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15 March 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 5 – 14 March 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).

**Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases**

At Issue Specific Hearing (ISH3) on 2 March 2023 Durham County Council (DCC) advised it would provide an update to its position on diversions, detrunking and why DCC considers a 12 month maintenance period to be appropriate. This information is contained in Appendix 1 of this letter.

**The Applicant's revised draft DCO**

Not applicable to DCC.

**Compulsory Acquisition Status of Negotiations Schedule**

Not applicable to DCC.

**Statutory Undertakers Status of Negotiations Schedule**

Not applicable to DCC.

**Updated Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)**

The Applicant has provided DCC with the opportunity to comment upon an updated draft SoCG prior to submission but DCC has not yet responded. Any document therefore

**Regeneration, Economy and Growth**

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submitted by the applicant is not an agreed document at this stage, although it is not considered that there are major issues of disagreement between the parties.

It was noted in DCC's Deadline 3 response dated 24 January 2023 (REP3-058 & REP3-059) that the Applicant was proposing changes to the DCO as set out in REP2-042 ('Deadline 2 Late Submission Accepted by ExA- Applicants Response to the ExA Rule 9 Letter Dated 6 January 2023') and that the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) may well alter as a result. DCC is of the view, based on plans previously seen, that it is unlikely new issues would be introduced that would alter the position stated above.

**Updated Statement of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground**

It is understood that the Applicant is submitting an update to this document which has not been viewed by DCC.

**Updated Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statements (PADS)**

DCC's Deadline 3 response dated 24 January 2023 (REP3-058 and REP3-059) provided an update to its PADS. A further update is included in Appendix 2 to this letter.

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.

**Guide to the Application**

Not applicable to DCC.

**Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

Not applicable to DCC.

**Comments on any further information/ submissions received by Deadline 4**

DCC has no comments to make at this time.

**General**

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



Principal Planning Officer

***Encs.***

1. Appendix 1 – Durham County Council Post-hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases (position on diversions, detrunking and 12 month maintenance period)
2. Appendix 2 – Durham County Council's Updated Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statements (PADS)