

# Alton Area Masterplan

Leaseholder &  
Freeholder rehousing  
information booklet

June 2016



# Introduction

Over the last four years the council has been developing a regeneration project for the Alton area in consultation with residents and the local community. The Final Masterplan was approved by Wandsworth's executive in October 2014 and can be viewed online at [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/roehampton](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/roehampton) or in person at Roehampton Library.

This booklet provides an update on the rehousing package which would be offered to homeowners who need to move if the redevelopment goes ahead. It explains the options you would have, the compensation arrangements and the support available to help you through the process.

The regeneration plans may be adapted and developed as they are delivered, not least to respond to changing resident demands. Our commitments however to local rehousing and the terms set out here will continue. If you have any immediate questions about the contents of this booklet then please contact the regeneration project team, their contact details are on the back page of this booklet.

## 1 Next steps

### 1.1. What happens next?

At a later stage in the development process the owner of every home which is likely to be replaced will be contacted. The council will arrange an initial interview with you to understand your individual circumstances and to explain the rehousing and compensation options open to you in more detail.

You will not be expected to make any choices straight away and will be given the time and support you need to consider your options fully. You will be allocated a Rehousing and Advice Officer who will assist you through every stage of the process, or in the interim please contact the Regeneration Project team.

If the council cannot proceed with the project you will be contacted and the contents of this booklet would no longer apply.

## 1.2 When would I have to move?

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The earliest any household would have to move to their new home is estimated to be the end of 2017. The council will not be able to provide an accurate timescale for each household until a detailed development phasing plan is produced setting out the order in which each part of the estate will be rebuilt.

There is also the option to sell your home to the council at an earlier stage should you wish to do so. See section 7 for more details.

## 2 Rehousing and compensation commitments

The council has already published a number of commitments to Alton area homeowners and council tenants. Homeowners fall into two categories:

- Resident homeowners - those who live in the property as their home.
- Non-resident homeowners - those who rent out their property.

As the scheme progresses the council will issue more detailed guidance on the qualifying conditions for each of the above groups and deadline dates for classification as a resident homeowner.

### 2.1 Commitments we have made to resident homeowners

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- You will be offered the market value of your property, plus an additional 10% Home Loss Payment (HLP) - this percentage is set by the Government nationally; see section 4 for more detail on other compensation payments.
- You will be able to reclaim reasonable valuation, legal and moving costs; see section 4.2 for more detail.
- You will have the opportunity to purchase a new development property on an 'equity share' basis. See section 5 for more detail.

## 2.2 Commitments we have made to non-resident homeowners

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- You will be offered the market value of your property, plus an additional 7.5 per cent Basic Loss Payment - this percentage is set by the Government nationally; see section 4 for more detail on other compensation payments.
- You will be able to reclaim reasonable valuation, legal and moving costs. see section 4.3 for more detail.

If you are a non-resident homeowner, it is important to note that the council is under no formal obligation to re-house any tenant you are letting the property to or any other occupant in your property. The council will only complete the purchase of your property once it is vacant.

## 3 Property valuation

### 3.1 Valuing your property

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The regeneration scheme will be completed on a phased basis so some parts of the area will be rebuilt before others. This means the council will only be required to purchase properties one phase at a time, rather than all at once.

If your property is included in the next phase of development then the council will arrange for your property to be inspected and valued.

If the regeneration project goes ahead the first phase valuations would take place in 2016 at the earliest. The final phase valuations may not take place until much later in what might be a ten year construction programme.

However, resident or non-resident homeowners do not have to wait and can request that the council values and purchases their property earlier. See section 7 for more details.

## 3.2 Agreeing the value

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If you disagree with the council's valuation of your home, you can obtain your own valuation using an independent chartered surveyor. This will then involve a negotiation between your valuer and the council's valuer as to what price should be accepted.

The council will pay your reasonable costs for obtaining your own valuation. You can find an independent chartered surveyor by contacting the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) on **0870 333 1600** or visiting **www.rics.org**.

If agreement cannot be reached between your surveyor and the council then there would be a third party arbitration process. This would involve an independent surveyor making a final decision on the purchase price.

## 3.3 How is value assessed?

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The council's offer will be based on a 'no scheme world' and at market value.

'No scheme world' means that the value will be based on the assumption that the regeneration is not going ahead. This means the value the council pays for the property will not go up or down as a result of the regeneration proposals.

