



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY



**East West Rail**



The communities between Oxford, Milton Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge are great places to live and work but are let down by a lack of good east-west transport, limiting opportunities in the region. East West Rail (EWR) would connect communities in the area with better access to employment, education and public services as well as boosting the region's economy and encouraging much-needed investment in a part of the world globally recognised for technological and scientific innovation.



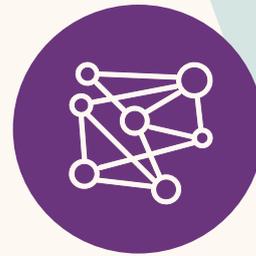
### The benefits of East West Rail:

- EWR would open up new journeys, cutting travel times and bringing more jobs within reach of people living locally. The new railway would reduce travel times in the region, with Bedford-Cambridge potentially just a 35-minute train journey apart, compared to 90 minutes by bus. What can currently be an hour commute between Cambourne and Cambridge could be just 15 minutes by rail.
- EWR Co have calculated that if Cambridge's potential is realised, it could create 80,000 new jobs by 2050, adding an extra £4bn per year to the local economy. EWR is key to unlocking this growth as the area is currently constrained by a lack of space for businesses to expand.
- EWR would connect a market of 4 million people, which is comparable with the region's international competitors. This makes the region more attractive to talent, and therefore investors.
- New and existing business clusters would be better connected across the region, encouraging collaboration, innovation and allowing access to markets. The Oxford-Cambridge Supercluster Board believes EWR can become a catalyst for turbocharged economic growth by connecting knowledge-intensive clusters.
- The new railway would ease pressure on local roads, meaning fewer emissions from cars and lorries. Just one freight train can remove up to 76 lorries from local roads. EWR Co aim for EWR to be a net-zero railway, ahead of the government's commitment to decarbonisation by 2040.
- In 2022, house prices at Cambridge peaked at 13.3 times the national average. EWR would indirectly support new opportunities for placemaking, helping address the housing crisis that inflates wages and impacts productivity. This includes access to more affordable housing within easy commuting distance which would alleviate the strain of premium house prices in Cambridge.
- EWR would enhance the regeneration of deprived areas and town centres by supporting local plans and increasing access to opportunities for communities along the railway. EWR has been working with local partners to deliver Local Opportunity Plans that will identify and kick start localised growth around EWR station locations.

Will Gallagher, Chief Strategy & Development Officer  
East West Railway Company

**People deserve access to public transport wherever they live, and EWR is a once in a generation opportunity to open up new journeys, cut travel times, ease congestion on local roads and bring more jobs within reach of people living locally.**

**Six of the world's top pharmaceutical companies have a presence in the Cambridge biomedical cluster, with six of them located in South Cambridgeshire. By connecting Cambridge – and particularly Cambridge South – with communities further west, EWR will unlock growth across the region and – given the global opportunity at the Biomedical Campus – for the whole of the UK too.**



East West Railway Company (EWR Co) is delivering EWR over several stages. This includes:

- Upgrading an existing section of railway between Oxford and Bicester
- Bringing back a section of railway between Bicester and Bletchley
- Refurbishing existing railway between Bletchley and Bedford
- Building brand new railway infrastructure between Bedford and Cambridge

East West Rail trains are expected to start running between Oxford and Bletchley/Milton Keynes in 2025, with services extending across the route in the coming years – following planning approvals and construction of the new railway.



**Investment**

To discover more about the East West Rail project and find out how to get involved, head over to [eastwestrail.co.uk](http://eastwestrail.co.uk)