

# **STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

Between the London Legacy Development Corporation

and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets

## **Statement of Common Ground between the London Legacy Development Corporation and London Borough of Tower Hamlets**

### **Responds to Matter 5 (5) and (6) Community Infrastructure including schools and Matter 7 (9) Rick Roberts Way Site Allocation**

#### **Summary of Issues**

This statement of common ground between the Legacy Corporation and London Borough of Tower Hamlets addresses the issues related to schools planning within the Tower Hamlets Regulation 20 Representation to the Publication Version of the Local Plan (LP.036). This representation raises concern about the adequacy of the approach to planning for sufficient school places within the Tower Hamlets part of the Legacy Corporation area in the context of the increase in demand for school places within the borough.

The evidence base identified relevant to this position by the Legacy Corporation is within two documents:

- Infrastructure Delivery Plan Study (LEB.20)
- LLDC Schools Mapping Study (August 2013, QUOD) (Document reference LEB19)

LLDC have prepared a Schools Explanatory Note to Appendix 1 to Matter 5 response to inspector's questions (ST5, Appendix 1), which seeks to provide clarity on the current LLDC schools planning position, both for the strategy set out in the Local Plan and in the context of practical delivery of schools.

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets representation (LP.036) raised the following matters:

- The allocation of a Primary School at Fish Island East is considered to be partially contrary to the Fish Island Area Action Plan (2012) which identified a delivery mechanism to provide a 5 FE Secondary School.
- That the allocation of a secondary school site at Rick Roberts Way is not consistent with the emerging proposals to provide this in an alternative location at the Stadium Island site.
- That planned schools provision within the Legacy Corporation area is inadequate to meet the projected school place need from planned new development and wider increasing school place demand (primary and secondary)

#### **Matters Agreed**

The following matters have been agreed:

- That a Primary School at Fish Island East has planning permission as part of the Legacy Corporations Legacy Communities Scheme, with this permission having been granted in September 2012. That the plans for delivery of that school are well advanced and would result in the school opening in September 2016.

- That the emerging plans for a secondary school at the Stadium Island serves as an alternative to that at the Rick Roberts Way site, which has planning permission, and that the proposal for which is currently being progressed, would be at least as accessible to pupils residing in the east of Tower Hamlets as the consented option.
- That both the Legacy Corporation and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets have cooperated in respect of the practical delivery of schools within the Legacy Corporation area which falls within the borough, and will continue to do so.

### **Outstanding Issues**

While the Legacy Corporation remains of the view that the approach within the Local Plan as submitted, remains robust, flexible and based on appropriate evidence, London Borough of Tower Hamlets continues to consider that:

- the Legacy Corporation Local Plan fails to plan for sufficient secondary school places in the context of increased school place demand within the borough as a whole and with regard to:
  - the ability of existing primary schools to absorb additional places given oversubscription
  - the permanency of the East London Science School location
  - the allocation of a primary school within Site Allocation SA1.8 Sweetwater (Fish Island East), that although in accordance with the extant planning permission for the Legacy Communities Scheme is not in accordance with the provisions of the Fish Island Area Action Plan, especially given the potential proposal to reduce the proposed capacity of the primary school 3FE to 2FE.