

Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership

2023 Prospectus



Background

In 2022, Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership (GCRP) was commissioned by Great Western Railway (GWR) to produce a feasibility study for the formal establishment of a Community Rail Partnership for Oxfordshire.

Research commenced in October 2022, mapping the geography of Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership (OxCRP) and identifying the challenges, opportunities and areas of need in Oxfordshire. In November 2022, we launched our pilot activities, including a stakeholder survey, community consultations and design work.

The OxCRP 2023-2026 Business Plan was submitted to GWR in March 2023 and approved in May 2023. The full report is publicly available below:



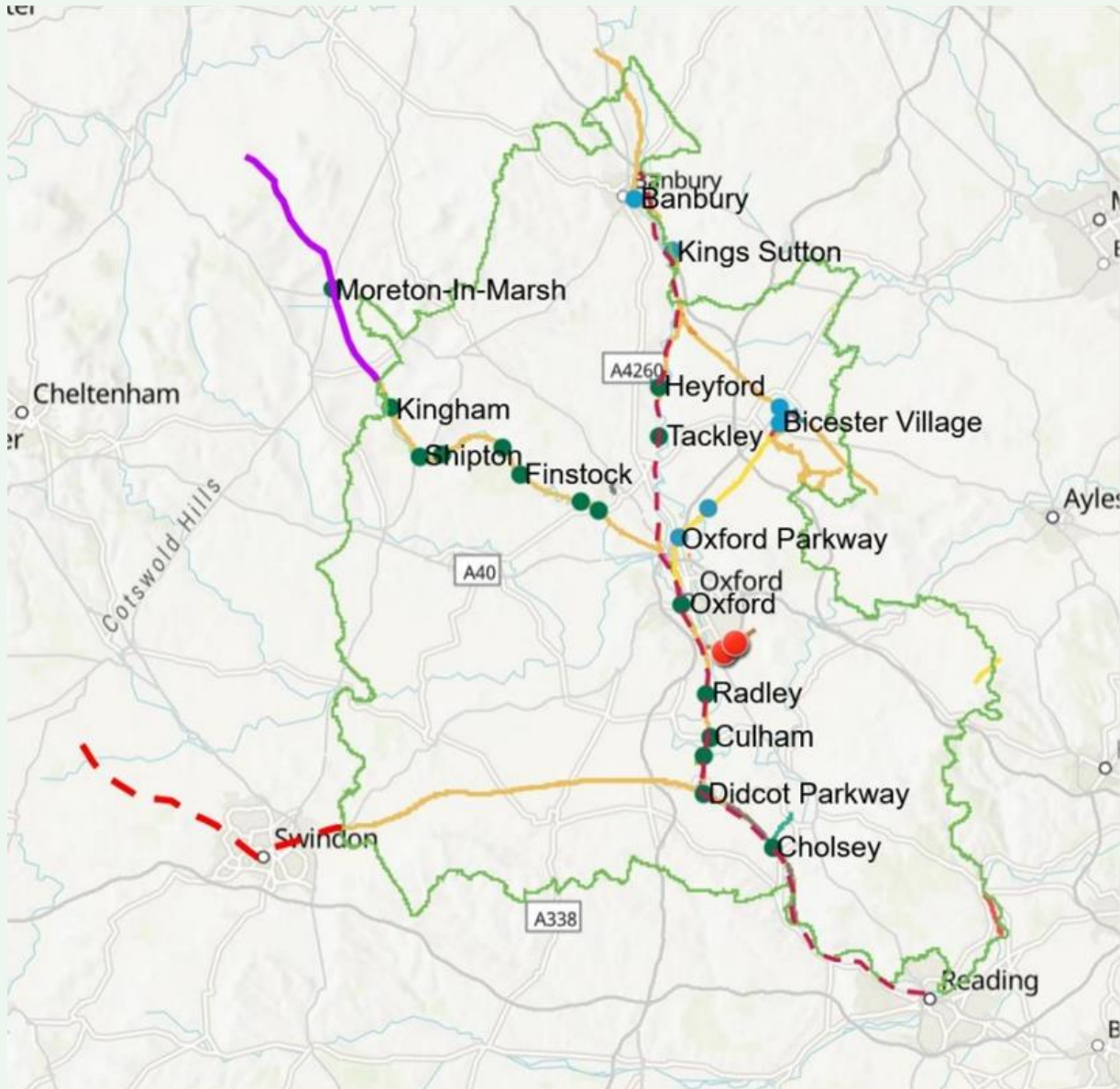
OxCRP covers 22 railway stations across the county and works closely with local communities, visitors, community organisations, local government and transport operators to deliver a strategic framework of research, inclusive consultations and community-led engagement activities.

