

**Community Rail - The Challenges and Opportunities
and forming
the Liverpool to Manchester Community Rail Partnership**

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About community rail

- A growing grassroots movement
- 75 community rail partnerships + 1,200 station friends' groups
- Helping communities to get the most from their railways
- Helping the rail industry to be community-focused
- Creating local connections, efficacy, ownership and positivity



The value of community rail

Passenger numbers
on community rail lines
rose by **42%** between
2008/9 and **2017/18**,
higher than the overall
increase of **35%**



Each Year

8,500



Volunteers

Giving

390,000
Hours



Worth
£33.2m

Community rail in the North – already a success

**20
community
rail
partnerships**

Working along railway lines, with industry partners, to engage local communities. Partnerships stretch from the Tyne Valley in Northumberland down to Crewe in Cheshire.

**350
station
groups**

Voluntary groups bringing stations into the heart of communities. In the North, more than 70% of the network is 'adopted' by local volunteers.

Each Year

3,000



Volunteers

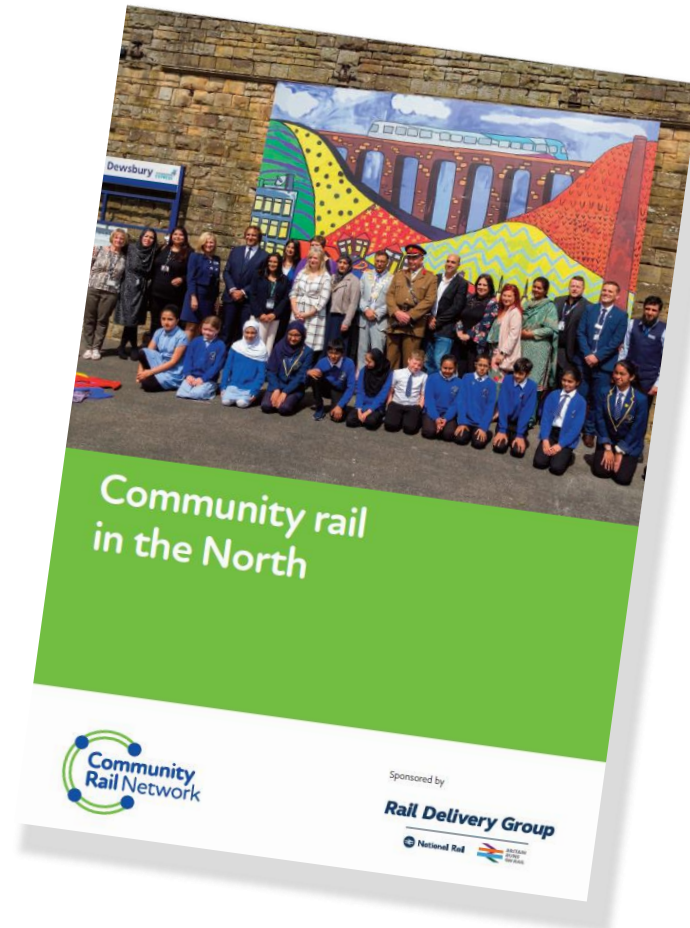
Giving

**140,000
Hours**



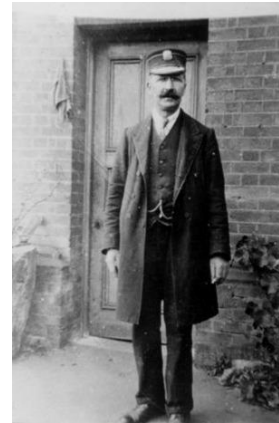
Worth

£11.7m

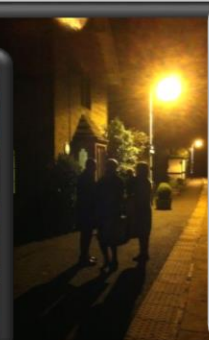
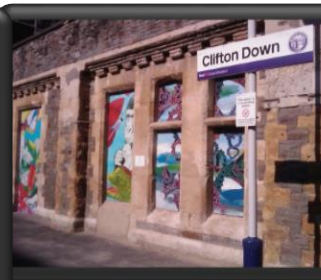


This is A railway...

