**Activity Plan for: *South East Manchester CRP* Year: *2023/24* Version / Revision Date: 14th July *2023***

**Section 1: Introduction**

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| **Name of CRP** | **South East Manchester Community Rail Partnership**  |
| **Date Range Covered by this Activity Plan** | **April 2023 - March 2024** |
| **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.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 |
| **Description of Community Rail Partnership** | 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 Trains, 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, 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. |
| **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.
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| **TOCs and Partners involved with delivery of the CRP** | * 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: Joanna Buckley - Community Manager joanna.buckley@avantiwestcoast.co.uk
* TransPennine Express: Daniel Fox – Community Manager

Daniel.Fox@tpexpress.co.uk * Network Rail: Danielle Lahan - Customer Account Manager Danielle.Lahan@networkrail.co.uk
* Transport for Greater Manchester: Mark Angelucci:Mark.Angelucci@tfgm.com
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| **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).
* In the longer-term NPR and HS2 service proposals are, as yet, unclear and there could be substantial impact on local services.
* 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 implements recommendations by the Manchester Recovery Task Force (Feb 2021 review) and whilst it is hoped that this will improve performance with existing infrastructure constraints, there are still concerns about the new 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 which are due for completion in Spring 2024 will remove several bottlenecks between Manchester and Sheffield to allow passenger trains to overtake slower freight trains along the line.
* ‘Pre-planned’ cancellations by rail operators have also caused significant passenger disruption.
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| **Number of Hours of CRPO time available**  | John Kenny – 11/22hrs per week Sarah Morgan – 16.5/33hrs per week **Total – 27.5 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 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** |
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| 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 | Re-accreditation has been achieved. Representatives of community groups are invited to attend and are involved in the steering group.The CRP is able to manage its budgets effectively | June 2023Small  | CROs, Chairs of CRPs | Staff, volunteers for the management of the Steering Group.  | Meetings have taken place quarterly throughout 2022.Finance reports are updated monthly or bimonthly. Meeting booked for 8th August 2023 with prep meeting on 18th July.  |
| 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.  | OngoingSmall | CROs | Staff timeFundingVolunteer timePartner support – Northern and Network RailEach group will be able to access funding for station projects plus additional funds for specific projects as required. Budget of £10,000 allocated to SEM groups.  | The CROs have met with a number of Friends of Groups and these meetings will continue to take place on a regular basis. Quarterly group meetings will take place and friends group representatives will be invited to join the CRP steering group.Meetings are ongoing with regular correspondence and meetings at stations. Next group meeting is 1st September 2023. Station group funds from the CRP and other funders are promoted to groups.  |
| 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.Support of Stockport ‘Walkaday programme’ | 2/5,6 | Creation of a walking and cycle routes guide on the new website, highlighting accessible route options where possible. Increase in visitors using the railway for walks and cycle rides. Printed leaflets increase engagement with guided walks and public transport to access routes.  | Medium | CROs  | CROsWalking groupsCycling groups,Station groupsSMBC colleaguesFunding to print walking programme leaflets.  | Funding of the Walkaday programme leaflets has been agreed. Further funding has been agreed for the summer programme with a review for the autumn programme with SEMEC CRG. The CRP has provided funding for Station Adoption groups to print local walking guides and also supports with the distribution of these guides. Additional funding has ben given to the Friends of Marple for the reprint of the brochure.  |
