

Railfuture East West Team

From: Railfuture's East West Team <eastwestrail@railfuture.org.uk>
Sent: 19 November 2025
To: eastwestrail@railfuture.org.uk
Subject: The Government's East West Rail announcement - our view

Railfuture welcomes the news that there will be more passenger services on East West Rail and also the arrival of Cambridge East station.

Neil Middleton, Railfuture Vice Chair said:

“Railfuture has long campaigned to bring back a rail link between Cambridge and Oxford. This announcement, which confirms more capacity, should make also the service "Turn up and Go", which will make the service much more usable and appealing.

Peter Wakefield, Railfuture's Lead on East West Rail said:

"It's also great to hear of the plan for a new station at Cambridge East, presumably to be funded by developers of nearby new housing - it's another vital step toward inclusive access and balanced regional growth.

"The usability improvements for stations like Bletchley and Cambridge Central are also much needed and welcomed - for instance the entrance to Bletchley is on the "wrong side" for easy access to the town centre.

The devil is in the detail - but the vision is clear: East West Rail must be built to last. We would have liked to be hearing about full, not partial, electrification, now that service intensity has increased (so as to avoid millions of miles carrying around heavy batteries and to make the line much more useable by quiet, electric hauled, freight trains) - it's essential to think beyond EWR as an Oxford to Cambridge railway

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- it will be part of the national network connecting people and goods from anywhere to everywhere.

Yesterday's announcement "Housebuilding around train stations will be given default 'yes'" demonstrates Rail's ability to connect people and places for the long term - to jobs, to social life, to medical care and much more - distance becomes so much less of a barrier.

Neil went on to say:

“Beyond the other improvements announced we are curious to see:

- If East West Rail will now have a station at St Neots.
- How residents of the stations we suspect are going to be closed on the Marston Vale Line between Bletchley and Bedford will be provided with good public transport (there going to be 4 new stations, so what is happening to the current ones..)
- Whether there will be a commitment to a new platform at Bedford on the line between Sheffield, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester and London - this is an important time saver if these services are to stop at Bedford."

Commenting on the supposedly imminent introduction of services between Oxford and Bletchley Neil said

“There's still no sign of this service starting and taxpayers starting to get a return on their investment. It's time for the Government to take a lead in getting all the agreements in place to allow a start of these services in the near future.”

Railfuture is the UK's leading independent organisation campaigning for better rail services for both passengers and freight.

Railfuture's website can be found at: www.railfuture.org.uk

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