

OkeXRail Board

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose and Aims of the Group

1.1. OkeXRail was established in recognition of the benefits, and the need to meet community aspirations, by re-establishing daily train services on the existing line between Okehampton and Exeter. The community that would benefit includes North Cornwall, West Devon and North-west Devon (parts of Torridge).

1.2. A working railway line exists; the group's sole aim is to bring about a daily rail service on the existing line, by 2017.

1.3. The group's purpose is to take charge of, lead, and manage, all steps necessary to re-establish services from as early a date as possible.

1.4. In parallel to the work of the group, and ensuring continued liaison with the group and with stakeholders, Devon County Council (DCC) will lobby central government for the line to be reopened through to Tavistock and Plymouth. This will include through Devon County Council and the Peninsula Rail Task Force, local MP(s), Destination Okehampton and other local lobby groups.

1.5. Wider lobbying for government funding to reopen the line between Okehampton/ Meldon and Tavistock/ Bere Alston will not form part of this group – given the specific aim of the group.

2. Working Principles

2.1. In recognition of the number of false dawns in the past, the group is founded on the need for all relevant organisations groups to work together. Over many years up to the present time, many of the groups have already contributed valuable work towards the project; this includes timetabling, financing ideas and construction expertise, while to date no one group has been able to make sufficient progress on its own.

2.2. The group will act collaboratively by engaging all organisations that:

(a) are central to, or needed, to fund or operate trains;

(b) may be able to contribute to, or undertake work that can directly bring about, the reintroduction of a daily train service.

2.3. This groups' prime aim is to make this happen; it is about doing what is needed to re-establish services, not advocating others to do so.

2.4. The group will be responsible for setting aims and targets, and for managing the finances of any new train service. The group will need to obtain advice and support in respect of the opportunities and risks that can arise from this.

2.5. Devon County Council will support the group with technical/ professional support and advice.

3. Stakeholder Engagement and Support

3.1. Stakeholders will be engaged through a separate Stakeholder Group that links into the group, that this forum has overall responsibility for.

3.2. The group will set up the Stakeholder Group, and will establish its Terms of Reference, which will be in line with the group's Terms of Reference.

3.3. Access to resources: the group will encourage members to consider and identify what they might offer in terms of support in kind, finance, etc.

3.4. The Stakeholder group will meet at least twice per year. It was felt preferable to arrange meetings in line with decision and other meeting cycles, rather than set six-monthly dates at the start of each year.

4. Membership and Representation

4.1. The group will decide on a consistent approach to representation on the group with reference to the above Purpose and Aims.

4.2. It is expected that due to the diverse nature of the organisations represented, decisions would normally be expected to be by consensus not voting.

4.3. All organisations represented will provide a single representative (in effect a "voting member") for all group meetings, who can be supported by (a) colleague(s) for technical support and advice.

4.4. To be represented an organisation will have to demonstrate that they have the ability to provide tangible (not just lobbying) resources that can be used to actually help reintroduce train services. Examples are: train operators, track owner or lessee, organisations working to improve the local economy of the whole area served by the railway and/ or that may have access to external funding bids, organisations that may provide support for operating existing stations and their parish/ town councils, local district / county council(s).

4.5. Other organisations will be invited to attend meetings, either for a whole meeting or for a specific item only, as required.

4.6. By being a member of the group, all organisations agree to the need for equal representation across the different organisations without undue emphasis, weight, or favour, to any one organisation.

4.7. All organisations on the group agree to understanding and respecting the different perspectives of other organisations represented on the group.

5. Chair

5.1. In line with the above Purpose and Aims and Working Principles the group will accordingly select a Chair in a transparent and accountable manner.

5.2. The Chair will be expected to be:

- *be impartial and not be from, or allied to, any one group represented on the group*
- *be able to facilitate collaboration and understanding*
- *work at pace focusing on the achievement of the group's aims and purpose*
- *be of sufficient standing and have the skills set to hold the support of the whole group*
- *speak on behalf of and represent the group as required*

5.3. A Vice-Chair will also be appointed.

5.4. The Chair, or Vice chair when the Chair is not available, will speak on behalf of the group to external bodies.
