


Section 1: Introduction

Name of CRP	Crewe to Manchester Community Rail Partnership 
Date Range Covered by this Activity Plan	April 2022 – April 2023
Lead CRP Officer Name	John Kenny & Sarah Morgan
Lead CRP Officer Contact Details	john.kenny@stockport.gov.uk 07800618368 sarah.f.morgan@stockport.gov.uk - 07815 483332
Details of CRP Website and/or Social Media Channels	http://www.crewe2manchesterrail.org.uk/ Twitter: @C2MCRP
Description of Community Rail Partnership	<p>The Community Rail Partnership (CRP) was formed in cooperation with Stockport MBC, Cheshire East CC and Manchester City Council. Outside of the councils its primary strategic partners are; TfGM, Northern Trains, Avanti West Coast, Transpennine Express, CrossCountry Trains. Network Rail and Manchester Airport.</p> <p>The posts of Community Rail Officers (CROs) are currently hosted by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council.</p> <p>The CRP supports 10 active Friends Groups. The groups are: Levenshulme, Heaton Chapel, Handforth, Alderley Edge, Styal, Chelford, Goostrey, Holmes Chapel, Sandbach and Mauldeth Road. 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 whole line and communities served by the stations.</p> <p>The CRP covers an area starting in Manchester city centre at Piccadilly Station, passing through urban Levenshulme and suburban Heaton Chapel through to the villages and small towns of East Cheshire before terminating at the railway hub of Crewe. The CRP also encompasses the 'Styal Loop' which diverges from the main line at Slade Lane Junction (in Longsight, South Manchester) to serve Manchester Airport, before re-joining it at Wilmslow.</p>

	<p>The CRP was initially established to help promote the use of the stations and services following an extended closure of the route caused a substantial drop in footfall.</p>
<p>Strategic Aims and Objectives of the CRP</p>	<p>The CRP fully supports the four pillars of the Community Rail Development Strategy -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Providing a voice for the community 2) Promoting sustainable and healthy travel, 3) Bringing communities together 4) Supporting social and economic development. <p>The four pillars will be developed through the key objectives of the Crewe to Manchester CRP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<p>TOCs and Partners involved with delivery of the CRP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern: Chris Jackson - Regional Director Christopher.jackson@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: Jo Buckley - Community Manager joanna.buckley@avantiwestcoast.co.uk • TransPennine Express: Daniel Fox – Community Manager

	<p>Daniel.Fox@tpexpress.co.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Rail: Danielle Lahan – Customer Account Manager danielle.lahan@networkrail.co.uk • Mark Angelucci: TfGM Mark.Angelucci@tfgm.com
<p>Major Infrastructure or Operational issues affecting the CRP Line(s) which could affect its ability to deliver activities over the next 12/18 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network capacity issues affecting Manchester Piccadilly (Station Throat and Castlefield Corridor) and south of Stockport (Edgeley Junction). The service reductions, post Covid has alleviated these problems to a considerable degree. • The line is covered in the Manchester recovery review (Feb 2021), the outcome of that review could have a medium to long term impact on the route. • In the longer-term NPR and HS2 service proposals are, as yet, unclear and there could be substantial impact on local services.
<p>Number of Hours of CRPO time available</p>	<p>John Kenny – 11/22hrs week Sarah Morgan – 16/32hrs week Total - 27 hours</p>

Section 2: Activities

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

No	Main Objective or Activity	Specific Tasks and Initiatives	Link to DfT / CRP strategic aims	Expected outcome 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 Accreditation	Fill the positions and new management structure for steering & working groups. Complete Activity Plans for both lines. Steering groups and Management groups meet quarterly.	All	Accreditation has been achieved.	April 2022 Medium	CROs, Chairs of CRPs	Staff, volunteers for the management of the Steering Group.	Candidates identified for the roles of Chairs of CRP lines and Chair of the overarching Steering Management Committee
2	Work with volunteers / Friends of Groups	<p>Work with Friends of Groups to identify improvements, projects and activities where support is required.</p> <p>Inform groups of funding opportunities from CRP for small projects and other sources of funding</p> <p>Promotion of activities and opportunity to be involved. Groups mentor new volunteers/friends groups.</p> <p>Support and funding of a music train</p>	1,3/1,9	<p>The successful completion of small station projects and resolution of smaller problems.</p> <p>Larger station projects are undertaken with additional funding.</p> <p>New friends' groups are formed at unadopted stations on the line. Groups extend projects to other stations.</p> <p>Music trains will attract new passengers and support local venues and musicians (number</p>	Ongoing Medium	CROs	<p>Budget allocated for all Friends' Groups.</p> <p>Volunteers and staff time. Other identified pots of funding</p> <p>Funding and support with set up. Promotion of events</p>	<p>The CROs have met with a number of Friends of Groups and these meetings will continue to take place on a regular basis.</p> <p>Quarterly group meetings will take place and friends group representatives will be invited to join the CRP steering group.</p> <p>Plans are being discussed for a music train to run during community rail week.</p>

