

A photograph of a row of modern residential buildings with red roofs and white accents, set against a blue sky. The image is partially obscured by a white curved graphic element.

NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES MULTI-MILLION HOUSING BOOST

Government confirmation that the Tees Valley will receive over £12million in the coming year to help improve the area's housing has been welcomed as 'good news for local communities—and for the efforts to provide the homes which are vital in making the Tees Valley a place where people want to live and work.'

That was how Jim Johnson, Director of Tees Valley Living—the organisation which looks after the area's housing interests—described the announcement from Housing Minister Iain Wright that the area has been allocated a total of £12.2million, to be made available through the Homes and Communities Agency, to invest in regenerating housing in key town centres areas and developing new sites.

Much of the money, a total of £9.8million, has been allocated through the Housing Market renewal programme, but the area will receive a further £2.4million as a result of its success in gaining 'Growth Point' status, aimed at providing the kind of housing needed to drive forward economic regeneration and attract investment and jobs.

Explained Jim Johnson "This announcement means that we can continue our work on reviving the housing market in those urban centres which really do need major investment—for example Hartlepool town centre, Parkfield in Stockton, Gresham in Middlesbrough and the Greater Eston area.

"Already there is clear evidence of the real improvements which are taking place, providing people with the quality of modern homes they deserve, but there remains a lot more to do—and this funding will enable us to continue acquiring and clearing redundant properties.

"Our success in gaining 'Growth Point' status at the end of last year means that we can also look at ways of encouraging developments for the future—for instance the kind of infrastructure improvements needed to open up new housing areas

“Of course, this is a challenging time for all sections of the housing market but, like the Government, we recognise that we have to keep moving ahead—and we have always known that our task is likely to take up to 15 years to complete.”

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