

CENTRE FOR CRIME AND JUSTICE STUDIES

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Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

Justice Matters: A Community Plan for Holloway

17 October 2017

Dear Mr Khan,

URGENT: HMP Holloway

We are writing to you about the future of the HMP Holloway prison site in London, N7 and to request an urgent meeting.

Community Plan for Holloway is organised by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies and funded by Trust for London. We are working in coalition with many local people and community groups a number of whom are signatories to this letter.

As you may be aware, the 10 acre site is currently being marketed for sale by GVA Bilfinger on behalf of the Ministry of Justice. The deadline for bids is 15 November. Islington Council have issued a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), and has the support of Deputy Mayor for Housing, James Murray. The SPD outlines a number of objectives for the site including minimum 50% affordable homes; open green spaces; community facilities and a women's building.

Islington Council's feasibility study suggests between 400 and 880 homes on the site. In contrast to this, the site is being marketed by GVA Bilfinger with space for in excess of 1,000 apartments with little mention of community facilities or public spaces.

During the summer, *Community Plan for Holloway* ran an online survey and community engagement activities to encourage local people, organisations and women in the criminal justice system to put forward their views about what is important to them, and what they would like to see on the site.

To date in excess of 930 responses have been received and a report on community perspectives is attached.

Our report indicates that there is strong support for;

1. The land to remain in public ownership
2. Genuinely affordable housing
3. Community space
4. Green space
5. Provision of services for women

We believe that the expected sale of the land to private developers risks squandering a golden opportunity to address some of the systemic problems for low income Londoners in finding safe, decent and affordable homes.

We would like to request that the Mayor's Office seriously consider bidding for the land. With your support, the Holloway prison site could set a benchmark for the disposal of prison sites and public land in London and across the country.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Garside

Richard Garside, **Centre for Crime and Justice Studies**
Andy Bain, **Islington Hands Off Our Public Services**
Morag Gillie, **Islington Axe the Housing Act**
Gary Heather, **Islington Trades Union Council**
Revd. Alexandra Lilley, **St George & All Saints Tufnell Park**
Maureen Mansfield, **Reclaim Holloway**
Kate Paradine, **Women in Prison**
Glyn Robbins, **Unite Union Housing Workers Branch**

cc. James Murray, Deputy Mayor, Housing & Residential Development