

## Members' Library Service Request Form

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Document Title	East Coast Main Line Authorities Update

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Additional information:

Authorised By	Ray Montgomery
Designation	Head of Infrastructure
Date	01/03/15

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**REPORT TO:** Members' Library Service

**MEETING DATE:**

**BY:** Depute Chief Executive - Partnerships and Community Services

**SUBJECT:** East Coast Main Line Authorities Update

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To advise Members of the Prospectus for Investment in the East Coast Main Line - Executive Summary Report promoted by the consortium of East Coast Main Line Authorities (ECMA), a consortium of Local Authorities and Regional Transport Partners, outlining potential economic benefits through investment in the East Coast main line corridor.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of the report and East Lothian Council's contribution of £1,000 towards promoting economic growth by encouraging long distance high speed connections, improving infrastructure and working within the Consortium to lobby Government and the rail industry to improve connectivity.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 ECMA membership consists of a number of Scottish Local Authorities (*East Lothian Council; Edinburgh City Council; North Lanarkshire Council; Glasgow City Council; Scottish Borders Council; Fife Council; Dundee City Council; Angus Council; Aberdeenshire Council; Aberdeen City Council; West Lothian Council; Falkirk Council; Stirling Council; Perth & Kinross Council; Highland Council*), Regional Transport Partners (SEStrans) and English Authorities covering the length of the east coast from London to Aberdeen and Inverness with the City of York Council acting as Lead Authority.
- 3.2 The Consortium seeks to promote economic growth through local, regional and national investment in the rail industry, identifying key business opportunities including connectivity and improved journey times between major tourist centres (Edinburgh, York, London), providing the necessary infrastructure to meet the demand for rail travel, improving the performance, reliability and resilience of the network, providing

interchanges and links to international gateways and reducing carbon and potential increasing freight line traffic.

3.3 The East Coast main line corridor is a significant driver of GDP and research suggests it contributes £300 billion annually to the British economy. The strategic business case North of York, identifies that investment in the ECML improves journey times significantly, which potentially could unlock benefits in excess of £5 billion.

3.4 Local benefits covered by the campaign that will have a direct impact on East Lothian would be the creation of a new East Linton Station, a second platform at Dunbar and the establishment of the local service between Edinburgh and Berwick, which has recently been announced by the Transport Minister.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 This initiative is expected to contribute towards *growing a sustainable economy* - a key priority for East Lothian Council.

4.2 The initiative assists East Lothian Council in lobbying public transport providers and the Scottish and United Kingdom Governments to improve the quality and accessibility of road, rail and bus links and services across East Lothian and the wider east coast corridor.

#### **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Personnel - None

6.2 Other – None

6.3 Finance – A contribution of £1,000 can be made from the Roads Services revenue budget 2014/15.

#### **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None

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