



Fenny Stratford to Kempston

**Local Representative Groups (LRGs)
Round #1 Meetings**

Thursday 1 May 2025

Agenda

- 1 Housekeeping
- 2 Actions from the last meeting
- 3 Project updates
- 4 Revised groups
- 5 Terms of Reference & request to join LRG
- 6 NSC summary & Door to door – Ryan Robertson, Project Manager, MVL
- 7 Discussion, Q&A

Housekeeping

- In case of a fire, follow the EWR Co team to the muster point.
- Please use a name badge
- Before speaking for the first time, please introduce yourself with your full name and who you're representing
- A copy of the slides and notes will be available on the community hub following this meeting



Review of Actions From Previous Meeting

Completed actions

Action ID	Action detail	Outcome / Status
Action 1	EWR Co to provide job titles when sending out the notes of the meeting to attendees	Job titles were included in the meeting summary note, which is available on the community hub.
Action 2	EWR Co to circulate information about funding for information which is contained in the Technical Report of the non-statutory consultation documents.	A post-meeting clarification was included in the summary note, which is available on the community hub.
Action 3	EWR Co to assess LRG group attendees, checking if it is possible to invite Bletchley, Fenny, Bow Brickhill and Woburn Sands to the same meeting	Bletchley and Fenny Stratford, Bow Brickhill, and Woburn Sands Parish Councils are all part of the Fenny Stratford to Kempston LRG. A response has been provided in the webinar Q&A which is now published on the community hub.

Project Updates

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Multi-billion-pound investment secured as Universal theme park and resort set to be built in Bedford, bringing thousands of jobs

- We are engaging with Universal to determine the potential implications of the park for EWR's proposals and for the wider network.
- It has yet to be confirmed what the park/resort may mean for service levels on the MVL or for individual stations.
- We are committed to maintaining close contact with all involved parties including Universal, Network Rail and the Department for Transport to ensure accessibility and connectivity is a core element of the planning process.



Project Updates

Chiltern Railways announced as operator for the first stage of East West Rail.

The Transport Secretary has announced the operator for a new set of rail services along the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor.

- A total of 45 apprentice train drivers have been hired and trained by Chiltern Railways.
- Additional facilities for driver accommodation at Bletchley have been delivered where a new driver depot will be based.
- An additional 30 employees have been hired by Chiltern Railways to support the delivery of the project.

Chiltern Railways will launch services later this year which will connect Oxford, Oxford Parkway, Bicester, Winslow, Bletchley and Milton Keynes Central.



Project Updates – Ground Investigations

- Phase 1 ground investigations for East West Rail started in February and are well underway.
- It's expected to take around four or five months to complete.
- To find out important information about the soil, rock and groundwater; design EWR in a responsible and environmentally sustainable way; and reduce project costs, construction risks and land take.
- Work ranges from boreholes dug using a drilling rig (typically to a depth of 10m) to trial trenches dug using an excavator (typically to a depth of 5m).
- We are keeping MPs, local authorities and parish councils updated about when we will be in their area.
- A poster provides communities with a link to information on our website and contact details for queries.
- We're working hard to make sure any possible disturbance is kept to a minimum and our contractors follow robust health and safety procedures.
- Working hours are 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.



Work happening in your area

From February 2025 you may see our contractors in the area as we begin ground investigations for East West Rail (EWR). This work is crucial to help us understand the soil, rock and groundwater below the surface so that we can design the railway in a responsible and environmentally sustainable way.

The team will be adhering to robust health and safety procedures and will work hard to minimise any disruption to communities.

Find out more about the type of work happening at: eastwestrail.co.uk/GI2025

Get in touch

If you have any questions about ground investigations in your area, please contact a member of the EWR team:

✉ contact@eastwestrail.co.uk

📞 0330 134 0067

east west rail

Project Updates – Ground Investigations



Non-statutory consultation (NSC) next steps

- Feedback analysis is currently being carried out and being considered as part of design development, where possible.
- A **NSC summary document** is expected to be published mid-May and will provide a summary of how we delivered the consultation, who we heard from and the emerging themes from consultation feedback.
- Outcomes from how we have considered feedback in the design will form part of a **You Said, We Did** report published at statutory consultation.

