

New Development to Transform East Leeds

Private sector-led proposals to transform a large area of East Leeds and create thousands of new jobs have been announced today by the Leeds, York and North Yorkshire Chamber.

The Chamber is facilitating a collaboration of private sector stakeholders who will entirely deliver and finance the New East Leeds (NEL) initiative, whilst working in partnership with Leeds City Council. The aim of the project is to kick-start economic and social opportunities for the community of East Leeds at a time of limited public funding.

NEL is a new approach to regeneration during economically challenging times and austerity, with businesses playing a greater role in driving growth and shaping the local economic environment. Private sector investment will be used to fund new learning facilities, a major park and sporting facilities, green space and other community projects in the area.

Partners involved in the scheme include GMI Group and Scarborough Group.

[Click here to view map of NEL](#)

Comprising the land around and north of Thorpe Park, NEL is ready to begin with immediate effect and over the next two years can facilitate:

- Revitalisation of the high quality business park at Thorpe Park whilst enhancing employment opportunities at Aire Valley Enterprise Zone, with focus on low-carbon, manufacturing, logistic, production, financial and business services sectors;
- A 110 acre public park providing families access to sporting facilities and open green space;
- High quality and marketable new homes at the former Vickers plant in Crossgates and other accessible areas in East Leeds, ensuring homes for families, older people and those who need to leave the family home;
- An extended road through Thorpe Park from the M1 to Austhorpe at Manston Lane, which will divert the traffic flow away from Crossgates and serve new developments; and
- State of the art learning facilities built by the private sector developers.

NEL also aims to deliver opportunities for skills and training in New East Leeds and help address the significant issue of unemployment in the area.

Alongside new housing development, an apprenticeship company will be established where young people are funded to work in local businesses and the Leeds Universities and Colleges will provide level 4 qualifications for young people and adults in the area.

By building on the other major developments in the city centre, South Leeds, Aire Valley and Leeds Bradford Airport, it is expected that NEL will play a significant role in driving the future economic and employment growth in Leeds and the wider-city region. The plans announced today are the first in a

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number of long-term opportunities for the area.

Gary Williamson, chief executive of Leeds, York and North Yorkshire Chamber, says:

“The Local Authority has recognised the challenges in East Leeds and there has been some investment in the area. However, in this new era of limited public-funding we need to look at new ways of tackling regeneration and economic development and only the private sector has the potential to deliver a project of this scale”.

“Recognising that Leeds needed to adopt a new approach to regeneration, the Chamber went on a fact finding mission to the USA to discover their approach to planning, revitalising and delivering large scale developments in urban areas. NEL will adopt a similar model, with the public and private sector working in partnership to achieve a shared vision and common objectives, whilst using the Chamber as a broker to smooth away any difficulties.

“NEL will see developers, builders and consultancies delivering the funding for projects for the residents and workforce of East Leeds, whilst complementing and enhancing existing local priorities such as the LEP’s Enterprise Zone in the Aire Valley”.

“By building on the existing success of Thorpe Park, NEL will act as a catalyst for change in that part of Leeds. It is not simply about physical regeneration, but the social and economic transformation of an area that has not reached its full potential and which can help drive the future economic growth of Leeds and the wider City Region”.

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