



Association of Community Rail Partnerships

**Community Rail Development –  
Ten Years on**

**Plymouth**

**3 September 2014**

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***ACoRP and ALRUG***

# Early Days in Devon



# Community Rail Development Strategy 2004



# Strategic Objectives

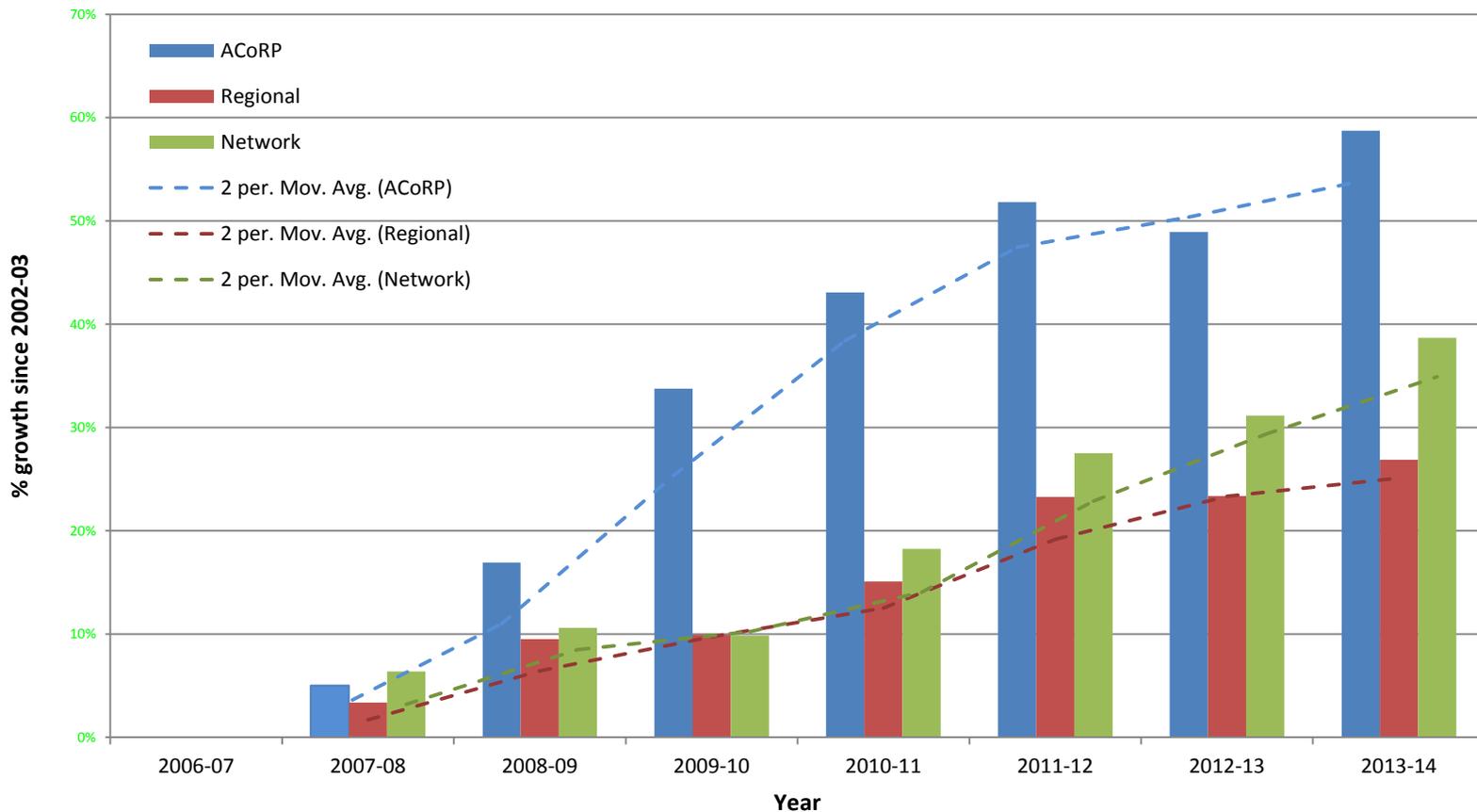
- Increasing revenue
- Reducing costs
- Greater community involvement
- Economic development

# Passenger growth



# Outperforming National & Regional

*% growth since 2006/07*  
All Designated Community Rail Lines ('ACoRP') / Regional / Network



# Costs

- Run on a shoestring
- Intractable cost and revenue allocation problems
- Sharing overheads
- Operating ratio improvements
- Some savings possible through designation
- Principle cost in renewals or formation failures

