



Scarborough Renaissance Charter

We, the undersigned, subscribe to the principles
laid out in this Charter

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Acknowledgements

Yorkshire Forward would like to thank everyone who participated in the Vision for Scarborough Community Planning process, the people of Scarborough, the staff at the Spa Complex and Rounders, the Stephen Joseph Youth Theatre.



Urban renaissance team members touring Scarborough at the start of the Community Planning Weekend



Scarborough Renaissance Charter

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**All quotations are from participants in the Community Planning
Weekend that took place in April 2002.**



Launch of Scarborough Community Planning Weekend, April 2002

Photograph above shows Scarborough Town Hall and the South Bay

"This award for the most improved resort is wonderful news for the town and is a great platform on which to build a better future...and a new start for Scarborough."

In April 2002 Scarborough won the Gold Award in the English Tourism Council's Excellence in England event for the most improved resort

Foreword by Councillor Mrs E Bosomworth Leader, Scarborough Borough Council

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Scarborough is a town rich in history and natural beauty. We have a proud tradition and are widely recognised as being 'England's First Resort' encompassing both the bustle of a medieval fishing town and the delights of a grand Victorian spa.

Today, we look in wonder at the work and industry of our forefathers, and as we see our manufacturing and service industries, our colleges and university take up the challenge of creating the wealth and demands of modern day social living, we also debate the means by which we will conserve and build upon our inheritance.

Like other resorts, our future success will ultimately depend upon the ability of the town and its people to adapt to changing times and tastes. We recognise that we are at a cross-roads in our history and we need to seek a new direction, a new role, a renaissance.

Once again Scarborough is being acknowledged as the 'First Resort'. It is the first resort to take up the challenge of being part of the national urban renaissance programme. With the help of Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency, and the involvement and enthusiasm of thousands of our townspeople working alongside consultants and architects, we now have a twenty year 'Vision for Scarborough' which confirms our determination to bring about change.

The strategy maps the way forward, it encapsulates bold thinking and ambitious plans and points to the journey we must make. It is a unique opportunity which offers challenges to us all and will become a model for resort regeneration nationally.

The Charter sets out the principles of the renaissance which will stand as a testament to our determination to bring about change whilst celebrating and nurturing our heritage.

We must all make a clear commitment: civic leaders, businesses, individuals, young and old alike will need to work in partnership to deliver our dreams.

Change is always difficult, it is painful and at times it involves thinking the unthinkable, but together in partnership we can do it.

I commend this Charter to you, please sign up to it; the future is in our hands.



Councillor Eileen Bosomworth, Leader Scarborough Borough Council



Preface

In the autumn of 2001, Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency for Yorkshire and the Humber, launched its urban renaissance programme in order to support the social and economic regeneration of major towns and cities in the region. This focused on the need to improve the physical, natural and spatial environments within which these activities take place.

This Charter is the product of an intensive period of collaborative work that took place between January and July 2002 involving the people of Scarborough, Scarborough Borough Council and the Yorkshire Forward Urban Renaissance panel.

Following a lead-in period of research and talking to people across the community, preliminary briefings and technical audits, the vision building phase of the process culminated in a large-scale Community Planning Weekend, held at the Spa in Scarborough between 26 and 30 April 2002. This event was attended by over a thousand people.

Every aspect of the town has been explored and a consensus created as to how, and in what form, the town should throw off its outdated image and move confidently into the future.

The Charter should be read in conjunction with the companion reports 'Scarborough - 2002' and 'A Vision for Scarborough'. These reports summarise the initial research and audit, capture the data that was gathered during the participatory process and present the consensus Vision for the future of Scarborough that resulted from this work.

The Charter defines a long-term strategy and develops the principles of the Urban Task Force Report and the

Urban White Paper as a range of **objectives** and specific **actions** applicable to Scarborough. It defines the framework for civic leadership and public participation that will be required over the coming years to enable Scarborough to deliver the radical improvements to its public realm that will spearhead its regeneration.

This Charter for Scarborough's urban renaissance is neither a rigid plan nor blue print. It represents a way forward, a new direction for the town and its people. Whilst implementation of the Vision can begin tomorrow, delivery of the wider strategy will take years and depend upon everyone in the community, individuals, business people, the Borough Council and Yorkshire Forward to show commitment and leadership.

The key to the future is to develop the consensus that this first stage of the process has identified and to build on the agreement that there is a need for change, for higher quality, a new image and a better environment.



The harbour at Scarborough
Above, the harbour viewed from the Old Town



Extract from 'Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance'

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"How we live our lives is shaped by where we live our lives.

But wherever that may be, people want the same basic things: jobs, a healthy economy, a decent home, good public services, and an attractive and safe environment. North or south, urban or rural, all parts of our country, though different, affect and are affected by each other.

That is why the government is publishing two parallel white papers describing how we mean to help all communities, urban and rural, achieve their full potential.

Our guiding principle is that people must come first. There is no 'one size fits all' solution. Our policies are based on engaging local people in a partnership for change designed to meet their needs.

Britain has some of the best cities and towns in the world: famous historical and cultural centres; dynamic commercial areas; pleasant suburbs; and seats of research and learning that command respect the world over. But in the twenty years since the last urban white paper, many urban areas have suffered from neglect, poor management, inadequate public services, lack of investment and a culture of short-termism.

In 1998 we asked the Urban Task Force, chaired by Lord Rogers of Riverside, to examine the causes of urban decline and recommend solutions to bring people back into towns and cities. Their report confirms that urban policies are not just about bricks and mortar, but about improving people's prosperity and quality of life. So we must address not just housing and planning, but education, transport and fighting crime as well. That is how we can achieve an urban renaissance for the benefit of us all."

Foreword by Rt Hon John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister

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Source: www.odpm.gov.uk



Westborough, Scarborough in April 2002
Above, the North Bay seen from the castle



The Scarborough Renaissance Charter

A Community Commitment to Change

The Background

The aim of this Charter is to encourage support and develop a consensus for the renaissance of Scarborough, as proposed by the Scarborough Town Team and the many townspeople who participated in the community planning process that took place in Scarborough between January and April 2002.

A key element of the Charter is that the town of Scarborough should change its present image, adopt a new direction and create a new and improved role for itself.

Visitors and residents agree that the strength of Scarborough lies in both its natural and built environment, yet too many facilities, attractions, buildings and streets could be of a much better standard so as to attract new investors to the town. A good looking town generates jobs, investment and draws in visitors. There is widespread consensus that the town should let go of the past and move on from its image as a 'traditional seaside resort' to a 'high quality town by the sea'.

Radical approaches are needed to resolve the economic and social issues facing the town, as normal market mechanisms have been leading Scarborough into a slow decline.

Above all, endorsement of Scarborough's Renaissance Charter implies new ways of thinking, a change in attitudes and a new commitment to a different type of town.

What is a Charter?

The Charter is a document which sets out agreed common aims and commitments. For the Charter to be successful it needs to be 'owned' and 'signed up to' by all sections of the community. In signing the Charter, the community agrees to work together towards a common objective and the new vision for the future. The Charter sets out the rights and privileges which the community claim in looking for a rebirth or renaissance of the town.

Expressing the intentions of the community in the form of a Charter helps everyone measure future proposals against its principles. It provides a clear long-term direction for the town and a foundation stone for delivery of an urban renaissance.



Images on this and facing page are taken from the Community Planning Weekend held in April 2002



The Scarborough Renaissance Charter

A Community Commitment to Change

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The Quality Charter

1. We, the people of Scarborough, civic leaders and representatives of the business, voluntary and community sectors, are jointly committed to the new Vision for Scarborough and a change of direction for the town based on higher quality.
2. We will work together to improve Scarborough's appearance and image, to make it a more beautiful, good looking town. We will give top priority to the quality of the environment, to heritage, the conservation of historic buildings, to architecture and planning for quality in all development, both new build and refurbishment.
3. We will insist on the best possible and reject the mediocre in terms of architecture, services, products, restaurants, shops, hotels and visitor facilities. We will work ceaselessly to influence all those concerned with developing and regulating the environment to ensure quality and meet the higher expectations of visitors and residents.
4. We want to re-invent the town as a quality world-class place to live and invest in. Whilst retaining the attractive aspects of the traditional British seaside resort, we will emphasise quality and build a new image for the town. The new image must be based on quality and known across Britain and the rest of Europe, not just within Yorkshire.
5. We want a strong economy, to attract good quality jobs and encourage the tourism sector to go upmarket. We want to build the renaissance around arts and culture as in other vibrant towns.
6. We believe that the renaissance of Scarborough depends on a lively, active, high quality and safe town centre, where new housing, entertainment, shops, facilities, attractions and investment should be concentrated. We will give priority to improved public spaces, the street scene and to open spaces.
7. We accept that change will be difficult, but we agree to change our thinking and attitudes to reflect the Vision. We will support those confronting the changes needed to build the future vision, and will reject short-term approaches that might compromise long-term benefits, wherever we identify them.
8. We want to have an accessible town with lively attractive public spaces. We want to see national and international events taking place and a renaissance in the town's artistic and cultural life. This will provide a rich mix of uses and encourage activities for those of all ages, including young people, who we want to stay to be a part of Scarborough's future.
9. Above all, we will continue to listen to the people of Scarborough, especially to the town's young people, as we work towards the delivery of the urban renaissance in the years to come.

