

FORMER HOLLOWAY WOMEN'S PRISON SITE

WOMEN'S BUILDING DEVELOPMENT BRIEF PRODUCTION AND CONSULTATION SUMMARY

July 2021



Background

Islington Council adopted the Holloway Prison Site Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to guide the redevelopment of the Holloway Prison Site on 4 January 2018.

Local residents and key stakeholders were consulted upon a discussion paper in spring 2017, asking for feedback on options about the content of future planning guidance. Following this consultation, the council developed a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and consulted on this between August and October 2017. In total, around 800 responses were received during those consultation exercises and those responses informed the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Chapter 3 of the SPD also states under 'Key Planning and Development Considerations' its second bullet point being:

- "The provision of a women's building/centre that incorporates safe space to support women in the criminal justice system and services for women as part of a wider building that could also include affordable workspace to support local organisations and employment opportunities".

Chapter 4 of the SPD sets out the expectation for 'Future Uses' to be accommodated on the site.

The boroughs planning policies place great emphasis on the retention of existing social infrastructure. The loss of social infrastructure is proposed by the closure of the prison. In considering loss of social infrastructure from the site the SPD states that it is distinguished between pure built facilities and the activities and services that took place on the site. Paragraph 4.18 of the SPD states:

The prison performed important rehabilitation and support functions to vulnerable women... Particular regard needs to be given to what support services are still required in the borough and London.

It is clear that from the outset of considering the need for a women's building, (in order to ensure no net loss of service provision of social infrastructure from the site) the extent of scope for such a building has been to secure a facility that meets Islington and London needs established as a result of the closure of the prison.

It is noted that “*Analysis by the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), for example, clearly shows a gap in female offender service provision in North East London following the closure of the prison. MOPAC highlight the need to build up women’s centre service provision in the capital to support the transition from custody and providing alternatives to custody in the first place.*

Given the services and support networks that operated from the site, there would be a shortfall in Islington/north-east London if this is not re-provided. The continued presence of a base for women’s services, including female offender services, should therefore be provided as part of any future development proposals for the site in order to ensure equivalent levels of provision and access.

The SPD included additional paragraphs setting out further aims to inform the design of a women’s building, these included (taken directly from the SPD):

- space to provide support for women in the criminal justice system;
- space for support and services for women more generally;
- purposeful location of a number of women’s services into one building would be beneficial in assisting and enabling the rehabilitation and integration of hard to reach groups of women beyond those in the criminal justice system (including those that are vulnerable, homeless, and those that fall between services and agencies); and
- the provision of a safe space in which multiple services can be accessed. Safe spaces have been evidenced to foster an environment which makes it easier to come forward and report issues and, together with a simpler more accessible range of services in one place, can help to avoid women remaining in high risk situations.
- It will be important to engage with the Planning Service, the Council’s Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) team, MOPAC and other key stakeholders to help assess the extent of what is required.
- It will be important that a safe, women only space, with separate and secure access and outdoor amenity space, is provided as part of a high quality flexible facility that can allow multiple services to operate from the building and provide a safe and pleasant place for clients accessing the services.
- Whilst the council is keen to see a suitably sized building that can accommodate these facilities provided on site, it should be noted that it is highly unlikely that the council will be able to fund any additional services within these buildings.

In light of the need to address the social infrastructure policies of the Development Plan, a clear rationale for the provision of a women’s centre / building was established within the Holloway Prison SPD.

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1 Introduction

This document sets out the consultation carried out to inform the design brief for the Women's Building.

The Council's Planning Service prepared a draft development brief to help guide the developer (and site owner) Peabody Housing to fulfil the physical and architectural requirement for such a facility.

This brief was produced as a means to help inform and shape the detailed design for the provision of an outstanding, multi-functional, women's facility on the site of the former Holloway Women's Prison. It was produced following a series of meetings, workshops and discussions with a wide range of people who are actively involved in the provision of services for women in London, and further afield in England, including those who are, or have been, involved in the criminal justice system.

