

A Rail Strategy for South East Cornwall

To develop a rail strategy for South East Cornwall, several key factors need consideration:

Existing Infrastructure:

Assess the current rail network, including stations, lines, and connections in South East Cornwall.

This should include the Great Western Main Line, the Cornish Main Line, and the Looe Valley Line.

Demand Analysis:

Understand the current and projected passenger demand for rail services in the region, including commuter traffic, tourism flows, and local travel patterns. Determine current and future rail freight opportunities.

Accessibility:

Evaluate the accessibility of rail services to various communities within South East Cornwall, including rural areas and smaller towns. This should include ease of access of travel to and from stations as well as accessibility at stations themselves and determine potential improvements.

Integrated Transport:

Ensure seamless integration with other modes of transport, such as buses, taxis, walking and cycling routes and ferries.

Evaluate opportunities to improve connectivity within South East Cornwall and with neighbouring regions, including better strategic links to major transport hubs.

Frequency, Timetabling and Reliability:

Aim to improve the frequency and reliability of rail services to meet the needs of passengers, including peak and off-peak times.

Determine optimal frequencies and timetables for trains serving the region, balancing the needs of commuters, leisure travellers, and freight operators.

Infrastructure Upgrades:

Identify necessary infrastructure upgrades or enhancements to improve capacity, speed, and safety along existing rail lines.

Consider infrastructure upgrades, such as electrification, double-tracking, and station enhancements, to improve service reliability, capacity, and comfort.

Environmental Considerations:

Incorporate sustainability principles into the strategy, such as electrification of lines, reducing carbon emissions, and minimizing environmental impact.

Explore opportunities to make the rail network more environmentally sustainable, such as investing in renewable energy sources for trains or promoting rail travel as an eco-friendly option.

Community Engagement:

Involve local communities, stakeholders, and businesses in the planning process to ensure that the rail strategy reflects their needs and priorities.

Funding and Financing:

Develop a realistic funding and financing plan to support the implementation of the rail strategy, including potential sources of public and private investment. By addressing these aspects comprehensively, a rail strategy for South East Cornwall can be developed to enhance connectivity, promote economic growth, and improve the overall quality of life for residents and visitors in the region.

Key Stake holders (Initial list)

Network Rail
Great Western Railway
Cross Country Trains
Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership
Cornwall Council
Plymouth City Council
Town and Parish Councils
Passenger Groups
Tamar Crossings
Transport for Cornwall
Tamar Valley Landscape

Station Scope

All stations within the South East Cornwall CAP

Saltash
St Germans
Menheniot
Liskeard
Coombe Junction Halt
St Keyne Wishing Well Halt
Causeland
Sandplace
Looe

We also note that other stations that are close to the CAP boundary may feature in this plan.

First steps

1. Get CAP buy in
2. Engage with Town and Parish Councils, possibly a simple online survey
3. Engage with CC Transport Team
4. Gather and analyse available relevant data

Councillor Richard Bickford
Saltash Town Council

Produced for the South East Cornwall CAP