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[A66Dualling@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:A66Dualling@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

14 February 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) - Section 88 and 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 - Rules 6 and 8**

**Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A66 Trans-Pennine Dualling Project**

**Deadline 4 – 14 February 2023**

**Durham County Council Reference No. 20032071**

I write in response to the 'Rule 6' letter dated 17 October 2022 and the 'Rule 8' letter dated 8 December 2022 which, amongst other matters, sets out information which is required to be submitted to the Examining Authority (ExA) by Deadline 4. In addition, I note the letter dated 31 January 2023 from the ExA (the 'Rule 13 and 16' letter).

**Responses to Written Questions**

Durham County Council's (DCC) response to the ExA's Written Questions are included in Appendix 1 to this letter.

**Notification of wish to attend an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)**

DCC representatives will be attending the ASI. Details of attendees are included in Appendix 2 to this letter.

**Attendance at Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH2) and Issue Specific Hearing (ISH3)**

On the basis that plans submitted to date are correct, DCC is not affected by compulsory acquisition and there is therefore no need for representatives to attend CAH2.

Details of potential DCC attendees at ISH3 are set out in Appendix 3 to this letter. As it is understood that detailed agendas will be circulated prior to the event, attendees for ISH3 may change and a final list of attendees will be provided at that time. All attendees will be virtual and not in person.

**Regeneration, Economy and Growth**

Durham County Council, Planning Development (Strategic), Room 4/123-128, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL Main Telephone: 03000 262 830

**General**

DCC would reiterate that it does not object to the proposed junction at Rokeby; however, given the lesser impact of the “Blue” route, referred to in the Statutory Consultation, in relation to increased traffic on the B6277 The Sills, the strong preference of the Council remains for the “Blue” route. The reasons for this are set out in Appendix 1 of the Council’s Relevant Representation to PNS dated 31 August 2022 (Application Document RR-073) and in subsequent documents submitted to the ExA by the Council.

DCC considers that there continues to be a need for the Applicant to liaise with DCC regarding the ongoing and final highway design of the scheme as well as other related matters.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries regarding this letter.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Principal Planning Officer.

Principal Planning Officer

***Encs.***

1. Appendix 1 – Durham County Council Response to The Examining Authority’s Written Questions and requests for information Issued on 31 January 2023
2. Appendix 2 – Durham County Council attendees at Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)
3. Appendix 3 – Durham County Council potential attendees at Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH2) and Issue Specific Hearing (ISH3)