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**[eastwestrail.co.uk](http://eastwestrail.co.uk)**

# Bicester Town Local Representatives Group

## Meeting #7

28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

# 01. Welcome and today's agenda

# Today's agenda

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- 02. Housekeeping**

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- 03. General Updates**

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- 04. Review of actions from previous meetings**

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- 05. Topic – The statutory consultation process**

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- 06. Closing remarks, future meetings and topics**

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## 02. Housekeeping

# Housekeeping

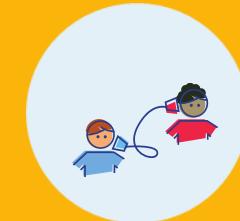
**Thank you for attending**

**This is a virtual meeting.**

- This meeting is being transcribed to be used to produce the meeting summary note
- Please feel free to drop questions in the chat box/and or use the 'raise hand' function



**Display your full name in username**



**Please use the mute function**



**Use the 'Raise Hand' function if you want to raise a point during the meeting**



**Please do put your camera on if possible**

# 03. General updates

# General Updates

## Spring Budget

- In the recent Spring Budget, the Government reiterated its commitment to delivering East West Rail (EWR) in full.
- Specifically, the Chancellor announced the acceleration of works on the Bletchley to Bedford section – commonly known as the Marston Vale Line (MVL) – with a £240 million investment.
- The programme falls under the existing Transport and Works Act Order that was granted to deliver improvements between Oxford and Milton Keynes. This will enable at least one train per hour between Oxford and Bedford by 2030, in addition to the existing MVL services.
- This will deliver the introduction of a new Oxford to Bedford service at a much earlier stage, start bringing the benefits of EWR to local communities and businesses sooner.

We have decided to split our statutory consultation into **two stages** to maximise the opportunity for your communities to influence our proposals during the development stage of the design process.

# What is an LIQ/Why are we doing this?



- LIQs aim to identify those with legal interests include ownership, leases, tenancies, and rights over land, such as easements or covenants. The process aims to identify all parties with a stake in the land.
- We check this information regularly to ensure our records are accurate and we are in touch with the right people to keep them up to date with relevant information and so they have the opportunity to get involved during the stages of the DCO application.
- It is a key part of developing a planning application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to ensure all interests are accurately identified, consulted and represented in the planning process.
- Understanding legal interests helps mitigate disputes and streamline the planning and development process.

# What is an LIQ/Why are we doing this?



## Concerning the 2-week turnaround time:

- We recognise the challenges that the turnaround time may present, especially for those who might be away. We aim for this timeframe to be indicative, encouraging responses as soon as possible to facilitate the progression of the process.

## No response or late responses:

- While we encourage all residents to respond within the 2-week timeframe, we will reach out with a follow-up communication to those who haven't responded after the initial deadline, providing an additional opportunity to respond.

## Support for residents with language barriers:

- We are committed to inclusivity and understand the importance of accommodating residents who may not be proficient in English. Upon request, we can provide the Land Interest Questionnaires (LIQs) in alternative languages. This ensures that all residents have the ability to understand and respond effectively.

# What is an LIQ/Why are we doing this?



## List and map of targeted addresses and rationale:

- Unfortunately, we are unable to share a detailed list and map of the addresses to which the correspondence has been sent. We will look at how this information could be shared and come back to them with a formal response.

## Data sharing

- Personal and land interest information received in the returned LIQs is handled with strict confidentiality, used solely for project-related purposes.

## How have people been identified?

- This is an on-going process, we will continue to be in touch across all stages of the project to update our land interest information.
- Our outreach has specifically targeted all landowners who are potentially affected by the project at this time. It's important to note receiving this correspondence does not necessarily mean that the land shown on the accompanying Land Ownership plans will be required either permanently or temporarily to deliver the EWR Project scheme; it may also mean the future operation of the Project scheme may otherwise affect their land and property interests due to your proximity (e.g. Noise)
- [eastwestrail.co.uk/land-interest-questionnaires-liq-faqs](http://eastwestrail.co.uk/land-interest-questionnaires-liq-faqs)

