

23 December 2021

Inspector Mr Patrick Hanna,
c/o Environment & Transport Team
The Planning Inspectorate
Room 3A Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir,

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

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

Darlington Station has, for a long time, been recognised as a constraint on the efficient running of rail services and this major investment in track, station and transport interchanges will have a major impact on the running of services.

We have worked closely with Network Rail (NR), Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA), Darlington Borough Council (DBC), other train operators, along with other stakeholders, over many months to help design an exciting and forward-looking station facility that will help the running of train operators’ services, provide a much-improved experience for station users and will help to future-proof Darlington Station (a significant point on the East Coast main line and gateway to the Tees Valley). We feel the developing scheme will improve passenger journeys and increase train use in the area, for both local and long-distance customers.

Darlington Station is wholly located to the west of the East Coast Main Line (ECML) which results in southbound trains needing to cross the main line to enter the station. This has an adverse effect on journey times and performance which will become an increasing constraint as more long-distance high-speed services call at Darlington in the future. This redevelopment will allow for a capacity increase to the ECML route as an additional benefit to our passengers.

We support these proposals that would deliver a range of quality, upgraded facilities that vastly improve accessibility to the station by bus, bike, car and on-foot and will improve passengers’ overall convenience in accessing trains from Darlington. Through the CPO process DBC will be able to secure the land required to deliver these significant improvements that Darlington rail station requires. Furthermore, the design will vastly improve both the setting of the East and West Gateway’s and uplift the setting of Darlington’s historic station buildings.

TransPennine Express remain committed to assisting in this important development and trust this scheme will be given the go-ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Matthew Golton
Managing Director
TransPennine Express