



**COUNCILLOR ROBERT DAVIS MBE DL**  
**Deputy Leader and**  
**Cabinet Member for the Built Environment**  
**Westminster City Council**

**COUNCILLOR TIM MITCHELL**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate**  
**Services**  
**Westminster City Council**

Direct line: (020) 7641 2852

16<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Edward Lord OBE JP  
Wendy Mead OBE CC  
Gregory Jones QC CC

Councillors for the Ward of Farringdon Without

Sent via email to: [city@edwardlord.org](mailto:city@edwardlord.org)  
[Wendy.Mead@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Wendy.Mead@cityoflondon.gov.uk)  
[gregory.jones@ftbchambers.co.uk](mailto:gregory.jones@ftbchambers.co.uk)

Dear Councillors Lord, Mead and Jones

Thank you for your letters regarding the City Council's recently published Cabinet Member Report which puts in motion a number of property transactions in order to facilitate any future construction of the proposed Garden Bridge.

To be clear on the City Council's position, the Garden Bridge project has been led by the Garden Bridge Trust as private applicants, to both ourselves and Lambeth Borough Council, for planning permission to construct the bridge at each landing location. Whilst at various junctures the government, via the Treasury and Department for Transport, and the GLA have indicated their support for the project through financial and other contributions, the City Council has restricted its involvement to discharging our duties as a planning authority and responding to requests to enable the proposed bridge through land transactions and related matters. In making the decision to grant planning permission in December 2014, the City Council's Planning Applications Committee examined the planning implications of the proposed scheme only and could not pass judgement on the project as a whole.

Nevertheless, our Leader of the Majority Party Cllr Nickie Aiken supported a request for a call-in of the Cabinet Member Report. This means that an extraordinary Policy and Scrutiny Committee meeting is convened, which we can confirm is taking place in the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> January. This meeting will examine the technical details contained within the report, ensuring that all views have been fully considered and as



far as possible addressed. As a City Council we fully understand that our own limited involvement in the proposed Garden Bridge project needs to remain as transparent as possible and so a special Committee meeting will allow for a public discussion of the issues at hand.

Regarding Gregory's specific point on the legal basis of the Cabinet Member Report published in December, we can confirm that this is under review and will ensure that the points raised are addressed as part of the papers submitted to the extraordinary meeting and the subsequent discussion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Davis', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Cllr Robert Davis MBE DL  
Deputy Leader and  
Cabinet Member for the Built Environment  
Westminster City Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tim Mitchell', with a horizontal line underneath.

Cllr Tim Mitchell  
Cabinet Member for Finance  
and Corporate Services  
Westminster City Council