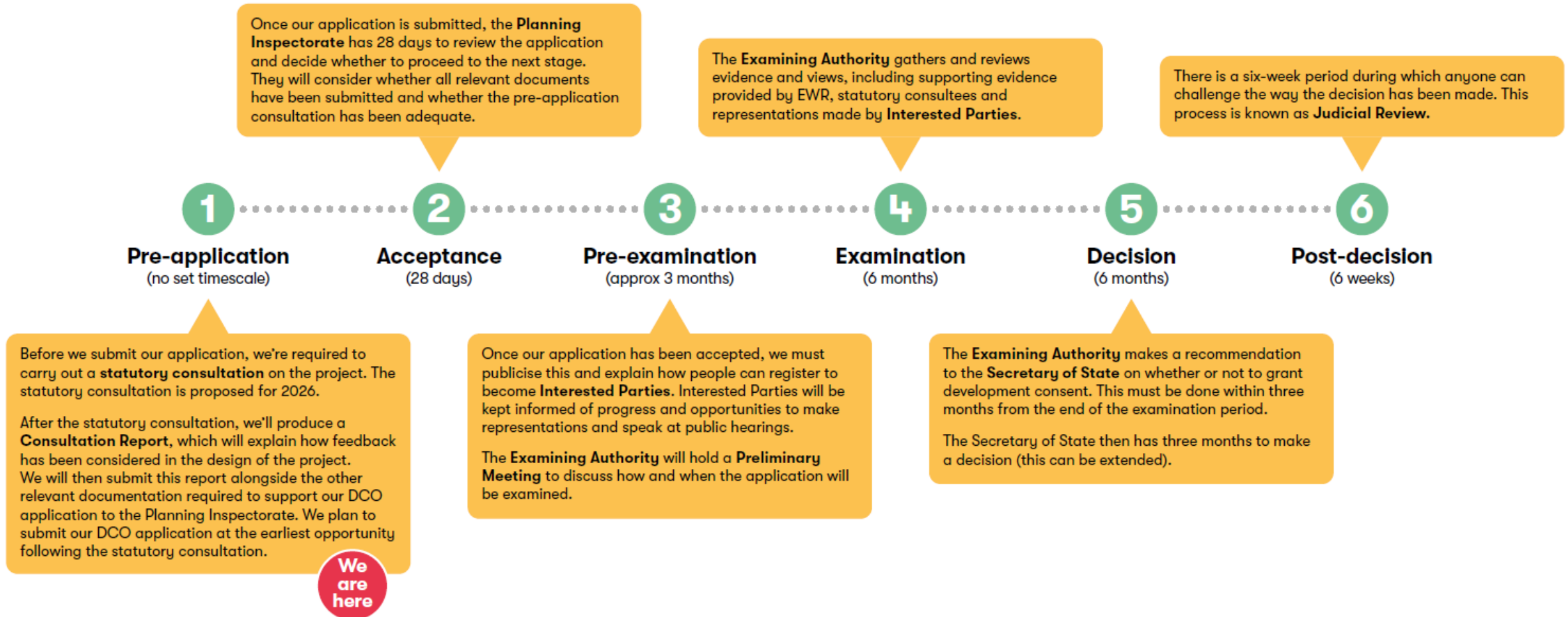


Project Updates – NSC3 Interim Update Document

We will be publishing the Non-Statutory Consultation 3 (NSC3) Interim Update Document in the coming weeks.

