

Cash released for job creation development

Apr 2 2010 By Rachel Wearmouth – The Northern Echo

MULTI-MILLION pound funding has been secured allowing work on a North-East business park with the potential to create 2,000 jobs to start this summer.

Despite the economic gloom, the Durham Gate project, in Spennymoor, County Durham, is ahead of schedule, with highways and demolition work worth £8.5m expected to start.



The developers are celebrating after the funding package with One North East, Durham County Council and the Homes and Communities Agency was agreed.

More than 300 homes, a number of offices, a hotel, retail and leisure facilities, a pub and a day nursery will be built on the former Black and Decker site, in an attempt to transform the recession-hit area.

During the first phase of the development, buildings will be knocked down in preparation for a road network, which will tackle an ongoing

problem with congestion on the A167 Great North Road, and other adjoining routes south of Durham City, in Thinford.

The A167 main roundabout will be doubled in size, creating an additional spoke for the site's main entrance.

A roundabout will be built where York Hill Road meets the A167, directing people away from the Thinford roundabout and easing northbound traffic into Spennymoor.

Councillor Neil Foster, portfolio holder for regeneration for Durham County Council, said: "Durham Gate is the most significant regeneration project in County Durham, and this highways work is of vital importance to the area, so we are very excited about what has been agreed to tackle the traffic issues in the vicinity of the site."

Allan Cook, director of Arlington Real Estate, a Durham Gate partner, said: "Since planning permission was achieved last year, work has been non-stop behind the scenes, and this funding will allow the first visible signs to take place for the outside world to see."

David Cramond, director of capital development at One North East, said: “We are supporting infrastructure development at Durham Gate that will open up 26 hectares of brownfield land for business accommodation, with associated retail, leisure facilities, a hotel and new residential development.

“This key economic regeneration opportunity will bring private investment into County Durham and could create more than 2,000 jobs.”

Neil McMillan, director of Carillion Developments, which will carry out the work, said: “We appreciate that this work will take some time and it will not be without disruption for motorists.

“However, we will do everything to ensure people in the area are as well informed as possible, and to keep inevitable disruption to a minimum.”