



The Thomas Consultancy



Regeneration

1. The overall regeneration market is estimated to be worth £3bn this year (and growing).
2. “Sustainability” has become a key word (along with “legacy” especially for the 2012 Olympics), as the long term outlook takes more of the centre stage.
3. The government is assisting brownfield development by simplifying the planning laws, with the target of 60% of new houses being developed on brownfield sites being an example.
4. The Government through the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has launched “The Sustainable Communities Plan”. The plan is backed by an investment of £22bn over 3 years, marking a new approach to housing, planning and economic development
5. English Partnerships - as the National Regeneration Agency - has an annual budget of £500m and manages to leverage another £500m of private sector investment, operating in 5 regions. Acting as a catalyst and investor, it promotes best practice in regeneration and sustainability, notably in high quality housing and promoting such initiatives as MMC. In 2005, it was responsible for nearly 4,500 housing starts, of which half were affordable.
6. The 9 Regional Development Agencies have a combined annual spend of £2bn. One of their 5 statutory purposes is “to further economic development and regeneration.”
7. The Housing Corporation has an annual budget of c£1bn. It works with housing associations and others to invest in social housing and is investing £3.3bn in 2004/6 to allow associations to provide around 67,000 new homes.
8. The 2012 London Olympics will finally give the Thames Gateway redevelopment (including up to 90,000 homes) the impetus it needs after a slow start.
9. There are 20 Urban Regeneration Companies (URCs), promoted by the government and established by local partners, in order to achieve a focused, integrated regeneration strategy for key towns and cities. As an example, RegenCo (Sandwell URC)'s remit is to attract 20,000 jobs and over £1 billion investment to the area by 2020.

