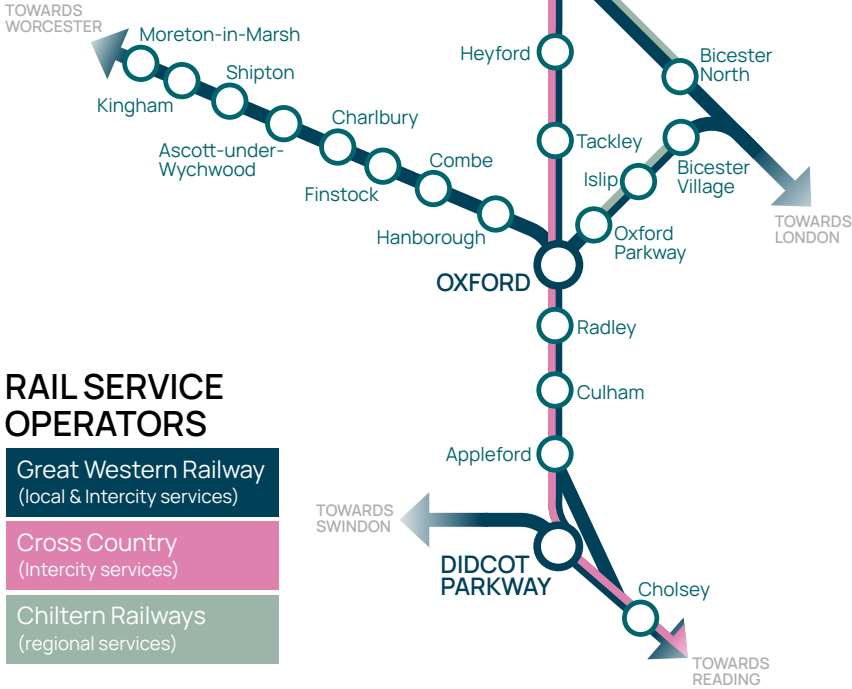


Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership IMPACT REPORT 2025/26



OUR STATIONS & ROUTES



RAIL SERVICE OPERATORS

- Great Western Railway (local & Intercity services)
- Cross Country (Intercity services)
- Chiltern Railways (regional services)

Contents

The year in numbers	04
Our Theory of Change & Strategy	05
STRATEGIC AIM 1: Community Engagement	07
Black History Oxfordshire	08
Rails to Trails	10
Getaway	12
Mission Discovery	14
Travelling with Coonfidence	15
STRATEGIC AIM 2: Stations as Places	17
All Aboard	18
Oxford Station Improvements	20
Tracks of Our Lives	22
STRATEGIC AIM 3: Insight & Influence	23
EMBODY	24
On Track for Inclusive Train Travel	25
CrossCountry Access Panel	27
Vision 2225	28
Connected Futures: Phase 1	29
Greater Henley Feasibility Study	30
STRATEGIC AIM 4: Brand Awareness	31
Community Rail Week Launch	32
Podcasting	33
Conferences and Webinars	34
Social Media & Press Insights	35
Our Team	36
Finance	38
Our Partners	39

Welcome

As we reflect on 2025/26, what stands out most is not the number of projects delivered, but the growing influence of community rail in shaping a more connected, inclusive and resilient Oxfordshire.

This has been a year of change. As local government reform progresses and Great British Railways continues to take shape, communities need trusted partners who understand local places, local people and local aspirations. Community rail ensures that lived experience and community voice continue to inform decisions during a period of significant transformation.

After more than three years of partnership working and local collaboration, we are seeing engagement mature into action. Insight gathered through our programmes is increasingly informing investment decisions, accessibility improvements and approaches to social value, demonstrating the importance of community-led evidence as the railway evolves, and showcasing the powerful social and economic impact of community rail on the rail industry itself.

We have been delighted to welcome Amy Russell as Community Rail Development Officer. Amy has already helped us to reach new communities and strengthen relationships in areas where support is most needed.

Her skills, energy and commitment have enhanced our ability to create meaningful impact.

This was also a year of recognition and ambition. Hosting the national launch of Community Rail Week at Oxford Station showcased the power of partnership and the role of stations as community assets. Our success at the Community Rail Awards, particularly through our youth-led Vision 2225 work, showcases community rail ensuring the next generation has a genuine voice in shaping transport. We are particularly proud of our work supporting the development of the OxRail Strategic Plan 2040 alongside our local authority partners.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our team, the guidance of our Board and Steering Group, the commitment of our partners and, most importantly, the communities who continue to inspire and challenge us to do better. Together, we are helping to ensure that rail is not simply a means of transport, but a catalyst for stronger communities, greater opportunity and lasting social impact.

