

Stoke-on-Trent, UK

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Leftover Coal and Clay Pits
www.thepotteries.org



Regeneration is more than a catch phrase, it is the mantra of Stoke-on-Trent. Stoke-on-Trent is not just one city but the amalgamation of six smaller villages. Once considered the most 'Blue-Collar' city in England it is drastically trying to change its appearance and appeal to the peoples of the surrounding areas.

To date, the economic and cultural development strategies undertaken in Stoke-on-Trent have focused upon a plethora of out-of-town business, retail and entertainment parks, built on brown-field sites reclaimed from old industrial workings and as part of improvements to radial hubs and gateways. (Jayne, 2004)

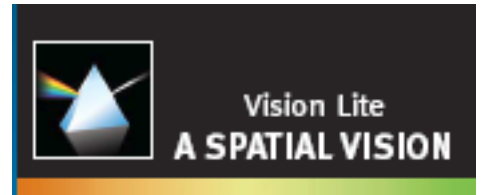
The land was once filled with smoke, clouds that would blacken the sky. This has left brownfields, many of which have been seen for a long time as a scar or detrimental additive to the land. This is all going through an period of rethinking, with the Vision Lite conceptual model the region is looking to future. Applying for, and receiving large government endowments the city is building to its heart's content.

There is somewhat of a paradoxical system in this area, that while investment is going in people are moving out. The population of Stoke-on-Trent is currently decreasing at the rate of 3.5% between each census event though the government is increasing spending in these areas almost exponentially. Since 1992 more than 600 million pounds has been pumped into the region in the hopes of regenerating the area.

Nevertheless, the funding aside, some very interesting projects and conceptual models have been discussed.



'A Sense of Place for North Staffordshire'



City Statistics

City Population: 240,636

City Area: 10,205 acres

Density Level: .04 ppa

Park Acreage: 3401 acres

Park acreage per 1000 residents: 14.1 Acres

Governing bodies: Stoke-on-Trent City Council, North Staffordshire

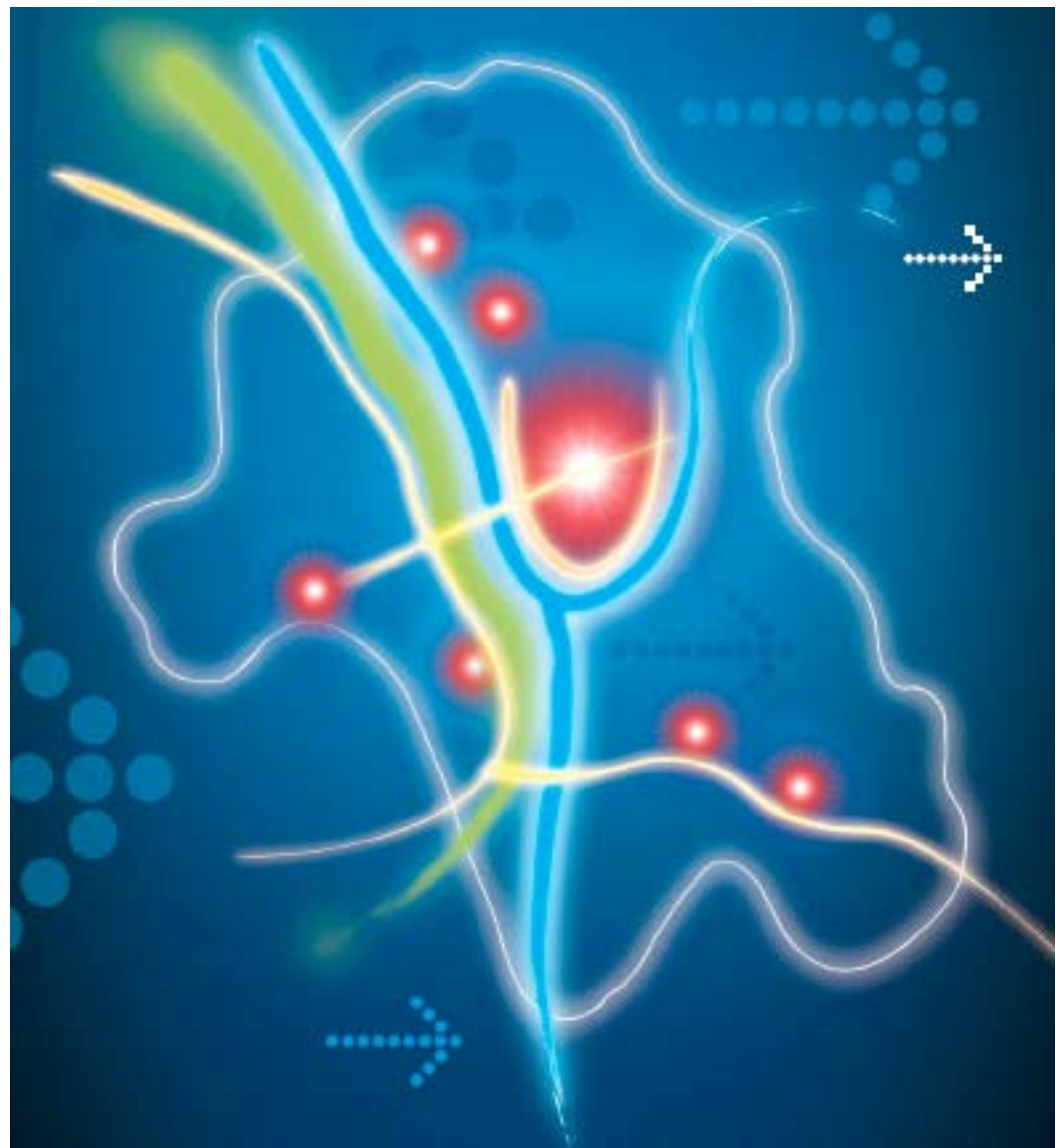
Expenditure per person: since 1992 \$270~600 mil pounds in grants, Lottery Fund: 341.65 pounds ~ \$541.00 per person

