

## Eden Tourism Network: A66 Northern Trans Pennine Dualling Project

Eden Tourism Network, a public/ private sector partnership consisting of 117 tourism operators living and working in the local area strongly supports this proposed project. Pre pandemic Eden's tourism economy was worth over Â£390m and for the economic success of the District both in terms of local employment and retaining our healthy communities it is important that this investment in the local area is maintained. Many visitors to Eden access the area via the A66 and the single carriageway sections currently delay journeys, increase the number of accidents and sustain injuries, all of which in turn cause closures/diversions which can cause very severe disruption to local settlement on the diversion routes.

Eden's stunning landscape is a precious resource and one of the key factors in attracting visitors. We acknowledge there will be landscape consequences to this project, but recognise these need to be balanced with the economic, safety and social benefits, acknowledging the need to mitigate the impacts of these consequences as much as is possible. We are also mindful that it would not be appropriate to comment on detailed plans for the route of the new dualled sections which we believe is a matter for local communities. We are aware that Highways England have looked at all other options to improve journeys in pursuit of their 3 project priorities " economic, transport and community " but have concluded this is the only way forward which meets all these objectives.