



Councillor Peter Mason
Leader of the Council
Labour Member Southall Green Ward



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Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
City Hall
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20 May 2021

Dear Sadiq,

May I firstly congratulate you on your well-deserved re-election as Mayor of London. You have provided true leadership for London through one of the toughest periods of its history, and I am looking forward to working with you on shaping a greener, fairer city as it emerges from the shadow of Covid.

Earlier this week, I had the privilege of being elected as the new leader of Ealing Council. I have committed to running a council that is open, inclusive and transparent, focused on supporting an economic recovery grounded in bringing well paid, good jobs back to our borough, re-greening our neighbourhoods and relentlessly tackling poverty and inequality.

In order to achieve this, I believe it is essential that we re-set how we do regeneration in this borough. Too many people feel they don't have enough control over how their borough is evolving, and that the vision development is based on no longer reflects the needs of the borough and local aspirations.

I know that Ealing has been a valued partner to the GLA in delivering genuinely affordable homes. That isn't going to change – providing a new generation of high-quality social rent homes is one of my top priorities. However, I am determined that Ealing should not become a dormitory suburb. We have a long and proud history of industry and creativity in Ealing, and I want this to be a place that people not only live, but also work in good, well-paying jobs. Space for jobs and employment will be at the heart of our new approach to regeneration.

Probably nowhere in the borough is this new approach more important than Southall, and it is in this area that I am hoping we can work together urgently in this area. Southall is a unique area with both incredible opportunities and also deep-rooted challenges. In recent years it has been the focus of large-scale regeneration and development, guided by the Southall Opportunity Area Framework, approved by your





predecessor as part of his London Plan. This document is no longer fit for purpose. Local people were not adequately consulted on the Opportunity Area Framework and deserve the opportunity to shape the direction of their town. The Framework has led to the development of Southall as an almost solely residential location, a place that people will depart from on Crossrail in the morning to work elsewhere, overlooking the areas existing and potential status as a centre of industry and employment. This is not my vision for Southall. The new links generated by Crossrail are crucial to the area's future, but they must be leveraged to ensure that good jobs and opportunities flow inwards. I believe it is time, in the post-Covid world, for a new vision for Southall that places a high priority on employment spaces, jobs and on creating a green and sustainable place to live.

I hope you will agree that Southall deserves better than the out-of-date vision of Mayor Johnson and will agree to work with myself, cabinet colleagues and – most importantly – the local communities to revisit the Opportunity Area Framework and create a new framework for a Southall that is a great, sustainable place to live and, vitally, work.

I look forward to speaking with you soon to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Mason'.

Councillor Peter Mason
Leader of the Council