

## **Medway Renaissance**

Medway Renaissance is the Council's regeneration delivery unit, funded through the Department of Communities and Local Government to deliver the regeneration schemes as part of the Thames Gateway project.

### **Program origin and planning**

The Rochester Riverside site began to take prominence in the 1992 Local Plan the site was listed as an established employment site with an allocation for housing. Redevelopment of the site using B1 uses was favoured in the plan. The 1993 deposit Kent Structure Plan (adopted in 1996) called for a reinvestment in the urban fabric of underused and derelict land with a focus on riverside sites, this allowed for a focus on the site to continue.

In October 1997 an Area Development Framework for Rochester and Chatham Riverside was produced in order to support the CPO process and to help support an outline planning application when it was submitted in the future. The project was also listed as a key regeneration site in the Medway Waterfront Strategy, produced by Medway Renaissance in 2004.

### **Land and planning authorities**

The site was in a number of ownerships that were predominantly brought into Council ownership via a CPO in the late 1990s. SEEDA funding was used to purchase further plots of land on the site that were not included within the CPO.

Medway Council is the LPA. Medway is a unitary authority.

### **Project evolution**

The Council adopted a development brief in 2004 following two unsuccessful attempts at appointing a developer, predominately due to not being able to make the project financially viable. Outline planning permission for the whole site and a full planning permission for the engineering works was achieved in 2005. £28m of CLG funding was awarded for the enabling works. In 2007, following the marketing of the site two developers were appointed for parts of the site, one for the hotel quarter and one for phase 1, both developers are now progressing their scheme designs.

### **Funding**

Medway Council (originally Rochester City Council) funded the CPO in the late 1990s. SEEDA contributed through the purchasing of two parcels of land on the site. CLG funding (£38m) has paid for the engineering works that have been ongoing on the site, contributing to a total public sector contribution of £85m on the project. The developers will fund the S.106 requirements.



Rochester Riverside (ARR)

