

Foreword

In the next 5 years, Newham has the potential to become a very different place than it is today. The Council's Vision for Newham as a desirable place where people will choose to live, work and play will be well on the way to becoming a reality.

The 'Arc of Opportunity', from the planned Stratford International Passenger Station through the Lower Lea Valley into Canning Town through the Royal Docks and onto Beckton, provides the focal point for regeneration opportunities in East London. This area provides an opportunity to change London by creating a strong metropolitan centre in Stratford to address the current imbalance where west London has prospered while East London has fallen behind.

This potential has been recognised by the Government and the Mayor for London in their planning and regeneration strategies. Realising this potential will see an area that has historically been characterised by low-grade industry, contaminated land and a low quality environment become a major contributor to enhancing London's status as a "World City".

The transformation of Newham has already begun with the recently completed ExCel centre and University of East London Campus in the Royal Docks District being examples of the rapidly changing character of the Borough. New residential developments in the Royal Docks are also helping to transform and revitalise an area that has suffered from prolonged economic and physical decline.

Major transportation investment has seen the opening of the Jubilee Line extension, expansion of the Docklands Light Railway and progress towards the Stratford International Passenger Station (IPS). Newham is looking forward to further improvements such as the completion of the IPS, CrossRail, expansions to the DLR and the proposed Thames River crossings. Newham now enjoys excellent public transport connections to London and will soon provide an important transport link to Europe.

The development framework for Newham contained in this Unitary Development Plan will make a major contribution to achieving the Council's Vision and related regeneration objectives. It will ensure that there will be a wide range of high quality housing available for people who want to stay in or move to Newham. It also provides a dynamic framework for the regeneration of town centres and industrial areas to improve employment opportunities and leisure and retailing opportunities for residents and visitors. A wide range of UDP policies encourage and promote measures that will in time result in major improvements to the street scene as well as extensive 'greening' of residential areas, open spaces and new developments with a particular focus on Newham's Arc of Opportunity running from Stratford southbound to the Royal Docks and River Thames.

Much of the development needed to help realise the Council's Vision will take place, or be well on the way to completion by 2006, the end of the Unitary Development Plan period. The Unitary Development Plan has been revised to incorporate the Council's Vision and include more recent regeneration opportunities. The UDP has also been reviewed to respond to changes in Government policy particularly on issues relating to sustainability, and the emergence of the Greater London Authority. Most importantly, this UDP review provides the Council with a welcome opportunity to ensure that the Plan makes a significant contribution to making the Council's Vision a reality and improving local quality of life.

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