

Economy and Business Development
Scrutiny Committee
17 March 2015

EAST WEST RAIL UPDATE

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To update members on the current progress of work being carried out on the delivery and construction of the East West Rail (EWR) contract.

2 Recommendations

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| 2.1 To note the progress of the East West Rail contract. |
| 2.2 To support the actions to maximise the business and employment opportunities arising from the construction phase of the contract. |

3 Supporting information

The East West Rail report to the Cabinet meeting held on 11 June 2013 set out the timings and contributions by Aylesbury Vale DC and partners. Aylesbury Vale DC contributions were approximately £5.358m.

- 3.1 Network Rail have now revised the timescales for the completion of the contract, phased completion is as follows:
- 3.2 **Phase 1** (Currently under construction).
- Oxford Parkway to Bicester due to be complete Sept 2015
 - Oxford to Oxford Parkway due to be complete spring 2016
- 3.3 **Phase 2** (This is the Western **Section** that covers the route from Bicester Town to Bedford and Milton Keynes to **Aylesbury Vale** and Princes Risborough)
- Bedford to Bicester
 - Milton Keynes to Princes Risborough, via **Aylesbury**
 - Electrification of the line from Oxford to Bletchley
 - Winslow Station
- 3.4 Planned completion by March 2019
- 3.5 **Phase 3** - Electrification of Bletchley to Bedford expected c 2020/21
- 3.6 Further information can be found on the East West Rail Website <http://www.eastwestrail.org.uk/east-west-rail-route>
- 3.7 Temporary site compounds have been or will be at various locations, Verney Junction, Claydon and Swanbourne (20m to north of the junction).
- 3.8 Ground investigation surveys are currently taking place between Bletchley and Steeple Claydon. Vegetation management, general maintenance and upkeep of the railway corridor will be ongoing from February 2015 until spring.

- 3.9 Parsons Brinckerhoff is the principal contractor for vegetation management and BAM Richies are undertaking the drilling work for the geotechnical surveys. Murphy's are undertaking the vegetation clearance work with Thomson Habitats providing ecological work.
- 3.10 Buckinghamshire residents have had the opportunity to give their views on how railway crossing safety can be improved between Aylesbury and Princes Risborough at two public consultation events held in January.
- 3.11 Two consultation events were recently held:
- 1) **Crossings in Aylesbury and Stoke Mandeville**
Stoke Mandeville - Wednesday 21st January 2015, Location: Stoke Mandeville Stadium.
 - 2) **Crossings in Great and Little Kimble, Monks Risborough and Princes Risborough**
Princes Risborough - Wednesday 28th January 2015 Location: St Mary's Church Hall, Church Street, Princes Risborough

4 Engagement with East West Rail

- 4.1 AVDC is an active Member of East West Rail Consortium, which includes regular dialogue and engagement at a Member and Officer level. The Economic Development (ED) officers met with the East West Rail contract management team (the Alliance) on 15 Jan 2015 to input into the EWR tender process, which started 19 Feb 2015. To also promote awareness and understanding of the scheme, the opportunities it presents and to establish an EWR Economic Development Group which would oversee the process and delivery of the opportunities.
- 4.2 The ED officers were able to input into the tender documents about how the **Alliance** could maximise the local supply chain, recruitment and skills development opportunities (to achieve local economic benefit from EWR construction phase). These are referred to as the 'Social Value' benefits arising from the contract.
- 4.3 ED Officers were from: AVDC, Milton Keynes, Bedford, Bucks Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP), Oxfordshire County Council, South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP), Central Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire County Council.

5 EWR Social Value

- 5.1 The EWR Social Value element of the EWR construction focuses on ensuring the tender sets out a duty of responsibility to the main contractor to ensure the delivery of local benefits to the communities along the route of the construction and in the wider area. To measure the Social Value impact a set of Socio Economic Bench marks are established against which progress can be measured.
- 5.2 This involves including within the tender documents a requirement for the contractor to set out the Socio Economic benefits they will deliver which can be then used to assess the quality of tender and to inform the contract award selection process. An example is show in Appendix 1.

- 5.3 The agreed Socio Economic benchmarks focused on three areas:
- Recruitment;
 - Local supply chain;
 - Skills development, training & apprenticeships
- 5.4 Other considerations are about being aware and communicating the potential impact on the road network in local area. In particular resulting from workers travelling to and from work and the heavy goods vehicles (HGV's) moving materials during the construction phase.
- 5.5 There are also very clear benefits that can be drawn from this infrastructure project in the longer term as far as the wider economic benefits are concerned and as the scheme comes closer to completion, it will be a very helpful marketing asset to help promote the economic development prospects of the Vale.

6 Reasons for Recommendation

- 6.1 It is important to ensure Aylesbury Vale DC and other partners are in a position to influence the EWR contract to ensure local communities are able to maximise the opportunities that arise, before, during and after the completion of the works.

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Background Documents: None

Appendix 1 - EWR Socio Economic Benchmarks v0.1a

Band		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		£ 50k - 100k	£ 100k - £500k	£500k - £1m	£1m - £3.5m	£3.5m - £6m	£6m - £10m	£10m - £15m	£15m - 20m	£20m - £30m	£30m - £40m	£40m - 50m	£50m - £60m	£60m - £70m	£70m - £80m	£80m - £90m	£90m - £100m
1	Work Placement (16-19 years) - persons	2	2	2	4	6	8	11	13	16	19	22	23	24	24	25	25
2	Work Placement (14-16 years) - persons	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	6	6
3	Curriculum Support Activities - individual engagement	1	1	1	1	2	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	14	16	17
4	Graduates - persons	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
5	Apprentice Starts - persons	0	0	1	1	2	3	5	6	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12
6	Existing Apprentices - persons	0	0	1	2	2	3	4	5	6	6	7	8	9	10	10	11
7	Apprentice Completions - persons	0	0	1	1	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	6
8	Jobs advertised through local employment vehicles - no	0	1	2	2	4	6	8	9	11	12	13	14	14	15	16	17