



Millennium Communities Programme



English Partnerships
The National Regeneration Agency

What is the Programme delivering?

- over 9,000 new EcoHomes 'Excellent' homes;
- more than 70,000 sq m commercial floorspace;
- more than 1,100 new jobs;
- over £1.5bn private sector investment attracted;
- £170m investment by English Partnerships;
- 150 ha of brownfield land remediated;
- seven new schools or college buildings;
- eight new community buildings; and
- five new health centres.

Millennium Communities Programme

Launched by English Partnerships alongside the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG, formerly the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) to create seven exemplar sustainable communities, it is anticipated that the programme will deliver over 9,000 EcoHomes 'Excellent' homes to inspire both the development industry and the house-buying public. Momentum is increasing with 955 homes completed at the end of 2006 and a further 895 under construction.

Each of the seven communities will include green spaces, wildlife areas and recreation facilities producing quality places where people want to live. Good transport links, easy access to shops and community facilities are a priority in addition to new Homezones, giving pedestrians and cyclists equality with car-users. All the communities do not look the same with each one individually master-planned and designed to take account of local opportunities, allowing talented architects and successful developers to meet the Millennium Community challenge.

Who is choosing to live in these new communities?

In order to attract a wide range of residents, there will be a variety of house types. Current sales rates are good, demonstrating that there is a market for these high-quality communities. Allerton Bywater, near Leeds for example, initially generated enquiries from local people who were attracted by something new, but enquiries are also now coming from people who want to buy into this environmental lifestyle. Homezones, Secure by Design, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, live-work facilities and children's play area all contribute to the overall offer, plus work opportunities and newly refurbished community facilities make Allerton Bywater an attractive and desirable place to live.

Themes

Each Millennium Community has a different theme showcasing particular approaches to sustainable living. These include integrated transport at Hastings, life-long learning in Telford, community integration at South Lynn and information communications technology at Oakgrove, where around 2,000 homes will have broadband connections.



Development underway at the Monkey Puzzle Tree, Telford Millennium Community



Great Places Housing Group development at New Islington Millennium Community, East Manchester



Performance standards

Millennium Communities set standards for energy efficiency, water consumption, building defects, recycling and health and safety on site. To ensure that the Millennium Communities remain exemplar, standards are updated with each new development agreement. Latest performance requirements include:

- BRE EcoHomes 'Excellent' and BREEAM 'Excellent'
- reduced energy consumption and embodied energy
- renewable energy
- reduced water consumption
- reduced domestic and construction waste
- lower defects and snagging items
- improved noise reduction
- better space standards in line with Scheme Design Standards
- affordable housing
- 'A' rated white goods;
- car clubs and cycle facilities
- sustainable building materials
- Lifetime Homes and Secure by Design
- improved site health and safety
- IT enabling.

Millennium Community standards have already been achieved in a range of settings from urban apartments at Greenwich designed by the renowned architect Ralph Erskine, to the more traditional family homes at Allerton Bywater.

Public buildings also have to achieve high standards by qualifying for the Building Research Establishment's BREEAM 'Excellent' rating. The new community centre in Hastings has a number of innovations such as a green roof, schools at Oakgrove in Milton Keynes and Greenwich are some of the first BREEAM 'Excellent' schools in the country, and a state-of-the-art health centre is being provided at New Islington, East Manchester.

Award winning quality

Setting out to achieve high-quality and innovation, success has been acknowledged through the number of national awards gained by the Millennium Communities.

Greenwich Millennium Village has won over 35 awards to date from a host of prestigious bodies such as the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Civic Trust and the Property Awards. With more completions approaching and new phases due to start GMV will continue to find recognition for its excellence.

New Islington, East Manchester is characterised by iconic design guided by Will Alsop's masterplan. The quality of public open space at New Islington is superb, with the creation of a water park and canals creating new waterside locations. Two social housing schemes developed by Great Places Housing Group have now won design awards. Properties at Islington Square, designed by Fashion Architecture Taste (FAT) Architects, were the first completed homes and received accolades for distinctive facades interpreting dutch gables. The second phase at Piercy Street is designed by De Metz Forbes Knight and was recently commended by DCLG. The New Islington Partnership itself has won an award for Regeneration Partnership of the Year.

Allerton Bywater, near Leeds has also been the recipient of a prestigious award. The new Network Centre designed and developed by Networkspace and Langtree Group units won the 2006 BREEAM Awards for industrial units.

Community engagement

Engaging with the local community at an initial stage is essential. Local residents are encouraged to get involved in the early stages of planning and design and to gain a sense of ownership by taking a stake in the future of the community.

In Hastings a week-long consultation on the development framework led to design changes and a commitment to greater involvement of the community when selecting the developer. A monthly newsletter ensures that local people are informed of on-going developments.

