

# Lynton & Barnstaple Railway



## Regeneration

### Improving the future of Exmoor through Investment, Tourism and Employment



**Infrastructure Investment:** The project will serve to improve much of the natural infrastructure in the rail corridor, such as culverts which have been neglected since the original dismantling of the line. Through reinstatement and operational use, the surrounding natural and built environment will experience a substantially higher level of continued monitoring and maintenance than at present. The proposed investment by the L&B at Blackmoor Gate is much-needed

boost for the local economy. The project will also enable the L&B Trust to be the custodians of landscape and conservation works along the line.

**Tourism:** The area as a whole has a number of defining characteristics, specifically an economy of small-scale businesses underpinned by the land-based economy, agriculture and tourism.

Enhancing and extending a high-profile attraction in the area would increase visitor numbers and spend at local tourist-related businesses such as hotels, shops, restaurants. Passenger numbers are forecast to rise from 46,000 per annum (2014 figures) to 70,000 over a five-year period resulting in an estimated additional £9 million per annum being spent in the local economy. Increased patronage of the L&B will also mean increased spend in the economy. The railway presently spends 88% of its revenue locally.

The project also aims to enhance visitor activities on Exmoor and in the surrounding area, such as walking, cycling and enjoying the outstanding scenery. The line's reinstatement can complement these activities, adding a further dimension to people's exploration of this part of Exmoor.

**Employment:** Local employment is an important part of any community. A variety of jobs would be generated both directly and indirectly through enhanced operation and re-construction of the railway. It is estimated that the future operations will support at least 24 full-time direct jobs and 8 apprenticeships. Indirectly the construction and operational spend in the local economy is estimated to generate about 78 additional local jobs in tourism and local services.