

Press Release

31 January 2011

BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

THE demolition of one of Tyneside's most prominent eyesores begins this week.

For decades Tyne Bridge Tower has been a blot on the Gateshead skyline, but it will soon be razed to the ground, thanks to investment from regional development agency One North East.

The demolition of the 13-storey tower supports the continued regeneration of Gateshead Quays, which boasts such global attractions as The Millennium Bridge, The Sage Gateshead and BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Arts.

One North East Head of Capital Programmes, Neil Graham, said: "Tyne Bridge Tower has been empty for over five years and is a high profile site capable of supporting and improving links from Gateshead Town Centre to Gateshead Quays. It is an unattractive building of low architectural merit and many would consider that it detracts from this important and prominent gateway site.

"We consider its removal a priority for the continued excellent regeneration of NewcastleGateshead Quayside. The site will be available for development as part of 1NGs proposals for the regeneration of the Quays area of Gateshead."

The Agency has hired local construction and property consultants Summers-Inman to project manage the demolition of the Tower, supported by multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy Cundall Johnston and Partners. MGL Demolition has been appointed as principal contractor to carry out the demolition work, which will take around seven months.

Demolition starts this week on the building, which will be brought down brick by brick rather than using explosives, due to its proximity to neighbouring properties.

Press Release

Mark Davison, Managing Director of MGL Demolition said: “We are delighted to be working with One North East on this demolition project. As a local company we are particularly looking forward to contributing to the regeneration of this area.”

The project will cost just over £500,000 and will involve landscaping on the vacant site afterwards.

It is envisaged that the site will play a key role in the continued efforts of 1NG, which last week submitted a Regional Growth Fund bid to help fund a new convention centre on the banks of the Tyne, to regenerate the NewcastleGateshead Quayside.

The 1960s built Tyne Bridge Tower was used by the Inland Revenue until June 2005 and is now empty.

Councillor Martin Gannon, Deputy Leader of Gateshead Council, says: “We welcome the demolition of Tyne Bridge Tower. We’ve invested a great deal of time and money into transforming Gateshead Quays from an industrial wasteland into one of the region’s cultural gems. As a result, Tyne Bridge Tower has been looking increasingly out of place.

“This area is at the heart of Gateshead’s expanding Creative Quarter and its removal will not only rid us of one of the last remaining blots on this area’s skyline, it will also provide space for future development and, hopefully, yet more jobs in the creative sector.”

The demolition is likely to cause some disruption to traffic in the immediate area, especially at peak times for traffic using the Swing Bridge, and a temporary loss of parking spaces. Full details are available on the Gateshead Council website: www.gateshead.gov.uk

Ends.

For more information, contact Bryn Littleton (press office) on 0191 2296713 or 07717 468918 or by emailing bryn.littleton@onenortheast.co.uk

You can now follow One North East on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/OneNorthEast>

Stella House
Goldcrest Way
Newburn Riverside
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE15 8NY

T : +44 (0)191 229 6200
F : +44 (0)191 229 6201
E : enquiries@onenortheast.co.uk
www.onenortheast.co.uk

Paul Callaghan
Chairman

Alan Clarke
Chief Executive



north east
england

Press Release

Stella House
Goldcrest Way
Newburn Riverside
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE15 8NY

T : +44 (0)191 229 6200
F : +44 (0)191 229 6201
E : enquiries@onenortheast.co.uk
www.onenortheast.co.uk

Paul Callaghan
Chairman

Alan Clarke
Chief Executive



north east
england