| 4 | **Supporting the Cheshire Best Kept Stations Team** | Attending meeting with other CRP officers and event organisers to plan the delivery of the awardsEvent sponsorship with donation of Station Connections artwork | 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 charities. | Judging to take place in summer 2023Small  | CROs & CBKS Steering Group | Staff and volunteer time | CROs continue to attend meetings and support with the organisation of the CBKS awards. They also take part in judging stations.   |
| 5 | **Marketing and Comms**  | Website is refreshed and information updated in a timely manner  | All | The CRP websites holds current & relevant information. <http://www.semcorp.org.uk/> <https://stationconnections.co.uk/>  | Website – Summer 2023Medium | CROs, Friends of Group | Funding of website support and webhostingfees.Staff time to update information. Budget - £3000 for new site | Quotes being sought and meetings booked in for early 2023 to discussed and plan new websites. Several quotes have now been acquired and these will be discussed at the next SEMEC CRG meeting on 07-09-23 |
| 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 releases due to be sent out for Best Kept Stations winning stations in April 2023 |
| 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. | OngoingMedium | CROs | CRO core activity TOC marketing | Quarterly review with steering group |
| 6 | **Community Line Art Exhibition** | Organise and display the complete Community Line Art Collection at different venues to promote the CRP area.  | 2,4/5,9 | Increase awareness of the CRP and local destinations  | OngoingMedium | CROs, local artist and gallery venues plus Friendsgroups | Staff time, funding for the completion of framing of artwork Time to deliver and set up artworks to venues. | Plans to also exhibit artwork at Manchester Piccadilly, Bolton, Hyde, Stalybridge and Stockport -dates tbcMan Picc exhibition has taken place in May during community rail week. No further exhibitions are currently planned. Licence for artwork to be discussed with SEMEC CRG  |
| 7 | **CRO Skills Development** | SMBC Training courses are attended as requiredCRN 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 SMBCAll identified training needs will be met and confirmed through the PDR completion | OngoingSmall | CRO Manager – SMBCCRN | 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 and SM have attended various webinars and conferences and are up to date with mandatory training. Wordpress training requested. |
| 8 | **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 | 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  | Multiple artworks have been received and LC has been submitted to Network Rail. Regular project updates are going to Avanti and Arc Centre has received funding to coordinate the project. Advertising consent is required once artwork is selected for each location/panel.Meeting to be arranged once art submission deadline has passed with ARC and then with ARC and Eamonn re finalising artwork. Artwork has been sent to Eamonn Murphy for adding frames. Date to be booked for wall survey with EM.Some artwork still needs to be scanned.  |
| 9 | **Canal River Trust canal rail trail project**  | Develop a walking route which connects stations between Manchester and Sheffield.Once routes are planned, the second stage is to map local areas around stations as part of this project, or separately.  | 2/5,6 | Route is planned and waymarked, local route maps are designed and printed.  | April 2024Large | CRO s+ CRT O + T&FHPHV | Core CRO, Task and Finish Group | An initial meeting has taken place and a further meeting is planned on 23/03/2023. Ongoing meetings have taken place with the next meeting due on 132/10/23. HPHV CRP are leading on branding. GIS are working on mapping local areas. Go Jauntly app is being considered.Discussed proposal of employment of project officer with bid to CRDF with HPHVCRP . |
| 10 | **Middlewood Way path connection to Rose Hill platform**  | Work with partners to establish viability of path project.Support applications for funding.  | 2/2,6 | Route will be designed and funded with a plan for completion, if it is considered viable. | End of 2024Large | CROsNetwork Rail,Stockport Council | Staff timeFunding for design processFunding for developmentSupport from Network Rail, TfGM and Northern | The proposed path received initial support from Network Rail and a quotation for scoping was provided by SMBC. Following further examination of site maps, it was agreed that the proposal was not feasible at this time. An alternative route to the Middlewood Way will be explored following SMBC consultations, with a view to identifying funding for the alternative scheme.  |
