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THAMESMEAD WATERFRONT

Town of tomorrow: Thamesmead Waterfront Joint Venture launches international masterplanning competition



- A unique opportunity to help create a new and exceptional place for a post-pandemic future.
- Well-connected and vibrant, Thamesmead Waterfront will be planned and designed for future generations to thrive in - a significant, new city neighbourhood of choice for London and the South-East of England.
- Situated on the banks of the River Thames in the Royal Borough of Greenwich and across 250 acres, Thamesmead Waterfront has the capacity for thousands of new homes and significant commercial and leisure space, set amongst lakes, ample green space and over a mile of undeveloped river frontage.
- Open call for innovative, creative, collaborative and diverse masterplanning teams from across the world. A role for emerging and smaller practices, and teams with local knowledge considered vital.

An international competition to find the visionary and strategic masterplanners who will help shape a major new waterfront neighbourhood at Thamesmead was announced today (26 October). The Thamesmead Waterfront Joint Venture has launched a two-stage process that includes an open call for teams that may wish to register their interest in the c.£8bn project.

The launch of the competition is twelve months on from when Peabody and Lendlease created the 50:50 Thamesmead Waterfront Joint Venture to plan and deliver this opportunity, which will be the largest in Peabody's 158-year history.

With significant scale and a largely undeveloped nature, Thamesmead Waterfront has the potential to tackle many pressing challenges - including the capacity to plan for and accommodate significant, sustainable, long-term economic growth and housing in a post-pandemic future.

The Joint Venture partnership has developed a set of guiding principles and an emerging shared vision for the site, and has published a competition brief at www.thamesmead-waterfront.co.uk. Teams expressing an interest will need to demonstrate the ability to understand, nurture and develop the Joint Venture vision, which embraces 5 principles:

- **Natural living** - Using and enhancing the existing landscape to create a unique natural destination for Thamesmead, London and the South-East - providing a place where people can unwind and find space to enjoy the natural world.
- **A city neighbourhood** - Providing the social infrastructure and workplaces to enable a resilient mixed-use neighbourhood with the choice, variety and opportunities of the best parts of London and the South-East.
- **Better connections** - Transforming connectivity into central London, including use of the river; connecting into the 'Go East' production corridor; and creating a legible, connected local network across Thamesmead.
- **A safe, stable and sustainable community** - Creating a place that people are proud of, through community ownership and participation. A place where you know your neighbours and your neighbourhood, where you feel safe and healthy. A place that is founded on robust stewardship and long-term viability.

- **Inclusive and affordable for all** - Making affordable but high-quality homes, workplaces and neighbourhoods, for a diverse community of people and businesses, creating jobs and opportunities for all.

Peabody Executive Director Thamesmead, John Lewis, said “This is a really exciting opportunity for us all to reflect on some really important questions for how we’ll want to live in the future. In a post-pandemic world, the project can be a catalyst to making a step change in how we want and need places to be. With the right transport interventions, Thamesmead Waterfront can drive our economic recovery; creating new jobs, homes, and businesses within a thriving and sustainable new town.”

Bek Seeley, Managing Director of Development for Lendlease in Europe, said: “We are looking to tap into imaginative minds from the UK and around the world as we plan the town of tomorrow for Thamesmead, and we’re looking forward to seeing the collaborations and creativity this competition will inspire. It is an opportunity for a wide range of individuals and organisations to think big and bold about what the future of our cities might be, and how Thamesmead Waterfront can lead in making that vision a reality”.

The first stage of the competition is an open call, which will invite up to ten collaborative teams to meet with the Joint Venture on the basis of their expressions of interest. These should include an illustrated think piece and other materials to demonstrate the team’s approach to design, their skills, visionary thinking, expertise and commitment to diversity and the involvement of smaller practices.

The project team will then shortlist no more than five teams to progress to Stage two in December - with a final winner to be selected in March 2021.

The competition will be run by Colander Associates. For more information and to see the detailed brief please visit: <https://www.colander.co.uk/architectural-competitions>

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