

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY
Development, Enterprise and Environment

Bee Emmott
Garden Bridge Trust
Somerset House
London
WC2R 1LA

Our ref: emmott1802

Date: 18 February 2015

Dear Bee

As you are aware, in granting planning permission for the Garden Bridge, Westminster City Council imposed a pre-commencement condition requiring completion of a s106 planning obligation to secure various heads of terms, one of which requires that:

"Prior to the commencement of development (and unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority) there shall be provided to the Local Planning Authority a surety and/or guarantee and/or other legal instrument (the form and terms of which shall be approved by the Local Planning Authority in advance) to secure the on-going maintenance of the proposed bridge."

The Garden Bridge Trust is a charity that has been established with the key objective of building and maintaining the Garden Bridge. We are aware that you are in the process of raising funds to construct the bridge and to secure the funding for future operations and maintenance and this is going well. A draft Business Plan and a draft Operations and Maintenance Plan was produced in support of the planning application, which sets out your strategy for funding annual operating costs of c£3.5m pa.

The Mayor is fully supportive of the approach that is being adopted by the Garden Bridge Trust and is fully confident that your Business Plan is robust. However, in order to discharge the guarantee requirement imposed by Westminster, the Mayor has agreed in principle to provide such a guarantee. This will of course be subject to agreement on the terms of the guarantee, including defining the obligations to be guaranteed and the circumstances in which the guarantee may be called upon.

I hope this provides the clarity you need to continue progressing with the project to the next stage.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Fletcher-Smith
Executive Director – Development Enterprise & Environment