

Press Release



January 2010

Re:allies – Building Partnerships for Successful Delivery

Manchester based GM Procure, the largest procurement consortium for social landlords in the UK, have announced that they are to be part of a new strategic collaboration of housing consortia that will ultimately lead to enhanced cost effectiveness for their clients and suppliers.

Re:allies represents GM Procure (in association with Lancashire Housing Partnership and Cumbria Housing Partners), Efficiency North (with St Leger Homes of Doncaster as the lead contracting authority) and North East Procurement, all meeting the needs of their various clients – primarily social housing landlords, who are located across the whole of the UK.

A groundbreaking achievement, this brings together, in one group, unmatched experience of building, regenerating and managing sustainable homes and environments, complemented by specialist organisations that are wholly focused on providing quality services that make a difference. Together, the members of Re:allies will apply their collective skills to the delivery of outstanding performance for their clients and, ultimately, the communities that they support through their member organisations.

The establishment of Re:allies offers a significant opportunity for social housing consortia to share best practice, undertake joint sourcing, promote schemes designed to improve local employment and reduce negative environmental impact. Jointly, the members of Re:allies are responsible for the repair and upkeep of over 800,000 properties across the North of England and have a remit to reinvest volume cost savings directly into local businesses, jobs and skills.



For further press information contact Rachel Vinchi at the Bird Consultancy
New Church House, 34 John Dalton Street, Manchester M2 6LE
T +44 (0) 161 839 4846 F +44 (0) 161 839 7822 rv@birdconsultancy.co.uk

Press Release



January 2010

-2-

The collaboration has recently launched the procurement of new four-year frameworks for use by members, partners, customers and clients, which will be in place by August 2010. As a leading example, materials will be required for installation works in various locations across the North of England for the following work streams: electrics; windows and doors; kitchens; heating; bathrooms; roofing and ancillary works; and other external works. The Re:allies consortium will develop a robust supply chain that delivers:

- Exceptional quality products at the very best commercial rates
- Products that are sustainable, fit for purpose, with a greater life cycle
- Materials that allow improved resident choice
- Suppliers that work in true partnership with the buyer and the installation teams
- Innovative and proactive suppliers that improve the supply process for tenants and landlord clients

GM Procure Chief Executive Mike Brogan said: 'As the largest procurement consortium for social landlords in the UK, GM Procure can attest to the wide spread of benefits to businesses, employers and tenants through efficient and socially responsible procurement. Our membership of Re:allies underlines our commitment to fair and responsible procurement with partner contractors and suppliers, which will help us realise meaningful regeneration projects in the communities of our member landlords.'

Jed Turner, founder of Efficiency North, said: 'Effective frameworks reduce the time and costs associated with the procurement of construction related services by offering a pre-tendered call off facility which saves time and costs associated with procurement. We are confident the new frameworks will provide demonstrable value for money. Having just been highly commended at the National Constructing Excellence Awards for the 'Integration and Collaborative Working' category, being part of the Re:allies consortium demonstrates that working together will result in positive benefits for both clients and supply chains.'

-3-



For further press information contact Rachel Vinchi at the Bird Consultancy
New Church House, 34 John Dalton Street, Manchester M2 6LE
T +44 (0) 161 839 4846 F +44 (0) 161 839 7822 rv@birdconsultancy.co.uk

Press Release



January 2010

Ian Brimer, Chief Executive of North East Procurement, commented: 'We are confident that our collaboration with Efficiency North and GM Procure in the Re:allies consortium will help all parties continue to realise our shared objectives of cost efficiency benefits to social landlord and tenants, as well as involvement in community regeneration.'

-Ends-

Editors' notes:

1) GM Procure

GM Procure was created in 2006 out of a need for fairer, more predictable pricing for both landlords and their supply chains. The consortium aims to give members a vehicle for strategic cost, operation and quality management while stimulating regeneration within the communities in which their landlords operate. The success of GM Procure has provided reliable volumes of work for their material suppliers and installers, which in turn has given their landlords cost and programme benefits and a consistent approach to procurement. Tenants have benefited directly from streamlined high quality materials and market leading installation work on their homes. Their job creation programmes and community enterprises are thriving, and they have met many of the objectives they set out to achieve.

More information can be found at: www.gmprocure.com

GM Procure Ltd. Duckworth House Lancastrian Office Centre Talbot Road Old Trafford Manchester M32 0FP Tel: 0303 030 0030

2) Efficiency North

Efficiency North is a Housing Maintenance and Construction Best Practice Forum funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government's Beacon Peer Funding programme and the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership.

The annual programme of activities managed by Efficiency North include:

-4-



For further press information contact Rachel Vinchi at the Bird Consultancy
New Church House, 34 John Dalton Street, Manchester M2 6LE
T +44 (0) 161 839 4846 F +44 (0) 161 839 7822 rv@birdconsultancy.co.uk

Press Release



January 2010

- Research Projects - developing specific projects in response to their Member requirements.
- Learning Events - exploring best practice approaches around their three core work streams and sharing them with their Members.
- Benchmarking Groups - developing benchmarking models and populating them with data from their Members to improve their understanding of cost and improve performance.
- Best Practice Publications - capturing best practice and developing White Papers, Toolkits and Case Studies, which inform their Members and adds value to their service improvement plans.
- Collaborative Procurement - identifying and facilitating opportunities for regional and cross regional collaborative procurement projects improving the performance and efficiency of their Member organisations.

Efficiency North is hosted by Sheffield City Council and is steered by a board of Asset Management Professionals from the following organisations:

City of York Council

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

East North East Homes Limited

East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Hull City Council

Leeds City Council

Leeds Federated Housing Association Limited

Rotherham 2010 Limited

Selby District Council

Sheffield City Council

Sheffield Homes

St Leger Homes, Doncaster

Wakefield District Housing

More information about Efficiency North can be found at: www.energycnorth.org

Contact: Lee Parkinson Project Director Efficiency North 07800 962449

le.parkinson@energycnorth.org

-5-



For further press information contact Rachel Vinchi at the Bird Consultancy
New Church House, 34 John Dalton Street, Manchester M2 6LE
T +44 (0) 161 839 4846 F +44 (0) 161 839 7822 rv@birdconsultancy.co.uk

Press Release



January 2010

3)North East Procurement

North East Procurement is a not-for-profit organisation, established in 2008. They are consortia of social housing providers with stock in the North East of England. Their 12 members own and manage in the region of 100,000 properties.

NEP aims to deliver sustainable efficiencies through collaborative procurement and related strategies. As a consortium, their clients will leverage their volume and expenditure in order to achieve this.

Simultaneously, NEP aims to regenerate local employment and maintain community involvement, including trainee and apprenticeship schemes. They aim to ensure that with every £1m of works spent, two new trainees will be employed, and they actively work with their members to locate any funding to further encourage more local training programmes. Savings made through efficiency gains will be invested in these social responsibilities. More information about NEP can be found at: www.northeastprocurement.com, or you can email any queries to info@neprocurement.com



For further press information contact Rachel Vinchi at the Bird Consultancy
New Church House, 34 John Dalton Street, Manchester M2 6LE
T +44 (0) 161 839 4846 F +44 (0) 161 839 7822 rv@birdconsultancy.co.uk

