



Traders' joy at regeneration project

Traders have spoken of their delight at an empa scheme to regenerate part of Nottingham city centre. The project will bring the area back to life and boost start-ups and small businesses through workshops and studio space for use by creative enterprises.

Sneinton Market regeneration project... Left to right: Councillor Nick McDonald, Alan Coole (head of empa), Reeta Brack (trader, One BC Clothing) and Barry Hayman (trader, Hayman Graphics) Read the full story → PAGE 4-5

We would love to hear your views on this newsletter and to suggest any stories you would like to see included. Next issue August.

For more information on empa visit **em-pa.org.uk** Or email **empaenq@scapegroup.co.uk**

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Welcome to the latest edition of empa community.

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Can you help us to get our message across?

With the election concluded and a new Government taking shape, it is sure that public sector bodies are still going to be facing continued challenges to their budgets.

Both of the main political parties campaigned saying that there would still be difficult years ahead for the public sector.

There is some fantastic work going on through empa. That's not just my words, that's what our clients are telling us.

Ensuring our projects deliver a positive impact on local communities, save our clients – and in turn their council taxpayers – money, and completing schemes at speed will be as important as ever, if not more so.

But we'd like your help to get our message across and let us know how you'd like us to communicate with you, our clients?

We pride ourselves on our close working relationship with clients and keeping them up-to-date with our latest innovative work to improve the procurement and delivery of construction and property maintenance projects, including the wider industry picture too. There has been hard work at Government level over the last five years to try and change public sector procurement and delivery of projects into more modern methods through collaborative frameworks, whilst ensuring SMEs and micro businesses retain the opportunity to be involved.

Promoting the use of small businesses is at the heart of empa frameworks. Across the region 90% of project value goes through the local supply chain – and that equates to around £190m in the last year alone.

We want to keep our clients informed of how empa is boosting local communities, the latest work to deliver even better services and developments in the construction industry as the new Government takes its work forward.

Please let us know your thoughts about how best to communicate with you by emailing: empaeng@scapegroup.co.uk





NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION



Traders' joy at regeneration project

Local traders at Sneinton Market have spoken of their excitement at the development at the Eastern Gateway to Nottingham city centre with new units rapidly taking shape as the Creative Quarter develops.

One such trader is Tony Brack, owner of One BC Clothing, which has been relocated by the city council from the market to Gedling Street while the improvement works take place.

Tony said: "This redevelopment has been needed for a very long time, since well before we moved into the market over 10 years ago. It is absolutely wonderful to see the work taking place and to be able to watch the project as it progresses to completion.

"Sneinton Market has always had the potential to be a creative hub for the city – like many of the artistic and creative areas you see in lots of other cities across the UK and Europe.

"These works will mean our market will soon be on a par with such areas. We can't wait to see the completed, redesigned market."

The £3.6m project, supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), is being carried out through the empa framework. The main contractor on the project is empa partner Wates Construction, which began

Key client benefits:

Time – Fixed programme due to complete 5th October 2015

Budget – Forecasted to complete on budget

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- Skills development targets:8 work experience places
- 133 pupil visits
- 4 new jobs created
- 3 new apprenticeships
- 24 traineeships
- Training courses for 87 people
- SME coaching and training for 15 people

working on site in October last year and is expected to finish the project by October this year.

The rejuvenated site will include workshops and studio space for use by creative enterprises and local businesses.

The works include refurbishing the external façade and roofs, refurbishing the unit fronts and external walkways, improving the internal spaces and providing lettable space for new businesses.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION



Owner of Hayman Graphics Ltd, Barry Hayman, has run his business from Sneinton Market for 10 years, growing from a one unit bay to eight units. He said he couldn't wait to see the finished new-look market.

"The buildings were in desperate need of renovation, so I'm very glad it is now happening," he said. "I'm sure the refurbishments will have an impact on footfall for businesses, as the redesigned market will have a more welcoming and open feel for visitors."

Richard Scarrott, business unit director at Wates, added:

"There is a real sense of excitement for the development of Sneinton Market and it gives us great pride to deliver projects that bring such a positive local impact.

"Nottingham City Council's aspiration is not merely just to refurbish a building, but to use it to create a new vibrant destination for the city in the Creative Quarter and we are working closely with them to bring that vision to life."

