£1bn Kensington Olympia plans get green light

By Helen Crane | Fri 1 February 2019

Yoo Capital and Deutsche Finance International’s £1bn redevelopment of Kensington Olympia has been given the green light by Hammersmith & Fulham council.

The new plans for Kensington Olympia.

The scheme designed by Heatherwick Studio and SPPARC, will comprise 670,000 sq ft of offices, two hotels, two theatres, a cinema, restaurants, a jazz café, a rooftop park and a logistics centre for deliveries.

Two and a half acres of new public space will also be created to open up the perimeter of the 14-acre site.

Yoo Capital acquired the 130-year-old events venue when it purchased Capco Ventures for £296m alongside a German consortium in April 2018.

Chairman of Yoo Capital John Hitchcox said: “Not only is this great news for London – it’s also an example of a British project with European investment creating jobs and opportunities in spite of the current economic and political climate. We are proud to announce this plan and press ‘Go’ on a £1bn project that will transform Olympia London into a global force in arts, entertainment, exhibitions and events.”

Gavin Neilan, co-founding Partner of DFI, added: “We are delighted to announce that planning consent has been granted for our £1bn transformation of Olympia London and look forward to working with our partners to support the exhibition business and unlock the tremendous potential within the iconic estate.”

The redevelopment, which was passed by Hammersmith & Fulham’s planning committee by four votes to two, still has to be approved by mayor of London Sadiq Khan.