Key Theme 1: Playing a key role in Yorkshire and Humberside's regional strategies

Objectives

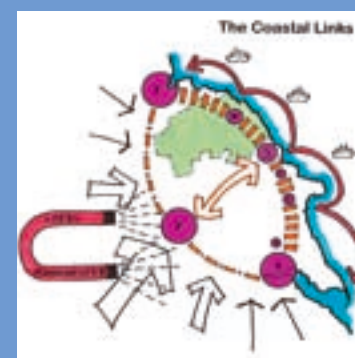
- 1.1 Create a world-class town that supports Yorkshire and Humberside's development into a world class region
- 1.2 Give priority to the development of flagship projects that will play a key part in the renaissance of Scarborough's reputation
- 1.3 Improve Scarborough's physical and virtual connectivity with the outside world
- 1.4 Promote the town's heritage and foster local distinctiveness to let Scarborough play a full role in defining the unique character of the Yorkshire region



North Yorkshire has world-class attractions



Scarborough can be the Coastal Hub because of its location and its assets



Scarborough must work in Partnership with other coastal towns



“Scarborough needs to raise its profile within the region...we have an embarrassment of riches - but more people need to know about them.”

Key Theme 1: Playing a key role in Yorkshire and Humberside's regional strategies

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Objective 1.1

Create a world-class town that supports Yorkshire and Humberside's development into a world-class region

Yorkshire Forward, the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Development Agency, is the driving force behind the economic regeneration of the region, delivering a programme of change that will make a positive difference to the region's people, businesses and environment. The urban renaissance programme represents a major element of Yorkshire Forward's response to the 2000 Urban White Paper which put the Regional Development Agencies at the heart of delivering an urban renaissance for towns and cities across the region.

It is crucial that Scarborough should not lose sight of regional perspectives when driving the urban renaissance forward over the next 20 or so years, such as those expressed by the following mission and vision statements.

**Yorkshire Forward's Regional Economic Strategy
"Making a Difference"**

**Yorkshire Forward's Consultation Paper, July 2002
"Tourism Agenda for Yorkshire and the Humber"**

**North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire
Health Authority, "Our Vision"**

**Yorkshire Coast Partnership
Economic Strategy and Action Plan for Scarborough
Borough**

Scarborough's position on the Yorkshire Coast, almost equi-distant between the ports of Teesside, Hull and Grimsby means that it is in pole position to act as a coastal hub and to benefit from the contact with the continent of Europe provided by North Sea shipping and Humberside Airport. If they work together, Yorkshire's coastal towns will increase their potential to attract visitors, whether they are coming to Yorkshire for business or pleasure.

Action

When bringing forward the portfolio of projects that will deliver Scarborough's urban renaissance, the town should always keep the regional perspective in view.

Furthermore, in furthering the region's coastal strategy, Scarborough must work with Yorkshire Forward, the North Yorkshire County Council, the port authorities and shipping operators to ensure that from the moment of arrival, the visitor is made aware of the world-class attractions of the North Yorkshire coast. This will help to balance the strength of York, Leeds and Manchester, cities which tend to draw investors and visitors inland.

Better co-ordination of information will be required, including improved signage and improvements to the north-south highway network to create strategic links between key coastal towns.

Through the Yorkshire Coast Partnership, coastal towns will need to strengthen ties and work in unison to create a coherent message about the world-class attractions that the Yorkshire coast has to offer.

Illustration above shows moorings in the harbour, Scarborough



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Key Theme 1: Playing a key role in Yorkshire and Humberside's regional strategies

Objective 1.2

Give priority to the development of flagship projects that will play a key part in the renaissance of Scarborough's reputation across the Yorkshire and Humber region, Britain and the continent of Europe

Scarborough has a rich heritage of natural and built landmarks. They are what make Scarborough distinct from any other town on the British coast. The urban renaissance process has identified a large number of landmark projects that if delivered in part or in whole, would make a significant contribution to the development of the town's reputation over a wide area.

Action

Work to deliver Scarborough's portfolio of potential landmark projects which, among others, comprise:-

A public space framework

- Medieval regeneration: streets, squares, alleyways and contemporary interventions
- Designing the Seafront
- Cliff protection and cliff-top Blooming Belvederes
- The Valley Paradise and Cultural Route
- The Green Entry to Scarborough

Other landmark projects

- The 're-born' Spa Complex: upgraded and renovated facilities to create a world-class multi-functional centre for conferences, culture and the community

- The South Bay Pool: cliff stabilisation and creation of a new 'magnet' development, complementing the Spa Complex
- North Bay: delivery of the North Bay Project, plus enhancement of sea-related sports and recreation
- Redevelopment of the Futurist Theatre
- Scarborough International Arts and Music Festival: creating an 'Edinburgh by the sea'
- Scarborough Fayre: a major international music, art, culture, performance and community festival
- Olivers Mount and the Castle: illuminated icons and festival arenas, linked by laser installations
- The town centre: public arts programme and public realm and street scene interventions, linking the station to Westborough and through the alleyways to the sea
- Scarborough Business Park: servicing an expansion of the business park to attract significant inward investment
- Implement an integrated public transport system and a quality Park and Ride scheme in tandem with the release of town centre car park sites to provide development opportunities for the private sector to invest and drive values upward
- Improve the A64 and develop strategic north-south links between key coastal settlements



The Spa Complex, Scarborough



Key Theme 1: Playing a key role in Yorkshire and Humberside's regional strategies

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Objective 1.3

Improve Scarborough's physical and virtual connectivity with the outside world

The needs of business to be connected are many; from road and rail networks to move goods and people around Britain, to port facilities to export goods, and air links to transport people. Data communications networks assist in transferring ideas and knowledge from one location to another almost instantaneously. Scarborough is not very well positioned under any of these headings.

The town is dependent upon the A64 road link and is some distance from any major airport. Scarborough lacks sufficient digital infrastructure to service the current needs of its economy and does not appear to be generating jobs in knowledge-based sectors.

Action

Promote the regional significance of the A64 with all agencies to tackle the perception that it lacks capacity and limits users' confidence in achieving sensible journey times.

Build the 'E64', a multi-media infrastructure that will support Scarborough's growing business and domestic digital traffic.

Research, plan and deliver better training provision at a higher volume for the whole workforce of Scarborough, to drive the change towards information and knowledge processing that is critical to future business success in global markets.

Research the introduction of a high speed Sea-Cat service linking the ports of Hull, Scarborough and Teesside and investigate the possibility of direct connections by air.

Scarborough Renaissance Charter 2002

Objective 1.4

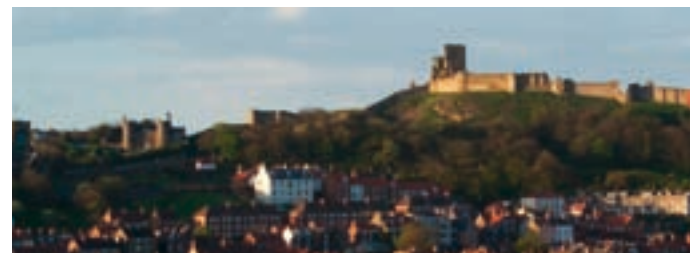
Promote the town's heritage and foster local distinctiveness to enable Scarborough to play a full role in defining the unique character of the Yorkshire region

Scarborough has a soul and unique identity. It has depth, a distinct character and is capable of appealing directly to the emotions on many levels. Scarborough also has a degraded urban realm, an under-performing economy and is about to go through a process of quite radical change.

