



Re:allies to Host Ground Breaking Event for Housing Associations and Social Housing Registered Providers

Re:allies, a regeneration consortium of social housing providers, has announced the date of a ground breaking North of England Housing Summit for those involved in the provision of social housing in the North.

The North of England Housing Summit will be held on 30th July at the Ramada Hotel in Manchester and is sponsored by the Housing and Communities Agency (HCA) and supported by Re:allies.

Re:allies, a collaborative partnership between three purchasing consortia (Procure Plus, Efficiency North and North East Procurement), is organising the event to demonstrate a solution for managing HCA funding of registered providers.

Around 300 representatives of registered providers, local authorities and regional development agencies from across the North of England are expected to attend. They will hear from speakers such as Sir Bob Kerlake, chief executive of the HCA on how web-enabled consortium purchasing makes it easier to manage projects funded by the HCA.

Mike Brogan, Chief Executive of Procure Plus (a member of Re:allies), said; "The North of England Housing Summit will be a unique opportunity for the leaders of social housing providers in The North to come together and discuss best practice in procurement and regeneration. Technology has

made it easier to purchase through consortia, and this in turn makes it easier to manage funds from the HCA and other funding bodies.

“This summit meeting will allow decision makers from across the region to benefit from each others’ experience and to understand an easy way to get the best from HCA funding.”

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For further information on the North of England Housing Summit please contact Rachael Ireland or Christopher Webb on 0161 817 6600 or email Rachael.ireland@tangerinepr.com or chris.webb@tangerinepr.com

Notes to editor

About Re:allies

Re:allies is a strategic collaboration between three housing consortia that provide purchasing consortium facilities for social housing developments and registered providers across the UK.

The three not for profit organisations - Procure Plus, Efficiency North and North East Procurement bring together, in one group, unmatched experience of building, regenerating and managing sustainable homes and environments, while offering 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.

About Procure Plus

Procure Plus is a regeneration consortium of social housing providers that aims to generate efficiencies by leveraging the procurement of construction materials and contractors. The organisation is compliant with Audit Commission requirements and makes it easier to manage HCA funding for schemes, and it has created a web-enabled system that delivers the benefits of consortium purchasing and a check list to ensure rules governing funding schemes are met.

All savings and any surplus made by the consortia is reinvested in to local communities helping to create jobs and improve local facilities and schemes. It is expected that clients of Procure Plus will collectively invest over £1.5 billion in the repair and upkeep of properties between 2006 and 2010/11; it is anticipated that a substantial proportion of this will be channeled through Procure Plus.