| 11 | **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.  | OngoingSmall  | CROs and Steering group  | Additional funding for business case Station Adoption Groups | Response provided to SOBC commissioned by TfGM in April 2022 |
| 12 | **School engagement** | Feel Good Field Trips are offered to local schools which fit the criteria (higher than average percentage of children receiving pupil premium/free school meals) | 2,3/8 | Schools have increased confidence to take trips by train.Children from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to access enriching experiences by rail.  | Ongoing projectSmall project with  | CRL CROs | Staff time to contact schools and support some of the local trips | Several local schools have engaged with the project so far. More are within the C2M area, so work is ongoing to engage with SEM schools using local contacts. Avanti funding has one trip remaining for Food Sorcery. Old Hall Drive Academy continue to look after the local station at Ryder Brow and have attended a FGFT. A school is also looking to work at Guide Bridge station - meeting on 19-07-23 with Northern to discuss.  |
| 13 | **Mural at Hyde Central** | A ‘Welcome to Hyde’ mural featuring Ron Hill is painted at Hyde Central Station (painted by Lionel Stanhope) | 2,4/2 | The mural is installed.The station appearance is enhanced, and the promotion of the mural attracts visitors to the station | Summer 2023, subject to Network Rail supportMedium | CROs | Funding Staff timeSupport from Network Rail and NorthernBudget - £3000 | Network Rail are reviewing the proposal at the Community Rail panel on 13th February 2023No further updates however a mural at Levenshulme has received approval by NWR so a follow up email has been sent regarding the change in policy.  |
| 14 | **Station Access Development Strategies** | 1. Site visits
2. Community Consultation
3. Preparation of costed development plans for each station area
 | All/2,6,7 | Increased rail ridership;Reduced demand for car parking at stations;Less car use;Health and wellbeing benefits. | March 2025Large | CROsChair of CRP | Local authorities, Northern Trains,Station Adoption Groups, Walk Ride Groups,Community groups with an interest in active travel (eg groups developing Neighborhood Plans, Civic Societies etc.),TfGM’s Active Travel team. | Meeting held with Hyde Together CIC in relation to regeneration strategy for HydeMeeting held between station friends groups and Stockport Council in relation to a possible jointly funded wayfinding initiative in Marple |
| 15 | **Rail Safety Books – Arlo’s Adventure** | Budget of £5000 towards 10000 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.  | Spring 2023 Small | CROs | Budget £5000Storage for booksPlan for distribution of booksCRO time | New storage unit has been organised. PO issued to CRL for joint order of books. 10,000 books have been delivered on 12/07/23. Schools and partners to be contacted regarding numbers and plan made for distribution. (8000 more for C2M)  |
| 16 | **Railway children talk at Strines** | The delivery of a Railway Children talk by Craig Wright in Strines | 2,3/5 | Strines residents will have increased awareness of the role of community rail.Increased awareness of the film locations, promotion of rail travel.  | Summer 2023Small | CWrightCROs | Funding of room hire and printing for promotionCRO timeVolunteer time for delivery of talk | Awaiting confirmation from CW regarding a date for the talk.Date still tbc – CW has requested we choose a date and confirm his availability  |
| 17 | **Community Funding** | Promotion of small and large grants to community groups within the CRP area.  | All | CRP funding will support more groups and a more diverse range of projects.  | March 2024Medium | CROsManagement and Steering Groups | Staff timeSMBC finance department Councils and local volunteer groups to support with promotion | A draft funding policy is going through a final review in February 2023.Once finalised, an EOI application will be widely promoted. July 2023 - On hold due to change in CR funding. XCountry and TPE funding has not been received.  |
| 18 | **Thompson Street bridge Cheshire Wildlife Trust project** | Installation of a pollinator muralInstallation of planters in surrounding area | 3,4/2,6,8,9 | The mural will be completed Planters will be installed with a plan for maintenance by local volunteer group or school. | End of 2023 | CWTSMBCCRP | Funding, dependant on CWT bid to GMCABudget - £1500 | Community Licence agreed with Network Rail.Funding bid to the GM Greenspaces fund to be submitted by CWT.Follow up meeting to be held with CWT. Several requests sent to NWR re Community Licence – no response as yet.  |

