

MAYOR OF LONDON

Sian.Berry@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA290124-5254

Date: 13 February 2024

Dear Sian,

Thank you for writing to the Mayor about your concerns regarding the removal of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH). As the Mayor's Walking and Cycling Commissioner I have been asked to reply on his behalf and I am sorry for the delay in responding. The Mayor and I share your concern over the removal of TfL-funded Healthy Streets projects, given the positive impact they have on the rates of active travel and reductions in road danger.

You have requested that the Mayor exercise the powers given to him in Part IV of the Greater London Authority Act to prevent the LBTH from carrying out its decision of 20 September 2023 to remove schemes like the borough's LTNs. The Mayor is, of course, aware of these powers.

Whilst the Mayor agrees that the Cabinet's decision is extremely regrettable, in deciding how to respond, he must consider the full range of options available to him. The Mayor has an obligation to Londoners to consider very carefully, informed by advice, whether to use valuable resources engaging in legal action with boroughs.

Any use of the statutory powers in Part IV would almost inevitably result in a legal challenge. Therefore, since the Cabinet's decision, the Mayor has been considering potential next steps, and Transport for London officers have been attempting to engage with the LBTH.

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This does not mean that the Mayor has yet ruled out any other options, including some form of legal action. As you are aware, in terms of future Local Implementation Plans funding, Tower Hamlets has been informed that no further Cycle Network Development or Bus Priority funding will be awarded to it until such time as it is able to satisfy me that it intends to comply with the Mayor's Transport Strategy.

Yours sincerely,



Will Norman
Walking & Cycling Commissioner