

CHANNEL VIEW REDEVELOPMENT, CARDIFF



LOCATION: CARDIFF BAY
CLIENT: CARDIFF COUNCIL
COMPLETION: ONGOING
VALUE: ESTIMATED £60M
SIZE: 360+ UNITS
SERVICE: MASTERPLANNING/URBAN DESIGN
SECTOR: URBAN REGENERATION
LANDSCAPE: AUSTIN-SMITH:LORD
COST CONSULTANT: STRONGS, GVA

The redevelopment of Channel View is an exciting opportunity to alter a part of Cardiff's urban fabric for the benefit of its existing and future residents through quality placemaking. Austin-Smith:Lord has been appointed by Cardiff Council to undertake a feasibility study for a development that will have 60% of its stock designated for social housing. We have worked closely with consultees from various Council departments to ensure the proposals are thoroughly well developed and fully address the issues that persist on the site currently. Those who have reviewed the designs have found them decidedly compelling and enthusiasm for the project is strong.



Site plan



As well as meeting its substantial commitment to the development of social housing within the city, Cardiff Council through the commissioning of this project, intends to drive an environment that allows Cardiff to provide for its growing general population and as such densification of the inner city such as at Channel View is essential. We have responded to this by developing a scheme which meets our brief's density targets but retains an inherent flexibility, particularly in terms of scale, that permits the scheme to adjust density in whichever direction is most appropriate for emerging social, infrastructural or political changes over the course of the project's delivery.

The scheme we have developed fully embraces the principles of quality placemaking and betterment for residents and our collaboration with knowledgeable individuals from within the client's organisation was key to achieving this. This process reflects the very essence of our practice's approach and philosophy towards all of our projects.

By seeking to integrate the design into the surrounding urban and natural grain a layout has been created that possesses a clear diagrammatic form which is in turn reflected in the vertical composition as a progressive increase in scale and density across the site. The strength of this clear, reasoned diagram and our efforts to present it graphically has been instrumental in convincing those tasked with reviewing our work of its suitability.

Weaved into this are high quality spaces that will invite community engagement, including a public square as the Heart of the site and a crescent boulevard that performs the role of the spine, sewing the whole development together and greatly improving vehicle, cycle and pedestrian movement through the site. These improvements also tie into wider connectivity and the scheme is designed to comfortably integrate a new posited pedestrian bridge should it occur but is robust enough in its concept to stand alone in the interim.