



NEWS RELEASE

10 February 2009

Masterplan for World Class Stratford Commended in national planning awards

The masterplan that underpins the vision for World Class Stratford was honoured at a national planning industry awards ceremony in London last week week.

The Urban Design Framework (UDF) for Stratford – prepared for World Class Stratford by consultants Urban Practitioners – received a Commendation at the prestigious 2008 Planning Awards given by the Royal Town Planning Institute.

An eminent judging panel for the RTPI described the UDF as “a significant achievement for Stratford-on-Avon District Council” which has “shown the potential of planners and urban designers to contribute to the development and delivery of their vision for the future. This vision has substantial delivery potential.”

Welcoming the award, Councillor Les Topham, chairman of the World Class Stratford Strategy Group and leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council, said: “It is a real feather in Stratford’s cap to be recognised in this way by the country’s leading planning professionals, especially during a year in which there were a record number of award entries. This is a great start to a year which will see the completion and reopening of the Bancroft Gardens in the next couple of months and the bringing forward of new proposals designed to reinvigorate other major areas of the town.”

Councillor Chris Saint, economic development portfolio holder for Warwickshire County Council and deputy leader of the World Class Stratford Strategy Group, added: “The RTPI awards represent the pinnacle of the planning industry. The UDF was competing with dozens of other major schemes across the country and the judging panel said that our vision has substantial delivery potential. To have got the attention and vote of the judging panel confirms the high professional integrity of the UDF. This award also highlights the quality of the ideas and contributions from the people of the town during the consultation that took place in framing the masterplan.”

The Commendation follows an initial short-listing and an inspection visit last August from a high-level RTPI delegation including Chris Shepley, former chief planning inspector and chief executive of the Planning Inspectorate; Mike Ash, former chief planner in the planning directorate of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; Kay Powell, currently Secretary of the National Planning Forum and formerly head of the planning division of the Welsh Office and the Welsh Assembly Government.

The awards presentation took place at the Hilton Hotel in Park Lane on Thursday 5 February.

Editor's note: jpeg image of the RTPI award presentation to Cllrs Topham and Saint is attached.

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