
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) **Faverdale East Business Park** – We approved expenditure of £645,000, including £40,000 from the Council’s Capital Programme, for the Faverdale East Business Park Phase 1 (fourth road and completion works) scheme. In order to achieve significant savings to the public sector and extend the market agreement with Donaldsons to act for the Council to attract occupiers to the Faverdale East Business Park Site we also agreed to the waiving of the Contracts Procedure Rules in relation to the extension of contracts.
 - (b) **Northern Way** - We have prepared a Technical Note on the Darlington Gateway for inclusion within the Tees Valley City Region Development Plan, which is being put together to support the Northern Way Growth Strategy in the sub-region. This paper outlines the programme of activity required to grow the economy by capitalising on Darlington’s ‘gateway’ characteristics over the next ten years. The Northern Way Growth Strategy and the Tees Valley City Region Development Plan will be important lobbying tools, for consideration during the Government’s Spending Review in 2006.
 - (c) **North East Tourism Strategy** - We have submitted comments to ONE NorthEast on the proposals circulated by their tourism consultants for new tourism networking arrangements for the whole of the Northern Region. Specific comments were made on the relative merits of establishing a Destination Management Partnership for the Tees Valley.
 - (d) **Northern Cross** - We have submitted an application to the Tees Valley Single Programme for a pre-feasibility study into the concept and site suitability of a gateway/orientation facility for visitors to the Tees Valley and the northern region, somewhere in the vicinity of the junction of the A68 with the A1(M) to the north west of Darlington.
 - (e) **Financial Incentives**
The Financial Incentives Panel approved a £5,000 grant for Electronic Security Solutions Limited to open a new service centre and workshops at St Nicholas Industrial Estate, Dodsworth Street. ESS is the Council’s term contractor for installation works and maintenance contractor for CCTV and alarm systems. The grant will support its investment in the new service centre and the creation of up to 10 new jobs.

The Falchion Fund Board approved loans of £10,000 for electrical installer Carmilleri & Leach and for school and sports clothing retailer National Schoolwear Centre of

King Street. The loans were offered over a 5 year term and contribute towards essential equipment and building improvement costs amounting to over £30,000 in each case. The projects are expected to create up to 5 new jobs.

- (f) **Visit Darlington 2005** – Our new Visitor Guide for 2005 – Visit Darlington – has been produced and is now being distributed to Tourist Information Centres and targeted visitor attractions throughout the country.
- (g) **Marketing Activity** – We have joined together with private sector partners City & Northern, (Morton Palms), Marchday plc (Lingfield Point), Gort Securities (Hopetown Office Park) and Sanderson Weatherall to commission joint advertising and promotion to stimulate interest within the office properties in the town. The first step has been to commission a joint advert displayed within the Baggage Reclaim Hall at Durham Tees Valley Airport.
- (h) **Darlington Development Showcase** – The Economic Regeneration and Tourism Section is working on taking the Darlington Development Showcase to London to promote Darlington as a business destination to the property and commercial sector in the south east. This event will be held on the 23rd February 2005.
- (i) **Building Control Seminar** – Building Control section working in partnership with the Building Control Group, Durham, held a seminar in December when 70 local architects/surveyors attended. The new Regulations on Electrical Safety in Dwellings were covered. The new legislation came into force on 1 January 2005.
- (j) **Pendle Borough Council** – Members and staff from Pendle Borough Council are visiting Darlington on 3 February to discuss Access for All issues and how we work in partnership with Darlington Association on Disability (DAD), as a result of publicity about the Council's good practice in this area.

Councillor David Lyonette
Regeneration and Planning Portfolio