

DIRECTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 35 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 RELATING TO THE NEW RAILWAY WORKS BETWEEN BEDFORD AND CAMBRIDGE

By letter to the Secretary of State received on 1 July 2019 (and after receiving further information on 1 August 2019), East West Rail Company formally requested that the Secretary of State exercise the power vested in the Secretary of State under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act") to direct that the proposed scheme set out in the East West Rail Company's letter and known as the new railway works between Bedford and Cambridge, as well as any associated matters, be treated as development for which development consent is required.

The Secretary of State is satisfied that:

- the development does not currently fall within the definition of a "nationally significant infrastructure project" and therefore it is appropriate to consider use of the power in section 35; and
- East West Rail Company's request constitutes a "qualifying request" in accordance with section 35(10) of the Act.

The Secretary of State has made a decision within the deadline set out in section 35A(4), after the receipt of further information as requested, and wishes to convey that decision.

Having considered the details of the new railway works between Bedford and Cambridge set out in the request, the Secretary of State is of the view that this development by itself, and as part of the East West rail link between Oxford and Cambridge, is nationally significant, for the reasons set out in the Annex.

Accordingly, as the Secretary of State is satisfied that the proposed new railway works is nationally significant, THE SECRETARY OF STATE DIRECTS that the development, together with any matters associated with it, is to be treated as development for which development consent is required.

In addition, the Secretary of State further directs that any proposed application in relation to the new railway works between Bedford and Cambridge is to be treated as a proposed application for which development consent is required.

This direction is given without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of any application for development consent which is made in relation to the new railway works between Bedford and Cambridge.

Signed by



Isobel Pastor
A Senior Civil Servant in the Department for
Transport, For and On Behalf of the Secretary of State

29th August 2019

ANNEX A

REASONS FOR THE DECISION TO ISSUE THE DIRECTION

The Secretary of State is of the opinion that the new railway works between Bedford and Cambridge is of national significance because the scheme by itself, and as part of the East West rail link, will:

- provide a vital step in the development of a strategic transport corridor that will unlock major development opportunities and enable transformational growth around existing towns and cities;
- improve east-west rail connections and have the potential to increase the labour market catchment areas for key towns and cities, opening up new opportunities for collaboration and job growth; and
- create a direct link between East Anglia and central and southern England, delivering benefits for passengers and businesses both regionally and nationally.