

30 September 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

SOD TURNING MARKS HISTORIC MOMENT

Manningham Council's Civic Precinct Community Hub has achieved a groundbreaking milestone with the 'Turning of the Sod' initiating works on the multi-million dollar community project.

Minister for Community Development, The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio; Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Innovation, Gavin Jennings; Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, Jenny Mikakos and Manningham Mayor, Cr Charles Pick turned the first official sod on 28 September.

In 2002, Council adopted a 20 year strategy for Doncaster Hill to provide an urban village in the civic heart of Manningham. The strategy identified the need for development of a community facility to meet the growing needs of the Manningham community.

The \$38 million Community Hub will provide family services: child care, maternal and child health; pre-school facilities, welfare services, aged care, a community youth activity space, a library, an art gallery, a café and a community arts facility for the Manningham community.

Mayor Cr Charles Pick said the development of the Civic Precinct Community Hub is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when the three levels of government and the local community have one vision and work towards the one goal.

"The Turning of the Sod is both literally and figuratively a groundbreaking day that marks a very special occasion for our City and is a symbolic precursor to the commencement of works," he said.

"The construction of the Civic Precinct Community Hub will allow for the integration of services on one site, creating networks that will increase accessibility to services for the community.

"For a project of this magnitude and complexity to get to this stage is the result of an enormous amount of work and I share the passion and the genuine excitement of everyone who has helped to turn our vision into a reality."

Construction of the Civic Precinct Community Hub will commence in October and is anticipated to be completed in 2012.

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