Many of these organisations, groups, and individuals, brought invaluable information to the brief where the emphasis was not just on the necessity of securing a sufficient quantum of space, but on the provision of space that is flexible, trauma informed, sociable, and welcoming and able to offer benefit to a broad range of women. These inputs have guided the brief and subsequent design development.

A consistent objective for the Women's Building coming from the consultation process has been to provide a women's centre for women affected by the criminal justice system at the centre of the facility. This is directly in line with the design aspirations identified by the earlier consultation carried out on the Holloway Prison Site SPD in order to ensure social infrastructure of particular need is not lost from the site.

It is also worth noting that GLA funding for the women's centre is linked to the provision of these services associated with helping women who may be affected by the criminal justice system.

Having said that, LBI supports the provision of additional other services and facilities for women that have no relationship with the criminal justice system and which are considered to be an integral part of the overarching women's building.

The brief therefore contained a set of design principles that were derived from the research undertaken, as itemised in Section 2 below.

The Council has actively sought to prepare a design brief that provides sufficient space in response to stakeholder feedback and that is sustainable for the long term. This has resulted in an increase in size over the past 18 months from an initial 800sqm to approximately 1,400sqm of floorspace for the Women's building.

The 'Women's Building' is proposed to occupy the ground and lower ground floors of two residential buildings. It fronts onto Camden Road giving it significant prominence in the streetscape while having a return frontage onto the proposed new public park. It has its own dedicated garden and a semi-public and sizeable forecourt to the front.

It has been designed so as to contain the facilities and activities associated with a Women's Centre, (Ref Corston Report 2007) as well as more generic facilities for a broader range of women. Thus it is a Women's Building which also accommodate a Women's Centre.

2 Production of the Development Brief

2.1 Holloway Prison Site Supplementary Planning Document, 2018

The brief was informed by the Council's adopted 2018 Holloway Prison Site Supplementary Planning Document produced to guide redevelopment of the prison site. This specified the need for a type of women's centre to enable the re-provision of those long established services associated with women within the prison system, and the need to provide additional space to promote and provide for other, broader, facilities for women. As noted, the SPD envisaged the Women's Building to be of a scale to cater for local and London need, or more specifically based on research at the time, London North East.

2.2 Strategic Research

The design brief was informed by initial research into women's centres including:

- Corston Report - 2007
- Howard League Report – All Party Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System 2016
- Prison Reform Trust – Leading Change Report 2016
- Ministry of Justice – Female Offender Strategy 2018; Commissioned Report Re Rolling out Corston Style One Stop Shop' women's centres - 2008.
- House of Commons Justice Committee – Women Offenders: After the Corston Report July 2013
- Centre for Social Justice – A Woman Centred Approach: Freeing vulnerable women from the revolving door of crime – 2018

2.3 Women's Centres Research

A number of established UK women's centres were also interviewed and some were visited. These included:

- Birmingham (Anawim)
- Brighton Women's Centre
- Cambridge Women's Centre
- Greater Manchester Women's Support Alliance (GMWSA)
- The Beth Centre, Lambeth
- Hibiscus – Holloway Road
- Advance Minerva - Hammersmith

Each was asked a series of questions; the responses to which helped shape the brief. The questions were:

- What services are provided from your centre
- How many and what organisations operate from it
- How many floors do you occupy
- How many entrances are there
- Total SQM of your facility
- Do you have a need for outdoor space
- What are your hours of use

- What are your most intensively used spaces
- What are your least intensively used spaces
- Do you have any secure spaces
- Is there any emergency residential provision on the site
- Tenancy Conditions
- Constraints of the facility
- Constraints of the location
- Best thing about the facility
- Best thing about the location
- Wish list were you to have a new facility

2.4 Desktop Research into Other Women's and Community Centres

The council also undertook further desktop research. Other relevant Centres studied included:

- Hull (Preston Road)
- Windsor Women's Centre (Northern Ireland)
- Manor Gardens Welfare Trust
- Women's Support Centre Woking
- The LGBT+ Centre – Sidney Street, Manchester
- Coin Street Community Centre - Southwark
- Kentish Town Health Centre
- Various Maggie's Cancer Centres, UK

2.5 Further Consultation that Informed the Brief

An independently managed and facilitated workshop was held in November 2019 with key Strategic Partners. These included representatives from the Ministry of Justice; Probation Service; MOPAC; NHS England; Prison Reform Trust; London Councils; Advance; Women in Prison; Holloway United Therapies; Hibiscus; and Clinks.

