

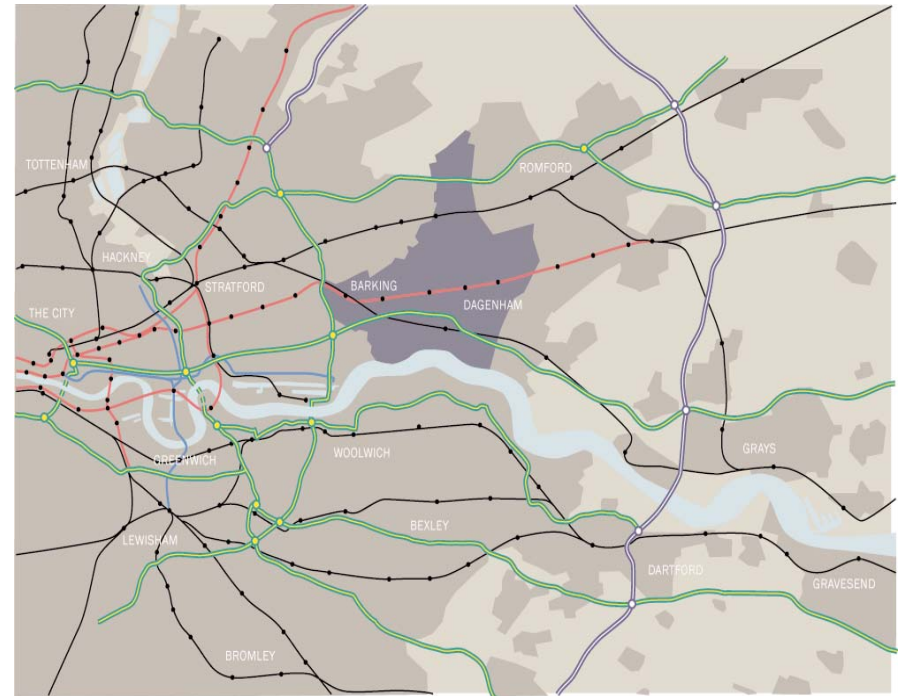


# Annual Report of An Urban Renaissance in East London 2002 – 2003



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Please note that text in blue boxes represents achievements.

## Introduction by Councillor Kallar

I have pleasure in presenting this, the second Annual Report of the Regeneration Strategy, An Urban Renaissance in East London. It sets out all the activity undertaken to deliver the strategy from background planning to delivery within the financial year 2002/03.

Much work has been done to progress the actions set out in the regeneration strategy and various awards have been gained, including Beacon Status for Transforming Education.

I hope that you find this document useful.

Councillor Sid Kallar  
Lead Member for Regeneration  
October 2003



## Introduction

Welcome to this, the second edition of the Annual Report of the Council's regeneration strategy, An Urban Renaissance in East London. In the strategy the Council made a commitment to report annually on progress towards the targets and objectives set out in the strategy.

This report sets out the progress made in 2002/2003 towards achieving the targets and objectives set out in the strategy. These key issues are:

- Continuing to improve educational attainment
- Encouraging the development of skills and lifelong learning and improving the employability of local people
- Widening the employment opportunities in the borough and attracting well paid jobs
- Widening the choice of housing available within the borough
- Providing new transport links both within the borough and to areas of growth outside
- Building closer and better partnerships to deliver regeneration both within and outside the borough.

These themes were developed from the Council's Community Priorities and have helped set the agenda for regeneration.

This document features the steps the Council has taken and the developments it has made in the last year. These include:

- The completion of the Barking Town Centre Framework Plan
- Beacon Status for Transforming Secondary Education
- A new SureStart programme has started in Gascoigne ward
- Pathfinder Status for the teaching of modern foreign languages in primary schools
- The Mayor of London, Ken Livingston, announced his commitment to the development of the East London Transit
- Two awards were secured for parks in the borough – a Green Flag award and an Open Spaces award

## Major Successes in the Areas of Opportunity

### London Riverside

London Riverside extends across six square kilometres along the Thames from Barking Creek to the edge of Greater London. It contains some of London's most important development sites including, Dagenham Dock, South Dagenham and Barking Reach.

#### Dagenham Dock

Progress on the development of Dagenham Dock as a 'Sustainable Industrial Park' (SIP) continued throughout 2002/03. The Park aims to be an innovative cluster of environmental businesses and a show case for how tackling London's

environmental challenges can deliver a good range of jobs and physical regeneration.

New Planning Guidance was consulted on and formally adopted by the Council.

