

Councillor Charlie Davis

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Heidi Alexander

Deputy Mayor of London – Transport
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BY EMAIL
19th May 2020

Future of the proposed Bakerloo Line extension

Dear Ms Alexander,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

Following the Government bailout of Transport for London, I am writing to you in regard to the impact of this bailout on the proposed extension of the Bakerloo line to Lewisham and potentially beyond. Reports have been circulating in some media outlets, such as the News Shopper and Passenger Magazine, that TfL went into negotiations prepared to sacrifice this scheme to secure a bailout.

While everyone is understanding of the unforeseen and unprecedented situation currently facing the country, there remain many serious questions to be answered about the Mayor's management of TfL finances over the last four years and the decisions taken about service levels during the lockdown.

As such please could you clarify the following points:

1. Does the Government bailout of TfL impact the Mayor's timeline regarding delivery of the Bakerloo line extension to Lewisham by 2028/9 as set out in the Evening Standard on the 14th October 2019ⁱ?
2. Was cancelling or postponing the Bakerloo Line extension to Lewisham ever discussed as part of the TfL bailout package?
3. Did TfL ever offer a postponement or cancellation of the Bakerloo Line extension to the government as part of plans to receive more money and a bailout?
4. Is TfL still considering the second phase into the Borough of Bromley via Ladywell, Catford Bridge and Lower Sydenham?

5. If this project has been delayed or cancelled, what faith can Lewisham commuters have in the Mayor when he claims so publicly that this project was one of his top transport priorities?
6. The Crossrail fiasco has seen the project receive two Government bail outs, cost TfL an expected £1.35m in lost fares, expected to cost £3.65bn for the further delay until 2022, in addition to the Mayors bizarre decision to blame the Government TfL bailout for a fares increase he had announced pre-lockdown on the 13th March 2020, what credibility does this Mayor have left to make a financial case for the proposed Bakerloo line extension?
7. What will the cost of the TfL bailout be to Lewisham residents?

As a former councillor and Member of Parliament in Lewisham, you will no doubt be aware that the town is a major railway hub for commuters across South-East London, therefore it would be extremely disappointing if the Mayor could not deliver this extension owing to his poor record in managing TfL's finances and his lack of credibility as someone who can deliver big infrastructure projects on time and on budget.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Charlie Davis
Greenwich & Lewisham

¹ <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/boris-johnson-urged-to-provide-money-to-pay-for-3bn-bakerloo-line-upgrade-a4260746.html>