

3 July 2021

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
c/o Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London, SW1P 4DR  
Only by email: [transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk](mailto:transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Shapps

**The Proposed Northumberland Line Order**

I am writing to express support for the application by Northumberland County Council for the above-mentioned Order.

As a resident of Blyth, Northumberland, I believe the improved connectivity provided by the Northumberland Line will bring social and economic benefits to residents, commuters, visitors and businesses both in Northumberland and the wider region.

In particular, the scheme will:

- improve access from towns such as Ashington and Blyth to employment hubs like Newcastle, as well as opening up new opportunities for education and travel;
- provide a real incentive for potential employers to relocate to and invest in the area;
- provide vital infrastructure to help deliver the region's aspirations for population and economic growth;
- help to attract visitors and improve local tourism;
- enhance public transport connectivity within and beyond the region;
- greatly assist the Government's "Levelling Up" agenda;
- help to reduce congestion and improve air quality on key corridors by moving people away from car travel and onto public transport; and
- support the delivery of significant growth in sectors such as renewable energy, offshore oil and gas and engineering.

The proposed Northumberland Line Order is vital to secure the delivery of the scheme and I hope you will make the Order to enable the scheme to go ahead as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Paul Stevens