

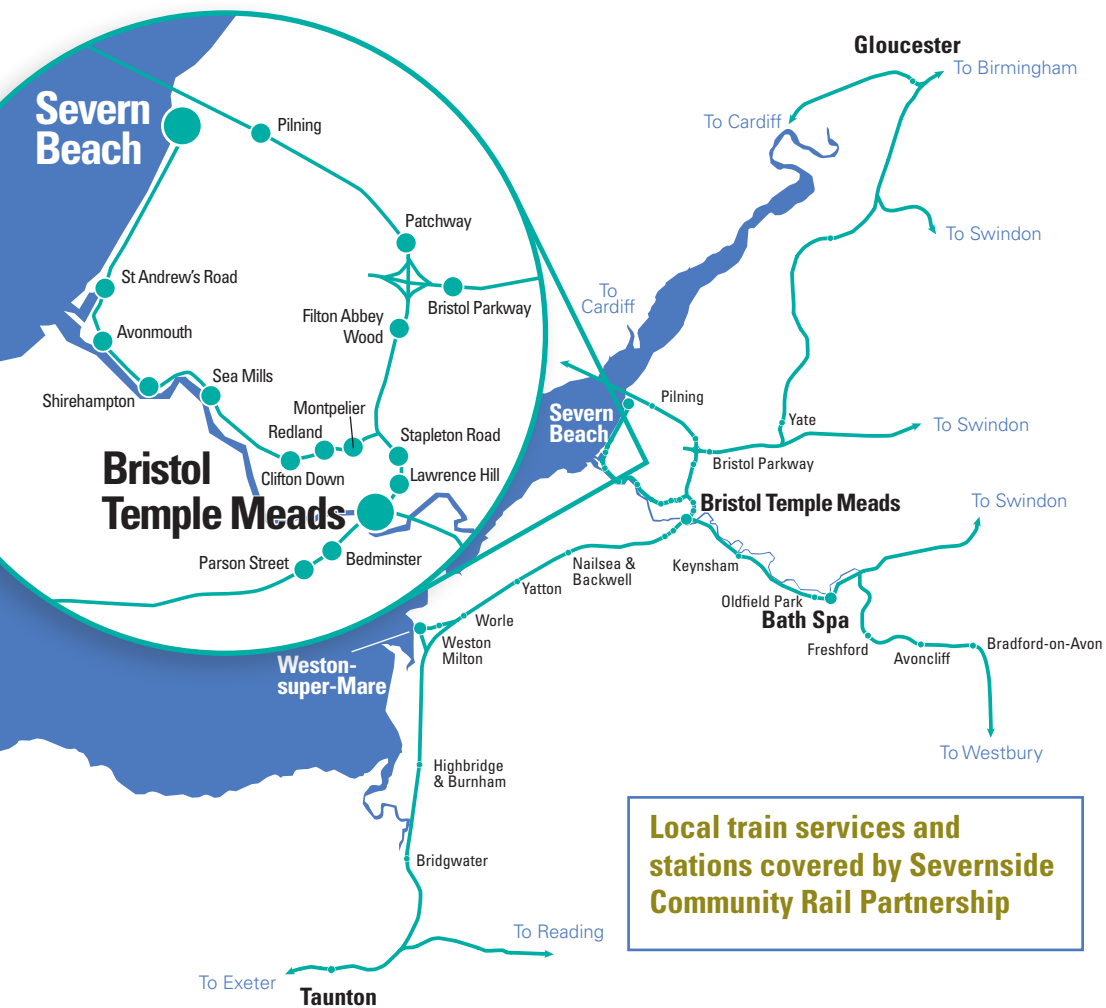


Progress Report

Linking local communities with the rail industry



Published February 2021



Local train services and stations covered by Severnside Community Rail Partnership

Cover Photograph: passengers wear face coverings carrying the design of a local station mural



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Welcome to the Severnside Community Rail Partnership Progress Report for 2020

Throughout most of 2020, we have lived with COVID-19. Like all other organisations, the Partnership has had to rapidly adjust to change, in what we do, and how we develop and deliver our activities. We now work from home.