Hannah McDonnell
Executive Director,
GO CRP CIC

Daisy Chapman Chamberlain
Chair,
OxCRP Steering Group

Why we exist

Public transport connects people to opportunities, strengthens communities, and supports economic, social, and environmental wellbeing. But too many people face barriers - cost, confidence, accessibility, or simply what's available - that limit how and whether they can travel. Decisions about transport are often made without the voices of those most affected.

Our Vision

An inclusive, positive, and sustainable public transport system that empowers and connects communities.

Our Mission

We shape public transport by connecting community voices with decision-makers and build people's confidence to travel in the way that works for them.

OXCRP – a year in numbers



300+

Partners & stakeholder collaborators



2,000+

Community members engaged



1,200+

Young people engaged



6

New resources and research reports

Our Theory of Change

Transport should connect people to opportunities, services and communities, but barriers still exist for many people. GOCRP works to make public transport more accessible, inclusive and relevant to the people it serves.

Who we work with

- People:** People facing barriers to public transport.
- Organisations:** Community organisations, charities, schools, employers, service providers and other organisations supporting communities.
- Policymakers:** Local authorities, transport operators, planners and decision-makers.

What we do

- Insight:** Generating evidence and understanding that helps decision-makers create better transport outcomes.
- Community:** Creating opportunities for communities to participate, contribute ideas and shape conversations about transport.
- Resources:** Providing information, toolkits, training, travel confidence support and practical guidance.
- Experience:** Improving journeys, stations and transport experiences through accessibility, placemaking and community-led activity.

How change happens

- We Listen:** Understanding people's experiences and transport barriers.
- We Connect:** Bringing communities, organisations and decision-makers together.
- We Empower:** Building confidence, knowledge and opportunities.

Our Impact

- For People:**
- Increased confidence
 - Greater awareness and understanding
 - Improved access to opportunities
 - Increased participation in public transport
- For Organisations:**
- Better understanding of transport barriers
 - Increased use of community insight
 - More inclusive planning and service delivery
- For Policymakers:**
- Better informed decision-making
 - Community-informed planning
 - Improved accessibility and inclusion

[READ OUR THEORY OF CHANGE IN FULL HERE >](#)



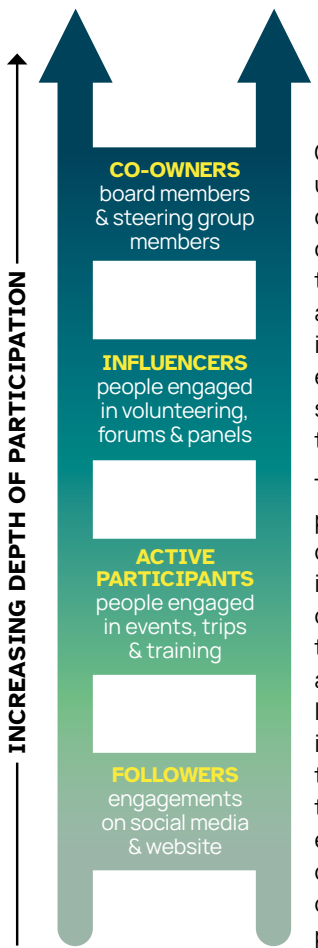
Our Strategic Aims

2025–26 marks six years of GCRP. It has been a year to pause, review and look ahead, reflecting on how the partnership has grown and what is needed for the next stage of our work.

Working with our Board and team, we reviewed our vision and mission, strengthened our governance, and developed a new Theory of Change to guide how we plan, deliver and measure impact. This work has helped us focus our role more clearly: connecting community voices with decision-makers, building people’s confidence to travel, and supporting a more inclusive, positive and sustainable public transport system.

Our Strategic Aims:

- 1. Community Engagement
- 2. Stations as Places
- 3. Insight & Influence
- 4. Visibility & Reach



Our strategic aims are underpinned by a ladder of participation approach, creating pathways for people to move from followers and active participants to influencers and co-owners, ensuring community voices shape projects, research and transport decision-making.

This strategic review has taken place during a period of wider change for the rail industry, including the development of Great British Railways. In that context, GCRP’s role as a steady bridge between local communities and the rail industry is more important than ever. We are well placed to help local voices and lived experience feed into future rail conversations, making sure change is informed by the people and places it affects.

STRATEGIC AIM: 1

Community Engagement

Increase the number of communities and people reached across Oxfordshire and deepen engagement through the ladder of participation



Black History Oxfordshire

The Black History Oxfordshire project opened up new ways for people to discover Oxfordshire's rich and often overlooked Black history through sustainable travel. By combining historical research with accessible walking routes linked to railway stations, OxCRP created a lasting resource that inspires exploration while promoting rail as a gateway to culture, heritage and nature.

Developed in collaboration with Black Ark Media, local historians, community organisations, museums and more than 20 local partners, the trails showcases significant people, places and stories connected to eight Oxfordshire stations. Available in both print and digital formats, the resource empowers residents and visitors to confidently plan independent journeys, combining rail travel with walking and active travel to experience the county in new ways. Two guided Black History walks brought

"This is an important resource to encourage more cultural understanding in Oxfordshire."