This was undertaken in order to help craft the brief. The key points that the building brief was advised to consider included:

- There must be only one Women's Building on the Holloway site (note – this was in response to a discussion about providing a Women's Centre and a separate women's community facility).
- While it should prioritise serving women in contact with or at risk of contact with the criminal justice system, the Building should also be a hub for services for women, including providing space that could be used by women's groups. Some felt it should be a national 'beacon' for women's rights.
- The Building should have a public front that is easy to find, visible and inspirational. This might include a visible café or beautiful function space.
- It should also offer more discreet access for women. It must both provide public (likely still women only) space and more 'secure' or safe space within the building – potentially as you progress through.

- It should be built as a highly flexible space (moveable walls etc.) to allow for different uses and services.
- It will need to be light, inspirational, and trauma-informed and somewhere women feel proud of and happy to be.
- It must include crèche facilities, access to some outdoor space (even if small), laundry, kitchen, showers, 1-1 therapy rooms, larger group space, space that is designed for 'drop in' and relaxing, and a café. Ideally it should also offer workshop space, exhibition space, and a library.
- Priority should be given to co-location and/or use by multiple services – but with the relationship with the woman 'held' by one main organization; it must be a relational space.
- Consideration must be given to women's safety in the immediate locality, primarily outside the building where women could be targeted.
- Whilst the 800 sqm in estimate is welcome, it must accommodate the wider ambitions of the Women's Centre.

In January 2020, this workshop was followed by a managed workshop for 'Women with Lived Experience'. Among other issues, this examined what factors and facilities would be wanted in a new women's building and what things would encourage them and others to use it – eg hours of use, crèche facilities, public transport links, types of specialist services, general activities etc.

The advice arising from this workshop included:

- A building to be proud of
- A building that is welcoming, a place to meet, share experiences and learn together
- Accessible for people with mobility, dexterity, sensory impairment needs
- It must have crèche/nursery facilities and a pram parking facility
- Counselling rooms for meeting in private with advice/support staff/key workers etc.
- Clinical space for women to see medical practitioners e.g. GP, community nurse, dentist, psychotherapist
- Large room for group working so that women can work through issues as part of a group
- Smaller gathering space where women can chat with friends or family
- Training rooms with access to Information Technology
- Office and storage space for staff
- Large meeting space for group activities e.g. dance, keep fit classes, drama, dress-making/jewellery-making/arts and crafts. This can also be a space that can be hired out by partner organisations or other organisations to help generate an income
- Laundrette
- Shower facilities
- Kitchen where women can learn to cook healthy nutritious low-budget meals
- On-site café that will provide affordable food & drinks and a social place to meet
- Exhibition/display space (that would display the work of the women and host visiting exhibitions from outside)
- Library
- Garden with greenery to soften the building; shutting the women away from the hustle and bustle, of the street. The garden should be a tranquil place, with plants that come to life reflecting the seasons of the year
- Lots of natural light that is therapeutic (with maybe skylights) and windows which look out onto greenery
- Quiet/tranquil space or room, to sit quietly and think

- Safety, security and crime prevention are paramount. Must be non-intrusive: a mix of reception staff, key fobs, scanners to access restricted areas etc
- The building's café could be open to both women and men but all other areas must be women only
- Some rooms should be soundproofed, respecting privacy
- Some rooms should be adaptable e.g. large rooms with folding doors that can create additional room space
- The building should be environmentally friendly

Peabody also undertook a community stakeholder event in December 2019 on the prison site. The event was attended by local women's and community groups and sought to understand high-level ideas of what a Women's Building could be. Peabody have advised that feedback was varied and diverse, with no clear consensus.