Social distancing, lockdowns, bans on other than essential use of trains, and restrictions on the number of volunteers at stations, have all considerably reduced and challenged our traditional community rail activity. Despite the problems, the Partnership is still strong and active - this Report shows our main achievements in 2020.

During 2021 we look forward - with your support - to be able to meet face-to-face and work with our communities, volunteers and partners; to restore our promotion of local train services, to re-start events on trains and healthy walks from stations. As always, we welcome innovative and creative ideas for new community rail projects. Encouraging visitors to the region and supporting the small businesses and social enterprises on and around local stations to recover their trade will be a key focus over the months ahead.

Following a change to our boundaries, we welcome Avoncliff, Bradford-on-Avon, and Freshford communities and stations to the Partnership.

We were among the first Community Rail Partnerships to receive formal Accreditation from the Department for Transport. Accreditation provides assurance to others, including potential funders and partners,

that the CRP operates to high standards of governance and financial propriety; adopts a collaborative approach; is worthy of trust by others; is a suitable entity for receiving public funds; and is a good representative of the local community.

As well as station-based schemes, our emphasis is also on improving social inclusivity and access to the local railway, promoting sustainable healthy travel and social and economic development. Where possible, the Partnership facilitates visits and events for communities who might not be familiar or feel confident with using the rail service.

The Partnership is a Community Interest Company. Our running costs receive significant funding by way of grants from Great Western Railway, Cross Country Trains and local authorities. Without their support and encouragement, we could not operate and deliver the considerable benefits which are being achieved. Under recent Great Western and Cross Country Franchise Agreements, there has been a much welcomed increase in funding for Community Rail projects; this is supplemented by bids for specific grants from local authority and other sources.

I am very grateful for strong support from Heather Cullimore, the Partnership's Manager; from Ro James, our Volunteer Co-ordinator and Faye Keane our Art Co-ordinator, together with our station volunteers and Board Members - all of whom are essential to delivering our work.

Keith Walton, Chairman

Adapting & Keeping Connected during 2020

Supporting Young People through Lockdown

When the country entered the first national lockdown in March, the Partnership was developing a programme to encourage young people from the more disadvantaged communities across the region to try new forms of sustainable, active travel. Conscious that it may be some time before any practical elements of the programme could be delivered, a generous funding contribution from Cross County Trains was re-allocated directly to three charities supporting young people and their families across the region – Young Gloucestershire, Young Bristol and Young Somerset. Funding provided wi-fi and internet services to enable families to connect with home learning and support; arts and sports activity packs, plus additional youth support workers assigned to engage with young people whose situation made complying with lockdown restrictions particularly difficult.

Travelling Back to School Safely

To help reduce the spread of Covid-19, students returning to school in September were required to carry a few new essential items in addition to the usual pencil case and calculator. The Partnership was able to ensure those travelling by train were equipped with the resources to do so safely by providing special packs containing two washable face masks, a bottle of hand sanitizer, a copy of the GWR Safe Travel Pledge and safety advice from British Transport

Police, Network Rail and Crimestoppers Fearless Campaign. 500 packs were distributed to students travelling to school from stations across each of the local authority areas the Partnership covers.

Food Growing and Sharing from Avonmouth Station

During the past two years, Incredible Edible Bristol, with funding support from GWR, has carefully developed the Secret Garden Food Growing Project on platform 1 into a unique outdoor learning space with an ethos of caring, sharing and empowerment. When lockdown began, scheduled 'Wellbeing Wednesday' sessions were immediately adapted to concentrate on growing produce; this continues to be harvested and distributed to members of the community most in need of a supply of fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs. With support from the Avonmouth Community Centre and local volunteers, boxes were initially delivered directly to the doorsteps of appreciative residents. Once the Community Centre was able to re-open, produce grown at the station became ingredients of the exceptionally tasty soup which Chef Mike makes available during certain weekday lunch times.





