

South Area Committee – Strategic Initiative Budget Construction Challenge Project Report

March 2008

Gentoo

Building on the success of Construction Challenge in previous years, SIB funding was sought from each area committee in 2005 to ensure the continuation of the project and to further develop the initiative.

Together with funding from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, all aims and objectives were achieved. The original site was re-located to a new-build site and the second site was opened and located at the site of the new Vocational Establishment Facility at the old site of Pallion School.

This enabled the project to expand and offer more than double the amount of placements to young people across the City.

The grant received from SIB helped to fund:

- Salary Costs
- Equipment
- The establishment of a second site

And has enabled:

- Over 100 young people access the project on a weekly basis
- Over 50 young people to access taster programmes
- DIY for beginner courses
- DIY courses for young mothers

The SIB grant was part of a cocktail of funding obtained for the continuation of the existing project and the establishment of the new site. Other funding was received from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, other SIB Area Committees and Construction Skills.

The project has been extremely successful and Gentoo are currently searching for funding to ensure continuation of the initiative. The project offers a fantastic opportunity for young people to learn construction skills outside of the classroom and is extremely well received by the schools. Demand far outweighs supply and the number of places offered has double the number of applicants interested.

It is for these reasons that Gentoo are looking to continue this exciting initiative with the support of local schools.

Gentoo Living recently won the 'Edge Award' both regionally and nationally for our portfolio of social investment activities. We were particularly commended for our work experience projects (of which Construction Challenge is one) and the positive impact projects such as this has on the lives of young people in our City.

Further information regarding the number of beneficiaries and a full financial breakdown along with press articles will be available during the presentation on 3rd March.

Elaine Murray
Social Investment Manager
Gentoo Living
Emperor House
2 Emperor Way
Doxford International Business Park
Sunderland
SR3 3XR

Tel: (0191) 525 5934
Email: elaine.murray@gentooliving.com