



£10bn 'Canary Wharf' planned for HS2 hub



Transformation: Old Oak Common plan would bring thousands of homes and jobs

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Jonathan Pryn, Consumer Business Editor



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A vision for a "Canary Wharf of the railways" regenerating one of west London's most deprived neighbourhoods is being unveiled this week.

At a cost of at least £10 billion, more than 100 acres of windswept railway sidings and semi-derelict wasteland at Old Oak Common, just north of Wormwood Scrubs, would be the setting for the capital's next large scale "phoenix-like" revival.

Local consultation starts on Friday over plans for a project that would be twice the size of the redevelopment of the King's Cross railway lands.

Residents will be shown first details of a transformation that would create 90,000 jobs and result in 19,000 homes being built.

It would have at its heart a vast new railway hub for Crossrail and the £16 billion HS2 high-speed link from Euston to Birmingham. About a third of all HS2 passengers are expected to transfer at Old Oak Common.

Backers said the plans show that HS2 — reviled as an intrusive "white elephant" in areas such as Camden and the Chilterns — could also bring huge benefits. Nicholas Botterill, leader of Hammersmith & Fulham borough, where the new station will be located, said: "HS2 will act as a catalyst to create much-needed new homes, jobs and opportunities in one of London's poorest areas.

"We have heard a lot about how HS2 will bridge the north-south divide and regenerate parts of northern England and the Midlands but it has also the potential to transform run-down inner London neighbourhoods right on our doorstep. Imagine putting Canary Wharf on top of Britain's premier high-speed hub station and you will get a flavour of what could be possible."

It is hoped there would also be a station on the Heathrow Express line — bringing the airport a 10-minute ride away — a new Overground station and a possible link

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with the Great Western Main Line.

As well as Hammersmith & Fulham, the plans also cover land in Brent, Ealing and Kensington & Chelsea. Mayor Boris Johnson, Transport for London and three of the councils have jointly drawn up the initial proposals, which would take 30 years to deliver.

The plan could turn Old Oak Common — one of London's least attractive areas, with its train depots and waste recycling facilities — into one of Britain's best-connected locations. Isabel Deding, deputy mayor for transport, said: "It is a true opportunity area, ideally placed to act as an interchange with Crossrail and other national mainlines, relieving pressure on Euston station.

"A super transport hub in this location would drive significant regeneration in the surrounding area and support the creation of thousands of new jobs and new homes."

The deadline for responses to the consultation is Friday, September 6.



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THFC 4 days ago

The hub would fail,as unlike Kings Cross and Canary Wharf it is in a remote,too far away from the centre area

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Anonymous 4 days ago

Fact is Canary Wharf was seen as remote when it was a place where tomatoes were landed and yet now one can actually walk to there from the City of London !

OOO only seems remote because of its isolation from surrounding areas and once it is developed and old bridges are replaced with proper roads many people will find its just a few minutes away from where they live !

It's the desolation that creates the isolation !

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