Students carry their back-to-school safety packs

Adapting & Keeping Connected during 2020

Face Coverings Bristol Fashion



Face masks to match the local art

During June it became compulsory to wear face coverings on public transport. To encourage passengers to comply with this regulation, the Partnership launched a set of specially designed facemasks featuring extracts from four of the iconic murals seen at stations along the Severn Beach line – Stapleton Road by Bill Guilding, Montpelier by Silent Hobo, Redland by Dave Bain and Avonmouth by Zoe Power and Avonmouth by Rob Wheeler. Produced with funding support from the Community Rail Network and GWR, face coverings are available via the Partnership’s website, with voluntary donations welcomed towards future projects to support communities across the region.

Supporting Volunteers

The Partnership is grateful to the committed volunteers who care for their adopted stations, with many involving themselves in wider community rail events and initiatives. Despite restrictions, the number of volunteers has increased this year and we are delighted to welcome a new station adoption group for St

Andrew’s Road, providing overlap with the SevernNet social enterprise. Volunteers have been connected via welfare calls, monthly newsletters, virtual workshops and social meets over Zoom. Time was allocated to engaging with the vast student population across the region, and plans are afoot for some innovative student partnerships throughout 2021.



Zoom meetings continue to keep us in touch

CCTV Installed at Local Stations

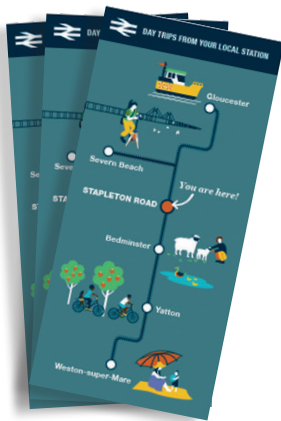
Avonmouth and Severn Beach stations now have the added security benefit of comprehensive CCTV camera coverage, delivered via a funding package initiated by the Partnership with contributions from the Community Rail Development Fund, GWR, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council. A further stage of enhancements to these stations is progressing, with the SevernNet and Sustrans Ride and Stride project undertaking a feasibility study looking at options for new cycle parking facilities.

Community Payback

Having had a successful Partnership with the Community Payback unpaid work scheme since 2006, we were pleased to facilitate a small Payback project at Nailsea and Backwell station during the autumn. Over the course of four weeks, overgrown vegetation on the approach to platform 2 was removed, prior to a local gardening group planting shrubs and bushes in spring 2021.

Resources to Encourage Future Travel

While we look forward to encouraging passengers back to rail once the time is right to do so, new promotional resources have been developed including more 'Days Out from Local Station' guides and walking maps designed to discover routes radiating from Bradford-on-Avon, Severn Beach and Yatton stations.



Leaflets promoting days out from local stations

Award Success



Several projects from across our region featured among the shortlisted entries in the 2020 Community Rail Awards. We are delighted that during the impressive online event, 'Track Record – The Soundtrack to the Severn Beach line' was announced winner of the Community Art Smaller Schemes category, while The Secret Garden at Avonmouth Station was a runner up in the Influencing Positive Change category.

The Friends of Parson Street and Yatton stations also deservedly featured in the shortlists.



