

## **East West Rail Consortium Strategic Board 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

### **Agenda Item 7: Treasurer's Report and Work Programme**

**Recommendation: It is recommended that the meeting:**

- a) Note the Treasurer's Report as set out in Section 1**
- b) Agree the subscription rates for 2021-22 as being**

<b>District Authorities</b>	<b>£1,500</b>
<b>Unitary and County Authorities</b>	<b>£3,000</b>
- c) Note the update on the 2020/21 work programme priorities set out in Section 3**
- d) Consider potential priorities for the 2021/22 based on the information set out in Section 4**

#### **1. Treasurer's Report**

- 1.1. Appendix 1 attached is the financial position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, along with the projected position 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Particular points to note are as follows:
  - Income from 2021-22 subscriptions is expected to be £54,000 – no increase from 2020-21.
  - Members are not being asked to contribute to development work for 2021-22 as there are sufficient funds within the Consortium to cover affordable needs in the foreseeable future.

#### **2. Proposed Subscriptions 2021-22**

- 2.1. Subscriptions have remained unchanged since 2005-06 and are as follows:

District Authorities	£1,500
Unitary and County Authorities	£3,000
- 2.2. The above subscriptions are due and payable on 1<sup>st</sup> April each financial year.
- 2.3. Being a member of the East West Rail Consortium enables organisations to be involved and have a say in the ongoing development work for the East West Rail project as a whole, including working with the East West Railway Company.
- 2.4. It also enables organisations to be involved in making the case for realising the wider opportunities that arise as a consequence of the East West Rail project.
- 2.5. An organisation's subscription covers the costs of project and communications management for the Consortium's activities. This includes stakeholder engagement, maintenance of the East West Rail website, media relations, production of promotional material, marketing and events, legal and consultancy costs, where applicable.

- 2.6. It is **proposed** to maintain subscriptions at their current level.
- 2.7. This takes account of the continued financial climate in which most local authorities are operating, and therefore has a reasonable chance of being paid by most members whilst attracting new membership requests.
- 2.8. A further consideration in determining the subscriptions is that, at present, the Consortium is not seeking to build up funds to commission significant pieces of work in its own right.

### **3. Review of Work Programme for 2020/21**

- 3.1. The 2020 Annual General Meeting identified a number of priorities – specifically:
  - a) *Eastern Section* – the Eastern Section has been a key priority for the Consortium throughout the year. The work to develop the initial Strategic Outline Business Case was commissioned at the start of 2020 and a draft of the final report is on the agenda of this meeting for initial consideration and comment.
  - b) *Freight* – this has been an area of focus for the Consortium throughout the year, with the main activity been to support the work of EEH and Transport East as they have developed their regional Transport Strategies and to work with them, and Midlands Connect, to ensure the importance of the programme of improvements associated with the primary freight corridor: Felixstowe to Nuneaton.
  - c) *Wider Linkages* – over the course of the year the Consortium has looked to use the policy framework provided by the regional Transport Strategies, and the supporting technical evidence (including the EEH commissioned Rail Passenger Study) to begin mapping out a longer-term ambition for the East West Main Line. A draft proposition is on the agenda of this meeting for initial consideration and comment.
  - d) *London Road (Bicester) Level Crossing* – the output of the work commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council (and funded by the Consortium) was reported to the Consortium at its meeting in March. This has been used to feed into the draft response to the most recent consultation by the East West Railway Company.
  - e) *Oxfordshire Rail Connectivity Study* – Oxfordshire County Council, working with Network Rail and DfT took forward the next phase of work associated with this study. The output of that work was reported to the Consortium at its meeting in March. That has in turn been used to inform the preparation of the draft response to the most recent consultation by the East West Railway Company.

### **4. Work Programme for 2020/21**

- 4.1. In 2020/21 the Consortium used a significant amount of the funds it had accumulated to take forward its agreed work priorities.
- 4.2. The financial statement identifies the potential to allocate £50,000 of Consortium funding to take forward work in support of its priorities.
- 4.3. Potential areas of work the Consortium may wish to consider commissioning work on include (not in a prioritised order):

- a) *Eastern Section* – following the completion of the work commissioned on the initial Strategic Outline Business Case there may be further work required. Ensuring that momentum continues with the Eastern Section is a key priority for the Consortium
- b) *Local Connectivity* – the recent consultation undertaken by the East West Railway Company highlighted the critical importance of making the case in support of local connectivity measures being planned and delivered alongside the strategic investment in East West Rail. EEH has recently undertaken some work in this regard, commissioning jointly with the East West Railway Company some work focus on local connectivity in/along the Marston Vale Line. The Consortium may wish to consider the case for further work on local connectivity.
- c) *Managing/Mitigating Construction Impacts* – the Consortium has spent a significant amount of time looking to ensure that the lessons learnt during the on-going construction of the Bicester to Bletchely section of East West Rail are used to inform future stages of the project. Given that this is an issue of interest to all Consortium members it may be an area that it wishes to commission some specific work.

4.4. The Consortium is invited to consider and comment on potential areas of activity for the year ahead.

**June 2021**

# Appendix 1: East West Rail Consortium Financial Summary

EAST- WEST RAIL CONSORTIUM		Appendix 1
31st March 2021 and Projected 31st March 2022		
<b>General Consortium balance as at 31st March 2020</b>		<b><u>(106,106)</u></b>
<b>General Consortium Expenditure:-</b>		<b>143,477</b>
Archiving	0	To be c/o MKC at nil cost
Domain renewal	0	Domain renewal, SSL certificate
Marketing & Events	0	marketing, promotion & events
Legal & Consulting	2,500	legal costs
AGM	145	AGM 20.21 meeting costs
Professional Subscriptions	0	subscriptions to passenger transport/ transport extra magazines
Development Work	140,832	To be funded by the Consortium - Freight,£50k Eastern Section SOBC
<b>Central Section Expenditure :-</b>		<b>0</b>
Rail Consultancy work	0	No charge expected
Communications Officer	0	No charge expected
<b>Income:-</b>		<b>(54,000)</b>
Subscriptions 2020-21	(54,000)	Assume current membership subscription remains level in 20.21 & debtor raised
Development Funding income	0	Assume no call for Development Funding
<b>General Consortium balance as at 31st March 2021</b>		<b><u>(16,630)</u></b>
<b>General Consortium Expenditure:-</b>		<b>53,120</b>
Archiving	0	To be c/o MKC at nil cost
Domain renewal	470	Domain renewal, SSL certificate
Website	0	Web hosting endorsed as WIK therefore excluded
Reports/ Support on EWR	0	Endorsed as WIK therefore excluded
Marketing & Events	1,200	Projected marketing, promotion & events
Legal & Consulting	1,000	Projected legal costs
AGM	150	Estimated AGM 21.22 meeting costs
Professional Subscriptions	300	Estimated subscriptions to passenger transport/ transport extra magazines
Development Work	50,000	To be funded by the Consortium
<b>Central Section Expenditure :-</b>		<b>0</b>
Rail Consultancy work	0	No charge expected
Communications Officer	0	No charge expected
<b>Income:-</b>		<b>(54,000)</b>
Subscriptions 2021-22	(54,000)	Assume current membership subscription remains level in 21.22 & all payments made in year
Development Funding income	0	Assume no call for Development Funding
<b>Projected General Consortium balance as at 31st March 2022</b>		<b><u>(17,510)</u></b>
<p>David Harvey  Treasurer, East West Rail Consortium  Buckinghamshire Council  28th May 2021</p>		