Market value reflects the condition of the property at the date of valuation and, for example, will reflect:

- The internal condition and size
- External condition
- Internal improvements to the property such as new bathrooms and kitchens fitted
- The location of the property and amenities within the area such as transport links, shops and services
- The housing market in the immediate area, including recent sale prices for similar properties.

## 4 Compensation and disturbance

### 4.1 Home loss payment

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As explained in section 1.1 the council will offer each affected homeowner a home loss payment on top of the market value of their property. This will be an extra 10 per cent payment (up to a maximum of £53,000) for resident leaseholder/freeholder homeowners and 7.5 per cent (up to a maximum of £75,000) for non-resident homeowners.

### 4.2 Resident homeowners disturbance payment

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In addition to the home loss payment you will be entitled to claim for certain reasonable costs associated with moving home, selling your existing property to the council and purchasing a new home. Costs can include but are not restricted to:

- Removal expenses
- Legal fees arising from the sale of your property and the acquisition of a replacement property
- Surveyor fees arising from the acquisition of a replacement property
- Re-direction of mail
- Alterations to furnishings, e.g. curtains
- Disconnection and re-connection of services and appliances
- Moveable fixtures and fittings
- Special adaptations assessed as required in the new property
- Mortgage redemption and arrangement fees
- Stamp Duty

### **4.3 Non-resident homeowners disturbance payment**

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You will be able to claim for reasonable costs associated with the purchase of a new property within the United Kingdom.

All such disturbance costs should be reasonable and you will be required to prove they have been incurred. If you are unsure about the eligibility of any costs you should discuss this with your allocated rehousing and advice officer before spending your money.

## **5 Buying a new development property**

### **5.1 Resident homeowners**

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The council is offering resident homeowners the option of purchasing a new property with an equivalent number of bedrooms in the new development or in the local neighbourhood. It is the council's intention that the development will be phased to ensure those who sell their property to the council will have a new home to buy and move into straight away without having to spend time in interim accommodation. If you decide to purchase a new home in the new development the exact timing of the sale and your move will be discussed with you in detail with your rehousing and advice officer.

The value of your new home is likely to be greater than the value of your present home and the council will offer an equity share package which enables you to afford to purchase the new property.

The valuation of your existing property and the new property will be undertaken at the same time so you will have certainty around the levels of equity and the matter is dealt with in a fair and transparent way.

## 5.2. New development homes

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- Your new home will meet the Mayor of London's quality and size standards.
- Your new home can be provided with carpets or other flooring (including underlay or sound proofing), blinds or curtains.
- Your new home could have oven/hob, fridge freezer and washing machine/dryer fitted.
- Where possible we try to accommodate residents' requests for a specific internal layout in the new homes (e.g. open plan layout or special adaptations)

## 5.3. What is an equity share package?

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The council's proposed equity share scheme has been designed to enable you to afford a new development property with a higher value than your existing property.

Under the scheme you could use the funds from the sale of your existing property (market value plus 10 per cent home loss payment) to buy a new development property. This would mean that if you have a mortgage your current level of borrowing would be maintained.

If the market price of the new property is higher than the amount you receive from the council for your existing property, and you cannot afford to buy the property at this price, the council would hold on to the portion you cannot buy. No rent or interest would be charged on the council's share. This means that you can purchase the new, higher value property.

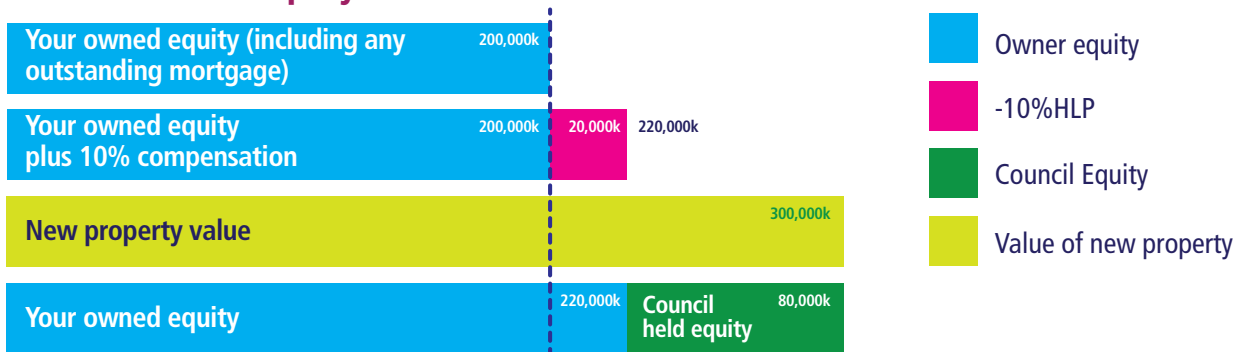
If you want to invest more of your own savings in the new property then the council would take a lower equity share or indeed no equity share at all if you buy outright. You would also have the option of increasing your share in your property over time by gradually buying up the council's equity share, without any incidental purchase costs being incurred.



