

1: BACKGROUND

THE RENAISSANCE TOWNS PROJECT

The Renaissance Towns Project has been established by Yorkshire Forward (the Regional Development Agency for Yorkshire and Humberside) with the aim of reinforcing the region as an area of world-class urban centres attracting businesses, people and jobs. The first phase of the programme involved six towns - Barnsley, Doncaster, Grimsby, Huddersfield, Scarborough and Wakefield. Halifax is part of the second phase.

THE YORKSHIRE FORWARD URBAN RENAISSANCE PANEL

An Urban Renaissance Panel has been created by Yorkshire Forward to involve leading urban regeneration experts in the Renaissance programme. David Lock Associates is part of this panel and has been helping the Halifax Town Team to shape its strategy for the future. The panel has provided a multi-disciplinary team to work with the Renaissance Town Team in each town.

HALIFAX TOWN TEAM

The Town Teams are a crucial component of the Yorkshire Forward Renaissance Towns project. The Halifax Town Team was formed following a series of 'visioning' workshops held in October and November 2002. The Town Team has a very broad membership, including members of the public, local businesses, the Halifax Courier, local organisations and community groups, Representatives from local partnerships, and officers and Members of Calderdale Council. David Lock Associates have led a team working in partnership with the Town Team to produce the Renaissance Strategic Development Framework for Halifax. The Halifax Town Team has more than 80 members and many of these have participated in most of the meetings and events.

This report is a record of the conclusions reached by the Town Team and is a Strategic Development Framework owned by the town. It is their vision of what Halifax could and should become over the next 30 years.

THE PROCESS

The process that generated this Strategic Development Framework was focused on a series of highly participatory meetings of the Town Team at which the members explored issues and themes to develop the vision for the future of the town in a collaborative forum. The agenda was set by Town Team members and this report is, above all, a factual record of their deliberations.

The process is explained in more detail in Section 6, page 66.

