

COMMONWEALTH GAMES COMMUNITY BENEFITS DELIVERS FIRST JOBS: SIX NEW STAFF JOIN REMEDIATION CONTRACTOR VHE

Specialist remediation contractor VHE has become the first company to create new jobs under Glasgow City Council's Community Benefits initiative.

The company has taken on six local people to work on the remediation of the 33-hectare Athletes' Village in Dalmarnock. Ryan Cameron and Darren O' Kane, age 17 from Dennistoun and Garthamlock, have been taken on as Modern Apprentices. Site engineer David Linnen, 25, and geo-environmental engineer Daniel Danzerl, 27, are in the final year of study at Stow College and Glasgow Caledonian University. Marion Taggart from Carntyne assists in the running of the site office and Barry Cartwright, 17, from Castlemilk, has been employed as a wash plant operative through the Youthbuild scheme.

The six are the first to benefit from contracts awarded by the City Council for the development of Commonwealth Games facilities. The Council is aiming to maximise opportunities for securing training and employment, business start up and business growth arising from the award of Commonwealth Games contracts.

As a minimum requirement, companies will be expected to employ 10% of their project workforce as New Entrant Trainee. This includes those trained or employed to do a specific job and leaving an educational establishment or a training provider, a person that has been non-employed with no experience or a person with construction experience who has been unemployed for at least six months. In addition, the contractor will also be expected to advertise sub-contracting opportunities through the Commonwealth Games Business Portal.

Gordon Wilson, VHE's Construction Director, commented: "VHE has around 25 directly employed staff on site so our Trainees comprise 20% of our workforce - double the requirement. The six are valuable members of our team and are helping to create an important legacy of the Games for the people of Glasgow."

Councillor George Ryan, Executive Member for Business and the Economy at Glasgow City Council, said: "The Commonwealth Games will provide many opportunities for local people, and it is extremely pleasing to see these young people benefiting from the preparations for the event as they begin their career. The skills developed through this project will make them more attractive to employers based in the city and to those firms drawn to Glasgow's skilled workforce in the future."

The Village site, just south of Celtic Park in Dalmarnock in the East End of the city, is currently a mix of residential, industrial and predominantly open space with a significant proportion of vacant land. VHE's £5.9m contract is the first stage in preparing the site for development and will include excavation of historically contaminated materials for treatment, with residual materials being disposed of off-site at landfill. VHE specialises in site treatment of contaminated materials and with the majority of the material expected to be treated by soil washing. VHE's experience of having carried out some of the largest soil washing contracts in the UK to date make them ideally suited to

carry out the works. With VHE's capabilities to treat material using an array of methods, it is envisaged that the quantity of material leaving site will be kept to a minimum.

The works, which have been designed by engineer Grontmij for Glasgow City Council, are the first stage in creating facilities for around 6,500 athletes and officials from 71 countries expected to attend the Games. The Village will be a tangible legacy that will become a new residential community accommodating private housing, 300 homes for rent and a new 120-bed care home for the elderly. Other local facilities include the National Indoor Sports Arena and Velodrome with the East End Regeneration Route, scheduled for completion in 2011, will linking the area to the M74.

VHE is one of the specialist contracting arms of Renew.



Left to right in the image - on the Athletes' Village site - attached are:

Tony Walton, contracts manager, VHE; Phil Dews, site manager; Barry Cartwright; Darren O'Kane; Councillor George Ryan; David Linnen, Daniel Danzerl and Marion Taggart.

Ends

Press inquiries:

Peter Weedon
Tel: 01635 861112
Mobile 07974 313888
pw@salientcommunications.com
Salient Communications Limited

Burden's Heath, Upper Bucklebury, Berkshire, RG7 6SX
Registered office above. Registered in England 3866927