

# TRANSPORT

## Briefing

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## Exeter to gain two rail stations for Devon Metro

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Devon County Council has approved plans for two new railway stations in Exeter prior to formal planning applications being submitted.

The stations, at Newcourt and Marsh Barton, will be part of the Devon Metro initiative being developed to help the local rail network improve capacity and quality of service.

Newcourt station will be located adjacent to the former Royal Naval Stores Depot development area with journey times into the city centre of just over 10 minutes. It will consist of a single 124 metre platform, suitable for longer trains, and will include a shelter and ticket machine.

The station at Marsh Barton will be centrally located within the trading estate, near the rail bridge served off Alphin Brook Road. It will provide the opportunity for rail commuting from South and East Devon to the estate, relieving pressure on the A379 and Countess Wear. Two platforms, both 124 metres long, will be linked by a footbridge with a lift. The platforms will have shelters and ticket machines.

Both the Newcourt and Marsh Barton stations will include secure cycle facilities, CCTV security and customer information systems. Proposals for the new stations are supported by First Great Western, Network Rail and the Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership.

Formal applications for planning permissions will be made in the New Year with further consultation to follow as part of the planning process. Estimated costs, subject to the final designs, are expected to be in the region of £2m for the new station at Newcourt and £4m for the station at Marsh Barton. Funding has yet to be secured but the council hopes that with the outline designs agreed and with planning permission it will be in a stronger position to secure external funding.

Devon County Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for Highways and Transportation, Cllr Stuart Hughes, said: "Economic assessment has shown that the proposed new stations would be good value for money, providing travel time benefits for rail users who would be able to avoid traffic congestion on surrounding roads. Other road users are anticipated to benefit from congestion relief."

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