- This is a public-facing overview that updates stakeholders and the public about the facts of the consultation, providing a summary of how we delivered the consultation and who we heard from.
- The document is high-level, and it will not discuss outcomes or provide a response to the matters raised. This information will be provided in the You Said, We Did report published at statutory consultation.
- We will be giving you advance notice of the launch date, so you are informed of the update document going public.

The DCO Process: Timeline



Key Principles of the DCO Process

The DCO process is:

- Open and inclusive;
- Allows stakeholders to have their say at every stage;
- Procedurally driven; and
- Largely a written process.
- You can watch our previous deep dive on the DCO process [here](#).



Revised Groups

The logo for East West Rail, featuring the words "east" and "west" in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font, with "RAIL" in a smaller, uppercase sans-serif font below "west".

Terms of Reference

Terms of reference

What are Enhanced Local Representative Groups?

- As part of our commitment to effective community engagement and communication, we have recently restructured the LRGs to more closely reflect the section areas presented at the most recent consultation. As a result, there are now Enhanced LRGs and a Community LRG.
- The Enhanced LRGs are made up of those wards and parishes which fall within the red line boundary (the draft Order Limits) and will allow for more focused and effective communication and collaboration between EWR Co and local stakeholders.
- The Group will meet throughout the planning, building, and running of the new railway and will offer an open forum for discussions – a place to share information and have two-way conversations about any issues affecting the local community.
- EWR Co will listen and carefully consider all opinions and as well as answering questions, we will bring any supporting information that will help the conversation.

Who can join this Group?

- Parish and Town Councils – One representative from each Parish or Town Council.
- Local Authority Councillors – Representatives of the Wards and Electoral Divisions.
- EWR Co – We will provide relevant specialists and representatives to attend meetings. We will also open and close meetings and ensure they run effectively.
- We will also be keeping the following people informed about the Group and send them the agenda and other supporting materials
 - Members of Parliament (MPs)
 - Leaders of unitary councils/county councils/district councils
 - CEOs of unitary councils/county councils/district councils

How many Local Representative Groups are there?

- There are nine Enhanced Local Representatives Groups across the route, stretching from Oxford to Cambridge. You can find more information [here](#), including a map and the Parish and Ward Membership list.

Terms of reference

How often will we meet and through what format?

- The Group will meet four times a year. The frequency of additional meetings will be dependent on the topics and information needed to be discussed.
- Meetings will be held in-person where possible.
- Meetings will start at 5:30pm/6:00pm/7:00pm where possible.
- Dates will avoid public holidays, school holidays and half terms, as well as local elections or Council's meeting dates where possible.
- Meetings will start with standing items followed by more in-depth discussions on selected topics.

Who will manage the Group?

- East West Rail will provide administrative support. This will include organising meetings, providing agendas and materials, as well as compiling all meeting notes.

Is there a code of conduct?

- Yes, it is important that the Group always treat each other with courtesy and respect. We want everyone to be able to speak freely and honestly.
- We encourage all members to disclose any roles, employment, memberships or affiliations to other organisations, charities or groups that could result in a conflict of interest for them.
- Members should not act, in or out of the meetings, in a way which could disrupt the running of the Group— or restrict attendance by any members.
- If anyone does not follow these guidelines, they may be suspended from the Group or removed. This decision would not be taken lightly and would have to be agreed by the Group, or by the agreement of EWR Co.

How will any disputes be resolved?

- If an issue arises resulting in disrespectful behaviour, or if discussions are not making headway, the EWR Co Manager may call for the meeting to move on or end. They will then look to resolve any outstanding issues in another forum.

Where can I find information about the meetings?

- We will keep details of meetings on a dedicated section on our website— [Community Hub](#). There, you will find everything— including agendas, approved meeting notes and presentation materials for this Group and others.

