

MAYOR OF LONDON

Jon Cruddas MP

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Our ref: MGLA010520-0649

Date: 26 August 2020

Dear Jon and Abena,

Secretary of State decision – Riverside Energy Park in Bexley

Thank you for your letter of 23 April about the Secretary of State's decision to grant a development consent order for the Riverside Energy Park in Bexley. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying. I hope you will understand that we have been working under considerable pressure in recent months and it has not been possible to respond to all correspondence as quickly as we would have liked.

The Secretary of State's decision is extremely disappointing. As you know, my officers worked tirelessly alongside your colleagues former Erith and Thamesmead MP Teresa Pearce and Friends of Crossness Nature Reserve, to present evidence throughout the examination process that the incinerator facility is not needed to manage London's waste, and that it will have a detrimental impact on recycling, climate change, air quality and biodiversity.

I have been clear that no more waste incinerators are needed in London and have called on the Government to refuse this application. I agree that building another waste incinerator will worsen London's already toxic air quality and will have detrimental impacts on local biodiversity. I believe that additional incineration in London will also hinder boroughs from boosting recycling performance in order to reach my 65 per cent recycling target by 2030.

I wrote to the Secretary of State on 7 May setting out my concerns about the development and the decision-making process. I agree with you that the decision was made in haste, fails to address the adverse environmental effects of a new incinerator particularly on climate change, and takes us off course from achieving long-term sustainable waste management.

For these reasons, I submitted a claim on the 21 May, requesting permission to bring a judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision. On the 27th of June the High Court granted me permission to bring a judicial review at a Substantive Hearing, which will be held in October.

Regarding the impact of the incinerator on the residents of Rainham Town Centre and neighbouring areas in particular, I agree that this was an important omission from the Environmental Impact Assessment of the project. We raised this repeatedly throughout the Examination, but the Inspector took no action to seek more information on this point. We are taking further legal advice on this matter.

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I am thankful for all of your efforts to oppose this harmful development to date.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the 'h'.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London