Dagenham Dock's privately owned and poorly maintained roads have long been a barrier to investment. A major leap forward in the regeneration of Dagenham Dock has been the purchase by the London Development Agency of a number of these roads. The Agency will work with the Council on getting funding to carry out a full upgrade of Dagenham Dock's infrastructure.

The Centrepiece of the SIP is the Environmental Technology Resource Centre for London. The Centre will showcase environmental technologies and offer demonstration and research and development opportunities. A Business Case and Development proposal has been produced for moving forward the project.

#### South Dagenham

Last year saw a major public consultation exercise on four different proposals for the former Ford land between the old and new A13 which is now owned by the London Development Agency (LDA). The 'Ambition for South Dagenham' project is continuing with the best elements from the proposals being developed further with the backing of new transport and finance studies.

The LDA continued to purchase properties at Chequers Corner in advance of a Compulsory Purchase of the site.

Demolition of the Paint Trim and Assembly Plant commenced starting the transformation of the area.



## Barking Reach

This year saw further important preparatory work on Barking Reach, clarifying the overall vision for the project, advancing the planning process and continuing work to remediate the site.

The Mayor's Draft London Plan set out a vision for a more sustainable city, in which developments would seek the highest possible intensity of use in order to meet London's chronic housing shortage and protect the capital's green spaces. Work by the Council and English Partnerships to clarify the implications of the Mayor's vision for Barking Reach, led to a decision to increase the eventual housing density on the site and aim for a new target of 10,700 homes.

Over 100 new homes were completed, of which 56 were social housing. By the end of next year almost 900 homes will have been completed on Barking Reach since work commenced.

Planning consent was agreed for zones 6, 7 and 8 in the area south of Thames Road. This will see a further 88 units built over the coming year.

The Council agreed to seek the transfer of land to provide a new Primary School and community facilities serving the newly completed housing on the second phase of development.

The year also saw continuing remediation to prepare the site for future development, using the spoil from construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.



## Barking Town Centre and the River Roding Area

Various consultation events have been held including:

- two stakeholder workshops (June and October '02)
- a Focus Group (February '03), and
- a consultation Newspaper (January '03)

The Framework Plan for the development of the Town Centre was agreed by the Executive in March '03.

Planning Guidance based on the Framework Plan is being developed and will be ready in Autumn '03.

An Action plan has been produced for 2003/04 and was agreed by the Executive in March '03.

Planning consent was obtained for the St Ann's housing development on Gascoigne estate in March '03.

A Development Brief for the Bloomfields, Cleveland, Wakerings/Tanner Street/Foyer site was written in Spring '03.

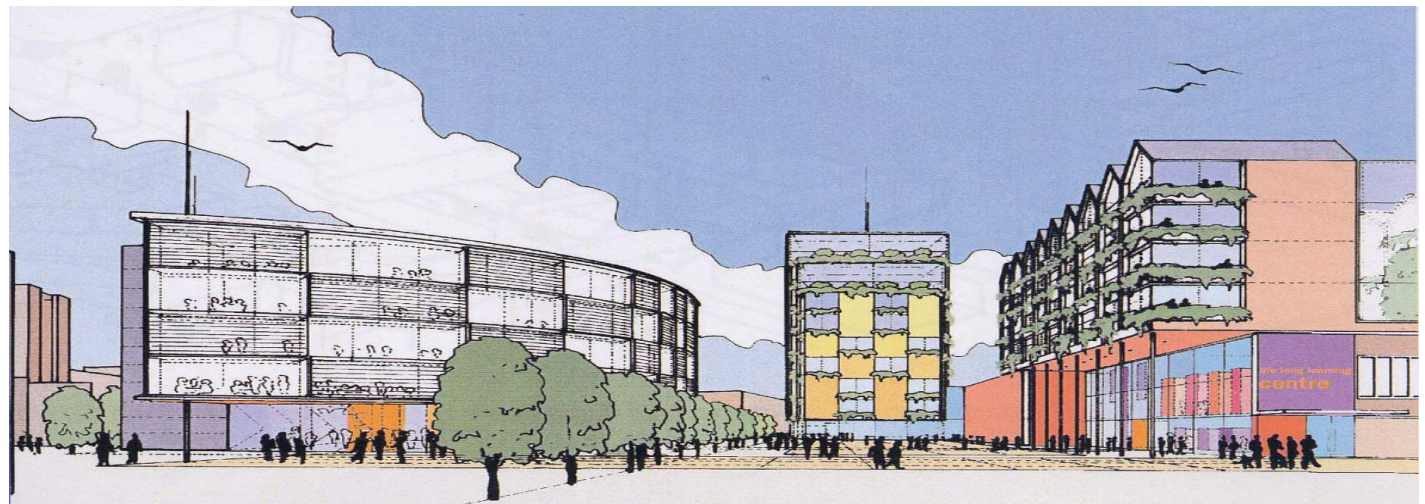
Bus priority measures have been implemented in the station forecourt area.

