



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**29 JANUARY 2007**

### **BUSINESSES URGED TO “CONTRACT LOCAL”**

Small and medium sized businesses in North Staffordshire are being urged to grasp the opportunities available to them as part of the area’s regeneration.

By working with RENEW North Staffordshire’s partner developers, contractors and housing associations local firms will be able to win contracts, grow turnover and improve profitability, said Mark Meredith, elected mayor of Stoke-on-Trent.

The local companies have an opportunity to meet RENEW’s selected partners at the Contract Local event at the Britannia Stadium, Stoke-on-Trent, on Wednesday, January 31.

The event is aimed at introducing them to local firms and to find out how to bid contracts.

Mr Meredith said: “Local businesses can benefit directly from the housing market renewal programme by becoming a supplier of goods and services.

“This is their chance to win a slice of the huge amount of investment now committed to North Staffordshire.

“New business for local firms will benefit the whole of Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle by improving skills and creating new jobs.”

The event has been organised by the North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with RENEW North Staffordshire and the North Staffordshire Regeneration Zone.

Hardial Bhogal, director of RENEW North Staffordshire said: “RENEW North Staffordshire is committed to using local labour and suppliers as it is vitally important that local businesses benefit from investment into the area.

“Contract Local is a fantastic opportunity for us and our partners to tap into local labour and for local construction professionals to play a part in North Staffordshire’s exciting future.”

“This event is about reaching out to the small and medium sized businesses of North Staffordshire to give them a big advantage in bidding for contracts.

“Even the smallest businesses will have the chance to get work and provide employment. In this way we will keep the money invested in North Staffordshire for the benefit of the region as a whole.”

Businesses who wish to take part can register at [www.contractlocal.co.uk](http://www.contractlocal.co.uk), by calling 01782 213929 or by emailing [contractlocal@nsccl.co.uk](mailto:contractlocal@nsccl.co.uk).

**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@civic1.stoke.gov.uk](mailto:renew@civic1.stoke.gov.uk). Further information can be found on the website: [www.renewnorthstaffs.gov.uk](http://www.renewnorthstaffs.gov.uk).