

## **RHP chooses Hill as partner in Ham regeneration**

London housing provider RHP Group has chosen Hill as development partner in its landmark regeneration project in Ham, South-West London, following an extensive two-stage tender process.

The redevelopment of Ham Close will involve the replacement of the outdated 1960s blocks of flats built on the estate with a range of high-quality new homes for existing residents, as well as many additional new homes of various tenures. RHP Group has worked in close consultation with current residents of Ham Close, local stakeholders and the wider community over several years on the vision for the future of Ham Close. It will now work in partnership with Hill to develop plans for the site that put the local community, green spaces and sustainability at the heart of the project.

The next steps will involve a programme of detailed consultation and engagement on all aspects of the proposed scheme with Ham Close residents and the wider community before a planning application is submitted. Subject to achieving planning permission, the aim is for work to start on site by the end of 2022.

**Tim Willocks, RHP's Executive Director of Development** states: "This is a pivotal moment in this exciting project which we believe will deliver positive and sustainable improvements to the area. We were attracted to working with Hill due to their experience in successfully delivering complex regeneration projects and the quality of their homes. In addition, their submission to us showed real knowledge and respect for the architectural character of the area and their landscaping ideas reflect the green surroundings of Ham. We are looking forward to working with Hill to engage with the local community to seek their input into the detailed proposals for Ham Close."

**Andy Hill, Chief Executive at Hill** said: "We are extremely proud to be chosen by RHP through the tender process as partner in the regeneration of Ham Close. Working in partnership is our strength and we look forward to developing detailed plans that will provide improved homes and surroundings for existing and future residents. We pride ourselves on creating places that bring greater social value for the community and incorporate the highest standards of sustainability."

Ham Close is one of the major projects in Richmond Council's Uplift programme. Owned by RHP, the 192 flats are currently home to around 300 people made up of both tenants and homeowners. However, the existing properties are no longer fit for purpose, of poor construction and many with damp issues.

**Councillor Jim Millard, Spokesperson for Housing, Richmond Council** adds: "I am delighted that the project is taking this significant step forward and with such a well-respected development partner. We all want to see new and better homes for the current residents of Ham Close, and more affordable housing. I look forward to hearing our residents thoughts about the proposals for the redevelopment."

BPTW is lead architect working with local architecture practice WRAP and landscape consultant LUC.

**Chris Bath, partner at BPTW** comments: "BPTW have been working with RHP, LBRuT and residents at Ham for a number of years; we are delighted that the regeneration scheme is now coming forward with the selection of a development partner in Hill, an organisation who place a great focus on design quality and real placemaking. We look forward to continuing working with both Hill and RHP to deliver a transformative masterplan with an architectural character which reflects the unique 'village like' character of Ham. Building on the work undertaken at bid stage, we will deliver exemplary architecture that places residents and the community at the heart of proposals. Our designs will ensure fantastic homes which complement the rich historic context of Ham, supported by high quality landscaping that promote active, healthy lifestyles".

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#### **About RHP**

RHP Group is a London-based housing company that provides nearly 10,000 affordable homes for social rent and Shared Ownership. Its vision is to be one of the best service providers in the UK and an excellent employer.

RHP has ranked in the top ten of the Great Places to Work list twice in the past five years and achieved Investors in People Platinum status for the second time in 2021. For more information about RHP please visit [www.rhp.org.uk](http://www.rhp.org.uk) or follow on Twitter @RHP\_UK.

#### **About Hill**

Hill is an award-winning housebuilder and one of the leading developers in London and the south east of England, delivering both private for sale and affordable homes.

Now in its 21st year, this family owned and operated company has grown to establish itself as the UK's third largest privately owned housebuilder, with an impressive and diverse portfolio of schemes ranging from landmark mixed use regeneration schemes and inner-city apartments to homes in rural communities.

With a staff of over 650, the company operates from five strategically located offices across the South-east, with its head office based in Waltham Abbey.

Hill builds around 2,000 homes a year, with 6,000 homes currently under construction and a pipeline of more than 9,000 homes. Around half of the development portfolio is in joint venture to deliver a range of mixed tenure developments, reflecting Hill's commitment to partnerships with government, local authorities, housing associations and private clients.

Hill has won over 450 industry awards in the past 20 years, including the prestigious Housebuilder of the Year, Best Medium Housebuilder and Best Development at the WhatHouse? awards 2020. Hill has been awarded 5-star status in the Home Builders Federation's annual Customer Satisfaction Survey for the past four years.

The Hill Group is donating 200 fully equipped modular homes over the next five years to single homeless people as part of a £12m pledge through its Foundation 200 programme, launched last year to mark Hill's 20th anniversary.

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