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RAIL

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Bedford Marston Vale Local Representatives Group

Meeting #6

19th March 2024

01. Welcome and today's agenda

Today's agenda

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 02.
Housekeeping

 03.
General Updates

 04.
Review of actions from previous meetings

 05.
Topic – The statutory consultation process

 06.
Closing remarks, future meetings and topics
-

02. Housekeeping

Housekeeping

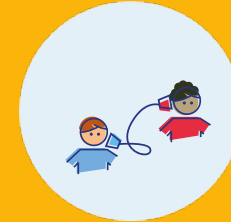
Thank you for attending

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
- Please drop your name and area you represent into the chat box



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

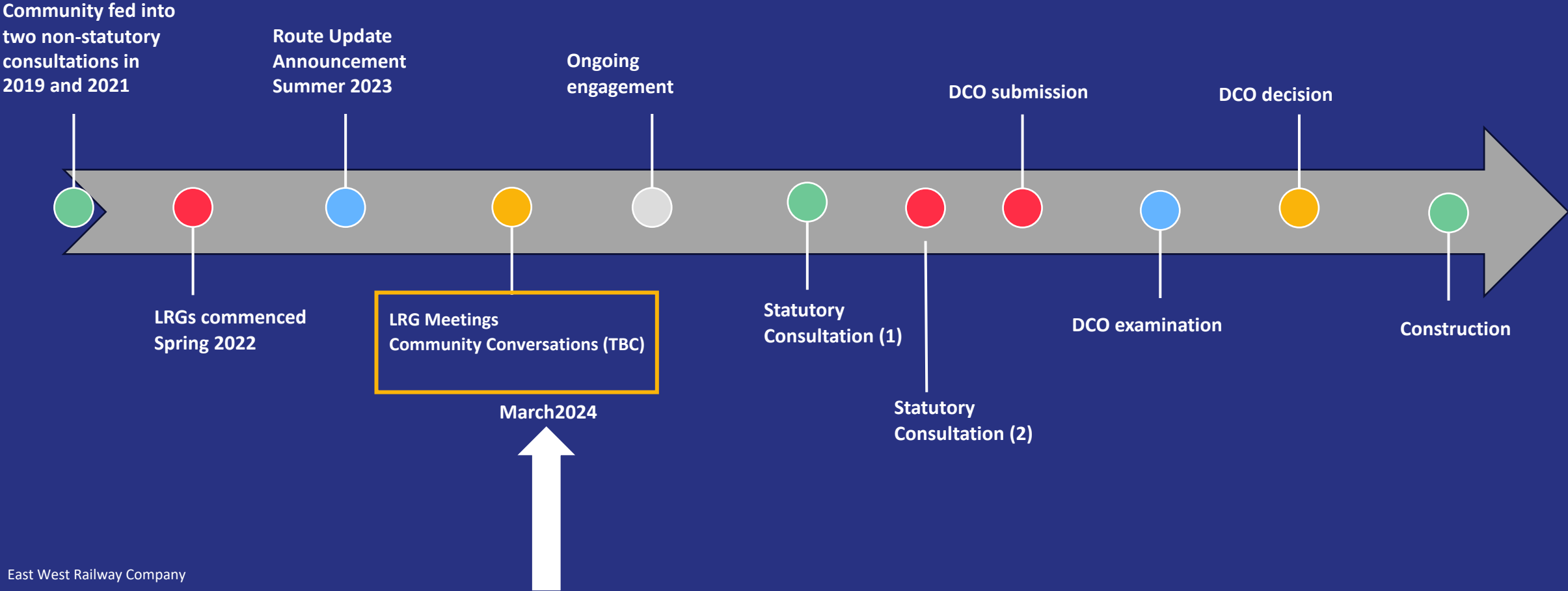
Spring Budget

- 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.

East West Rail consultation programme

- 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.
- EWR are continuing to develop proposals having carefully reviewed feedback from various sources such as the two non-statutory consultations, Local Representatives Groups, and community drop-in events. As part of this, we will be launching the first stage of statutory consultation on our proposals for EWR in June this year.

Where we are in the process



04.

Review of actions from previous meetings

Actions

No actions were taken

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

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:

1

- 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:

2

- 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.

07.

**Closing remarks, future
meetings and topics**

Topics for future discussion

Meeting #6 onwards:

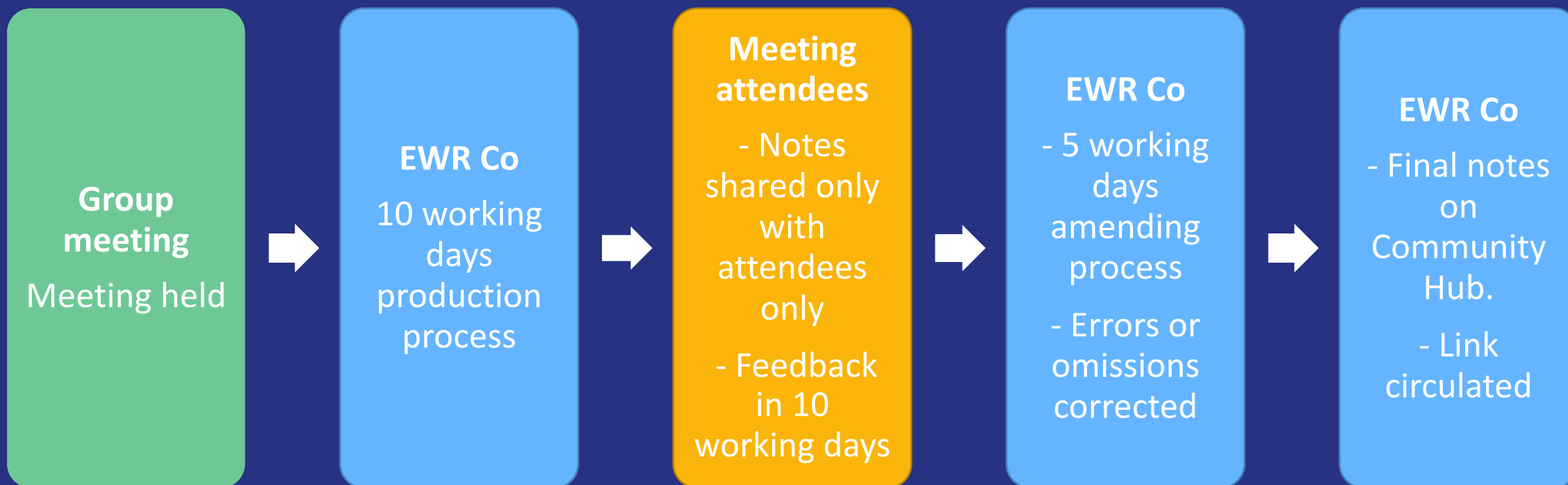
Discussion: Other topics for future meetings
Active travel and door-to-door connectivity
Accessibility and inclusion
Engagement with landowners
Environmental Impact Assessment
Freight.

Agreed frequency: Quarterly meeting

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

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

contact@eastwestrail.co.uk

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