# Where we are in the process

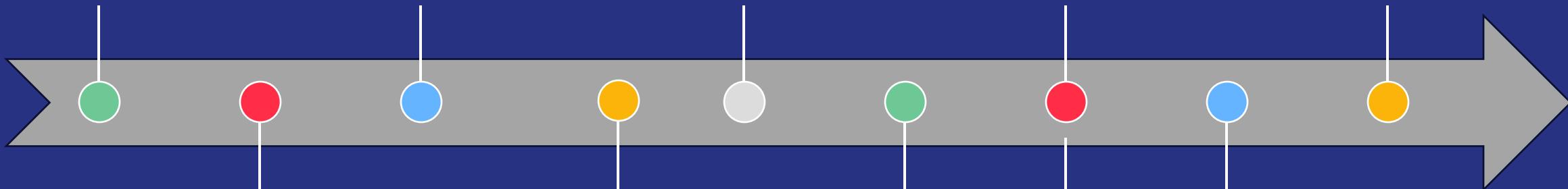
Community fed into  
two non-statutory  
consultations in  
2019 and 2021

Route Update  
Announcement  
Summer 2023

Ongoing  
engagement

DCO examination

Construction



LRG Meetings  
Community Conversations (TBC)

Jan 2024

## 04. Review of actions from previous meetings

# Outstanding actions

Meeting	No.	Action	Owner	Status
6	1	EWR Co to look into attending an AGM meeting at Langford Village Community Hall (Carole).	EWR Co	<b>Completed</b> <i>(AGM had passed)</i>
6	2	EWR Co to look into ticketing solutions and potentially have someone from the customer experience team attend a meeting to discuss.	EWR Co	<b>On going</b> <i>Look into this post consultation period after more information has been shared</i>

# 05.

## Topic- The statutory consultation process

# DCO Process

- EWR is a **nationally significant infrastructure project**, and we therefore need to apply to the Secretary of State for a **development consent order (DCO)** under the **Planning Act (2008)** to construct and operate the railway.
- The DCO process has defined stages and requirements. We are currently in the **pre-application** stage, where we focus on developing the design and gathering feedback through stakeholder engagement and **statutory consultation**.
- The Planning Act (2008) requires us to carry out consultation in accordance with **statutory requirements** prior to submission of our DCO application (known as a statutory consultation).
- This differs from the non-statutory consultations we held in 2019 and 2021.

# Our approach to statutory consultation

We will be holding **two stages of statutory consultation**, with the first stage taking place this year.

A two-stage statutory consultation will:

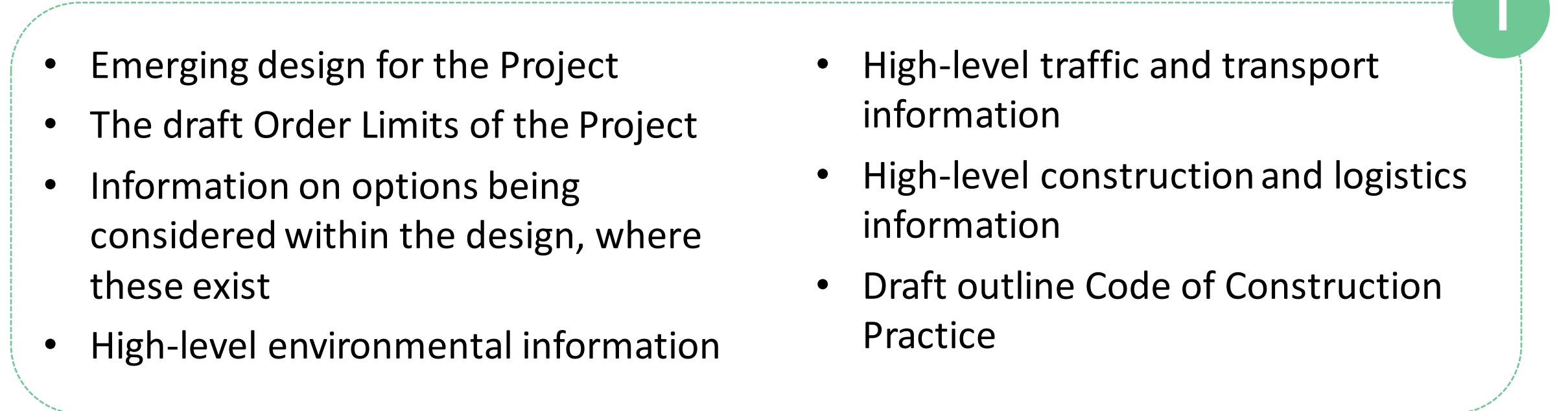
- ✓ Help communities and stakeholders better understand our plans
- ✓ Increase opportunities for people to share their views and feedback on our proposals
- ✓ Help us develop a better solution, informed by the communities EWR will serve

