



Rt. Hon. DAVID LAMMY MP

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Cllr Claire Kober
Leader, Haringey Council
River Park House
225 High Road
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11th July 2017

Dear Claire

Re. Haringey Development Vehicle (HDV)

Thank you for your letter of 3rd July. Whilst I agree with the need to deliver new homes and jobs in Haringey, I do not agree with the means by which the Council leadership is seeking to deliver these much-needed new homes and jobs through the Haringey Development Vehicle (HDV).

This is the most controversial and contentious political issue that I have seen in Tottenham since I was first elected to Parliament 17 years ago, and whilst I understand the context of funding cuts and constraints on borrowing the Council under your leadership has failed to carry the community with it and has appeared out of touch and high-handed throughout this process.

Residents have not been consulted properly, community concerns have not been allayed sufficiently, financial and reputational risks have not been mitigated, the Council's own Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been ignored and it is clear that the HDV has been forced through in the face of serious opposition within the community and within the Council itself.

On June 8th I was elected with 82% of the vote in Tottenham on a national manifesto that promised to deliver council, housing association and affordable homes and a local manifesto that emphasised the need for more social housing in the Borough of Haringey as a top priority. Based on this mandate I have to stand up for my constituents and make absolutely clear that I am not persuaded that entering into this agreement with Lendlease will deliver the social homes and genuinely affordable homes that the people of Tottenham so desperately need.

Your response dated 3rd July stated that you will "continue to consider the potential benefits of using a Council-owned housing company" and I would urge you to further reflect on whether the chosen vehicle is the best option for the Borough and its residents. This is all the more important following the horrendous incident at Grenfell and the issues this tragedy brings to the fore.

It is my understanding that the courts will have their say on this matter following a judicial review process, and I am of course always available to discuss this matter with you further in the coming weeks and months.

Yours sincerely,

David Lammy MP
Member of Parliament for Tottenham