

**Urban Renewal Specialist Strategic Partnership : UR Project Achievements Statement**

Project Name	Achievements 2008/09
Landlord Accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 145 landlords are now on scheme database;</li> <li>• 32 landlords have applied to join the Landlord Accreditation scheme;</li> <li>• The Landlord Accreditation Officer is working to develop standards tailored towards accreditation of managing agents;</li> <li>• 114 families have been assisted by the development of a Rent Deposit Scheme, securing their deposits;</li> <li>• The Landlords Forum has been successfully developed and meetings are held regularly, with guest speakers, to promote best practice in the local sector.</li> </ul>
Property Purchases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 property acquisition has been completed in Runcorn, to progress the Canal Quarter development;</li> <li>• In addition, professional assistance has been given to the Town Centre Improvements project.</li> </ul>
Town Centre Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 77 expressions of interest received in total for grant, highlighting the popularity of this programme;</li> <li>• 11 businesses supported and grants completed;</li> <li>• 1 property acquisition completed in Runcorn, to progress the Canal Quarter development;</li> <li>• A review of Widnes Town Centre has been carried out in advance of preparation for a Widnes Town Centre Action Plan being developed.</li> </ul>
Widnes Waterfront EDZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developers, Priority Sites, have relocated their NW branch to their new development at Turnstone Business Park. Two other units on that site are currently under offer.</li> <li>• Widnes Trade Park (adj. to B&amp;Q on Dennis Rd) is now complete and only 2 units remain to be let.</li> <li>• The 15,000 ft<sup>2</sup> Forward Point office dev. on Tan House Lane is now complete and a launch event took place in Nov. 2008.</li> <li>• The 2nd phase of Heron Business Park is underway, with the utilities now being laid.</li> <li>• Further work on the Croda site is unlikely until all the Heron Phase 2 units are finished and occupied.</li> <li>• The Gyrotory landscaping scheme is now completed and in its maintenance / establishment phase. This may be subject to an awards submission.</li> <li>• English Landscapes have substantially completed the remaining sections of landscaping at the junction of Ashley Way / Earle Road. The remedial work to planters along Earle Rd and Ashley Way</li> </ul>

	<p>continues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on the Moss Bank Park launch event is ongoing. This will link with the launch of sustainable transport initiative, which has significantly improved links between the Programme area and the town centre / residential areas.</li> <li>• Work on the final phase of the Tan House Lane landscaping project (adj. to Forward Point) is now complete. The work took longer than envisaged due to delays with utilities diversions.</li> <li>• Work is ongoing to divert a section of the Widnes Footpath 74 along Carter House Way / Moss Bank Park.</li> <li>• The Waterman Group has appointed consultants for the replacement of Carter House Bridge (which crosses the Sankey Canal, linking Tan House Lane to the Trans-Pennine Trail). The existing static bridge will be replaced by a swing bridge able to accommodate any future re-opening of the Sankey Canal.</li> <li>• Work continues on the 8<sup>th</sup> 'Upfront' newsletter.</li> <li>• A branded minibus, marketing the Widnes Waterfront, continues to serve route 13A.</li> <li>• A video documenting the transformation of the Widnes Waterfront programme area since its conception in 2002 is currently in development.</li> <li>• The 'Future Flower' design is now in its final stages. Planning Application, NWDA funding application &amp; tender documents are all being progressed to completion.</li> <li>• Regular Business Steering Group meetings have continued to be held. A £70k business support allocation application has been successful and allowed improvements to businesses.</li> <li>• A Foot Counter is now in place and functioning correctly. Data will be downloaded quarterly, for monitoring purposes.</li> <li>• Work to access utility loadings for Venture Fields and the WW EDZ, as a whole, continues.</li> </ul>
Business Parks Improvement Prog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Improvement Districts (BID) proposal for Halebank and Astmoor was voted in by business communities and business plans implemented;</li> <li>• 11 grants have been issued for work to improve security, environment, image and/or economic benefit for companies on industrial zones in the borough.</li> </ul>
Contaminated Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brindley Mound removal completed and Canal Quarter site investigation &amp; feasibility study completed;</li> <li>• Development of new transit Travellers' Site in Runcorn</li> <li>• St. Michael's Golf Course remediation issues are being progressed and DEFRA funding has been secured. The EA options appraisal has been submitted and Land &amp; Water have started on site.</li> </ul>
Victoria Road Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Victoria Road Study has now been commissioned and consultants have this work in hand.</li> </ul>
EDZ Masterplan 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EDZ Masterplan 2 has now been commissioned and consultants have this work in hand. This</li> </ul>

	will update the existing Masterplan and inform developments into the future.
Castlefields Employability Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Castlefields Team have been working with the Education Business Partnership to commission a Castlefields specific version of the 'Enterprise Game' for junior children in the four schools of Castlefields. The game is now prepared and this will be rolled out to schools during the Spring Term together with a programme of support activities, including links with Runcorn CIC, building student confidence and getting them involved in local enterprise and associated issues in order to try to break the benefits culture in that area. This links with work being carried out by the ELS SSP.</li></ul>