The town has a wonderful architectural heritage, but many of its buildings are at risk. It has a history that goes back more than a millennium, yet, before the urban renaissance process began, it was unable to see very far into the future.

Action

Whilst Scarborough must connect with global markets in order to develop its economy, the development of the town itself must adhere to commonly understood, perhaps timeless principles of design that will re-enforce local character and develop distinctiveness without dropping to the level of pastiche. At the same time, a much higher priority will need to be given to heritage and a pro-active approach must be taken to conservation issues.



The Castle, Scarborough
Image above shows The Esplanade

Key Theme 2: Developing a framework for quality public space

Objective

2.1 Make a visible and radical impact on Scarborough's urban space to profoundly alter its image

"Scarborough is the promise on the North Sea. There is no other town with such a unique positioning, strategically bridging the cliffs and sandy beaches at the shore with the Arcadian Yorkshire moors. More than this Scarborough bridges a splendid and well kept Victorian heritage with a contemporary culture.

The urban renaissance of Scarborough should be seen as the kiss for a sleeping beauty. Certainly the new spirit generated in the town will result in new initiatives, social and economic investment and new urban structures. The renaissance process will not be a short term event, but will demand confidence and endurance by the Scarborough citizen along with a comprehensive strategy for the town.

Of course, some people expect Disney-like investments, new motorways and a miraculous change in international tourism patterns as the necessary first step for the renaissance. But many cities have proven that urban renaissance is the result of a well-defined collective ambition and a cultural change.

For Scarborough, with its heartbreaking drama of beautiful topography with listed historic monuments and exciting landmarks, the catalyst might be the street! In a town rich with green valleys and deeply carved medieval urban tissue, winding up the coast and offering the ultimate picturesque backdrop to the ever changing skies and sea, the landscape and the public space should be seen as the focus for the urban renaissance strategy."

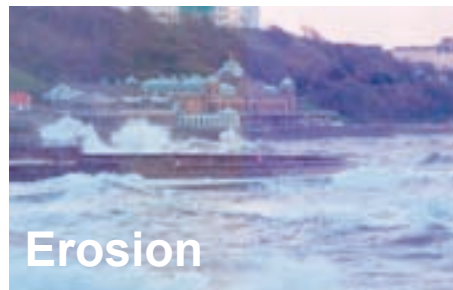
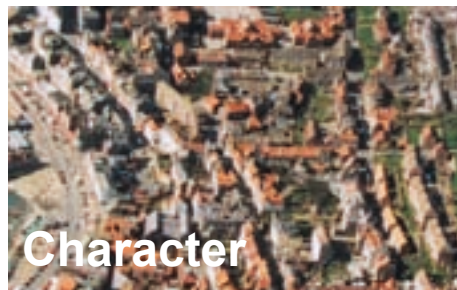
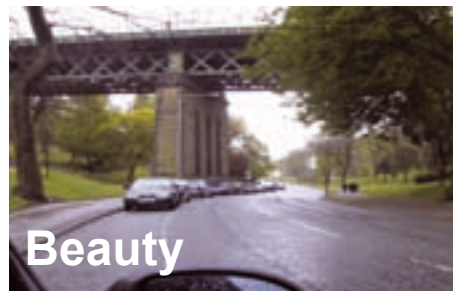
West 8, July 2002

"We want a modern symbol, something of quality, something to show we care about the future as much as we do about the past: a beacon for the younger generation."

Key Theme 2: Developing a framework for quality public space

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Diagnosis





The Public Space Framework is:

- A cohesive vision that integrates existing initiatives in the Borough
- A series of projects with distinctive characteristics.

The five indicative key projects identified for the Public Space Framework could comprise:

- 1 Medieval regeneration: streets, squares, alleyways and contemporary interventions
- 2 Designing the Seafront
- 3 Cliff protection and cliff-top Blooming Belvederes
- 4 The Valley Paradise and Cultural Route
- 5 The Green Entry to Scarborough

Key Theme 2: Developing a framework for quality public space

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Objective 2.1

Make a visible and radical impact on Scarborough's urban space to profoundly alter its image

The five projects that follow illustrate ways in which this objective could have a positive impact in specific locations in the town.

Indicative Key Project 1

Medieval regeneration: streets, squares, alleyways and contemporary interventions

Behind the bold setting of the seafront, Scarborough's medieval town has an intimate quality and an intriguing network of charming alleyways and streets. These inner routes are a rich source of untapped potential. The medieval heart of the Old Town offers a cultural alternative to the ambience of both Sandside and Westborough.



1

Scarborough Renaissance Charter 2002

The Public Space Framework aims to develop a pattern of streets, squares and distinctive architecture to provide a new network of public spaces that accommodates a rich variety of activities to sustain contemporary urban lifestyles.

The illustrations on the following pages demonstrate how careful public space design could help tackle the problems of erosion and land-slip.

- 1 Newborough as it is today
- 2 An impression of Newborough with a new palette of materials for the street



2

Key Theme 2: Developing a framework for quality public space



Key Theme 2: Developing a framework for quality public space

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- 1 Illustration of the possible restoration of the medieval fabric of Burr Bank and Quay Street with small scale housing
- 2 The existing embankment is said to be vulnerable to land-slip
- 3 An impression of Quay Street regenerated



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Key Theme 2: Developing a framework for quality public space

Indicative Key Project 2

Designing the Seafront

The Public Space Framework seeks to define an integrated strategy for the entire seafront which will include the beach, Foreshore Road, Sandside and the harbour.

The beach is situated on a protected bay that enjoys a dramatic backdrop of cliff-face, castle, valley and grand architecture. The beach is a generous public space at low tide that invites a variety of active and passive activities: paddling, sand sculpting, swimming, jogging, reading and sunbathing.

In general the promenade (Foreshore Road) has a strong connection with the beach and sea. The existing footpath however competes with a car-dominated thoroughfare.

The quality of Sandside is downgraded by obsolete fencing, fishing paraphernalia and parked cars. The marina touches the sea and embraces the beach, yet its potential to be considered as a major public space has not been fully realised.

Sandside acts as a 'welcome mat' to both the medieval town and the harbour. It also provides a foreground to the harbourside buildings. Sandside offers the possibility to create a vibrant new town square that supports an enlivened restaurant culture.

- 1 Foreshore Road, Sandside and the harbour today
- 2 Sandside as a pedestrianised location for: festivals, dance, music, street theatre and a year round weekly market, connected to the hinterland of the medieval town
- 3 An aerial view of Scarborough from the south west



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Key Theme 2: Developing a framework for quality public space

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Key Theme 2: Developing a framework for quality public space

Indicative Key Project 3

Cliff protection and cliff-top Blooming Belvederes

The sheer cliffs are a large part of the natural beauty and identity of Scarborough. Many initiatives have been taken by Scarborough Borough Council to preserve the ecology of these cliffs that provide a natural vantage point from which to experience a view of the open sea.

The Borough has more than 800 hectares of parks and gardens to maintain. These comprise English, Japanese and Italianate garden designs. Striking floral features merit repetition in new exposed locations where they can receive wider public appreciation: cliff-top Blooming Belvederes.

The Public Space Framework aims to introduce self-maintaining vegetation into the cliff management strategy to reduce upkeep costs in a way that combines technical efficiency and beauty.

The idea of cliff-tops aflame with floral colour will be promoted in order to establish a prominent forum to celebrate and 'show off' Scarborough's garden design talents as part of the Public Space Framework.



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- 1 The fine public space of St Nicholas Cliff circa 1840
- 2 St Nicholas Cliff as a car park today
- 3 An impression of St Nicholas Cliff with flowers replacing car parking

Key Theme 2: Developing a framework for quality public space

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Indicative Key Project 4 The Valley Paradise and Cultural Route

Scarborough's Valley Gardens are a treasured asset most towns can only dream of: an emerald jewel that kisses the sea. The citizen and visitor is spell-bound by the lush sycamore valley, overarched by majestic Victorian bridges. These bridges frame a panorama of the bay and celebrate the town's connection with the sea. The spell is abruptly broken by an anti-climactic view of roundabouts that give priority to cars and heavy traffic.

The crest of Valley Gardens boasts a fine family of stone-clad buildings: Wood End (Natural History Museum), Crescent House (Scarborough Art Gallery) and Londesborough Lodge. These beautiful honey-coloured former villas have a connection with the valley in winter months but are shrouded by vegetation in spring and summer.

