
4 July 2021

Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

Sent by e-mail to transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re. The Proposed Northumberland Line Order

I am writing to express my extreme support for the application by Northumberland County Council for the aforementioned Order.

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 North East region.

In particular, the scheme will:

- improve access from towns such as Ashington and Blyth to employment hubs like Newcastle upon Tyne, 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;
- 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 re-opening of the line to passengers is long overdue and goes some way to revitalising areas of the country who have suffered due to the lack of foresight when the closures were made back in the 1960s. I can't wait to be able to travel on the line when it's fully operational.

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

Yours faithfully,

BENJAMIN COWELL