MAYOR OF LONDON

Zack Polanski AM
Chair of the Environment Committee
C/o luis.alvarado@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA160821-0683

Date: 25 October 2021

Dear Zack,

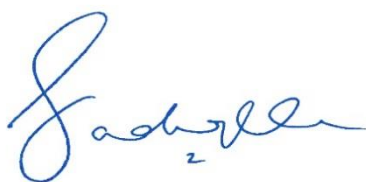Thank you for your letter of 13 August and I am sorry for the delay in responding.

COP26 represents a vital moment for the world in ensuring that nations commit to ambitious, binding emissions reductions targets to limit global warming to 1.5C degrees and that new and additional financial support is mobilised to allow this to happen.

I am looking forward to attending events at COP26 as an opportunity to highlight how London is leading the way in many aspects of tackling the climate emergency and will use my role as part of C40 cities to share London's activity and achievements on the global stage. But I also see the conference as an opportunity to bring together partners in London across many different sectors to move further and faster so that London can be a net zero carbon city by 2030.

Whilst cities and regions are not part of the COP26 negotiations and the process of setting National Determined Contributions, cities do have an essential role to play in tackling the climate emergency, and national governments cannot achieve net zero without working with cities to deliver action at a local level. Over half of the required emissions cuts require decisions made at the local level, with the Committee on Climate Change finding that the Sixth Carbon Budget can only be achieved if Government, regional agencies and local authorities work seamlessly together. Local areas require a coherent national strategy or framework to enable and resource ambitious local action on climate change.

In response to your question on opportunities ahead of and during COP26, Annex 1 of my Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy's recent response to you outlined in more detail the activities that London has been taking part in in the lead up to COP26, and how action will continue to ramp up as the conference approaches.

Yours sincerely,

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London