The Public Space Framework aims to design a clear, accessible, safe and welcoming cultural route which leads from the railway station to the sea via the Crescent and Valley Gardens. The new valley paths will provide a robust hierarchy of routes with quality lighting, benches, pavings, bins and signage. These paths will be pram and wheelchair friendly.

By reinstating the entrance from the railway station to Plantation Hill, a green 'welcome' and an attractive link for pedestrians will be provided.

- 1 Diagram showing the existing network of paths in the valley
- 2 Section showing the possibility of extending the beach over the underground car park in the valley
- 3 A diagram showing possibilities for the Valley Gardens Cultural Route: clearly defined pathways connecting Plantation Hill with the beach, via a revitalised necklace of cultural buildings

Scarborough Renaissance Charter 2002



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Key Theme 2: Developing a framework for quality public space

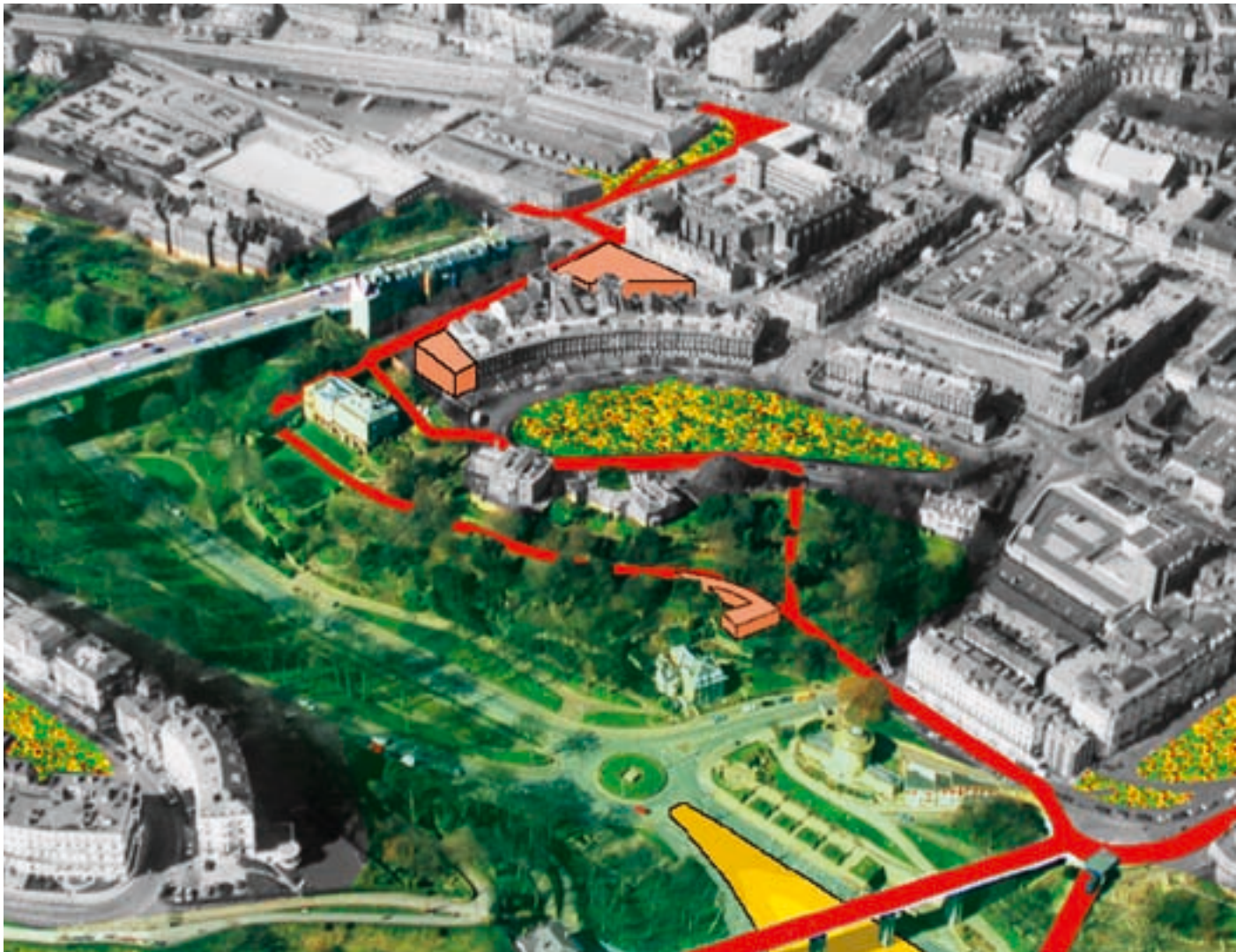
Scarborough's existing valleys, parks and gardens



Key Theme 2: Developing a framework for quality public space

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The possible Valley Paradise Cultural Route



Key Theme 2: Developing a framework for quality public space

Indicative Key Project 5

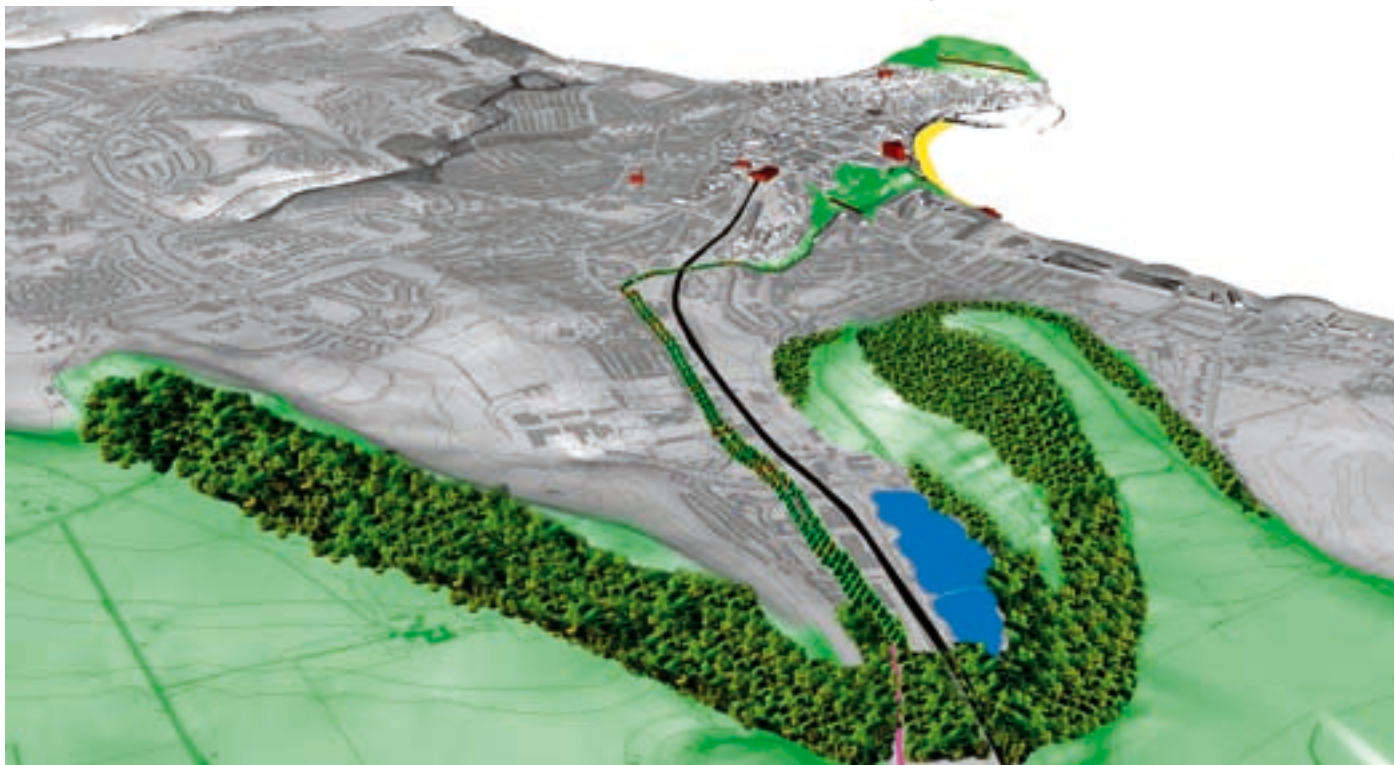
The Green Entry to Scarborough

The entry into Scarborough from the A64 has two conflicting qualities: green and industrial. The road is dominated by traffic signs, retail sheds and loud advertising hoardings. By contrast there is a healthy avenue of green foliage leading to Olivers Mount in the distance.

