



# Rail reform & GBR: opportunities for community rail

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Members' webinar

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'Love Thy Neighbour' mural at Smethwick Rolfe Street Station



# A moving feast

- Change rapidly ramping up
- DFTO expansion
- GBR design process getting underway
- Timetable set out

Our approach:

- Tenacious - getting into position
  - Showing the value of community rail, what it needs and offers
- ...and scope to unlock greater impact



## Key areas of change

- Great British Railways being set up
- Long-Term Rail Strategy
- Transport devolution

+ Wider transport policy change

+ Links across policy areas



# Great British Railways

Work so far:

- Early engagement with ‘design leads’
- Cross-industry forums
- Building understanding among snr leaders/design sponsors – Network Rail, DFTO, train operator MDs

Future focuses:

- Ongoing dialogue with DFTO, NR, MDs + key design leads (and bringing it together)



Sevenside CRP's activity train for families

# Long-Term Rail Strategy

Work so far:

- Getting across community rail's strategic contribution and scope to do more
- Seeking involvement in LTRS development

Future focuses:

- Securing meaningful involvement
- Feeding into consideration of DfT's Community Rail Development Strategy



# Mayors and places shape rail priorities

## What's changing

- Mayoral Strategic Authorities (MSAs) now have:
  - o Statutory roles in rail partnerships
  - o Responsibility for Local Transport Plans (LTPs)
  - o Integrated transport funding and powers

## How rail fits

- Rail is no longer planned in isolation
- It's part of:
  - o Growth
  - o Housing
  - o Inclusion
  - o Decarbonisation



### Integrated local transport...

- Coordinated bus, tram and train timetables and information, including during disruption.
- Smooth connections between modes.
- Integrated network planning.
- Multi-modal ticketing options (i.e. rail, bus, tram).
- Local concessionary fares schemes across modes.



### ... better services

- Improvements to frequency and connectivity addressing local needs.
- Local initiatives to ensure everyone feels safe travelling on the local network.
- Reliable services and local service quality measures.



### ... welcoming stations

- Cleaner, brighter local station environments.
- Local accessibility improvements.
- Enhanced customer facilities, including to promote modal integration.
- Vibrant stations playing a wider role as places.



### Joint activity supporting wider priorities

- Facilitating growth and economic development.
- Transport oriented development and regeneration on railway land.
- Engagement in local skills and training initiatives.
- Supporting the role of community rail partnerships.
- Maximising the potential of rail freight.

# Who will do what?

|               | GBR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | MSAs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strengths     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National oversight as directing mind</li><li>• Knowledge of the rail infrastructure and operational opportunities and constraints</li><li>• Ability to offer reasoned and transparent network capacity trade-offs</li><li>• Experienced at delivering projects safely on the railway</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Democratic accountability – direct link to local voices and priorities</li><li>• Place-leadership</li><li>• Responsibility to shape and deliver multi-modal transport systems</li><li>• Statutory and funded roles as Local Transport Authority</li><li>• Statutory roles in GBR processes</li></ul>                          |
| Opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improving passenger experience through simplified fares and ticketing</li><li>• Improving financial sustainability and growth</li><li>• Enhancing train service performance across the network</li><li>• Overcoming legacy fragmentation</li></ul>                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Navigating short term priorities and need for long-term resilience</li><li>• Funding priorities</li><li>• Expectation to deliver change at pace locally, responding to well-understood local needs.</li><li>• Aligning decision-making with the plan-making process and future growth, helping to drive rail usage.</li></ul> |



# Advocating strong support

Core recommendations:

- Consistent, appropriate, reliable, multi-year core funding for staffing
- Biddable project funding
- Clear points of contact and responsibility
- Respect, collaboration and assistance

To consider:

- When and how transition will work

# Areas of development

Recommending community rail's role is enhanced in terms of:

- Feeding in community insights and voices
- Breaking down travel barriers (accessibility and inclusion + engaging young people)
- Integrated sustainable travel
- Modal shift and leisure travel
- Stations development

