

17 April 2008

Decision upheld on Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project

Tower Hamlets Council's Cabinet has upheld its decision to approve a development framework for Blackwall Reach. This set of principles and general ideas has been prepared by the Council and English Partnerships for the comprehensive regeneration of the area.

The Cabinet agreed on 2 April that the framework, which seeks a joint working arrangement with national regeneration agency English Partnerships,, was the most appropriate redevelopment option.

The document was the subject of extensive consultation with local residents last year and can still be viewed on the council's website www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

Eleanor Purser, Senior Regeneration Manager at English Partnerships said: "Our three-month consultation with the residents and businesses of Blackwall Reach has helped us understand how we can help meet their needs. We will continue to work closely with the local community as we progress our plans to create a vibrant, attractive place where people will enjoy living and working."

Emma Peters, Corporate Director, Development and Renewal added: "We are still a long way off from any finalised plans, but the Development Framework offers the local people new and improved homes along with much improved open space and communal facilities."

In July 2007, the Council applied to English Heritage for a certificate of immunity from Listing for Robin Hood Gardens. In the event that immunity is not granted, the Council will consider options for how the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project can best be implemented.

Tower Hamlets Council and English Partnerships will continue to consult local residents and other stakeholders when drawing up detailed proposals in line with the development framework.

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Tower Hamlets Council

Tower Hamlets is a diverse, intense and fascinating place. Major opportunities such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Thames Gateway, Crossrail, City Fringe and the Docklands developments are all taking place within the borough.

At the time of the 2001 census 58% of the population in Tower Hamlets belonged to an ethnic group other than White British. A third or 33% of the population were Bangladeshi, 7% came from African/Caribbean backgrounds and the total White British population was 42%. The borough has the second youngest population in the country, with over 28 per cent of the population under 19.

English Partnerships is the national regeneration agency helping the Government to support high quality sustainable growth in England by creating well-served mixed communities where people enjoy living and working.

We achieve this by unlocking and increasing the supply of land - particularly surplus public sector sites - to meet housing and other growth needs. Through innovation and raising standards we help improve quality of life and enhance the environment.

In collaboration with the Housing Corporation, the Academy for Sustainable Communities and Communities and Local Government we are establishing the new Homes and Communities Agency that will begin operating in 2009.

For more information on our work, please visit www.englishpartnerships.co.uk.

Blackwall Reach is the area bounded by East India Dock Road to the north, the Blackwall Tunnel Approach and East India Docks to the east, Aspen Way to the south and Cotton Street to the west. It includes Robin Hood Gardens.