

Medway Council

Delivering the new river city of the Thames Gateway
Cllr Rodney Chambers, Leader of Medway Council

"I'll believe it when I see it..."

I lost count of how many times I've heard those words many years and many artists' impressions ago...

But these days I hear it less and less. And a year from now I'm confident that all but Medway's most hardened sceptics will have stopped saying it.

Because in 2008/2009 people will see many of those artist's impressions becoming reality. They will see major physical change as the 'delivery phase' of Medway's £1billion regeneration programme gathers pace.

On our flagship Rochester Riverside regeneration site, with its great views of our famous castle and cathedral, they will see developers appointed to build the first 600 of 2,000 new homes – together with a striking new hotel.

Away from the 70 acres of Rochester Riverside, regeneration projects will start to take shape on numerous other key sites across the emerging new 'river city' of the Thames Gateway.

That is the vision. Nothing less. A new world-class City of Medway with Chatham transformed as the city's retail, commercial and cultural hub. Pioneering architect Ken Yeang has seen the 'vast potential' of Chatham Waterfront. His master-plans for the site show striking

residential towers, a hotel, a theatre and conference centre – landmark buildings, a city skyline.

We have 9,000 students in four universities at Chatham Maritime, a population of 250,000 set to grow to 300,000 and excellent transport links to London, Dover and Europe. In 2009, high-speed commuter services on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link will put us half an hour from central London.

Our regeneration drive will deliver 16,000 new homes and 40,000 jobs.

Medway has become a favourite location for TV news coverage of regeneration stories because we have the shots they need – shots of regeneration in action.

Leading Thames Gateway figures have described us as a shining example of how to deliver major regeneration. They talk of the 'Medway model'.

Our regeneration programme was kick-started by £120million of public money for the acquisition and preparation of prime development sites along seven miles of the River Medway. Now private sector money is turning our vision into reality.

We're developing an 'investment partnership' with regeneration specialists St Modwen Properties PLC.



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