
British Land and USS recognise that the redeveloped shopping centre is an important element of the Kingston town centre community. The Eden Walk Partnership will expand the current activities which it undertakes with local communities and will use this redevelopment opportunity to deliver even more for local residents.

It is proposed that the redeveloped Eden Walk provide the following direct benefits to the local community – these are still the subject of ongoing discussion with RBK and local stakeholders and are in addition to the range of other benefits the project would deliver.

10% starter homes

These will be homes made available for purchase at a 20% discount to open market value. There will be a total of 38 units and the 20% discount will be in perpetuity (secured by restrictions on their title). They will be sold to people living or working in the Borough based on certain eligibility criteria eg: first time buyer only, household income levels and age. The eligibility criteria are still being discussed with RBK.

Community space on Eden Street

A unit on Eden Street opposite the Old Post Office of 1300 sq ft as a dedicated space for community use. This would be at a discounted rent and eligibility criteria would apply to ensure it is delivered as intended; these are still being discussed with RBK.

Depending on the eventual uses this space could be take on by a local organisation meeting the criteria, or managed by the on-site management team. The hours of opening/availability will also depend on the eventual uses.

Discounted Commercial space on Union Street

Approx. 10,000 sq ft of studio style office/workspace for local organisations, Community Interest Companies, Charities, artist studios, start-up business etc. Eligibility criteria would apply to ensure it is delivered as intended and these are still being discussed with RBK.

Commercial office space on Eden Street

All new office space c25,000 sq ft would be exclusively marketed for 6 months for Kingston based businesses. Eligibility criteria would apply to ensure it is delivered as intended and these are still being discussed with RBK.

Employment and Training Initiatives

The outline Employment, Training and Skills Strategy sets out targets of 15% of construction jobs to be filled by local people, with 1 in 20 of the workforce to be apprentices, shared apprentices or trainees (5%). Alongside this we're targeting 15% of the operational jobs to be filled by local people, and having an apprentice in the Centre management team as well as supporting our suppliers to take on their own apprentices.

We will also deliver and support further upskilling and pre-employment training programmes for local residents and target groups as part of construction and at operational use. The strategy is being further developed with key stakeholders including KESWG and will be managed by a steering group.

Local procurement and supply chain strategy

The outline strategy sets out how we will support local business and suppliers can get access to tendering opportunities for the wide range of contracts that will be available during the construction and operational phases of the redevelopment. We're targeting 15% of the construction contracts by value to be let to businesses and suppliers within 25 miles of the site, with core focus on those based in Kingston. This is still being discussed with RBK.



Relocated Shop Mobility service

With new improved facilities the Shop Mobility Service will be reprovided in the remodelled Eden Walk car park.

Public art

A public design competition to be held annually to develop works of public art within the scheme to sit on a focal plinth within the public area. This competition will embrace the community ethos and support local artists and creative students in showcasing their work. A steering committee would be set up (involving key local stakeholders) to judge and select the art piece.

Heritage Trail

Eden Walk is exploring the level of interest in creating a formal Heritage Trail for Kingston building on the activities of various local interest groups to increase the wider awareness of Kingston's heritage and cultural offer. This trail could highlight the rich and varied historic environment of Kingston town centre and Market Square and could include information points at strategic locations across the town.

Memorial Gardens

This space and environment will be totally landscaped to better support events such as Remembrance Sunday, whilst still providing valuable green space, seating and areas for quiet contemplation. The sensory garden will also be re-provided within the scheme.

Eden Crescent

Central event and performance space -this offers opportunity for an extensive events programme involving local schools, community groups and societies as a key elements of a wider programme of enlivenment. The space and events programme would be managed by the on-site management team.

Support local community organisations, charities and initiatives

Eden Walk currently supports a wide range of local community organisations and charities, often through funding specific projects or providing space, including Creative Youth Buzz Project; the National Literary Trust's Young Readers Programme; the Prince's Trust 'Get into Retail' project; CreateArts Young Carer's project; Love Kingston events and the Young Enterprise Trade Fair. In addition, the Centre has a Business Administrator Apprentice as part of the team.

The Partnership is committed to working with local organisation and community groups, and we're exploring further potential projects. During construction there will be a programme of work with local schools, including supporting their curriculum with work experience, talks and site visits, alongside a dedicated educational project during each year of the build, such as Budding Brunels with the Construction Youth Trust. There's also the opportunity to work with young people and artists on hording art projects.

Eden Walk Forum

The Eden Walk Partnership will set up a Forum which would invite local community groups and stakeholders to meet and work together during the construction phase, and after opening for as long as all parties want to meet, to ensure the scheme continues to deliver the best possible results for the community.

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@edenwalkregen



edenwalkregeneration.com

