

Construction Skills Concordat

We have a major growth programme. Over the next 20 years we expect to deliver over 40,000 new homes and 200 hectares of employment space. All this will require a skilled workforce. Already reports are coming in from the construction industry of skills shortages. In addition Hinkley Point, the largest engineering project in Europe, is about to start creating an attractive pull for our skilled workforce.

From plant operatives and renderers to bricklayers and project managers, we need to ensure that we are prepared for the future. This is not just about ensuring that skills shortages don't become a barrier to growth, but that our people are well placed to take advantage of the opportunities that this growth will create.

This Concordat sets out our commitment to the Councils working together and to leading by example. Together the three authorities have a capital programme that amounts to over £50m per year. We also control a stock of over 10,000 homes and spend in excess of £10m on maintenance per annum. We will ensure that in awarding contracts for this work we will give favourable consideration to those companies that have a clear and well evidenced approach to supporting the development of a skilled workforce, for example in terms of taking on apprentices and to recruiting locally.

Furthermore, we will work with partners to support the roll out the Construction Industry Training Board's Client Based Approach which enshrines and enforces commitments to employment and skills in construction projects over £1 million in value. We will also support and promote the roll out of the South West Shared Apprenticeship Scheme. By providing flexible access to a pool of people this will overcome a key barrier to increasing the use of apprentices cited by industry.

In summary we will;

Lead by example – by ensuring that there is clear commitment to supporting construction skills from contractors.

Work in partnership –to promote the roll out of the South West Shared Apprenticeship Scheme

Use our regulatory role – to adopt the CITB's Client Based Approach for major projects

How will we measure success?

We will seek support from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership to appoint a Client Based Approach Project Manager for the Exeter and Heart of Devon area. This post will oversee and report on a set of Key Performance Indicators.

February 2015



Cllr Peter Edwards
Leader



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Leader



Cllr Jeremy Christophers
Leader

