

East West Rail Consortium
14th June 2018

Agenda Item 7 Eastern Section Prospectus

Recommendation: It is recommended that the meeting:

- (a) Consider the prospectus for the Eastern Section**
- (b) Agree to the ambitious aspirations for eastern section line speed and journey time improvements outlined in the prospectus and summarised in the Next Steps section of this paper**

1. Background

- 1.1 During the latter part of 2017 the Consortium delivered a Conditional Output Statement (COS) which identified several interventions along the existing rail links between Cambridge, Ipswich and Norwich, which if implemented, would likely in turn deliver substantial opportunities to deliver economic growth and new and improved journey times.
- 1.2 Since publication of the COS a number of meetings have been held with the rail industry to consider the next steps in delivering enhanced train services within the Eastern Section and beyond.
- 1.3 The conclusion drawn from these meetings was that a useful tool that would greatly assist the delivery of the Consortium's aspirations for the Eastern Section would best be served via the auspices of a Prospectus that outlined these same aspirations with a view to beginning the process of working with the rail industry to achieve our ambition for enhancements to the existing rail links and furthering the overall vision to realise a truly east to west trans national rail connectivity from East Anglia to the West of England and South Wales.

2. Proposal

- 2.1. The prospectus describes a number of potential incremental service patterns phased over a period of time through initial, short, medium and long term together with suggested infrastructure requirements necessary to deliver these train services.
- 2.2. The prospectus additionally describes the aspirations for improvements to journey times over short, medium, long and very long distances based as an example on the longer-term train service patterns as a means of demonstrating the very ambitious aims of the Consortium, which if achieved, would deliver very significant improvements to journey times for the overall east west rail connectivity.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 In considering the prospectus it is proposed the EWR Strategic Board agree to the following outline proposals in order to develop plans for the Eastern Section:
- (a) Share the prospectus with the relevant Train and Freight Operator Companies, Network Rail's Route Management Team and Department for Transport with a view to inviting them to work with the Consortium to jointly realise enhancements to the eastern section rail links.
 - (b) An eastern section working group, whose membership will be drawn from relevant local authorities and the rail industry, is established. Pending agreed Terms of Reference for such a group it is anticipated the initial objectives of this group would be to identify jointly funded early opportunities for infrastructure interventions to deliver line speed improvements on the existing rail links.
 - (c) In the longer term the working group be tasked with undertaking the provision of a longer term delivery plan for the funding and delivery of infrastructure interventions and associated timetable improvements in order to provide for significant and additional economic growth within the East Anglian region.

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