

Newham Mayor hails floating village as 'pivotal' to Royal Docks transformation

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Exciting plans to create UK's largest 'floating village', as part of his on-going drive to transform London's Royal Docks bringing, jobs, commercial space and homes, have been hailed by Newham Mayor Sir Robin Wales.

This week, an international competition to find developers and London partners to design and deliver the scheme is being launched.

The plans will see 15 acres of water at the Royal Victoria Dock site, sitting directly under the Emirates Airline, transformed into a thriving community with floating homes, hotels, restaurants and bars. When complete, it will be one and half times the size of central London's Green Park and it will have some of the best transport links in the capital with a new Crossrail station, DLR and the cable car linking it to central London and Canary Wharf. .

Sir Robin said: "London is moving eastwards and the Royal Docks offer an investment opportunity in scale unmatched anywhere in Europe. This exciting development is a pivotal part of their reanimation. The Royal Docks were designated the capital's first new Enterprise Zone, in recognition of the importance of the area to the future of London's economy. As this announcement shows, they have the capacity to attract modern sustainable businesses and deliver 21st century growth for the capital. It is essential that the transformation of the area translates into long-term prosperity, growth and jobs.

"The Docks are being transformed into a living, working community of high quality offices,

workspace, retail, residential spaces, leisure and entertainment facilities. They will become a vibrant, exciting and fun visitor attraction which will draw people not just from across the capital - but across the country. This venture will provide a major boost for the local economy and further cement the area's reputation as one of the capital's must-visit places. Investment in the borough encompassing the Olympic Park and Stratford in the north through to Canning Town, Custom House and the Royal Docks in the south, reflects Newham's status as London's regeneration priority for the next 25 years."

The Royal Docks site will be showcased at MIPIM this month, the world's premier property conference.

London Mayor Boris Johnson added: "This site is unique. It has the potential to become one of the most sought after addresses in the capital while breathing new life back into London's waterways. But it's not alone. Right across London there are incredible investment opportunities that I'm determined to bring to market creating more homes and jobs for Londoners."

Although a first for the UK, floating developments are already a popular idea on the continent with successful schemes at IJburg near Amsterdam and Hafen City in Hamburg as well as many others throughout Scandinavia. Investments in this area have already led to the opening of the Emirates cable car and the Siemens Crystal Centre as well as upcoming developments at Silvertown Quays and Royal Albert Docks.