

Progress in Practice

St Bartholomew and The London Hospitals' Private Finance Initiative (PFI) development

A project to explore how a major PFI redevelopment scheme in London can contribute to local regeneration

Summary

The Barts and The London Hospitals NHS Trust serves some of the most deprived boroughs in the country and it is currently embarking on the country's largest Private Finance Initiative (PFI) redevelopment. In order to maximise the contribution of the PFI scheme to regeneration, the Trust has developed a regeneration strategy focused on enhancing employment opportunities for local people. The Trust is also looking at how it can use the project to embed sustainability in the way it manages its day-to-day operations.

The regeneration strategy was commissioned by the Trust with the North East London Workforce Development Confederation and the London Development Agency and developed by John Owen of Inside Advice. It was completed in October 2003 and has been widely supported. A Regeneration Manager, Andrew Attfield, has been appointed and started work in March 2004. The objective of the strategy is to enhance retention of local labour, help to overcome barriers such as access to housing, build links to local labour schemes and brokerages for construction and recruitment to NHS posts, and make NHS procurement contracts more accessible to local suppliers.

Paul White, Chief Executive of Barts and The London, believes that it is essential for the Trust's future that more local people work in its hospitals:

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to regenerate the area around our hospitals and we will make sure we use it well to increase the number of people from the local community who work in our hospitals."

Steve Saunders, Project Director, adds:

"We have required our partners for the scheme, Skanska Innisfree, to give regeneration and sustainability a high priority. They have responded well and the proposed designs will provide greener, safer and environmentally friendly hospitals. They have also committed to ensuring that local people have access to construction jobs and training."

Links and organisations involved: Barts and The London NHS Trust (www.bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk) is working in partnership with a wide range of organisations including North East London Workforce Development Confederation (www.nelondon.nhs.uk), London Development Agency (www.lda.gov.uk), Tower Hamlets and Islington, the Corporation of London, and Local Labour in Construction. Skanska Innisfree are partners in the project (see www.skanska.co.uk and www.bartsandthelondon.org.uk/newh/Bidders/Skanska_Innisfree).

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