

Section 1: Introduction

Name of CRP	South East Manchester Community Rail Partnership 
Date Range Covered by this Activity Plan	April 2025 - March 2026
Lead CRP Officer Name	John Kenny
Lead CRP Officer Contact Details	John.kenny@stockport.gov.uk 07800 618368
Details of CRP Website and/or Social Media Channels	http://www.semcorp.org.uk/ Some posts are shared through Stockport MBC. Twitter @SouthEastManCRP has been set up and is being regularly used: – 114 followers on 26/04/23 178 followers on 10/01/24 199 followers on 08/04/24 242 followers on 01/11/24 245 followers on 16/05/25

	The Community Rail Partnership (CRP) was formed in cooperation with Stockport MBC, Tameside Council and Manchester City Council. Outside of the councils the CRP's primary strategic partners are: - TfGM, Northern Rail, Avanti West Coast, CrossCountry Trains, Transpennine Express and Network Rail. The Community Rail Partnership is currently hosted by Stockport SMBC. The CRP supports 15 Friends Groups. The groups are: Ashburys, Bredbury, Ryder Brow, Guide Bridge, Reddish South, Hattersley, Broadbottom, Hyde Loop, Brinnington, Romiley, Marple, Rose Hill, Strines, Middlewood, Davenport and Woodsmoor. These Groups are considered to be the core of the partnership as a number being in existence before the CRP was created. In addition to supporting the activities of these groups, the CRP carries out larger projects for the wider benefit of lines and communities served by the stations. The CRP consists of three major lines and the Reddish South / Denton Parliamentary line. The CRP covers an area starting in Manchester city centre at Piccadilly Station, passing through urban and suburban Stockport and Tameside before the three main lines merge into the High Peak and Hope Valley CRP at the Derbyshire Border. Because of the geographical relationship with HP&HV CRP, the CRPs have a history of cooperating on projects.
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Strategic Aims and Objectives of the CRP	The CRP fully supports the four pillars of the Community Rail Development Strategy - 1) Providing a voice for the community 2) Promoting sustainable and healthy travel, 3) Bringing communities together 4) Supporting social and economic development. The four pillars will be developed through the key objectives of the South East Manchester CRP: 1. Promoting and supporting our local rail operators/rail services to raise their profile and encourage their use for benefit of residents, visitors, and business, to rebuild patronage post Covid. 2. Improving stations along the route to improve facilities and become more gateways aligning with local regeneration aspirations 3. Strengthening working relationships with existing stakeholders and developing new partnerships. 4. Encouraging and supporting regeneration and social inclusion along the service routes and particularly within the catchment area. 5. Creating initiatives and events to promote and support tourism initiatives that benefit the rail service, especially for leisure use. 6. Supporting integrated and sustainable transport links to the railway, including bus, taxi, and active travel through cycling and walking. In so doing underpin efficient interchange and active travel plans. 7. Remove barriers to travel for those who find accessing services difficult. 8. Working with local schools served by the line encouraging them to promote rail as a green choice for travel and develop awareness/ knowledge of using stations and rail services safely and responsibly. 9. Promote the concept of Community volunteering in general, and Community Rail, in particular by encouraging the creation of new Friends Groups, supporting and strengthening existing ones, and working with other volunteer groups such as Men in Sheds, In Bloom and the Samaritans. The current work of the CRP is mainly focussed on three areas: 1. Improving station environments; 2. Promoting walking and cycling both as a leisure activity making use of the railway, and as a way of accessing stations; and 3. Encouraging young people to use the railway and to do so safely.
TOCs and Partners involved with delivery of the CRP	• Northern: Craig Harrop - Regional Director craig.harrop@northernrailway.co.uk • Owain Roberts - Regional Stakeholder Manager Owain.Roberts@northernrailway.co.uk • Rebecca (Becky) Styles - Communities & Sustainability Manager Rebecca.styles@northernrailway.co.uk • CrossCountry: Jody Ball - Stakeholder Liaison Manager jody.ball@crosscountrytrains.co.uk

