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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor announces plans for London's first Community Land Trust

Mayor of London Ken Livingstone today announced his London Development Agency is working with Tower Hamlets Council to bring forward an appropriate site in east London for a mixed development of three hundred market and affordable homes.

The affordable element will include around one hundred homes using the community land trust model. Once the site has been confirmed, the London Development Agency will work with Tower Hamlets Council to undertake a tender process to find a delivery partner to develop the pilot project.

The Mayor said:

"With such a desperate need for affordable housing in the capital we must explore every avenue to ensure we continue driving up delivery wherever we can. I believe that Community Land Trusts can complement our other initiatives and we will work hard with Tower Hamlets Council and the community towards making this first pilot a success and ensuring that the community plays a key role in solving our housing crisis.

'I would also like to thank London Citizens for their continued support for more affordable housing and look forward to working with them on the development of this community land trust model.'

Tower Hamlets Council's Lead Member for Housing and Development Rupert Bawden, said: 'Tower Hamlets Council is very pleased to announce that it will be working in partnership with the London Development Agency to bring forward a mixed tenure, mixed use scheme in the borough. A key component of the scheme will be affordable home ownership, which is crucial in the borough.

'We are looking forward to working on this great opportunity for the borough. Any proposals would be subject to the council's formal decisions process and appropriate consultation.'

Stefan Baskerville from London Citizens said:

“Everyone who has looked at the CLTs knows they are the obvious solution to London’s property apartheid and the scandal of overcrowding. More and more ordinary Londoners have seen the chance of owning a home slip from their grasp. Mayor Livingstone’s commitment to a pilot scheme in East London has brought them real hope. What we’re asking for now is local authorities and other landowners to get on board by releasing land to London’s communities. Together, we can bring dignity to thousands of low-paid workers by offering the chance to own their own homes

Notes to editors

1. Community Land Trusts own land in order to provide benefits to the local community with the primary aim of providing affordable housing and helping people into home ownership. Central to the operation of Community Land Trusts is the separation of the ownership of the land and restrictions on the resale price of the properties on the land so that they cannot be sold at open market value outside the reach of the local community.

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