

Richard Horwood
Chair, Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Planning Forum

By email: isleofdogsnpf@gmail.com

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Dear Richard,

RE: Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation

Congratulations to you and the Forum for reaching this important milestone in the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. I'm aware of the amount of time and energy it must have taken to get to this stage.

I wanted to use this opportunity to again stress my support for neighbourhood planning and the aspirations your draft Plan outlines. In particular I am aware of and share the concerns Island residents have about the scale of development and the level of infrastructure needed to ensure it is sustainable. This has been my constant challenge to the GLA and I am hopeful that the Development Infrastructure Funding Study will identify both short and long term solutions. I am also supportive of your objective to use the Neighbourhood Plan to help shape local infrastructure.

Given the local need for infrastructure, the use of CIL receipts are key, albeit insufficient, to meeting our infrastructure needs. As you are aware we have established a new process for the allocation of CIL and Neighbourhood CIL including a robust consultation process. The new system both improves transparency and provides for an effective and timely way of allocating CIL. I am pleased the Neighbourhood Plan has identified priority projects for CIL Neighbourhood Portion and these will be fed into our allocation process. I do also understand concerns regarding the location of CIL spend, however it is vital that the Council retains flexibility to enable the delivery of strategic infrastructure.

I recognise that a second key issue for the area and therefore the Neighbourhood Plan is estate regeneration and I can understand why residents wish to seek greater certainty and control through the Plan. I have been clear that I will not support a CPO unless the proposals have residents' approval, which I hope also provides reassurance. I think the Neighbourhood Forum can provide a valuable role in outlining residents' expectations in relation to estate regeneration. There is however a question of whether this ambition is best reflected in the plan given that much of it does not directly relate to land use and development.

Given the importance of these issues, and as this is the first draft Neighbourhood Plan in Tower Hamlets, I want to ensure it is a rigorous document which meets the expectations of local residents and can help shape and guide development on the Isle of Dogs. It is critical that we are clear with residents

about the scope of the plan. Neighbourhood planning is an extremely powerful tool for local residents to shape their local environment, but it has to operate within the national, regional and local planning framework. I understand that the Plan Making Team do have some concerns regarding whether parts of the proposed plan meet the requirements of national legislation and guidance. This will be outlined in their technical Council response to your consultation and I have requested that they work with you and your consultants to understand the advice you have been given and to provide support to you to as you refine your draft Plan.

I would also very much welcome the opportunity to meet with the whole Forum to discuss the aspirations for the Neighbourhood Plan and how we can ensure it is a sound document which we are able to get adopted smoothly and quickly.

Finally, I have found the co-operative approach we have taken regarding planning on the Isle of Dogs extremely useful and I think residents also appreciate the transparency and clarity it has provided. I hope we can continue this joint working as your Neighbourhood Plan, the Local Plan and OAPF all move forward towards adoption.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Biggs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Biggs
Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets