

To Councillor: Councillors Sargeant, Bick and Hipkin Cc: Councillor Smart	Comment to: Claire Tunnicliffe, Committee Manager
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MEMBER CONSULTATION

East West Rail routes consultation response

Urgency Action

As the Chair or Spokesperson of the Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee, you are being informed of a matter on which action must be taken as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

The Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport is minded to make the decision set out in the attached Record of Decision relating to the Council's response to the current East West Rail Bedford to Cambridge routes consultation.

The reasons for making the decision out of the committee cycle are set out in the attached Record of Decision. If you have any comments on the decision please let me know before Monday 11th March 2019.

A briefing document report is also attached setting out the background and current situation. If you have any comments on the documents please speak to Stephen Kelly, Joint Director for Planning & Economic Development, or Stuart Morris, Principal Planning Policy Officer.

The Council's Constitution requires the Chair and Spokespersons of the relevant Scrutiny Committee to be informed of the matter on which the decision is to be made.

After 5 clear working days have elapsed, the remaining members of Scrutiny Committee will be notified of the decision on 12th March 2019.



Urgent Decision **Briefing document report**

The East West Rail Bedford to Cambridge route options consultation is being held between 28th January and 11th March 2019. Five routes between Bedford and Cambridge are being consulted upon, with a preferred route due to be announced later in the year.

The Bedford to Cambridge section forms part of the wider Oxford to Cambridge East West Rail project, which itself sits within Government's wider ambitions for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, building on proposals from the National Infrastructure Commission in its Partnering for Prosperity November 2017 report. The project is being led by the East West Rail Company (EWR Co.), which was set up in 2017 by Government.

The current route options consultation follows the announcement of Bedford-Sandy-Cambridge as the preferred broad corridor; beyond selection of a preferred route drawing on this current consultation, there will be further consideration and consultation relating to the detailed alignment ahead of a formal Development Consent Order process intended for completion in 2023. EWR Co. aims to open the line by the mid-2020s.

All route options included in the consultation enter Cambridge via the south, and therefore the consultation route choices and resulting physical changes may affect other authority areas more than Cambridge itself. The attached response therefore focuses on issues of direct relevance to Cambridge, albeit it supports the broad views expressed by neighbouring authorities, and particularly those of South Cambridgeshire. A joint letter is also intended to be sent on behalf of the leaders of Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Bedford Borough authorities, alongside responses such as this from individual authorities. The joint response will reflect the views expressed in individual authority responses.

To ensure that the Council responds within the consultation period, the Executive Member is now seeking to finalise the attached Cambridge City Council response outside of the committee cycle.

Further background information

South Cambridgeshire District Council Cabinet papers for 6th March supporting that Council's draft response, which is closely aligned with the attached Cambridge response:

<http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=293&MId=7364&Ver=4>

East West Rail Bedford to Cambridge routes consultation webpage:
<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/haveyoursay>