Peabody hosted a public consultation on site in March 2020 on the emerging masterplan for the site and ideas for the Women's Building. The event was advertised by nearly 10,000 flyers delivered door-to-door and attended by 87, including several representatives from key stakeholder groups, such as Community Plan for Holloway; Sisters Uncut; and Reclaim Holloway.

General consensus was that the building should not focus solely on women affected by the criminal justice system. Other recurring themes included:

- The need for as inclusive a space as possible
- Concern regarding the potential involvement of MOPAC/the Home Office in the operation of the building
- The need for a credible and detailed business plan for the building
- Support for vulnerable women and their children
- Opportunities for inclusion and support for women during the design and construction phases – via training/job opportunities on the site.
- A suggestion that the building could be constructed solely by women.

2.6 Resultant Design Principles for inclusion in the Development Brief

The resultant design principles that were derived from the above consultation and have significantly informed the development brief include:

- Create a multi-functional complex for a range of services for women, a beacon of women rights, and a facility for women in contact, or at risk of contact, with the criminal justice system
- Provide inspirational spaces that women feel proud of – a flagship
- Create a legible and celebratory presence onto Camden/Parkhurst Road
- Provide a safe space for all women where they are treated as individuals and their needs can be addressed holistically
- Internal design to be 'trauma informed'
- Design a progression of spaces through the building, from public and celebratory, to increasingly private and secure
- Enable a range of functional uses to be effectively and discretely segregated
- Fully accessible – all internal and external spaces - with regard to mobility needs

- Highest sustainability and energy efficient credentials are required
- Provision of some acoustically secure rooms
- Create a discrete, anonymous, and safe means of secondary access
- Ensure high levels of safety are achieved for women arriving at, and entering, the facility including well lit arrival zones with surrounding active frontages
- Provide for a range of high quality external amenity spaces including a garden at grade
- Multi-storey (up to 3 levels) is acceptable with accessibility and legibility being key
- Generous floor to ceiling heights for some primary ground floor spaces
- Make excellent use of natural light
- Provide generous levels of built in storage
- Ensure complex is designed to be affordable to run and maintain
- Achieve outstanding architecture to celebrate and honour the history of women on the site

3 Consultation on the Draft Development Brief

3.1 Timeline and Extent of Consultation

The brief was produced based on the above research and inputs. It was then issued for consultation seeking feedback into the types and amount of space specified in the brief. The consultation period ran from June 2020 and in effect has continued until the present time. The draft brief was also uploaded onto the council's website in July 2020 to enable wider access to it.

The council undertook a separate round of engagement with community groups in the borough and invited representatives from 23 such organisations to attend workshops in early October 2020 and again in March 2021 to discuss the initiative and contribute to ideas for its success and relevance. A total of 5 – 8 representatives participated and whilst greater attendance would have been preferred their inputs were nevertheless informative and invaluable. (Ref Appendix 2 for list of groups invited)

The Council's strategic partners, as listed in para 2.5 above, who were initially consulted in 2019 to help inform the brief, were re-engaged with in June 2021 in order to gather feedback on the emerging design proposals.

The Women with Lived Experience, whose inputs also contributed to the drafting of the development brief in January 2020, are being re-engaged with in order to hear their views on the design proposals. This document may be updated after receipt of that feedback, given the importance of addressing their needs as stipulated within the adopted SPD for the site.

3.2 Public Consultation

In June 2020, the draft development brief was issued to a range of community and voluntary sector representatives. There were 28 responses. Of these 17 represent organisations ranging from Islington Green Party, the Islington Society and Community Plan for Holloway (CP4H), to Sisters of Frida, Solace and the Women's Equality Party. (Ref Appendix 1) There were 11 individual responses.