– Sunrise Multicultural Project



the trail to life, enabling participants to explore local heritage together, build confidence travelling by rail, and experience first-hand how stations can become gateways to culture, community and discovery.

Beyond the trail itself, the project has helped broaden conversations about representation within Oxfordshire's heritage sector, encouraging organisations to recognise and explore previously underrepresented histories. The result is a lasting legacy that makes local heritage more inclusive while positioning railway stations as gateways to learning, exploration and community connection.

"It was an eye-opening experience – the tour highlighted stories and perspectives that are often overlooked. It gave me a much deeper understanding of how the city has been shaped by people from diverse backgrounds and has encouraged me to look beyond the traditional narratives and appreciate the many layers of the city's past."

– Sunrise Multicultural Project

15
sites linked
to the rail
network

2
guided
Black History
walks

20+
groups
contributed
to project



DOWNLOAD THE MAP HERE >



Rails to Trails

In areas of Oxfordshire where health inequalities and physical inactivity are high, barriers such as cost, low confidence and limited awareness can prevent young people from accessing public transport, outdoor spaces and opportunities to be active. By supporting young people to travel by train, we used rail as a gateway to accessing nature, keeping active and building travel confidence.

Through supported 5 train journeys, guided leisure trails and practical travel training, 66 people experienced sustainable travel in a safe and supportive environment. Many travelled by train for the first time, developing practical skills such as reading departure boards, finding the correct platform, using rail tickets and navigating routes with our leisure trail maps. These experiences helped young people become more confident and independent travellers, while connecting them to the health and wellbeing benefits of being active and

“We were hesitant at first but it helped us out of our comfort zone and experience something new.”

– Youth Participant, Sunrise Multicultural Project



66
participants
engaged

5
active travel
train trips

24+
kilometers
walked

“Our families thoroughly enjoyed the Rails to Trails experience, and I’ve heard some lovely feedback from parents and children alike. The trips were not only fun but genuinely empowering, especially for those who hadn’t travelled by train before.”

– Banbury Mosque

spending time outdoors. Walking routes encouraged participants to step outside their comfort zones and be physically active while discovering local green spaces and experiencing the physical and mental wellbeing benefits of nature. Positive first-hand experiences challenged misconceptions about rail travel, reduced barriers to using public transport and made sustainable travel feel more accessible and achievable. Together, these experiences laid the foundations for long-term behaviour change by increasing travel confidence, promoting active lifestyles and encouraging future use of public transport. The project also strengthened existing community partnerships and established a new one, extending our reach into communities facing the greatest inequalities.



“It was a fantastic experience for our group of five young girls – not only a fun day out, but also an important opportunity for them to gain confidence and independence in using the rail network safely.

– Sunrise Multicultural Project

Getaway

Getaways were created to address the barriers that many young people from underrepresented communities face to accessing nature, leisure opportunities and sustainable transport, including cost, low confidence and limited experience of travelling independently. The project achieved this by using the railway as a gateway to new experiences, nature, physical activity and improved wellbeing.

Across five supported trips with community partners and their trusted youth workers, 88 people from Banbury and Abingdon travelled by train and other public transport to take part in activities in natural spaces, including tree planting, boating and willow weaving. Participants developed practical travel skills, including navigating stations, using tickets, reading departure boards and wayfinding. Many travelled by train for the first time, building confidence for future independent travel.

The impact extended beyond travel skills. Young people were encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, try new activities and experience unfamiliar environments. The project also had a wider family impact - one parent who initially felt uneasy about rail travel told us that after hearing about their child's positive experience, it positively changed their perception of rail travel and its safety. This demonstrates how the projects impact went beyond individuals, and how



"I'm really grateful I got to be part of this trip today, it helped me in ways I didn't even realise I needed. I'm so glad I came along, spent time with my friends and made those memories."

– Youth Participant

6
trips
delivered

4
community
organisations
supported

88
participants
engaged



building confidence in young people influenced attitudes across families and generations and indeed organisations. The project resulted in increased confidence using public transport, with many participants travelling by train for the first time. Spending time in nature and taking part in physical activities supported positive mental wellbeing, encouraged healthier lifestyles and inspired participants to explore new places more independently. Shared experiences also strengthened friendships, reduced social isolation and created shared memories. By building practical travel skills, promoting active travel and improving access to nature, the project empowered young people to travel with greater confidence while strengthening relationships with community organisations, creating a foundation for continued engagement and future opportunities.

"Such an amazing train trip for our youngsters – for most of them it was their first train trip. They learnt a lot about how the train system works. They also had a lovely boat ride and learnt about the history of boats, and later we had a lovely lunch in a beautiful park."

