



East West Rail Consortium Strategic Board 9th December 2020

Agenda Item 7: Work Programme: Update

Recommendation: It is recommended that the meeting note the update

1. Eastern Section: Interim SOBC

- 1.1. The Consortium received a progress report on the work underway to prepare the Interim SOBC (Strategic Outline Business Case) at its meeting on 27th October.
- 1.2. Work on the Interim SOBC continues, overseen by the Eastern Section Executive Group, supported by the Eastern Section Steering Group.
- 1.3. It has originally been envisaged that this meeting would receive and consider the draft Strategic Case, draft Economic Case and draft Financial Case. Whilst good progress continues to be made further work is required before these can be considered by the Eastern Section Steering Group prior to being received by the Consortium.
- 1.4. Where possible the Eastern Section will share the draft outputs with the rest of the Strategic Board ahead of the next scheduled meeting of the Consortium.

2. Central Section

- 2.1. Further to the action agreed at the meeting held on 12th October the Officer sub-group tasked with reviewing the Consortium's position on the Central Section is being established and a first meeting of the group will be held at the start of the New Year.

3. Improving Local Connectivity: Marston Vale Line

- 3.1. England's Economic Heartland, in partnership with the local authorities along the Marston Vale Line is commissioning a piece of work that will specifically focus on the package of local connectivity measures that would be required in order to connect EWR stations with the local communities.
- 3.2. The work, which is being co-commissioned with the East West Railway Company, will build on the pioneering work that EEH has undertaken on First Mile/Last Mile connectivity.
- 3.3. It is anticipated that the output from the work will enable both EEH and the EWR Consortium identify the investment local authorities will require to complement the investment being made in the East West Rail.
- 3.4. A consultant is expected to be appointed to undertake the work shortly, with the work itself scheduled to begin at the start of the New Year.
- 3.5. EEH is programmed to commission a second piece of work focused on improving local connectivity in early 2021, this time focused on the opportunities associated with EWR services to/from Aylesbury. As with the first piece of work this will be taken forward in partnership with the local authorities and may be co-commissioned with the East West Railway Company.

4. Rail Passenger Study: Phase 2

- 4.1. The output from Phase 1 of this work was published as a supporting document alongside EEH's draft Transport Strategy: this was in effect a base-line of the existing rail network.
- 4.2. Work on Phase 2 began earlier in the autumn. As with Phase 1 the work is being undertaken by Network Rail, working with an officer steering group comprising representatives from local authorities with an interest in its output.
- 4.3. The focus of Phase 2 is to identify those flows where the economic case for providing additional and/or new rail services is likely to be strongest. In this regard the work provides EEH and its partners with the opportunity to identify opportunities created by the availability of EWR.
- 4.4. Completion of Phase 2, which is scheduled in the first quarter of 2021, will enable EEH and its partners to establish conditional outputs for the rail network across the region, and from that they will be in a position to set out – using an evidence-led approach – the region's requirements of the rail network.

5. Transport East draft Transport Strategy

- 5.1. Transport East continues to make good progress with the development of the technical and evidence base that will underpin the development of its draft Transport Strategy.
- 5.2. Engagement on the draft Strategy is anticipated to take later in 2021.

6. England's Economic Heartland Transport Strategy

- 6.1. The final version of EEH's Transport Strategy is scheduled to be published at the end of February.

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December 2020