The individual line steering groups play a significant role in the delivery of the business plan. They represent the community and bring people together to allow all stakeholders to have a voice. SCRP will continue to seek new partners: involve diverse groups, TOCs, community groups and other stakeholders in developing action plans. Steering group members not only wish to function as a critical friend to transport providers, but they also contribute time and energy to projects and add a considerable amount in social value to their local communities. The SCRP will continue to make their contributions visible, by displaying their work through case studies, nominations for awards and media reports. The SCRP will also safeguard their interests by working in collaboration with TOCs and stakeholders on policies to make their volunteering experience a positive one. The SCRP will continue to identify risk and mitigations in its Strategic Risk Management Plan.

In our annual Line Action Plans, we will prioritise ideas developed by community members including but not exclusively:

- Supporting and promoting modal shift.
- Supporting improvements to make travel more accessible to all.
- Creating Volunteering opportunities.
- Encouraging further station adoptions.
- Support for members who wish to set up Friends of Groups and/or CICs to facilitate the conversion of redundant premises to community use,
- Offering financial oversight and banking facilities where our resources permit.
- Improvements to the station environment through art and history installations and sustainable gardening.
- Supporting events and celebrations at and around stations.
- Collaborating with community safety organisations and partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Support and taking part in Try the Train programmes and educational visits.
- Increasing participation and assistance to TOC and destination management organisations for marketing initiatives.
- Promoting healthy and sustainable leisure travel

SCRP will continue to support communities and stakeholders who have expressed a wish for additional community rail partnerships. These include lines as follows: -

Ashford International to Tonbridge and Sevenoaks,
Horsham to Dorking; Lewes to Eastbourne and Hastings; Lewes to Gatwick.

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The SCRP will make representations at the appropriate time to DfT /GBR to support the expansion of Community Rail and station adoption opportunities for local communities. The SCRP will make similar representations to Local Government/new Mayoral Authorities as opportunities arise.

Nationally it is recognised that travel patterns have changed with an increase in leisure travel and the SCRP is well positioned to support marketing initiatives aimed at this market which would have the benefit of supporting the local economy.

The SCRP has overriding objectives of modal shift, sustainable travel, enhancement and protection of the environment and efficient resource use. SCRP will contribute to shape local transport plans through responses to consultations and press for plans to address climate change to steer people away from car use and onto public transport and walking and cycling options.

The SCRP also supports greater connectivity from Kent to Gatwick Airport and from Gatwick Airport to the West, Midlands, and further Northwards.

The SCRP also welcomes and supports initiatives to offer through ticketing and discounted fares.

The SCRP will commit resources and use its experience to help local groups and businesses make use of underused station buildings. Similarly, SCRP will continue to support the revitalisation of derelict open spaces into community gardens and outdoor spaces.

The education programmes Go Learn and Go Train educate young people about rail safety, sustainable travel. the environment, teaches lifelong active travel habits, and inspires them to consider careers in rail. There are currently capacity issues for our education programmes and there is an unmet demand for which additional resources are necessary to meet the demand. The SCRP will seek opportunities for enhanced funding of these programmes and will make representations at the appropriate time for DfT to include core funding for rail education within its revised Community Rail Strategy.

The SCRP will continue to work on art, environmental, heritage and Try the Train projects with diverse groups. Our outreach work with under-resourced groups is acknowledged through nominations and awards. The SCRP will continue to share good practice and our experiences with the wider community rail network.

Subject to available resources the SCRP will retain its successful Marketing and Communication project. This has significantly improved our visibility and our press and publicity output. We have successfully demonstrated the added social value of our activities and are now a leading Community Rail Parentship on recording key performance indicators, and this has helped to diversifying our funding base by securing financial support from key stakeholders and third parties.

The SCRP has put in place measures to strengthen the links between Line Steering Groups, the SCRP Board and the SAB and these will remain and evolve over time.

Where the opportunities emerge the SCRP will discuss with all our TOCS the content of their business plans prior to their submission to DfT and provide direct advice and assistance to TOCs to widen their direct involvement in Community Rail issues and activity.

To support this work, the SCRP will continue to seek to consolidate its core funding and endeavour to persuade the TOCs/DfT to raise our core funding to the levels enjoyed by most community rail partnerships. Without people to support the steering groups, deliver education, raise project funding, comply with company law, maintain DfT Accreditation, there will be no community rail.

We are incredibly grateful for the support we receive from our stakeholders and volunteers and cannot thank them enough for their guidance, expertise, and willingness to support our aims and objectives.

October 2026