Councillor Nick McDonald, portfolio holder for jobs and growth at Nottingham City Council, said: "Having worked for some time to bring Sneinton Market back into full use, this is a significant milestone in the regeneration of the city's Creative Quarter.

"The redevelopment work will improve this important part of the city's heritage and bring jobs and growth to the local economy. The potential of Sneinton Market has always been huge. As a place for creativity, start-up businesses, arts and crafts, culture, markets, and as a focus for supporting students and graduates, it has enormous potential."

Head of empa Alan Coole said the project was one which really stood out in empa's wide ranging history of community-focused developments.

He said: "The regeneration of local communities, including public sector schemes to boost commerce, is at the heart of what we do at empa.

"We have predicted that savings of between 9 and 14% will be made on the overall project costs through using the empa procurement route, collaboration and intelligent design enabling more to be delivered within the project budget – a key driver as to why more public sector bodies are choosing empa to deliver their construction projects."

Enquiries are currently being taken from businesses expressing an interest in the redesigned units at the market. To add your businesses name to this waiting list, or for more information, contact kathy@creativequarter.com

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"We have predicted that savings of between 9 and 14% will be made on the overall project costs through using the empa procurement route, collaboration and intelligent design enabling more to be delivered within the project budget – a key driver as to why more public sector bodies are choosing empa to deliver their construction projects."

Alan Coole head of empa



On site... construction and council representatives at Sneinton Market



Kids design dream youth centre

Children from Clifton have designed the look and feel of their very own youth centre which has now opened its doors.

Children from Farnborough Academy were invited to choose the furniture, colours, entertainment and activities for Green Lane Youth Centre following a £525,000 revamp completed by empa partner G F Tomlinson for Nottingham City Council.

The new facility was revealed at a ribbon-cutting ceremony with children, parents, staff and local councillors.

Alex (13) was one of the children who suggested a pool table as one of the things to do at the centre. He said: "I really like the new centre. It's a cool place to hang out with your friends and play pool."

Chloe (12) said she gained confidence talking to different people after being involved in the feedback sessions and will be spending most of her time in the dance studio.

"It was really nice to be asked what we wanted. Now it's all done we can come here and do what we want – I'll be asking my friends to come down."



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"We're so impressed with the amount that has been achieved in five months, it's barely recognisable."

Donna Sherratt, community family support manager



"We built a brand new kitchen and café area, refurbished the dance studio and redecorated the sports hall. The centre also features a chill out zone and two large TV screens for gaming and films as well as pool and table tennis tables. It was great to have input on the project from the children and seeing them take ownership of this marvellous facility that will benefit the community for years to come."

Nick Banks construction director G F Tomlinson



Alex (13) enjoying the new pool table at Green Lane Youth Centre



Extending schools is child's play for empa

There will be 600 more primary school places across Leicestershire for the start of the new academic year, thanks to empa.

empa partner Jeakins Weir has started work on the first of 13 classroom extensions across the county.

The £6.5 million programme of works includes building new classrooms and extending existing halls and kitchens to support the growing need for additional primary school places. Work at Desford Community Primary School has kick-started the programme.

Many local authorities are experiencing, or will in the future, a shortage in the number of school places they have to meet growing pupil populations. By choosing empa work can start quickly as there isn't the need to go through a lengthy procurement process, clients save money on the overall project costs and there's a boost for the local economy too with a local workforce and suppliers.

Nigel Dutton, team leader projects (resources) at Leicestershire County

Council, said empa, and using a single contractor to deliver all the works across the county, was the right choice for Leicestershire.

"We are delighted to have used the empa procurement route to deliver our Primary School Programme. It allows the flexibility to schedule works to suit the individual requirements of schools whilst gaining from the economies of scale that Jeakins Weir has been able to offer."

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"It is tremendous to be working with Leicestershire County Council on this important programme. The empa framework is perfect for education projects particularly when we are faced with multiple sites and overlapping timescales. Thanks to empa we have been able to understand the individual requirements of each school and offer each of them real value for money."