The Mere, an under-used public asset located just off this route, is a beautiful lake obscured by mushrooming industry and poor signage.

The Public Space Framework aims to:

- give Scarborough an entry which says 'quality'
- circumvent further development of light industrial buildings along the A64.
- design a dense green avenue from the Seamer Road corridor to Valley Gardens.



A green entry to Scarborough formed by a swathe of trees enclosing the A64 and a boulevard from the Seamer Road corridor to Valley Gardens
[Scarborough Renaissance Charter 2002](#)

Key Theme 2: Developing a framework for quality public space

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The Way Forward

The public space framework includes a number of key components that emphasise the importance of public space and Scarborough's remarkable natural landscape:

- A community commitment to using a Public Space Framework to drive the regeneration of Scarborough
- The creation of a continuous tissue of streets, squares and parks that connect the medieval town, Westborough, Valley Gardens and the seafront
- Ecological protection of the cliff slopes from further erosion and rising sea levels
- Development of picturesque scenic routes leading through the town and to the sea.

The Public Space Framework consists of more than purely spatial proposals. Considerations of safety, maintenance, vandalism, children, traffic and parking regulations and a local materials manual are all to be included within the overall concept.

The strategy will continue to be developed through the Town Team, the Renaissance Action Teams and the many committed local people and institutions who have shaped elements of the public space framework during the Scarborough Community Planning process. It is anticipated that this input will lead to a deliverable key project relating to public space.

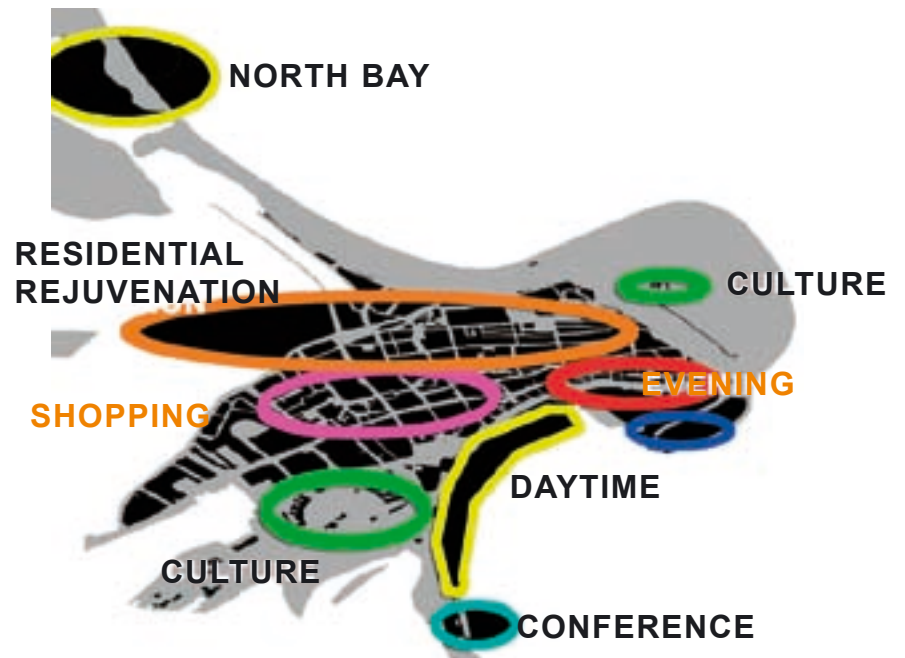
This community-driven project must be a worthwhile

investment, able to contribute to the transformation of the image of Scarborough into a unique, green, well-maintained town by the sea that supports contemporary urban lifestyles.

Action

Select key projects that will demonstrate the potential for the Public Space Framework to drive and begin to deliver the urban renaissance of Scarborough.

A diagram showing different areas and activities in Scarborough



Key Theme 3: Delivering culturally-led regeneration

Objective

- 3.1 Make critical connections between the elements of the town's artistic resources to bring about a cultural renaissance that is celebrated with an internationally recognised festival programme



Stephen Joseph Theatre



Scarborough Art Gallery

“We’d like to have a cultural explosion - a big bang!”

Key Theme 3: Delivering culturally-led regeneration

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Objective 3.1

Make critical connections between the elements of the town’s artistic resources to bring about a cultural renaissance that is celebrated with an internationally recognised festival programme

Urban renaissance can only become a fully meaningful term when it is accompanied by a change in attitude and when it values, nurtures and promotes existing artistic and cultural assets.

Scarborough is a seaside town that already benefits from a history of enthusiasm for entertainment and the arts. There is a significant cultural focus which is based on heritage, museum, gallery, library and photographic collections; the performing arts, visual arts, community arts, digital arts; and many different types of music including orchestral, choral, light opera, jazz, rock and cabaret. The creative impetus can be traditional or contemporary, the motivation may be to educate, enthrall, articulate, experiment or amuse.

The Stephen Joseph Theatre is a world-class, modern, state-of-the-art theatre building with Sir Alan Ayckbourn, an internationally renowned and respected playwright at the helm. The Rotunda Museum is unique in the history of geology. There is a high proportion of committed and enthusiastic arts practitioners working in the area and imparting their skills to the local community. Higher and Further Educational training in a wide range of arts subjects can be accessed at the University of Hull Scarborough Campus and Yorkshire Coast College.

The Scarborough Museums & Gallery service has developed innovative outreach projects to promote lifelong learning

Scarborough Renaissance Charter 2002

to a wider community. The presence of a municipal art gallery, two museums and a small contemporary arts centre in the Crescent identifies an existing, though under-resourced cultural quarter within the town. A new independent art gallery and mural project by local artists add to Scarborough’s artistic ambience.

The National Student Drama Festival attracts hundreds of young people to Scarborough every year. There are numerous dance schools; and Rounders, the Stephen Joseph Youth Theatre, provides an ongoing opportunity for local children and teenagers to learn skills and enjoy the exhilaration of performance. The DIY Collective arts and music project is a positive example of energy, motivation and talent displayed by disadvantaged and marginalised young people in the town. The YMCA Theatre and Leisure Centre is another successful community resource.

Arts and culture can become the catalyst for regeneration on a number of different levels. The effect may be an individual response or to provide an impact on a much wider scale. It can be one of the tools used to improve the local environment, develop a sustainable community, diversify the local economy, build capacity in skills and create employment.

Money isn’t everything but financial commitment does matter. The arts need to be accepted and understood in a serious way, whether as a form of cultural expression, a means of adding some aesthetic value to public space or as a creator of employment and income for the town. A well-defined local arts policy will act as a catalyst for collaboration; it will win friends, empower individuals and be economically beneficial to Scarborough and its residents. Towns need professional artists - they have a positive role to play and quality art is of value.



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Key Theme 3: Delivering culturally-led regeneration

A number of towns within Britain have profited from arts-focused regeneration, including St Ives, Gateshead, Walsall and Salford Quays. In these instances the development of a specific building has provided the impetus for wide-ranging improvements to the quality of life for those who live, work and play within the region. Other towns, such as Brighton and Stockton-on-Tees, have benefited from an explosion of interest in festival participation.

Festival events - with the opportunity to display a wide range of artistic enterprise - not only provide a 'feel good factor' but they can bring the community together. A festival can encourage, develop and exhibit local talent, communicate ideas, attract people from far and wide and generate wealth. Cultural expression engenders pride, especially pride of place.

The urban renaissance initiative in Scarborough has provided an opportunity to generate a shift in thinking and attitude. The town needs to sustain and champion the human and physical resources that exist already. Artistic activity may seem alien and irrelevant to some people, but if sensitively handled it can be an agent of social change and the bedrock of regeneration.

In Scarborough the opportunity to enjoy entertainment and a wide variety of cultural experience does exist, albeit hanging on by a thread in terms of disintegrating buildings and lack of funding.

Action

All aspects of artistic endeavour should be promoted as part of the urban renaissance of the town: not one form at the expense of another. It is an integral part of the holistic approach to the future that will revitalise Scarborough in terms of its role as a world-class town within a world-class region. The appointment of a senior Arts and Festivals Officer will be an appropriate start to the process of building the infrastructure required to deliver and sustain an artistic and cultural renaissance in Scarborough.