A planning application has been submitted for a Furlong Homes development on Abbey Road.

A Station area strategy is being developed.

A Public Realm strategy is being developed.

The Realto Homes Hewitt's Quay development is nearing completion. The first phase of completed properties are now being sold.



## Key Education and Skills Successes

“We believe that education is the key to our future. High levels of achievement at all stages of education are the norm supporting the higher aspirations of residents, particularly in terms of their employability and earning power.”

This was our mission statement for education and skills. In the last year we have achieved:

### Raising standards in schools

The Council continued to participate in all national initiatives to raise standards in schools and has received Beacon Status for transforming secondary education, and Pathfinder Status for the teaching of modern foreign languages in primary schools.

The Council has become one of only three local authorities in the UK to be chosen to participate in the Test Bed project funded by the Department for Education and Skills. Test Bed will seek to raise standards in schools by providing an unprecedented level of IT provision and infrastructure in schools and to pupils. Barking Abbey, Eastbury and Warren secondary schools have been chosen to take part in the Test Bed pilot.





### Improvements in Basic Skills

The Council has started courses to improve Basic Skills as one of only three London local authorities to be part of the Government's 'Embedding Basic Skills in Local Authorities' project.

The Council successfully bid for funding from the Learning and Skills Council to enable 85 tutors to be upskilled in teaching Basic Skills.

Providers of Basic Skills in the borough have been united through the provision of co-ordinated training opportunities. The Council received national acclaim for this development.

### Lifelong Learning

£3m funding was secured from the Sustainable Communities Fund to build the Barking Lifelong Learning Centre. The centre is a key element in transforming the Town Centre and will provide a state-of-the-art, centrally located facility for all aspects of lifelong learning.

### Further Learning Opportunities

Neighbourhood Learning Centres are now up and running in Marks Gate and Parsloes areas.

The Council continued to promote access to the labour market by residents who are currently excluded from it. Funding was secured from the London Development Agency to improve the employment prospects for 35 ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) learners and to improve the quality of ESOL training in the borough.

The Council continued to support the University of East London (UEL) to widen access to higher education for young people and adults, establish mentoring programmes for undergraduates and to support sixth form students in their studies.

### Indicators

The 2001 Census shows that 10% of residents now hold degree level qualifications – up from 3.5% in 1991.

There has been a 28% increase in the number of 18–21 year olds gaining a place at University.



## Key Local Jobs and Business Successes

“The borough is striving to create a 21st century economy providing the appropriate space and environment for new and existing business to flourish.”

This was our mission statement for local jobs and business. In the last year we have achieved:



### Social Enterprise

The social enterprise, Renew Friends, is now established in Barking and Dagenham. It is a training resource and intermediate labour market enterprise that is funded through the European Regional Development Fund and the London Development Agency.

A local social enterprise network is being established with four meetings having been held to date.

The council is seeking the establishment of at least one social enterprise champion post.

### Green Business

The first business case for the development of a Green Business Park at Dagenham Dock has now been developed. As a result of the work being done in the Dock area a number of recycling and associated "green" companies are expressing an interest in locating there.

An Environment Business Action project is now established to encourage businesses to become more environmentally friendly.

### Business Development

The "Lean Manufacturing" programme which is an integral part of the Centre for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence work is now running.

The 1-2-3 project whose remit is to support local business, is now well established with a significant representation from LBBB companies.

The London Development Agency has funded a pilot programme in the Riverside area to encourage innovation.

Work on the roads in Dagenham Dock is now being commissioned by the London Development Agency

The council is seeking to use planning-gain law to kick-start the development of new business starter units.

## Key Housing Successes

“The borough intends to improve the quality and availability of housing opportunities which are available to all sections of the community. This will ensure that all residents have a decent home and living environment which will support Barking and Dagenham’s social and economic regeneration.”

This was our mission statement for housing. In the last year we have achieved:

### Strategic Plans

The Framework plan for Barking Town Centre, which has ambitious targets and design criteria for new homes, has been agreed.