Surprisingly, Network Action, an American based online hosting platform, became involved with the consultation despite their remote distance. Their involvement generated in excess of 250 standardised objections from people in towns and cities across the UK, from Glasgow to Cornwall,

and Norwich to Manchester, as well as internationally from people living as far away as Vancouver and Nova Scotia.

Key points from this collective (Network Action) feedback was that:

- The consultation is inadequate and must begin again ‘respecting the work of community members who have put so much labour into envisioning the project’
- All responses to the consultation should be published
- Clear timelines to ongoing consultation should be published
- There should be no MOPAC involvement

A standardised objection format that was also used by representatives/members of CP4H as well as by other objectors was similar to those generated by Network Action, and include:

- Comments that the council’s consultation methodology was poor
- An objection to the involvement of MOPAC
- Resistance to a ‘women’s centre’ within the facility
- A demand for a feasibility study to be prepared and/or managed by CP4H

Some respondents requested the facility be a standalone building.

There were few specific responses in relation to the mix of accommodation outlined in the design brief, however, some stated they were unable to comment on spatial issues without a feasibility study – meaning a study on who the facility could be for, how it would be run, how large, how its spaces should be configured, and such like.

The majority of these respondents stated that they felt disengaged from the principles and proposals for a women’s building on the site.

Of the 28 responses, 3 women’s groups supported the brief, together with 1 individual.

3.3 Response to Questions in the Public Consultation Document

It should be noted that not all responses contained answers to each question and some respondents answered some but not all of the questions posed.

Question	Yes	No	Maybe	N/A
1 Should there be a Women’s Centre within a Women’s Building	111	111111 1111	1	
2 Women Only Facility?	111	11111	111111	
3 Location of Women’s Centre to Camden Road?	111111	11		111111
4 Support Overarching Design Principles?	11111	111111 11	11	Lack of ‘legacy’ commonly cited & lack of feasibility study
5 – Have key design principles been met?	11	11111	11111	
6 – Have space requirements been addressed?	1	1	1111	Common response - Need feasibility study to answer
7 – Comments on sizes & other elements of building	11	1	11	Common response - Need feasibility study to answer

8 (formerly 9) How can the building achieve sustainable funding model				Common response - Need full feasibility study to answer; competitive tendering; provide space for rent for grassroots orgs + socially minded businesses; look at existing similar buildings and practices
9 (formerly 10) Usefulness of Precedent Examples	11	11111	1	

3.4 CP4H Co Production Consultation

A series of co-production workshops have been hosted by the council and chaired by Councillor Ward between autumn 2020 and spring 2021. These events have been attended by Community Plan for Holloway (CP4H), Peabody, and AHMM, the architects for the Women’s Building. They took place on 30 July 2020; 7 September 2020; 29 September 2020; 14 October 2020; 5 November 2020 and 19 January 2021.

The workshops have provided design updates and discussions on the location of the building, whether a standalone building can balance the competing requirements for the site, the feasibility study and accommodating other services/facilities/features.

There were several suggestions for services that could be hosted on-site, with a general consensus that the building should not focus solely on women affected by the criminal justice system.

Recurring themes of responses included:

- The need for as inclusive a space as possible – with some suggesting that this should include provision for trans women and non-binary individuals
- Concern regarding the potential involvement of MOPAC/the Home Office in the operation of the building
- The need for a credible and detailed business plan for the building
- Support for vulnerable women and their children – a few attendees wondered whether, for instance, supported housing might be provided
- Opportunities for inclusion and support for women during the design and construction phases – via detailed community outreach and the provision of training/job opportunities on the site.

Some attendees commented that the community should be more closely involved in the design process for the Women’s Building, with one response suggesting that it should be a ‘co-production’ with the community.

