

news release

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Title: Environment Agency helps North Staffs regeneration

Photo opportunity

On 24 May 2006 Steve Morley, Environment Agency Area Manager, and Peter Bounds, Chair of RENEW North Staffordshire, the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder, will sign a "*Working together protocol*" at the Civic Centre, Stoke-on-Trent at 18:00.

In the Protocol, believed to be the first such agreement with a Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder, the partners have agreed to work together with property developers to ensure that environmental concerns are taken into consideration at the very beginning of the consultation process.

Areas of cooperation include:

- building environmental considerations into masterplans and development briefs
- using best practice in reusing brownfield and contaminated land
- improvement of green spaces, rivers, canals, flood plains and wildlife corridors
- initiatives to reduce climate change by reducing energy use, water use and drainage
- sharing good practice on new technology and systems with housing developers.

By agreeing the Protocol the two partners hope to help the revitalisation of communities and to support the economic regeneration of North Staffordshire by improving the environment in Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle; making the most of their unique green and industrial heritage.

Steve Morley for the Environment Agency said: " I see this as a vital step in ensuring that important environmental concerns are taken into account right at the beginning of the planning process. It should help make North Staffordshire a thriving, diverse conurbation where people want to live, work, invest and study."

Peter Bounds, Chair of RENEW North Staffordshire, commented: "This protocol will allow us to work together in partnership to meet our aims of making North Staffordshire the greenest city region in the UK.

“The Environment Agency’s expertise and support will help us and our partners greatly improve the local environment.”

**MORE INFORMATION Contact Lyn Fraley or Holly Smith on
0121 711 5829/5855
(these numbers can also be used during an emergency to contact a duty press
officer)**

Notes to editors

1. Photographers and journalist are welcome to attend the signing ceremony at 18:00 in the Windsor Room of the Civic Centre, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Glebe Street, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 1RN.
2. The Environment Agency is a statutory consultee on planning applications.
www.environment-agency.gov.uk
3. RENEW North Staffordshire is the housing market renewal pathfinder for Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Biddulph East. Our aim is to help make North Staffordshire a thriving, diverse conurbation where people want to live, work, invest and study. We do this by working with communities and partners to:
 - a. balance housing supply and demand
 - b. retain and attract population
 - c. provide quality housing that meets the aspirations of existing and new residents
 - d. transform the environment and make the best of our heritage and green space
 - e. support economic regeneration.
4. The RENEW North Staffordshire team can be contacted by the public on 01782 232024 or renew@stoke.gov.uk. Further information can be found on the website: www.renewnorthstaffs.gov.uk.

press office 0121 711 5829/0121 711 5855

www.environment-agency.gov.uk