	• Avanti West Coast: Joanna Buckley - Community Manager joanna.buckley@avantiwestcoast.co.uk and Nick Smith, Regional Growth Manager nick.smith@avantiwestcoast.co.uk • TransPennine Express: Andrew Watkins Andrew.Watkins1@tpexpress.co.uk • Network Rail: Andrew Griffin – Community and Stations Andrew.Griffin@networkrail.co.uk • Transport for Greater Manchester: Mark Angelucci - Rail Services & Performance Manager Mark.Angelucci@tfgm.com
Major Infrastructure or Operational issues affecting the CRP Line(s) which could affect its ability to deliver activities over the next 12/18 months	• Network capacity issues affecting Manchester Piccadilly (Station Throat and Castlefield Corridor) and south of Stockport (Edgeley Junction). • Following the cancellation of HS2 Phase 2 and lack of clarity about NPR, the future pattern of long distance services in our area is unclear • The Parliamentary Line status affecting Reddish South and Denton. • Industrial action that began in 2022 is ongoing and has caused major disruption across the entire rail network. • The December 2022 timetable improved performance within existing infrastructure constraints. However, there are still concerns about the current timetables, particularly on the Buxton and Rose Hill Lines. Monitoring and feedback regarding the implementation will be added as an activity on this plan. • The Hope Valley upgrade works completed in April 2024 will remove several bottlenecks between Manchester and Sheffield to allow passenger trains to overtake slower freight trains along the line.
Number of Hours of CRPO time available	John Kenny – 11/22hrs per week Total – hours per week (0.74 FTE)

Section 2: Activities

No .	Main Objective or Activity	Specific Tasks and Initiatives	Link to DfT / CRP strategic aims	Expected <u>outcome</u> and how we will measure that it has been a success	Delivery date, size, Progress Key	Lead by	Resources required e.g. staff, funding, volunteers, cost, in-kind, partners.	Ongoing progress update, comments and timescale or completion date of successful activity
1	Line Re – accreditation/Governance of Community Rail Partnership	Complete Activity Plans, annual reports and policy reviews for both lines. Quarterly Steering Group and Management meetings are held. Finance reports are provided on a quarterly basis and an annual budget is prepared	All	We will apply to the CRN to remain accredited in 2025. Representatives of community groups are invited to attend and are involved in the steering group. The CRP is able to manage its budgets effectively	July 2025 Small	CROs, Chairs of CRPs	Staff, volunteers for the management of the Steering Group.	Meetings have taken place quarterly throughout 2024/25 and will continue to do so through 2025 - 26 Finance reports are updated monthly or bimonthly.
2	Work with Volunteers / Friends of Groups	Engage with Station Friends Groups to identify improvements and projects and actively inform of opportunities of funding from CRP and other sources of funding.	1,3/1,9	Successful completion of small station projects and identified smaller problems are dealt with.	Ongoing Small	CROs	Staff time Funding Volunteer time Partner support – Northern and Network Rail Each group will be able to access funding for station projects plus additional funds for specific	Quarterly group meetings will take place and friends group representatives. The Station group rep for SEM CRP – David

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							projects as required. Budget of £5,000 allocated to SEM groups in 25-26.	
3	Station Walks and Cycle rides Promote the use of stations to access areas suitable for leisure walking and/or cycling	Work with local walking/cycling groups (inc disability groups) to jointly promote both guided and self-guided walks. Highlight Public Rights of Way along walking routes to increase use and community ownership. Promotion of existing routes and printed walk and cycle guides created by local groups and the CRP/Friends of Strines Railway Children walks. Ongoing support of Stockport 'Walkaday programme' Completion of work on the Steel Cotton Rail trail – see No 9	2/5,6	Increase in visitors using the railway for walks and cycle rides. Printed leaflets increase engagement with guided walks and public transport to access routes. Increase in walkers using the train.	Medium Steel Cotton rail trail deadline May 2025	CROs	CROs Walking groups Cycling groups, Station groups SMBC colleagues Funding to print walking programme leaflets.	Both CRPs continue to provide funding for the production and printing of the Stockport Walkaday prog/leaflet. 2,000 leaflets are printed and distributed, to varies location, every quarter.

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4	Supporting the Cheshire Best Kept Stations Team	Attending meetings with other CRP officers and event organisers to plan the delivery of the awards. Judging stations First aid booking Catering booking Risk Assessment	1,3/8,9	To provide motivation and rewards to Station Groups. Station groups receive awards and local publicity is generated. Increased awareness of CRP and financial support for CBKS.	Judging to take place in summer 2024 Awards event to take place in March 2025 Small	CROs & CBKS Steering Group	Staff and volunteer time	CROs continue to attend meetings and support with the organisation of the CBKS awards. Judging to take place June – Aug '25.
5	Marketing and Comms	New website is completed and information is updated along with new photographs New logos are used on all materials.	All	The CRP websites holds current & relevant information. http://www.semcorp.org.uk/ https://stationconnections.co.uk/	Website – Summer 2024 Medium	CROs, Friends of Group	Funding of website support and webhosting fees. Staff time to update information. Budget - £3000 for new site	Content for new SEM CRP website is still being worked on but the basic structure is in place and similar to the C2M website, which has been launched. The CRO is holding biweekly meetings with Ethical Pixel to progress development and it is hoped that the new website can in launched within the next few months. Ethical Pixel have also agreed to provide ad-hoc support – updates etc – for the foreseeable future.

