

East West Rail Consortium Strategic Board 27th July 2020

Agenda Item 5: Western Section Update

Recommendation: It is recommended that the meeting:

- a) Consider the update on progress with the delivery of the Western Section**
- b) Consider and comment on the annual report of activity by the Social Value Manager**
- c) Agree to the extension of the working arrangements for the Social Value Manager until December 2022**

1. Progress with Delivery

- 1.1. The Consortium will receive an update from Chris Winfield (Network Rail) and colleagues from the EWR Alliance in respect of progress with delivery of the Western Section.

2. Social Value Manager: Annual Report

- 2.1. Members will recall that the Consortium has always been keen to ensure that the delivery of East West Rail realises benefits for the local community.
- 2.2. It has been previously recognised that those benefits may arise in a number of ways, not just in terms of the delivery of a major investment infrastructure but also the wider social benefits it can bring.
- 2.3. It was in this context that in March 2018 the Consortium entered into an agreement with Network Rail that led to the establishment of the role of Social Value Manager (Danny Miller).
- 2.4. Members of the Consortium will recall that the cost of the Social Value Manager is counted as 'Work in Kind' and is therefore offset against the contributions that local partners are required to make towards the cost of the Western Section
- 2.5. An annual report on the activities of the Social Value Manager is presented to Consortium, providing members with the opportunity to comment on those activities, as well as the opportunity to identify further opportunities in the year ahead.

3. Social Value Manager: Extension of Working Arrangements

- 3.1. The working arrangements put in place in respect of the Social Value Manager run through to December 2020.
- 3.2. With the start of main works on the Western Section imminent, the opportunity to secure even greater added value from the project for the local communities is heightened. Given the ground work laid by the Social Value Manager in recent years there is a solid foundation on which to build and ensure we maximise the wider benefit of the project.

- 3.3. It is therefore recommended that the current working arrangements are extended for a further 2 years (through to 31s December 2022).
- 3.4. A further review of the working arrangements would be undertaken in summer 2022.

Martin Tugwell
July 2020