

**Statement from the Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz OBE
on East London Gymnastics Club**

“While Newham Council is not the owner of this land, and no planning application has been submitted for a proposed development; an application to make the gym an Asset of Community Value has been received from the Club and is being processed by the Council.

“I am also pleased that the East Beckton Centre site, in our Regulation 19 Local Plan currently being reviewed, recognises the value the gym offers for the Beckton neighbourhood. It also makes clear that there is a need to retain and enhance the East London Gymnastics Club in recognition of its sporting significance.

“Even our current local planning policies emphasise the need to protect community facilities such as the East London Gymnastics Centre in this part of our borough.

“Local residents and supporters of the centre should be commended as they continue to advocate that the much loved and valuable gymnastics facility is safeguarded. It’s so vital in training local and national gymnastic talent for our country, including Team GB who invest so much in the Olympians of today and the future.

“I’ll continue to work with local representatives including James Asser MP and Cllr Blossom Young in campaigning with gym members and sporting bodies to preserve this much needed sporting facility in the heart of Newham and east London. I urge the developers to listen to the impassioned demands of the members and our local community.”