

# REDROW PLC IS THE PREFERRED BIDDER FOR THE REGENERATION OF WANDSWORTH COUNCIL'S ALTON ESTATE

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A competition was launched in March 2016 to find a development partner to replace post-war council housing in parts of the 17 acre Alton estate, in Roehampton, which will see the delivery of a new library and retail area twice the size of existing provision; a new health centre and children's centre; a new park and around 1,000 private and affordable new homes. All planned to be created over the next ten years.

Council tenants and owner-occupiers are guaranteed a newly-built home on their estate, which features several heritage-listed housing blocks and Victorian manor houses which border Richmond Park.

As part of the proposals, Redrow will aim to provide local residents with jobs, training and apprenticeships as a condition of being appointed. Construction is only one aspect of the opportunities expected to be available through the regeneration, other roles may include security, site office administration, decorating and more through Work Match, the council's employment brokerage.

The regeneration of the Alton estate is a key priority for the council as part of its Aspirations programme to improve life chances in the borough, through new housing, employment and training initiatives, with access to sport and cultural activities.

Cllr Ravi Govindia, Leader of Wandsworth Council, is also a member of the Government's Estate Regeneration Advisory Panel, and the Mayor of London's Homes for Londoners Board. He said: "We had some difficult decisions to make, but we are now off the starting blocks with this exciting redevelopment which has great potential and will deliver the homes that Wandsworth needs.

"With our guarantees of newly-built homes on the estate for council tenants and owner-occupiers, to keep communities together, and opportunities offered by our Aspirations programme, Alton will set a new standard for other regeneration projects in London to follow."

John Tutte, Chief Executive Officer at Redrow, said: "We are very pleased to have been named the preferred bidder for the regeneration of the Alton estate.

"It is the first step in what will be a long, but rewarding journey for everyone connected to the Roehampton community.

"Having worked on a number of regeneration projects of this scale in the past, including with Manchester City Council, Plymouth City Council and the Homes and Communities Agency, we fully understand the importance of placing local people at the heart of the process, which includes providing employment and apprenticeship opportunities to the local area.

"Collectively, we now have an exciting opportunity to create a new, sustainable community in the Alton which will deliver considerable benefits to both existing and future generations."

Cllr Peter Carpenter, who represents Roehampton and Putney Heath ward, said: "As ward councillors all three of us are very supportive of this regeneration, and we think it's very important that it goes forward. We would also want the development partner to be comprehensively engaged with the community in terms of social regeneration. We will, however, continue to hold the council to account, to make sure that residents get the best possible outcome."

The recommendation to appoint Redrow was approved on 23rd January 2017, by the council's Executive, following discussion and approval during the preceding week by the cross-party Finance and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Housing and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.