

# Press release

# EXCeL LONDON

## EXCeL LONDON ANNOUNCE EXPANSION PLANS AND START OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN BOOST FOR ROYAL DOCKS

- An exciting, international inward investment project demonstrating confidence in London as a destination of choice for world-leading events.
- ExCeL London is proposing to expand its world-class event venue at London's Royal Docks.
- The proposals would see approximately 24,000 sqm of new, continuous convention and exhibition space added to the eastern side of the building, as well as an improved environment along the dock-edge.
- The proposals will help to secure the long-term future of ExCeL – making the venue globally competitive for years to come, creating new jobs and boosting the local economy.
- The project would create 170 new jobs when open, 50% of which will be for local people,
- A further 130 jobs will be created during the construction phase of works.
- Architects, Grimshaw - who completed the first expansion (London's International Convention Conference) in 2010 - has been appointed to lead on the designs.

ExCeL has announced the start of a public consultation on proposals to expand the venue with new continuous event space added to the east of the site, where the current eastern car park is off Eastern Gateway Road. The Phase 3 expansion will increase the venue's total event space by 25%, helping ExCeL to continue to compete globally by attracting larger international events.

In addition to new event space, the proposals will offer an improved customer experience, with modern meeting rooms, a breakout space where people can relax with friends and colleagues, along with enhanced catering services.

ExCeL is encouraging local communities to have their say on the proposals, which include:

1. **An increase in event space** to help ExCeL secure its long-term future in the area.
2. **Contributing to London's and Newham's economy** by creating an additional 170 new jobs with an aim for 50% of these opportunities to be for local people. 130 new full-time jobs will be created during the construction phase of the project, including apprenticeships and training opportunities for young people, to maintain ExCeL's commitment to create a high level of local employment. ExCeL already employs over 160 people, 34% of whom live in East London.
3. **Delivering a highly sustainable development**, which will aim to achieve a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating of 'Excellent', creating a biodiversity net gain across the site, with additional investment in enhanced landscaping and planting.

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4. **Creating a better local environment**, improving the public realm around the site and the pedestrian and cycle routes around ExCeL and the dock-edge. The dock will have a more open and welcoming active frontage, which could include new seating, landscaping, and spaces for people to relax and socialise.

**Speaking on behalf of ExCeL London, Chief Executive Officer Jeremy Rees, said:**

*“We are delighted to be launching our first phase of consultation. A project to expand the footprint of the venue further to the east of our site has always been in our thinking. Prior to the pandemic we were attracting 4 million visitors each year, including 25% of London’s total inbound business tourists, and generating an economic impact of around £4.5bn for the London and UK economies.*

*Whilst the demand to host world-leading events at ExCeL is increasing, the proposal to add more modern and flexible event space will create a significant advantage for London when competing against other cities around the world. This is a unique opportunity to deliver an entirely privately funded project that will create a significant impact not just for the local community and the visitor economy, but for London as a whole.*

*We are committed to the long-term future of ExCeL, supporting the economic recovery and the continued growth of the Royal Docks and London. Our plans would support even more investment and growth locally, as well as an additional 130 new jobs during construction and 170 more once open.*

*Our vision for the project is being shared in an online exhibition [www.visionforexcel.co.uk](http://www.visionforexcel.co.uk) We look forward to hearing feedback from local residents and businesses and working with the Royal Docks community over the coming months as we progress our designs.”*

**Notes to editors:**

- ExCeL London is owned by the ADNEC Group (Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company) and is a global leader in exhibitions, international congresses, and live events.
- ExCeL London has been a part of the Royal Docks for over 20 years, opening in November 2000.
- In 2019, ExCeL hosted over 400 events, welcoming 4 million visitors and 40,000 exhibiting companies. Events at ExCeL are responsible for driving £4.5bn in economic impact, supporting 37,600 jobs.
- In 2010, ExCeL undertook its first expansion adding a much-needed International Convention Centre for London that provides space for international congresses such as the European Society for Cardiology.
- During the Coronavirus pandemic ExCeL London has been playing an active role in supporting the NHS, Government, and the local community in its response to the coronavirus pandemic.

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- The consultation website is hosted at [www.visionforexcel.co.uk](http://www.visionforexcel.co.uk) and includes a virtual exhibition room on the plans. This has been publicised by a newsletter to local residents, as well as adverts and social media posts.
- Visitors to the site are encouraged to leave their comments and thoughts either by completing the survey or by sending an email.
- This is just the first step in ExCeL London's consultation programme. The project team will be meeting with local groups and holding a further round of online consultation in the new year on the detailed designs.

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