

For Immediate Release

Government shows its support for Southend regeneration

More than £6 million was invested in Southend-on-Sea in the last financial year to promote regeneration, new jobs and expansion across the town, according to the Thames Gateway Annual Report for 2008/09.

It is seen as a major confidence boost for Southend which is reflected in the amount of Government grants received, showing that of the £8.7 million given under the Thames Gateway Fund Programme to South Essex last year, Southend was awarded the major share. These figures do not include additional monies allocated for future projects.

The Report from the HCA (Homes and Communities Agency) and CLG (Communities and Local Government) shows that Southend-on-Sea Borough Council received over £2.8m million to help fund Futures Community College and £3.85m for the construction of replacement car parking at London Road.

The town's regeneration partnership Renaissance Southend received funding of some £1.6 million in capital grants towards the delivery of new schemes, while the University of Essex received £500,000 for the Clifftown Studios, together with further grants from East of England Development Agency of £900,000.

In addition under the Community Infrastructure Funding Programme Southend-on-Sea Borough Council received initial support for developing the approved schemes at Victoria Gateway and A127/Progress Road junction for completion by 2011.

In a forward to the report, Shahid Malik, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, said: "The regeneration of the Thames Gateway has never been more important. Continued investment by the Government in jobs, housing and infrastructure are helping the region weather the current recession and will help it play a key role in the recovery of the Greater South East and the UK as a whole.

"We can justly be proud of the major progress made over the last year Together we can meet the challenges we face in the current economic climate and secure the Thames Gateway's long term success."

More>>

Theo Steel, Chairman of Renaissance Southend, welcomed the report saying: 'This demonstrates the strength of partnership working at the local level in delivering positive change for the benefit of the town, its people and its future'.

John Lamb, Executive Councillor for Enterprise, Tourism and Regeneration added: "It is clear from the report that Southend remains a priority for the Government and other agencies within the Thames Gateway.

"The Council and its partners look forward to working with the HCA and CLG to deliver the Thames Gateway Investment Plan and securing the significant regeneration benefits this will bring to businesses, residents and visitors to the town.

-Ends-

Renaissance Southend was incorporated as a not for profit, private limited company on the 18th March 2005.

The Company is run by private and public sector Board of Directors who's Founder Members are Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (SSBC), East of England Development Agency (EEDA), Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), University of Essex (UoE) and South East Essex College (SEEC), supported by Government Office for the East of England and the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership.

For further press information, including photography, filming or interview requests, please contact: Colin Felton on 07850 292368 or e-mail colin@cfa-group.com

Renaissance Southend enquiries should be directed to Sheila Crosbie on 01702 224503, or email sheilacrosbie@renaissancesouthend.co.uk

www.renaissancesouthend.co.uk

Building a Better Future