A preferred Registered Social Landlord Panel (RSL) has been established.

A Local Housing Company, the Barking and Dagenham Housing Association, has been established with four Councillors and four tenants on its board.

The best elements of the four proposals for the ‘Ambition for South Dagenham’ project are being further developed with the backing of new transport and economics studies.

Consideration has been given to setting up a Housing Regeneration Company for delivery of affordable homes and social regeneration throughout Barking Town Centre.



## New and Aspirational Homes

In line with the Barking Town Centre Framework Plan the redevelopment of the Clevelands, Bloomfields and Wakerings has introduced a new innovative scheme that reproduces street pattern, and takes maximum advantage of its location close to the Town Centre transport hub.

Land disposal sites in Dagenham are being developed for both affordable and market price homes.

Further work is being developed for the renewal of London Road/North Street.

A flexible tenure scheme is being pursued for the Linsdell Road site.

## Improving Existing Stock

The Barking Town Centre Framework Plan and Delivery Plan have been produced and they identify all key housing development and Estate regeneration areas.

The Council is continuing to research options for the major regeneration of Gascoigne Estate.



## Key Transport Successes

“A variety of good efficient clean transport is a key driver in regeneration and economic success as well as improving the local environment.”

This was our mission statement for transport. In the last year we have achieved:

### Improved Public Transport

The London Mayor, Ken Livingston, announced commitment to Phase 1 of the East London Transit in May '02. The route is set to be operational by 2006.

Docklands Light Rail have identified their preferred eastward extension from Gallions Reach and are continuing with feasibility work.

Bus priority measures have been implemented in the station forecourt area.

### Links to Wider Networks

Lobbying work is continuing on securing new public transport links.

### Improved Access for Business

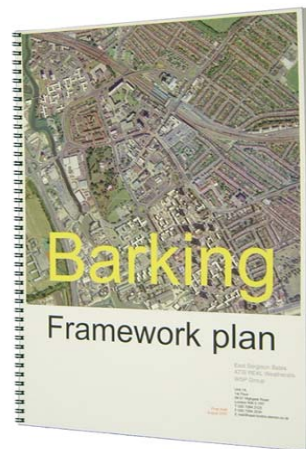
Work on the roads in Dagenham Dock is now being commissioned by the London Development Agency following their acquisition of them.



## Key Distinct Environment Successes

“One of the key ingredients of this strategy is to create an environmentally distinct area where accessibility is seen as a high priority and Barking and Dagenham is recognised as an area with high standards of design and architecture.”

This was our mission statement for a distinct environment. In the last year we have achieved:



### Strategic Planning

Phases 1 – 6 of the Council’s Parks and Green Spaces strategy has been completed.

### Funding

Council Capital Funding of £5 million has been secured (2005 – 2008) to match fund the projects set out in the Parks and Green Spaces strategy. The strategy has been recognised as best practice by the Greater London Assembly and the Urban Parks Forum.

Capital funding has been secured (£687k for financial year 2003/04) for Phase 3 & 4 of the Beam Valley Country Park. The secured funding is a mix of Council Capital and S106 funding. External funding is still being sought.

Council Capital funding has been secured (£300k) for the Park Playgrounds Programme (King George V, Castle Green & Central Park).

### New Proposals

Stage 1 application submitted for Barking Park and Stage 1 application currently being prepared for Barking Abbey.

### Awards

A Green Flag award has been secured for Eastbrookend Country Park and an Open Spaces Management award (ILAM (Institute for Leisure and Amenity Management)) for Newlands Park.

### Innovative Designs

Urban Design Consultants have produced a Framework Plan for Barking Town Centre, which was agreed by the Executive in March 03.

### A13 Artscape

The Two Cones and Hedgefields at Goresbrook Junction were completed in August 2002.

Work on Goresbrook Park is ongoing and is to be completed in May 2003.

The refurbishment of Gale Street Subway and Charlton Crescent subway has commenced and will be completed in winter 2003.

## Neighbourhood Renewal

“Our citizens have the right to expect high quality health and social care when they need them. Our vision is for people to live as long and healthy lives as possible.”

This was our mission statement for health and social care. In the last year we achieved:



## Healthy Living

A food and nutrition co-ordinator has been appointed to work with the SureStart schemes to offer advice, information and cooking classes to improve awareness of adult and children's dietary needs. In addition, there are two pilot primary school breakfast clubs operating in the borough, which offer healthy breakfasts and the opportunity for pupils to learn more about health issues affecting them. It is anticipated that this scheme will be run out to more schools on a borough-wide basis. The Smoking Cessation Unit have joined up with Leisure's Fit For Life – Exercise on Prescription initiative to increase their outreach work in the borough. The programme will offer advice and assistance for people who wish to give up smoking, while improving their general health and fitness with the aim of reducing their risk of heart disease and other smoking related illnesses.