– Abingdon Muslim Community

Mission Discovery

Mission Discovery was created to address the barriers that young people living in urban areas from lower-income and ethnically diverse communities are more likely to face when accessing transport, health and outdoor recreation. The project placed young people at the heart of designing a resource that encourages rail travel, active lifestyles and exploration of nearby green spaces.

Working with our trusted community partners, 39 young people took part in 3 guided rail journeys using our leisure trail maps to explore new places and build confidence travelling by train. Inspired by these experiences, they designed artwork, activities and challenges which were collated into 'Off the Rails and onto Trails', a booklet encouraging others to travel by rail, explore local walking routes, and make journeys more engaging and enjoyable.

The project increased young people's confidence using rail, improved awareness of sustainable travel and encouraged greater access to nature through rail-linked walking routes.



By designing their own activities, participants developed creative skills while gaining a sense of ownership and pride in the finished booklet. The project strengthened partnerships between community organisations and the railway, created a lasting resource for future programmes, and demonstrated how youth-led co-production can make rail travel more inclusive, accessible and relevant.

“The benefits of this day were many: increased confidence in navigating public transport, a deeper connection to nature, and the pride of contributing to something meaningful.”

– Leys CDI

39
participants
engaged

3
guided rail
trips

500
booklets
produced

Travelling with Confidence

Travelling with Confidence was delivered to address the need for travel training and confidence building for D/deaf, neurodivergent and disabled adults, demonstrating that public transport can be a viable, accessible option when people know what support is available.

The project supported learners to work towards Travel Proficiency Certificates, an accredited CPD qualification focused on building confidence when using public transport. Through practical workshops and co-produced trips planned by the learners themselves, participants explored how to plan journeys, ask for help, understand available resources and make informed choices about travel. Across the year, the project delivered 11 travel confidence workshops and four co-produced trips with four community partners, supporting approximately 65 individuals.

11
travel
confidence
workshops

4
co-produced
trips planned

65
people
supported



“At the start of the training our participants talked about not using train travel and feeling a lack of confidence in accessing the railway system – by the end they all felt excited about planning trips to new places together.”

– Activity Manager, Yellow Submarine

The impact was both personal and organisational. Individuals reported increased confidence, with several now travelling independently or working towards this with support from family, friends and organisational staff. Community partners also reported greater use of public transport when supporting learners and are actively working to integrate public transport into more trips and outings. The project showed that with the right encouragement, accessible information and trusted support, people can overcome anxiety and begin to see public transport as part of their everyday lives.



“Until I did this training I didn’t think I’d ever be able to travel independently on the train. I needed this confidence boost to say ‘I can do this, I can defy expectations, don’t let your inner voice keep you back’.”

– Yellow Submarine participant

STRATEGIC
AIM:

2

Stations as Places

Create an improved sense of safety, belonging, and ownership at stations in Oxfordshire

All Aboard

The All Aboard Exhibition was a collaborative, co-produced arts project delivered with Shadowlight Artists to increase the visibility of learning disabled people's experiences of rail travel, independence and community connection. The project responded to the need for disabled voices to be better represented in public transport spaces, using creative practice to challenge perceptions and make stations feel more inclusive, welcoming and reflective of the communities they serve.

Through an accessible, artist-led workshop programme facilitated by Shadowlight Artists, nine learning disabled artists explored their lived experiences of transport through visual art, photography, film and mixed media. Sessions were held at Shadowlight's central Oxford art space, with flexible approaches to materials, environment and support. Some artists also undertook location-based creative work, including visits to local stations and transport settings such as Didcot Parkway.

9
learning
disabled
participants

18
original
artworks
created

26
attendees
joined the
launch



The participants produced 18 original artworks, with 10 displayed at Oxford Parkway station. A public launch event at Oxford Parkway brought together 26 artists, partners and stakeholders, while digital sharing through the All Aboard platform and social media extended the exhibition's reach. The project created visible representation of disabled artists within rail environments, supported artists to build confidence and pride in paid, publicly exhibited work, and generated wider awareness through coverage in three local news outlets.

"We were delighted to have the opportunity to support the creativity of the Shadowlight artists. Providing a place for them to express their talent and experiences allows us to view how they see transport in all its forms."

– Bethan Jelfs, CrossCountry Regional Director



Oxford Station Improvements

Oxford Station is more than a transport hub – it's a gateway to adventure and opportunity. This project transformed the station experience by combining community creativity with practical travel information, helping more people discover Oxford by rail, on foot and through active travel.

At the heart of the project is a new community-designed mural, created with local young people. Through creative co-design workshops, participants shared what Oxford means to them, from favourite green spaces and landmarks to hopes for the city's future. Their ideas were woven into the final artwork, ensuring the station reflects the voices, identities and aspirations of the communities it serves.

“Our young people really enjoyed the mural workshop. The diversity of abilities was welcomed which meant that everyone felt they could express themselves.”

