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Sir Peter Hendy CBE
Commissioner of Transport

Transport for London
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03 February 2015

Dear *Caroline*

Re: Transport Committee response to consultation on London Overground extension to Barking Riverside

Thank you for your letter of 17 October 2014, in response to our recent public consultation on our proposal to extend the London Overground to Barking Riverside. The report on consultation report has now been completed and is attached to this letter.

I am pleased to note the Transport Committee's approval, in principal, of an extension of the London Overground to Barking Riverside. We share a desire to unlock the potential in the Barking Riverside development, enabling new homes and new healthcare, shopping, community and leisure facilities through the provision of this rail link. I would also like to reassure you that that the extension will be fully linked to the rest of the transport network via an interchange at Barking to c2c and London Underground District and Hammersmith & City line services.

As part of the 2014 Autumn Statement a funding package for the Overground extension has now been agreed. The £55 million loan from Government will be combined with other GLA, TfL and developer contributions to ensure the £210 million scheme can be delivered.

Turning to your comments, I am pleased to confirm that the planned overhead electrification for the existing Gospel Oak to Barking Line is now confirmed and fully funded, and is planned to be completed before the extension to Barking Riverside is expected to become operational at the end of 2019.

The electrification programme will enable four car electric trains to run on the line, relieving congestion and providing significant additional capacity.

Regarding a potential further extension, although not part of this project, which is focussed on serving the Barking Riverside site, in the longer-term, we are investigating whether it might be desirable to extend the Overground further across the Thames to connect with Thamesmead and Abbey Wood. As such, the Barking Riverside scheme will be designed in such a way as it does not preclude any further extension in the future.

The extension has been designed so it will not result in a diminution of services for existing London Overground users and that all new users will benefit from the high levels of service that are provided on the current network. This includes at least a four train per hour service on new, four car electric trains, stations built to London Overground standards, with step free access, a visible staff presence from first to last train, clear lighting, CCTV, help points, a public address system and real time train service information. The proposed station will be fully integrated into the wider masterplan for the Barking Riverside development, including the provision of a high quality interchange with local bus services and the provision of high quality cycle parking facilities.

Your comments have been fully taken into account and are included alongside all other responses in our consultation report, which was published on the project website on Monday 19th January. We have drawn particular attention to your remarks in section 6 of the report: responses from stakeholders. We had 714 replies to the consultation, with 90% of respondents supporting an extension of the London Overground to the Barking Riverside development in principle.

Planning and development of the proposal will continue ahead of an application for a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) by the end of 2015. TfL will conduct further consultation during 2015 with stakeholders and the public on proposed scheme to ensure TfL can consider their feedback before the application is finalised.

Once the application for the TWAO is submitted I anticipate a public inquiry could be held in mid 2016 and the Secretary of State for Transport might reach a decision by spring 2017. The extension could be operational by 2020.

I hope this information is helpful. If you would like any further information on this project, Richard de Cani; TfL's Managing Director for Planning would be more than happy to provide a briefing. Please contact his Personal Assistant at judytaylorray@tfl.gov.uk if you would like to arrange a briefing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be 'Peter Hendy', written over the typed name below.

Sir Peter Hendy CBE