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		Press releases are sent to local and regional papers on the line regarding updates and projects	All	To enable increased awareness of the CRPs and Community Rail. Channels of communications with the community and promotion of events	When required Small	CROs	Staff/ Partners / Friends of Groups communicate regarding projects	Press release shared re the CBKS award winners and Railway Children walks.
		Work with TOCs and CRN - marketing teams to align campaigns and messages	2/1,5	Measurable development in leisure journeys and the use of promotional tickets etc.		CROs	CRO core activity TOC marketing	Quarterly review with steering group. CR week is taking place in May 2025. Working with Mid-Cheshire CRO who will be attending Mcr Picc on Weds 21 st May and both Mid-Cheshire and SEM/C2M CRO will be at Stockport Station (Thurs 22 nd) to promote the work of the CRPs and Friends groups.
		Social media/marketing contract	All	A 12 month contract will be agreed for social media and marketing support		CROs	£30000 across both CRPs Support from SMBC procurement team	During the first quarter of working with Raveley Studios a number of station visits have taken place and regular biweekly project meetings are taking place with Raveley & contact has also been est with Learn Live and other community rail partnerships. Overall social media awareness is up 300%

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6	CRO Skills Development	SMBC Training courses are attended as required CRN courses and conferences are attended as needed for projects and other identified training needs are identified through the staff Personal Development Review (PDR) process	All	Mandatory annual courses are completed with SMBC All identified training needs will be met and confirmed through the PDR completion	Ongoing Small	CRO Manager – SMBC CRN	SMBC fund internal course. CRN bursary available for additional courses with fees if required. Management and staff time to identify needs and attend courses.	JK has attended various webinars and conferences and are up to date with mandatory training. Also social value training has been attended Wordpress training requested and to be completed once the new websites are finished & the new CRO is recruited. Additional support to be provided by Ethical Pixel in the meantime.
	Community Art Project – Stockport Train Station Edgeley Approach	To identify and engage with Community/Volunteer Groups and schools to contribute to the project. Seek funding and any relevant permissions.	1,3/1,2,4,7,8	To promote train travel by improving the look of the station approach. Increase awareness and encourage increased train travel with the Community / Voluntary Groups & schools involved in the project.	Phase 2 – printing and installation of artworks Large Completion due summer 2024	CROs, Avanti, Network Rail, SMBC, Mid Cheshire CRP, Community Groups Schools	As this is a long term and scale project a number of resources will be needed in order of this to be achieved - Staff time, funding, volunteers, costs, in kind, partnership	An artists launch is still possible but on hold while recruiting new CRO. Problems with fixing of artwork have been resolved, regular checked and a further full inspection to take place in Aug '25 and any further recommendation/actions will be acted on.
	Steel Cotton Rail Trail	Develop a walking route which connects stations between Manchester and Sheffield.	2/5,6	Route is planned and waymarked, local route maps are designed and printed.	April 2025 Large	CROs + CRT O + T&F HPHV	Staff time, core task and finish group, funding of printing.	Ongoing meetings have taken place with the next meeting due on 16/01/35. HPHV CRP are leading on branding and the logo is

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		Once routes are planned, the second stage is to map local areas around stations as part of this project, or separately.						now finalised. GIS are working on mapping local areas. Go Jauntly app is being considered. HPHV CRP have done a trial section with waymarkers and the route leaflet has been drafted. Discussed proposal of employment of project officer with bid to CRDF with HPHV CRP HPHV CRP has decided against submitting a bid for funding and will use their social media/marketing officer for support with the project. We do not have extra support to develop the project which is a challenge. The CRP will consider additional budget for route development. A new colleague at SMBC is supporting with the routes and we also have some volunteers now offering support. Stage 1

