

Demand from England and Wales to restore Beeching lines as deadline for proposals closes

- 50 proposals submitted to build or reopen lines and stations in England and Wales, closed in and around the Beeching cuts
- bids will now be considered by expert panel, taking next step towards improving connectivity for communities
- part of wider £500 million Restoring Your Railway fund to level up the country

Fifty bids to build or reopen lines and stations closed during the Beeching cuts, with the potential to level up regional economies and boost access to jobs and education, have been received across England and Wales, the Rail Minister Chris Heaton-Harris has announced today (30 June 2020).

MPs and local authorities have bid for a share of the second round of the [Restoring Your Railway 'Ideas Fund'](#), to develop proposals to build or reopen railway lines and stations, including those closed by British Rail chief Dr Richard Beeching from 1963.

Proposals for the restoration of lines and stations to re-connect their communities will now be considered by an expert panel including Network Rail Chair Sir Peter Hendy, with announcements regarding the successful schemes expected by the end of the summer.

The Rail Minister announced that 50 proposals have been submitted from right across the country. These include proposals from MPs in the north east to reopen the line at Ferryhill, County Durham, and restore the Consett-Newcastle Connection, to proposals from the south west to transform the Newquay line, reopen Charfield station, and reinstate the Bodmin to Wadebridge railway.

Rail Minister Chris Heaton-Harris said:

Receiving so many bids once again underlines how passionate people are about reconnecting communities.

Local MPs, councillors and community leaders are the greatest champions of their local lines, and I look forward to working with them to ensure the projects with the greatest potential have the support they need.

Improving local transport links is vital as we level up access to

opportunities across the country, reconnect communities and kickstart our recovery from Covid-19.

Today's news follows the announcement in May that 10 bids will receive a share of the first round of the Restoring Your Railway 'Ideas Fund'. The schemes were awarded up to £50,000 each to progress plans to improve local connectivity, bringing communities one step closer to better rail connections with the capacity to boost job opportunities and ease congestion.

As part of the Restoring Your Railway Fund, the government also announced the third round of the New Stations Fund, which will invest £20 million in new stations and help restore closed stations to their former glory. The fund has now closed with a decision on successful applicants due in the Autumn.