**Warwickshire Rail Strategy 2019-2034**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

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| **Why do we need a Rail Strategy ?** |
| The previous Rail Strategy, as contained within Warwickshire’s Third Local Transport Plan, is out of date. The County Council has taken the decision to produce a new Rail Strategy. This is a non-statutory policy document supporting the existing Local Transport Plan, it is intended it will form part of the Fourth Local Transport Plan when that is prepared. |
| **Who is being consulted?** |
| Members of the public, partners and stakeholders all have a real interest in achieving improvements to better rail connectivity and access to the rail network. The County Council encourages any individual, business or group to respond to this consultation. |
| **What happens now?** |
| Following the consultation period, responses received will be reviewed and where appropriate and feasible the draft strategy will be amended to reflect the responses received. It is anticipated that the County Council will formally endorse the strategy in December 2019. |
| **How will the strategy be implemented?** |
| The strategy will be used as a platform for prioritising and funding improvements to the rail network. It is likely that all schemes will to some extent involve working with partners. Delivering improvements to the rail network can often prove complex and it is clear that major infrastructure projects will not be delivered at a local level. The strategy document will be used to support our ‘key asks’ to the relevant regional and national partners. |
| **How will Warwickshire County Council (WCC) deliver new stations?** |
| For stations promoted by WCC, the County Council will undertake the preparatory work which may enable a station to be considered by the Department for Transport (DfT). The County Council will work with a range of partners, including Network Rail, DfT and the Train Operator to deliver the station. Funding to deliver the station also has to be secured and the County Council will explore a number of opportunities to do this. |
| **How will Warwickshire County Council (WCC) deliver service improvements?** |
| WCC cannot deliver service improvements independently. It will rely on working in partnership with our partners, including the Train Operators, the Department for Transport and West Midlands Rail Executive. Often, funding will be required to deliver additional services and/or significant infrastructure improvements will be required. |
| **Is Warwickshire County Council (WCC) responsible for the trains that operate on the network?** |
| No, WCC is not responsible for the trains that operate on the rail network, the responsibility for that resides with the Train Operating Companies (TOCs). In Warwickshire the main TOCs are Chiltern Railways, West Midlands Railway, London Northwestern, Virgin Trains and Cross Country. |
| **Is Warwickshire County Council (WCC) responsible for maintaining rail stations located in Warwickshire?** |
| No, WCC is not responsible for maintaining rail stations located in Warwickshire. This is the responsibility of one of the Train Operating Companies. WCC liaise closely with the TOCs to identify improvements at our stations and will, where appropriate, help to secure funding to deliver local schemes. |
| **Is Warwickshire County Council (WCC) responsible for maintaining the rail track in Warwickshire?** |
| No, this is the responsibility of Network Rail. |
| **Does Warwickshire County Council deal with ticketing issues?** |
| No, the Train Operating Company (TOC) sells a range of ticketing options and manages issues around delay repayment. |
| **Who are West Midlands Rail Executive (WMRE) and how is Warwickshire County Council represented?** |
| West Midlands Rail Executive (WMRE) is comprised of local authorities from across the region, including Warwickshire County Council. WMRE helps drive and shape better rail services for the future by working with government, train operators and other key partners. Local Councillors from each authority sit on the WMRE board which means the views and issues raised by local people can be represented and help influence the wider work of WMRE. More information about WMRE can be found on their website <http://www.westmidlandsrail.com/> |
| **Who is Midlands Connect and how is Warwickshire County Council represented?** |
| Midlands Connect is comprised of partners from across the Midlands region and is working to explore, develop and recommend transport projects to government which will provide economic and social benefits for the Midlands and the rest of the UK. Warwickshire County Council works closely with Midlands Connect to develop key rail interventions to help secure the maximum benefits for Warwickshire where possible. |