Community Art at Stapleton Road Station



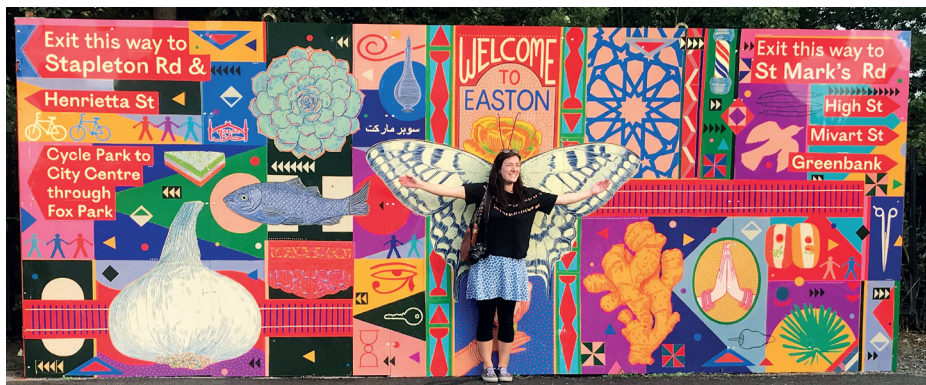
Collective artists 'Peace of Art' in front of their mural

Three vibrant new art works were unveiled at the gateway to Stapleton Road station. Each is the creation by women living in the local neighbourhood, putting a spotlight on both established and emerging talent in the Easton District of the City.

The art schemes kickstart further planned improvements to an area of Network Rail land between the St Mark's Road and Stapleton Road

entrances to the station. The project is funded by Bristol City Council Community Instructure Levy grant.

The old gates at the Stapleton Road entrance have been replaced with a bespoke design by blacksmith Mary Reynolds, making an attractive, welcoming arrival for pedestrians entering the busy thoroughfare. Creating delicate mandala patterns to complement the adjacent 'Peace of Art'



Anna Higgle's colourful design - incorporates direction signing and a photo opportunity

mural, Mary has also incorporated an element of train tracks into her fun design.

The wall to the left of the gates has been transformed by 'Peace of Art' who are a collective of artists based at Baggator, a project dedicated to citizen empowerment in Easton. In line with the ethos of Baggator, their hand painted mural carries mandalas expressing unity, equality, and diversity. The group has been developing their creative skills for some time, but this is their first large scale public commission. On the basis of the superb quality of the mural it is likely to be the first of many.

Further into the station, a shipping container once covered in graffiti has received a complete make over by

Anna Higgle. The eye-catching design provides sign-posting for passengers arriving by train to the plethora of independent shops, cafes and places of interest along St Marks Road and Stapleton Road. Anna has incorporated imagery and shapes found in the landscape around the station and local area into her design. The centrepiece, a beautiful butterfly, provides the perfect photo opportunity for those who like to record their outings on social media platforms.

A steering group comprising of representatives from the rail industry, local councillors and members of the communities surrounding the station selected the artists and helped to choose the final designs.



The new gates by Mary Reynolds create a bright welcome for passengers

Friends of Parson Street Station

The Severnside Community Rail Partnership is proud to support station adoption groups across the region who form part of a family of over 1,000 groups nationwide caring for their stations on a voluntary basis. Adopters ensure their stations provide an attractive, fit for purpose gateway to their local communities. This is typically achieved through planting and art schemes, linking with wider community events, and by volunteers becoming the 'eyes and ears' of their local station.

One of the more recently formed station adoption groups is the Friends of Parson Street Station, a dedicated team of volunteers living close to the station, and who are collectively involved with a number of local community initiatives. In just a short period of time the group has made great strides. Under a grant from the GWR Customer and Communities Improvement Fund, new planters have been installed at street level and these, along with existing platform level planters, are tended throughout the seasons to provide a combination of cheerful flowers and some edible produce. An impressive heritage board has been unveiled, station lighting improved and new signage installed directing passengers to the nearby Ashton Gate stadium.

At the beginning of 2020 the Friends of Parson Street station started working with Monica Wills House, a local residential care home, and Parson Street Primary School on the 'Secret Gardens' intergenerational project. Although the project plan was stalled when lockdown started, they kept a new version going

by working individually and from a distance with the residential home, and by finding local foster families for the majority of the plants. This enabled some community grown plants to reach the platform planters. Sadly, events of 2020 meant they could not bring the generations together as intended, nor involve the community in the planting exercise, however it is hoped this can become a reality in the future.



