

# **EWR You Said We Did Autumn Update Report Briefing:**

**Held on: 19/11/2025**

---

**Location: MS Teams**

---

**Attendees (EWR Co):**

- Rose Neville (RN) - Senior Engagement and Consultation Manager
  - Jeremy Damrel (JD) - DCO Director
  - Kate Campbell (KC) - Head of External Engagement
  - Kirsty Young (KY) – Head of Land and Property
  - Sarah Jacobs (SJ) – Senior Stakeholder Manager
  - Ben Savona - Stakeholder Lead (Core)
  - Michael Flynn - Stakeholder Lead (Oxford)
  - Sunisha Tharappan - Stakeholder Lead (Marston Vale line)
  - Richard Starkey - Stakeholder Lead (Bedford)
  - Ellen Dennison - Stakeholder Lead (Cambridge)
- 

**Attendees (Local Authorities):**

- Adam Zerny - Central Bedfordshire Council
- Amrik Manku - Oxfordshire County Council
- Susan Brown – Oxford City Council
- Andrew Davie - Central Bedfordshire Council
- James Croucher - Huntingdonshire District Council
- Benjamin Tracy - Central Bedfordshire Council
- John Kell – Bedford Borough Council
- Rupert Waters – Oxford City Council
- Stephen Kelly - Greater Cambridge Shared Planning
- Andrew Bowe – Cherwell District Council
- Rui Marcelino - Oxford City Council
- Rachel Lambert - Greater Cambridge Shared Planning
- Navin Panesar - Cambridgeshire County Council
- Paul Van Geete - Milton Keynes Council
- Jack Eagle - Cambridgeshire County Council
- Lesley Hewitt - Buckinghamshire County Council
- Elizabeth Verdegem - Milton Keynes Council
- Lou Mason-Walsh - Cambridgeshire County Council
- Lucy Pateman - Huntingdonshire District Council
- James West - England's Economic Heartland
- Verity Quinn (VQ) - England's Economic Heartland
- Alice Cassidy - Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

- Liz Watts – South Cambridgeshire District Council
- Richard Jeffries – Oxfordshire County Council
- Brian Milnes - South Cambridgeshire District Council
- Joanne Branson-Budd - Bedford Borough Council
- Daniel Gigg - Buckinghamshire County Council
- Dylan Simmons – Bedford Borough Council
- Cara Cosson – Bedford Borough Council
- Clara Kerr - Huntingdonshire District Council
- Julia Harrington – Cherwell District Council

---

#### **Attendees (Environmental Bodies and Network Rail):**

- Slawek Utrata – Historic England
  - Jane Hennell – Canal & River Trust
  - Sandra Squire – The Forestry Commission
  - Nina Devereux – Network Rail
- 

## **Agenda**

1. **Welcome and background to the report**
2. **Key Updates**
3. **Next Steps**
4. **Q&A**

## **Meeting minutes:**

Item	Text	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome and background to the report</b></p> <p>RN welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself and the other EWR Co presenters.</p> <p>JD ran through the background to the report, noting that it sets out how feedback received from the November 2024 – January 2025 consultation has helped inform design. The report also outlines the progress that has been made since that consultation as well as the next steps.</p> <p>JD explained that EWR are continuing to develop the scheme and receive feedback. Not all decisions have been made at this stage, but this was an opportunity to bring a lot more into the public domain.</p> <p>JD flagged that EWR Co have also published a supporting Consultation Feedback Summary Report detailing the feedback received at the last consultation.</p>	

Item	Text	Action
2.	<p><b>Key You Said We Did Autumn Update Report Updates</b></p> <p>JD presented a slide showing some of the key proposal updates included in the report and discussed how community feedback had helped to shape these.</p> <p>JD then talked through the high-level themes raised by Local Authorities in consultation feedback and some of the other decisions that EWR Co have made across the route. (See the slide deck for the list of updates). He briefly discussed how these updates interact with the themes identified in the consultation feedback provided by Local Authorities and mentioned those high-level themes which are not mentioned in the YSWD report.</p> <p>RN noted that there are still some points of interest that EWR Co have not yet reached a decision on and reiterated that ongoing engagement with LAs and other stakeholders will continue to inform future proposals.</p> <p>JD encouraged attendees to view the EWR You Said We Did Autumn Update Interactive Map, noting how it serves as a useful breakdown of what respondents said and what EWR Co have done in response.</p> <p>KY then provided a Safeguarding update, explaining that DfT have updated the Safeguarding Directions so that the safeguarded area aligns with the latest proposals presented in the report. Landowners affected by these updates have been written to and updated directions have been shared with local planning authorities.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>KC discussed the next steps for EWR now that the You Said We Did Autumn Update Report has been published. As discussed already, design development will continue in discussion with statutory stakeholders and proposals will be refined for decisions that were not confirmed in the</p>	

Item	Text	Action
	<p>report.</p> <p>KC also flagged that EWR Co will be running a series of Design Update Sessions in early 2026 across various route sections. KC shared some of the topics that these sessions may be focusing on as well as provisional timeframes for when this engagement would take place.</p> <p>KC confirmed that EWR Co will be carrying out a consultation once these Design Update Sessions have concluded and will confirm plans for proposals that are still developing.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> <p>JBB flagged that Bedford Borough Council are keen to be sighted on the Technical Note related to the Ashburnham Road area.</p> <p>SJ responded that this Technical Note is currently being worked through, and the aim is for it to be ready for the meeting with the Bedford Borough Council mayor in early December.</p> <p>VQ asked if the slide deck will be circulated with attendees. RN confirmed it will be sent out following the meeting.</p> <p>JE asked what consenting route will be taken for the Tempsford station acceleration and if any timescales for that can be shared.</p> <p>JD responded that EWR Co are still working through this and will share further information in due course.</p> <p>CK requested any references to Huntingdonshire District Council's (HDC) feedback accurately elaborate on specific points raised in the consultation response. RN noted that this can be picked up and discussed in the ongoing engagement with Huntingdonshire District Council.</p> <p>AM asked what the process and path to engagement on and resolution of any decisions that still need to be made is.</p> <p>RN responded that some sessions have been diarised with LAs to discuss how future engagement fits within LA governance processes. It will also be necessary to consider how the Planning and Infrastructure Bill will affect engagement. JD noted the importance of the usual drumbeat of EWR Co/LA meetings providing an effective platform for all parties to have these conversations.</p>	

Item	Text	Action
	<p>BM spoke of the importance of other developments in the wider area including Universal as well as the government focus on the Oxford to Cambridge corridor and asked how EWR Co is managing all this and the relationships with other partners. BM highlighted that there are multiple developments that will overlap so it is important to make sure that work is as multi-layered as possible.</p> <p>JD responded that EWR Co recognise the importance of the wider benefits of the railways and not just simply on delivering infrastructure. EWR Co are taking a holistic approach to engagement with partners and other interested parties along the route.</p> <p>JBB asked for further clarity on the proposed consultation – when it will be, how long it will be and whether it will be non-statutory.</p> <p>RN confirmed that this will be a non-statutory consultation and EWR Co are looking at this being 8 weeks. JD flagged that the You Said We Did Autumn Update Report references holding a consultation in spring/summer. While EWR Co are aiming to hold the consultation as early as possible within this timeframe to closely follow the Design Update sessions, this remains provisional and subject to change. KC also noted that EWR Co are conscious of the consultation cycle avoiding the pre-election period.</p>	