Inside Wood End Natural History Museum, Scarborough
Images above, left, the Rotunda Museum, right, the castle

Key Theme 3: Delivering culturally-led regeneration

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Key Theme 4: Diversifying the economy, attracting inward investment & delivering quality services

Objectives

- 4.1 Use public sector investment to create the favourable market conditions that will stimulate further investment by the private sector in quality commercial premises
- 4.2 Deliver the best quality services, shops, restaurants, hotels and other visitor facilities and ensure that every visitor's experience of Scarborough exceeds expectations and creates the conditions for positive and lasting memories
- 4.3 Reverse the decline in the housing market and create the conditions that are necessary to stimulate investment in the built environment
- 4.4 Develop the business and political conference infrastructure
- 4.5 Deliver educational and training programmes that enable business to compete in key regional, national and international markets

"We have to create a bandwagon that people want to jump onto: it's a great place to live, it's a great place to work, we just need the investors."



Key Theme 4: Diversifying the economy, attracting inward investment & delivering quality services

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Objective 4.1

Use public sector investment to create the favourable market conditions that will stimulate further investment by the private sector in quality commercial premises

The provision of appropriate business spaces and the ability to move people and ideas within and around the Borough and beyond are crucial requirements of the knowledge-based economy. These assets determine both the strength of the town as a production base and also Scarborough's strength as a location for consumption.

The nineties were characterised by a dependence on the possibility of indigenous growth. However, an analysis of property development opportunities in the Borough has stressed the reluctance of outside investors to invest in the area. It was suggested that relatively high levels of public subsidy would be needed to underpin any development activity. Scarborough Business Park is recognised as a strategic site within the Sub-Regional Plan and must be supported in order to provide modern facilities for both indigenous growth and in-migration of businesses.

Action

Promote sufficient commercial property development to help kick-start a new level of growth in the local economy. Public subsidy is required to compensate for the high development costs and low rents projected by potential investors in the town.

Objective 4.2

Deliver the best quality services, shops, restaurants, hotels and other visitor facilities and ensure that every visitor's experience of Scarborough exceeds expectations and creates the conditions for positive and lasting memories

The overwhelming message of April 2002's Community Planning Weekend was that if Scarborough is to achieve a renaissance in its fortunes, then this can only be done by raising the quality of every aspect of the town. This quality should be apparent in every product or service provided, hotel night offered, every street corner, square, alleyway and park encountered.

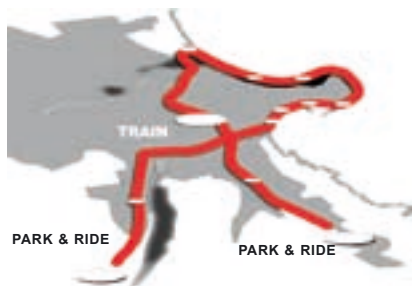
Without this attitude to service delivery, Scarborough will disappoint the consumer or visitor rather than fill him or her with a sense of delight. The memory of a person's encounter with all aspects of Scarborough will affect what is said about the place to others, and determine whether he or she returns to the town at some time in the future.

Action

Create a post for a Scarborough Total Quality, or Renaissance Manager. This Manager will work alongside the existing Town Centre Manager and be empowered to audit the processes that determine the quality of goods and services on offer and work with local businesses to provide guidance for their rectification should they fail to come up to agreed standards.

This action will require a town-wide agreement to adopt higher standards for quality, reliability and service as opposed purely to price.

Image above illustrates new mixed use and mixed tenure development focused around high quality public space



Key Theme 4: Diversifying the economy, attracting inward investment & delivering quality services

Objective 4.3

Reverse the decline in the housing market and create the conditions that are necessary to stimulate investment in the built environment

There has been a tendency for hotel and guest house use to be changed to private residential letting in some areas. This, combined with the fact that much of the council housing in Castle Ward is in need of investment in repair and upgrading, has had a damaging effect on the buoyancy of the housing market at the core of the town.

In the Old Town particularly there is a persuasive argument for the progressive replacement of much of the council housing to a form and layout which better respects the historic townscape and which would, if executed sensitively, achieve a more efficient use of space. If the many areas of open land currently given over to car parking were to be included within such a sensitive replacement programme, it is conceivable that an increase in the overall number and quality of affordable homes could be achieved with a complementary rise in market values.

Alongside these affordable homes a substantial number of new homes for sale could be constructed as part of an integrated mixed tenure development. This would result in increased local spending power which could support enhancement of the restaurant and leisure offer in Sandside and Eastborough and a wider range and increased sustainability of shops and services generally.

The adoption of a similar approach to the development of certain car parks and the sites of some moveable industrial and commercial uses along the Victoria Road corridor could

build on the resulting strengthened values in the Old Town. This would enable a major new residential development programme that could include sufficient high quality affordable housing to facilitate the displacement of smaller households from flats and houses in multiple occupation.

Rising confidence in the core of the town and from Queens Parade southwards and westwards would then enable former hotels and guest houses to be reclaimed, either for owner occupation or returned to their former use to extend the town's visitor bed-space capacity. Residential values in the area of smaller housing in the streets between Victoria Road and Columbus Ravine will then either recover enough to give rise to re-investment in repair and improvement or, alternatively, their poor condition and rising confidence elsewhere will stimulate proposals for their replacement by new housing for sale. Such an effect will avoid the need for the Borough Council to get involved in expensive clearance and redevelopment programmes, which would otherwise be the inevitable outcome of the current rate of disinvestment and decline.

Action

Scarborough Borough Council should use its assets - housing stock and possibly surface car parks - to lead intervention in both Castle Ward and the Victoria Road corridor. The aim of this intervention should be to deliver well designed mixed tenure (and where appropriate, mixed-use) redevelopment to drive property market values at the core of Scarborough upward.

This Action requires commitment to the delivery of the town's Park and Ride strategy that will lead to the release of car park sites in key areas (see diagram above).



Key Theme 4: Diversifying the economy, attracting inward investment & delivering quality services

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Objective 4.4

Develop the business and political conference infrastructure

Scarborough was once a major part of Britain's conference network, regularly attracting the conferences of all of the principal political parties. Although the town still hosts some major conferences, its facilities now lack investment and require substantial modernisation. For example, currently only 700 of Scarborough's hotel bed spaces have been assessed to be of the standard required to accommodate conference delegates.

However, with better air, road and rail connections to bring people into Scarborough, with modernised conference and business facilities and many more improved hotel bed-spaces, Scarborough should once again find it easy to take its place as the conference venue of choice and regain an international reputation. Conference delegates will marvel at the world-class setting of the town when the quality of the town's facilities have been radically transformed.

Action

Establish the key elements of infrastructure and the other facilities that will be required to sustain Scarborough as a major conference destination and use these benchmarks to work towards attracting a major conference to the town by 2007.

Image above illustrates the potential of the Spa Complex to develop into an internationally recognised conference centre

Scarborough Renaissance Charter 2002

Objective 4.5

Deliver educational and training programmes that enable business to compete in key regional, national and international markets

It is imperative that education and enterprise support is provided to ensure Scarborough's competitiveness in a dynamic and increasingly sophisticated economic environment. In these market conditions the needs of the future will inevitably differ markedly from the pattern of provision at present.

Given the external drivers of change that will affect all local and regional economies in the EU, and the evolving competitive needs of firms, it is unlikely that any economy will maintain its current internationally competitive position without a radical transformation of training and enterprise services and their delivery channels.

Action

There must be a revolution in the quantity and the quality of training and enterprise support. This will require:

- A quantitative increase in the volume of training and enterprise resources that is being invested in the current skill base of the labour market in order to meet government targets
- A qualitative change in the standard of training and enterprise provision so that it contributes to the upgrading of skills and ability to produce higher value-added services and products across the economy
- Better targeting on current and emerging needs, with a focus on value being added to employers' economic performance.

Key Theme 5: Building strong, stable and healthy communities

Objectives

- 5.1 Reduce the physical isolation and social exclusion experienced by those living in marginal circumstances to help them play a greater role in the renaissance of Scarborough
- 5.2 Use Scarborough's natural landscape and built environment to develop sport and recreational facilities and promote healthy lifestyles for all

"I'm convinced that if there are more activities, it will do a lot for people's health."



South Bay, Scarborough



The Cleveland Way



Key Theme 5: Building strong, stable and healthy communities

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Objective 5.1

Reduce the physical isolation and social exclusion experienced by those living in marginal circumstances to help them play a greater role in the renaissance of Scarborough

The concentration of poor and vulnerable people in Scarborough's enlarged private rented sector, which has colonised so many former hotels and guest houses, is as unhealthy for the town as it is for the tenants themselves.

