
OVERVIEW OF REGENERATION AND PLANNING PORTFOLIO

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work that have been undertaken under the Regeneration and Planning Portfolio :-
 - (a) **Darlington Local Development Framework Core Strategy : Public Participation on Preferred Options** – Consideration was given to the preferred options for the core strategy of the new Local Development Framework which, when adopted , would provide the overarching strategic policy component of the new Local Development Framework. Arrangements for public participation on the preferred options and the involvement of Members leading up to the start of participation were also discussed. Environment Scrutiny Committee’s recommendations made at its meeting held on 18th August, 2005 were accepted and we agreed to receive an Annual Monitoring Report and Local Development Scheme update report.
 - (b) **View : Shaping the North East – Submission Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East** – We gave approval to the submission, to the Examination in Public’s Panel Secretary, of various objections and statements of support as part of the current consultation process with regard to the contents of the Submission Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East. The Strategy had been prepared by the North East Assembly in liaison with local authorities and other regional stakeholders
 - (c) **Central Park** – We gave consideration to the principal heads of terms negotiated in respect of the proposed joint venture agreement for Central Park which involved the development of council-owned land. In doing so we gave approval to (a) proceed with the joint venture agreement, (b) undertake the Houghton Road junction contract and associated infrastructure works on behalf of Tees Valle Regeneration (TVR) and release the requisite funding received from the Tees Valley Partnership and/or TVR for this purpose, (c) permit the demolition of four Council houses on Vicarage Road to facilitate the road junction/access road, ahead of the joint venture agreement, (d) permit TVR to undertake on site mains drainage works securing the new Darlington College across the Council’s depot and allotment land, ahead of the joint venture agreement and (e) include additional Council-owned land and buildings on Yarm Road into the Central Park development.
 - (d) **Faverdale East Business Park** – The Council has exchanged contracts with the preferred developer Easter Developments Ltd, Gateshead, to bring forward approximately 9 acres of land comprising 175,000 sq ft of industrial premises. The Council will be working together with Easter Developments upon a joint marketing campaign to promote Faverdale East Business Park, co-financed with £20,000 European Regional Development Funding. The site was brought forward with external

funding from the Single Programme (£1.2m), European Regional Development Fund (£529,000) and the Council (£227,000).

- (e) **Tees Valley Area Tourism Partnership** – A Public Sector Task Group has considered the latest draft version of the Business Plan and Management Plan for the proposed Tees Valley Area Tourism Partnership and commented on the proposals at a feedback session held specifically for the Public Sector Task Group on 9th November 2005.
- (f) **Tees Valley Regeneration Inward Investment Advisory Group** – The Group considered reports on the strategic inward investment activity and marketing activity currently being undertaken on behalf of the Tees Valley authorities by Tees Valley Regeneration (TVR). A new brief for the review of the Inward Investment function of TVR is being finalized.

Councillor David Lyonette
Regeneration and Planning Portfolio