

The Wharf: Mayor Clears Crossrail Station and Wood Wharf



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Mayor clears Crossrail station and Wood Wharf

By John Hill

The future landscape of Canary Wharf is beginning to take shape after Mayor Boris Johnson rubber-stamped three major developments.

The London figurehead approved plans for West India Dock's Crossrail station, the 7.98 hectare Wood Wharf office and residential scheme, and the 37-storey Newfoundland hotel near Heron Quays.

Crossrail is seen as integral to Canary Wharf's expansion plans, with over 100,000 people predicted to flock to the area over the next 20 years. Canary Wharf Group hired architects Foster and Partners to submit a design for the upper levels of the station, which will be located in West India Dock itself.



The scheme features a park with a latticed roof on the upper levels, with lower floors dedicated to restaurants, cafes and retail. A full application for the scheme was submitted to Tower Hamlets Council last month, and the Mayor's office has previously praised the "exceptional design quality" of the project.

Wood Wharf was granted outline approval by Tower Hamlets Council last month, and plans are already underway to develop the vision for the 14-building mini-Wharf, which will include office buildings, 1,668 residential units, a high street, cafes, restaurants and health centres. It is expected to bring 25,000 jobs to the area, and will be developed in phases over the next 10 to 15 years.

Canary Wharf subsidiary South Quay Properties wants Newfoundland to offer 150 rooms and 78 serviced apartments aimed at visiting business workers. It will appear in the centre of a development cluster which includes the JP Morgan's likely home at Riverside South, the three-tower Heron Quays development, Young Group's Landmark residential scheme and Glenkerrin's mooted 63-storey tower on the site of the City Pride pub. It was also cleared by the council last month.

The Mayor said: "I am determined to do everything I can to minimise the impact of the economic downturn and ensure that I use my powers to support the development sector in particular.

"We cannot stop building in our city and just as we will forge ahead with our huge house building programme, we must ensure the development process for all construction projects is as smooth and speedy as possible.

"Once Crossrail arrives in Canary Wharf it will act as the catalyst for the construction of more offices and the other facilities including new shops and more hotels, creating lasting jobs over the coming decades."