

Media Information

4. Public and Private Partnership –working together

As one of the seven Millennium Communities, New Islington Millennium Community demonstrates how public and private organisations can work together to create a successful partnership.

Each partner provides a vital role in the overall development, which will be reflected right through from the public consultation and design, to construction and finally the realisation on the community itself.

English Partnerships, the government's national regeneration agency is delivering high quality, sustainable growth in England. With its Millennium Communities programme (of which New Islington is the third) it is aiming to deliver 6,000 homes by 2010 and 9,000 in total. Each Millennium Community Project will need to meet environmental standards for its homes that are more exacting than current regulations.

English Partnerships is committed to this UK programme, and this is strongly demonstrated here in Manchester with New Islington Millennium Community being the second community where work is well underway.

Stephen Hill, Head of Millennium Communities at English Partnerships said: "The aim of the Millennium Communities programme is to challenge accepted ideas of what the housebuilding industry can produce and what house buyers and tenants want. Urban Splash and Will Alsop have produced a challenging vision for a more sustainable way of living, in the neglected Cardroom district, at the edge of the lively City centre. They have already changed perceptions about this part of East Manchester. We are now looking forward to a period of collaborative working with them, and all the partners involved in this exciting project, to turn vision into reality."

Urban regeneration company **New East Manchester** (itself a partnership with Manchester City Council, English Partnerships and the Northwest Regional Development Agency) is delivering the wider regeneration of east

Manchester. Its expertise, overview and balance is crucial in assisting with delivering New Islington Millennium Community.

Tom Russell, Chief Executive of New East Manchester, said: "New Islington will link the vibrant City Centre with Sportcity and is a key component of the regeneration of East Manchester. This exciting development will substantially increase the choice and quality of housing in the area for both existing and new residents. It will contain the right mix of elements to create a successful and sustainable community - a new school, new jobs in the area, good shops, parks and public spaces, transport provision and community facilities. "

Urban Splash is the lead developer. It will work with its public sector partners to ensure that the imagination and creativity of the overall framework is delivered. Famed for its award-winning, innovative developments, Urban Splash was selected as preferred developer charged with creating and bringing the community back to life.

Nick Johnson, director of development at Urban Splash says: "New Islington is one of the most, if not the most, ambitious regeneration projects in the country. The strategic framework delivered by Alsop provides the strong, creative and imaginative vision for the site which presents many challenges and opportunities. Urban Splash loves a challenge. Through support and input from our partners we aim to make New Islington the best place to live in Manchester, to be home to an expo of the world's best architecture and exemplar of a delivered sustainable community."

As the housing association partner on the scheme, **Manchester Methodist Housing Group (MMHG)**, which is involved in a number of integrated community regeneration projects, is working closely with the architects and residents to ensure that this development reflects the needs and desires of future and existing residents.

"The feedback from the residents involved in the project has been very positive", said Matthew Harrison, deputy chief executive of MMHG. "The

architects FAT have really listened to how residents want to live and interpreted their vision into innovative, contemporary housing”.