LBI and Peabody responded to CP4H's ongoing concerns at a co-production meeting in March 2021 presenting a 'You Said We Did' exercise explaining the changes made to accommodate many of their requests as well as offering potential solutions to others. These included:

a) Key changes

- More Space – from 1,100sqm to 1,320sqm (since then it has increased to 1,400sqm)
- Strong, proud, and well defined street presence
- Additional entrancing including secure and discrete emergency exits
- Differentiation between potential user groups with flexible layouts including 'quads'
- Larger kitchen
- More prominently positioned cafe
- Sunnier garden
- A 'useable' piazza to Camden Road forecourt
- A prayer room

b) Fitting Legacy

- Sense of grandeur and celebration through prominent frontages and welcoming expansive entrance spaces
- Creating a 'building' that can be full of activity while also providing spaces that are safe, secure and peaceful, away from the bustle
- Creating multifunctional spaces that could be used for a range of activities that could change from day to evening
- Enabling the integration of legacy artwork – both as temporary exhibits and permanent fixtures

c) Well integrated into the wider scheme

The Women's Building now has a direct relationship to the central park with a frontage directly onto it and an entrance into the multipurpose hall.

d) Visually proud and prominent

The Women's Building now occupies the entire ground floor frontage to Camden Road making it more prominent and visible. In addition, the entrance includes strong architectural elements that will make it stand out and attract attention.

e) Standalone building

The applicant demonstrated the land take and relative 'inefficiencies' associated with a standalone building on the site given the council's stated priority for affordable housing plus the need to also provide a public park.

The ability to provide a fine facility at ground and lower ground levels demonstrated that a standalone building is not required for the effective functioning of a women's building.

f) Discrete entrances

Achieved

g) Quality of Rear Garden

There is now more sunlight penetrating into the women's garden that in earlier iterations and it is in compliance with BRE standards in respect of required levels of 'sun on ground'.

h) Commercial and market spaces

The Council secures affordable workspace in new commercial development at favourable terms for 10 years through the planning process. CP4H was referred to the LBI Inclusive Economy Team for specialist advice and opportunities in this matter.

Given the flexibility of the spaces proposed, a market could be held internally in the large community hall or externally on the semi-public forecourt.

i) Dedicated Women's Shop

The reception/lounge/café area has been designed flexibly and so could host a limited retail offer. The forecourt to Camden Road is also large enough to be used for occasional pop-up retail.

j) Pharmacy

It was annotated on plan the significant number and proximity of existing pharmacies in the area, within walking distance.

k) Flexible Café and a training kitchen

The size and position of the café including its public frontage makes it highly accessible. The kitchen has been enlarged to ensure sufficient flexibility including for training purposes.

l) Arts and Crafts Studios

Flexible rooms within self-securing quads with built in secure storage, water points and sinks in each quad to enable multiple uses over different times of the day and night. Islington Arts Factory is also located directly opposite the site which offers opportunities for conjoined activities and the promotion of a hub and spoke arrangement.

m) A Museum

The Council already has the Islington Museum. However examples of meaningfully integrating legacy into the built and natural environment were shared highlighting a variety of possibilities for capturing and expressing the legacy of the site.

n) IT Training

This is likely to be provided in a similar manner to how schools now provide IT training – via mobile trolleys.

o) Music and Recording

Reference was made to the music industry cluster within the Vale Royal Industrial estate, Platform Islington on Hornsey Road. A hub and spoke model was suggested for this function.

p) Therapy Rooms

There are some 22 rooms proposed, excluding the café/lounge/reception areas in the centre, ranging from smaller 10sqm 1:1 rooms to the large community hall. It is felt that this ensures sufficient provision for a range of uses including therapy rooms.

q) Swimming Pool

Explained that this was not feasible due to costs that would likely be prohibitive to future occupants. The nearest pool is within Beacon School on Hilldrop Road. This is within a 5 minute walk from the site and the pool has managed public accessibility. There are a further 4 public pools within a 10 minute bus ride from the site.

r) Women's Refuge Accommodation

The Council has reiterated from the outset that this is being met by the council's own housing and social services.

