

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

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Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP

Secretary of State
Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

Our ref: PDU/1483MC15

Date: 26 May 2010

Dear Eric,

Brent Cross Cricklewood

I write further to my previous correspondence to you to raise a separate and perhaps more urgent matter which I had brought to the attention of your predecessor. It relates to the above planning application and the direction issued to Barnet Council on 15 March 2010 under Article 14 of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995.

As you may know, the planned regeneration of Brent Cross Cricklewood has a long and chequered history. The current scheme has been in the making for some twelve years, during which time it has been the subject of an enormous amount of work and close scrutiny by Barnet Council, the GLA, TfL, the Brent Cross Cricklewood development partners and other key stakeholders. Over the past months my officers have worked closely with the Council and have negotiated significant improvements to the scheme, notably the affordable housing package and transport mitigation measures.

It is understandable that a scheme of this scale and complexity has been the subject of some local attention and strength of feeling. I am aware of the concerns of neighbouring borough councils, and have gone to great pains to ensure that their concerns have been fully investigated and that appropriate mitigation has been agreed with the applicant. This applies particularly to transport mitigation and the implications for all forms of public transport. I am satisfied that the scheme represents an appropriate form and quantum of development which satisfies local, strategic and national planning policy requirements and will realise genuinely sustainable regeneration in this long neglected and under-utilised part of London. The homes and employment targets I have set in my emerging London Plan are extremely challenging and this scheme will make a significant contribution to their achievement. Any further delay would jeopardise the substantial inward

investment and associated economic and regenerative benefits that the scheme will bring to London. On this basis I urge you not to call in the application for a costly and wholly unnecessary public inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Boris Johnson', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

cc Andrew Melville, Head of Planning and Housing, Government Office for London,
Planning and Housing Division, 9th floor, Riverwalk House, 157-161 Millbank,
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