

### Engaging and consulting with local communities across the route is vital to the successful design, assessment and operation of the new railway.

The conversations we have with you today will continue to help inform our evolving design and environmental assessment.

This ongoing process of design development and environmental impact assessment will provide the basis for the 'working draft' of the Environmental Statement (WDES) that we will be consulting on later this year.

It will be accompanied by a 'working draft' Equalities Impact Assessment (WDEQIA), which seeks to understand and address how our plans may disproportionately affect certain groups within our society.

### What is a WDES?

The working draft Environmental Statement is a detailed statement assessing the likely significant effects of the proposed scheme on the environment and the proposed measures to avoid, reduce or manage the effects. The report will be divided into individual community areas to make it easier to find information about a particular area.

Feedback to consultations on the WDES and WDEQIA later in 2018 will be taken into consideration as we develop the proposed scheme which will be published when we present a hybrid Bill to Parliament by the end of 2019. The Bill will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) and seek powers to build Phase 2b.

### WDES contents structure

#### Non-technical summary

A summary of the proposed scheme, and its likely significant effects on the environment, in non-technical language.

#### Glossary of terms and abbreviations

#### Volume 1: Introduction and methodology

Overview of the proposed scheme and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

#### Volume 2: Community Area (CA) Reports

26 reports and their associated map books setting out significant effects of the proposed scheme that are likely to occur at a community area level.

#### Volume 3: Route-wide effects

Assessment of the significant effects of the proposed scheme that are likely to occur at a route-wide level.

#### Volume 4: Off-route effects

Assessment of the likely significant effects at locations beyond the Phase 2b route corridor and its local environment.

#### Supporting documents