# Statement of Community Consultation

- Before launching the first stage of the statutory consultation, we'll develop a **Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)**.
- The SoCC must provide an overview of the two-stage approach to the statutory consultation and set out how we will publicise the consultations.
- We must consult **local authorities along the route** on the draft SoCC and this helps ensure a consultation programme that is tailored to the needs of communities along the route.

# What will be presented in the first stage of statutory consultation?

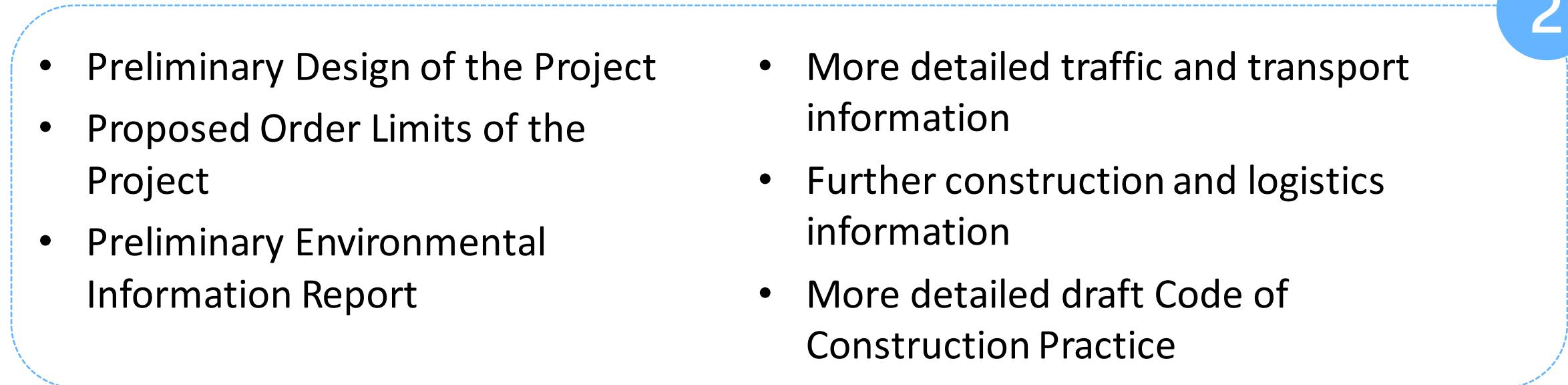
The information which we are aiming to share in the **first stage of statutory consultation** includes:



- Emerging design for the Project
- The draft Order Limits of the Project
- Information on options being considered within the design, where these exist
- High-level environmental information
- High-level traffic and transport information
- High-level construction and logistics information
- Draft outline Code of Construction Practice

# What will be presented in the second stage of statutory consultation?

The information which we are aiming to share in the **second stage of statutory consultation** includes:



- Preliminary Design of the Project
- Proposed Order Limits of the Project
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report
- More detailed traffic and transport information
- Further construction and logistics information
- More detailed draft Code of Construction Practice

# Taking part in the consultations

- The two statutory consultations will be **open to anyone** who wishes to take part.
- All consultation materials will be available **online**, and **hard copies** of the materials will be available at **inspection points** for people to view and inform themselves about the project.
- Across the two stages of statutory consultation, we will hold a variety of **in-person and online events**. Members of the project team will be available for the public to discuss their views with and to answer any questions.
- A feedback form will be available **online** for people to provide their comments and views on the project. Alternatively, people will be able to provide feedback via **email, post or at public information events**.

