

# Our approach to consultation



**Listening to and understanding the views of people living and working in the communities East West Rail will serve is fundamental to the way this new rail connection will be designed, built and operated.**

Throughout the development of East West Rail we have been - and will continue - talking to local communities, representatives and other stakeholders.

Consultation is an opportunity for us to:

- share plans and options for the railway at regular intervals
- gather ideas and feedback while those plans and options are still at a formative stage
- identify any issues or concerns people have about the Project and identify potential ways to avoid or reduce them.

We use the responses to consultation alongside environmental, economic and technical studies to make sure we're building the right railway for communities across the whole area between Oxford and Cambridge.

## **Statutory vs non-statutory consultation**

Our values put the customer and local communities at the heart of our decision making and that is why we are holding both statutory and non-statutory consultations. Non-statutory consultations cover emerging concepts and proposals for East West Rail. These are different to statutory consultations, which are required by law; however, both are equally important to us in terms of shaping our proposals.

## **Our consultation programme**

### **2019 non-statutory consultation**

- In 2019, we held a non-statutory consultation asking for your views on five route options between Bedford and Cambridge. Seven thousand people gave their time and expertise to respond to the consultation. People's responses provided us with additional detail and local knowledge about each of the route options, as well as views on how trains should approach Cambridge
- Following consideration of the responses to the consultation and further work to develop the design of the new railway, we identified a preferred route option, known as route option E. This travels from Bedford to Cambridge via the Sandy/St Neots area and Cambourne
- Following the consultation, we published a report on the issues which were raised, along with our response. The *Public Feedback Report - 2019 Route Option Consultation* is available on our website.

# Our approach to consultation

## 2021 non-statutory consultation

- In 2021, we are holding a non-statutory consultation to ask for your views on:
  - o Customer experience and railway operations
  - o The infrastructure including route alignments, stations and level crossings
- We continue to follow government advice around COVID-19 and therefore it is not possible to hold large scale public events during this consultation period. However, it is important to us that everyone has an opportunity to give their views
- A summary of the consultation report for this consultation has been sent to over 300,000 homes and businesses along the route of East West Rail. We are also promoting the consultation widely by working with local authorities, parish councils and other stakeholders
- You can participate in the consultation online by using online resources and visiting our virtual consultation rooms at [www.eastwestrail.co.uk](http://www.eastwestrail.co.uk). Here you can review the consultation materials and learn more about our commitment to delivering excellent customer service and the infrastructure proposals. There is also an opportunity to ask questions using a Live Chat facility and take part in online meetings
- We have published a consultation response form so that you can share your views on the proposals. All the feedback we receive will be carefully considered as we continue to progress our designs.

## Statutory consultation - winter 2021/2022

- Following the non-statutory consultation and after taking account of what you say, we will hold a statutory consultation. We will have used your previous responses to consultations, other feedback from our engagement programme alongside our own technical research and development and design work to inform the proposals we put to you at this stage.
- After the statutory stage of consultation outlined above, we will carry out further work before submitting detailed plans to the Government in an application for a development consent order.

More information on the full planning process and our previous consultation can be found at [eastwestrail.co.uk](http://eastwestrail.co.uk)

## Get in touch

You can email, call or write to us

**By email:** [contact@eastwestrail.co.uk](mailto:contact@eastwestrail.co.uk)

**By phone:** 0330 1340067

**By post:** FREEPOST East West Rail