

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 March 2023 16:08
To: Planning Policy <PlanningPolicy@eastdevon.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Network Rail Southern Region Consultation Response: Emerging new East Devon Local Plan 2020 to 2040

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Dear East Devon Policy team,

Network Rail Southern Region Consultation Response: Emerging new East Devon Local Plan 2020 to 2040

Thank you for consulting Network Rail on the emerging new East Devon Local Plan 2020 to 2040. Following an internal consultation, which included the Train Operating Company South Western Railway, we would like to make the following comments. Apologies for the delay responding, I hope that they can still be considered.

Please note that the East Devon Area covers two regions within Network Rail. This response is from Network Rail's Southern Region, Network Rail's Western & Wales Region will also be submitting a response.

General comments:

- Disappointing that only a small proportion of new development is planned along the railway line between Exeter and Axminster.
- Additional housing growth along the line over and above that at Cranbrook would have helped improve the business case for the proposed service and infrastructure enhancements.

Devon Metro enhancement scheme funding contribution:

- We would welcome a discussion with EDDC and DCC to clarify what potential developer contributions could be made from developments in the plan (including Cranbrook) towards the capital cost and / or initial operational costs for the enhanced Devon Metro service between Axminster and Exeter, recognising the strategic importance of the line to the area.
- The scheme may struggle to gain Government funding support to progress to the next stages without any local funding contribution.

Axminster:

- We would like to see a clear strategy for connecting the proposed housing development sites to the rail station, potentially via a mobility hub and e-bike docks in each development. The current car park is now starting to approach capacity again at certain times and account needs to be taken of planned growth at other locations that use Axminster as a railhead such as Chard.
- Network Rail and SWR would be keen to be involved in any discussions about site Axmin_07, Axminster carpets. In particular we would like to explore the scope for any future potential expansion of the station car park whilst recognising that other sites such as Bradfords Building Supplies are potentially involved.

New Town:

- We support the first choice option for the new settlement as this is in a more sustainable and practical location for travel options, particularly for access to the railway.
- Whilst the proposed new town is not located directly adjacent to the railway we believe it is important that it is still well connected to it, both for journeys into Exeter and beyond towards the SW and eastwards towards Salisbury and London. Whilst it is disappointing that the new settlement isn't directly on the railway itself, well planned supporting travel infrastructure and services can help make sure it is effectively and attractively connected to the railway for different journey types. It would be a mistake to focus solely on buses and walking and cycling.
- Pinhoe is the nearest station at less than two miles via a reasonably direct cycle route from the north western edge of the new settlement. This is eminently achievable via electric and other bikes with the right infrastructure.
- We would strongly suggest that a new high quality traffic free cycle route, incorporating a bridge over the A30 in the vicinity of the Exeter Science Park (possibly via the existing Sowton Lane bridge over the A30), is built into the infrastructure plan for the site at an early stage. Not only would this connect the site to Pinhoe station via Blackhorse Lane and the M5 cycle bridge but it would also provide direct access to the Science Park itself but also the employment areas around the airport, Skypark, etc. It would also be the main cycle route into the city centre. Pinhoe station would be accessed via Pinn Lane although some improvements would be required.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require more information.

Kind regards,



[Redacted]
Town Planner
Network Rail Property (Southern)
Office Address: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]
Mobile: [Redacted]
Website: www.networkrail.co.uk