

Monmouthshire Housing Association

Media Release

Wales Housing Quarterly

28 April 2009

- start -

NEW HQ FOR MONMOUTHSHIRE HOUSING

Monmouthshire Housing have just been granted planning permission for its proposed new headquarters on a site which it is purchasing from the Welsh Assembly Government. The new offices will bring together, for the first time, all of the staff together on one site within Monmouthshire, fulfilling one of MHA's commitments to tenants before transfer.

The new offices will house 114 staff with the potential to expand within the same site by a further 30%. All of the strategic, operational and technical staff will be accommodated in the building. This will entail closing two depots and three area offices, all of which are outdated and do not have public access.

The new building will be constructed to some of the highest ecological and energy efficiency standards. The building will achieve the BREEAM Excellent rating and will also achieve a Category A energy efficiency standard. Coupled with this, MHA's own staff traffic survey indicates that staff travelling distances to work will diminish by 650 miles per week. To reduce the Carbon Footprint further, over the new two years, MHA will be developing its own agile working scheme to allow staff to work from home and on the road more productively and flexibly.

The building has been designed by Cardiff Architects B3, with consultancy advice from White Young Green, Faithful and Gould, RVW and Cresswell with Project Management from HDP Associates.

The construction phase will create up to 150 very welcome jobs in a severely depressed construction sector. Final short-listing of contractors will take place in the coming weeks, the tendering process itself reflected the state of the construction industry with over 30 submissions from all of the major construction firms both in Wales and nationally.

It is expected that construction will be complete, allowing MHA to occupy the new offices in October 2010.

Transfers can be good for you!!!

Jobs Boost for the County

Since transferring on 21st January 2008 MHA have created 135 new jobs with a further 20 in the pipeline this year. Of this total, 44 posts have been created within MHA itself with all of the successful candidates from South Wales and many from Objective One areas. The remaining jobs have been created with contractors who have become part of MHA's procurement framework to carry out WHQS works to its properties. The majority of the posts are skilled electricians, carpenters, plumbing and heating engineers, window installers and surveying staff. This has injected considerable sums of money into the local economy with downwind supply-chain jobs sustained in the area such as in IG Doors in Cwmbran who have been selected to supply doors to MHA's properties. These posts are separate to the additional 150 posts that will be created during the construction of its new offices during 2009/10.

MHA are also developing a recognition scheme called MAP (Monmouthshire Achievers Programme) enabling staff to further careers through comprehensive training programmes and will be conducting a second round of apprenticeship recruitment in June of this year.

Judith Langmead, Chair of the Board, added "I am delighted with the progress on the employment opportunities to date and very excited for the potential for further opportunities in the future. MHA give a clear commitment to tenants that significant employment opportunities will be created. In these difficult times MHA is proud to be, in our own way, supporting and enriching our communities".

- end -

Contact

Kate Bradbrook – Corporate Services Officer
Monmouthshire Housing Association Limited
Block B
Mamhilad House
Mamhilad Park Estate
Pontypool
NP4 0HZ

Tel: 01495 761102

E-mail: @monmouthshirehousing.co.uk