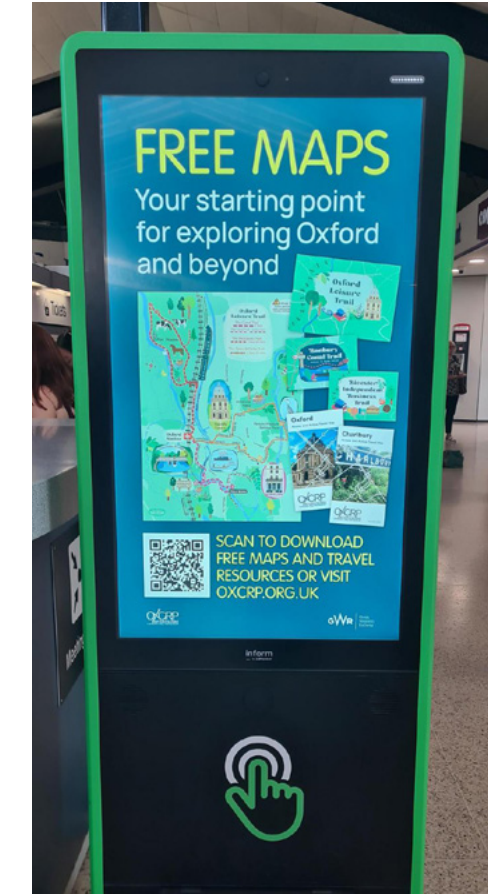
– Pastor, Word Fountain Family Arena



Alongside the mural, new information on the station's digital totem signposts passengers to Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership's leisure trails, access maps and travel confidence resources, making it easier for visitors and residents to continue their journeys sustainably. A new Oxford leisure trail also encourages people to explore the city's heritage, nature and public spaces on foot, positioning the station as the starting point for healthier, lower-carbon adventures.

Together, these improvements create a warmer welcome for passengers while strengthening connections between the railway, local communities and the places that make Oxford unique.

DOWNLOAD
THE MAP
HERE >



Tracks of Our Lives

Tracks of Our Lives transformed Bicester North station into a living celebration of community stories, using poetry, art and multimedia to create a richer, more welcoming passenger experience. By inviting local people to share personal memories of rail travel, Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership captured the human stories behind everyday journeys and turned them into a lasting public exhibition celebrating Railway200.

More than 40 community members contributed memories, with 20 stories reimagined as original poems by a community poet before being brought to life through illustrations and a permanent artwork installation across the station overbridge. The experience extends beyond the station walls through a beautifully designed community story booklet and audio recordings of the poems, accessible by QR code, allowing visitors to read, listen and connect with the stories in different ways.

The project has created a lasting cultural legacy that celebrates local identity and railway heritage while transforming the station into a place of discovery and reflection. Passengers, residents and visitors now encounter a station that tells the story of its community, sparking conversations, strengthening pride in place and demonstrating how creativity can make the railway a more welcoming and meaningful part of everyday life.

“The new artwork at Bicester North is a wonderful example of the community coming together to enhance their local area.”

– Michael Stewart, Commercial & Strategy Director, Chiltern Railways



SCAN TO DOWNLOAD THE BOOKLET OR LISTEN TO THE AUDIO COLLECTION >



STRATEGIC
AIM:

3

Insight & Influence

Ensure youth and community voices effectively influence decision makers to make transport more accessible, supported by high quality research



EMBODY

The EMBODY project helped translate women's lived experiences into practical action by developing an immersive virtual reality (VR) training resource to support frontline rail staff in recognising, responding, and reporting incidents of violence and intimidation against women and girls (VIAWG). Working alongside women with lived experience, OxCRP ensured the training was shaped by real experiences rather than assumptions, giving staff the confidence to recognise, respond to and de-escalate incidents more effectively.

Women worked directly with the project team to test and refine realistic VR scenarios, helping to create training that reflects the challenges staff face every day and the support passengers need in moments of vulnerability. The result is an evidence-based resource that promotes early intervention, trauma-informed responses and greater confidence in supporting passengers safely.

62
women
with lived
experience

1
community
survey

4
VR scenario
development
workshops

"Just the power of a member of staff walking by is so disruptive for the offender, and so reassuring for the victim."

– workshop participant

By bringing together community voices, rail operators, policing and technology partners, EMBODY has created a practical tool with the potential to improve staff training across the rail industry. The project leaves a lasting legacy by helping make rail travel safer, more inclusive and more welcoming for women and girls, while demonstrating how community-led innovation can drive meaningful change.



SCAN
HERE TO
READ THE
REPORT >



On Track for Inclusive Train Travel

Many disabled people continue to face avoidable barriers when travelling by rail, despite widespread disability awareness training across the sector. Research undertaken through the On Track Discovery Phase found that 82% of disabled respondents had experienced difficulties when travelling by train, while 32% had chosen not to travel because they did not expect their accessibility needs to be met.