**\*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! (2023-2024)**

| **Activity** | **Description of Activity Outcomes and Links to Media Coverage or Websites** |
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**Section 3: Sharing Good News Stories! (2022-2023)**

| **Activity** | **Description of Activity Outcomes and Links to Media Coverage or Websites** |
| --- | --- |
| **Cheshire Best Kept Stations**  | Following the 2021 awards, the CRP officers have continued to support the CBKS awards by judging stations and actively participating in the planning of this year’s event for the 2022 awards.  |
| **Brinnington Station** | Brinnington station has seen a lot of antisocial behaviour in the past, but over the last year it has had several different projects going on which have transformed the station and engaged with the local community. Dave Jepson is the original official Northern station adopter and Helen Middleton with the Marple Youth Group has also officially adopted the station in the last year.Over the last year, Dave Jepson has brought together historic images of Brinnington and displayed these in the ticket office. Alongside this, the Northern ticket office staff have taken their own initiative to open a swap shop which invites people to bring and take toys, clothing and books. It is reported that this has increased ticket sales as well as providing a valuable service for the community, connecting with residents through a Facebook page. Network Rail have worked with the local leisure centre and young people to produce artwork which was made into railway images by Helen Middleton on behalf of the CRP. The CRP then printed and arranged for installation of the artwork with Northern Rail/ISS. CROs have attended the local Brinnington forum which supported a community mapping project. The CRP has now printed three of these maps which are now on display at the station.  |
| **Exhibition of Station Connections artwork at Crewe.**  | In May 2022, the CRP held an exhibition of entire collection of the Station Connections artwork at Crewe Heritage Centre. This was promoted as part of the Community Rail week. As part of the exhibition, the CRP also funded an art activity with Goostrey artist, Debbie Goldsmith. The artwork remained on display at the Heritage Centre until August. |
| **Grants for station groups** | The CRP contributed funds to the Woodsmoor trees project which included artwork from different community groups displayed on discs on wooden trees which have been attached to the platform fencing. The CRP has also funded a new planter at Davenport, walking leaflets, a vinyl mural, new planter, planting and artwork refurbishment for Marple, a memorial plaque at Ashburys and a wagon restoration project at Guide Bridge.  |
| **Edgeley Approach Art Project** | With support from Avanti grant funding, the CRP has funded multiple workshops at the ARC Centre for groups to prepare large artworks which will be installed at Stockport Station. Together with individual entries, almost 30 entries were received with over 40 pieces of artwork. The CRP will organise installation of the artworks once Landlord’s Consent has been approved.  |
| **CRN Awards attendance** | The CRP was shortlisted for the CRN awards for the Glossop Line boards, which was a project coordinated by Neil Williams of the Friends of Glossop and support by the CRP. Reddish South and Romiley were also on the shortlist and the CRP hosted a table for the CRP to enable members and station group members to attend.  |
| **Old Hall Academy and Ryder Brow** | The CRP has supported the new station group for Ryder Brow, organising a rail safety poster competition at the end of 2022. In January the Lord Mayor presented certificates to the children who have worked at the station and participated in the competition. A new artwork has been produced by Eamonn Murphy of the Old Hall Academy which will be added to the Station Connections collection and be displayed at the station.  |
| **Canal and River Trust engagement** | After multiple attempts to contact the C&RT and attendance at an engagement event, the CRP has now successfully engaged with the Canal and River Trust and started work on a project to develop a canal and rail trail.  |

**Section 4: Approval and Monitoring**

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| **Plan Approved by**  | **Signed** | **Date** |
| **Chair of CRP Management Group:** *Keith Whitmore* |  |  |
| **Chair of SEM CRP:** *Simon Temple* |  |  |
| **CRPO:** *Sarah Morgan and John Kenny* |  |  |
| **TOC:** *Northern Trains Ltd* |  |  |
| **TOC:** *Avanti West Coast* |  |  |
| **TOC:** *Crosscountry Trains* |  |  |
| **TOC:** *Transpennine Express* |  |  |
| **Review Period** | *Quarterly*  | *July 2023* |