Alistair Weir managing director Jeakins Weir

Jeakins Weir





"The best decision I ever made"

Did you know that clients who work with empa are also boosting their own local economy by creating apprenticeship opportunities and jobs?

empa has its own Training Academy which creates construction industry apprenticeships, new jobs, sets up work experience placements, provides site visits for school and college pupils and training days for the construction workforce to upskill.

The latest Academy Forum which gives apprentices the chance to voice their experiences, how they are benefiting from their training and how it can be improved in the future was hosted by empa partner, Interserve.

Speaking at the event, 20-year-old Alex O'Brien said he had set his sights on becoming an accountant but switched his thoughts to construction.

"It's the best decision I've ever made, even though it was completely out of my comfort zone and everything I'd been told about career paths that would suit me," said Alex of Aston-on-Trent in Derbyshire.

"I knew my skills would fit the accountancy profession, but I wasn't 100% convinced it was for me," he added.

Alex started his apprenticeship as a technical trainee with empa partner G F Tomlinson last September. He is one of the academy's many success stories.

In the last year, the Training Academy has created:







Apprenticeship Forum guest speakers included Tony Pinnock, principal at Wreake Valley Academy in Syston.

He said: "I've been really interested to hear about the successes of the young people who are training with the empa academy. I think it is very important for schools to ensure they are not encouraging all students to go to university as a blanket approach – but instead to assess the individual skills and interests of each student and direct them appropriately."



"It has been a real pleasure to hear about the journeys of these young construction apprentices and to learn about how we can improve our training programmes from the perspectives of the apprentices themselves."

James Eley-Gaunt framework manager Interserve



New opportunities... apprentices at the forum event



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Jobs

To see the Apprenticeship Forum in action, watch the short film in the news and events section on the empa website: www.em-pa.org.uk/news-events



NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

History in the making...

Children and staff at the largest primary school in Warwickshire made history when they buried a time capsule to mark a special phase of extension works.

Coten End Primary School, which is comprised of Victorian buildings, is currently being refurbished and extended by empa partner Ashe Construction.

The works have been split into five phases and involve the creation of six new classrooms, new toilets, cloaks area, staffroom and office spaces as well as a new practical area.

The school currently has 496 pupils. After the extension work is complete in the summer, it will eventually be able to take up to 654 pupils.

Co-head teacher at the school, Hellen Dodsworth, said:

"The children put items into the time capsule that they thought represented life in 2015. These items included newspapers and magazines, a copy of the most recent Argos catalogue, a DVD and loom bands. They also put school specific items in such as the school role, class timetables, handwritten letters 'to the future', our school newsletter and photographs of the school."



Exciting future... children and staff at the time capsule event

"We are delighted with the building work completed so far. Everyone has worked together to minimise the impact of the work and children, parents and staff are very pleased with their new accommodation. We are very excited to see the finished school as we look to welcome more children here at Coten End Primary School."

Hellen Dodsworth, co-head teacher Coten End Primary School

First council homes for 30 years

A regeneration project has created the first new council homes in Melton for nearly 30 years.

Sites at Greaves Avenue and Tudor Hill in Melton Mowbray and Saxelby Road, Asfordby have been transformed from under used, and in some cases derelict, garages to create 10 new affordable homes.

The work has been completed by empa partner G F Tomlinson for client Melton Borough Council. Councillor David Wright, chair of the council's community and social affairs committee, said: "There is a clear shortage of affordable housing in the borough and this and future projects will help meet some of the demand. We will continue to work with our partners in delivering more regeneration schemes.

"We will need to do more of this type of project. I will be continuing to push for more schemes to be developed by using under-utilised land and other housing assets." First new council homes in Melton for nearly 30 years

"We are delighted to be helping the council to deliver affordable new homes in Melton. This is a scheme which will make a genuine difference to people's lives – helping residents to own their own homes who may otherwise have not been able to do so."

Rob Sharman, framework manager G F Tomlinson

STRATEGIC PROPERTY REVIEW



A strategic property review will deliver real efficiencies...

Managing a large portfolio of property has many challenges, including ensuring compliance, meeting the community's needs and delivering value for money.

