



# Northumberland County Council

The Right Hon Mark Harper MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
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## A1 IN NORTHUMBERLAND – MORPETH TO ELLINGHAM DUALLING

I am writing regarding the dualling of the A1 in Northumberland. As you will be aware the Morpeth to Ellingham dualling scheme is well developed and ready for construction, but has been awaiting a Development Consent Order (DCO) decision since January 2022.

National Highways proposals to deliver this much needed and long-overdue upgrade to the A1 between Morpeth and Ellingham will:

- Improve network resilience and journey-time reliability;
- Maintain access for local traffic whilst improving strategic travel;
- Stimulate economic growth;
- Create opportunities to provide sustainable benefits to the environment; and,
- Strengthen Union connectivity.

Giving the green light to delivery of the scheme will accelerate all these key outcomes. I must also highlight we continue to experience road safety incidents on this road, with another two serious accidents in the past few weeks on sections that are intended to be dualled.

The next deadline for a DCO decision is 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023. A completed, detailed design for the scheme is already in place and approvals from statutory bodies and arrangements with landowners are at an advanced stage. This scheme is ripe for implementation now. Given the overwhelming case and strong local support for the scheme, along with the continuing road safety issues, I would urge you to make a swift and positive decision on the DCO for the scheme. Give the green light to a modern, safe and sustainable A1 which will serve the county's communities, drive economic growth and strengthen our Union for many generations to come.

[REDACTED]  
**Leader of the County Council**



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