

Our ref: NS/mw/HAP/2267  
22 June 2007

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**Councillor Nicholas Stanton**  
Leader of Southwark Council  
Liberal Democrat Member for  
Riverside Ward

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Dear Tenant,

### **Heygate Action Plan**

We appreciate that there has been a lot of confusion and misinformation going out about the Heygate Action Plan that was agreed at an Executive meeting of Southwark Council on 19 June. I'm writing to you now, to set the record straight and to let you know what this means for you.

We have received increasingly frequent and common complaints about conditions on the Heygate, from inadequate heating and lighting systems to community safety issues. We've been listening to what you have been telling us about life on the estate and we know that there's an appetite for change. Indeed Councillor Kim Humphreys recently spent time living in Kingshill House during the 100 Days of Change campaign so that he could understand residents' concerns firsthand.

The safety and welfare of our residents is our first priority. Having learned from earlier regeneration projects we cannot allow the situation to continue, so we've decided to bring the demolition of the Heygate forward. To make this happen as efficiently and safely as possible, we're introducing a phased rehousing programme which offers you the choice of moving off the estate sooner if you want to.

### ***What this means for you***

Whilst of course this has an impact on you and your family, I want to reassure you that speeding up the rehousing will help you move into a new home more quickly.

You'll have the right to choose where to live in the short term by bidding for any council or housing association property listed in the Homeseach scheme. Heygate residents will have Band 1 status so you'll have top priority to more than 200 properties advertised each month.

With so many new developments springing up across the borough you'll also have a new option to move into a brand new housing association home outside of the Heygate early housing sites. Tenants who wish to take up this option **will not** lose their right to later move onto one of the Heygate early sites when they become available.

Equally if you would like to remain permanently in the new housing association home outside the Elephant and Castle area, you will be able to do so.

We know that for those of you who wish to return to the Heygate this new timetable involves two moves. However, we are confident that with the highest levels of housing stock in London you will have the flexibility to choose where you want to live whilst the new homes are being built.

The council will make every effort to help you through this. We will try to provide a 'one stop shop' service for estate residents by bringing together the different council services you need to access before and during your move. The rehousing team will continue to provide you with face to face contact to make sure we understand your needs and we'll stay in touch with those of you who decide to move off the estate sooner.

***What happens next?***

We're holding a series of surgeries on the estate over the coming weeks so you can talk to us on an individual basis. These will be advertised on the noticeboards and via the rehousing team. Further information will also be placed on the council and Elephant and Castle websites.

If you have any immediate concerns please contact the rehousing team on 020 7525 2620 or e-mail our communications manager Melanie Watts, [melanie.watts@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.watts@southwark.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Nicholas Stanton  
Leader of the Council**