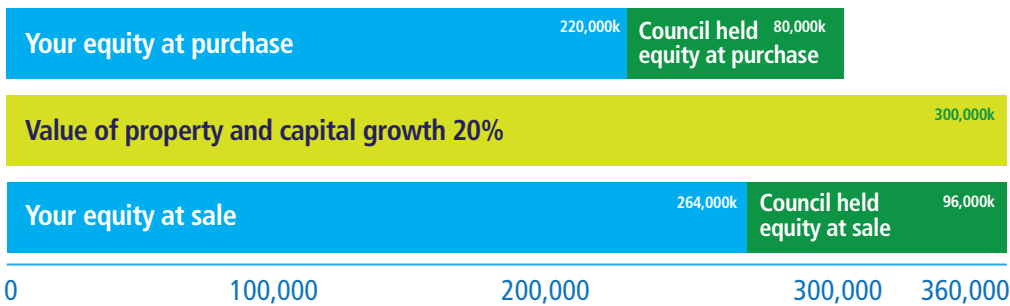
## 5.4. What happens if you want to sell a home purchased through the equity share package?

If you decide to sell the new property you would keep your share of the proceeds and the council would keep its share. Any increase or decrease in value that may have occurred during your ownership of the property would be shared between you and the council according to the proportion of equity owned by each party. So if you own 75 per cent of the property you would get 75 per cent of the value including any increase in value.

### Illustration of equity share



### Illustration of capital growth in equity share



## 5.5. What size home could you buy with the equity share scheme?

The equity share offer could be used to buy a property of an equivalent size (in bedrooms) to your existing property. You could also use it to purchase a smaller property than your existing home. If you wish to purchase a larger property in terms of bedrooms than your existing home then the council would only offer equity share based on the current size of your property. This means effectively that you would be required to pay full market value on any additional bedrooms.

If you believe your personal or financial circumstances mean that you would not be able to take advantage of the proposed equity share package then do please get in touch with the regeneration team and they will be able to consider your options with you at this stage.

## 5.6 Non-resident homeowners

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The equity share package will not be offered to non-resident homeowners. This is because the equity share offer is designed specifically to help residents of the estates stay in the neighbourhood where they live.

# 6 Other options for resident homeowners

## 6.1 Lease swap

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If you wish to move outside of the development area you may wish to explore with the council the option of purchasing an existing council-owned home elsewhere in the borough. If this is the case, then please contact the regeneration team and we can discuss this with you.

## 6.2 Inability to purchase

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If you are unable to purchase a new home suitable for your needs then the council will explore alternative housing options with you. This would involve an assessment of your needs and financial circumstances (at the time that the property is required for development) as well as the council's statutory obligations to find you a suitable home.

## 7 Early moves

Later in the process an initial phasing plan will be developed, setting out the timescales for different parts of the area to be rebuilt. The phasing plan will determine when each home would need to be purchased.

However, if you are interested in selling your property at any time before the regeneration scheme starts, then the council will consider purchasing your property at its market value. This applies to both resident and non-resident owners.

If there are extenuating circumstances which mean you have to move out of your property sooner, such as poor health, then the council may also consider making a contribution to your costs.

However, at this early stage in the process, home loss payments will not be considered.

Please contact the regeneration team if you are interested in discussing the sale of your property to the council at this stage.

## Find out more

If you have any questions about the Final Masterplan, the leaseholder information booklet or the regeneration process in general then please get in touch with the Regeneration team using the contact details below.

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## Online

Our webpages include a copy of this booklet, the Final Masterplan, the Executive Summary and more information on the Regeneration process  
Visit: **[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/roehampton](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/roehampton)**

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## E-newsletter

To receive updates on the Regeneration project by email sign up for the e-newsletter at  
**[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/roehampton](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/roehampton)**

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## Contact us

You can contact the Regeneration team who can help answer your questions and explain how you can get involved.


Gary Cox - Roehampton Regeneration Project Manager


Janine Newton - Roehampton Regeneration Principal Project Officer

Email: **[roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk)**

Call : **(020) 8871 6207**

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