

ComREG Update

West Region Community Rail Partnerships

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West Region CRPs

- **Community Rail Cumbria**

Cumbrian Coast Line CRP (Carlisle to Barrow in Furness)

Furness Line CRP (Barrow in Furness to Lancaster/Preston/ Manchester Airport)

Lakes Line CRP Windermere to Oxenholme/ Manchester Airport)

- **Community Rail Lancashire**

Clitheroe Line CRP (Clitheroe to Man Vic)

East Lancashire CRP (Colne to Preston)

Leeds, Lancaster & Morecambe CRP (Leeds to Morecambe – the Bentham line)

South Fylde Line CRP (Blackpool South to Preston)

West of Lancashire CRP (Preston to Ormskirk, Wigan to Southport, Wigan to Kirby)

- **North Cheshire Rail User Group**

- Ellesmere Port to Runcorn East

Community Rail Cumbria

- Hosted by Cumbria County Council
- CCC funding ceased April 2015
- Independently funded through external partnership contributions
- 3 Partnership Boards
- Priority - “to act as a catalyst for and contribute to the economic wellbeing and growth of all areas served by the Cumbrian railway network through the operation, services and facilities of the lines”

Community Rail Lancashire



- Recently formed as a not for profit company
- Employs 3 members of staff (an additional member of staff is employed by Lancashire CC)
- Company is based at Accrington Eco Station (which is owned by Lancashire CC and leased to Northern)
- The company also has a second office at Burnley Manchester Rd (another station owned by LCC and leased to Northern)
- Primarily funded through Northern and the combined authorities
- Covers the 4 Lancashire CRPs all of which have appointed a Board Member on CRL
- Key action areas include its school engagement programme, active marketing of the Todmorden Curve service and development and support of station partnerships

Franchise Matters

- Investment led franchise - welcomed
- Regional devolution approach - welcomed
- Sharon Keith, Regional Director
- Craig Harrop, Regional Stakeholder Manager
- Regional Communities & Sustainability Manager to be appointed
- The East Lancashire CRP falls within two Regional areas - who will take the lead?
- Improved train services
 - Blackburn to Manchester
 - Sunday service on Cumbria Coast Line

Franchise Matters

- Increased support for CRPs and Station Adoption Groups
- Strengthened central resource within ACoRP
 - Additional professional expertise and advice available
 - Toolkit Approach
 - Sharing of good practice
- New funds welcomed
 - Station Improvement Fund
 - Social & Commercial Development Fund
 - Station Adoption Fund
 - etc offer good opportunities for partnership working - CRPs working closer together
- Offers good opportunities for CRPs to work closer together and extend partnership working

Franchise Challenges

- December 2017 timetable changes
 - Will there be sufficient rolling stock and capacity
- Rolling stock deployment – the right trains on the right lines!
- Introduction of Northern Connect services on the Furness, Windermere and East Lancashire lines – timescales?
- Southport services – which Manchester station?
- Future of Burscough Bridge Interchange
- Major schemes
 - ✓ Northern Hub and impact on Community Rail lines
 - ✓ Nuclear developments on CCL

Franchise Challenges

- Carillion
 - serious decline in station standards
 - undermines voluntary work
 - reviews and remedial work underway



Community Rail Development Plans

- All Plans drafted
- Key Schemes
 - Blackpool South – fencing & environmental improvements; station art with local schools
 - Millom - £200k secured funding for Educational Resource Room
 - Working with Vulnerable Groups
 - Develop business cases for station investment opportunities
 - Establish Destination Stations
 - Support Station Adoption Groups – gardening, information displays, paintings & murals, restoration of shelters & buildings
 - Publicity & Comms Review – website, social media, timetable leaflet, newsletter

Station Adoption

Newly Established Friends Groups

- Dalston, Kents Bank, Silverdale
- Blackpool South, Lytham, Bamber Bridge, Ansdell & Fairhaven

Emerging Friends Groups

- Lakes Line
- Cark, Dalton, Grange, Workington

Emerging Partnerships

- In Bloom Groups often work in conjunction with existing station partnerships offering extra 'green fingers'!!
- Ellsemere Port to Helsby CRP being considered

Strategic Plans

- Response to ICWC Franchise Public Consultation
- Response to NuGen Public Consultation
- Response to the Initial Industry Plan for Control Period 6 in conjunction with Rail North
- Input to Section 106 Planning Applications
- Input to Major Scheme Developments
 - Station Hub Programmes
 - Carlisle Public Realm Development
 - Preston Station Modernisation
 - Halton Curve Development

Major Developments

- Major developments planned across Cumbria particularly along the Cumbrian Coast and affecting Furness Line
- Existing infrastructure, rolling stock and timetable are wholly inadequate for the potential passenger and freight demands

Major Developments (2)

- **NuGen (Moorside)**
 - Construction of 3 new reactors by 2026
 - £10billion of investment with circa 21,000 jobs
- **Sellafield Ltd**
 - Staff relocation programme underway with dispersed office sites at Whitehaven/ Workington/ Maryport giving more opportunity for passenger rail demand
 - Priority decommissioning projects underway - freight delivery solutions required
- **National Grid (Carlisle to Heysham)**
 - Circa £4billion investment
- **Low Level Waste Repository (Drigg)**
 - Only repository for low level nuclear waste to be stored or disposed of
 - £400million+ investment
- **West Cumbria Mining**
 - Proposed coal mine development in Copeland
 - Potential for 500 jobs
- **BAE Systems, United Utilities, Port of Workington, Port of Barrow**

Local Enterprise Partnership

- Major Funding Source
- Cumbrian LEP Strategic Economic Plan – four priorities:
 - Advanced Manufacturing Growth;
 - Nuclear and Energy Excellence;
 - A Vibrant Rural and Visitor Economy; and
 - Strategic Connectivity of the M6 Corridor (Road and Rail)
- Station Hub Developments
 - Maryport & Workington

Sustainable Community Rail

- Arriva major funding partner for next 3 years
- CRPs need to become more commercially aware for long term sustainability

Industry Sources	Other Sources
Other TOCs	Industry & Business
FOCs	Grant Funding
Network Rail	Merchandising
Local Authorities	Working Together

Clitheroe Line

Recent developments

- ✓ £12m investment to extend Darwen Loop to improve reliability and allow ½ hourly all day service between Blackburn and Manchester. The works have been funded by Lancashire LEP, LCC and BwD
- ✓ All stations have been refreshed and many have new and in some cases additional passenger waiting shelters
- ✓ The additional trains are a franchise commitment.

Remaining issues

- ✓ Slow line speed of 40mph between Blackburn and Clitheroe despite significant investment by Network Rail in new CWR track and intermediate block signals.
- ✓ Pacers have to go even slower or else the signalling system loses them!
- ✓ This has an impact on journey time and passenger perception of the service.

Lessons to be learnt

- ✓ The railway industry needs to join the dots especially when it is receiving substantial third party funding and making its own investments
- ✓ Network Rail needs to be more proactive and responsive
- ✓ TOC needs to challenge Network Rail to up its game even on secondary lines – not everything happens in Leeds or Manchester!