The Healthy Help project around improving primary care services is still developing in the borough and aims to work with all GP surgeries. The Interim Care Facility mentioned previously also aims to work with the elderly minority ethnic population, particularly in Abbey ward to enable

the service to be more informed of their specific needs.

## Improving Services

An interim care facility is being built on the former Grays Court site in Dagenham. The facility will provide care for older people and help to reduce hospital readmissions and emergencies and also aims to improve the numbers of older people able to remain in their own homes for longer.

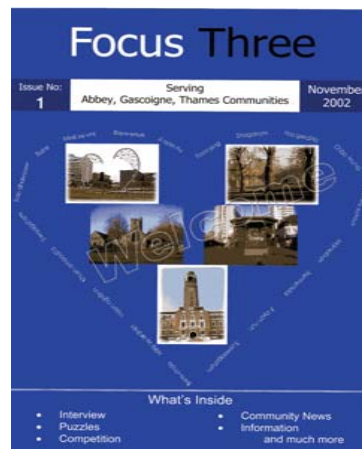
## Reducing Teenage Pregnancy

The teenage pregnancy group has undertaken various activities to help improve sexual health and teenage pregnancy services in the borough. These include skills development for young mothers and peer education training. A study on contraceptive advice and access will take place in 2003. The development of a logo and guidance for young people friendly services, developed in conjunction with local young people, will be finalised and launched in September 2003.

## Neighbourhood Renewal

“In order for regeneration to be a success and for residents to optimise the benefits that may occur, we need a flourishing community where many people are supported to be active.”

This was our mission statement for community initiative. In the last year we have achieved:



### Strategic Planning

The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy was published in August

### Under 5's

A new SureStart programme is up and running in Gascoigne ward.

### Young People

Young People are designing a web site on Gascoigne Estate to present to the local Community Forum.

### Neighbourhood Initiatives

A Neighbourhood Warden Service is up and running in the Goresbrook, Village and River Community Forum area.

A Groundwork Trust has been established in the Borough.

### Hard to Reach Communities

A Community Development Officer for Hard to Reach Groups is being recruited.

Extra efforts are ongoing to encourage under represented groups

to attend the Community Forums.

### Community Involvement

The council worked in partnership with the Volunteer Bureau on Volunteer Week (summer 02).

A Community Development Trust has been set up in the Abbey, Gascoigne and Thames Community Forum area.

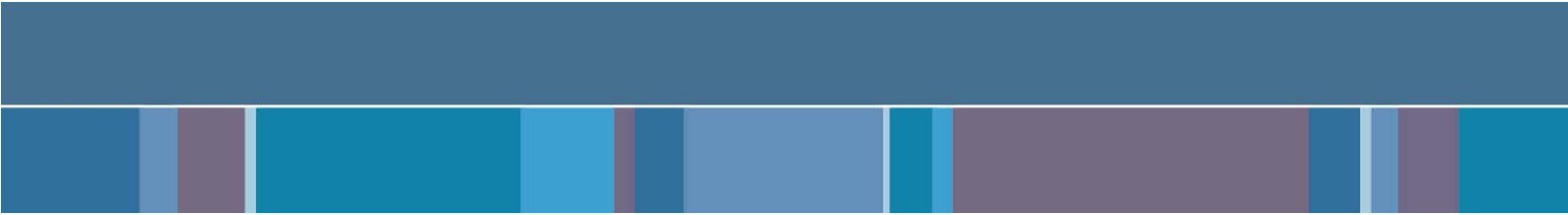
A Voluntary Sector funding event was held that featured presentations from organisations involved in funding the voluntary sector.

A consultation event, with a range of stakeholders, was held to discuss the Framework Plan for Barking Town Centre before it was put before the Executive.

### Community Initiative

Two new community magazines, which are published quarterly, have been produced by local residents in the Parsloes, Becontree, Valence; and Abbey, Thames and Gascoigne Community Forum areas.





Related documents available on-line:

An Urban Renaissance in East London  
Annual Report of An Urban Renaissance in East London 2001–2002  
Annual Report of An Urban Renaissance in East London 2002–2003

[www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk](http://www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk)

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