

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, Chair of the Transport Committee

London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London, SE1 2AASir Peter Hendy CBE
Commissioner
Transport for London
Windsor House
42-50 Victoria Street
London, SW1H 0TL**17 October 2014**

Dear Peter

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

I am writing, on behalf of the Transport Committee, to set out our response to TfL's consultation on the proposal to extend London Overground to Barking Riverside. This response is based on our relevant past work, including on London Overground services, and addresses the specific consultation questions.

In principle, we support the proposal for an extension of the London Overground Gospel Oak to Barking line to Barking Riverside. We support this proposal because Barking Riverside is the largest housing development in east London, with plans for up to 10,800 new homes, and new healthcare, shopping, community and leisure facilities. Transport infrastructure is crucial to such redevelopment and any new transport infrastructure needs to be fully linked to the rest of the transport network so residents can travel easily for work and leisure. The proposal to extend the Overground should provide such links via the interchange at Barking with the existing c2c Fenchurch Street rail line and the District and Hammersmith & City London Underground lines.

In expressing our support for the proposal, we also wish to make some comments. First, we have long called for the electrification of the Gospel Oak to Barking line, and we would want to see this happen before any extension to Barking Riverside is completed. Second, we would welcome more details on the scope for further possible onward extension towards Thamesmead and Abbey Wood. Third, we want assurances that any extension to Barking Riverside will not result in a diminution of services for London Overground users. Current users should continue to receive, as a minimum, the standards of service outlined below and, if the extension goes ahead, any new users should also enjoy these levels of service.

- A 'turn-up and-go' frequency of trains throughout the week.
- Improved station ambience by deep cleaning and refurbishing.
- A visible staff presence at every station from first to last train.
- Improved passenger security with networked CCTV and Help Points at all stations, plus improved lighting and more stations gated.
- Visual and public address systems providing real-time train service information, supported by a comprehensive online and mobile enabled journey planning system.
- High quality cycle parking facilities to promote cycling as a means of accessing stations.¹

¹ These minimum service standards for the London Overground are set out in the Mayor of London's Rail Vision, February 2012, p18

We trust that TfL will take our comments into account and look forward to receiving details of the outcomes of the consultation in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Pidgeon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Chair of the Transport Committee