

Cavendish Elithorn

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Ian Williams Chief Executive, Darlington Borough Council Town Hall Feethams Darlington DL1 5QT

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By e-mail only

Dear lan,

Darlington Station rail enhancement scheme funding availability

I am writing regarding the Darlington Station rail enhancements scheme, and to provide Darlington Borough Council (DBC) with confirmation of funding availability for the project, to support DBC's progression through a Compulsory Purchase Order process.

Funding for the rail enhancements at Darlington Station will be met from the Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline (RNEP) budget. Schemes within the RNEP progress through decision gateways to secure funding, and in June 2020 the Department confirmed the Government's commitment to the Darlington Station scheme with the approval of £8.7m of funding to progress design work on the project.

In addition to the funds already announced, the Department anticipates that further funding from the RNEP will be made available to deliver the scheme, provided it has the required consents, and continues to provide value for money. We anticipate a further request of funding from Network Rail – to deliver the scheme – will be submitted in early 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Cavendish Elithorn Director, Rail Infrastructure Central

Cc Paul McKeown, Network Rail