

Social Inclusion Programme at More London

Both More London Development and construction manager Mace Limited are firmly committed to finding innovative and sustainable ways of involving local communities in development and construction projects.

Our commitment to making a positive contribution to the widely acknowledged construction skills shortage, while also supporting the social needs of the communities in which we operate, led us to pilot the first of the Building London Creating Futures (BLCF) Workplace Coordinator schemes on the City Hall project.

More London, as part of the BLCF partnership of 30 public, private and voluntary sector organisations including several Local Authorities, aims to support local people with barriers to employment into sustainable jobs. Following the success of the pilot BLCF scheme, More London has continued to support and develop the programme and has seen more than 400 local residents secure training opportunities and long term employment from our programmes.

We firmly believe that a skilled team with a clear understanding of the needs of local communities and the construction industry, and with access to real jobs, is key to achieving the aims of significant community involvement. We have a full time Social Inclusion Programme Manager, employed by Mace, working on site to help local people access employment opportunities with our contractors and suppliers, and to support both sides through the entire process.

As well as supporting new starters into work, the Social Inclusion Programme runs a range of existing workforce development projects including free English and computer classes and access to NVQ programmes. Our teams carry out regular schools visits and careers fairs aimed at interesting a new audience to construction and engendering community ownership of our developments.

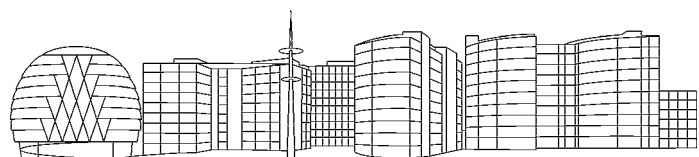
Funded through a combination of our Section 106 contributions, European Social Fund resources and employer levies the programmes at More London have not only helped us improve our relations with local communities, they have seen us become an example of industry best practice and share our experiences with other companies across Europe.

We believe that construction projects can deliver a substantial increase in local employment opportunities and that these opportunities have the potential to improve the low economic activity rates and address the high levels of unemployment in areas of the UK. More London continues to strive to be exemplary in achieving community involvement and local labour training and development excellence on all our undertakings.

We have developed a range of measures to ensure all parties benefit from the potential offered including:

- development & management of local employment projects with a full time Manager
- management of workplace schemes including job tasters and work experience
- organisation and facilitation of schools visits and career development work to interest a wider range of society in construction opportunities.

"As part of our commitment to the regeneration of the local community surrounding our site we have been strong supporters of the Mace Workplace Coordinator scheme. We want local communities to benefit from our development and, providing them with a Workplace Coordinator, who acts as a main point contact for employment on site, is an important part of that. The scheme has also provided us with valuable publicity, gaining Constructing Excellence Demonstration Project status and winning several prestigious awards for our involvement in the



scheme. The Workplace Coordinator project has helped cement our relationships with the local community and has proved to be a great success and we are proud to be a central part of the partnership."

Tony Wall, More London Development

"It's incredibly hard to find skilled labour in central London. The screening which the Social Inclusion Programme can provide really pays off because we can be confident with the calibre of the people we're taking on. Ensuring people have the necessary grounding in basic skills as well as Health & Safety principles make starting work much less nerve-wracking and make life much easier for the employers as well"

Tom O'Mahony, Senior Project Manager, McNicholas plc

"I contacted the Social Inclusion Programme after a friend gave me the number and my life has changed since I did. I had been unemployed for about 5 months and before that I'd been doing agency work. The agency work was irregular though and it was hard to combine looking after my son and working."

"Now I am the Logistics Team Ganger with Wilson James and in a few weeks time I'm going for my NVQ1. I'm taking computer classes twice a week and because I live 5 minutes from the site, I still have time to see my son. The programme has even helped find and pay for a childminder after school and during the holidays. I can't believe how much my life has changed! It's great!"

Logistics Ganger, Wilson James, employed via Social Inclusion Programme

