



1000 days campaign

Press Release 24th June 2005

Campaign Launched to Boost Oldham Regeneration

Today will see the launch of a special campaign to drive forward plans to bring real changes to Oldham over the next 15 years.

The 1000 Days Campaign will be launched by Oldham Beyond today (Friday 24 June) and will monitor progress in the proposals already outlined for regeneration in the Borough.

Oldham Beyond was launched last year to look at ways that the whole Borough can be regenerated and developed up until 2020.

Oldham Beyond's ambitious proposals were drawn up after appointing a group of urban regeneration specialists led by Urbed and extensive public consultation. They include plans for the economy, housing, learning, the environment and communities.

As part of the 1000 Days Campaign, a Commission will be created, which will meet every 200 days to evaluate what is being achieved.

Peter Roberts, who is Professor of Regional Planning at the University of Liverpool, will independently chair the Commission. It has recently been revealed that he will also chair the new national Academy for Sustainable Communities.

Other members of the Commission will be:

- Anthony Hodge, Development Manager from the Northwest Regional Development Agency
- Diane Goodwin, Senior Regeneration Manager from English Partnerships
- John Carleton, Executive Director for the North of England from the Housing Corporation
- Doctor Robin Henshaw, Vice Chair of Oldham Partnership's (Oldham's Local Strategic Partnership) Executive
- Philip Hirst, member of Oldham Partnership's Economic Partnership

- Dan Sequerra, who will be an independent member

The Commission will also be supported by:

- John Bird, Executive Director for Regeneration from Oldham MBC
- Andrew Fletcher, Assistant Chief Executive for Corporate Policy from Oldham MBC

Professor Peter Roberts said: “The Commission includes a broad range of members each with individual expertise on the important areas involved in Oldham Beyond’s long-term plans for the regeneration of the Borough.

“Partnership working has already achieved a great deal in the Borough and I am confident that the Commission will build on this multi-agency approach to move forward the many exciting and ambitious proposals that have been outlined for Oldham.”

The inaugural meeting of the Commission will take place this morning.

There will then be an official launch of the 1000 Days Campaign at 12 noon in the Oldham Business Centre where the various agencies involved with Oldham Beyond will attend.

Professor Peter Roberts will speak along with Mike Hollows, Senior Development Executive, from the Northwest Regional Development Agency, and Paul Spooner, Regional Director for the North West and West Midlands, from English Partnerships.

Afterwards, there will be the opportunity to go on a coach tour of the Borough to see the key sites where the Oldham Beyond proposals are being implemented.

Maurice Gubbins, Area Manager for Greater Manchester from the Northwest Regional Development Agency said: “To fully realise the Oldham Beyond vision will require the combined efforts of a wide range of organisations, spanning the public, private and community sectors, working in partnership and over an extensive period of time.

The NWDA welcomes the establishment of the Commission. We believe that the Commission will provide an informed and objective evaluation of progress towards the implementation of the Oldham Beyond vision and NWDA is pleased to accept the invitation to be represented on it.”

Paul Spooner from English Partnerships said: “Regeneration plans in Oldham are now underway with more work planned in the future. English Partnerships has already contributed directly to the masterplanning of Hollinwood and, as the national regeneration agency, we’ll be working with the Commission to assist with the regeneration of the town centre and to improve local housing.

By working together in this way, we will be helping to bring new jobs to the area and promote high quality, affordable homes.”

Many of the ideas developed by Oldham Beyond are already being implemented. These include the University Centre Oldham, the new library and lifelong learning centre, the Northern Counties Housing Association’s headquarters, the regeneration of Alexandra Park, and Housing Market Renewal.

Other plans developed by Oldham Beyond will soon be delivered across the Borough. These include the re-development of the old Town Hall and bus station site, Tommyfield Outdoor Market, St Mary’s housing estate, Hollinwood at Junction 22 of the M60, and Failsworth District Centre.

Longer-term proposals outlined by Oldham Beyond include creating: the ‘West End’ as an alternative evening area including a re-located Coliseum Theatre; a Creative District with workspace for creative industries; an Enterprise Area as an in-town business park; a ‘Green Walk’ through the Town Centre; a Sub-Regional Outdoor Centre as a gateway development to the Peak District National Park; and the Oldham Rochdale Metrolink line.

Councillor David Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Regeneration from Oldham MBC, said: “This Campaign is a tremendous opportunity for everyone involved in Oldham Beyond to build on the progress already made across the Borough. As well as reflecting on what has been achieved, the launch will herald the next stage of work to build on our success in bringing real change across the Borough.”

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