Our goals:

- Focus on the inclusion of diverse and less advantaged groups and communities, developing rail-based solutions that address both short-term needs and enable longer-term opportunities.
- Inclusively empower local communities to connect to Oxfordshire's railway to enrich lives and create new opportunities.
- Improve the welcome for everyone who travels to and through Oxfordshire's stations and help visitors to access neighbouring spaces and places.
- Add a voice and activities to promote sustainable and active travel.
- Work in partnership with others to improve the fabric and quality of places in and around the railway and the communities it serves.



Our Stations



Appleford

Ascott-under-Wychwood

Banbury

Bicester North

Bicester Village

Charlbury

Cholsley

Combe

Culham

Didcot Parkway

Finstock

Hanborough

Heyford

Islip

Kingham

Kings Sutton

Moreton-in-Marsh

Oxford

Oxford Parkway

Radley

Shipton

Tackley

Our Pillars



Access and Inclusion



Social Value



Leisure and Tourism



Stations as Places

2022/2023 Pilot Activity



Charlbury Leisure Trail: Design and development of a walking route radiating from Charlbury station that encourages visitors and locals to identify rail and stations as part of the destination experience, promoting active travel and car-free access to nature.



Cotswold Calm Corner Feasibility Study: Research of feasibility and technical design requirements for a station-based 'calm corner' that improves ease of access for rail users with protected characteristics. Full report available here: <https://www.gloucestershirecommunityrail.org/research-and-development>



Adoption group engagement: Consultations with existing station adoption groups across the county to understand station-based projects already underway, opportunities for further development and priority stations where volunteer activity would be valuable.



Community Consultations: In late 2023, we launched the OxCRP stakeholder survey, which received 138 responses. We engaged 22 key stakeholders through in-depth consultations to identify how the CRP can best support local agendas around NetZero, economic development, education, equity, diversity and inclusion.

2023/2024 Activity Plan

Developed in response to our findings, and subject to funding

Connecting Communities: A series of outreach and engagement activities that take a needs-based approach within local residential developments to empower local voice on sustainable transport agendas.

Cotswold Calm Corner: Further development of the recommendations from our feasibility study and scoping of potential funding opportunities for installation of a station-based space for rail-users with protected characteristics.

Social Prescribing: Research and development of an integrated pathway between social prescribing and community rail, where OxCRP can fill the current gaps in the social prescribing offer and develop rail-based activities on prescription.



2023/2024 Activity Plan

Route2Work: A travel confidence programme to improve access to work and other life opportunities via rail for individuals with mental health and substance misuse conditions.

Getaway: Improving rail confidence and independence for young people from under-represented and disadvantaged communities in the county through supported rail journeys to access outdoor experiences.

Taste for Travel: Design and distribution of more leisure trail maps radiating from Oxfordshire stations that encourage car-free leisure journeys, active travel, and support the local economy.



2023/2024 Activity Plan

Cotswold Destination and Innovation: Supporting Destination Management Organisations, Cotswold National Landscape and key destination attractions to work together on the carbon agenda through rail-based solutions to tourism and leisure.