Concept:

The Vision Lite system is a strong regional concept for how the area is to develop.

The red circles are the towns of the area, with the largest being the City Center of the region. The waterside corridor is navigatable through locks and connects to the larger system of canals.

The orange horeshoe in the middle is the band of waterside esidential and comercial development. The city recognizes the importance of the Trent & Mersey canals to the west, and the Caldon Canal to the east to the historical significance and current economic asset that they are. They are drawing attention to this area, this linear open space will help to serve as further fuel to the regeneration furnace.



Conceptual Model for Connections Between Areas of North Staffordshire Stoke-on-Trent in the Middle

Major Components

a. Connective corridors

Bike trails on the shores of the Trent & Mersey Canal to the west of the city, Caldron Canal to the East. Bike trails on old disused railroads. Public rights of way through Fields. Bicycle trails connect to National Cycling Network. The center line in the map below.

b. Anchors

Trentham Gardens to the south, Hemstead Heath Wood Nature Preserve, Central Forest Park-Directly to the north of the Civic Center reclaimed Hanley Pit, includes a new skate park designed with the contribution of the Stoke Skate Association.

c. Civic

City Center: Cultural and Economic Hub, contains Public Art and gathering spaces. As well as Theatres, and proposed waterside developments.

d. Neighborhood Parks

Scattered around, consist of Soccer Fields (football Pitches), small wooded areas with patches of water-typically reclaimed pits.

e. Other

Many unique open spaces, Capability Brown Designed Parks, English Gardens, as well as a newly designed Skate Park. Numerous Golf Courses both public and private.



Waterfront development



Proposed Civic Center developments. 'A Spatial Vision' Evans Vettori Architects



Parkland, www.thepotteries.org



Tretham Gardes c. 1957
Highly Ornate Italian Garden
www.thepotteries.org

'A Green City that provides well maintained open spaces, good quality play facilities for our children and a quality environment for future generations'-Stoke-on-Trent, Community Strategy 2004-2014

Funding Mechanism and/or Planning

Local Organizations



Funding Mechanism:

Major funding for the Open Space system in Stoke-on-Trent comes from Lottery Funds. In England the system works out that surplus monies from the various National Lotteries turn into a Grant style program, with Stoke-on-Trent residents receiving roughly 318.65 pounds ~ 541.00 dollars per person.

This system is broken up into various different categories of which many different topics are applicable. Three thousand to refurbish a local Scout Unit's kitchen HQ to fifty thousand for a new Skate Park. There is also an initiative to have youth themselves get involved with the bid process. The Young Peoples Fund has so far given four such awards have been granted with around \$700 mil worth of monies being added to the coffers of small scale local projects.



The National Lottery has also instituted the Big Lottery People's Millions awarding upwards to 50,000 pounds in one year grants for environmental projects that get people involved with their community. It is impressive to see national funding for the environment being given to those on the community scale.



Regional Spatial Strategy:

Develops plans for regional scale including, large scale transportation issues, and numbers for home development.

Local Development Framework: Community Strategy:

Each City in England is required to develop a Community Strategy which will allow for further development. Central to Stoke-on-Trent's plan is to create a future city that is vibrant and active city. This is broken into five parts.



1. A Healthier City
2. A Safer City
3. A Learning City
4. A Wealthier City
5. A Green City
6. A City with a Strong Sense of Community



Greening for Growth Programme:

The Initiative puts forth that the green landscapes and vegetation can be seen not only as an environmental benefit, but as an economic asset. In order to attract business and investments.



In February 2003 9.4 percent of Stoke-on-Trent was covered by trees. Since then 60,000 new trees have been planted by the New Leaf Woodland Initiative. The initiative was established under the REACT (Regeneration through Environmental ACTION.)



This initiative had at its roots somewhat of a social engineering technique. The people of North Staffordshire would be shown how to care for their trees and hopefully gain further appreciation for the surrounding landscape. This is a regional plan that goes outside of Stoke-on-Trent and operates on a somewhat larger scale.

