



Halifax | Canada | Halifax Development Agency

HALIFAX: STREETS AHEAD!



FOREWORD

Across the region Yorkshire Forward's leading Urban Renaissance programme is working with local communities through "Town Teams", assembled to represent amenity, business and political interests. Together we are creating long term environmental, social and economic regeneration strategies for the region's towns and cities, built upon rising aspirations and enhanced skills in citizenship and civic leadership.

Halifax was one of the second group of towns in the region to be designated a 'renaissance town' by Yorkshire Forward following on from Huddersfield, Doncaster, Barnsley, Grimsby, Scarborough and Wakefield. In Halifax, as in all the first renaissance towns, an early and enthusiastic engagement with local political, business and community interests was established who worked closely with Yorkshire Forward's Urban Renaissance Panel. The Strategic Development Framework for Halifax has, throughout its development, generated debate across the town and beyond, both nationally and internationally. The resulting work, sometimes controversial and always challenging has now achieved a position of agreement and support so that the way forward has been identified, together with immediate opportunities for investment.

These are early days in the context of a thirty year framework that Halifax has established for the realisation of its dream. But the first and perhaps most important step has been taken: the town, and its civic leadership has a vision for the future of the town; a plan whose framework is long term without being inflexible; a plan capable of responding to future changing economic and social conditions; a plan fundamentally based upon delivering a high quality urban environment, amenable, accessible and attractive, and most importantly a plan by the people of Halifax for the people of Halifax.

Alan Simpson
Urban Renaissance Champion
Yorkshire Forward
2 Victoria Place, Leeds LS11 5AE

CHARTER FOR HALIFAX

WE BELIEVE THAT...

THE FUTURE OF HALIFAX TOWN CENTRE LIES IN MAKING IT DIFFERENT AND COMPLEMENTARY TO OTHER TOWNS IN THE REGION, NOT THE SAME

HALIFAX IS FULL OF REALLY GOOD THINGS BUT NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THEM. THEY WILL BE TOLD

THE JEWELS OF HALIFAX: THE PIECE HALL, THE PARISH CHURCH, EUREKA!, PEOPLE'S PARK, SOMERSET HOUSE, AND DEAN CLOUGH, MUST BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TOWN CENTRE AND PROMOTED AS ITS UNIQUE ASSETS

THE PIECE HALL IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN AND TO ITS FUTURE THAT THE HIGHEST PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO SECURING A VIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE NEW ROLE

NEW HOMES MUST BE CREATED ACROSS THE TOWN CENTRE AND IT WILL BECOME A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE AS WELL AS TO SHOP AND TO WORK AND TO SPEND LEISURE TIME

THE GREEN SETTING OF THE TOWN CENTRE IS A UNIQUE CHARACTERISTIC AND MUST BE REDISCOVERED FOR THE BENEFIT OF HALIFAX'S CITIZENS AND ITS VISITORS

HALIFAX TOWN CENTRE MUST BE ACCESSIBLE TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE MODE BY THEY ARRIVE, BUT ABOVE ALL WITHIN THE TOWN CENTRE THE STREET NETWORK MUST BE A GOOD PLACE TO WALK

MEETING THE NEEDS OF CITIZENS AND MEETING THE NEEDS OF VISITORS ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF THE TOWN

THE HALIFAX TOWN TEAM



TOWN TEAM

JOHN KENEALY (CHAIR)

TOWN TEAM MEMBERS

Patrick Ambrose	Harriet Dell	David Heap	David Nesbitt	John Richardson	Jessica Sutcliffe
Helen Anderson	Michael Denton	Jonathan Hepton	Ivor Nicholas	Graham Riley	Megan Swift
Ann Ashton	Liam Duffy	Martin Hibbins	Paul Nutton	Susan Robinson-Wood	Tim Swift
Mohammed Aslam	Mark Finch	Sarah Hinchliffe	Chris O'Connor	Adrian Rose	Roger Taylor
Margaret Barnes	John Ford	Nick Holdsworth	June Paxton-White	Geraldine Rushton	Michael Taylor
Steve Bell	Richard Glover	Mark Humphreys	Raymond Pearson	Tim Settle	Janet Waggott
Oliver Berryman	Fi Godfrey-Faussett	Kevin Jebson	Ken Peel	John Shepherd	Geoffrey Wainright
Tim Betton	Jeremy Hall	Karen Jefferies	Sean Pilkington	Alan Simpson	Mary Walker
Steven Bonfield	M Hanks	Tony Lax	Robert Powell	Eliot Smaje	Neil Walsh
Monica Box	Barbara Harbinson	Ian Levitt	Dave Proctor	Lindsay Smales	Keith Watson
Sheena Campbell	Janet Hardy	Ian MacKenzie	Jon Quarmby	David Smith	Mike Webster
Keith Cannon	John Hargreaves	Rebecca Marley	Mr Rashid	Jackie Stark	Rev Wendy Wilby
Sandra Cartledge	Chris Harris	Keith McDonald	Darren Ratcliffe	Pat Steer	
Sue Coe	Tracy Harvey	Jim Metcalf	Paul Reid	Zoe Stewart	
Rosie Crook	Phil Hawdon	G A Mir	Phil Reid	Leigh-Anne Stradeski	

OTHER TEAM MEMBERS

Lawrence Revill	Drew Mackie
Neil Sainsbury	Paul Cornfoot
David Samuel	Helen Murphy
Mark Element	Mike Estell
Liesel Kruger	Amanda Marshall
Lars Gemzoe	

YORKSHIRE FORWARD URBAN RENAISSANCE PANEL MEMBERS

Alan Simpson	Barra Mac Ruairi
David Leck	Jemma Basham
Will Cousins	Helen Farrar
Will Alsop	
Amanda Kruger	
Steve Warren	

CONTENTS

PREFACE: HALIFAX IN ITS SUB-REGION	6
1: BACKGROUND	8
2: INTRODUCTION	10
3: THE DRIVERS OF RENAISSANCE	14
4: A STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR HALIFAX - SEVEN INTERCONNECTED THEMES:	18
THEMES 01 RECOGNISING THE UNIQUE LANDSCAPE SETTING AND MAKING IT ACCESSIBLE TO ALL	20
02 RE-POPULATING THE VALLEY BOTTOM	36
03 CONNECTING DEAN CLOUGH MILL	40
04 INTEGRATING WEST CENTRAL HALIFAX	44
05 A NEW LIFE FOR HALIFAX HERITAGE	46
06 MAKING THE TOWN CENTRE A GOOD PLACE TO WALK	58
07 SHOWING OFF THE TOWN: TOWARDS A LIGHTING STRATEGY	62
5: PRIORITIES, DELIVERY AND IMPLEMENTATION	64
6: THE PROCESS	66
CONCLUSION: WHAT HAS THIS PROCESS ACHIEVED?	75