

5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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To Whom It May Concern,

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

On behalf of Northern, I am writing 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 and 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 traveller's journeys and increase train use in the area, for both local and long distance travellers.

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.

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

Yours sincerely,



**Kerry Peters**  
Director – North East Region

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