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INTRODUCTION

The Council's Vision

0.1 In June 1997 the Council launched its Vision for the future that:

'by the year 2010 Newham will be a major business location and a place where people will choose to live and work.'

The Council's Vision is to create a new future where Newham will become a prosperous community in which people enjoy a better quality of life, safe and attractive neighbourhoods, good housing and local services, and residents are empowered to take responsibility not only for themselves but also for one another. This will require radical, continuing improvements to widen choices, increase opportunities, welcome diversity and enhance inclusion. It is vital that all of Newham's residents are able to benefit from the Borough's regeneration.

0.2 When Newham Council says 'people will choose' it needs to be understood that the objective is to ensure that people have a genuine choice about where they want to stay and that they exercise it in favour of Newham. This means that the Council wants residents to have access to jobs and economic independence. The Council needs to ensure that regeneration matches residents' expectations so that when they have the opportunity to choose, they would exercise that choice in Newham's favour.

0.3 Underpinning this Vision is a belief that the Council needs to establish investor confidence and persuade people to see Newham as a place of opportunity rather than poverty and neglect.

The Unitary Development Plan

0.4 The Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was adopted on 6th June 2001 and is one of several key Council strategies that will help to achieve this Vision. Combined with other Council strategies, such as those for Housing, Regeneration, Transport and Education, the UDP sets the agenda for transforming and regenerating Newham in response to the Council's Vision. The UDP provides the land use planning framework for guiding the Borough's physical change/improvement. It sets out to encourage high quality housing, employment, leisure and community facilities within the main regeneration areas while ensuring that the more established parts of the Borough also benefit both from their own improvements and by being linked to the main development opportunities.

0.5 The first UDP was adopted in 1997. A review was commenced in 1998 in order to ensure it reflected the Council's Vision and incorporated objectives and policies for its delivery and to take on board recently emerging development opportunities. In addition, the review allowed the Council to fully reflect changing national and regional planning guidance and policies, such as seeking higher density development, improving overall standards of design, reuse of brownfield sites and other measures that help to promote the Government's objectives in their evolving sustainable development strategy. The review of the Plan does not extend its life beyond that of the 1997 Plan, i.e., 2006/07

0.6 National planning policies have been evolving in response to broad Government strategies such as those set out in the Transport and Urban White Papers. The need to reduce reliance on private cars as the main method of transport and to attract people back into cities by providing high quality development are central points in recent Government strategies promoting sustainable development. In addition, the Government has produced regeneration guidance recognising the need to address the west/east London imbalance that has seen East London fall behind for so long. The national guidance includes recognition of the need to regenerate the Lea Valley and the Thames Gateway areas. The UDP also reflects the importance of Newham's location at the pivot of these two regeneration corridors and at the centre of East London's Development Focus.

0.7 In part due to the national recognition of the need to regenerate East London, Newham benefits from a wide range of national and European funding programmes to provide resources for its regeneration initiatives. Newham currently benefits from a number of Single Regeneration Budget funding schemes (including those specifically focussed on Stratford, Green Street, Forest Gate and Canning Town), New Deal for Communities funding (in Plaistow / West Ham) and Objective 2 Status (European Regional Development Fund) for most of the Borough. In addition, Newham is a Health Action Zone and an Education Action Zone. It is anticipated that Newham will continue to access major funding resources from existing or new programmes at least for the duration of the UDP period, up to 2006/07

- 0.8 Regeneration is the key to unlocking Newham's potential as an attractive place to live and work in London. The Council's strategy is to harness the energies of every local organisation, private and public, to strengthen and diversify Newham's economy, create a high quality environment, improve local people's access to jobs and improve the image of the Borough.
- 0.9 The land-use planning aspect of the Borough's future regeneration is therefore the UDP's central theme. In spatial terms, the Arc of Opportunity is identified as the primary focus for the Borough's transformation. The Arc of Opportunity extends along the Lea Valley from Stratford through West Ham, Canning Town, the Royal Docks District and into Beckton. It contains some 400 hectares of sites identified for redevelopment, including the major development opportunities for improving this part of East London. The Arc of Opportunity benefits from recent and proposed transport improvements. The Jubilee Line and the Docklands Light Railway have greatly improved connections from Newham to Central London. Feasibility studies are underway to investigate the provision of two new rail services through central London via Newham, i.e CrossRail and the Wimbledon/Chelsea-Hackney Line. The road network is also being invested in with the A13 currently undergoing major improvements and there are possibilities for new bridges/tunnels crossing the Thames to open access to south London. The London City Airport already provides an international and national link and is expanding further. This international dimension will be further increased by the completion of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and the International Passenger Station in Stratford.
- 0.10 The UDP includes broad development guidelines for regenerating the Arc of Opportunity in order to achieve its strategic objectives and to help deliver the Council's Vision for the existing local communities. It identifies the main sites the Council wants to see redeveloped, called Major Opportunity Zones, and provides information on the scale and types of uses that the Council would find acceptable. Given the scale of the Arc of Opportunity, the Council will produce a series of development framework plans for the main areas within the Arc of Opportunity and other key regeneration areas. These development frameworks will elaborate and take forward the Council's planning policies and objectives outlined in the UDP as the starting point for setting out more detailed regeneration themes, such as creating a sense of place, a high quality environment, additional water features and mixed-use development
- 0.11 The UDP seeks development that can be used by and meets the needs of the Borough's diverse community. For example, policies that seek a full range of housing type and choice, including significant elements of affordable housing, and supports regeneration of its established retail centres, such as Stratford and Canning Town. It is expected that new large retail and leisure developments will locate in the Borough's existing main centres, as these tend to be the focus for public transport provision and such development will help to enhance the centres' future vitality and viability. The UDP also promotes high quality new development on a smaller scale in the older residential areas of the Borough, including a range of community facilities, such as doctors' surgeries and schools, so that all parts of Newham can benefit from easy access to a wide range of services. Each of these policies will contribute to achieving the Council's Vision.