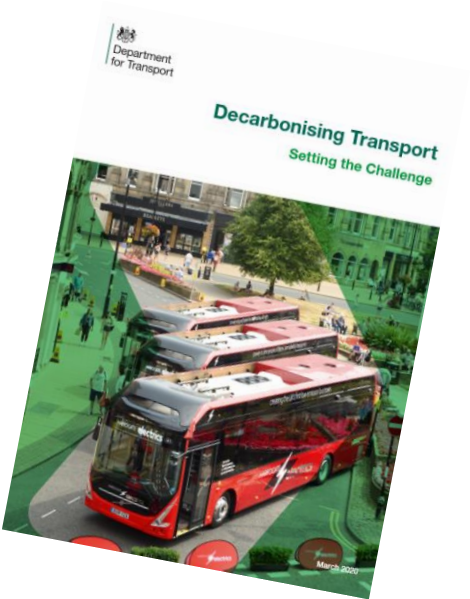
This WAS the railway...



...but this IS THE railway



Community Rail the wider strategic development work



What the Community Rail Network does



Supports CRP's and other groups nationwide

Training, resources & events

> Communications > Involvement & volunteering

> Youth engagement > Sustainable travel

Administers the DfT CRP accreditation process

Administers some CR funding

Profile-raising and policy development

Case Studies – research and reports – *the latest 'The Value of Community Rail' Sept 2024*

Three teams – Support and Development, Policy and Communications and People and Funding



GBR - Rail Transformation – just one challenge

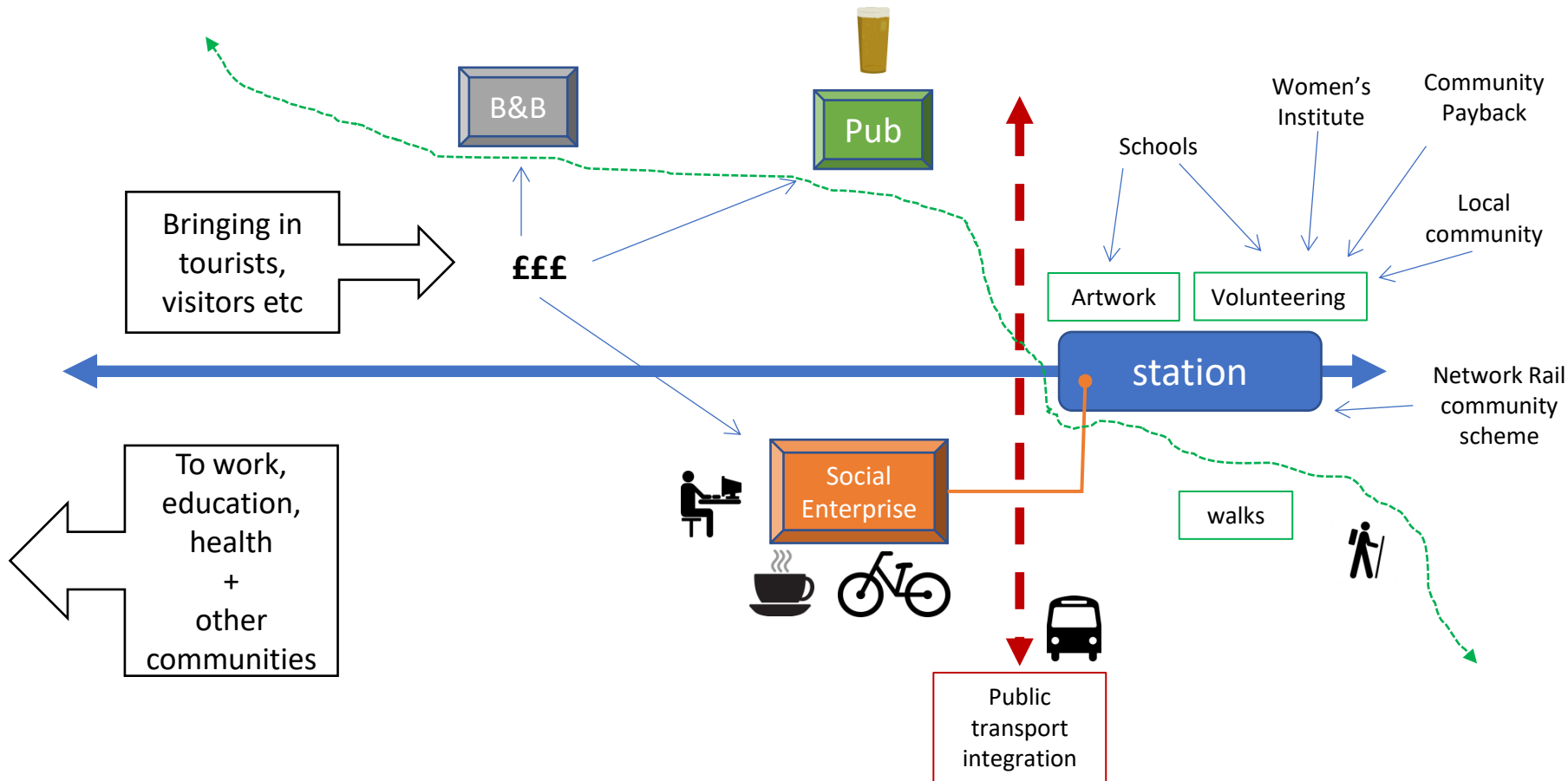
- **Community Rail must play a major role**
- **GBR - Williams-Shapps White Paper – what it may become**
- **GBR – Regions**
- **Train operators will have a time limited concession to operate trains**
- **Rolling Stock Leasing company's own and lease the trains to the Train operators**
- **Stations large and small managed by GBR/Devolved administrations?**

