

# Wakefield go-ahead for £100m canalside plans

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THE flagship £100m redevelopment of Wakefield's waterfront has been given the green light.

Detailed planning permission has been granted for the first phase of the scheme, triggering the release of almost £14m of public money.

It means work can start building new homes and offices and restoring buildings such as the grade II\*-listed canalside warehouse along the key city site.

Coun Phil Dobson, deputy leader and cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This is fantastic news for the people of Wakefield. This further piece of the jigsaw means that all of the funding is in place and that work will definitely start on the project next year."

The granting of detailed planning permission means that the European Regional Development Fund will release £8m and Yorkshire Forward £5.5m to kickstart the rejuvenation of the area.

The £100m project by developers CTP St James includes a mix of office, residential and leisure buildings over 10 acres.

At the heart of the rejuvenation of the waterfront is an art gallery in Wakefield to showcase work by sculptor Dame Barbara Hepworth in the city of her birth.

The £20m gallery will be built on the headland site of the Wakefield Waterfront conservation area.

David Topham, director of CTP St James said: "This is a significant milestone for the Waterfront project.

"We now have confirmation of planning permission for phase one and public sector funding and this means we can move into the delivery phase with all speed."

Detailed planning proposals for the first phase of the Waterfront development include residential and office use and sensitive restoration and conservation work on the grade II\*-listed Calder and Hebble Navigation warehouse – the only building along Yorkshire's waterways deemed to be 'at risk' by English Heritage.

The completed development with substantial public spaces and formal gardens will add a new dimension to Wakefield centre by opening up the southern gateway to the city

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