

East West Rail Consortium Strategic Board 11th December 2018

Agenda Item 6: Eastern Section Prospectus

Recommendation: It is recommended that the meeting:

- a) approves the draft rail prospectus
- b) agrees to the East West Rail Eastern Section Group developing a communications strategy and timeframe for lobbying for rail improvements

1. Context

- 1.1. As progress has been made on the Central and Western Sections of East West Rail, and in light of the positive outcomes of the Atkins Eastern Section East West Rail Study, it was considered necessary to produce a rail prospectus for the Eastern Section – the railway link between Suffolk/Norfolk and Cambridge.
- 1.2. The Eastern Section Rail prospectus sets out the case for investment in improving passenger rail frequency, journey time and resilience between Suffolk/Norfolk and Cambridge and beyond. The rail prospectus also makes the case for improving rail freight connectivity for ports in Suffolk and Norfolk, which will help to alleviate congestion on the Great Eastern Main Line and on rail routes via Ely and the wider road network.
- 1.3. The Prospectus demonstrates the value of improving rail services between the Eastern, Central and Western Sections and identifies the housing, population and job growth that are predicted to occur in the Ipswich Strategic Planning Area, Greater Norwich and Greater Cambridge.

2. Next Steps

- 2.1. A draft communications strategy will be presented to the East West Rail Consortium Strategic Board for final approval in the New Year.

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