

National Skills Academy for Construction Client Based Approach Portsmouth City Council

Geographical Coverage: Solent LEP



The National Skills Academy for Construction (NSAFC), delivered by CITB, has developed end-to-end guidance known as the Client Based Approach that is available for those procuring construction work or deciding planning applications. The guidance ensures that construction projects provide realistic and relevant employment and skills opportunities and support local growth – whether this is for highways, housing, regeneration or any other type of construction. In April 2013, Portsmouth City Council was awarded National Skills Academy for Construction ‘Client Based Approach’ status. Working alongside CITB, the council can now ensure that all major developments in the

area set a target for employment and skills activity, based on the project’s size and value.

“CITB assisted us throughout the application process and continues to provide ongoing support and training opportunities to help us capture and meet our outputs,” said Linda Taylor, Employment Initiatives Manager at Portsmouth City Council. Approximately 2,500 construction jobs, including Apprenticeships, will be generated in the next five years at developments expected to total £1 billion. The council is eager for local people to gain the jobs that are generated by local development sites, including those at two large-scale regeneration developments, in Tipner and the Northern Quarter. The council’s proactive network of organisations assists people into work, provides a motivated and skilled workforce base and works with construction companies to assist pre-employment training and recruitment. These developments will also create opportunities for school and college students to gain a greater understanding of the career opportunities in construction through taster days, organised visits to site and talks at their school or college. The council’s first Employment and Skills Plan, in partnership with Highbury College and Jobcentre Plus, started in January 2014 at the First Wessex Development of 52 dwellings at Hilsea. Councils in the Solent area are leading the rest of England. To date, seven out of 11 councils in the Solent LEP have already signed up to the National Skills Academy Client Based Approach. These are Southampton, Havant, Eastleigh, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Gosport and Fareham.

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