

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## Mayor's Office

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**Jennette Arnold OBE AM**  
Chair of the London Assembly  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA

**Our Ref:** MGLA061112-1553  
– Motion 3

**Date:**

**06 DEC 2012**

Dear Jennette

### **Re: Motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting on 24 October 2012**

Thank you for your letter of 25 October about six motions agreed by the London Assembly at the London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting on 24 October.

A response to motions 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 will be sent to you shortly. In the meantime my response to motion 3 about the South London Line is below.

I know you are familiar with the background to this whole issue, namely the withdrawal, by the Department for Transport (DfT), of the London Bridge – Victoria via Denmark Hill service due to the changes they are making at London Bridge resulting from the Thameslink programme. Whilst Transport for London (TfL) and I have a strong interest in these matters, they were decisions taken by the DfT. Following the decision to withdraw the South London Line, TfL sought to help Londoners in the affected area through the extension of the London Overground, which has helped to mitigate the impact. The new extended London Overground will open on 9 December, providing a much needed service to Londoners.

TfL and I have repeatedly asserted the case to the DfT and Ministers that changes to the stopping patterns of existing longer-distance services can further mitigate the impact of the withdrawal of the London Bridge – Victoria via Denmark Hill service. I am aware that the London Assembly, along with many other stakeholders, have petitioned the DfT to adopt mitigation measures – many of which would cost nothing to implement.

You rightly note that despite cross-party efforts, Ministers have decided the impact on journey times for longer-distance users from Kent is disproportionate. This is despite the fact that TfL demonstrated the additional stops would have benefited many Kent residents by improving access to south London, including its hospitals.

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I fear there is now little that can be done in the short-term given the changes take effect in December. I am pleased to acknowledge your continued support for the devolution of London's suburban rail services to TfL and will continue to make the case for future changes as part of the process to renew the Thameslink, West Anglia and Southeastern franchises.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Boris Johnson', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Boris Johnson**  
Mayor of London