

Dear Sir/Madam

The Proposed Northumberland Line Order

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

At the Dales School we are working hard to set up a centre (Using two Pacer trains) to teach children from the North East about Railway safety and also teach SEND children how to travel by train.

It is important that we have a rail network that connects up the whole of Northumberland to provide SEND children with opportunities to travel using the skills we are teaching at our school.

[In particular, the scheme will:

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- *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;*
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- *provide a real incentive for potential employers to relocate to*
- *and invest in the area;*
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- *provide vital infrastructure to help deliver the region's aspirations*
- *for population and economic growth;*
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- *help to attract visitors and improve local tourism;*
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- *enhance public transport connectivity within and beyond the region;*
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- *help to reduce congestion and improve air quality on key corridors*
- *by moving people away from car travel and onto public transport; and*

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- *support the delivery of significant growth in sectors such as renewable*
- *energy, offshore oil and gas and engineering.]*
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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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James Groundwater

Outdoor Learning



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