East West Rail addresses questions from the public following route update proposals

East West Railway Company (EWR Co) is publishing a range of new assets that respond to people's key concerns and questions following the updated route proposals for East West Rail (EWR). These are available to view at eastwestrail.co.uk/proposed-route/routeupdate

These include:

- A new regular video series with the EWR Co team, which respond to the most prominent questions the team has received since the new proposals were published.
- An explainer animation on the considerations around the approach to Cambridge and serving the Cambridge Biomedical Campus.
- A range of factsheets on key matters – such as freight, powering EWR and specific proposals around Cambridge – that will be available at the forthcoming public drop-in events.

Beth West, CEO of EWR Co, said:

"I'm a strong believer in community involvement and we know individual residents, neighbourhoods, communities and businesses in the area will have questions about how the proposals affect them. I'm determined we respond to those questions and we've made a start on answering some of the key questions we receive in our new regular video series – 'Your Questions Answered'. I actively encourage people to continue asking us questions and to attend our public drop-in events in Cambridgeshire.

"EWR is a once in a generation opportunity. It has the potential to positively impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. If you live or work around Cambridgeshire, this is your railway, so I'd urge you to come along and speak to the team about the updated proposals."

Last month EWR Co published the latest proposals for EWR, which follow extensive consultation with the public that generated nearly 10,000 responses. The updated plans cover:

- A southern approach to Cambridge that best serves the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, which is an unparalleled centre for life sciences of global importance and home to Addenbrooke's Hospital.

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- Potential opportunities to remove or reduce the height of approximately half the embankments or viaducts (by length) compared to what was shown at the 2021 consultation.
- How EWR will improve quality of life for people in Cambridgeshire by providing fast, reliable and affordable public transport, taking more cars off the roads and reducing congestion, which will allow more people the chance to live within easy access of the city in less expensive housing areas.

The events are designed to ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak to the EWR Co team about their individual situations and circumstances and what the updated proposals mean for them. They will allow residents to find out more about the new EWR proposals, ask questions, understand the next steps in the Project and provide opportunities to meet the EWR Co team face-to-face. The sessions are open to everyone, with the Bedfordshire events taking place on:

- Thursday 22nd June in Eversden, at Eversden Village Hall, from 2pm – 8pm
- Monday 26th June in Harston, at Harston Village Hall, from 2pm – 8pm
- Tuesday 11th July in Cambourne, at the Cambridge Belfry Hotel, from 2pm – 8pm
- Thursday 20th July in St Neots, at Love's Farm, from 2pm – 8pm

Beth West, CEO of EWR Co, said:

"I'm a strong believer in community involvement. Having spent the past year talking in depth with people from across the route I know how passionately people feel about EWR and that they want us to create something that supports their communities now and in the future. Our updated proposals have been shaped by the thousands of responses we received to our most recent public consultation; your local input is invaluable and we want to keep talking.

"EWR is a once in a generation opportunity. It has the potential to positively impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. If you live or work around Cambridgeshire, this is your railway, so I'd urge you to come along and speak to the team about the updated proposals."

The events in Cambridgeshire are part of a series of drop-in sessions for communities across the route between Oxford and Cambridge. They do not form part of the statutory public consultation, which will include even more detailed proposals and is expected to take place in the first half of 2024.

For more information or to see the available options for travel to the meetings, please visit https://communityhub.eastwestrail.co.uk/community-events. If any Cambridgeshire resident or business has specific concerns they would like to discuss separately to these meetings, they can get in touch by emailing contact@eastwestrail.co.uk.

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-ENDS-

Notes to editors

Media contacts:

- **Press office email**: press@eastwestrail.co.uk
- **Press office phone**: 0330 134 0053

RUA media assets

- **Route Update Announcement webpage:** http://www.eastwestrail.co.uk/routeupdate
- **Route Update Announcement Report**: Provides an update on the three crucial elements of EWR outlined above. Available at www.eastwestrail.co.uk/routeupdatereport
- **2021 Consultation Feedback Report**: Provides an overview of our response to the feedback raised during this consultation. Available at www.eastwestrail.co.uk/consultationfeedbackreport
- **Economic and Technical Report**: Provides information on the technical analysis carried out since the 2021 consultation. Available at www.eastwestrail.co.uk/economicandtechnicalreport
- **Need to Sell Guide** – Sets out our Need to Sell Property Scheme to support those property owners potentially impacted by EWR. Available at www.eastwestrail.co.uk/needtosellguide

Event dates, times and locations are as follows

Date	Time	Location	Venue
13 June 2023	2pm – 8pm	Bedford	**Bedford Heights** Manton Lane, Bedford, MK41 7NT
20 June 2023	2pm – 8pm	Ravensden	**Ravensden Village Hall** Church Hill, Ravensden, MK44 2RL
22 June 2023	2pm – 8pm	Great Eversden	**Eversden Village Hall** 4 Chapel Road, Great Eversden, CB23 1HP
26 June 2023	2pm – 8pm	Harston	**Harston Village Hall** 20 High Street, Harston, CB22 7PX
30 June 2023	2pm – 8pm	Woburn Sands	**Summerlin Centre** 138 Station Road, Woburn Sands, MK17 8SG
04 July 2023	2pm – 8pm	Lidlington	**Lidlington Village Hall** High Street, Lidlington, MK43 0RN
07 July 2023	2pm – 8pm	Tempsford	**Tempsford Stuart Memorial Village Hall** Church Street,

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			Tempsford, SG19 2AW
11 July 2023	2pm – 8pm	Cambourne	**Cambridge Belfry Hotel** Back Lane, Cambourne, CB23 6BW
12 July 2023	2pm – 8pm	Bicester	**John Paul II Centre** The Causeway, Bicester, OX26 6AW
20 July 2023	2pm – 8pm	St Neots	**Love's Farm** 17 Kester Way, St Neots, PE19 6SL

About the East West Rail project

East West Rail intends to create a new direct connection between Oxford and Cambridge. Serving communities across the area, it intends to bring faster journey times and lower transport costs as well as ease pressure on local roads.

East West Rail is planned to be delivered in three Connection Stages:

- Connection Stage One: Oxford to Bletchley and Milton Keynes
- Connection Stage Two: Oxford to Bedford
- Connection Stage Three: Oxford to Cambridge

Network Rail was responsible for developing the first part of the East West Rail, connecting Oxford with Bicester, and is a partner in a construction alliance to deliver Connection Stage 1 of the project, where East West Railway Company (EWR Co) and Network Rail are acting as the Department for Transport's joint sponsors.

EWR Co is now developing the route to enable services to run to Cambridge via Bedford and plans to seek statutory powers under the Planning Act 2008, following a period of extensive consultation.

About East West Railway Company

East West Railway Company (EWR Co) was set up by the Secretary of State for Transport in 2018 to develop East West Rail, a railway with customers and communities at its core.

We have a mission to innovate and challenge the status-quo in the rail and construction industries, leading to a more efficient and cost-effective project delivery, and a great experience for passengers and the communities we serve. Our vision is delivery of a safe and secure railway that is better for the customer; cheaper for the taxpayer; delivered quicker than before and is greener for the environment.

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Our distinctive outlook and commitment to doing the right thing for our customers and local communities runs through everything we do and every decision we make.

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