# Significant cost in renewals



# Volunteering



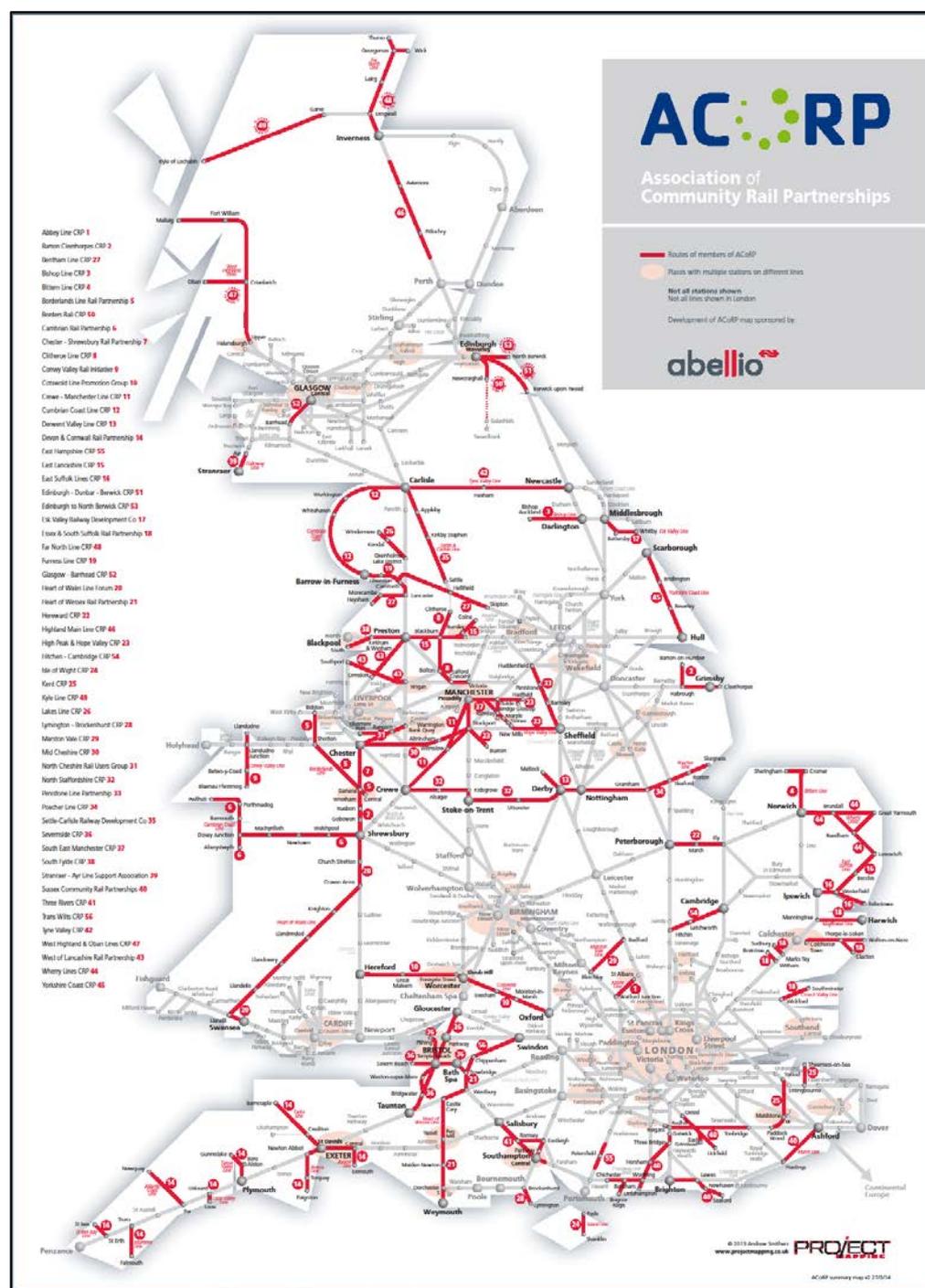
# Station Adoption



# What we have achieved

- Focus of attention
- Passenger growth
- Additional funding
- Transfer of responsibility to local people
- Development instead of genteel decline
- Credibility

- 43 community rail partnerships
- 77 community rail routes (36 Designated)
- Over 1,000 station adoption groups



# Innovation

## Harrington Hump

*A new, affordable and easy-to-install method of reducing step-heights without rebuilding the entire platform.*



## GPS Customer Information

*A cost-effective method of providing basic real-time CIS at rural stations using the mobile phone network.*

## Community Ticket Offices

*Enabling communities and SMEs to provide ticket and information services at smaller stations.*



Eaglescliffe



Chester-le-Street

# EU Funding



## Accrington eco-station

*A new station building using sustainable techniques and materials*



## ACoRP water tower

*Conversion of a listed building using sustainable techniques and materials*



## Citizen's Rail

*Developing local and regional railways in the UK, France, Germany and the Netherlands by involving the community. Northern's **Community Ambassadors** Scheme is part of this project*



# What we have learned

- Market bigger than expected
- Market more resilient than thought
- Delivering more with less
- Uncertainty of funding
- Lies, damned lies, statistics!
- Meeting expectations

# What is next?

- New franchise commitments
- Community Business Units
- Further passenger growth...  
...and no new trains
- Continuing pressure on costs
- Greater accountability
- Meeting wider Government objectives

# Community Rail

- Mobility for local and rural communities
- Access to employment, education, health and other facilities
- Social cohesion in dispersed communities
- Regeneration benefits to isolated areas
- Encouraging public transport
- Railway offers vfm and social benefit

# ACORP

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*“New life for local lines”*