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New vision for the future of the Metropolitan Police Service Peel Centre Site - Hendon

- * The Metropolitan Police Service and The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime will begin public consultation on a planned regeneration of the 73 acre Peel Centre Site in North London
- * First public exhibition takes place 4-6 October at RAF Museum, London
- * Plans will include a modern new-build facility for training and operational policing, retaining policing use of the site first developed in the 1930s
- * Remainder of the site to be opened up to the public creating new homes, jobs, shops, open space and a new primary school
- * Site already identified for regeneration by the Greater London Authority and by Barnet Council as a part of its 'Colindale Area Action Plan'

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) today, Friday 21 September announced a new vision for the future of the 73 acre Peel Centre Site - known affectionately across the service simply as 'Hendon'.

Located next to Colindale Tube station in north London, the site was first developed in the 1930s and for almost 80 years has provided training for generations of police officer recruits in addition to specialist training.

In that time the use of the site has changed fundamentally. Training is now provided regionally and there is no longer residential provision on site. Most of the existing buildings were built in a different era and no longer meet the needs of current policing.

MOPAC has therefore appointed masterplanners and a technical team to draw up new plans for the site and will be undertaking public consultation throughout the rest of 2012 before then submitting a planning application to Barnet Council. A first public exhibition showing local communities the emerging proposals will take place at the RAF Museum in Colindale on the following dates and times:

- * Thursday 4 October - 12pm to 8pm
- * Friday 5 October - 10am to 5pm
- * Saturday 6 October - 12pm to 5pm

Police use on the site will be retained with the development of new facilities to provide a modern working environment making best use of new technology and much more

efficient use of space. The rest of the site will be opened up to the public creating new homes, jobs, shops and open space, as well as a new primary school, as part of the wider regeneration of the Colindale area. Running costs to the MPS will be approximately halved and money can be reinvested into operational policing.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe said:

"The Peel Centre is an important part of the Met's history and these proposals represent the future of the site."

"Making the most efficient use of our buildings and providing modern facilities for our officers and staff is an important part in making the Met the best police service. It will help us to fight crime."

London Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Stephen Greenhalgh said:

"This hails an exciting new era in the history of a world class police training and operational facility. This is a win, win situation for the people of Hendon and the Metropolitan Police Service. New homes, jobs and growth and a world class training centre for the capital's most important public service.

"The regeneration plans mean new police officers will benefit from excellent modern facilities, whilst sensible efficiencies will ensure it is run in the most cost effective way possible. It's important the great reputation of Hendon training centre continues for years to come."

The Peel Centre was launched as the Hendon Police College in 1934, the vision of then Metropolitan Police Commissioner Lord Trenchard. The college was closed five years after opening by the Second World War and re-opened in 1946 as the Metropolitan Police Training School where officers at all levels were trained.

Because the RAF closed its base in Hendon, the MPS was able to expand its site in the 1960s and 70s, with Peel House to the eastern end and its adjacent tower blocks, and additional development to the west and north of the site as well.

The Peel Centre has trained officers at all levels including many of the MPS' and the UK's senior police officers. It has developed an international reputation with police from around the world travelling there to learn the latest skills in effective policing practice.

Today the site accommodates one of the MPS's five Regional Learning Centres, the Hendon MetCall, Driving School facilities and storage facilities - and supports the NPIA and their National Infrastructure.

The rapid development of Information Technology and the fact that residential training no longer takes place there have highlighted the need for redevelopment of new facilities fit for the purpose of current policing. In working up the detailed design the master planning team will also respect the proud history of the Peel Centre.

Jane Bond, Director of Property Services for the MPS, said:

"The redevelopment of the Peel Centre site is an important opportunity for the Metropolitan Police Service and for people who live or work in Colindale now and in the future. We look forward to engaging with local communities and hope that people will become involved as we shape the proposals over the coming months."

The site itself has always been recognised as one of huge importance to the area and in 2010 Barnet Council's Colindale Area Action Plan specifically envisaged the potential for 'significant redevelopment' on the site including new homes and a new public park.

Notes to Editors:

1. The RAF Museum London is located in Colindale at Grahame Park Way, London NW9 5LL. Parking will be free to visitors to the exhibition

2. To comment on the proposals or speak with a member of the programme team please phone and leave a message on 0800 881 5288 or email: comments@peelcentresite.co.uk

3. You can visit the project website to keep up to date:
www.peelcentresite.co.uk