See our emerging rail reform policy papers

Tyne Valley CRP promoting sustainable tourism by rail



Rail reform and GBR | Members' webinar

# Safeguards, reassurances & reasons to be positive

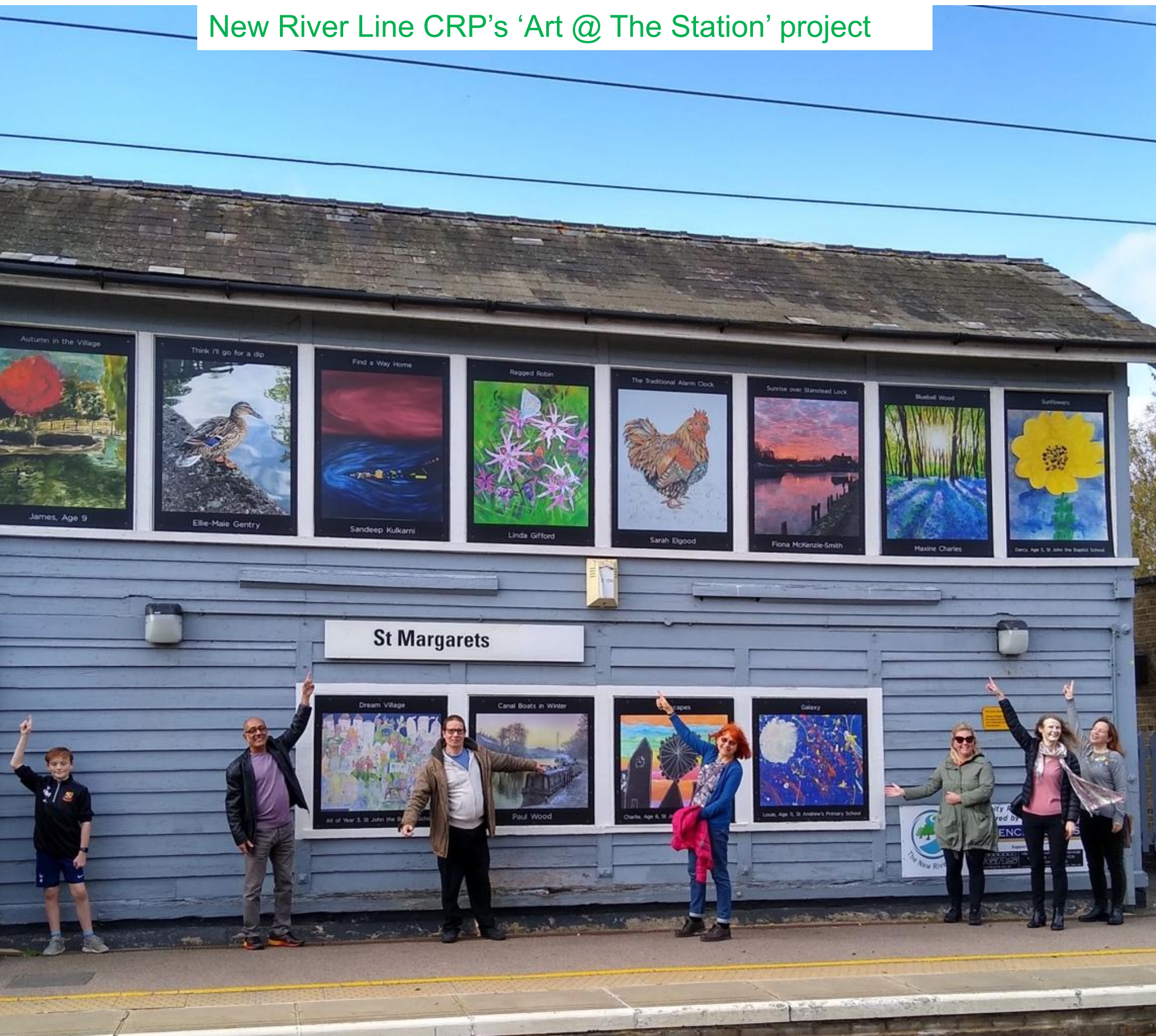
- Community Rail Development Strategy (England & Wales)
- Sustainable Rail Blueprint (cross-industry) & Greener Railways Strategy (NR)
- DfT + senior industry commitment
- Alignment with devolved/regional policy objectives and DfT's Better Connected
- Evidence we have on our value



Kent CRP's new cycle rails on Kent Downs Line

# Involving members

- Regional CRP meetings
- CR Conference October
- Improved communications
- Engagement in LTRS development
- Possible future webinars and/or use of our specialist forums to dig into detail



# Over to you: questions, comments & thoughts



Friends of Penmere Station