

News Release

from the Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company



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City Regeneration plans raised in Parliament

The future of Gloucester's regeneration was debated in the Houses of Parliament yesterday after Gloucester MP, Parmjit Dhanda, secured an Adjournment Debate on the South West Regional Development Agency's (SWRDA) support for Gloucester.

Mr Dhanda praised the SWRDA for their commitment to Gloucester to date, but called for the organisation to: 'Finish what they had started'.

He said: "I accept that there are real difficulties at a time of economic downturn and recession, and that new challenges face regeneration companies and particularly RDAs. Understandably, the Government have looked at their budgets and dipped into them for important measures to fight the recession."

Mr Dhanda raised the issue of the Economic Linkages between Gloucester Quays and the City Centre.

He said: "SWRDA had promised £7.4 million to ensure that we have good, strong public realm linkages from the town centre to Gloucester Docks. Creating homes and jobs are the priorities of the urban regeneration company. It is imperative to continue what we have begun—and more than begun—by maintaining investment through the RDA."

Greg Smith, Chair of the Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company, said: "Almost as soon as he was elected in 2001, Parmjit called for Gloucester to have an urban regeneration company to help the City create the prosperous new future that it deserves and now that the economic environment is becoming tougher he is setting out, at the highest levels within Government, a determined and strong case to continue supporting Gloucester.

"Whilst we appreciate the significant public funding that Gloucester has already received through the SWRDA, reducing funding at such a critical time in the City's regeneration would be a massive 'own goal' on behalf of the Government. Private

investors are now, for the first time in decades, putting money into the City, but unless the 'carrot' of public investment continues in areas which have not had such investment for decades, this is in danger of flowing much more slowly, jeopardising jobs and future economic prosperity."

The Adjournment debate last night followed a question put to the Prime Minister week by Parmjit when he called for Regional Development Agencies to continue to invest in urban regeneration.

Gordon Brown confirmed that the Government will support the regional development agencies and will continue to invest, but did not set out where and what level this investment fall across the country.

Editors' notes

Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company (GHURC) Ltd

The GHURC area includes 33 ancient monuments, 490 listed buildings, including 37 Grade 1 and 51 Grade II* listed and 36 buildings on the 'At Risk' register. A quarter of the Gloucester Heritage URC area, 88 hectares, is covered by conservation area designations.

The GHURC 10-year plan is based on the regeneration of seven key sites within the City centre. Nicknamed the 'Magnificent Seven', these are: Gloucester Docks, Gloucester Quays, The Railway Triangle, King's Square, Greyfriars, Blackfriars/Westgate Quay and The Canal Corridor. Alongside these projects, Gloucester Heritage URC is planning an integrated public realm and public art strategy linking together the key developments.

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