

**Planning and Borough Development**

Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, LONDON, W8 7NX

**Executive Director Planning and Borough Development**

Mr Jonathan Bore

Shibani Bose  
Scott Wilson

My reference: **Response to the Statement of  
Community Consultation and Community  
Consultation Strategy. Thames Tunnel.**  
Please ask for: Patricia Cuervo

18 June 2010

Please ask for: Jonathan Bore

Dear Ms Bose,  
Please see enclosed the response of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

**The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's response to the Statement of  
Community Consultation and Community Consultation Strategy.**

We welcome this opportunity to comment again on both documents. We are generally pleased with the changes made to the draft although we would like to stress the importance of flexibility to adapt to local communities and local issues and collaboration with local authorities during the consultation process and indeed during all the phases of the Thames Tunnel including construction and operation.

For clarification purposes, our comments are divided following the sections of the 'Local Authority and Stakeholder Consultation Feedback Report'.

**'What we will consult on'**

We note that it would not be possible to have a preliminary Environmental Assessment available for consultation in Phase One. We welcome the clarification of how and when environmental information will be consulted upon. We believe that the inclusion of the environmental issues considered during site selection in Phase One consultation would allow the public to achieve a better and integrated understanding of the environmental impacts and would also help local authorities to gather valuable information for the Local Impact Report.

We welcome the fact that the information available during the consultation process will include the location of access to the sites. We would like that information related to the frequency of access during operation and the reasons why access is needed are made available during the consultation process. We would also like that the information consulted upon include an explanation of construction methods. This would allow an assessment of the potential impacts which the public could comment on.

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We acknowledge the reference to the status of the Consultation Strategy as a 'live' document (paragraph 1.3.3), subject to future revision. However, we would like the document to meet at least the benchmarks currently set in the draft.

### **'Who we will consult'**

We note and understand the amendments of the draft SOCC to identify 250m as a benchmark for determining the vicinity of the site and the intention to send letters to owners/occupiers of properties above the tunnel routes. However we would like to stress the importance of identifying properly all the individuals affected by the project. Those will include those affected during the construction phase (i.e. traffic movements and routes, use of temporary sites). Moreover, if the project has any direct or indirect impact on public open spaces and community facilities this is bound to have significant negative effects on people using these spaces and facilities, not just on local residents. We therefore believe that there is a need for a flexible approach depending on the sites considered.

Local authorities are best placed to provide assistance on who to consult and we would like to reiterate our desire to collaborate with the consultation team to give all residents and groups in our LDF database the opportunity to decide if they would like to be consulted in regards to the Thames Tunnel. Furthermore, we could also include information about the project in our Weekly Planning Bulletin. We welcome the inclusion of paragraph (2.3.4) in the Consultation Strategy relating to partnership working with local authorities to use their knowledge, experience and existing channels of communication.

We note that the Emergency services are not included in the list of consultees. We believe it is important they are included.

### **'How we will consult community consultees'**

We welcome the amendment to the draft SOCC to clarify public exhibitions will be open for three consecutive days at each site. We believe paragraph 5.16.4 of the strategy referring to Phase Two exhibitions on selected sites should be modified to allow also for three days rather than 'at least two days'. We would also like that access for all is taken into account when choosing the venues for public exhibitions and public meetings.

We note that broad timings for the consultation activities will be provided in the published SOCC. However, we would like to reiterate the importance of publicising well in advance both consultations and the related consultations activities to allow residents and interested parties to prepare for them.

We have found a discrepancy between the SOCC and the Consultation Strategy related to the amount of weeks that Phase One consultation will last (12 or 14 weeks). We would like further clarification in the final documents along with reference to flexibility on the consultation periods if these fall over summer or winter holidays.

Finally, we feel that the communication with elected representatives must come directly from the Thames Tunnel Project Team.

### **'Respondents' comments: Capture, recording and feedback'**

We believe that information regarding the Thames Tunnel and the consultation process along with opportunities to provide feedback to the consultation should also be found in local libraries and community facilities to increase awareness and facilitate the feedback process.

There should be a process in place for any interested party that has made comments to view specific responses to their comments (i.e. consultation portal). Each individual point raised in each individual response should be addressed and both, comments and

response to comments, should be made public. We would like to reiterate the importance of all responses to be considered on their merits.

We welcome the fact that comments can be provided through the website and feedback forms. However, we would also like emails and letters to be accepted as a way to provide feedback. Moreover, feedback forms should allow for further issues to be raised rather than just collating responses to a set of questions.

**Post-Submission and Approval (section 8 of the Consultation Strategy).**

We welcome paragraphs 8.2 - 8.2.4 referring to ongoing communication and community liaison following the submission of the application. We feel that dialogue must be open both, with local authorities and the public in general, about progress of the construction, its impacts and potential mitigation measures.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Bore  
Executive Director