

Dear Councillor

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH) -
TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2019**

I am now able to enclose for consideration at the above meeting the following report that was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

**Agenda Item
No.**

6. EAST WEST RAIL CONSULTATION (Pages 3 - 4)

The Panel are to receive a report on the East West Rail Consultation.

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter:	East West Rail Consultation
Meeting/Date:	Overview & Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) – 5th March
Executive Portfolio:	Housing, Planning and Economic Development
Report by:	Planning Service Manager (Growth)
Ward(s) affected:	All, with the potential most direct impact on Wards in the south of the District.

Further report detailing the preferred options:

Following careful consideration of the 5 proposed options, it is considered that the Council should support Routes B or E, and respond on the basis that:

- **HDC is keen to welcome additional development provided there are specific identified benefits to Huntingdonshire that outweigh the additional cost, and Routes B and E have the potential to do this.**
- Along with the A428/A421, these routes would provide a key, single east-west transport corridor along which to concentrate connected, sustainable (economic, social and environmental) growth hubs, and encourage modal shift. A new station south of the District's largest town, St Neots, also provides a significant opportunity to enable sustainable east-west and north-south travel. A new station on the East Coast Mainline at Alconbury Weald to the north of Huntingdon would also connect the 150ha Enterprise Zone at Alconbury Weald to this North-South and East-West network.
- They provide the potential for growth at the junction of the East Coast Mainline, East-West Rail, A1, A428/A421 between St Neots and Sandy, not as further extensions to existing towns but as a new connected, sustainable settlement(s).
- *(Subject to it being agreed at the SCDC Cabinet meeting on the 6th March)* We support South Cambridgeshire DC's view that a station at Cambourne rather than Bassingbourn would be preferable to build upon the existing settlement strategy in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan.
- *(Reflecting current indications but subject to it being formally agreed prior to the submission of the comments)* Route E has the collective support of South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and Bedford Borough Council.

Whilst East-West Rail undoubtedly provides the opportunity for further growth, given that the consultation does not make clear what scale of growth would be needed to support any one route, it is not currently possible to say whether such growth could be physically accommodated, or whether it would be environmentally or socially acceptable.

It is essential that, following the close of this consultation period, East-West Rail Co. collaborates with local authorities along the route at each stage of the project's progression.

