

DISPOSAL OF INDUSTRIAL PORTFOLIO - TREATMENT OF CAPITAL RECEIPT - INVESTMENT IN REGENERATION

A Special Meeting of the Economic Development Committee held on 20th March 1998 considered a report of the Director of Economic and Community Development in relation to the proposed disposal of the Council's Industrial Portfolio. The report contained a number of recommendations relating to the terms of the sale, the repayment of debt and the treatment of the Capital receipt.

The intention of the Council was to achieve a position which would enable 100% of the Capital receipt to be used for regeneration purposes.

"To allocate the capital receipt generated to specific projects, by subsequent formal resolution of the Council, to assist with the carrying out of "Regeneration Projects" as defined in Regulation 85 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance) Regulations 1997, within those wards within the District of Easington which are listed in the List of Wards in Areas of Need in England published by the Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions in February 1997 and those wards which immediately adjoin such wards in accordance with the policy set out in the Council's Economic Development Statement, indicated in the report and amended from time to time"

At a further Special Meeting of the Economic Development Committee on 22nd December 1998 it was reported that members had already approved the use of £1.25m towards the new road and land acquisitions in Seaham and £0.4m towards improvements at the Hackworth Road Depot. A further resolution was being sought to commit £2.1m to regeneration schemes in the villages in the remainder of the District as part of a rolling programme. The Council confirmed its commitment to spend the capital receipts generated by the sale of the industrial portfolio on regeneration projects in the District.

With reference to the £2.1m to assist regeneration in the remainder of the District it was agreed that £1.4m be allocated with £200k being awarded to each of the following settlements:

Deaf Hill, Haswell, Shotton, South Hetton, Thornley, Wheatley Hill and Wingate.

This money combined with external funding is to be used to undertake regeneration initiatives with projects being identified by the communities concerned (Local Regeneration Partnerships).

The remaining £700k to be used as a flexible response budget to provide match funding to access other challenge funds to assist worthwhile regeneration initiatives and or projects in other targeted wards or underwrite schemes where funding secured might otherwise be lost without the intervention of financial assistance by the Council.

SUMMARY

£1.25 m - New Road & Land acquisitions in Saeham
£0.40 m - Hackworth Road Depot
£1.40 m - Seven Settlements in the West of the District
£0.70 m - Flexible Response Budget

£3.75 m