3
core research
questions
analysed

133
disabled
passengers
engaged

27
rail-sector
professionals
contributed

Funded by the Motability Foundation, the project brought together disabled passengers, rail staff and industry stakeholders through surveys, interviews, focus groups and sector-wide evidence review to better understand what shapes real-world rail experiences.

Training alone won't deliver inclusive train travel. In partnership with Community Rail Network, RNIB and Community Rail Lancashire, our research highlighted the need for reliable assistance, accessible information and stronger systems across the rail network.

Key Findings and Lasting Impact

Passenger experience is influenced as much by systems and culture as by staff training. The research identified

five areas that have the greatest potential to improve accessibility outcomes:

- **Reliable assistance processes**
- **Adequate staffing and visibility**
- **Accessible information**
- **Effective handovers**
- **Feedback and continuous learning**

The project has provided a shared evidence base for future collaboration across the rail sector. By placing disabled people's lived experience at the centre of the research, it strengthens the case for co-design and highlights practical opportunities to improve assistance reliability, passenger confidence and inclusive journey experiences. The findings now provide a foundation for future pilots, innovation and sector-wide improvement.

The Challenge:	Learnings:	Impact:
82% experienced difficulties travelling by rail	Training alone is not enough	Better assistance reliability
32% avoided rail travel because accessibility needs may not be met	Systems and culture shape outcomes	Stronger co-design with disabled people
Lived experience evidence gathered across the sector	Small improvements across the whole journey matter	Future pilots & sector-wide improvement

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REPORT >



CrossCountry Access Panel

Many disabled passengers continue to face barriers when travelling by rail, particularly where journeys rely on Passenger Assistance, staff availability and clear communication. Understanding and addressing these challenges requires disabled people to be directly involved in shaping solutions.

The CrossCountry Access Panel brings together disabled passengers, accessibility specialists and rail industry colleagues to share lived experience and influence improvements across the customer journey. Alongside regular panel meetings and workshops, 15 Passenger Assistance Customer Experience Auditors completed 165 journey assessments covering approximately 16,500 miles across the CrossCountry network.

The programme provided CrossCountry with direct insight into how accessibility is experienced from booking assistance through to arrival. Feedback informed improvements to customer information, guidance for mobility aid users, accessibility communications and BSL provision, while helping identify opportunities to strengthen assistance handovers, luggage support and station experience.

“The CrossCountry Access Panel demonstrates the value of involving disabled individuals directly in shaping accessibility improvements. Supporting passengers to advocate for their own needs supports greater independence and assurance for all.”

– Bee Clark, GO CRP Access and Inclusion Programme Lead

Most importantly, the panel strengthened the role of disabled passengers in decision-making. By combining lived experience with operational insight, it created an ongoing feedback loop between passengers and rail industry colleagues, helping ensure future improvements are shaped by the people who use the railway every day.

Key Outcomes:



Vision 2225

Vision 2225 was developed to ensure young people had a meaningful role in conversations about the future of rail and public transport during the 200th anniversary of the modern railway. Building on insights from GOCR's Youth Transport Forum, the project supported young people to explore transport challenges and develop evidence-informed recommendations on topics including integrated ticketing, active travel, accessibility and travel confidence.

A key outcome of the project was the amplification of young people's voices beyond the workshops themselves. Participant recommendations were brought together in a report shared with transport, local authority and community stakeholders, helping ensure young people's perspectives were considered in ongoing transport discussions. The findings were

"It was so nice to be able to share our ideas with the expert panel. I felt empowered by the whole experience."

– Workshop participant, June 2025

913
young people
engaged
through
forum

16
university
student
researchers

11
attendees
at youth-led
workshops

also featured in Community Rail News and presented by youth representatives at the Youth Rail Promise launch in Parliament, creating opportunities for young people to share their priorities directly with decision-makers and industry leaders.



SCAN HERE TO READ THE REPORT >

Connected Futures: Phase 1

Young people leaving care often face additional barriers to accessing public transport, which can limit opportunities to reach education, employment, healthcare and leisure activities. Local evidence also identified low travel confidence, limited journey-planning skills, cost and reliance on taxis as barriers that restrict independence and access to work, education, healthcare and wellbeing. With 39% of care leavers supported by Oxfordshire County Council not being in education, employment or training (NEET), Connected Futures was developed to address these inequalities by creating an evidence-based programme shaped around the needs of care leavers.

Phase one focused on understanding the context and these barriers. Working with consultants Shared Intelligence, we completed a literature review, interviewed key stakeholders and developed an evaluation framework to shape the programme and measure its impact. These findings directly informed phase two, which will deliver a three-stage intervention comprising co-designed travel planning workshops, supported rail journeys to employment, wellbeing and leisure destinations, and reflective follow up sessions.