The Liverpool to Manchester CRP

- **Great opportunity: The world's first 'modern' railway, plus the still important Cheshire Lines Committee route!**
- **Lots already happening (Irlam, Edge Hill, Eccles as well as city centres)**
- **Growth inter-regional corridors**
- **Stations as thriving hubs**
- **Further encourage development at/near stations**

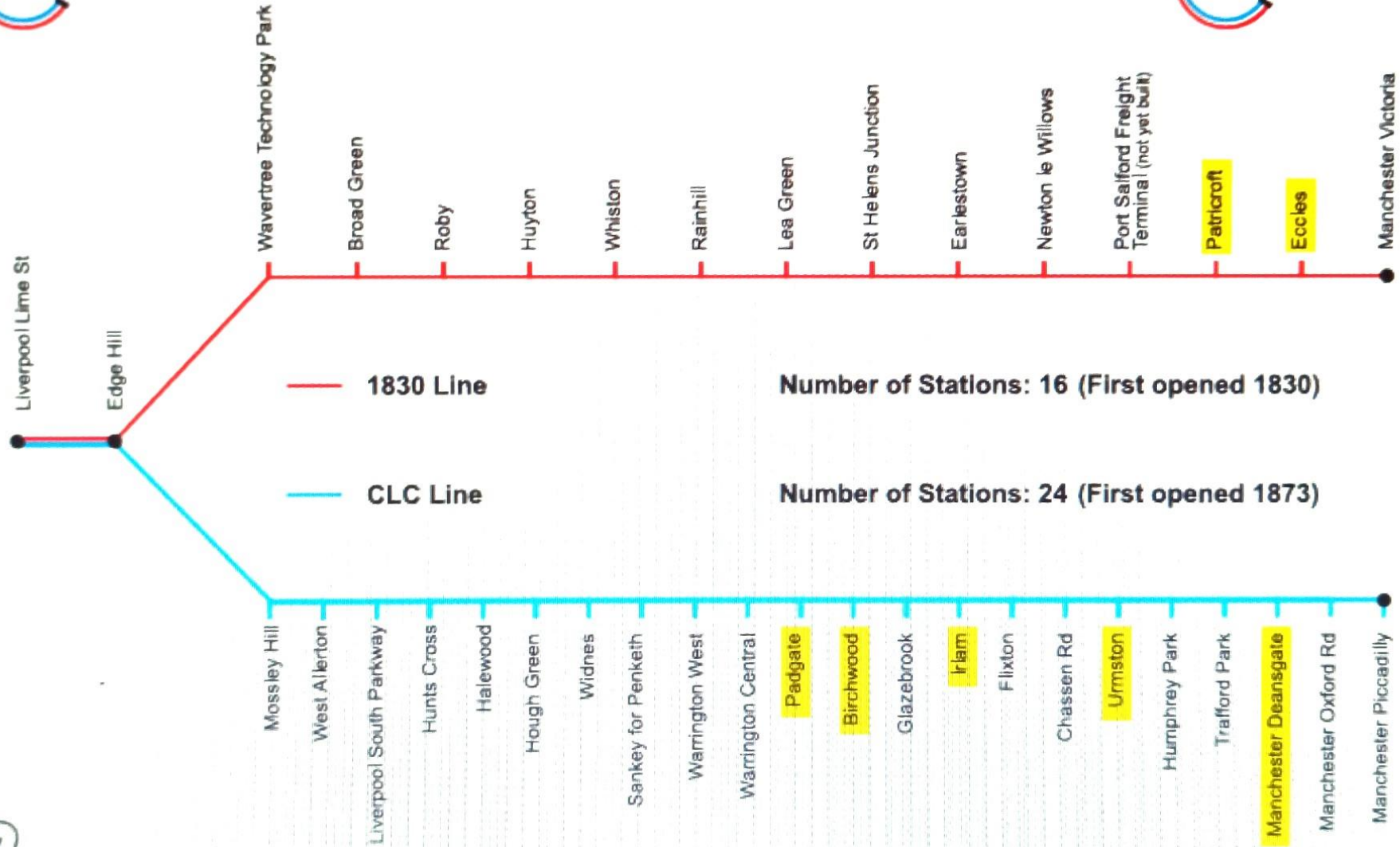
The Liverpool to Manchester CRP

How a CRP can pull all this together...





Liverpool and Manchester Community Rail Partnership Route Map



Heritage is important –
The Liverpool & Manchester Railway was the first modern ‘railway’.



The Cheshire Lines Committee route was once a part of a bigger network.



The Liverpool to Manchester CRP- much to do

Work Started some years ago, officially launched in June 2022 at Edge Hill

- **Achieve the 4 pillars of community rail**
 - Providing a voice of the community
 - Promoting sustainable healthy accessible travel
 - Bringing communities together
 - Supporting Social and economic development
- **Develop a dynamic Activity Plan**
- **Achieve Community Rail Accreditation**
 - Governance, Terms of Reference, Constitution, Financial management, Meetings Frequencies, Policies and Code of Conduct.

Much work has been done.

Building on existing success – the Station Friends and past investment



To achieve success that we need the help from our friends and local partnerships



The LtoMCRP will Benefit the Rail Industry

- Breaks down barriers between railway and community: builds trust
- Brings stations back to life; makes them attractive and welcoming
- Adds additional services (e.g. On-train catering)
- Right approach can bring external investment
- 'Feel good' factor/promotion drives up usage
- Small but not insignificant extra property income
- New niche markets (freight...parcels?)

The LtoMCRP will benefit local Communities

- Creates jobs and training opportunities
- Offers affordable space to SMEs
- Local economy grows
- Brings station environment back to life – local pride
- Provides a base for SME networks: Irlam....
- Builds further potential opportunities

The LtoMCRP will benefits Passengers

- Stations become welcoming and fun places
- Additional services e.g.
 - Station cafe/pub
 - Other retail services
 - on-train catering
 - Bus and cycle links – not just rail
- Potential new ticket office facilities
- Less anti-social behaviour
- Passengers are part of their communities – local pride in ‘our station’

The Liverpool to Manchester CRP



QUESTIONS ?