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Dear Andrew

I am writing to you with an update on the British Library's St Pancras Transformed programme to develop the 2.8 acre site to the north of our existing building and which will see the transformation of the Library's St Pancras site and the creation of a global hub for research and innovation, including in data and life sciences.

At the end of August, the British Library, together with our development partners SMBL Developments Ltd, signed an agreement with Transport for London (TfL) to design and deliver future Crossrail 2 infrastructure within the proposed scheme, concluding a complex negotiation and enabling the Library Extension project to move forward into a period of intensive public engagement in preparation for a future planning application. We have been grateful for the constructive engagement we have had with your officials across a number of departments in the development of the programme to date.

SMBL is a partnership between the development company Stanhope PLC and the Japanese property firm Mitsui Fudosan, working with Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners as lead architects. In the coming weeks and months, SMBL and the Library will be engaging with local residents, organisations and other stakeholders on the development plans: seeking their views on how the project can deliver value for local people as well as ensuring its design and construction is sensitive to the needs of the neighbourhood.

By adapting and expanding the British Library at St Pancras, our capacity to support British science and our capability to meet the needs of our growing audiences in research, learning, business, culture and within the local community will be transformed. This bold partnership will therefore help sustain the Library for future generations to enjoy, creating value for our users – ensuring it is as accessible and welcoming as possible to local residents - while strengthening our impact as a global player in the knowledge economy.

It also builds on our position as founding members of the Knowledge Quarter, which brings together over 100 local organisations in one of the greatest concentrations of knowledge-based endeavour anywhere in the world. The Library's new spaces will be provided as a result of the value created by new commercial space for knowledge-based organisations and companies at the forefront of biomedical research, data science and learning.

Along with the Library extension, the site will include approximately 600,000 sq ft of commercial space. This will comprise adaptable office space to accommodate businesses of all sizes. The space will seek to attract knowledge-based organisations that seek a home at the heart of the Knowledge Quarter, adjoining the Francis Crick Institute and the Alan Turing Institute. We expect this space to attract a range of organisations - from small start-ups to larger, more mature business - that will benefit from being close to like-minded organisations, universities, teaching hospitals and research institutes. The design will actively seek to foster interaction between these different uses by blending research and commerce with the Library and the wider community.

Taken as a whole, this project, which is being driven by an innovative public-private partnership, represents a unique opportunity to create the infrastructure and connectivity, currently scarce in central London, required by the knowledge sector, bringing with it major international investment in the London and UK economies at a time of great economic uncertainty.

The programme team and I look forward to keeping you updated as this project progresses and we will continue to engage with your team. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Roly Keating
Chief Executive