Friends of Parson Street Station ready to start planting

There was cause for celebration when the efforts of the group were rewarded by reaching the shortlist for three categories of the 2020 Community Rail Awards; the Secret Gardens project in the small projects category, the heritage plaque in the Smaller and Renewable Art Schemes category and achieving a Bronze level in the 'It's Your Station Award'.



Shortlist

The group shares the aspiration of local rail stakeholders wishing to see the station become fully accessible to all passengers, and is a consultee in a feasibility study the West of England Combined Authority is currently undertaking into step free access to stations across their area.

Looking Ahead to our work in 2021

The Partnership welcomes suggestions from areas of work which fall within the four key pillars of the Community Rail Strategy.

Sevenside has developed initiatives to promote local rail travel - ready for when the time is appropriate.

Plans including an ambitious community art scheme across Network Rail property at Fox Park in Bristol (our largest art scheme to date), and a joint education scheme covering the Sevenside, Gloucestershire, TranWilts and Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership areas.

Many projects designed for delivery in 2020 were adapted to suit the on-line environment, but elements of some had to be paused once pandemic related restrictions were announced; we hope these will be deliverable over the next twelve months.

Subject to restrictions and the confirmation of funding, our plans for the year ahead include:

Providing a Voice for the Community

- Attending meetings of local rail user groups, transport forums and wider community organisations. Feeding into rail industry and other community transport providers.

- Listening to young people engaging in our education programmes, sharing their thoughts and ideas with rail industry partners and wider travel providers.

Promoting Sustainable Healthy and Accessible Travel

- Expanding the range of Days Out by Train promotional leaflets.
- Launching a new set of Walks from the Railway leaflets.
- Sponsoring enhanced cycle facilities to be delivered in collaboration with the Severn Ride and Stride project, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council.
- Engaging young people in North Somerset to create a film promoting sustainable, healthy travel.
- Completing on-going environmental improvements at Stapleton Road station.
- Developing new links with disability and passenger groups, with a pilot scheme focusing on Nailsea and Backwell station.

Bringing Communities together, Supporting Diversity and Inclusion

- Supporting existing and new station adopters with their station-based activities and by linking to wider community events and initiatives.
- Promoting rail as a means of reaching the diverse range of cultural events taking place within walking distance of local stations across the region.
- Hosting special events on trains and virtually, designed to introduce communities less familiar with using rail travel to their local service.
- Converting a room at Bridgwater station to be available for use by the wider community.
- Creating new community designed murals at Filton Abbey Wood, Nailsea and Backwell and Highbridge and Burnham stations.
- Expanding the food growing partnership with Incredible Edible Bristol with a programme of teaching and learning events in the 'Secret Garden' at Avonmouth station.



The Secret Garden at Avonmouth station

Supporting Social and Economic Development

- Monitoring the effect of timetables and identifying opportunities as new travel patterns emerge.
- Promoting visits by rail to the region including a presence at the Community Rail in the City event.
- Promoting small businesses at social enterprises on and around local stations, including the Strawberry Line Café and Cycle Hire at Yatton station, The Coffee Girl at Bradford-on-Avon station and the Choo Choo Café at Weston-super-Mare station.



The Strawberry Line Cycle Hire at Yatton Station



The Coffee Girl at Bradford-on-Avon station

Passenger Statistics

Passengers using West of England area local stations on weekdays

Station	2007	2016	2017
Yate	694	1446	1400
Patchway	139	344	410
Filton Abbey Wood	1958	4764	4707

Bedminster	156	250	356
Parson Street	108	528	550
Nailsea and Backwell	1315	2015	1970
Yatton	1192	1494	1797
Worle	841	1650	1677
Weston Milton	261	407	*407
Weston-s-Mare	2279	2828	3066