A more planned approach, achieved by undertaking a full strategic level property review, can bring long term benefits to councils, property managers and end users, including:

- Early preparation for repairs and maintenance visits: A clear and visible programme of what work will be carried out, where, when and by whom. Having advanced clarity on this is key for property managers to plan ahead and maintain continuity of service.
- Avoids emergency closures of properties: Works can be risk assessed and safe methods of working put in place in advance to keep properties open whilst work is undertaken, minimising disruption.
- Social, economic and environmental value: Continuity of work gives more opportunities to invest in a local supply chain, training and apprenticeship opportunities.

There is a need for responsive maintenance; however, the cost of this compared to planned maintenance is significantly higher. Experience indicates that a more planned approach reduces emergency responsive call outs and can save up to 10%.



For example, we have been managing 6,000 properties for Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council for the past three years. This continuity of work has enabled us to select, train, develop and expand our local supply chain of which:



of subcontractors are based within 5 miles of NG1 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG1 944 %

of subcontractors are based within the county boundaries

By not planning effectively, reactive repair costs can spiral. Time invested now can reduce the need for emergency measures such as closures and costly emergency call outs.

Prevention is better than cure.



Steve Gribby

repairs and maintenance director Robert Woodhead

©OO Woodhead

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION



empa 'newbie' comes on board

The latest new client is being welcomed to the empa community – with work starting straight away on an exciting new scheme.

Peterborough City Council will be working with empa on an ongoing basis and its first project is already under way with the building of a new state-of-the-art sports pavilion for the town.

empa partner Clegg Construction is delivering the project which will serve a new housing estate to the south of Peterborough.

Brian Howard of Peterborough City Council said:

"empa provided the flexibility we needed to meet the project's tight deadline. By directly awarding the contract to Clegg we are able to deliver the pavilion to the community on time.

"empa has given the city council another option to be able to deliver capital projects from the market, and so far so good."

Ross Crowcroft, preconstruction director at Clegg Construction, said: "We are delighted to be working with empa 'newbie' Peterborough City Council, but the authority is by no means new to early contractor involvement.

"Having met with the local authority to discuss the strategic elements of early contractor involvement we were able to discuss our approaches to procurement and delivery and then shape the best way forward to achieve the client's objectives.



Ross Crowcroft Clegg Construction

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" empa provided the flexibility we needed to meet the project's tight deadline. By directly awarding the contract to Clegg we are able to deliver the pavilion to the community on time."

Brian Howard Peterborough City Council

PETERBOROUGH



"The scheme is ideal for benefitting from empa as there was early contractor involvement right from the inception of the project brief."

The project began simply with an empty field and a few short sentences from a section 106 agreement to describe the facilities sought – namely a community and sports pavilion.

Ross said: "Before even the roof had been drawn, the project benefited from our early engagement with key stakeholders from the community, as well as potential operators and respective bodies within the authority itself. Gateway 2 was soon met with an outline scheme design, a project budget and a programme for delivery."

Clegg's next step is to refine the scheme design and submit a planning application on behalf of the client.

Ross added: "We were delighted when Peterborough City Council confirmed its support for empa by signing an access agreement. This now enables the council to use empa framework partners to service their project delivery requirements across any type of public sector building." **NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION / MARKET INSIGHT**



100 not out in North Kesteven

North Kesteven District Council is celebrating the completion of its latest empa project to build four new homes – helping the council to reach its 100th home milestone.

The family homes are the latest in a long-line of schemes delivering quality, affordable properties right across North Kesteven, in areas of greatest need.

empa partner Robert Woodhead was appointed through the framework to complete the most recent selection of properties. It was the construction firm's fourth project for the council.

Tenants have now been allocated their brand new homes on the latest Metheringham site. They include young mum, Emma Fahy, who is making a home with baby Elsie. She's delighted to be able to stay close to her roots in the village and thrilled to have secured the 100th house as her first home.

"I feel really privileged to have such a lovely new house that's so big and perfect and that no one has lived in before. I'm both excited and nervous and pleased to be so close to everything," said Emma, who is studying to be a special educational needs teacher.



"Not only has every individual project won the admiration of new tenants, neighbours and industry experts, but also the envy of others who can't believe that council houses can be so good. It is not only the pace of our building which we believe outstrips all others, but also the quality."

Council leader, Marion Brighton OBE

An insight into the market...

empa's first Market Intelligence report has been a big hit with our public sector clients planning their budgets for future projects.

