



How Community Rail Network has been feeding in to rail transformation

Since the [Plan for Rail](#) was published in May 2021 we have been liaising with the Department for Transport, GBR Transition Team, and other partner organisations helping to shape rail transformation, on community rail's insights on a broad range of topics and opportunities for the movement to make an enhanced contribution in the future. Alongside this, we have strived to keep our members informed and engaged with the process of change and ensure community rail has a voice.

Our work in this area has included the following steps so far. Please note that this is in addition to our ongoing direct engagement with our main contacts at GBRTT on the continued development of community rail. **GBR TT and DfT continue to assure us of their commitment to and interest in the ongoing development of community rail, and hearing its insights and expertise.** More in-depth discussions on the future set-up and structure of rail industry relationships with and support of community rail will take place in 2023, and we will keep members informed and engaged.

We have:

- Produced a [summary](#) for our members of the White Paper, highlighting the implications and opportunities for community rail, and provided further details on [National Rail Contracts](#);
- Created an [FAQs document](#) on rail transformation, based around members' common queries about the changes planned over the coming years, such as on the structure of Great British Railways, timescales, community rail funding and relationships;
- Organised a GBRTT-led session for CRP chairs with the opportunity to ask questions on rail reform;
- Submitted a comprehensive [response](#) to the GBRTT call for evidence on the Whole Industry Strategic Plan (WISP), sharing a wide range of community rail examples and evidence, included in the final response [report](#);
- Organised a webinar, delivered jointly with GBRTT, highlighting the intended outcomes of the Plan for Rail, the make-up, role, and priorities of GBRTT, and intentions around the WISP, which 80 member/partner delegates attended;
- Incorporated a [GBRTT-led session](#) into the 2022 Community Rail Conference on the future of community rail;
- Fed in to RSSB over the past year on the development of a whole-industry Sustainable Rail Strategy, which will sit under the WISP, the [prototype](#) for which incorporates strong recognition of the part community rail plays in creating a sustainable railway;



- Engaged with RDG's Stations Strategy Group (we are now a member of this group) and the reviews it has been conducting looking at the future of stations;
- Started to feed in to some Network Rail regions' 'Control Period 7' strategic planning, including exploring how work with community rail can be strengthened;
- Gathered further feedback from you via an online mini-survey (on top of verbal input being collected by the team constantly) prior to submitting our [response](#) to the DfT consultation on Great British Railways legislation and the process of rail reform, ensuring insights from our team, board, and across the community rail movement were incorporated as relevant;
- Inputted to GBR TT's stations workstream looking at rail industry processes and procedures towards a 'simpler, better railway,' including proposing how improvements could smooth the way for more community-led stations buildings projects to come to fruition;
- Continued to advise DfT on how the delivery of its Community Rail Development Strategy could be strengthened.

If members have any queries or comments on any of this work, they can be fed in via your usual support & development team contact, or to rob@communityrail.org.uk.