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				of attendees to measure success)				
3	Marketing and Comms	Website is refreshed and information updated in a timely manner	All	The CRP websites holds current & relevant information. http://www.crewe2manchesterrail.org.uk/ https://stationconnections.co.uk/	Ongoing Small	CROs,	Cost of webhosting Staff time to send updated information	JK has requested updated from station adopters and is collating responses for updates on pages.
		New social media sites are set up and promoted. Explore potential for linking in with bloggers and influencers	All	The CRP has Twitter and Facebook accounts for each area and these receive interaction and increases numbers following the accounts. Develop awareness and use of social media by all partners. Increased promotion of community rail activities through special interest influencers.	Ongoing Small	CROs Friends of groups, Stockport Council comms and marketing officer	Cost of media management platform (£300pa for each CRP), Staff time	A new Facebook page has been requested to be set up from April 2022 and the SMBC media officer now also has access to the Twitter account.
		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	CROs	Staff/ Partners / Friends of Groups communicate regarding projects	
		Printing and distribution of timetable leaflets	1,2/1,7	Passengers have up to date information in printed format	Ongoing Small	CROs	Staff time Funding for printing	

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		(when not produced by Northern).						
4	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.	2/5,6	Creation of a walking and cycle routes guide, established new partnerships with community groups	Ongoing Small	CROs + Task and Finish	Core CRO + Task and Finish volunteer group	A number of walking leaflets have been produced by Friends of Groups Inc Romiley & Marple. CROs are working with Mid Cheshire and North Cheshire to bring together accessible walks from across the areas.
5	Partnership Support	Quarterly Steering Group meetings are held	All	Representatives of community groups are invited to attend and are involved in the steering group. Minutes will be published	Ongoing Small	Chair And CROs	Staff Steering Group members	The steering group meetings will take place either face 2 face, virtually or a hybrid of these 2. The partnership now has meetings planned and the new structure is confirmed
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	All SMBC mandatory course for 21-22 have been attended by both officers. SM attended new officer training and the CRN conference since the start of 2022.

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7	Supporting the Cheshire Best Kept Stations Team	Attending meeting with other CRP officers and event organisers to plan the delivery of the awards	1,3/8,9	To provide motivation and rewards to Station Groups. Station groups receive awards and local publicity is generated.	Judging to take place in summer 2022 Small	CROs & CBKS Steering Group	Staff and volunteer time	Last meeting took place on 4 th Ma
8	Community Line Art Exhibition	Organise and display the complete Community Line Art Collection at different venues throughout 2022	2,4/5,9	To promote the Community Line Art Project, Stations and Friends of Groups along the CRP	Nov 2022 Large	CROs, local artist and gallery venues plus Friends of Groups	Staff time, funding for the completion of framing of artwork. Time to deliver and set up artworks to venues	The proposed exhibition has had to be postponed, due to Covid, but it is planned that the exhibition will finally take place during 2022. Plans to hold exhibitions in Crewe Heritage Centre is booked for May 28 th and 29 th Plans to also exhibit artwork at Handforth, Manchester Piccadilly, Bolton and Stockport - dates tbc
9	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.	As this is a large-scale project it will be completed in phases. Phase 1 between March – Dec 2022	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	This is a large-scale project which will take a number of years to complete. Initial meeting of key partners has taken place and further meetings have been organised. Talks with a number of Community/ Voluntary Groups on the project are being organised.
10	Station Gateways Promote our stations as gateways to new places and new experiences.	Work with TOCs marketing teams to align campaigns and messages	2/1,5	Measurable development in leisure journeys and the use of promotional tickets etc.	April 2023 Large	CROs	CRO core activity TOC marketing	Quarterly Impact review

