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Group Director of Services
Darlington Borough Council
Town Hall
Darlington
DL1 5QT

17 December 2021

To Whom It May Concern

The Darlington Borough Council (Darlington Gateway) CPO 2021 (the “Order”)

On behalf of LNER I am writing to confirm our full support for the Darlington Station Project and for the Gateway Projects, for which a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process is underway.

We have worked closely with Network Rail (NR), Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA), Darlington Borough Council (DBC), other train operators and other stakeholders over many months to help design an exciting and forward-looking station facility that will help the running of train services, provide a much-improved experience for station users and will help to future-proof Darlington Station – a significant point of the East Coast mainline and gateway to the Tees Valley. We feel the developing scheme will help passengers' journeys and increase use of rail services, for local, regional and long distance journeys and boost the public realm around the station as well as the economy and potential of the whole town.

We wish to see a range of quality, upgraded facilities and through the CPO process, DBC will be able to secure the land required to deliver the improvements that Darlington rail station requires. Furthermore the design will vastly improve both the setting of the East and West Gateways and uplift the setting of Darlington's historic station buildings.

LNER remain committed to supporting this important development and we hope this scheme will be given the go-ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Horne', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Horne
Managing Director
London North Eastern Railway Limited