National Skills Academy for Construction Client Based Approach Midlands Highway Alliance

Geographical Coverage: 20 Local Authorities and the Highways Agency

The Midlands Highways Alliance is currently applying under licence to deliver employment and skills through the National Skills Academy for Construction Client-Based Approach. By embedding training and employment plans into the MSF1 and MSF2 frameworks, the Alliance aims to proactively achieve training and employment outcomes across the contracts.

The Midlands Highways Alliance (MHA) is the first partnership of its kind in the UK which commenced in July 2007. Now self-funding, the venture delivers the regional procurement and implementation of highways maintenance, professional services and capital works through framework agreements; The partnership currently comprises the following members: Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Doncaster Council Highways Agency, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Milton Keynes Council, Northamptonshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Rutland County Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, South Derbyshire District Council, Telford and Wrekin Council, Wolverhampton City Council.

Five contractors have been awarded places on an expanded Midland Highways Alliance framework contract estimated to be worth at least £250M over the next four years. The framework has been split into two lots. Balfour Beatty, Eurovia, Galliford Try, Aggregate Industries and a joint venture between Lafarge Tarmac and Carillion will deliver schemes up to £5M. Balfour Beatty, Galliford Try and Lafarge Tarmac/Carillion will also get a share of projects valued at between £5M and £25M.

The Skills Academy will be developing three key areas during 2014-2015; the completion and embedding of approved training schemes through the Institute of Civil Engineers; the introduction of the Learning Management System and supporting framework contractors in the delivery of Employment Skills Plans. Other areas of development include highway inspector training and a learning community primarily aimed at trainees and graduates.

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