

TfGM PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HAMILTON DAVIES TRUST

The Hamilton Davies Trust

The Hamilton Davies Trust (HDT) is a local charity based in Irlam, Manchester and the sponsor of the Regeneration Group. Hamilton Davies Trust has been operating in Irlam and Cadishead for over ten years and works with a number of partners. It is a grant-giving charity with four major work streams including Regeneration.

Irlam Station

Irlam station is located just off Liverpool Road and lies at the heart of one of Salford City Council's key regeneration priorities in Salford West. The station is well placed, within walking distance of just over 1,000 homes and close to Irlam and Cadishead College, Lower Irlam Neighbourhood Centre and Northbank Industrial Estate. Irlam and Cadishead have a growing population which is likely to result in more people using Irlam station, not just to catch a train, but for the great facilities on offer.

26 March 2015 marked the re-launch of Irlam Station House, 122 years to the day since it first opened its doors to the public. This project saw the restoration of the derelict Station House, bringing it back into the community. It followed years of planning and consultation between TfGM, Hamilton Davies Trust, Salford City Council, local councilors, the Community Committee, the rail industry and the community at large.

The station now offers:

- free parking for over 60 cars (including disabled bays), motorcycles and a cycle hub;
- enhanced lighting, security cameras and pedestrian footpaths to ensure a safe environment;
- extensive landscaping including shrubs and trees, providing a peaceful area for both people and wildlife;

- a child friendly area known as 'Platform 9 ¾' adjacent the station building; and
- a large scale piece of art featured on the Liverpool Bound platform.

Station Road which leads to the complex has also seen improvements with re-surfacing work and the creation of a new parking bays and pedestrian crossing. The railway embankments have been cleared, tidied and re-planted.

Could the approach be replicated elsewhere in Greater Manchester?

The socio-economic profile of Irlam and Cadishead is similar to many other neighbourhoods within Greater Manchester – long-established localities located around arterial routes into Manchester/Salford where the retail and industrial base has withered leaving vacant units/sites and low quality infill.

These are neighbourhoods which do not face serious enough challenges to warrant large scale public sector intervention but are not affluent enough to attract significant, high quality private sector intervention.

Through public sector reform, councils and other agencies in Greater Manchester are recognising the need to move beyond silo-based delivery and work in partnership to deliver multi-faceted interventions.

At Irlam station, the partnership approach between Hamilton Davies Trust, Salford City Council, NC Developments, Transport for Greater Manchester, Network Rail, Northern Rail, Irlam and Cadishead History Society and the Friends of Irlam Station is an exemplar case study which demonstrates the types of benefits that can be achieved for the community by combining ideas and resources; and provides the evidence to suggest further partnerships can be successfully replicated elsewhere across Greater Manchester.

“This has been our biggest project to date and we are so proud to have been involved in creating such a wonderful landmark within our community.”

Neil McArthur
Trustee, The Hamilton Davies Trust

Replicating the model will not be without challenges. The presence of some kind of endowment; be that from an individual benefactor or a Trust, which can be invested over time and not necessarily channeled solely towards profit making activity, is a vital ingredient that is not currently present in other Greater Manchester neighbourhoods.

TfGM aims to replicate the Irlam and Cadishead model. It is important to acknowledge the likely need for a different approach in different areas and stations; staff secondments from councils and the private sector to community groups/trusts, and the establishment of mentoring relationships to ensure the right skills are harnessed.

Identifying individuals who would be willing to play such a role would be one policy response. Alternatively, innovative approaches such as public asset transfers or asset backed vehicles could endow local organisations with a capital base from which to make regular regeneration investments and with which to leverage further funding.