As construction in general continues its upward trend, and with most companies in the region reporting improved workloads, the market is generally more buoyant. Contractors and the supply chain are choosing which high quality clients and companies to work with for the next 12 months.

The report found construction cost inflation to be in the region of +4% with a prediction this would stay steady or rise by summer 2015. The effect of lower oil prices and stagflation in the rest of Europe appears to have

dampened the predicted upward trend and sits in the region of +4% as in the last quarter.

A shortage of materials and in particular specialist supply chain companies in some trades is having an effect on prices.

The Market Intelligence report will help clients by providing an indication of trends in pricing in the East Midlands which will help with the budgeting for the design and build of projects.

If you would like a copy of the Market Intelligence report, please email: empaeng@scapegroup.co.uk



NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

Flat out at Fletton House

empa partner Jeakins Weir is demonstrating the considerable advantages for clients in working with empa through a major refurbishment project at Fletton House for Oundle Town Council.

Fletton House is located in the heart of Oundle in Northamptonshire and was built as an infirmary in 1900. The imposing red-brick building has been under used for many years and repairs and refurbishment were urgently needed. Northamptonshire County Council transferred ownership of the building to Oundle Town Council and found the funds necessary to preserve the building and secure Fletton House's future as a community hub.

Steve James from Jeakins Weir said: "It was evident that as Oundle Town Council hadn't had much experience of this type of works before, they would need a trusted guide to help them through the entire design and construction process. The Fletton House refurbishment project has become a perfect example of the empa framework process in action."

After feasibility costings, the project soon received the go-ahead from Oundle Town Council to proceed with detailed design and confirmation of pricing. At this time Jeakins Weir also assisted in the relocation of the pre-school to another property in Oundle.

As the design developed, costs were frequently updated and Phase 2 work incorporated within the scheme. Regular design meetings were held to carry out buildability checks along with value engineering on the mechanical and electrical service installations – again this demonstrates the value of the empa framework, with empa on hand to support its clients every step of the way.

The empa framework, by the use of the Project Order and the NEC Short Form Contract, has also enabled early orders to be placed with incoming gas supplies, asbestos surveys and subsequent removal.

The final scheme involves the refurbishment and extension of the internal accommodation to provide a civic amenity, pre-school, dance studio, youth facilities, general use area, internal office accommodation and café area.

Externally, roof repairs will be carried out and the existing windows replaced and new car parking provided.



Community hub... Oundle Town Council marks the start of the work

"The empa framework is particularly useful for parish councils and other small authorities without property professionals. Building projects can be undertaken with confidence knowing that the selected contractor has been through a rigorous and EC rules compliant tendering and selection process. Jeakins Weir has provided an excellent service and we are confident that our new community hub is being refurbished to the highest standard."

Ann Fitzgerald Oundle Town Council

Oundle Town Council

Building work for the £778,000 refurbishment project is well underway and completion is expected in July 2015.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION





Scape Design, empa construction

Aylesford School in Warwick is poised to become one of the first combined secondary and primary schools in the county, thanks to Scape Design and empa partner Ashe Construction.

The £2.7m investment in expanding the school buildings will mean that, from September this year, youngsters aged 4-19 will be able to take up places at the academy school.

Scape Design is the architect for the project and is providing multi-disciplinary services with Ashe Construction appointed as the contractors through the empa framework.

To design the new primary school for the site, which would see the school extend its age range and pupil numbers, Warwickshire County Council appointed Scape Design.

The local authority wanted to use Scape Design's Connect approach. Connect is an easy and cost-effective way to provide much needed pupil places from individual classrooms to full bespoke schools – all guaranteed to be delivered on schedule and at a fixed cost.

Six extra classrooms will be built on the campus, creating space for around 250 more children in line with the area's local plan – which will see housing numbers in Warwick increase.

Scape Design COAPECt

County councillor Colin Hayfield who is responsible for education and learning at Warwickshire County Council said that the necessary expansion was the ideal response to the mounting pressures on schools to find extra places.

"This is an exciting opportunity to deliver something innovative. It's good to work with the school and answer a growing need for places in the area," he said.



