

MEDIA RELEASE

Renaissance Southend Ltd

For Immediate Release

NEW HEAD FOR REGENERATION CEOs GROUP

Mike Lambert, chief executive of Renaissance Southend, is the new chair of the URC (Urban Regeneration Companies) Chief Executives' Group, which between them are responsible for delivering regeneration schemes across the UK worth billions of pounds.

The Group brings together the CEOs of all the Urban Regeneration Companies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, a major concentration of regeneration experience and a powerful pressure group in the property and regeneration sector.

Mr Lambert was unanimously elected to take over from John Nicholls, who has chaired the group for the past two years but is now stepping down as CEO of Leicester Regeneration Company as it becomes part of the new Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Development Company.

Mr Nicholls said: " I am delighted to be handing over to Mike, who has been an active member of the Group since he joined and will continue to build its role."

Mr Lambert said: "John will be a hard act to follow, and I do not underestimate the challenges we all face over the next 12 to 18 months. It's important that the URCs bring together their collective experience and communicate on the issues affecting the delivery of physical regeneration at national, regional and local level."

Cont>>>

Page 2

The Group has been campaigning recently to get the Government to rethink its new policy of charging rates on empty property, which is having a negative effect on revitalising rundown areas, encouraging developers to demolish buildings prematurely and to delay building new ones.

Many CEOs of the emerging Economic Development Companies, the new phase of regeneration delivery vehicles, are also members of the Group.

-Ends-

For further press information contact Colin Felton on 07850 292368 or e-mail colin@cfapr.com

Or Sheila Crosbie at Renaissance Southend on 01702 224503 or e-mail sheilacrosbie@renaissancesouthend.co.uk