

For immediate release - 23 October 2007

Public event to discuss regeneration of Blackwall Reach

- **9.45am – 4pm at Woolmore Primary School, E14**

People from Tower Hamlets are invited to a community gathering at Woolmore Primary School, Woolmore Street in East London on **Saturday 3 November** to discuss the proposed regeneration options for Blackwall Reach.

The event is one of the ways that local residents, business people and anyone else who has a connection with the area can find out about the Blackwall Reach Draft Development Framework, which has been developed by Tower Hamlets Council and English Partnerships. This document is a set of broad principles and general ideas for the regeneration of the neighbourhood 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. The area also includes Robin Hood Gardens.

The community gathering will be the first opportunity for people to see a 3-D model showing all the options for regeneration presented and explained by architect Stephen Cherry of Horden Cherry Lee.

A Tower Hamlets council spokesperson said:

“This is a really exciting time for people in Blackwall. I’d like to encourage residents to get involved and come along to what I’m sure will be a very informative day.”

Stephen Oakes, Area Director at English Partnerships said:

“We’ve organised this event as part of our consultation programme to understand how we can create a vibrant, sustainable neighbourhood that meets local needs and aspirations.

“This is a very early stage in the regeneration of Blackwall Reach and people can help shape the future of their community by coming along to tell us what they

think. We will be available to answer questions and explain the next stages beyond Saturday's community gathering."

Registration at the school will begin from 9:45am when an exhibition and slide show will be running. Residents and local business people attending on the day can take part in a series of workshops on specific issues, such as housing and transport, from 11:35am - 12:45pm. There will be an additional workshop held for children and young people to capture their views about what they want from the regeneration of Blackwall Reach.

After lunch is served for everyone, an expert panel including representatives of English Partnerships and Tower Hamlets Council will answer people's questions. Throughout the day participants will record their opinions on the options and there will be a live straw poll in the afternoon.

Tower Hamlets Council and English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency, jointly commissioned the public consultation programme to hear what local people think would best benefit their community. So far, residents have got in touch by means of a freephone helpline, 0800 055 6340, and the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project website, www.blackwallreach.co.uk. The consultation team has also carried out more than 100 home visits.

Free crèche facilities are available on the day, but places are limited, so parents should call 0800 055 6340 to book a place.

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITOR

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 government's national regeneration agency delivering high quality, sustainable growth in England. We do this by developing our portfolio of strategic projects and acting as the government's advisor on brownfield land. We also ensure that surplus public sector assets are used to support wider government objectives, especially those contained in the *Sustainable Communities Plan*. English Partnerships helps create communities where people can afford to live and want to live. Information on projects and programmes can be found at www.englishpartnerships.co.uk

English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation are working with the Department for Communities and Local Government to establish the Homes and Communities Agency.

Scott Wilson Group plc, with over 5,500 members of staff, is an international consultancy offering integrated professional services in the transportation, property, environment and natural resources sectors. The Group has doubled in size over the past few years and from its UK headquarters currently controls a worldwide network of 80 offices, of which 40 are in the UK. The main international centres are located in China, Hong Kong, India, SE Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Southern Africa.

Within London's large Planning and Environment Group is a specialist Social Regeneration and Engagement team providing a full range of stakeholder engagement, social impact assessment and equalities impact assessment services, as well as specialist input to master-planning and policy development processes. This group has worked on a number of high profile projects including: Skills for Sustainable Communities Training, Woodberry Down Regeneration and Sherford New Community, West Hendon Regeneration and Elland Area Action Plan.

Scott Wilson was awarded 'New Company of the Year' at the 2007 UK PLC Awards, 'Major Firm of the Year' at the 2007 NCE/ACE Consultants of the Year Awards, 'Best Investor Relations for a New Issue' at the Investor Relations Magazine Awards 2007 and 'IPO of the Year' at the 2006 Shares Magazine Awards. www.scottwilson.com

Blackwall Reach currently includes Robin Hood Gardens, Anderson House, Woolmore Street, Mackrow Walk, Delta Building, Indigo Mews and Bullivant Street.