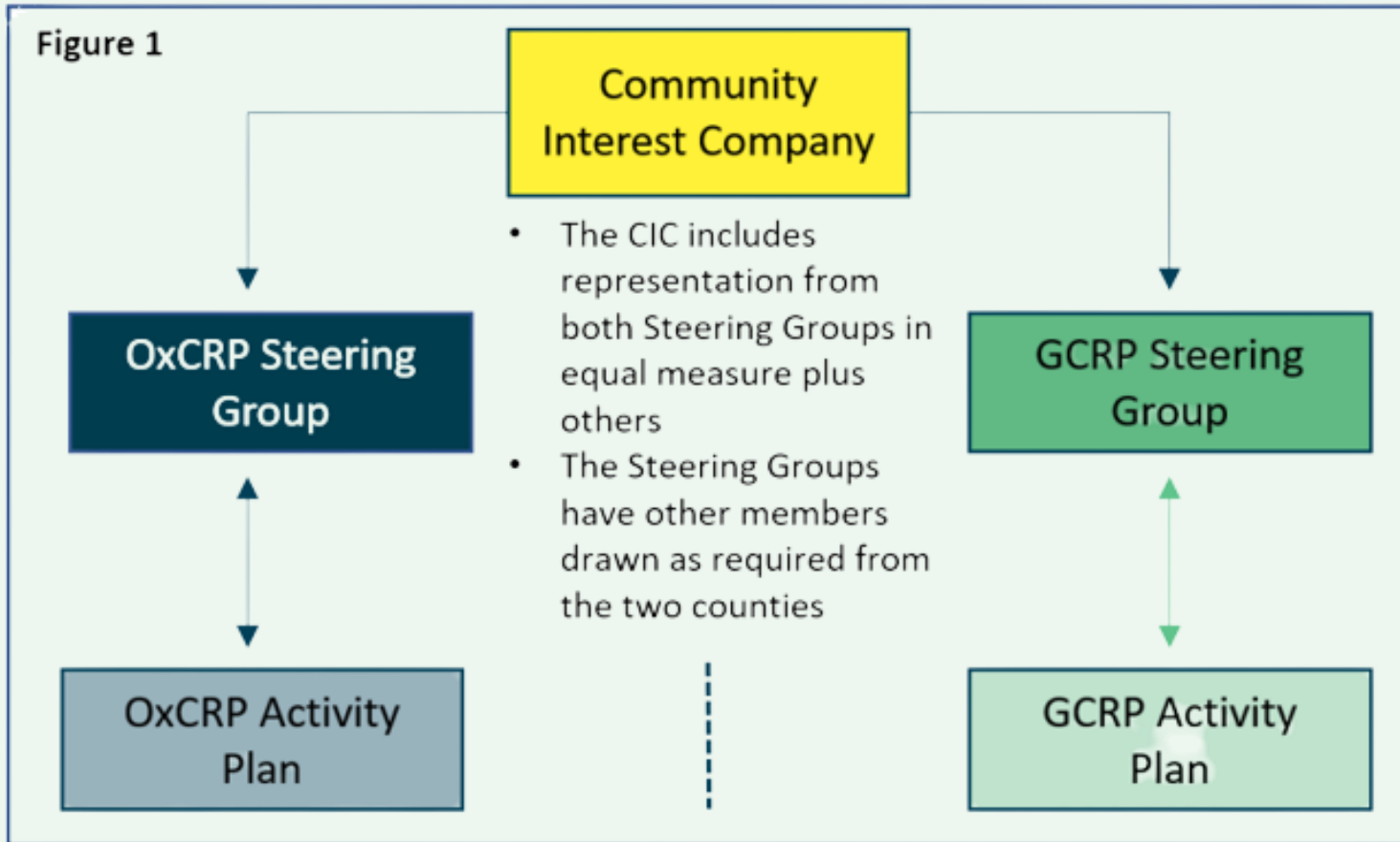
TrainTripper: Extending our digital platform content to Oxfordshire stations, empowering visitors to plan sustainable itineraries to visit key destination attractions and local businesses by rail.

