

METRO PROPERTY

TEN OF THE BEST...

FIRST-TIME BUYER HOTSPOTS

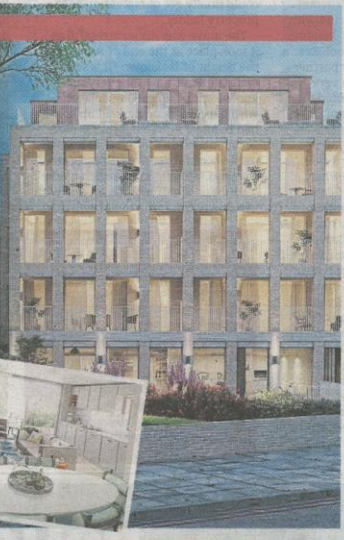
FIND YOUR FIRST HOME IN A BUDGET-FRIENDLY AREA WITH THIS HANDY GUIDE. BY ANDREA DEAN

1. BRIXTON

As an area renowned for its nightlife, Brixton's been hit hard, though its community spirit is stronger than ever. The Zone 2 location, independent stores and bars and foodie scene – centred on Brixton Village – are all part its charm, and getting around is easy as it's at the end of the Victoria line.

First home: Two Three Seven Brixton Hill SW2, from £450,000

14 one, two and three-bed apartments with loft-inspired interiors and a ground floor co-working space. They have Sonos sound systems and Wandwall, which adapts heating, security and lighting to your routines. Help to Buy is available on some homes. tailoredliving.solutions.com



2. ROMFORD

It's not glamorous but Romford is well-connected, close to the M25 and the Essex countryside, and with frequent trains into Liverpool Street. When Crossrail starts, services will take 35 minutes into Bond Street and

just over the hour to Heathrow. **First home:** Papermill House, Romford RM1, from £195,000. Launched last weekend, this development offers London's cheapest starter homes. Help to Buy is available on all the studio,

one, two and three-bed apartments, and every buyer will receive a free furniture package worth at least £10,000 plus a £1,000 contribution towards the service charge for the first three years. galliardhomes.com



3. LIMEHOUSE

Less pricey than Shoreditch or Hoxton, and so centrally located that you can jump on the DLR and be at Bank or Canary Wharf in just five minutes. You're never far from water here – walk or run alongside the Thames or Limehouse Cut, enjoy a drink overlooking the marina at Limehouse Basin or dine at Gordon Ramsay's The Narrow restaurant. **First home:** The Kiln Works, E1, from £442,500

A newly launched collection of one, two and three-bed shared ownership apartments with flexible open-plan layouts, floor-to-ceiling windows and handleless kitchens fitted with Siemens appliances. Selected homes have a balcony or terrace, and Help to Buy is on offer. nhgsales.com

4. HOUNSLOW

If you're after a west London address but priced out of Chiswick and Ealing, Hounslow should be on your radar. Regeneration is underway with new homes and town centre amenities, including a multi-screen cinema set to open next year, and there's tons of green space. It has a mainline and three Tube stations, is next to the M4 and the airport is down the road. **First home:** A+ at The Assembly, Hounslow TW3, from £75,000 for a 25 per cent share of £300,000. The final phase of this car-free scheme has one and two-bed shared ownership apartments, each with its own balcony. Outside, there's a landscaped communal garden and play area. networkhomesales.co.uk



5. CROYDON



Excellent transport links – including three stations, trams and round-the-clock trains to Gatwick and Victoria – have long been one of Croydon's major assets and it's raised its game in recent years with the opening of pop-up food mall Boxpark, arranged in repurposed shipping containers and one of only two sites outside Shoreditch. There's a ready supply of first-time buyer homes in new apartment and repurposed office blocks, but plans to redevelop the dated shopping centres are still on hold. **First home:** Addiscombe Grove, CR0, from £260,000. One-bed Pocket homes being sold at 20 per cent below the local market price, with the option of Help to Buy. Residents have access to three garden terraces, a lounge and co-working space. pocketliving.co.uk

6. QUEENSBURY

A friendly, multi-cultural and mostly residential suburb that's a bit of a hidden gem, providing great value for money compared with much of north-west London. Queensbury has a useful high street, Aldi and Morrisons supermarkets, two large parks

and Green Park is a half-hour hop along the Jubilee line. **First home:** Nova at Queensbury Square NW9, from £132,000 for a 40 per cent share of £330,000. Thoughtfully designed with the emphasis on energy efficiency and maximising space, these

one, two and three-bed shared ownership apartments feature open-plan living/kitchen/dining rooms with handleless cabinets and integrated appliances, private balconies or terraces and carpet in every bedroom. catalyst.homes



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