The research completed this year has already created lasting value. By ensuring the programme is grounded in local evidence, Connected Futures is better positioned to deliver meaningful improvements in travel confidence, independence and access to opportunities, while providing a framework to demonstrate its future impact.

Greater Henley Feasibility Study

Preparing for the Future of Community Rail

The study explored how community rail could support emerging transport priorities across the Henley Branch Line and Didcot to Reading corridor as Local Government Reorganisation, devolution and rail reform reshape the way transport is planned and delivered.

Drawing on extensive stakeholder engagement, community consultation and socio-economic analysis, the study identified a strategic case for expanding the Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership's reach beyond its existing footprint. The research found clear alignment between local needs and OxCRP's proven ability to improve accessibility, strengthen community voice, support sustainable travel and connect communities with decision-makers.

29
stakeholders
engaged

206
community
survey
responses

43
residents
directly
engaged

The findings demonstrated how an expanded partnership could support integrated transport, improve access to employment, education and services, strengthen visitor economies and increase social value across a wider area.

The study has provided a clear evidence base for future conversations with local authorities, rail partners and strategic bodies, ensuring OxCRP is well placed to respond to changing governance arrangements and contribute to the future development of transport across Oxfordshire and the wider Thames Valley.



STRATEGIC
AIM:

4

Visibility & Reach

Increase awareness of community rail and strengthen recognition and engagement with communities, partners and decision-makers.





This year, our communications have helped strengthen OxCRP's brand, sharpen our messaging and demonstrate our impact. By showcasing project impact stories across events, webinars, conferences, press and podcasts, we reached new audiences, amplified community voices and showed how community rail creates positive change every day.

Community Rail Week

We were delighted to host the national launch event for Community Rail Week. With representatives from across government, the rail industry, and our valued community partners, we came together to raise awareness of the impact CRPs across the country have and celebrate the partnerships that make community rail possible.

Podcasting

This year marked our first ever podcast appearance. Together, Bee Clark and Alayne McDonald joined Mima to talk about inclusive design. Reflecting on our work in access and inclusion and station calm space design, OxCRP raised awareness of how inclusive person-centred design can create safer, more welcoming and empowering journeys for all.

"The series connects transport, public infrastructure, and destinations, discussing practical insights and examples – like OxCRP's brilliant work on station calm space design - that push project boundaries and drive real-world change. By translating lived experience and research into shared, open-source knowledge, the Podcast acts as an accessible reference tool for project teams moving beyond basic compliance toward genuinely empowering environments."

– Rachel Berner, Marketing Manager, Mima

WHO ARE WE DESIGNING FOR? RETHINKING PASSENGER EXPERIENCE FOR DIVERSE REQUIREMENTS



BEE CLARK



ALAYNE MCDONALD



Re:Design Podcast by MIMA

LISTEN NOW!

LISTEN TO THE
PODCAST HERE >



Conferences and Webinars

We took our learning and insights beyond Oxfordshire through Community Rail Network webinars and industry conferences, sharing examples of our work across access, inclusion, station design, safety and community engagement. These opportunities enabled us to share good practice, influence industry thinking and strengthen OxCRP's profile as a leading voice for inclusive, community-led activity.



“Opportunities to share our insights and showcase our impact are invaluable. We are incredibly grateful for every invitation to be part of these conversations, which create space for collaboration and new ideas.”

– Alayne McDonald, GOCR Community Rail Development Manager

Social Media and Press Insights

Raising awareness of community rail, sustainable travel and community-led transport remains central to our work. Throughout the year, we shared project outcomes, travel resources and community stories, working with partners to expand our reach and engage new audiences.

Across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, follower numbers increased, with LinkedIn seeing the strongest



growth at 83%. Our content generated more than 623,000 impressions, an increase of 39% year-on-year.

Posts that put people and community impact at the centre resonate most for our audiences – from improving accessibility and launching new community resources, to celebrating partnerships, introducing team members and showcasing projects.

Our work also gained strong coverage beyond our own channels, with 34 press publications featuring OxCRP throughout the year. Coverage across outlets including the Oxford Mail, BBC and Rail Business Daily helped us reach wider audiences and raise awareness of the positive impact of community rail across Oxfordshire and beyond.

Our digital growth hasn't happened by chance. It's the result of a clear strategy, strong collaboration with our partners and a commitment to continually learning from what works. Together, these have helped us reach new audiences and communicate the impact of community rail more effectively.

