GODFREY Trudy
TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Network Rail Oxford Phase 2 order (TWAO)
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On behalf of Oxford City Council, I am making this representation on behalf of Tom Bridgman, Director for Development and the Leader of the Council, Cllr Susan Brown.

Oxford City Council is strongly supportive of the TWAO application, acknowledging the significant economic benefits arising from the delivery of East-West rail and the Cowley Branch Line.

EWR provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to improve connectivity across the east of England Heartlands and ARC and electrification of the whole route is critical. This is consistent with the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study (ORCS); with local and regional opportunities and benefits which can be secured from this national infrastructure project.

There is significant value and potential of delivering EWR through Oxfordshire. The ORCS study illustrates the station will unlock the delivery of housing and employment sites across Oxfordshire to achieve nationally significant growth. The forthcoming Oxfordshire 2050 plan is a joint commitment from Oxfordshire partners to planning for future housing and jobs growth in a sustainable way.

Through the detailed design development process, we encourage NR and EWR to explore opportunities to bring forward future phases of ORCS, including the Cowley Branch Line, as early as possible to maximise and expedite these benefits. Also, we highlight the importance of the ongoing work around the wider station masterplan to ensure there is alignment between the wider plans for the station and the Phase 2 proposals.

It should be noted that the Council's position with respect to the TWAO application is separate to, and independent of, its powers in relation to any related planning applications which will be determined by the local planning authority in accordance with its statutory duties under the Planning Acts, and having regard to the public sector equality duty contained in section 149 Equality Act 2010. Further, the Council's comments do not affect the powers and duties of the Highways Authority, Oxfordshire County Council.

Trudy Godfrey I Regeneration Manager I Regeneration & Economy I Oxford City Council I St. Aldate's Chambers I Oxford I OX1 1BX I 07483 097030

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