

NORTHUMBERLAND LINE ORDER
POSITION STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF MATTERS BETWEEN
THE APPLICANT
AND
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL AS LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY AND LOCAL HIGHWAY
AUTHORITY
24 NOVEMBER 2021

1. On 20 October 2021, the Applicant submitted a Statement of Common Ground (**the SoCG**) [**APP-48**] between (a) the Applicant and (b) Northumberland County Council (**NCC**) as both local planning authority (**LPA**) and local highway authority (**LHA**). The SoCG set out the various matters relating to the application on which the Applicant, the LPA and the LHA had reached agreement and those matters that remained under discussion.
2. This statement sets out:
 - (a) the current position on the matters that were indicated as still being under discussion between the parties in the SoCG; and
 - (b) updates on other matters referred to in the SoCG.

3. The contents of this statement have been agreed between the Applicant, the LPA and the LHA. Where matters relate to planning applications that have not yet been determined, the matters remain under discussion between the parties.

Extent of areas of highway proposed to be stopped up by the Order

4. Paragraph 2.1 of the SoCG stated that discussions were on-going between the parties as to the precise areas of highway to be stopped up under the Order at Newsham and Bedlington.
5. Since the submission of the SoCG, NCC's Strategic Planning Committee (on 2 November 2021) resolved to grant planning permission for the new station at Bedlington. Further to this, sheet 14 of the Rights of Way Plans has been revised to reflect the extent of highway that needs to be stopped up to be consistent with the plans for the station as approved. This revised sheet forms part of the revised set of Rights of Way Plans submitted to the Inquiry on 9 November 2021. As such, the parties consider this matter to be agreed.
6. Discussions remain on-going as to the precise area of highway to be stopped up under the Order at Newsham, as the LPA and the LHA further consider the proposals contained in the planning application submitted for the new station at this location. Sheet 11 of the Rights of Way Plans has been amended to reflect the proposals contained in the planning application as it currently stands and the parties will continue to discuss any further amendments required to reflect the development as permitted (should planning permission be granted).

Creation and maintenance of new highways

7. Paragraph 3.17 of the SoCG states that the parties are in agreement with the provisions of article 11 of the Order - this article provided for the creation and maintenance of new highways under the Order.

8. Since the submission of the SoCG, the drafting of this provision has been amended. Article 10 (previously article 11) no longer provides for a 12 month period whereby the Applicant is required to maintain the new highways created under the Order. Instead, article 10 provides that the highways to be created under the Order will have the status/designation specified in the relevant Schedules to the Order once they are completed to the reasonable satisfaction of the local highway authority. This drafting is reflected in the revised version of the Order submitted to the Inquiry on 9 November 2021.
9. This change has been made to provide flexibility – it may be that in the case of a particular highway to be created under the Order, it would not be appropriate for it to be automatically maintained for 12 months by the Applicant. Instead, suitable maintenance arrangements can be provided for by way of agreement (for example under article 13 of the Order). NCC as LHA and LPA has considered this revised drafting and has no concerns with it. The revised drafting is therefore agreed.

Hospital crossing

10. The parties acknowledge that the Applicant (as set out in its opening statement to the Inquiry) has asked the LPA not to proceed to determine the planning application for the proposed new underpass at Hospital at this time, to allow it an opportunity review the feasibility of alternative options at this location. As such, any matters relating to Hospital remain under discussion between the parties but are currently 'paused', pending the outcome of that review.



Name: Stuart McNaughton, Strategic Transport Manager

On behalf of NCC as Applicant

Date: 24 Nov 2021

Name:

On behalf of NCC as local highway authority and local planning authority

Date: