



## Southeast Communities Rail Partnership CIC



Minutes of 69<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Southeast Communities Rail Partnership CIC  
Held on Mon 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Crawley Town Hall

**1. Present:** Tim Barkley Chair, Philip Ayers, Kevin Boorman, Tim Sparrow, Mike Goodman, Trevor Field, Fiona Morton

**2. Apologies-** James Abbott, Cllr Bob Lanzer, Patrick Warner.

**3. Notes of previous meeting** of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 were accepted.

**4. Matters arising.** There were no matters arising.

### **5. Finance.**

5.1 Management accounts. Report was accepted.

5.2 Fundraising and Grants update. Trevor summarised the applications that have been submitted for projects. 1066 Line have submitted funding applications to CRDF for Battle Station master's House to match grants already received and for a Town Explores a Book – a multi-agency project at St Leonards. A CRN application for Try a Train project funds to Motability was submitted on behalf of a number of CRPs. If successful, the project may begin in Dec 2023. Sussex Coast Line is preparing a bid for a wildflower garden at Southwick. We will await the result of the application to GWR for Education and NDL projects at the end of August 2023. Board noted the update.

5.3 Update on Budget 2023/24 Reports presented outlining monies received, yet to be received and anticipated reductions expected in October 2023. Tim B shared information from recent CRN Chairs meeting that CRPs were to assume a 25% funding reduction for community rail for 2024-2025. The SWR Community Engagement Officer also confirmed this working assumption for 2024-2025. Some CRPs are not expecting CCIF awards.

The reduction in funding and the late notice of this has required the Board to consider a variety of options to balance the budget. The Board confirmed the earlier decision taken on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 at the Emergency Board meeting, following consultation with Line Chairs and Vice-chairs that it was not viable to cover the shortfall by using unrestricted reserves.

The Board agreed that it would set a balanced budget for 2023.

The Board considered a variety of options as a consequence of this decision.

The Board agreed that in principle, reductions in expenditure should be proportionate to the reductions from TOCs, and that the SCRP needed to anticipate further changes for 2024-2025.

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It was agreed that:

- i. changes should be in place by October 2023
- ii. consultations with staff should continue to explore viable options.
- iii. consultations with stakeholders to take place to cover shortfall and/or suggest further options.
- iv. reductions in expenditure to be proportionate to the reductions in funding from each TOC.
- v. discussions should consider a range of options including merging GTR CR Lines where lines are co-terminus, changing working practices to pool resources and focus on priority projects.

Philip recorded his thanks to Tim B, Trevor and Fiona for their efforts to resolve the funding shortfall and prepare the budget reports. The Treasury are imposing these cuts and every opportunity had been taken to lobby against this and deal with the historic underfunding of SCRCP by GTR.

**6. Chief Executive report.** Progress was noted. The Board:

1. Approved the CEO, Finance Officer and & Finance Director submitting applications for external funding
2. Offer the vacant North Down Line to existing staff as a first course of action. If existing staff do not want to consider the post the Board approved the recruitment of a temporary project support officer to work on a limited number of projects until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024
3. Board approved the proposal to manage the existing Hounslow to Richmond CRP as part of the SCRCP group and approved that the offer of the hours available in the budget to be offered in the first instance to existing staff. If staff decline this offer, the Board approved the recruitment of a temporary project support officer to work on a limited number of projects until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

## **7. Governance/Projects**

- 7.1 Business Plan Review (Fiona & Tim S) covered by CEOs report. In light of funding changes this will need to be re-written. Action Tim S and Fiona
- 7.2 Annual Review of Strategic and Management Risk (Mike/Fiona/Tim B) Board agreed the principle of simplifying the register and that it needs to take account of new information. Action Mike G.



7.3 Accreditation Actions (Fiona) verbal update. Pack has been submitted to CRN by CEO, date confirmed 19/7/23 for interview. Board noted the update.

7.4 Marketing & Communications Update (Kevin) Praise was received for new weekly highlights format. Tim S hoped that a forward look could also be accommodated in some way. Board noted the growing interest in our work through website and social media channels. KB emphasised the need for us to grow support through marketing and press releases. Board noted the update.

### 7.5 Policy Updates

- a) Environmental Policy (Fiona) Board noted the progress. Action FM to alter reference to workshop and publish on website.
- b) Steering Group Terms of Reference (Fiona) Board approved amendments. **Action** the revised terms of reference to be circulated to Steering Groups.

## 8. Updating reports:

### 8.1 Updates from Directors

Ticket office consultation. Legislation drafted in the 1990s was still a legal requirement to consult on a station-by-station basis. It was agreed that each line would be asked to respond via on line portal.

NDL Mike confirmed his intention to stand down from chairing steering group. Mike will remain on the SCRP Board as an interim Director for a transition period.

## 9. Forward Programme for SCRP CIC. (Tim B)

25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Board+ SCRP CIC AGM Lewes Office

11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Board Lewes Office

31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024 Board & SAB

## 10. AOB

Community Rail funding formula. FM reported that a draft formula had been drafted and had the support of several TOCs, CEO will obtain further details and see if formula would work for SCRP advantage. Huw Merriman MP & Rail Minister expressed a desire to look into setting a workable formula.

**Next meeting 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Board+ SCRP CIC AGM Lewes Office at 10 30 am.**