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Rio Ferdinand to build 1,000 homes in Bedfordshire

17 March 2016

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Former England captain Rio Ferdinand has revealed plans for a 1,000-home urban extension in Central Bedfordshire.



Legacy, Ferdinand's regeneration company, is to develop a 54-acre site in Houghton Regis owned by Central Bedfordshire Council. Aviva Investors is providing funding.

An exclusivity agreement with the council will run for six months, allowing Legacy to secure planning permission for the project.

The development will comprise a mix of affordable, social, rented, and privately-owned housing, alongside a sports academy where Ferdinand will be a coach.

Other partners in Legacy include West Ham footballer Mark Noble and Brighton footballer Bobby Zamora.

The developer aims to create developments with a mix of housing tenures, each anchored by a sports academy.

Legacy's Houghton Regis project was announced at MIPIM today and secured endorsement from housing and planning minister Brandon Lewis.

He said: "The Houghton Regis project that Legacy are announcing with Central Bedfordshire Council will show the way to creating vibrant communities, backed by private sector investment, and using new and innovative approaches to building new homes to buy and rent."

Ferdinand added: "Kingsland is a great example of the developments Legacy wants to roll out to key locations across the UK.

"We aim to start on site in early 2017 and to be delivering the first of our high-quality homes to a new generation of home-makers in Houghton Regis within a year of that date.

"Central Bedfordshire responded quickly to our request for sites, agreeing to work together to bring forward much-needed regeneration. The funding is in place via institutional and private equity, so we're up and running."

The development team includes Colliers International and planning consultant Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners.

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