

9 November 2009

Anne Mulroy,
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Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Bridging Newcastle Gateshead
Sen. to AM
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Dear Anne

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for an excellent and instructive presentation and tour of the Bridging Newcastle Gateshead HMR Pathfinder area.

The approach of linking economic growth with restructuring failed housing markets is vital, and the ambition to deliver a much wider agenda in Gateshead will place the Pathfinder in a strong position going forward. As always there is a need to look more widely across the regeneration agenda to the impacts of intervention and we discussed the challenges in taking forward the whole programme.

It is clear that the work programme and interventions that you are leading have helped build strong partnership working across the city region, and the great strength of your approach lies in the collaborative working that you have developed to find solutions to deep seated structural problems.

The tightening fiscal climate in which we find ourselves provides challenges, but also opportunities, in which to be smarter about prioritisation and about taking difficult choices to ensure that we continue collectively to deliver sustainable mixed communities that are well designed and are delivered in tandem with economic opportunity for all. Ministers' priorities over the coming months will be to ensure that delivery and value for money are at the heart of the Governments approach, and I am confident that you are in a good place to deliver on both these fronts.

I congratulate you on your success to date. Please do pass on my thanks to all involved in organising the visit.

Yours sincerely,



Terrie Alafat
Director
Housing Delivery and Homelessness