Station Adoption Groups: Ongoing engagement with existing adoption groups, and liaison with TOCs to stimulate local interest in station adoption and volunteer projects.

Research-Based Activity: A survey of residents to understand experiences, perceptions and challenges of rail travel for local Oxfordshire people, and research into opportunities to extend the partnership base and innovate delivery.

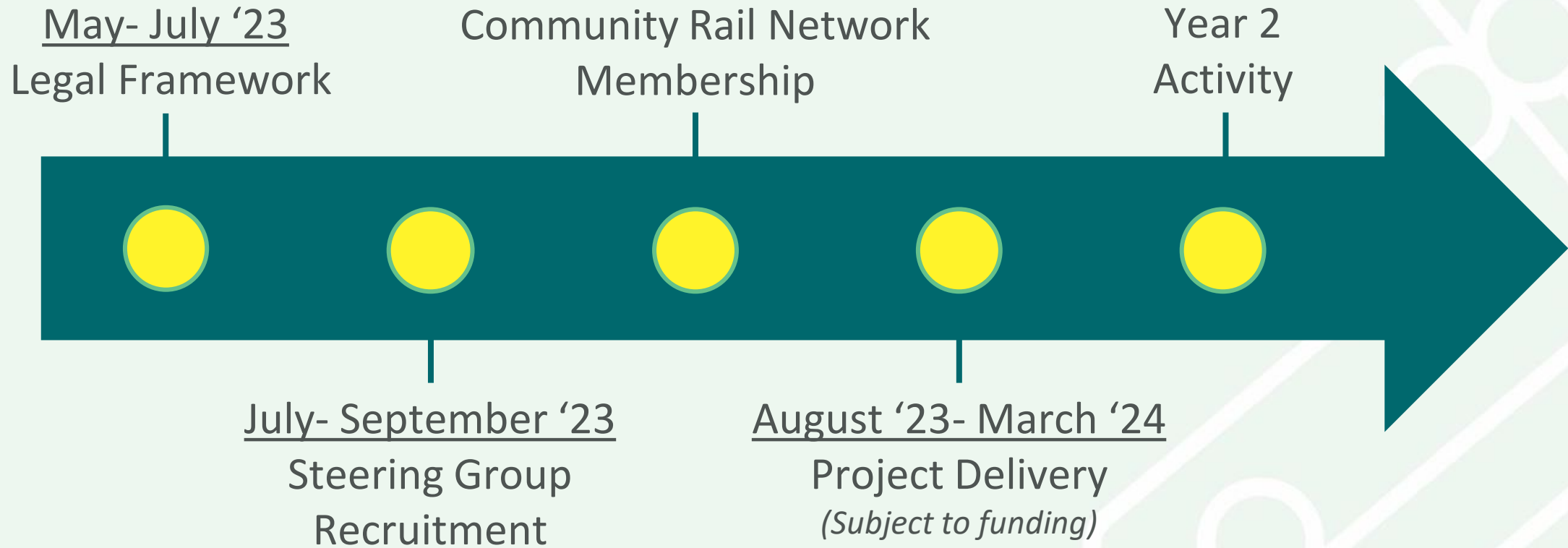


Governance Framework



- One CIC Board with local representation from both Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire
- Two independent and locally-focused steering groups with specific strategic direction
- Robust financial separation and accountability
- Reducing costs and overheads, providing economies of scale and added value through mutuality, joint-working opportunities and knowledge transfers

Year 1 Timeline



Our Stakeholders



Meet the Team



Alayne McDonald
Community Rail
Development Officer



Hannah McDonnell
Executive Director



Molly Beebee
Access and Inclusion
Lead



Helen Buckle
Head of Marketing and
Communications



Interested in joining the partnership or learning more?
Contact: alayne@oxcrp.org.uk