

Further details on Grenfell Tower improvements unveiled

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Further details have now emerged on improvements to Grenfell Tower following last month's announcement of a magnificent new academy and leisure centre for North Kensington.

Back in May 2012 the Council's Cabinet approved £6m worth of investment for improvements to the Tower and with the Tenant Management Organisation's (TMO) contribution, a total of £9.4m will be spent on the scheme. The improvements include external cladding to provide an effective rain screen; double glazing to reduce noise, improve thermal efficiency and fuel economy; and new controlled heating and water systems.

Now it has also been revealed that two well used and much loved community facilities will receive a welcome boost. The Grenfell under three's nursery will move from its current location on the mezzanine level to the ground floor near a fenced play area. It will have a new lift installed making it easier to access the outdoors and the new space will have more natural light and be better laid out.

The Dale Boxing Club currently occupies the ground floor and is a very small facility for a vibrant and successful club which has produced several champions and a gold medallist at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The plans will see the club relocated to walkway level. It will benefit from more space, better facilities and high ceilings across the gym - something their existing club doesn't have - so all of it can be used for sparring and training. The new improved facilities will enable the club to bid for grants from the Amateur Boxing Association.

Unused space at the Tower's base will also be opened up and six four-bedroom and one three-bedroom homes will be created for families on the housing waiting list. This remodelling work will also create an improved communal entrance, new office facilities and better walkway access. The residents of nearby Verity Close will also benefit from double glazing.

Councillor Timothy Coleridge, Cabinet Member for Housing, said:

"Not only are we building a new academy and leisure centre for North Kensington but we are also making significant improvements to Grenfell Tower, its facilities and the surrounding area.

"Residents of the Tower will not only have a better environment to live in but their homes will be much cheaper to run.

"During such challenging economic times we are proud that the Council has invested almost £50m in the area and it's sure to leave a long-lasting legacy

for future generations."

Known as the Grenfell Tower Regeneration Project the works will be overseen by the TMO and carried out by the same team who are handling the academy and leisure centre programme. With architects, Studio E, and contractor, Leadbitter, on board the works can be carried as cost-effectively and quickly as possible, minimising disruption to residents.