

East West Rail Consortium Strategic Board 9th June 2021

Agenda Item 4: Eastern Section

Recommendation: It is recommended that the meeting:

- a) Consider and comment on the draft final report (Annex 1)**
- b) Agree to delegate approval of the final report to the Eastern Section Member Board**

1. Context

- 1.1. The Consortium commissioned work to undertaken an initial Strategic Outline Business Case last year: this was a key priority for the Consortium as a whole in recognition that the Consortium's purpose has always been the creation of a strategic rail link from East Anglia, across southern England and westwards.
- 1.2. The work has been undertaken by consultants Steer, working to a Steering Group of officers from Consortium members, together with the two Sub-national Transport Bodies – England's Economic Heartland and Transport East.

2. Consideration

- 2.1. The draft Strategic Outline Business Case is attached for the meeting to consider.
- 2.2. Interest in the output of this commission is significant, both within the rail industry and amongst local communities. It is therefore important that it is completed and published at the earliest opportunity.
- 2.3. To that end it is recommended that this meeting agree to delegate to the Eastern Section Member Board the approval of the final report, taking into account any comments made at this meeting.

June 2021