



Come and meet the contractor

Tradesmen in Conwy are being invited to press their case for a share of a £30 million housing improvement programme.

On May 11, the Conwy Business Centre in Llandudno Junction will be the venue for an event which will boost the local economy over the next three years.

The “meet the contractor” day is being organized by Cartrefi Conwy, the recently-formed housing association – with joiners, electricians, plumbers, plasterers and painters in particular demand.

The Welsh Assembly Government’s Supplier Development Service will act as facilitators on the day, running the registration process and booking appointments.

Cartrefi Conwy took over responsibility for 3,800 properties from Conwy County Borough Council last year.

The stock transfer in Conwy followed a vote by tenants after it was explained that the Association would find it easier than the authority to access funding for repairs and improvements.

The aim is to bring all properties – houses, flats and sheltered accommodation – up to the Assembly’s Welsh Housing Quality Standard by 2012.

The contract for internal improvements has been awarded to G Purchase Ltd, who have been involved in a similar programme on Anglesey.

The result there has been that 96 per cent of the housing renovation work for G Purchase Ltd is now being done by local tradesmen – and that pattern is expected to be repeated in Conwy.

In Anglesey nearly 300 people turned up for a similar event, which has enabled some local firms to take on extra staff at a time when they and others would otherwise be looking to lay workers off.

G Purchase Ltd will set up a local office in Conwy for the duration of the contract.

The “meet the contractor” day on May 11 has been organised as an opportunity for local contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers to see whether they can do some of the work.

On the day, two identical sessions will be run at 8.15am and 10.15am and contractors can attend either of them.

Cartrefi Conwy Chief Executive Andrew Bowden said: “It will give local businesses the opportunity to meet with Cartrefi Conwy and G Purchase Ltd to see if their business can participate in this major contract over the next four years.

“It is a vital opportunity for them to sell their services to the main contractor.

“The internal improvements, which involves installing new kitchens and bathrooms and rewiring, is a massive contract in itself and we shall be needing joiners, plumbers, electricians and plasterers among others.

“Being a housing association for Conwy we would very much like the bulk of the work to be allocated to local businesses and local labour and that is why they are being invited along on May 11. We are acting as enablers and facilitators.

“The contract secured by G Purchase Ltd and the two other main contractors will create a massive £30 million boost to the local economy whilst creating jobs, training and apprenticeship opportunities.’

Cartrefi Conwy is taking advantage of new rules and procurement opportunities to ensure that contractors maximize local job and training opportunities.

A small-scale pilot scheme will begin at the end of May with the main part of the programme getting underway in July.

Cartrefi Conwy is already making a difference after inheriting the council’s building maintenance unit

In the past six months 400 new doors have been installed at a cost of £250,000 and 60 homes have had new central heating systems costing £150,000.

Safety standards have also improved, with checks of gas boiler systems having been carried out, over 40 homes rewired and 800 fitted with smoke detectors. The detectors are fitted with remote switches for them to be tested.

Mr Bowden told a recent tenants’ conference: “We want improvements that are sustainable and not one-off wonders, and that’s what we are focusing on – providing quality homes for people in Conwy.”

To book your appointment or ask for further information please contact
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