The Council's Partners

- 0.12 The Council cannot deliver the Vision alone. The Council will need to work with a range of stakeholders and develop strong partnerships with many organisations and individuals, including:
- Newham's residents;
 - other governmental bodies (such as the Greater London Authority and Transport for London);
 - regeneration agencies (such as the London Development Agency and the Thames Gateway London Partnership);
 - the private sector (including local businesses and land owners);
 - Registered Social Landlords;
 - the voluntary sector; and
 - the East London and City Health Authority.
- 0.13 Newham has established ten Community Forums to give local residents greater access to the Council and give them a louder voice in developing Newham's strategies. The Council has also established a Local Strategic Partnership,

Newham 2010, to provide a regular ongoing forum where representatives from all the above sectors can meet to assist Newham in working towards the Council's Vision and changing the Borough for the benefit of its communities.

Consultation

- 0.14 Public consultation is an integral part of the UDP review process. The Council has carried out its statutory requirements throughout this review. This has included consultation with representatives of all of the above stakeholders. Table 1 overleaf sets out the adoption programme followed by the UDP and notes the various consultation periods undertaken.

UDP Monitoring and Review

- 0.15 The Council regularly consults interested parties on planning matters, such as those raised by individual planning applications and planning frameworks. The experience gained through consultation will assist the Council in monitoring and reviewing the Unitary Development Plan by highlighting local concerns. This will combine with reviews of planning appeal decisions to test whether individual planning policies are robust or insufficient. Whilst the Plan has been produced on the basis of available knowledge, with certain assumptions made about future trends, it is impossible to anticipate every change that will take place over the Plan period, nor all the circumstances that will be associated with individual planning applications.
- 0.16 The Council therefore intends to maintain a system of monitoring development activity, and environmental and socio-economic trends against policies to indicate at what point it is appropriate to undertake a formal review of this UDP. In addition, the Council will monitor changes to national and London-wide strategies and guidance and assess whether there is a need to formally review the UDP, either in part or as a whole. Consideration will be given to the balance to be achieved between socio-economic regeneration objectives and wider sustainable development objectives and how the UDP can influence this.
- 0.17 A key issue is the Mayor of London's emerging Spatial Development Strategy (*The London Plan*), which is likely to be formally adopted in 2003. London Boroughs' UDPs will be required to conform to *The London Plan* and this may trigger an early review of Newham's UDP. The Mayor can also influence the development control process for larger proposals that are of strategic interest by either making no comment or directing a Council to refuse a scheme. Where the Mayor and a Council is in conflict then the Secretary of State for the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions can be asked to resolve this through a public inquiry. The issues raised by such disagreements will also be monitored.

Figure 1: UDP Adoption Timetable

Progress	Main Stage	Date
	Council Committee Approval of Changes	December 1998
	Pre-Deposit Consultation	December 1998 – January 1999
	First Deposit Period Consultation	March – April 1999
	Consideration of Objections	Summer 1999
	Council Recommends Modifications to Deposit Draft	Autumn 1999
	Second Deposit Period Consultation	November – December 1999
	Public Inquiry	March to May 2000
	Inspector's Report and Addendum	June 2000 (Report), August 2000 and October 2000 (Addendum)
	Consultation on Proposed Post-Inquiry Modifications	November 2000 - January 2001
	Council's Response to Representations Made on Post Inquiry Modifications	April 2001
	Adoption	June 2001