

The Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure Planning  
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***SENT BY EMAIL and UPLOADED TO THE PROJECT WEBSITE***  
***Cumbria County Council Reference No. 20032142***  
***Eden District Council Reference No. 20031846***

13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

FAO: Mr Richard Allen, Lead Member of the Examining Authority

## **A66 NORTHERN TRANS PENNINE (NTP) PROJECT**

### **JOINT SUBMISSION OF CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL AND EDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR EXAMINATION DEADLINE 2 (15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023)**

Dear Mr Allen

In further response to your ('Rule 8') letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (reference TRO10062) setting out the Examination timetable, I am writing on behalf of Cumbria County Council and Eden District Council (together 'the Councils'), with our joint response for Deadline 2.

The Councils' submission for Deadline 2 comprises our comments on the following Deadline 1 submissions from National Highways (NH):

- NH Responses to the Relevant Representations
- NH response to the Examining Authority's Issue Specific Hearing 2 Additional Questions
- Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) Post Hearing Submission of NH
- Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) Post Hearing Submission NH
- Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1) Post Hearing Submission of NH

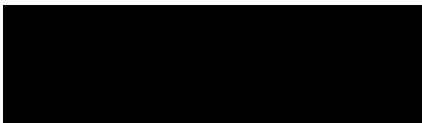
The Councils' responses have been uploaded individually to the project website. When these are placed on the website by the Inspectorate team, please could you ensure that the documents are clearly labelled as coming from both Cumbria County Council and Eden District Council.

We would like to reiterate the Councils' in-principle support for the Project and believe that a suitably designed project will improve connectivity, road safety and journey time reliability all of which will significantly support economic growth aspirations of Eden and Cumbria. However, we would also like to stress that there are a number of matters which need attention and resolution during the Examination process. We have set out our concerns in our Local Impact Report and Written Representation and within this response we would highlight how the Councils share the concerns of the Statutory Environmental Bodies regarding the approval process for the EMP.

It is essential that the Councils have a proper say in the approval of matters within the EMP for which they have a statutory interest and that the approval processes, including the self-approval aspect is further clarified by NH. There is a need for a satisfactory governance process to cover any changes to the EMP (minor or major) to which the Councils need to give agreement. Moreover, for the Councils to engage post-Examination in the Project, particularly given the accelerated timescales and novel approaches being trialled as part of 'Project Speed', there is a need for adequate resourcing.

The Councils will work positively with NH during the Examination, with the aim of resolving any areas of disagreement, but would like to stress the need for improved levels of engagement outside the Examination process for this to be achieved.

Yours sincerely



**Alison Hatcher**  
**Assistant Director of Growth and Infrastructure**