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Re: Consultation on depot sites for the Cross River Tram

As you know, we are moving towards adoption of the Southwark Unitary Development Plan early in 2007 and we will be safeguarding the site in Peckham which Transport for London identified for use as a depot for the Cross River Tram. On the public inquiry inspector's recommendation, and with your agreement, we have modified the designation of the site to specify a split-site depot.

Although the site is to be safeguarded, there are legitimate concerns about certain impacts of the proposal that would have to be mitigated as far as possible. These include the effect on the town centre, on traffic and on employment and community facilities currently occupying the site.

I understand that you are planning to carry out consultation on the depot proposals later in 2007 and that further work is being carried out to assess all of the options for providing depot facilities for the project. In view of the concerns noted above, Southwark Council would like your assurance that each candidate site for the proposed tram depot will be considered on a fair and transparent basis. This would require information on all of the criteria used in assessing the merits of all of the candidate sites being considered to be available to the public when this consultation takes place.

I look forward to your early reply with this assurance.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Richard Thomas
Liberal Democrat Councillor for East Dulwich
Executive Member for Regeneration

Cc. Executive members of Southwark Council
Planning Committee