Lessons Learned

High monetary Investment does not necessarily reap quick returns

Brownfields are very useful and ripe for redevelopment into parks

Partnership with regional neighbors helps to solidify and strengthen core structure and linkages or new proposals

Concentrated development on one core area can allow for different development in the periphery and is beneficial to surrounding cities

Connecting and providing linkages helps to integrate cities

Commodification of Sustainability as a selling point can be realized



Central Forest Park
Hanley Pit
www.thepotteries.org

Resources

"External Funding Bulletin: Quarterly News." City Council Regional and European Strategy Unit. i4 Spring 2005.

Jayne, Mark. "Culture that works? Creative industries development in a working class city." *Capital & Class*. i84 (2004): 199-211.

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, "Creating Better Place to Live: A guide to the Planning System in England." <http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144503#>

"Pictures of England: Stoke-on-Trent." <http://www.picturesofengland.com>

Stoke-on-line, Stoke-on-Trent City Council Website www.stoke.gov.uk/

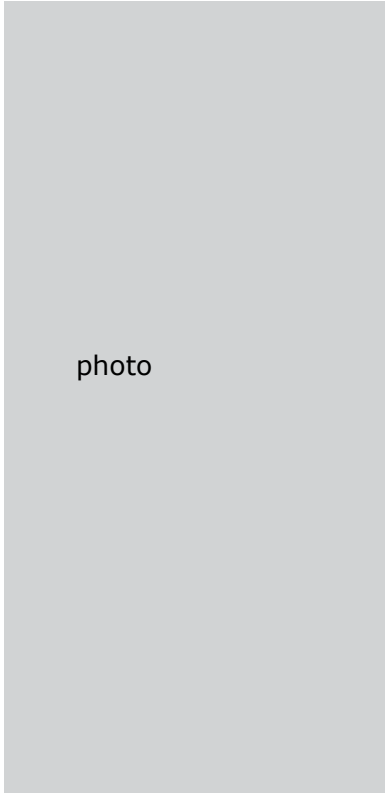
Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme: Bike Trails and Greenways Map

"Stoke-on-Trent: our city, our future. A long term vision." Stoke-on-Trent, Community Strategy 2004-2014



Trent & Mersey Canals
www.picturesofengland.com

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text explaining (arial, 10pt.)
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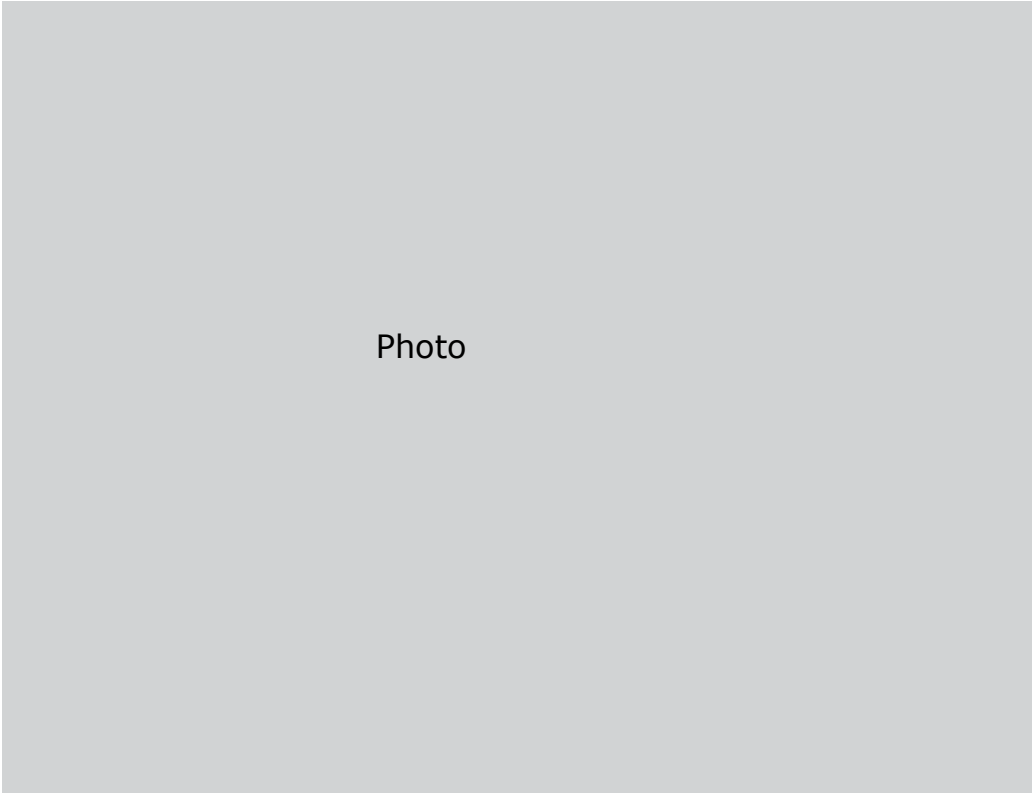
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Photo