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To Whom It May Concern

The Darlington Borough Council (Darlington Station Gateway) CPO 2021 (the "Order")

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (NR) fully supports the Darlington Borough Council (DBC) Station Gateway Project and its proposed land assembly scheme under the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO).

Commercial Case

DBC's Station Gateway Project is part of a package of rail enhancements being delivered at the station and a total budget of £105m has been identified for the Darlington Station Project (station gateway and rail enhancements).

The budget will be met from two funding sources; Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) funding of £25m for the Council Project and from the Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline (RNEP) for enhancements to the track and platforms, including £8.7m of committed funding to progress design work on the project. The Department of Transport (DfT) anticipates that further funding from the RNEP will be made available to deliver the scheme, subject to final business case approval in 2022.

Land Transfer for Project Works

CPO approval is imperative for the successful delivery of the Darlington Station Project by the end of 2024. Delivery of a new multi-storey car park and station building will provide significant benefits to rail users in Darlington. The key benefits being access to the new platforms for trains towards London and Teesside and an enhanced arrival experience into Darlington.

Rail Industry and Council Partnership

It's been hugely positive to work closely with Darlington Borough Council and we look forward to delivering a station gateway project which is sympathetic to the town's renowned rail heritage ahead of the celebration of the bicentenary of Stockton & Darlington Railway in September 2025.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul McKeown".

Paul McKeown

Investment Director, Network Rail