



NEWS RELEASE
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HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL FUNDING WELCOMED IN THE TEES VALLEY

THE partnership agency leading the way in delivering housing market renewal projects across the Tees Valley has welcomed the news that the area is to share in a £65m Government fund to revitalise local housing markets. Tees Valley Living says it is pleased that the Government has recognised the need for more cash to be made available to stimulate areas where the market demand for housing is low.

Resources from the Regional Housing Board and English Partnership has already allowed the five local Tees Valley authorities to make a start on tackling this problem, and the £65m - which will be shared between the Tees Valley, parts of Cumbria and West Yorkshire - will give fresh impetus to the housing market renewal programme.

Jim Johnson, Director of Tees Valley Living, said: "Although it is too early to say how much funding we will actually receive, it is a positive sign that the Government recognises the strong case we have been making over the last 18 months.

"With the help of MPs such as Vera Baird, we have been able to lobby strongly for a fairer deal for the Tees Valley and whilst there is still a lot of work to be done, this is a step in the right direction.

"Our challenge now is to demonstrate that we have the capacity to deliver the kind of projects that can make a real difference to people's lives throughout the Tees Valley."

The funding for the different areas will be allocated by the Regional Housing Boards in April 2006, and the money will be used to invest in building popular, modern homes, renovating dilapidated or unfit homes and demolishing properties that are beyond repair.

The plans are contained in a new report entitled 'Sustainable Communities - Homes for All', which was unveiled by Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott yesterday.