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## **Labour councillors call for clear direction for affordable housing in growth strategy**

Bexley's Labour Group of councillors have welcomed the growth strategy agreed by Bexley's Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> December, but have once again pressed for the borough to set out a desire to strengthen the requirement for a substantial investment in affordable housing in new developments.

The strategy agreed by Cabinet sets out a vision to deliver 31,500 new homes and 17,500 new jobs over the next thirty years. Bexley's Labour Group has been strong advocates of a growth strategy for the borough which they proposed in their 2014 council manifesto.

The Labour Group's vision for growth and new housing focuses on the need to deliver new transport links and infrastructure, to ensure consultation enables existing communities to feel they have a real say in the development of their communities and delivers much needed affordable housing as part of the strategy.

Cllr Mabel Ogundayo, Shadow Cabinet Member for Housing Allocations said:

"The Planning Committee has continued to approve schemes with little or no affordable housing. Bexley Labour has long argued for mixed communities with a range of housing affordability, mix and quality and will continue to make the argument for this across all service areas. Both the growth strategy and the council's forthcoming development plan need to have a clear expectation that developers should deliver much needed affordable housing for our residents."

Cllr Danny Hackett, Shadow Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth said:

"We are pleased to see the growth strategy focuses on the need to deliver much needed transport improvements such as a DLR extension to Belvedere, a Crossrail extension, road junction improvements and new river crossings. However we will continue to press for strong consultation throughout the process, which ensures that the strategy brings the community with it, rather than imposes changes to it."

For further information, please contact Cllr Mabel Ogundayo.