

The Case for East West Rail

Creating a better-connected future for communities

East West Rail will connect people with jobs, education, public services and each other – strengthening local economies while supporting more sustainable places people can call home.

Driving economic growth



£143 billion
a year to the UK economy

East West Rail will connect Oxford and Cambridge – world-leading centres for science, research and innovation that together contribute **£143bn a year to the UK economy** and have one of the highest concentrations of knowledge-intensive jobs anywhere in the country.



2 million
jobs in the region

The corridor supports over **2 million jobs**, with nearly **1 in 3 in high-value science and technology**: almost three times the national average.



£55,000
GVA per capita (MK)

By linking places like Milton Keynes, Bedford and Tempsford, East West Rail helps **businesses grow, collaborate and compete globally**.



£27.5 billion
in capital investment

Over the last decade, the region has attracted **£27.5bn in investment and created 43,000 jobs**: a strong foundation for future growth.

Closing the connectivity gap

A lack of east-west transport links are holding the region back. Existing routes are slow, indirect and unreliable, leaving people dependent on cars.

1.37
cars per household within EWR locations

1.21
cars per household across England

By providing better connections, East West Rail will:

Expand the labour pool and open up new job opportunities.

Help local businesses grow and collaborate.

Strengthen supply chains and open access to new markets.

Attract investment and top talent to the region.

Independent forecasts suggest **billions in added economic value, thousands of new jobs and significant inward investment** – helping retain businesses and skilled workers vital to the UK economy.

Better transport choices



East West Rail will give communities an accessible alternative to car travel – **reducing congestion, improving air quality and cutting emissions in places where public transport options are limited**.

Our proposals support **net-zero ambitions** by using greener technology like **partial electrification and hybrid battery-electric trains**, designed to minimise environmental impact.



The new railway will turn underused stations into modern, multi-modal hubs with better local connections, safe walking routes and cycling links – **making everyday journeys easier and more sustainable**.



east west
RAIL

Community benefits

Housing affordability is a major challenge across the region, and for many people living or moving to the region, owning a home feels out of reach.



Oxford
house prices 12.5x
average annual salary



Cambridge
most expensive
place to buy property in UK, outside London

East West Rail will connect people to **jobs, education, healthcare and homes**, reducing car dependency and easing pressure on congested roads and car parks.

We're building new stations at **Tempsford, Cambourne and Cambridge East**, and upgrading existing stations to support growth and create modern, accessible transport hubs with better walking, cycling and local connections.

By shortening everyday journeys and improving access to essential services, the railway will help improve quality of life across the region.

Responsive design & delivery

Our designs are shaped directly by the people and places along the route:



6,200
responses

to our 2024 consultation. We've used this feedback to make designs safer and more inclusive: improving crossings, walking and cycling routes, accessibility, noise mitigation and environmental protections.



80 design refinements

have been made since our 2024 consultation, reflecting our commitment to listen, learn and adapt as the project develops.



Accelerating delivery

We're also accelerating delivery where communities and regional partners see the strongest need; including bringing forward Tempsford to support future demand.

East West Rail is more than a railway – it's a catalyst for growth, sustainability and improved quality of life.

By connecting the region EWR will unlock economic potential, provide greener travel choices and create stronger, better-connected communities.



eastwestrail.co.uk