

From: Ali Khan
Sent: 13 December 2016 13:18
To: Julia Harrowsmith
Cc: Your Views
Subject: RE: Urgent - City for All Londoners - response

Importance: High

Hi Julia,

Fyi.

Ali.

From: Ali Khan
Sent: 13 December 2016 13:17
To: 'Jacqueline Riozzi'
Cc: Maria Diaz-Palomares
Subject: RE: Urgent - City for All Londoners - response

Hi Jacqueline,

I'm not dealing with the collation of consultations, but have passed it onto the individual who is. We're more than happy to accept your input.

Best Wishes,

Ali Khan
Business Engagement, Economic and Business Policy
020 7983 4573
@LDN_Economy
GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

From: Jacqueline Riozzi [<mailto:Jacqueline.riozzi@victoriabid.co.uk>]
Sent: 13 December 2016 13:12
To: Ali Khan
Cc: Maria Diaz-Palomares
Subject: Urgent - City for All Londoners - response
Importance: High

Dear Ali,

Please forgive the unsolicited email, I was told you were dealing with responses to this. I sincerely apologise for my confusion with the response date – I had the 18th in my head but realise that must have been for the Air Quality Consultation. Are you

happy to accept a short, supportive (but a little bit late!) response to the City for All Londoners consultation from the Victoria BID? It is below and hopefully you will agree is short and to the point. We will be sure to respond in more detail - and on time – to all of the individual plans that emerge in the coming months. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Kind regards,
Jacqueline

Jacqueline Riozzi

Deputy Chief Executive | Victoria Business Improvement District

2nd Floor, 14 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0QP

E jacqueline.riozzi@victoriabid.co.uk

T 0203 004 0787 | 07746 164394

F 0207 821 5022

[Web](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Vimeo](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Tumblr](#)



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We are supportive of the Mayor's City for All Londoners vision document and welcome much of the ambitions contained within. In particular the Mayor's ambition to be the most pro-business Mayor ever is welcome. How that pro-business ambition is finely balanced with the anticipated plans in all the other various areas of focus is of interest to the Victoria Business Improvement District and we look forward to reading the subsequent, more detailed, plans for each area.

We note the Mayor's ambition for a denser, more developed city and look forward to seeing further information on which sites are ripe for further development and densification. We note that the vision document seems to focus on further development in Inner London rather than Central London but would encourage the retention of much needed green and open spaces wherever possible in Central London, particularly the Victoria area. In a recent survey of Victoria businesses access to local green spaces and increasing the number of those was the number one priority for Victoria.

The Mayor's support for Crossrail 2 funding is welcome along with ambitions in air quality improvement and low emission travel (cycling and walking). As the Mayor's Air Quality Consultation is open, the BID will respond in detail to that consultation separate to this response. The Victoria Business Improvement District cannot say whether the devolution of rail services to City Hall or TfL would be the correct next step to improve rail services into Victoria Station, but we do encourage dialogue and action to swiftly bring to an end the hugely disruptive strike action and infrastructure problems that have so negatively impacted

thousands of commuters in our area.

We welcome the Mayor's focus on city resilience and flooding. We at the Victoria BID led a stand out example project to install a rain garden outside the headquarters of John Lewis Partnership. We would be happy to provide the full case study: (<http://www.victoriabid.co.uk/our-news/central-londons-first-rain-garden-unveiled-in-victoria/>).

The Victoria BID does not specifically represent young people or schoolchildren but we support the ambition to ensure local young people "understand the opportunities generated by the global businesses on their doorstep" and share in London's success. We are in our second year of a programme with the Ahead Partnership which has been designed to achieve just that. We have matched up businesses (including global HQs) with local pupils for one to one mentoring, workplace visits and job workshops. The first year of the programme was a success with both businesses and pupils feeling they had gained something from the experience. We hope through these activities to open doors and opportunities for young people in Victoria.

Unfortunately, rough sleeping is a problem we encounter in Victoria on a daily basis. We work closely with charities, the local authority, the police and outreach services to find solutions. We understand the Mayor's inclusion of rough sleeping in the housing section of his vision document but welcome the statement that "there are many different reasons for this...often associated with complex social problems". The problem will not be solved through housebuilding alone and the Mayor's support when lobbying Central Government for changes in laws around drug possession would be welcome.

The Mayor's plan to retain London as an international business centre despite plans for the UK to leave the European Union are welcome and we look forward to emerging plans for the common strategic investment programme for the capital. The Victoria Business Improvement District is very support of the Mayor's statement that Gatwick Airport should be granted additional runway capacity as we believe it is more deliverable than a Heathrow solution and access to Gatwick from Victoria is a convenient route from and into Central London. The Victoria BID supports the continued support of London & Partners who we work well with, and try to complement with our own international marketing activities. Likewise the Mayor's ambitions to improve digital connectivity and appoint a Chief Digital Officer are welcome. Businesses have struggled with the speed of London's connectivity for years and, in Victoria, will be heartened by these plans. The Mayor's ambition to protect existing workspaces is welcome in Victoria.

The Victoria BID works well with our local police forces and have examples of best practice as the first London BID to second a full-time sworn police officer into the organisation. In a recent survey our local businesses confirmed that their priorities, by far, are anti-social behaviour issues such as begging and street drinking. Unfortunately, these have not been matched by the priorities of MOPAC or the Neighbourhood Policing teams. While recognising that the police are stretched, we hope to see ASB as a priority in a future Policing and Crime Plan. We share the aim to keep Victoria and London safe from terrorism and are aware that as an area with a terminus station we must work closely with BTP and the Met to ensure information sharing as far as possible.

The Mayor's aim to keep London a strong, open and global city is strongly supported by the Victoria BID and we look forward to further detail on the various plans, including the London Borough of Culture which we hope the City of Westminster will be able to participate in. The Mayor mentions 'better stations' in the vision document so I would draw his attention to the second busiest station in the UK that has received no upgrade or investment: Victoria station. Particularly with the difficulties commuters have experienced due to issues with Southern Rail, commuters through Victoria would welcome the Mayor's support in a bid to Central Government for upgrade funding. A Victoria Station must be a priority for London. The Victoria BID is bringing together parties from TfL, Network Rail, DfT and others but any further support from City Hall would be welcome.

ENDS

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