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15 November 2011

Karren Brady
Vice-Chairman
West Ham United Football Club
Boleyn Ground,
Green Street
Upton Park
London E13 9AZ

Dear Ms Brady

I read with interest your comments in the Sun on 7 November about London Assembly Members' views on the plans for the Olympic Stadium after the 2012 Games. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify my Committee's position and suggest how we might be able to work together as plans are taken forward.

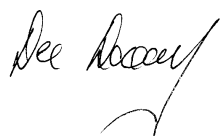
The Assembly's cross-party Culture, Media and Sport Committee criticised the original plan for a 25,000-seat stadium to be used primarily for athletics. We argued that a major sporting arena attracting high footfall was needed to regenerate the area. As such, we were very supportive of West Ham's successful joint bid and disappointed that the uncertainty over the legal position led to the recent decision to end the process.

Members have expressed some reservations about the proposed requirement in the new tender process to retain an athletics track at the stadium after the Games. We have argued that this limits options and potential bidders; and that co-location of athletics and football has rarely worked well elsewhere. We are therefore particularly interested in your reported plans to place fans in retractable seating over the track. My Committee has not though had an opportunity to see these plans and would welcome being able to do so. I would be grateful therefore if West Ham officials could contact staff at the GLA, using the details in the footnote to this letter, to arrange a private meeting with Committee Members to view your plans. This would help Members understand how you would integrate athletics and football.

Should West Ham United be successful in the revised tender process, we would also be keen to invite you to attend a future Committee meeting, held in public, to present your plans and take part in a discussion with Members. We recognise though that it would not be possible for you to comment in public at this stage and that a private meeting may be more productive.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Dee Doocey AM

Chair of the Economy, Culture and Sport Committee

For further information contact Tim Jarvis, Scrutiny Team Manager on:
020 7983 4390 or tim.jarvis@london.gov.uk