

TESCO: OLD KENT ROAD

PRESS CUTTINGS

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Every little new flat helps - Tesco

SUPERMARKET giant Tesco is to unveil plans to build a new store and homes.

The proposals could see the current Old Kent Road store flattened and rebuilt larger with blocks of flats towering above it.

In total, the development could provide 320 new homes.

North Southwark and Bermondsey MP Simon Hughes said he welcomed the plans in principle.

"This idea was one of my key proposals when I ran for London Mayor," he said. "It seems Tesco have taken that on board.

"It makes sense for supermarkets - that are usually single storey - to use space better."

The plans also include parking below ground for shoppers and residents, a restaurant and leisure facilities.

Mr Hughes added: "If this provides more homes in central London that are affordable and for key workers that can only be a good thing.

"We need to look at different ways in which to provide homes and this could be an answer."

James Wiggam, Tesco's corporate affairs manager, said the plans to provide housing were not a sweetener to get a larger store approved by councillors.

"This is not a handshake between us and the council where we give something to get what we want," he said.

"This is proof of our commitment to the community. There is a need for housing and we can help.

"The new store in Old Kent Road would provide a better shopping environment for our customers with extended ranges - something they have been telling us they want for some time.

"It is an exciting project because it gives us the chance to be involved in the redevelopment of the Old Kent Road area."

Tesco is also set to start work on a new store in Streatham. Work on the £65million Streatham hub project - which includes redevelopment of the ice rink and swimming pool - will begin next June.

The plans for the Old Kent Road store will be on show at the supermarket on the weekend of October 15 and 16.