



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**11 APRIL 2006**

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FIRMS APPOINTED**

Dozens of professional services businesses have been appointed by RENEW North Staffordshire to a panel of suppliers.

The firms, ranging from architects and lawyers to surveyors and researchers, will now be able to bid for contracts as part of the planned £3 billion renewal of the housing market over the coming 15 years.

Two-thirds of the appointed firms are based in the North Staffordshire area and all members of the panel have promised to help create skilled local jobs as part of any future contracts.

As part of the selection each organisation was required to demonstrate:

- experience and understanding of regeneration
- commitment to long-term investment in the area
- partnership working
- innovation and added value
- how they would work with local companies and suppliers
- experience of training and employment initiatives.

The appointments were made by RENEW North Staffordshire following national advertising in June last year. More than 150 organisations filled in a pre-qualification questionnaire and following shortlisting 42 organisations were appointed.

RENEW North Staffordshire has worked with Finest, the professional services network for North Staffordshire, to help local firms apply to become members of the panel. They have held several joint training events to prepare for applications and interviews. RENEW has also provided detailed feedback to successful and unsuccessful applicants on their strengths and weaknesses.

Membership of the panel is the first step towards winning contracts for specific work. Panel members in future will be invited to bid for work in their discipline. As a first step a briefing event to explain the commissioning process is to be held for panel members on Monday, April 10.

Hardial Bhogal, director of RENEW North Staffordshire, said: "We are delighted to appoint so many capable and innovative organisations to our professional services panel.

"They have all demonstrated their skill and experience in their areas of work. They have also committed themselves to working with local people and our partners to play their part in the comprehensive regeneration of North Staffordshire.

"They will not only provide an excellent service in the regeneration of run-down neighbourhoods, they will also create skilled jobs for local people and ensure that the benefits of our investment are felt as widely as possible."

Tim Weightman, director of Hall and Partners, who managed the selection process, added: "We had an excellent calibre of applicants to the professional services panel and significant interest from organisations based in North Staffordshire.

"There has been a great deal of enthusiasm from these organisations to play their part in the area's regeneration. As a result RENEW North Staffordshire has been able to appoint a higher proportion of local firms than has been the case in other areas of the country where similar panels have been created."

Members of the panels are shown separately below.

## Ends

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### Notes to editors

1. RENEW North Staffordshire is the housing market renewal pathfinder for Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Biddulph East. Our aim is to help make North Staffordshire a thriving, diverse conurbation where people want to live, work, invest and study. We do this by working with communities and partners to:
  - balance housing supply and demand
  - retain and attract population
  - provide quality housing that meets the aspirations of existing and new residents
  - transform the environment and make the best of our heritage and green space
  - support economic regeneration.
2. The RENEW North Staffordshire team can be contacted by the public on 01782 232024 or [renew@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:renew@stoke.gov.uk). Further information can be found on the website: [www.renewnorthstaffs.gov.uk](http://www.renewnorthstaffs.gov.uk).
3. Four service contractor panels have been set up by RENEW North Staffordshire. They are for:
  - Developers
  - Registered social landlords (usually housing associations)
  - Professional services
  - Contractors (manual work such as renovations, demolition, environmental improvements)Appointments have now been made to all panels
4. Hall & Partners has managed the process of advertising and selecting the four service provider panels. Hall & Partners work in the construction industry on regional and national projects as well as offering housing and regeneration consultancy services. The company has offices in Newcastle and Yorkshire with a team of over 45 staff who are highly experienced within the construction and regeneration industry.

**Architects:**

Hicton Madeley  
Christopher Taylor Design  
Hulme Upright Manning  
PCPT  
Pollard Thomas Edwards  
PRP Architects  
MBLC (part of the Scott Wilson consortium)  
Terry Farrell (part of the Scott Wilson consortium)  
Taylor Young (part of the MACE consortium)  
Associated Architects (part of the Donaldson consortium)

**Masterplanning**

BDP  
DTZ  
GVA Grimley  
EKOS Consulting (part of EDAW consortium)  
Vision 21 (part of Scott Wilson consortium)  
CRP (part of Scott Wilson consortium)  
Taylor Young (part of MACE consortium)  
Donaldson  
Hulme Upright Manning  
Pollard Thomas Edwards

**Project management/quantity surveying**

Stoke-on-Trent City Council  
Hall and Partners  
MACE  
Turner & Townsend (part of Donaldson consortium)  
Browns and Clowes (part of PRP Architects consortium)  
McBains Cooper  
Allen Group

**Legal**

Cobbets-Wilbrahams (part of Scott Wilson consortium)

Members below were chosen because they were already appointed to Stoke-on-Trent City Council's legal services panel:

TLT  
Freeth Cartwright  
Grindeys  
Addleshaw and Goddard  
Trowers & Hamlins  
Eversheds  
Arron & Partners  
Knight & Sons

**Operational (engineering)**

Wardell Armstrong

Joyes Pike

Birse Civil Engineers

White Young Green

Halcrow Group

Alan Brough Associates (part of PRP Architects consortium)

Giffard Consulting (part of PRP Architects consortium)

ARUP (part of MACE consortium)

Faber Maunsell (part of EDAW consortium)

**Surveying**

District Valuer Services

Daniel and Hulme

Keppie Massie (part of MACE consortium)

Simon Fenton (part of Scott Wilson consortium)

Townsend Renaudon

**Research**

SQW

CSR

ECOTEC

Groundworks

Staffordshire University