



Department
for Transport

Councillor Rodney Rose
Councillor Ian Bates
c/o Caryl Jones
East West Rail Consortium
4th Floor, Bedford Borough Hall
Cauldwell Street, Bedford
MK42 9AP

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Paul Maynard MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: paul.maynard@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/171599

23 AUG 2016

Dear Rodney

Thank you for your letters of 3 August to Chris Grayling and myself, updating us on the progress of the East West Rail (EWR) and for your warm wishes.

As you are aware, EWR will create brand new travel opportunities, supporting growth of the employment market and the wider economy, as well as unlocking the potential for future housing growth along the corridor. Despite the deferral of the completion of the programme into the next Control Period (2019-2024) as part of the Henty Review, the government remains committed to its delivery and is working hard to explore ways which could see its delivery brought forward, so that these benefits can be realised sooner. I have asked Brian Etheridge, Director of Network Services, to meet with senior officials at the EWR Consortium with this in mind.

The Department will continue to work constructively with the EWR Alliance, the EWR Consortium and other key stakeholders to identify the opportunities it has available.

Thank you for the invitation to attend the site visit to the Western Section on 12 September. Whilst I would have enjoyed seeing part of the route and hearing personally about the programme and its benefits, unfortunately, due to prior diary commitments, I will be unable to attend. I will ensure however that there is appropriate representation from the Department.

I remain interested in East West Rail and I look forward to being able to discuss the programme with you soon.



P.P **PAUL MAYNARD**

Signed by a private
secretary to avoid delay