Rt Hon George Howarth MP House of Commons LONDON SW1A 0AA



Tesco Stores Limited New Tesco House Delamare Road Cheshunt EN8 9SL

Steve.rigby@uk.tesco.com

20 January 2015

Dear Mr Howarth,

Thank you for your letter to Dave Lewis of 9 January. Following our telephone discussion on 8 January, I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

As we discussed on our call, it was with a heavy heart that we announced that we were not opening 49 planned new stores, including Kirkby, and a very difficult decision to make. My colleagues and I were conscious of the impact that this would have on the town and remain so.

As our Dave Lewis outlined in his letter to you, this was a difficult but necessary step in order to ensure the future success of the business for our c. 300,000 colleagues and our customers in an environment where financial resources are markedly constrained.

I fully appreciate the impact that this has had on the community. We have been extremely grateful for the support that many people in Kirkby have shown for our proposals over the years and the backing that elected members, officers and you have provided. We must treat every site with the gravity that it demands and I would like to reassure you that this is particularly the case in Kirkby.

We have welcomed the collaborative approach that Knowsley Council has taken with regard to regeneration and the store. My colleagues have already held further discussions and meetings with officers on the future of the site and we do not intend to place any barriers that would prevent Kirkby's ongoing regeneration. You have my assurance that our obligations are not at an end and we approach the discussion of future developments in an honest, transparent and open minded way.

I fully recognise your commitment and that of the Council to the redevelopment Kirkby and my colleagues and I will continue our constructive dialogue with you, Council officers and members as we move forward.

Yours sincerely

Steve Rigby

Chief Property Officer