



Media Release

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NEWLY FORMED 'GOLDEN TRIANGLE PARTNERSHIP' ATTRACTS FUNDING

A 'Golden Triangle Housing Partnership', initially formed by Harrogate, Leeds and York councils, has resulted in major funding from the Regional Housing Board totalling up to £7.5m over the next five years.

The partnership has been successful in bidding for 'transformational funding'. This success means that it will be able to lever in an equivalent amount of match funding from the private sector for a range of initiatives to help local people access the expensive housing market in the "Golden Triangle", the property hotspot based around Harrogate, York and north Leeds.

The original partnership was created after a group of housing and planning professionals from the three local authorities came together to talk about their common problems of providing affordable housing.

The partnership subsequently expanded and now includes representatives from Home Housing Association, Yorkshire Housing, the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber, the Housing Corporation, and the York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit.

Funding of £500,000 has been released for 2005/2006 to pilot a home ownership assistance scheme, with the aim of increasing housing opportunity for first time buyers and key workers within the Golden Triangle.

Dawn Saxby, Assistant Director of Housing for Harrogate Council, said: "The average house price in the Harrogate district currently stands at about £195,000. This is **73%** higher than the regional average for Yorkshire and the Humber and **17%** higher than the average for North Yorkshire. Whilst this average dropped slightly from last year, there is no sign that things are going to get any better.

" Working together through the partnership means that we can get the most value out of initiatives, including attracting funding, to help local people on lower incomes access the housing market in our areas."

The partnership is also making a bid for funding to the Housing Corporation under its Innovation and Good Practice grant scheme to pilot a range of other initiatives. A full housing market assessment within the golden triangle area is also planned. This will be supplemented by research carried out by the renowned Joseph Rowntree Foundation in York into the drivers and effects of the golden triangle phenomenon." ENDS

FURTHER INFORMATION: is available from Dawn Saxby, Assistant Director of Housing on 01423 556851.