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11	Locality Campaigns Promote local rail activity	Promote local events as a reason to travel into an area by train	1-4/1,5	Increased discretionary travel to local stations.	April 2023 Medium	CROs	CRO core activity TOC Marketing	Quarterly Impact review
12	Line Anniversary (180th) To create a series of events to mark the 180 th anniversary of the line's construction.	Celebratory days at various stations. To promote both Com Rail and rail travel.	2,4/5,9	Raise awareness of the local rail services, railway heritage and Community Rail. Attendance at events, media coverage.	May/June 2022 Large	CROs	CRO + Task and Finish volunteer group	Regular communication with Friends of Groups and regular meetings with interested parties leading to activities to celebrate the 180 th Anniversary in May 2022. Event booked at Crewe HC for end of May.
13	Dementia Friendly Crewe & Stockport Create an easy to navigate station, with good staff awareness.	Station Audit by Dementia Support Group. Followed by an action plan and to include lessons learnt from Crewe Research disused rooms at Stockport station for potential support space like the Calm Corner at Crewe	3,4/7	Creation of a station that can be used by people with cognitive challenges. Creation of a calm space for people with additional cognitive/emotional needs.	Audit by March 2023 Medium	CROs + Avanti Staff	Source funding for implementation of recommendations	Quarterly review leading to delivery of final outcome by March 2023 CROs to meet with Crewe Avanti staff in TBC
14	Goostrey Station	Support the group to add an accessible toilet to the station building	4,2	The station building will have a toilet which enables a wide range of community groups to use the art studio	December 2022 Medium-large	Station Group	Staff time supporting liaison with stakeholders to facilitate process	£10,000 lottery Funding has been received. Northern has provided the contacts for potential contractors to quote for works.

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15	Chelford Station	Support the development of a business case for community use for the disused station building	3,4/1	The station building becomes a community 'hub' in the village.	Business case and funding available by April 2023 Large	Parish Council	Staff time supporting liaison with stakeholders to facilitate process Parish Council input re funding and setting up of a community trust or similar. Potential support from the CRDF via CRN or Seedcorn funding.	Meetings have taken place between the parish council, Northern, Network Rail and CRO. Network Rail are to provide an update on the surveys, with a large survey due imminently.
16	Timetables	Harnessing local knowledge within the CRP to identify the potential for timetable changes	1,4/1,2	Timetables are updated with local consultation and knowledge to improve services.	Ongoing Small	CROs and Steering group	Additional funding for business case Station Adoption Groups	Response provided to SOBC commissioned by TfGM in April 2022

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Section 3: Sharing Good News Stories!

Activity	Description of Activity Outcomes and Links to Media Coverage or Websites
Establishing a new structure to support the work of the CRPs.	As part of the Community Rail Network Accreditation process, the structure of the CRP has been reviewed and new Chairs and Vice Chairs for both Community Rail Partnerships, have been appointed, as well as an overall Chair of the Management Group, Keith Whitmore

Activity	Description of Activity Outcomes and Links to Media Coverage or Websites
<p>Alderley Edge Station Group completes a number of projects to enhance the station.</p>	<p>It's been a very busy time at Alderley Edge Station with the launch of a book exchange officially launched by Ester McVey MP. New artwork and planting on the ticket office side of the station showing views of The Edge. Finally, new artwork to celebrate 180th anniversary of Manchester to Birmingham Railway unveiled by local resident and musician Peter Hook.</p>
<p>The Friends of Handforth Station install new artwork to celebrate 25 years since the group formed.</p>	<p>Friends of Handforth Station (FoHS) have installed their latest artwork; a large decorative brushed-steel scree, which commemorates the first 25 years work of this local voluntary group.</p>
<p>Cheshire Best Kept Stations 2021</p>	<p>The CRP officers actively supported the judging and organising of the CBKS awards 2022 with the awards ceremony taking place on April 1st, 2022. Multiple press releases were sent out focussing on the different areas of Cheshire with this being a Stockport specific press release: https://www.cheshireindependent.co.uk/news-article/4670/Awards-go-to-Stockport-Stations-at-the-Cheshire-Best-Kept-Station-Awards</p>

Section 4: Approval and Monitoring

Plan Approved by	Signed	Date
Chair of CRP Management Group: <i>Keith Whitmore</i>		
Chair of C2M CRP: <i>Mark Barker</i>		
CRP Officers: <i>Sarah Morgan and John Kenny</i>		
TOC: <i>Northern Railways Ltd</i>		
TOC: <i>Avanti West Coast Ltd</i>		
TOC: <i>CrossCountry Trains</i>		
TOC: <i>Transpennine Express</i>		
Review Period	<i>Quarterly</i>	<i>23rd June 2022</i>