

3 May 2017



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Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 26 April. I apologise for the delay in responding but I was out of the country last week.

I am very sorry if some wires have been crossed here. That is certainly not our intention. Hopefully what follows will explain the position more fully and of course I am happy to discuss on the telephone or in person if you require more information. I am aware that senior councillors Blake and Islam were briefed by council officers on the GLA bid issue but somehow we have miscommunicated. Please accept our apologies if that is the case.

To explain, the GLA is asking all RP's to provide indicative programme numbers for the next 4 years to enable them to reserve funding allocations in support of Sadiq Khan's housing policy. During our regular engagement meetings with the GLA we have obviously kept them informed of progress on the Isle of Dogs proposals and they were keen that we should include at least an early phase of any regeneration at this point, even though they fully understood that any proposals we were to bring forward were totally conditional on the completion of our current options appraisal work, on the ongoing resident consultation and on both resident and council support as well as gaining planning consent for any resulting scheme.

Our bid was made only in that context and was solely a benign act designed only to assist the GLA in reserving funding for significant projects and in monitoring uptake of the overall funding pot. It in no way suggests we have reached any final decisions on any scheme on the Isle of Dogs nor does it obviate the need for us to work with the council and with residents to gain support for any scheme.

I agree that it is something we should have raised at the Working Group meeting on 30 March although it is worth noting that we did not submit any bid to the GLA until 31 March. As to informing residents and explaining the context of any bid, we have a meeting with the 4 Estates Forum in the near future and we would advise that group at that time as well as include an item in our forthcoming Island newsletter sent to all residents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan Williams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan Williams
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