

First images of the six skyscrapers set to be built on the site of Scotland Yard's famous HQ

SOPHIA SLEIGH, MATT WATTS | 2 hours ago | 4 comments



This is the first picture of six £1.5billion skyscrapers set to transform the skyline when they replace the Met's world-famous headquarters.

An aerial view of the |

The striking towers of between 14 and 20 storeys planned for New Scotland Yard will be visible from Buckingham Palace, the London Eye and the Houses of Parliament.

But critics have criticised the plan because only ten "affordable" properties are included in the 268 apartment complex.

The developers have instead offered a £10million contribution to the council for social housing elsewhere in the borough.



A CGI view of the buildings from Victoria Street

The site was bought by Middle Eastern investment company Abu Dhabi Financial Group (ADFG) for £370million in 2014.

The plans include four bedroom penthouse suites expected to be among London's most expensive flats.

The 1.7-acre Ten Broadway scheme, set to be approved by Westminster Council tomorrow, will include a "retail pavilion" of shops on the ground floor, three levels of offices with the flats above.

The development also features a site-wide four-storey basement housing luxury health spas, a swimming pool, and car and cycle parks.

Critics and neighbours have condemned the proposal as over-development of the site, with one architectural expert calling its mesh of giant bronze hexagons a “mediocre rehash of 1960s design”.

Adam Hug, leader of the Labour opposition on the Conservative-led council, said: “If this scheme is passed without a radical improvement the developers would be getting away with daylight robbery.”



The towers, including this one pictured in a view towards Dacre St, would have retail space beneath them

A complaint on behalf of the Self-Employed & Freelancer Association, based nearby, said: "The provision [of affordable housing] is derisory and in contravention of Westminster City Council Policy. This has been done to maximise profits again at the cost of the community."

Resident Kay Chapman said the proposed towers were too high, adding: "This is not Manhattan."

"Ten affordable units is disgusting. Westminster Council members should be ashamed. This is social exclusion."

Jolyon Leslie, an architect who works in conservation, said: "The proposed towers strike me as a mediocre re-hash of a 1960s aesthetic."

"Surely the architects could come up with something more appropriate for a site in close proximity of World Heritage site the Palace of Westminster?"

Another neighbour, called Carmen, said: "Paris would never approve such a building near the Louvre."

Another resident said: "The area is becoming a high-rise jungle already, the old beautiful buildings in Westminster will be completely submerged and future generations will be left with characterless architecture that can be found in any city in the world."

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The honorary secretary of the Artillery Mansions residents' association said: "This is sheer over-development on a par with some of the worse examples in in the world."

The new luxury apartments are expected to generate up to £100m in stamp duty when they are sold.

More than a third have been sold since sales opened last summer to a mix of investors from Russia, Africa, the Middle East, Britain and India with prices ranging from £3million to £30 million.

ADFG's chief executive, Jassim Alseddiqi, said the firm hopes to create a new London landmark with Ten Broadway.



Another CGI of the tower on Victoria St and Broadway

He said: “The New Scotland Yard site will be one of the most important redevelopment projects undertaken in central London this decade, replacing a world-famous headquarters with a world-class development.”

In his report recommending approval, the council’s director of planning, said: “The scheme is supported in land use and design terms. The architecture is considered to have a distinctive quality but also to sit comfortably within the context of neighbouring buildings.

“It has been demonstrated that the provision of 10 on-site affordable housing units, together with a payment of £10million towards the provision of affordable housing elsewhere in the City is the maximum amount of affordable housing that the scheme can support.”

The Met, which moved into New Scotland Yard in 1967, is in the process of relocating to the Curtis Green building on Victoria Embankment in a £58m move expected to save more than £6m a year in running costs.

The force has already moved several times - from Whitehall Place to Great Scotland Yard in 1875, to the Norman Shaw building in 1890.

If approved, the Mayor of London would still have the power to intervene. ■