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Sent via email only

Dear Andrew Boff AM,

**Solar Panels on listed buildings**

Thank you for your letter of 12 June 2023 regarding the London Assembly (Plenary) Motion on solar panels on listed buildings.

The London Borough of Waltham Forest declared a climate emergency in 2019, and our Climate Action Plan commits to reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030. We therefore share the Assembly's view that solar PV panels have significant potential in ensuring London can generate clean energy.

Our borough has always taken a proactive and pragmatic approach to the inclusion of solar PV panels on listed buildings where possible, seeking ways to balance the statutory requirements of preservation and enhancement of heritage assets against the pressing needs of the climate emergency, and this is especially true of those buildings in Council ownership.

Waltham Forest Town Hall, for example, is a Grade II listed building that has featured solar PV panels since 2012. Several other examples of buildings in Council ownership, including Grade II\* listed buildings, have also recently installed solar PV panels or have had planning and listed building consent granted for their installation. Further examples exist within the borough of non-Council owned listed buildings installing solar PV panels, and as such we believe we are already demonstrating a commitment to clean energy.

As a Council we are also preparing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on retrofit, which will assist homeowners when considering measures such as solar PV panels, and we are confident that our positive and proactive approach will result in greater take up of solar PV panels across the borough.

However, we do not consider that the creation of a Local Listed Building Consent Order (LLBCO) in relation to solar PV panels would be a useful or time effective measure in the context of Waltham Forest.


This is principally due to the low number of statutory listed buildings within LB Waltham Forest – just 117 – which is especially stark when compared against other boroughs such as RB Kensington & Chelsea's c.4,000. Furthermore, of those 117 listed buildings in LB Waltham Forest, c.30 of them would not be suitable for solar panels as a result of them

being features such as tombstones, railings and war memorials, which physically could not support solar PV panels.

As a result, we do not currently receive, nor do we expect to receive, high numbers of listed building consent applications for solar PV panels. In contrast to other borough's where an LLBCO might help save Officer time in dealing with high numbers of listed building consent applications for solar PV panels, in LB Waltham Forest it would have the opposite effect, requiring a significant amount of time up front to draft, develop and consult on an LLBCO, which would only support an extremely small number of properties.

In our view time would be better spent in continuing the ongoing proactive and pragmatic work taking place in relation to retrofit measures within the borough, and which is already resulting in the inclusion of solar PV panels on listed buildings. We are however fully supportive of the London Assembly motion, and welcome the impact it could have across London in securing further solar PV panels on listed buildings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ahsan Khan', written in a cursive style.

**Councillor Ahsan Khan**

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration