

Dear Mick,

I am writing to offer the Harlesden Neighbourhood Planning Forum's support for the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation's (OPDC's) Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) bid to deliver the Old Oak North Programme.

The Harlesden Neighbourhood Planning Forum was formed 4 years ago. It has produced a Neighbourhood Plan for the area that is currently on its last public consultation period before it is submitted for independent inspection and subjected to a local referendum.

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum fully supports the benefits that the public-sector investment in the Old Oak North Programme provided through the HIF would bring to support the delivery of this important phase of the wider Old Oak regeneration project. This funding will play a hugely important role in securing the timely delivery of new homes to help meet the massive housing needs of local people and Londoners as a whole. Investment in the timely delivery of homes within the Old Oak North Programme will capitalise on, and complement, the Government's new Old Oak Common station, which is set to open in 2026 as the UK's largest rail station built for over a century and the largest ever sub-surface station built in the UK.

The Old Oak project is a vitally important regeneration project for the local area, west London, London and the UK. The area as a whole is identified as having the capacity to deliver 25,500 homes and 65,000 jobs. It is one of the largest regeneration opportunities in Western Europe and the Old Oak North Programme presents an incredible opportunity to kick start the transformation of over 134ha of brownfield land in central London into an exemplar new community.

The Old Oak North Programme sits on the doorstep of Harlesden, which is a very deprived part of London, with much of the local area within the top 10% most deprived communities nationally. Investment by Government in this programme will help to deliver on many of the priorities outlined in OPDC's Local Plan, which seek to ensure that regeneration in Old Oak benefits these surrounding communities.

The creation of new housing, including really affordable ones, and new job opportunities, as well as a new transport hub could impact positively in the neighbourhood, in particular, if a physical link with Harlesden is created successfully. Harlesden's community has a strong sense of belonging and would benefit from and also have plenty to contribute to the new development on its doorstep.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED], Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum