



Cambridgeshire  
Chambers of  
Commerce



David Hughes  
Chief Executive  
East West Railway Company (EWR Co)

Freepost EAST WEST RAIL

Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Group

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Sent via email to David Hughes

4<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear David,

### **East West Rail Consultation and Implementation**

As supporters of the scheme, and on behalf of the Cambridgeshire and Thames Valley Chambers of Commerce, we write inviting your consideration of the following proposal to support, and work alongside, [East West Rail](#) (EWR).

EWR is a generational opportunity for communities and business. It will help unleash the UK's true economic potential and unlock growth in the Oxford to Cambridge corridor. A catalytic project, it will create new opportunities for collaboration and enable the region, businesses, to thrive. It will connect a region that is – truly – a global science, technology and innovation supercluster. EWR will add, as government highlights in their Infrastructure Strategy (06/2025), over £6 billion a year to the economy by 2050.

It is this potential we want to ensure the business community, along the corridor benefits. As you outline, it is the opportunity to bring more jobs within reach of local people, provide employment and open new areas for businesses to connect and grow that will realise the ambition of EWR.

As two Chambers we have a strong and proven track record of engaging our business community and supporting key partners/stakeholders in delivering successful programmes and projects of this nature.

Building on your most recent public consultation, we understand you will be publishing a summary report shortly. Moving forward, you will then be working-up final proposals which will be presented at a statutory consultation due to be held in late 2025/early 2026.

To support you during this period we would like to discuss how our Chambers can work with you to deliver a programme of business engagement and awareness raising of the procurement opportunities associated with EWR. This might include, for example delivering:

- Facilitating a series of engagement events between East West Rail and the business community



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- Hosting a series of 'awareness' raising events (e.g., on the benefits of the scheme/individual approach themes)
- One-to-few business roundtables and/or forum (e.g., to discuss specific technical/operational issues; business opportunities, etc)
- Hosting procurement focused events / portal to enable local businesses, and their supply chains, to have early sight/opportunity of contracts
- Introductions to our Local Skills Improvement Plan partners (e.g., schools and colleges to raise awareness of the employment opportunities, skills requirements of the scheme in the short, medium and longer term – i.e., prompting the rail/ways as a career opportunity)
- An MP's reception (in region/Westminster)
- Speaking opportunities for you at key Chamber events held in our respective regions, e.g., in the Thames Valley these might include: [Thames Valley Growth Conference](#) (in 2026); [Business Alliance Dinner](#)

We welcome the opportunity to have a wider discussion about the above and your priorities moving forward. We believe a close partnership, over this very important time, with the key business representative organisations will be of great value and impact.

Finally, may we take this opportunity of welcoming Kayleigh Spires into her role as EWR's new Industry Programme Director, we look forward to meeting up shortly.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Britton  
Chief Executive  
Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce



Charlotte Horobin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce