

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

5th July 2021

The person dealing with this matter is:

Graham Grant
Assistant Director, Transport
Newcastle City Council
Civic Centre
Barras Bridge
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

Phone: 0191 2116011

Fax:

Email: graham.grant@newcastle.gov.uk

www.newcastle.gov.uk

Dear Secretary of State,

The Proposed Northumberland Line Order

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

At Newcastle City Council, we feel that 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.

Newcastle is an employment hub for the wider region and the scheme will improve opportunities for the residents of places like Blyth and Ashington to access the city. It will also improve the access of the people of Newcastle to the growing green and renewable sectors along the Northumberland coast.

We are also committed to working with partners across the region on congestion reduction, improving air quality and lowering carbon emissions. This scheme will help to reduce congestion, lower carbon emissions and improve air quality on key corridors by moving people away from car travel and onto public transport.

The scheme contributes to a number of the objectives of Newcastle City Council, as well as the wider North of Tyne and North East and we support its delivery.

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

Yours faithfully

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Cllr Ged Bell

Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods and Transport