

The Herald

1000 jobs target in £55m renewal plan

From the archive

Published on 24 Nov 1989

A £55m plan was approved yesterday which will create 1000 jobs and transform a rundown part of Glasgow's East End.

Work will start immediately on a five-year programme centred on the square mile north of the Gallowgate.

Glasgow District Council has enlisted the SDA, Strathclyde region and the Government's own Scottish Homes as partners in the overall steering group.

Labour leader Councillor Pat Lally views the agreement as a "major milestone" towards the creation of a 21st century city.

The redevelopment, approved by the policy and resources committee, follows a £20,000 study commissioned two years ago from outside consultants.

Their recommendations for rejuvenating the area were worked into the council's own blueprint for the vast area bounded by High Street, Gallowgate, Bellgrove Street and Duke Street.

The money will come from the councils, Government agencies and the private sector. Council officials confirmed last night that a long list of compulsory purchase orders has been prepared, ready for serving. This will allow the district council to acquire acreage vital to the redevelopment. It will also enable it to demolish some old buildings on the site.

However the plan projects the provision of more than 800 new or rehabilitated houses. Where existing houses need to be refurbished there will be extensive use of housing improvement grants.

The main features of the North Gallowgate project provide for three points.

- * Modernising and extending the present car market site and converting the former meat market into work spaces for traditional trades and crafts.

- * Constructing a major housing development, to be called Heritage Village, which will incorporate workshops and existing shops in the rundown Melbourne Street area.

- * Creating the Molendinar Business Park in a parkland setting with extensive underground car parking and road and rail connections.

The plan envisages a population gain of 2000 for the area and about 1000 jobs being created by the introduction of shops, offices and businesses.

It will mean that the present Merchant City will creep eastward from the city centre and eventually merge with the Heritage Village.

During the summer, council officers and the council's architectural consultants were involved in consultations with East End groups including the Barras Enterprise Trust and the East End Executive. There were no objections and the proposals were welcomed overall.