3.5 Islington's 'Harder to Reach' Women's Groups

Virtual workshops were held for smaller women's groups who specialise primarily in services for women. These were held in October 2020 and March 2021. Some 23 groups were invited to attend these virtually held workshops (refer to Appendix 2). Attendance from 8 of the invited organisations was achieved.

Their inputs were both insightful and constructive and included:

- consideration into to how to make secure the entrance of the Women's Building to safely enable a 'women only' facility (a women only facility was unanimously called for)
- concern that a café may be a drain on resources given the necessary stringent standards to be maintained and the need to be viable
- a desire for sufficient space to enable some renting out to compatible organisations to help with capital and revenue funding going forward
- advice to make sure existing services are not duplicated in the new centre
- caution that careful planning and management will be needed as to how the different services are accessed and provided given the range of women and needs to be accommodated.

The Council consulted with these same groups in March 2021 via two virtual workshops, sharing the emerging detailed designs and discussing how their earlier suggestions had been addressed while inviting further inputs and refinements.

There was general support for the emerging scheme design including layout and appearance.

4 The Legacy Project

In June 2021 Peabody commissioned a specialist study into the legacy of the site designed to capture both the physical remains and the story of the prison, and to then memorialise its legacy within the women's building, garden of the women's building, and the wider public realm.

It will ensure that the legacy of the women who were incarcerated within the Holloway Women's Prison site, and important features of the prison itself, will be effectively recorded and meaningfully reflected within the proposed redevelopment of the site.

This project will ensure:

- Stories from Holloway Prison are represented within the women's building and on the wider site directly from conversations with the community. This will ensure the building reflects the significance of the site, and can navigate the complexity of representing this on the ground.
- That heritage forms an integral part of a women's building which empowers women to build their own futures in part by celebrating the resilience of women held at Holloway Prison and the community of support that existed there.
- Elements of the prison, including physical 'artefacts' salvaged from the 1970-1985 prison buildings, may be incorporated into the fabric of the new scheme, potentially in both its buildings and the public realm, adding a richness to the development and a permanent visual legacy of the history of the site's former use as a women's prison, and of the prisoners who were housed there.
- Users of the women's building are able to connect with stories from the prison over time, represented both visually and aurally, capitalising on work already undertaken within the council as part of the 'Echoes of Holloway Prison' project.
- Creation of a meaningfully constructed space of remembrance within the new women's building, or its garden, where users can reflect on the history of the site and the women who were held at the prison.

The project includes a specific and targeted consultation element within it that has been designed to ensure that those with experience and specialist knowledge of the prison system and site help to inform the outcomes.

The project is likely to complete by September 2021 with its findings represented within the detailed designs.

5 London Festival of Architecture - 2021

A series of talks about the Holloway Women's Building Initiative were organised by Reclaim Holloway, as part of the London Festival of Architecture, in June 2021.

The talks were organised without the involvement or participation of the Council, Peabody or the design team responsible for developing the proposals. The council are unaware of what was presented or discussed at these events and the context given to discussions.

The events were open to the public and advertised as part of the London Festival of Architecture programme.

We understand that those that attended the events were sent a follow-up email providing a list of requests to be included in a Women's Building and instructions on how to forward these to the council and Peabody.

The council acknowledges these representations and the strength of feeling about the Women's Building, but holds some concern regarding a potential lack of context provided during the course of those talks.

6 Commentary on the Emerging Design Proposals

Whilst the scheme proposals remain at the pre-application stage and Peabody is imminently commencing their own public consultation on the scheme proposals, officers at this stage consider the emerging design proposals for the Women's Building to be a good, well-considered response to the draft design brief and subsequent community feedback.

7 Conclusion

The draft design brief was produced within the framework established by the adopted 2018 Supplementary Planning Document for the site.

Detailed research and consultation with service providers has underpinned the development of the design brief, and been complemented by engagement with women with lived experience, interviews and visits to existing women's centres, and a range of other women's and community centres.

The brief has been subject to public consultation and much debate over the past twelve months, including co-production meetings with a key community group, generating a diverse range of opinions and views.

