

# News

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## Celebrating progress at Lewisham Gateway

Project partners behind one of the South East's largest mixed-use regeneration schemes recently gathered to celebrate the completion of the main structures.

The final phase at Lewisham Gateway is currently under construction, which will be the last piece of a major urban regeneration scheme that is providing Lewisham with an offer never seen before in the area, with 1000 new homes, leisure facilities, a new park and commercial space, including a long-awaited Empire multiplex cinema.

Lewisham Gateway developer, Muse, Balfour Beatty and Lewisham Council took the opportunity to take key stakeholders, including the Department for Levelling Up (DLU), Transport for London (TfL) and the Greater London Authority (GLA), behind the hoarding and around the scheme and highlight the many benefits the scheme will bring to the borough.

By tackling both local housing need, while at the same time delivering 50,000sq ft of commercial space and a range of amenities, the project has become a leading example of how a long-standing partnership between the public and private sector can transform the place to benefit the community.

Partners have made sure that local talent have played a key role in the scheme's construction, by creating employment and training opportunities for local people. To date, 31 Lewisham residents have been employed, along with 104 weeks of time for apprenticeships and traineeships.

Speaking at the event, Muse board director, Mike Auger, said: "We're proud to be delivering the vision for Lewisham Gateway, which once the final phase is completed, we'll have provided a catalyst for the town to realise its ambitions and continue its revival. So far, we've ploughed over £65m into activities that benefit local people and businesses, through apprenticeships, local employment opportunities, along with community activities and we're looking forward to increasing that figure throughout the rest of the build.

"Our strong partnership between ourselves, the London Borough of Lewisham, GLA, DLU, and TfL, demonstrates that tangible, long-term benefits can be delivered when the private and public sector work in partnership. Together, we're committed to creating a brighter future for everyone, by breathing new life into our towns and cities, driving investment where it's needed and creating opportunities to benefit all in our communities.

"We're also delighted to be partnering with the council on its Borough of Culture 2022 events."

Also at the event, Balfour Beatty's CEO of UK Construction Services, Mark Bullock, reflected on the resilience of the team, with excellent progress made despite challenges across the construction: "The development of LG2 has made excellent progress despite the twin challenges of Covid 19 and global supply chain issues. The construction is ahead of schedule and on track to be completed by 2023. Our team worked hard to make sure that work carried on through the pandemic, adapting to work in a covid-safe way so that the scheme is built and delivering benefits for local people as soon as possible. Not only have we demonstrated our resilience, we have fulfilled our promises to local people - recruiting locally, providing training and apprenticeships and promoting pathways into the sector in local schools - and this should be celebrated in equal measure."