



## Department for Communities and Local Government

Mary Ney – Chief Executive  
Royal Borough of Greenwich  
Town Hall  
Wellington Street  
Woolwich  
London SE18 6PW

5 October 2012

CC: John Comber – Head of Planning

*By post and e-mail*

Dear Ms Ney,

### **SAFEGUARDING DIRECTION FOR CERTAIN SITES RELATING TO THE THAMES TIDEWAY TUNNEL PROJECT**

On behalf of the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) I hereby serve you with the attached Direction which affects land in the City of London, the Royal Borough of Greenwich, and the London Borough of Lewisham by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Put simply, the effect of this Direction is that, without specific authorisation from DCLG, your authority cannot grant planning permission on any application in respect of any land to which this Direction relates.

As you are aware, Government supports the Thames Tideway Tunnel project, taken forward by Thames Water utilities Limited (TWUL). In September 2010, via a written Ministerial Statement, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs indicated the current Government's continuing support for a proposed tunnel solution and this was reinforced via a second written Ministerial statement on 3 November 2011. In March 2012 Parliament approved the Waste Water National Policy Statement which established the need for the proposed Thames Tideway Tunnel, which is now a designated Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008.

TWUL's S.48 consultation for publicity of their proposed application began on 16 July 2012 and will close on 5 October 2012. The sites referenced in the Direction are among those identified relating to the route of the proposed tunnel. TWUL intends to submit the formal development consent application to the Planning Inspectorate in early 2013.

Whilst it is clear that delivery of this nationally significant project is extremely important, the Secretary of State is very conscious that there are ongoing conversations between

your authority and potential developers to plan for housing and other development. For this reason, the Secretary of State regarding these three sites has opted to issue a safeguarding Direction.

I would be grateful if you would pass this letter and attachments to your planning department. I will send a copy to TWUL and the Greater London Authority for information. Finally, if you need any further information or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Pamela Roberts**  
**Acting Head of Planning Casework**