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Your ref:
Our ref:



A66Dualling@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

29 November 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

PLANNING ACT 2008 AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

APPLICATION BY NATIONAL HIGHWAYS (“THE APPLICANT”) FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE PROPOSED A66 NORTHERN TRANS-PENNINE PROJECT.

CONSULTATION SEEKING COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANT AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

DEADLINE 29 NOVEMBER 2023

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL REFERENCE NO. 20032071

I write in response to the letter dated 8 November 2023 from the Department of Transport requesting information in respect of the above application.

North Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation

This is not applicable to Durham County Council (DCC).

Side Agreements

The DCC Agreement was completed on 24 November 2023.

Amendments to the Draft Order

Article 53

DCC welcomes and supports the proposed amendments to the drafting of Article 53 set out in the Annex to the letter dated 8 November 2023.

DCC supports the removal of the “self-approval provisions” previously included in Article 53 of the draft Order relating to amendments to the second iteration Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Regeneration, Economy and Growth

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

DCC also supports the need for the third iteration EMP to be submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State rather than the undertaker as previously drafted.

Article 54

DCC considers that the revised drafting is disproportionate and would require the Council to deploy significant resources including engage external consultants to assess such amendments. As a result, DCC disagrees with the revised drafting and consider it should be for the Secretary of State to approve any amendments pursuant to Article 54(2).

The Secretary of State's previous consultations

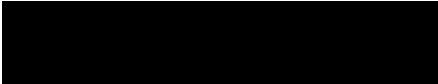
DCC has no comments to make.

Government Response to the Climate Change Committee Progress Report

DCC has no comments to make.

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

Yours sincerely



Principal Planning Officer