NSC Summary, Discussion, Q&A

Issues currently being considered as part of the design

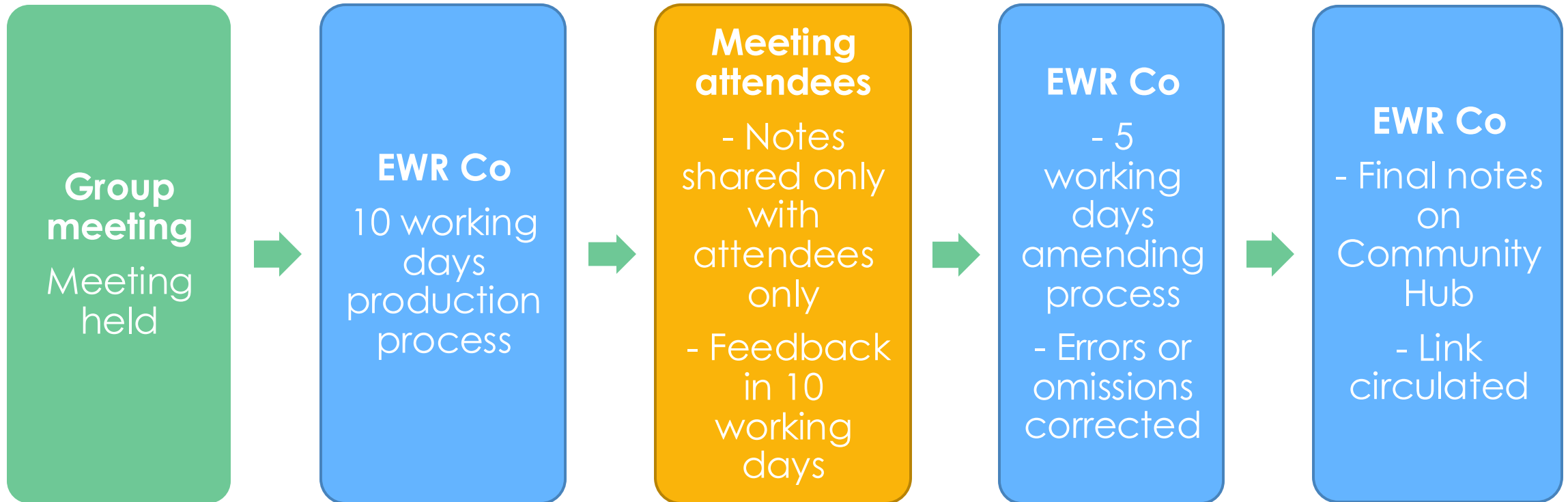
Example Theme	Example Feedback
Access to jobs and education / commuting: Negative impact	Stations need to remain close to schools and colleges.
Access to stations / Connectivity: Negative effect (MVL 2)	Reassurance that there will be reliable bus services to help customers get to and from new stations.
Active Travel opportunities:	Should stations close, there should be regular bus services which allow residents of the nearby villages to access the stations which are retained/relocated.
Business impacts: Positive or neutral effect (RS Option 2)	The protection of old station building which currently have thriving businesses should be considered when looking at the redevelopment of existing stations.
Connectivity (general): Negative effect	Additional parking at stations would be beneficial for those travelling by car.

Issues currently being considered as part of the design

Example Theme	Example Feedback
Diversions / diversion routes / traffic delays: Negative comment	Existing traffic use will require consideration in relation to construction traffic.
Environment & sustainability (general): Negative impact / no positive impact	Utilise existing stations and crossing arrangements with necessary upgrades while limiting environmental and amenity impact on surrounding areas.
Flood risk: Negative impact	Land within floodplain locations should be raised when balancing ponds are being considered. There should also be floodplain compensation/expansion elsewhere to ensure the overall capacity of a floodplain is not diminished.
Heritage assets: Negative impact	Please do not demolish existing, historic station buildings.
HGV / Construction traffic: Negative impact	Upgrade work should have minimal impact on the environment and traffic.

Door to door connectivity

Creating meeting summary notes





Thank you

www.eastwestrail.co.uk