City home to a housing boom that signals change in image

■ HOW it will look : . . an artist's impression of the Middlewood development

BY NEAL KEELING

SALFORD has become a boomtown for house building.

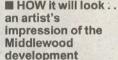The number of new homes built last year went up 39 per cent compared to 2004.

In one part of the city – in and around Chapel Street – there has been a flurry of planning applications for 3,365 apartments.

The area has already seen the start of Middlewood Locks, which will be a £600m urban village, plus new blocks close to the junction with Trinity Way.

A new town hall report shows that, from April 2004 to April this year, more than 1,622 new homes have been built around the city, bringing the total number now to around 101,500.

Top area for new apartments this year is Ordsall, where LPC have come up with a development plan working with local residents. Irlam and Cadishead, Swinton and Pendlebury have been close behind with 313 new family houses built in those areas last year.

The city also currently has around 9,000 dwellings which have obtained planning permissions but are still awaiting completion. Major planning applications for huge new schemes in Lower Broughton and Charlestown and Lower Kersal are expected during next year.

Since 1996, there have been 7,520 new homes constructed in Salford, 91 per cent of which were new-build developments.

The city's planning spokesman, Coun Derek Antrobus, said: "What we are seeing now is a wholesale turnaround in the city's fortunes. Developers and, in turn, residents, are choosing Salford as a place to build and live.

"The numbers of dwellings with planning permission have increased dramatically, and the increase in the number of completed dwellings shows improved confidence in the city's housing market with developers.

"We know we need to make Salford a city where people choose to live, and here is hard evidence that we are beginning to change people's perceptions of the place.

"The result is that long-term decline in Salford's population has been halted."

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