end of July**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jamie Hlland (*he/him*)

**Transportation Strategy & Road Safety Manager**  
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# Tavistock to Plymouth Rail Link

## The Case for Investment

The Tavistock to Plymouth rail link will reopen the route to Tavistock with new hourly services complementing existing Tamar Valley services to Gunnislake.

This will transform public transport between Tavistock and Plymouth encouraging modal shift, addressing congestion and creating new opportunities. It will treble the train service for deprived communities in Plymouth and also boost access to jobs in Devonport Dockyard. It will also make efficient use and achieve better value from existing rail assets.

The scheme is being developed jointly with NR and GWR with broad community support and will allow future expansion eastwards. The scheme is a key component of the Local Plan and also part of the Peninsula Rail Task Force Twenty Year Plan.

## Extensive Development

- The scheme has benefited from extensive development:
- 85% of land in DCC ownership.
- detailed feasibility, conceptual design and operational planning.
- Extensive business case analysis undertaken.

## Partnership Approach

Devon County Council is working with NR and GWR to develop the scheme, building on the partnership established for the Dartmoor Line, with support from Plymouth City Council and Cornwall Council. Broad stakeholder and community support includes LEAs and MPs.

## Tavistock to Plymouth Spatial Context



