

NEWS RELEASE

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New Business Park for Doncaster thanks to £7.16 million from Europe

The European Union is investing £7.16 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support the development of a new Business Park in Doncaster that when fully developed will bring nearly 3,000 jobs to the town.

This important investment is being made through the Objective 1 Programme for South Yorkshire which is investing over £700 million of European money to help transform the South Yorkshire economy and increase the opportunities for all its people.

The development, to be known as Catesby Business Park, is being developed by Ennerdale Developments Ltd and is located just off Junction 3 of the M18 adjacent to the new store being built for B&Q.

The Objective 1 investment will see 25 hectares of land being prepared for future development along with the construction of a 2,850 square metre office building to kick-start the project. When the fully developed, the Park will have up to 90,000 square metres of development on it in a mix of office, manufacturing and warehouse premises. The initial office building has the capacity to accommodate 180 jobs and it is envisaged that when the site is fully developed it will be able to accommodate 2,980 jobs.

Speaking recently Sylvia Yates of Objective 1 said: "The Catesby Business Park is just the sort of development that the support of European funding was intended to help. The site, which is of strategic importance to Doncaster and has been identified as having potential to accommodate significant jobs growth, is particularly difficult to develop. The costs involved in preparing the site mean that, without the financial help from Europe it is very unlikely that any developer would develop the site and deliver 3,000 new jobs for Doncaster."

Martin Winter, the Mayor of Doncaster said: "This announcement is good news for Doncaster and again underlines that Doncaster is going places. The European Union recognises that the Borough is one of opportunity and investment potential and this development will further boost our economic regeneration and employment drive."

John Worrall of developers Ennerdale Developments Ltd said: "The award of such substantial funding is fantastic news and clearly demonstrates that Catesby Park is recognised as a significant element of the regeneration of Doncaster and South Yorkshire. Plans for major improvements to facilities and infrastructure in and around the scheme will further enhance the future of the business park."

"We believe in the region, and believe that Catesby Park will deliver a new improved lease of life for hundreds of potential employees. We have worked hard in partnership with Objective 1, Yorkshire Forward and Doncaster MBC to ensure our vision and role of the Park fits in with the overall plans for the region. Work has started on site and we are already dealing with a number of enquires."

Ends

Notes for Editors:

The Objective 1 Programme in South Yorkshire is a £1.8 billion investment programme that draws on over £700 million from the European Union's Structural Funds that are provided to help Europe's poorest areas regenerate their economies and create jobs. South Yorkshire is one of those poorest areas with fewer businesses and fewer and less well-paid jobs than other European regions.

South Yorkshire was designated as an Objective 1 area, which is the highest category of European support, at the Berlin Summit in 1999 along with Merseyside, Cornwall and the Scillies and West Wales and the Valleys. The Objective 1 Programme in South Yorkshire was launched in July 2000 and runs until the end of 2006.

To date the Programme has committed over £260 million of European money to more than 270 projects in South Yorkshire. Objective 1 funds are;

- supporting the development of new businesses,
- supporting firms to set up or relocate in South Yorkshire,
- helping businesses to innovate and grow,
- supporting the development of skills and training,
- supporting social enterprises,
- supporting the economic development of deprived communities in South Yorkshire
- helping to bring forward the development of sites and premises for increased economic activity
- and helping to tackle both financial and transport bottlenecks that constrain economic growth.

Issued by

Richard Holmes
Communications Manager
Objective 1 Programme Directorate
Silkstone House
Pioneer Close
Wath Upon Dearne
ROTHERHAM S63 7JZ

Telephone: 01709 763618
Fax: 01709 763679
Email: richardholmes.goyh@go-regions.gov.uk