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## COMPETITION LAUNCHED FOR SECOND PHASE OF SOCIAL HOUSING AT NEW ISLINGTON

An open competition to find a dynamic architect to design the second phase of social housing at Manchester's Millennium Community, New Islington is launched today. It is an opportunity for the right team to make its mark on the ambitious and imaginative project.

Real progress has been made to bring Alsop Architects ambitious strategic framework vision to life. Already, the first part of the new canal is complete and filled with water; planning consent has been given for new buildings designed by Alsop Architects and Ian Simpson Architects and work has begun on Grant Associates creative public realm space on Old Mill Street.

Planning permission has been granted for the first 23 social housing units, designed by the previous competition winners FAT Architects.

"The great thing about being a developer is that we are able to gather an eclectic mix of architects together, often with fundamentally opposing philosophies to make the kind of rich mix of styles you would expect to find in any great place," said Nick Johnson, director of development, Urban Splash. "The only thread that unites the approach is that the architects are the best at what they do and this is what we are looking for with this competition for New Islington."

The principle client for the selection process, which is being organised by RIBA, will be Manchester Methodist Housing Association. The Association will work closely with the local residents, Urban Splash, national regeneration agency English Partnerships, Manchester City Council and New East Manchester Ltd to create a shortlist for the final selection.

"We have received very positive feedback from the residents who worked with FAT for the first phase of social housing," said Matthew Harrison, deputy chief executive, Manchester Methodist Housing Association. "I know the residents are looking forward, as are we, to be involved in the selection and ultimately working with the winners of this competition."

# NEW ISLINGTON

PRESS INFORMATION

URBAN SPLASH



New Islington is one of seven Millennium Communities managed by English Partnerships.

David Chilton, senior regeneration manager for English Partnerships said: "Millennium Communities are about more than buildings alone. They commit to using the very best design, innovation and construction to help create vibrant and successful neighbourhoods for future generations.

"Some of the country's most exciting architects and designers are keen to be involved with English Partnerships' Millennium Communities Programme. New Islington is no exception. It's testament to the vision that quality homes can and should be created in places that people want, and can afford to live."

"New Islington is gathering momentum and the launch of this competition helps grow the enthusiasm we have already seen for New Islington and New East Manchester," said Tom Russell, chief executive, New East Manchester Ltd.

The competition will take the form of a competitive interview. The deadline for expressions of interest is Thursday 11 November. Anyone interested in the competition should contact RIBA Competitions Office on 0113 2341335 or visit [www.ribacompetitions.com](http://www.ribacompetitions.com) for a preliminary briefing paper.

[www.newislington.co.uk](http://www.newislington.co.uk)

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More follows

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