

Appendices: 0



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# **COUNCIL**

## **6<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Agenda Status: Public**

**Directorate: Borough Secretary**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Appointment of representative to the East West Rail Consortium</b>
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### **1. Purpose**

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- 1.1 To seek Council's approval to join the East West Rail Consortium and appoint a representative of the Council to be appointed to the East West Rail Consortium.

### **2. Recommendations**

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- 2.1 That the Borough of Northampton be appointed to the East West Rail Consortium and that Council appoint a Councillor to the Consortium.

### **3. Issues and Choices**

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#### **3.1 Report Background**

- 3.1.1 East West Rail is a major project whose aim is to establish a strategic railway network connecting East Anglia with Central, Southern and Western England.
- 3.1.2 Networkrail are working to identify a route to extend the western section of the East West rail to Cambridge which would allow it to connect with the East Coast Mainline and enable trains to operate between Oxford and Cambridgeshire, through to Norfolk and Suffolk and would provide will provide infrastructure to support Local Authorities ambition for sustainable economic growth based on the creation of new private sector plans and the development of major areas of new housing
- 3.1.3 The project is being promoted by the East West Rail Consortium – a group of local authorities and businesses formed in 1995 with an interest in improving access to and from East Anglia and the Milton Keynes South Midlands growth area.

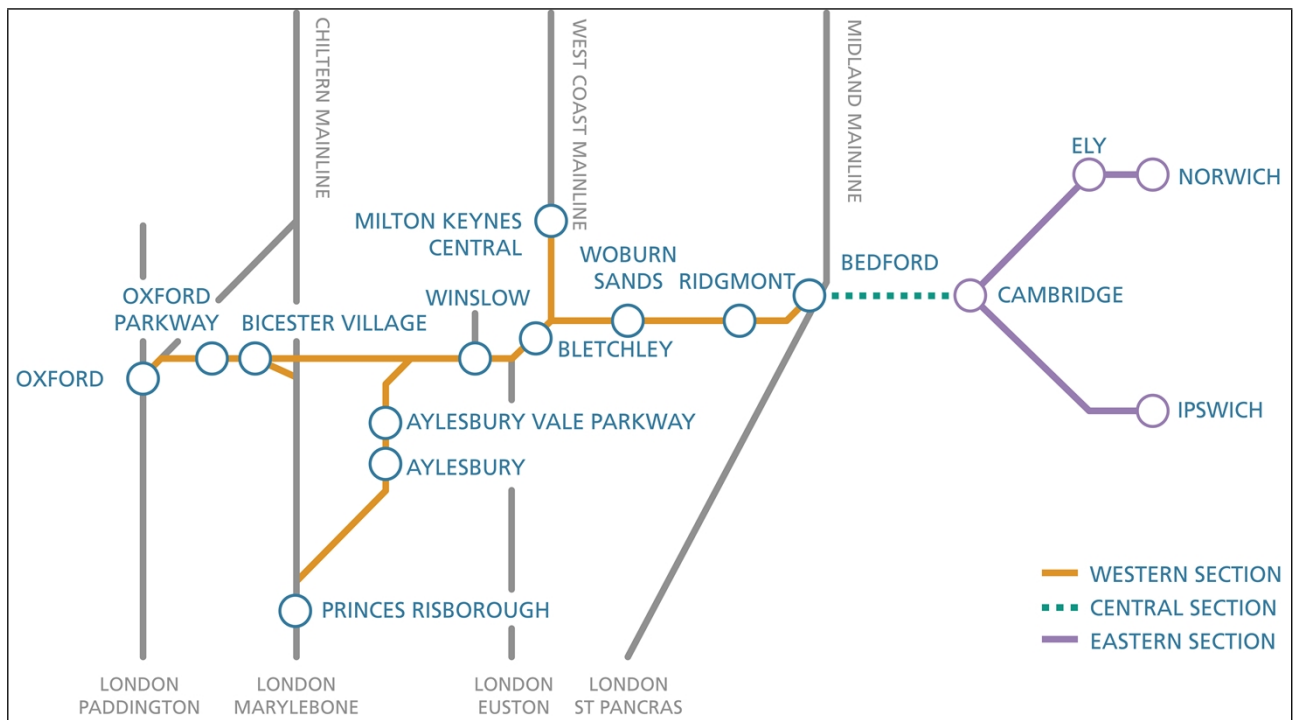
3.1.4 Northamptonshire is considered to be within the 'Middle corridor' alongside neighbouring authorities which include Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire as outlined in the map at 3.1.7 of the report. The East West Rail Consortium would allow for a representative from Northampton to be consulted and informed of changes and developments that are to be considered alongside other local authorities within the footprints of the South East Midlands and Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnerships.

3.1.5 The Consortium membership is currently comprised of the following local authorities:

- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Bedford Borough Council
- Buckinghamshire County Council
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Cherwell District Council
- East Suffolk Councils
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Ipswich Borough Council
- Luton Borough Council
- Milton Keynes Council
- Norfolk County Council
- North Hertfordshire District Council
- Norwich City Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Stevenage District Council
- Suffolk County Council
- West Suffolk Councils
- Wycombe District Council

3.1.6 Northampton, as a District, has a population of 220,000 and is one of the main urban areas in the corridor and is only marginally smaller than Milton Keynes and currently larger than both Oxford and Cambridge cities. It is therefore considered appropriate that they be represented on a body of this nature. Officers are currently seeking clarification on the exact Terms of Reference of the Consortium to establish in what capacity the appointed Members' status will be.

3.1.7 The map indicates the location of the East West Rail Network



### 3.1 Decision details

3.1.2 Full Council is recommended to consider the information in the report and therefore:

- a) Nominate a Councillor to represent Northampton Borough Council on the East West Rail Consortium
- b) Agree to appoint the Member to represent the Council

## 4. Implications (including financial implications)

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### 4.1 Policy

4.1.1 The report does not have any policy implications.

### 4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 There are none specifically arising from the report

### 4.3 Legal

4.3.1 There are no specific legal implications

### 4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no specific equality and health implications arising directly from this report.

## **4.5 Other Implications**

4.5.1 There are none

## **5. Background Papers**

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5.1 Correspondence internally and externally

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