
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) **Central Park – Developer Selection** – We agreed and approved several issues in relation to Central Park which included approval of a two stage selection process for appointment of a developer for Central Park involving the development of Council-owned land as a joint venture with One NorthEast, English Partnerships and Tees Valley Regeneration and approval to undertake the Haughton Road foot/cycle bridge contract on behalf of the Tees Valley Regeneration and finally to the release of the requisite funding received from the Tees Valley Partnership and/or the Tees Valley Regeneration and the Local Transport Plan.
 - (b) **Capital Programme 2006/07 – Release of Funds : Northgate Partnership Scheme In Conservation Areas (PCSA)** – The Northgate Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas provides grants to assist in the improvement of one of the most historic, but most economically run-down gateways into Darlington which has undergone significant improvements over the past four years. In order to reverse decades of under-investment and economic decline in Northgate, English Heritage has offered to match-fund the sum of £100,000 for the year 2006/07 for another year of grants under the ageis of the Scheme. We therefore approved the release of £100,000 from the Council's Capital Medium Term Financial Plan in order to support the second year of the Partnership scheme.
 - (c) **Central Park – Acquisition of Private Interests** – In order that the Central Park project is not delayed, the Council, English Partnerships, ONE Northeast and Tees Valley Regeneration are negotiating the purchases of various private sector-owned properties which are needed to assemble the Central Park site. We therefore agreed to the process and funding arrangements for the Council to acquire and demolish or hold and manage third party interest at Central Park on behalf of the Joint Venture Partners and also the release of capital funding to both acquire and demolish properties and to manage acquired properties, pending disposal.
 - (d) **E-Tender Workshop** – The Council held a series of e-tender workshops on Friday, 19 May 2006 at Darlington Football Club's TFM Arena. The purpose of the workshops was to inform Darlington businesses how to submit tenders for public sector contracts electronically. The workshops featured practical demonstrations on how to complete on-line tenders, as well as detailed information on good practice, how to avoid mistakes, and information relating to equalities and health and safety requirements.

- (e) **Building Control** – Major new thermal insulation legislation brought in on 6 April 2006 to meet the Government’s reduction in CO2 emissions from all new buildings and alterations to link in with the Kyoto Convention on Global CO2 emissions.

Councillor David Lyonette
Regeneration and Planning Portfolio