Providing community facilities early in the development process is an important method of establishing links with existing communities to prepare the way for new development. At Allerton Bywater near Leeds, new amenities include the conversion of a former school providing childcare and a library. The transformed Miners' Welfare Hall is the focus for a wide range of activities including bowling, cricket, tea dances, a luncheon club and a skatepark.

Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park and Greenwich Millennium Village Phase 1, London Thames Gateway



Morston Assets development, Yours South Lynn Millennium Community. © Morston Assets and English Partnerships 2007



Laying the sedum roof of The Bridge community centre at Ore Valley, Hastings Millennium Community



Brownfield land remediation

Areas of operation

Legacy

All the Millennium Communities sites presented diverse environmental challenges needing expert attention before the construction could begin. From a neglected housing estate in Manchester and a former coalmine near Leeds, to a former gasworks at Greenwich Peninsula calling on many different remediation methods.

Where are the Millennium Communities?

- 1** Allerton Bywater Millennium Community (near Leeds)
- 2** Greenwich Millennium Village (London/Thames Gateway)
- 3** Hastings Millennium Community (East Sussex)
- 4** New Islington Millennium Community (East Manchester)
- 5** Oakgrove Millennium Community (Milton Keynes)
- 6** South Lynn Millennium Community (King's Lynn)
- 7** Telford Millennium Community (East Ketley)



At Oakgrove, Milton Keynes community involvement has moved a step further with the proposal to create a Commonhold Association. This will result in a sustainable self-governing community with day-to-day management responsibilities for the shared facilities.

A similar scheme is also being developed in South Lynn, where the developer, Morston Assets, is to establish a Community Trust giving residents the responsibility to maintain shared facilities such as courtyards and Homezones.



Working in partnership

“Taylor Woodrow is very proud to be involved in the Millennium Communities Programme and at East Ketley, Telford, we are working with our partners to challenge every aspect of the development process, with the intention of creating a real step-change in the industry. From the outset, our vision has been to create a vibrant, highly sustainable new community and the project has already broken new ground in its approach to community based planning.”

Nick Smith, Managing Director,
Taylor Woodrow Developments
Lead developer for the Telford Millennium
Community, East Ketley

“The agenda for New Islington Millennium Community is very rich. We want to demonstrate that world-class architecture, mixed-income communities and an innovative green agenda are capable of working together to make this area very special.”

Tom Bloxham MBE, Chairman,
Urban Splash
Lead developer for New Islington Millennium
Community, East Manchester

Front cover images

View across the Sustainable Urban Drainage system to Miller Homes' development, Allerton Bywater Millennium Community, near Leeds

First residents, James Parker and Katie Sirrel moving into a Morston Assets development, Yours South Lynn Millennium Community © Morston Assets and English Partnerships 2007

Above images (clockwise from top left)

Oakgrove School, Oakgrove Millennium Community, Milton Keynes

A street party celebration to open Islington Square in July 2006, New Islington Millennium Community, East Manchester. © Regeneration New Islington

Local residents enjoy the Open Day at The Bridge community centre, Hastings Millennium Community

Existing school, Telford Millennium Community, East Ketley

English Partnerships is working with the following partners on the Millennium Communities Programme

Registered Social Landlords

Beth Johnson Housing Group
Freebridge Community Housing
Home Housing
Hyde Housing Group
Manchester Methodist Housing Association (Great Places Housing Group)
Moat Housing Association
Ujima Housing Association

Local authorities

Borough of Telford & Wrekin
East Sussex County Council
Hastings Borough Council
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
Leeds City Council
London Borough of Greenwich
Manchester City Council
Milton Keynes Council
Norfolk County Council

Regional Delivery Bodies

East of England Development Agency
New East Manchester Ltd
Sea Space
Yorkshire Forward

Developers

Barratts
Bellway
Countryside Properties
Crest Nicholson
Fleming Developments
Miller Homes
Morston Assets
Networkspace
Taylor Woodrow
Urban Splash

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English Partnerships

English Partnerships is the national regeneration agency helping the Government to support high quality sustainable growth in England.

We have five core business areas and deliver our objectives through:

- Developing our own portfolio of strategic projects.
- Acting as the Government's specialist advisor on brownfield land.
- Ensuring that surplus public sector land is used to support wider Government objectives, especially the implementation of the *Sustainable Communities Plan*.
- Helping to create communities where people can afford to live and want to live.
- Supporting the Urban Renaissance by improving the quality of our towns and cities.

To sign up to our newsletter for regular updates on the Millennium Communities Programme, please visit:
<http://mcnetwork.englishpartnerships.co.uk>

www.englishpartnerships.co.uk

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