Keynsham	839	1679	1654
Oldfield Park	841	1457	1301
Freshford	89	167	162

Severn Beach	135	355	347
St Andrews Road	30	79	81
Avonmouth	218	728	695
Shirehampton	86	481	447
Sea Mills	121	371	349
Clifton Down	500	2111	2016
Redland	264	661	559
Montpelier	253	1138	1043
Stapleton Road sb	326	877	973
Lawrence Hill sb	263	870	785
Temple Meads sb	649	2589	2473

Severn Beach line trains total	2845	10260	9768
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Stapleton Road nsb	91	503	618
Lawrence Hill nsb	49	608	613

Stations - Temple Meads - Severn Beach: all trains	2985	11371	10999
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Notes: the figures above are taken from the November weekday count, which was undertaken annually by the West of England local authorities until 2017, and is a one-day snapshot of the total number of passengers both boarding and alighting at the station on the day of the count. No more recent full local authority counts have been carried out.

nsb = not Severn Beach line passengers

sb = Severn Beach line passengers

* = fault with camera - previous year figures used

Office of Rail and Road annual station usage statistics

West of England	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Avonmouth	123,932	107,752	127,142
Bath Spa	6,395,694	6,538,056	6,432,812
Bedminster	91,822	95,466	104,050
Bristol Parkway	2,324,808	2,208,904	2,371,812
Bristol Temple Meads	11,350,146	11,367,652	11,619,360
Clifton Down	692,122	628,888	727,774
Filton Abbey Wood	1,047,756	901,972	976,150
Freshford	44,732	53,368	55,454
Keynsham	454,164	511,642	532,966
Lawrence Hill	151,626	148,606	190,118
Montpelier	102,004	94,684	129,556
Nailsea & Backwell	507,296	497,878	519,574
Oldfield Park	305,390	322,654	359,846
Parson Street	138,996	149,700	173,832
Patchway	110,632	104,078	91,158
Pilning	478	458	710
Redland	88,876	88,338	120,642
Sea Mills	54,484	52,630	58,204
Severn Beach	292,044	251,994	301,154
Shirehampton	48,700	47,234	55,518
St Andrew's Road	5,516	4,724	5,728
Stapleton Road	179,780	168,674	205,224
Weston Milton	71,900	82,722	79,060
Weston-Super-Mare	1,145,068	1,160,960	1,159,564
Worle	322,548	319,048	328,598
Yate	385,182	341,994	341,800
Yatton	469,210	476,586	500,316
Total - West of England	26,904,906	26,726,662	27,568,122

Note: The Severn Beach line has zonal fares, so individual station recorded figures may not be correct. Figures above are from ORR station usage, based on ticket sales allocated LENNON data.

Wiltshire (selected)			
Avoncliff	20,519	24,396	23,448
Bradford-On-Avon	525,968	534,086	550,720
Chippenham	1,890,896	1,972,350	1,937,240
Trowbridge	930,134	933,894	917,458
Westbury	569,372	548,720	557,756

Somerset (selected)			
Bridgwater	346,450	365,788	363,828
Highbridge & Burnham	207,186	205,232	212,650
Taunton	1,460,750	1,531,416	1,585,206

Gloucestershire (selected)			
Cam & Dursley	188,918	191,426	225,792
Cheltenham Spa	2,400,434	2,485,720	2,590,718
Gloucester	1,477,988	1,551,632	1,546,910

Passengers using local/regional trains in the West of England

Calendar year	2018	2019	2020
Cardiff - Bristol - Westbury - Portsmouth/Weymouth	9,168,877	9,564,988	3,989,123
Bristol - Severn Beach	1,162,382	1,407,102	703,746
Bristol - Weston-super-Mare - Taunton	2,105,112	2,207,569	1,029,249
Bristol - Gloucester - Great Malvern	1,457,673	1,529,081	647,420
Total West of England Local/regional journeys	13,894,044	14,708,740	6,369,538

These figures are from GWR ticket sales allocated LENNON data and include only GWR journeys. Some journeys made for example on Rover tickets or employee passes, or on substitute buses, may not have been recorded. So the figures may underscore the total journeys, but this is unlikely to be significant. The figures for 2020 reflect the considerably reduced number of passengers due to Covid-19.