The emerging design proposals have been tested with a variety of strategic and community stakeholders who have welcomed the proposals and provided practical feedback that is further informing design development.

The current design proposals provide approximately 1,400sqm of internal floor area, a marked increase from the initial 800sqm that was discussed.

For context, a Women's Building of 1,400sqm would be the single largest community facility in the Borough, significantly larger than the neighbouring 350sqm Cat and Mouse Library and the nearby Brickworks Community Centre, currently the Borough's largest community facility at 1000sqm.

It is acknowledged that some sections of the local community disagree with some fundamental aspects about the design brief and proposals such as its integration into a larger residential block and the amount of floor area it provides. It is also acknowledged that requests have been received requesting a feasibility study into the management of the facility be carried out.

The council is confident the consultation process has been robust and is committed to working with stakeholders and the community to create a Women's Building that meets local needs including more widely within London and provides a fitting legacy for the site

Appendix 1 - Organisations that formally responded to the draft Development Brief – 2020

- **Community Action on Prison Expansion (CAPE)** – object to brief on grounds of lack of transparency; poor consultation; MOPAC’s involvement
- **Hibiscus** – insufficient consultation; don’t support separate women’s centre; must be a freestanding building; want a full feasibility; want an open architectural commission
- **Sisters of Frida** – oppose any involvement with MOPAC; insufficient consultation especially with religious and BAME groups
- **Sisters Uncut** – Poor consultation; no meaningful engagement; MOPAC involvement unacceptable; no women’s centre should be provided within the building; publish all feedback
- **CP4H Women’s Building Working Group** – Object to consultation approach; do not support a separate women’s centre; object to MOPAC involvement; do not support a women only building; require a free standing building; brief fails to promote a legacy; need full feasibility study going forward; require a process of co-production going forward; an architectural competition with women led practices supported
- **Reclaim Holloway** – objects on basis of CP4H objections above
- **The Islington Society** – objects on basis of CP4H objections above
- **Choice** – objects on basis of CP4H objections above
- **Social Investment Consultancy** – objects on basis of CP4H objections above
- **Treasures Foundation** – objects on basis of CP4H objections above
- **Powerplay** - objects on basis of CP4H objections above
- **Green Party Islington Branch** – object to lack of consultation; wants a viability study to identify need, potential tenants, sizes of spaces needed, and whether specialist housing should be provided. Consider the draft development brief to be ‘muted’ and lacking in ambition
- **Women’s Equality Party** - want a free standing iconic building with no separate women’s centre. Does not support the brief
- **Wish** – a women’s organisation for mental health. Worked with women at Holloway for 30 years until it closed. Does not support a separate women’s centre element. Wants a free standing building. Architects should be chosen through a competition for women-led architectural practices; the majority of the tradespeople working on the building, and indeed on the whole prison re-development, should be women
- **Advance** – excited by the proposals and seek to be actively involved going forward

- **Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre** – broad agreement with the brief; not necessarily a women only facility; support open architectural commissioning
- **Solace Women's Aid** – Should be a women only building with no differentiation between the spaces for the Women's Centre and the Women's Building functions; the design principles in the brief are supported

Appendix 2 - Islington Community Groups invited to consultation workshop

- Andover Community Hub
- HNG Stress project
- Brickworks Community Centre
- Caxton House Community Centre
- Hilldrop Community Centre
- Kurdish & Middle Eastern Women's Organisation
- One True Voice
- Middle Eastern Women & Society Organisation (MEWSO)
- Community Language Support Services
- Imece (Turkish women)
- Kurdish/Turkish (and Cypriot) women's welfare group
- KMEWO (Kurdish, Iraqi, Turkish and other women)
- Light Project Pro International
- Islington Somali Community
- Jannaty (Arabic speaking women)
- Arachne (Greek/Cypriot women)
- Maa Shanti (single Asian mothers)
- Stepping Stone
- Latin American Women's Rights
- Finsbury Park Trust
- Maya Centre
- NAFSIYAT
- Solace Women's Aid