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Rogers, Fletcher Priest and Wilkinson Eyre schemes OK'd

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Slew of planning decisions see LSE and Crossrail jobs given green light

Westminster planners have given the green light to plans by Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners for a £120 million scheme for the London School of Economics.

The architect beat OMA, Hopkins, Heneghan Peng and Grafton to win the job of designing the LSE's new Global Centre for Social Sciences in central London back in autumn 2013.

It was made after the jury had originally failed to come to a decision because there was no one outstanding scheme with the LSE's director of estates Julian Robinson telling the finalists they needed to do more work before a winner could be chosen.

But LSE director and jury chair Craig Calhoun eventually said of RSHP's winning design: "They have designed beautiful, dynamic buildings around the world and they offered an elegant, thoughtful submission to this competition. RSHP grasped that this would be a building at once for the university and for the city, an enhancement to public as well as academic space."

He said the practice also won the public vote "by an overwhelming margin" and this formed part of the jury's deliberations

Work involves demolishing existing LSE buildings and replacing them with a part six storey and part 13 storey building. Last night's decision means work to begin knocking down the buildings will start this summer with the scheme – the largest in the school's 120 year history – due to be completed towards the end of 2018.

RSHP's winning proposal for the LSE's Global Centre for Social Sciences

Meanwhile, plans by Fletcher Priest to refurbish and extend a late 1980s office building by Seifert Architects have been approved by the City of London.

The scheme at 160 Aldersgate was turned down last December after opposition from Barbican residents. But the Mercer Real Estate scheme was approved this week after a number of revisions including removing windows facing residential properties and excluding retail.

Planning committee chairman Michael Welbank said: "This proposal turns out-dated offices into first class space, which is in accordance with our Local Plan, aiming to maintain our position as a world-leading financial centre."

At the same committee, planners also OK'd a scheme by Land Securities to build Wilkinson Eyre's mixed-use development of up to 15 storeys over the new Crossrail and Moorgate underground station.



Welbank added: "I am very pleased this scheme is going ahead."