Accounts and Financial Statement

Year ended 31 March 2020 - Balance Sheet

	£ 2020	£ 2019
Fixed Assets		
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	144,791	72,097
	144,791	72,097
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within one year	(1,142)	(43,374)
Net Assets	143,649	28,723
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	143,649	28,723
Represented By:		
Income and expenditure account	143,649	28,723

Year ended 31 March 2020 - Profit and Loss Account

	£ 2020	£ 2019
Turnover	245,348	134,309
Administration Expense	(130,996)	(139,204)
Operating Profit / (Loss)	114,352	(4,895)
Interest Receivable	574	49
Profit / (Loss) on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	114,926	(4,846)
Corporation Tax	-	-
Retained Profit Brought Forward	28,723	33,569
Balance Carried Forward	143,649	28,723

The Company has no recognised gains or losses other than the profit/loss for the above financial period. None of the Company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above financial period.

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities: The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements were approved by the directors on 2 December 2020.

Sevenside Community Rail Partnership

Year ended 31 March 2020 - Income and Expenditure information

Income	£ Restricted	£ Unrestricted	£ Total 2020	£ Total 2019
Membership contributions from Partners	-	55,000	55,000	50,000
Cross Country Grant	3,277	10,000	13,277	22,628
GWR Project Grant	23,050	12,948	35,998	44,400
South Gloucestershire Council Project Grant	9,219	-	9,219	12,659
Somerset Council Project Grant	-	1,500	1,500	1,500
Bristol City Council Project Grant	127,500	-	127,500	-
UWE funding	625	-	625	-
Bank Interest	-	574	574	49
Miscellaneous	2,229	-	2,229	3,122
	165,900	80,022	245,922	134,358
Expenditure				
Insurance	-	574	574	563
Travel & Subsistence	-	154	154	834
Stationery	-	215	215	236
Payroll fees	-	749	749	597
Staff Expenses	1,779	-	1,779	-
Salaries	-	45,664	45,664	39,484
HM Revenue & Customs Miscellaneous	-	11,280	11,280	10,868
Miscellaneous	8,326	1,106	9,432	4,642
Telephone/IT	51	4,918	4,969	2,237
Postage	-	-	-	47
Meetings/Events/Research	2,564	158	2,722	183
Accountancy/Audit	-	1,042	1,042	779
Rent	-	7,596	7,596	6,643
School Visits	503	-	503	82
Repayment to GWR	(15,000)	-	(15,000)	(15,000)
Station Improvements				
Severn Beach line stations	18,895	-	18,895	6,914
Other Bristol local stations	1,060	-	1,060	1,883
Other South Glos' local stations	3,471	-	3,471	1,000
Bath and NE Somerset local stations	428	-	428	1,579
North Somerset stations	1,047	-	1,047	3,495
Somerset stations	126	-	126	300
Community Payback station support	240	-	240	-
Severn Beach	-	-	-	4,156
Stapleton Road	23,843	-	23,843	-
Other Work and Activities				
Temple Meads Signal Box Restoration	1,532	-	1,532	28,015
Other Projects and Community Activities	8,675	-	8,675	9,667
	57,540	73,456	130,996	139,204
Surplus/Deficit For The Year				
	108,360	6,566	114,926	(4,846)
Balance brought forward	1,404	27,319	28,723	33,569
Balance at 31 March 2020	109,764	33,885	143,649	28,723

Contributions in kind: we are grateful for travel passes provided by Great Western Railway and Cross Country Trains, which are not included above.

SEVERNSIDE

Community Rail Partnership

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Our principal funders and sponsors



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