**East-West Rail (EWR) Notes**

**Bedford Infrastructure Delivery Plan The Need for Stepped Trajectory Transport Final Report**

Date 11/05/2022

Revision 8

Section 4 - Delivering New Large Scale Transport Infrastructure

Sections 4.8 – 4.12

These sections indicate that planning and funding are in place for the western section of EWR, which from the EWR website runs from Oxford to Bletchley and possibly Milton Keynes. There is no further indication that either planning of funding is in place for the res of the route, this aligns with the EWR website.

**East-West Rail website (**[**https://eastwestrail.co.uk/**](https://eastwestrail.co.uk/)**)**

Information available on the East-West Rail website (<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/>) indicates that the rail route is not yet confirmed, still subject to government funding and as a consequence work in the Bedford area in not yet underway. Bedford local government consultation would also indicate that the route of East-West Rail in and around Bedford is not yet finalised either.

**Ox-Cam Arc**

On the central government website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxford-cambridge-arc>) is a policy paper on the Ox-Cam Arc published on 21/02/2021. No further updates since. There is a companion Policy Paper also published on 21/02/2021 ‘Planning for sustainable growth in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc: an introduction to the spatial framework’. Neither has had updates since.

**Cambridge Independent Newspaper**

Article Oxford-Cambridge Arc confusion: Has the project really been ‘flushed down the toilet’?

Date 27/04/2022

<https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/oxford-cambridge-arc-confusion-has-the-project-really-been-9251669/>

“But the Arc did not appear in a recent White Paper from the government, and MPs have suggested that it is no longer a priority, with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities focused on investing in the north - leaving local partners to pick up the pieces”

Writing in the Cambridge Independent last month, South Cambridgeshire MP Anthony Browne said: “I have given a very clear message to the Government that the Arc can’t be about concreting over swathes of the countryside with new homes.

“The Government has listened. I am glad the OxCam Arc appears nowhere in the Levelling Up White Paper, and is no longer a Government priority.”

**Submission**

Basing the Local Plan 2040 on the 2030 plan is a flawed strategy, making the 2040 plan invalid. The Ox-Cam Arc and the East-West Rail route are in doubt. The Ox-Cam Arc appears nowhere in the recent Levelling Up White Paper and is no longer a Government priority – Anthony Browne South Cambridgeshire MP. Bedford Infrastructure Delivery Plan Transport Final Report, section 4.8–4.12 Indicates that planning and funding are in place for the western section of EWR, which runs from Oxford to Bletchley. There is no indication that planning or funding is in place for the rest of the route.