

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Date 16th May 2023

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

Dear Mr Allen,

**NATIONAL HIGHWAYS' (the Applicant) A66 NORTHERN TRANS PENNINE (NTP)
PROJECT (the Project)**

**SUBMISSION OF WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS COUNCIL (the Council) FOR
EXAMINATION DEADLINE 8 (16TH MAY 2023)**

In further response to your ('Rule 8') letter dated 8th December 2022 (reference TRO10062) setting out the Examination timetable, I am writing to set out the Council's response to Examination Deadline 8.

The Council maintains its strong support in principle for the Project, which it sees as a vital investment in infrastructure in the North of England, which will bring considerable benefits to the area.

Submission Contents

The Council's submission for Deadline 8 has been uploaded to the project website and comprises this letter, plus the following:

- Response to the Applicant's response to Deadline 6 submissions at Deadline 7

Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Council and the Applicant

The Council has devoted considerable time and resources in recent weeks to preparing the SoCG with the Applicant. Further drafts of the document were exchanged today, but unfortunately the parties are unable to sign off the SoCG for Deadline 8 as there are still some outstanding issues to be resolved. We will continue to work closely with the

Applicant over the next few days, with a view to finalising the SOCG for signature as soon as possible and by no later than Deadline 9.

Brough Hill Fair

In response to the Applicant's Summary Statement on Brough Hill Fair, the Council is keen to ensure that any replacement site is of the same size as the current provision and can accommodate the same level of visitors to allow the fair to operate in a similar manner to the current arrangements.

Ongoing maintenance of the site has been raised and the Council would not want to see a responsibility placed on it to service the site in terms of providing utilities (electric, water, drainage, etc.), ongoing cleaning after the fair and the provision of a safe environment for those attending the fair e.g. through supporting policing costs or highway management arrangements.

The arrangements to include consultation with the local planning authority and the local highway authority on the detail of any alternative provision site is welcomed.

Draft DCO

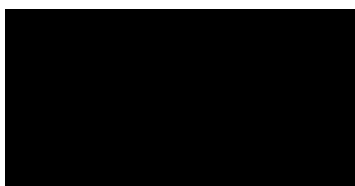
With regard to the Applicant's comments on and Schedule of Changes to the Draft DCO, the Council maintains its position that the ExA's wording suggested at Deadline 6 provides greater certainty of the nature and degree of the environmental effects associated with any amendments captured by the process that these articles will permit.

Further Comment on Deadline 7 submissions

The Council has not yet completed its review of the Applicant's Deadline 7 submissions, due to the volume of submissions and the limited time available to review. The Council reserves its position to submit further responses prior to Deadline 9.

The Council is in discussion with the Applicant to finalise a legal side agreement which will cover a number of matters including, but not limited to, detrunking, protective provisions for drainage, and assurance that the Applicant will not permanently acquire land at Skirsgill Depot. It is vital to the Council that this agreement is progressed as a matter of urgency to provide it with certainty on matters that sit outside the DCO itself. The terms of the side agreement should be agreed before the end of the Examination.


Your sincerely,



Philip Greenup

Assistant Director – Sustainable Transport and Highways



E. @westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk