

Statement to the Inspector: **The London Borough of Barnet (West Hendon Regeneration Area) Compulsory Purchase Order No 1 2014**

Cllr Adam Langleben

Councillor for West Hendon ward, London Borough of Barnet, May 2014-Present

Member of the West Hendon regeneration partnership board

31st December 2014

Addendum to original submission by Cllr Adam Langleben

Affordable Housing Viability

1. Further to my main submission I would also wish to add a single more point.
2. The London Borough of Barnet and the Partners have repeatedly refused to release any viability studies on the West Hendon regeneration scheme.
3. The reason for non-release of documentation has always been one of commercial confidentiality.
4. Because the scheme has now been referred for Public Inquiry I believe that the public interest in releasing such documentation now outweighs any corporate concerns around commercial confidentiality, especially as it is pertaining to public land.
5. I along with residents, fellow councillors and decision makers are unable to fully critique the regeneration proposal without access to this information.
6. I also believe that it is a piece of evidence worthy of consideration by the Inspector when making any ruling.
7. I would refer the Inspector to the decision by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) regarding the release of the viability assessments of the Heygate estate regeneration scheme in the London Borough of Southwark.
8. The Commissioner concluded that, in this case, the public interest in disclosing the information outweighed the public interest in maintaining the commercial confidentiality exception. The ICO ruled that whilst the protection of commercial confidentiality is engaged on such a scheme, the public interest favours disclosure.¹

Therefore, I respectfully ask that the Inspector to

- Ask the London Borough of Barnet to release their affordable housing viability assessments of the West Hendon regeneration scheme in a timely manner to allow proper scrutiny before the Public Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

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¹ Information Commissioners Office Decision notice, ICO vs LB Southwark, 16 July 2013 | https://ico.org.uk/media/action-weve-taken/decision-notices/2013/877070/fer_0461281.pdf