

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING

HMR/Housing Regeneration Programme update

Blackburn with Darwen BC's Housing Regeneration Programme has successfully spent and claimed 100% of its £12.0 HMR allocation for 2009-10.

Performance Summary for 2009-10

Refurbishments Bank Top & Griffin – We have successfully refurbished 105 properties during 2009-10. The properties are on Griffin Street and Wellington Road in Griffin and Palatine Road, Irving Place, Ribblesdale Place, Rawsthorne Street and Wensley Road in Bank Top. Refurbished properties have benefited from a variety of improvements such as new windows and doors, rendering, cleaning and pointing and work to the front boundary walls along with new gates and railings.

Refurbishments Inner South East – We have refurbished 228 properties in the Audley and Infirmary areas during 2009-10. These properties are located in Vale Street, Infirmary Street and Infirmary Road in the Infirmary Area and Accrington Road and Audley Range in the Audley area.

Refurbishments Darwen – We have refurbished 160 properties in Darwen during 2009-10. These properties are located in Bank St, Nancy Street and Green Street East in the St Peters conservation area and in Harwood Street and Hindle Street.

Griffin Regeneration – We have completed the purchase of 51 properties in the identified Regeneration area during 2009-10. Negotiations are underway to purchase more properties during 2010-11 and we continue to purchase by agreement. Consultation on the Griffin Renewal Area proposals has been completed and a report seeking approval to declare the Renewal Area is being submitted to Housing SPT in April.

Queen Street Regeneration – Site assembly at Queen St/Hindle St in Darwen has now been completed with the acquisition of the remaining properties in Higher Lawrence Street and Britten Street. Plans are being prepared to develop a scheme of around 90 new houses on the site of the Council's clearance area and adjacent Woodvale site. TVH (the Council's developer partner) plan to submit a planning application in May and are confident of starting on site later this year.

Infirmary Regeneration – We have completed the acquisition programme in the Infirmary area by purchasing and demolishing the remaining properties in Highfield Road, Alaska Street and Mosley Street.

Other Projects

The Highfield Park and Pavilion Refurbishment – The Pavilion refurbishment was completed in March. Work to refurbish the park is underway and due to be completed in May.

Community Confidence Project – The Community Confidence Project has successfully delivered security upgrades to 161 properties in the identified areas of Darwen, Griffin, Infirmary and Queens Park.

Purchase Assistance Loans – We continue to offer PALs to residents living in the declared clearance areas through the administrators Gunnies Northern Counties Housing Association and a total of 4 loans were issued during the year.