# Publicising the consultations

We will publicise the consultations in a variety of ways. These include:

- Statutory notices
- Statutory letters
- Website updates
- Press releases/media activity
- Information postcards
- Emails/letters
- Social media
- Local Representatives Groups
- Newspaper notices and adverts

# What will happen with our feedback after the first stage of statutory consultation?

1

- After the first stage of statutory consultation, we will analyse and consider all consultation responses.
- The feedback received will help us to develop a single proposal for the entire route.
- We'll present that proposal for feedback at the second stage of the statutory consultation.

# What will happen with our feedback after the second stage of statutory consultation?

2

- We'll analyse and consider all consultation responses received during the second stage of the statutory consultation.
- The feedback received will help us finalise the design we include in our DCO application.
- We'll produce a **Consultation Report** as part of our DCO application, which will explain how we have taken feedback into account and where this has resulted in changes to the design. This will be publicly available.

# What happens next?

We're currently in the process of preparing for the first stage of the statutory consultation.

Before the consultation launches, we'll share another update to confirm:

- The consultation dates
- More information about what we'll be asking for feedback on
- How you can respond to the consultation

We'll also share more information about the DCO process at a future LRG session.

06.

# Closing remarks, future meetings and topics

# Topics for future discussion



**Meeting #8 onwards:**

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**Discussion:** Other topics for future meetings

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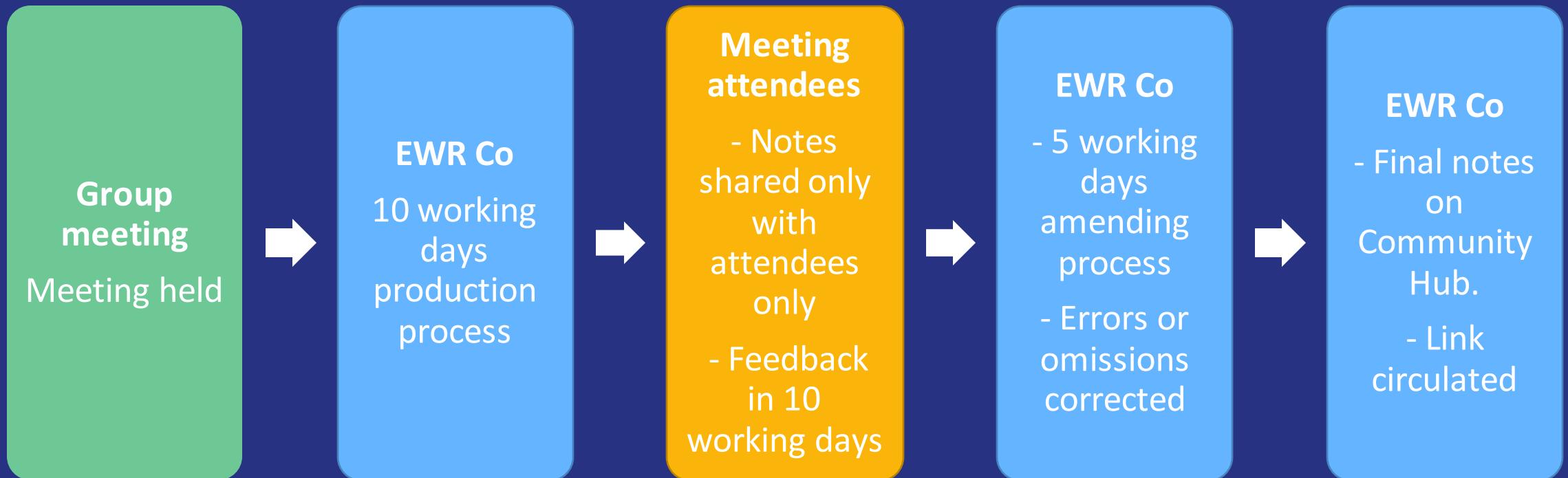
**Agreed frequency:** Quarterly meetings

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**Outcomes:**

**Actions:**

# Creating meeting notes



## We're always here

All the Group's relevant documents will be available on its **Community Hub** site.

We will notify you when available.



## Got a question?

If you have any questions about the Group, please email:

**[localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk](mailto:localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk)**

If you have any questions about the project, please email:

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

Or you can also call us on **0330 134 0067**