The re-housing of private tenants into newly built affordable accommodation linked to training, job opportunities and, where appropriate, anti-drug dependency programmes, is a critical component of a wider strategy for the urban renaissance of the town through townscape improvement and enhanced streets and other public spaces.

Provision of new housing is a key element of that renaissance, and its design, construction, marketing and after-sales services, including decorating, furnishing and maintenance all offer disadvantaged people opportunities for employment. Beyond that, servicing the needs of incomers, visitors, existing and new employers and strengthened community services also provide opportunities for inclusion and involvement in Scarborough's renaissance.

Action

Scarborough Borough Council and its partner agencies must work in unison to deliver targeted programmes to assist those living on low incomes or in otherwise disadvantaged households to build their capacity and confidence and enable them to play a full and meaningful role in the life of the town. This action will be delivered in tandem with the intervention that is necessary to reverse the decline in property market values.

Objective 5.2

Use Scarborough's natural landscape and built environment to develop sport and recreational facilities and promote healthy lifestyles for all

Much of the land surface area of the Borough of Scarborough is within the North York Moors National Park. The Local Plan area has over 750 hectares of public open space, exceeding National Playing Fields Association standards and the Borough enjoys many kilometres of fine coastline. There are nine designated sites of Special Scientific Interest; a large number of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

Scarborough's spa water and the healthy benefits of a cold dip in the sea contributed to the town's success in times gone by. The Community Planning process has endorsed the notion that the time has come again to re-launch Scarborough as a centre of health and well-being – for residents, visitors, and those who wish to invest and work in the town.

The natural landscape of the moors and of the sea provide endless opportunities for rambling, biking, boating, surfing, skate boarding and swimming, all of which can be promoted as further reasons to visit or move to Scarborough for a healthy lifestyle in a stunning setting.

Action

Develop Scarborough's portfolio of recreational facilities: make connections between the key opportunities for healthy lifestyles; and promote Scarborough as a top destination for health-giving activity to residents, investors and visitors alike.

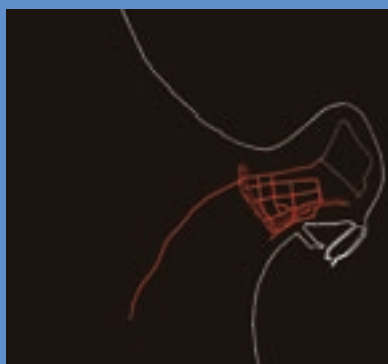
Photograph above left, shows Scarborough and the South Bay from Olivers Mount; above right, surfing in the South Bay

Key Theme 6: Planning for growth

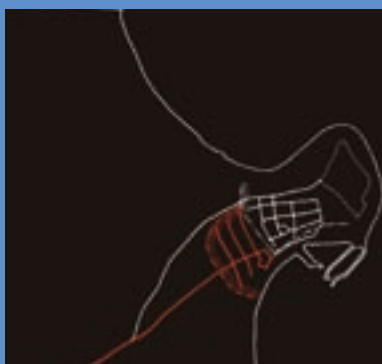
Objective

6.1 Define appropriate strategies that will deliver new homes, workplaces, jobs and services in ways that will increase Scarborough's critical mass and protect and enhance Scarborough's natural and historic environment

Scarborough's urban development from the twelfth to the twentieth centuries



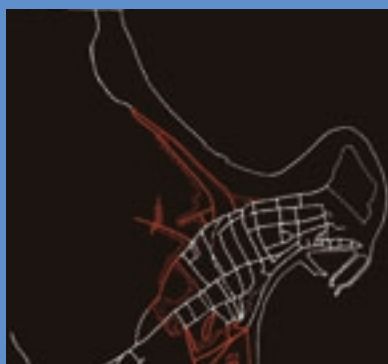
Scarborough in the twelfth century



Scarborough in the later Middle Ages

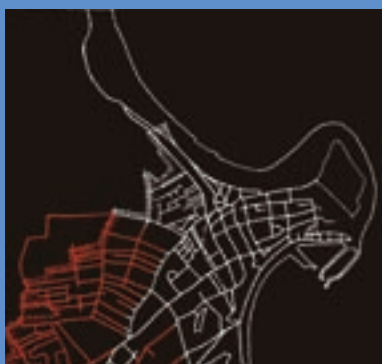


The 1750's

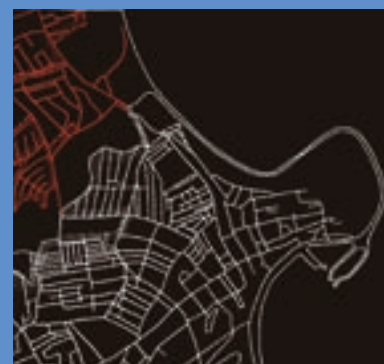


1852

Scarborough Renaissance Charter 2002



1892



1953



“We need to remember the past and look forward to the future. Scarborough must be more ambitious – if we aim high enough, we’ll get the resources.”

Key Theme 6: Planning for growth

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Objective 6.1

Define appropriate strategies that will deliver new homes, workplaces, jobs and services in ways that will increase Scarborough’s critical mass and protect and enhance Scarborough’s natural and historic environment

There was endorsement at April 2002’s Community Planning Weekend for the future growth of Scarborough, providing that this growth can deliver a better quality environment and act as a catalyst for wealth-creation in the town at the same time.

Clearly, residential growth of all kinds is only one element, though a very necessary one, of enlarging the capacity of the local economy to support local employment and to widen the appeal of the town to young and able households who might otherwise leave.

However, it is not just Scarborough’s permanent population that can be increased to bring new vitality to the town. Given the right strategies to boost the conference trade and tourism, tourists and conference delegates with real money to spend could start arriving in much larger numbers.

It is increasingly necessary to ensure that well paid jobs and the training which enables people to get them are in good supply. The town must also be attractive to the trainers, teachers and other professional and business people it needs to realise its full potential. It is not enough to simply provide low paid and unemployed households with better and more affordable housing.

A strengthened manufacturing base, more and better hotels, ‘sunrise’ industries and the ability to attract the best teachers and carers to the town will be more achievable if the housing offer is enhanced and the residential population

[Scarborough Renaissance Charter 2002](#)

increased. A larger population has potential civic and political effects that bring nearer the possibility of unitary status for the Borough. This would enhance the autonomy and flexibility of Scarborough, its principal town, and add to its influence at regional and national level.

Action

The Borough Council should use its assets and statutory powers to assemble development opportunities and put in place a robust planning framework that will enable the private sector to invest in key areas.

In addition, a sustainable growth strategy for Scarborough will mean:

- Setting a target for growth in line with Scarborough’s capacity to absorb additional population so as to enhance the town’s infrastructure rather than be detrimental to it
- Maximising the town’s wealth of vacant and under-used brown land in the town centre in tandem with using the allocated green land to the south
- Developing the economy and delivering quality jobs in step with new homes
- Delivering a quality social infrastructure together with the delivery of new homes and jobs
- Delivering quality transport solutions in step with growth - in effect a Green Travel Plan (that includes a quality Park and Ride scheme) for Scarborough - to ensure that movement around the town becomes increasingly a more harmonious and enjoyable experience.

Image above illustrates the potential for densification of Scarborough’s Old Town

Delivering the urban renaissance

Objectives

- 1 Identify projects that fully engage local people and can be delivered early in the programme whilst longer term projects are in development
- 2 Enable local people to fully participate in the delivery of Scarborough's urban renaissance through the Town Team as a key partner of the Local Strategic Partnership
- 3 Apply the principles of Best Value already established by government to the monitoring of delivery of the urban renaissance programme
- 4 Put the principles of openness and accountability at the heart of Scarborough's urban renaissance process
- 5 Create a framework that will enable the delivery of actions to be prioritised in an open and objective manner
- 6 Work with existing structures and funding sources to enable the delivery of Scarborough's urban renaissance to commence with minimal delay

"The Community Planning Weekend has shown that a meeting of minds is possible in Scarborough."



Delivering the urban renaissance

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Objective 1

Identify projects that fully engage local people and can be delivered early in the programme whilst longer term projects are in development.