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								for SEM CRP is almost complete. Waymarker stickers on lampposts have been agreed for Manchester City and the Canal and River Trust have agreed to stickers on posts along the canal. Four of the five stages have been drafted and one is awaiting final amendments only. The fifth section is due to be mapped w/c 13/01/25
	Hyde Together LED light project	To continue the Hyde Town Centre LED light project from the town centre to Hyde Central station.	Promoting sustainable and healthy travel	To increase footfall between Hyde town centre and Hyde Central station. Promoting healthy & sustainable travel. Improve the feeling safety & security of people traveling between the 2 destinations.	July '25	Tameside MBC and HAPDG & CRP	Main resources being provided by Tameside & HAPDG. CRO providing limited project support and link between CRN and other partners above.	CDRF funding has been awarded. Focus on the work is now to get the project completed before the CDRF deadline of end of July '25.
	Station Access Development Strategies	1. Site visits 2. Community Consultation 3. Preparation of costed development plans	All/2,6,7	Increased rail ridership; Reduced demand for car parking at stations; Less car use; Health and wellbeing benefits.	March 2025 Large	CROs Chair of CRP	Local authorities, Northern Trains, Station Adoption Groups, Walk Ride Groups,	Meeting held with Hyde Together CIC in relation to regeneration strategy for Hyde. Hyde Together CIC is now a member of the

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		for each station area					Community groups with an interest in active travel (eg groups developing Neighborhood Plans, Civic Societies etc.), TfGM's Active Travel team.	Steering Group and the CRP is affiliated to them.. Meeting held between station friends' groups and Stockport Council in relation to a possible jointly funded wayfinding initiative in Marple. No further updates have been received regarding this.
	Railway children talks to promote the Railway Children walking leaflets	The delivery of Railway Children talks by Craig Wright in Strines	2,3/5	To increase awareness of the role of community rail. Increased awareness of the film locations, promotion of rail travel and walking routes.	Ongoing Small	CWright t CROs Friends of Strines	Funding of room hire and printing for promotion CRO time Volunteer time for delivery of talk	Walks project has been developed which would be promoted by the talks. Craig Wright is arranging his own talks using the new leaflet and more talks are being planned. Featured on Radio 4 Ramblings in October 2024. Craig is continuing to deliver talks on the Railway Children. No further CRP updates 14-01-25

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	Community Funding for Railway 200	Promotion of grants to community groups within the CRP area.	All	CRP funding will support more groups and a more diverse range of projects.		CROs Management and Steering Groups	Staff time SMBC finance department Councils and local volunteer groups to support with promotion	Community funding remains on the 24-25 budget as 'other grants' at £5000. A Railway 200 fund will be launched for special events.
	Rail Safety Projects							
	Learn Live Rail Safe Friendly	Both CRPs have sponsored up to 90 schools to be able to access rail safe friendly education sessions with Learn Live	2/8	At least 45 schools/colleges/organisations will access rail safe friendly resources and achieve the bronze level. Quarterly reports will be provided by Learn Live	Spring 25 – 26	CROs	Support from contacts in schools, station adopters, parish and town councils. – Budget - £4000	Following on from the success of working with Learn Live during '24-'25 – 40,126 young people at 90 schools – it has been agreed to work with Learn Live again for another year with a mixture of new & existing schools
	Rail Safety Books – Arlo's Adventure	Budget of £5000 towards 5000 books for distribution to primary schools within 1 mile of the railway or engage with CRPs, and station groups which work with local schools.	2/8	Increase awareness of rail safety by schools which are close to the railway.	Ongoing			CROs have distributed many copies of the books but we still have lots in storage therefore distribution will continue to schools, stations and at events.

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	Education train set	Deliver sessions with 3 x schools				CRP Volunteers	Staff and volunteer time Training with David Wilkinson Station rep Ian can support Transport for train	
	New fencing for Hyde Central and Strines stations	Replace Hyde Central car park fencing Add new fencing at Strines to New Mills platform		Fencing works are completed			Funding – CRP and external	Quote received from Pugh Lewis on 13-02-25 after site visits. Email to Northern Stations Manager on 18-02-25. RS responded that has been sent to property and will provide further updates re requirement for LLC. Pugh Lewis can complete Northern RAMS.

***Progress KEY:** (**Red** = Immediate attention, **Orange** = On target, **Green** = Completed, **Purple** = Planned, not started, **Blue** = On hold, **Black** = Long term scheme)

Section 3: Sharing Good News Stories! (2024-2025)

Activity	Description of Activity Outcomes and Links to Media Coverage or Websites

Section 4: Approval and Monitoring

Plan Approved by	Signed	Date
Chair of CRP Management Group: <i>Keith Whitmore</i>		
Chair of SEM CRP: <i>Cllr Peter Robinson</i>		
CRPO: <i>Sarah Morgan and John Kenny</i>		
TOC: <i>Northern Trains Ltd</i>		
TOC: <i>Avanti West Coast</i>		
TOC: <i>Crosscountry Trains</i>		
TOC: <i>Transpennine Express</i>		
Review Period	<i>2-3 times per year</i>	<i>May 2025</i>