623.96
impressions
(+39.08%)

1,199
followers
(+53%)

387
posts
published
(+33%)

Note: Percentages show change compared with 2024/25

OxCRP Core Delivery Team



Hannah McDonnell
Executive Director



Lisa Breingan
Administrator



Daisy Chapman
Chamberlain
Chair, OxCRP Steering Group



Bee Clark
Access & Inclusion
Programme Lead



Alayne McDonald
Community Rail Development Manager



Maison Moon
Youth Engagement & Insight Lead



Amy Russell
Community Rail Development Officer

This year has demonstrated the power of a small team united by a shared purpose and values. As Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership has grown, so has the depth and breadth of expertise within the team. By bringing together strengths in community engagement, accessibility and inclusion, youth voice, research and insight, partnership development and strategic leadership, we have been able to deliver greater impact than any one individual could achieve alone.

Throughout the year, we have also developed a new strategic framework to guide our future direction. It reflects what matters most to us as an organisation: being community-centred, equitable, acting with integrity, and remaining bold and brave in how we respond to challenges

and opportunities. These values are more than words on a page. They shape how we work with communities, how we build partnerships, how we use evidence and insight, and how we seek to create meaningful and lasting change.

“Our greatest strength is our people. Through combining diverse skills, shared values and continual learning, we’ve been able to turn community insight into action and create positive change.”

– Hannah McDonnell, Executive Director

Non-Executive Directors



Kevin Harris
Chair,
GOCRP CIC



Neil Bradbury



Olivia Dickinson



Polly Gannaway-Pitts



Rachel Geliamassi



Olubukunmi Olukoya



Odis Palmer

Our Board plays a vital role in guiding the organisation through a period of growth and change. Bringing together expertise from business, accessibility and inclusion, youth representation, rail, customer service, governance, sustainability and public service, Board members provide both strategic support and constructive challenge, helping ensure that GO Community Rail Partnership remains ambitious, accountable and focused on impact.

This year has seen continued progress in strengthening organisational resilience, securing longer-term funding and developing a clear strategic framework for the future. Through the development of our Strategic Framework, Theory of Change and monitoring and evaluation framework, we have worked to strengthen the relationship

between the Board and staff team, creating greater clarity around the change we are seeking to achieve and how we measure our impact. This shared approach has helped ensure governance, strategy and delivery are more closely aligned, providing stronger foundations for the future.

The Board's leadership, commitment and belief in the value of community-led transport have been instrumental in helping us build a more resilient organisation, strengthen accountability and support long-term planning across Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

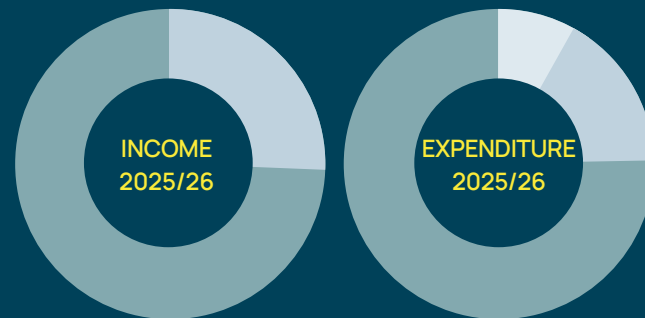
FINANCE

Now in its third year, Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnership has continued to strengthen its role as a trusted partner for communities, the rail industry and local government across the county. Operating under the governance of GO Community Rail Partnership CIC, OxCRP benefits from shared infrastructure and strategic oversight while maintaining a strong local focus.

This year, total income increased to £302,069, representing a 77% increase on the previous year. This growth reflects the confidence placed in OxCRP by funders, partners and stakeholders, enabling us to expand our reach, increase programme delivery and invest in long-term impact across Oxfordshire. Through a combination of core contributions and project funding, we have delivered initiatives that improve access to opportunity, strengthen communities and promote sustainable travel. With strong financial stewardship and a growing portfolio of partnerships, OxCRP enters 2026/27 in a position of stability and opportunity.

Our Social Impact value

Our work continues to generate significant social value. According to Community Rail Network's social



- Core funding: £77,000
- Project Funding: £225,069
- Overheads: £30,000
- BAU Activities: £43,000
- Programme Delivery: £225,069

value research, community rail delivers an average of £17.89 in social value for every £1 invested. Applying this methodology to OxCRP's 2025/26 income of £302,069 equates to an estimated £5.4 million in social value. Across both Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire Community Rail Partnerships, combined income of £537,793 generates an estimated £9.6 million in social value, demonstrating the significant social, economic and environmental benefits created through community-led transport initiatives.

TOTAL OXCRP SOCIAL IMPACT VALUE:

£5.4 MILLION

Thank you to our partners

OxCRP links community, public and private sector organisations through partnership working



GET IN TOUCH

Email us at: info@oxcrp.org.uk
or visit our website at: oxcrp.org.uk

OxCRP would like to thank our core funders, Great Western Railway, CrossCountry Trains, Chiltern Railways, and Oxfordshire County Council as well as the many partners that have pledged time, effort and project-based funding.

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Oxfordshire CRP is part of GO Community Rail Partnership CIC
Company number: 12556197