The necessity to identify 'Quick Wins' is common to the delivery plans of many regeneration strategies. This is no less the case for Scarborough's urban renaissance programme where there is such extensive potential for change that major projects will take some years to develop before delivery can commence. Patience and understanding will be required. Meanwhile, some of the projects that local people who have participated in the urban renaissance process have put forward as potential 'Quick Wins' for consideration are:-

- A new location for the DIY Collective to meet as the lease on their current premises, The Warehouse, will expire in September 2002
- A programme of comprehensive renewal of the town's signage, information provision and street furniture
- Further research and data gathering that will be required to strengthen project proposals and attract funding
- Establish an arts / cultural development team to begin discussions on arts related infrastructure and project development
- Develop a central arts and culture information service to co-ordinate and regularly update a town-wide events guide

- Establish a 'Scarborough Council of Youth' and assist them in developing the town's surfing, skateboarding and five-a-side football facilities
- Take a pro-active approach to the control of key town centre 'eyesore' spaces and buildings
- Establish a town wide 'Parks Forum' and encourage the direct involvement of local people in maintaining and developing the town's parks
- Establish a town wide 'Forum of Life-Long Learners' whose first task will be to carry out an audit of the community's training needs
- Further develop the town's new web site as a communications hub for marketing, debate and information exchange in the town
- Establish a local investment fund and / or community chest
- Develop action plans for the Spa Complex, the South Bay Pool, Scarborough Business Park, a quality Park and Ride strategy and a housing renewal strategy
- Implement key public space and environmental improvement projects.

Action

Put in place the conditions that will enable a success to be celebrated every six months from now and for the next twenty years.

Image above illustrates the potential for creating a pedestrian friendly promenade along Foreshore Road and Sandside



Delivering the urban renaissance

Objective 2

Enable local people to fully participate in the delivery of Scarborough's urban renaissance through the Town Team as a key partner of the Local Strategic Partnership

A founding principle of Scarborough's urban renaissance programme is the belief that the process of change in Scarborough can only be delivered sustainably if there is an effective partnership between the public, private and community sectors. The Town Team that was created at the outset of the process and the Renaissance Forum that has been in existence since the Community Planning Weekend are now both central to the delivery of this strategy.

Action

Working under the collective umbrella of the Renaissance Forum, everyone with an interest in the future of Scarborough must continue to work together, and build on the spirit of co-operation that was so evident at the Community Planning Weekend, leading ultimately to the 're-birth' of the town itself.

In time, the Town Team and the Renaissance Forum should be given key partner status and play a role in the Local Strategic Partnership, enabling the urban renaissance programme to be delivered according to the emerging Community Strategy for the Borough.

Objective 3

Apply the principles of Best Value already established by government to the monitoring of delivery of the urban renaissance programme

The public participation process in Scarborough has revealed the need for those who are responsible for delivering public services to be open, accountable and to constantly have regard to the need for 'joined up' approaches to service delivery. The government has established a Best Value regime that applies to the public sector and the way in which its services are delivered, and there is no reason why the same principles should not apply to the delivery of the urban renaissance programme in Scarborough.

The principles of Best Value are:

- being accountable to local people
- looking to continuously improve
- setting targets and publicly reporting achievement against them
- cutting across departmental boundaries
- developing partnerships with the private sector, communities and agencies, and between authorities
- being open about service delivery.

Action

Put the principles of Best Value at the heart of the monitoring and appraisal process for the delivery of Scarborough's urban renaissance programme.

Photographs above show participants in Scarborough's Renaissance Forum, July 2002



Delivering the urban renaissance

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Objective 4

Put the principles of openness and accountability at the heart of Scarborough's urban renaissance

Those involved in delivering the urban renaissance should work by consensus within the framework of existing regulation related to planning and the arrangements for governance identified for key partners within Local Strategic Partnerships. This will allow the Town Team to discharge its strategic influence and allow it to deliver its monitoring role against the plan produced by the community.

Action

The Town Team and all others engaged in Scarborough's renaissance should follow the principles established by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (Neill and Nolan), which are:

1. Selflessness
2. Integrity
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Openness
6. Honesty
7. Leadership

Objective 5

Create a framework that will enable the delivery of actions to be prioritised in an open and objective manner

Prioritising Action

The participation of local people and agencies in the Community Planning Weekend held in April 2002 and in all of the research work that preceded it, resulted in the identification of a very large number of projects. These projects are of different scales and might be delivered with varying degrees of certainty.

In June 2002, the Town Team agreed a set of criteria against which to assess and prioritise projects for delivery. Using these criteria the Town Team and the Renaissance Action Forum are encouraged to assess each project in turn to establish whether a project:-

- 1 Would make a visible and radical improvement to Scarborough's streets, squares, alleyways and buildings
- 2 Directly supports the health of the local economy
- 3 Is in line with the Vision for Scarborough identified by the Community Planning process
- 4 Is easy to implement in policy, ownership and / or financial terms
- 5 Engages local people & builds the capacity of communities
- 6 Can attract funding from existing budgets or funding sources
- 7 Enhances the prospects of sustainable development
- 8 Builds on the aims of existing projects or projects that are already planned.



Delivering the urban renaissance

Objective 6

Work with existing structures and funding sources to enable the delivery of Scarborough's urban renaissance to commence with minimal delay

Funding

At the time of writing, Yorkshire Forward are actively pursuing opportunities for capital projects for public realm improvements to be delivered early. This approach is in line with the strategy to deliver 'Quick Wins' that will build ownership and commitment to the strategy in the wider community.

Beyond the strategy for early delivery and Yorkshire Forward's other resources that will in due course be made available, Scarborough will use existing funds secured through the UK government's Single Regeneration Budget and the European Union's Objective 2 fund, already allocated to the town.

In addition to these resources and the inevitable 'bending' of mainstream budgets to further the objectives of the urban renaissance process, Scarborough should be looking to the National Lottery and to private sector investors of all kinds for the delivery of its programme.

Given the existence of these resources, it is important for Scarborough to agree its priorities now so that that funding can be drawn down from future budgets. Otherwise, without prompt action, the opportunity provided by the recently gained momentum will be lost.

Any funding will follow the principles of probity and regularity required in public life and will be dealt with under existing arrangements and control mechanisms.

The Delivery Vehicle

Scarborough Renaissance Charter 2002

The legal entity that will oversee the delivery of the urban renaissance programme will be the Scarborough Borough Council. In order to achieve this, the Borough Council is investigating ways of integrating the programme into its existing responsibilities and work-load.

The Borough Council is anxious to make progress and keen to see change delivered on the ground. The importance of delivering on as many as possible expectations raised through the participatory process is now paramount.

The Council's Chief Executive is therefore pursuing all avenues to ensure that available resources are deployed effectively to this end.



The Town Hall, Scarborough
Photograph above shows Scarborough's working harbour

**“We have got to face the modern world,
not look back to times which can no
longer be.”**

Afterword by Sir Alan Ayckbourn

41

“A few years ago due to natural coastline erosion a significant Scarborough landmark, the Holbeck Hall Hotel, toppled rather spectacularly into the sea.

Fortunately, in this instance, loss of property occurred without loss of life. But I remember feeling at the time that there was something rather symbolic about the whole event.

Wasn't all of Scarborough essentially going exactly the same way? It was as if gradually over the decades, since its post-war heydays, the spirit of this once prosperous town was inexorably slipping lemming-like towards a watery death.

I first came to the town in 1957 and have been able to witness the decline at first hand. The neglect and demolition of some of the finest buildings; to be replaced by totally inappropriate, ill judged architecture. Its decline as a tourist resort and the subsequent failure to attract a new type of visitor in realistic numbers. Its losing out as a major conference centre due to ailing facilities and failure to modernise adequately or in time. Its insistence on hanging on grimly to the outmoded traditional seaside image, coupled with a failure to introduce or keep up with the new.

The public gardens, once the town's pride became a sad shadow, due partly to under-funding and increasing vandalism. Quality shops closed. Inferior, often temporary ones, replaced them.

An 'entertainment' town which in 1957 boasted seven thriving theatres and three cinemas today has only one full time theatre and two occasional ones (both under threat). There is no full time 'designated' cinema at all. There are signs that belatedly this might be changing.

But the effort to achieve this will need to be concerted and considerable. The first thing to alter will have to be the attitude of Scarborough to the future it sees for itself.

Thanks to the initiative provided by Yorkshire Forward's urban renaissance programme it is now in our hands to make drastic changes. There is money available to do great things; but it is only available if the attitude, the spirit and the ideas are right and inspired.

In my opinion, they have to be. Jumping off a cliff is surely no real alternative to saving something we love.”

Alan Ayckbourn

July 2002



Weekend 26 April 2002

