

Hackney Environment News

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Hackney backs off live/work units

The London Council which pioneered the idea of combining commercial and residential uses to stimulate local employment has overturned its policy in favour of so-called live/work units.

Hackney has ditched its policy favouring flats large enough to include workspace following concern that developers were using the measure as a back door to residential planning consent without building more affordable housing.

Hackney Council voted to drop the policy, adopted by other London boroughs and taken up in other large cities, after a report concluded that "live/work developments are in themselves becoming increasingly, if not wholly, residential in nature.

"As the concept of affordable live/work is not backed up by government legislation, developers are using it as a means of obtaining approval for residential development without affordable housing." Currently over 1,200 live/work units are being built, or an in the pipeline, in Hackney.

Mischa Borris

See www.planningportal.gov.uk