"This is a very exciting development for the school and we are looking forward to welcoming youngsters from September. The new buildings will mean we will be able to offer continuity of education from a very young age to post 16 education.

Both Scape Design and Ashe have been excellent partners in delivering the design and build components of this project thus far. Their approach has been innovative and flexible in seeking to meet our educational needs within tight deadlines.

With four months to opening the project is on schedule and I see no reason why completion will not be as expected. I am very impressed with the pragmatic and problem solving approach the team have adopted in providing this exciting and unique building solution."

Steve Hall, Head teacher



NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION





Fast-track to more nursery places

More children are benefiting from a place at nursery thanks to a fast-track relocation and refurbishment that was completed through empa in fewer than 50 days.

A total of 62% more children aged six weeks to 11-years-old are now attending Learning Works Day Nursery in Nottingham after its move from Poplar Street to Carlton Road.

A redundant two-story building was transformed into a modern and spacious nursery with a safe outdoor play area in just seven weeks for Nottingham City Council by empa partner G F Tomlinson.

Ian Towlson from the city council said: "Learning Works Day Nursery does a fantastic job but was located on a site which had been earmarked for significant development.

"It was vital for us to make the nursery move for children, parents and staff as seamless as possible. Seven weeks is a very tight timescale to deliver an Ofsted compliant nursery but securing a contractor through the empa framework made this project achievable within our £220,000 budget.

"We're really pleased with the results which have almost doubled much- needed nursery spaces for local families too." G

"Our team completed a full building refurbishment to create a new facility with a modern kitchen, play rooms, toilets, secure fire doors, a lift to the second floor and safe outdoor space for play. We've created a relaxed and homely space carefully designed for pre-school learning and play. It was a pleasure to work on the project which will make a real impact on the local community and children's early learning."



Rob Sharman, framework manager G F Tomlinson





CDM changes now in place

The needs and values of the client have changed dramatically in my time working in construction. We've moved from clients looking for works to be done quickly and cheaply, to projects being completed to a high quality, with safety of paramount importance.

One of the main pieces of legislation that drives our business – the CDM (Construction (Design & Management)) Regulation – changed in April 2015. The regulations promote a 'Plan, Manage, Monitor' ethos, which mirrors our own. It will now apply to commercial and domestic clients, where domestic were previously not included.

empa contractor partners have demonstrated a positive health and safety culture to be awarded their place on the framework and most of the changes won't impact bigger schemes. However some elements of how we deliver public sector projects will be affected.

The changes now require a Construction Phase Health and Safety Plan (CSHSP) to be produced for any job, whatever its size. For example smaller scale projects with rapid turnaround will be affected such as repairs and maintenance projects. These jobs wouldn't previously require a CSHSP plan, but now do, which could add on time and costs.

The CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) has created an app for Android phones "CDM Wizard" that enables you to input relevant information about the job to create a bespoke CSHSP. It will create a plan and email it to you which can be checked against your own risk assessments and method statements before starting on-site.

The Health, Safety and Environment working party on the empa framework has its own newsletter, which is issued to sites and clients quarterly, providing basic guidance and information such as changes to CDM regulations.



Value for Money goes live!

empa will be meeting its clients' priorities and delivering value for money better than ever before.

This is thanks to the launch of Value for Money (VfM) – a new reporting tool which captures clients' priorities for each project and enables empa to demonstrate how they have been met.

What constitutes VfM is subjective by its very nature, so a questionnaire is used to gauge from the outset how it should be measured.

Clients will now be able to provide responses to a set of questions at the beginning and end of their projects. It enables them to prioritise what outcomes are important to them and for it to be demonstrated how they have been met. In addition, the tool captures cashable savings and anecdotal evidence where value has been further evidenced.

A working team comprising representatives from Nottingham City Council, Scape, Wates and Robert Woodhead worked to produce the document over several months prior to its launch.



Sue Oliver from Nottingham City Council said: "I'm really pleased the VfM tool is live and I'm confident that all parties will see the benefits. Demonstrating value for money isn't always easy but by working collaboratively we've found a solution that highlights the savings in a way that is tangible for everyone; whether that's achieving a target, meeting a deadline or delivering within a constrained budget."

Have you used VfM yet? We'd love to hear from you!