

## STOBARTS LTD AWARDED FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WITH CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL

*Company enlarges existing long-term contract portfolio with an additional '3+2' year agreement to carry out construction and refurbishment works on council properties.*



**Cumbria, UK** – Stobarts Ltd, has been awarded a three year contract with Cumbria County Council with an optional addition of up to two years. The company already has a sound portfolio of framework and long term partnership contracts with other large organisations such as British Nuclear Group offering a similar variety of services and disciplines.

Working in partnership with property design and consultancy Capita Symonds, Cumbria County Council began looking at framework agreements in July 2004 when the authority revised its strategy on the procurement of maintenance, building and civil engineering services. Having benchmarked against other local authorities who had already gone down the framework route, they found positive outcomes in many cases, leading to improvement in services. In particular: higher quality workmanship, fewer defects, less time between design and completion of physical work and greater certainty of cost. The authority believes that there is a national move to engage in alternative procurement methods for construction work, which has already been tried and tested by other local authorities.

In October 2004, Stobarts Ltd were invited to tender in the first stage of the selection process with a pleasing outcome allowing the company to be through to the second and final stage in February 2005.

Stobarts Ltd developed the 'Building Partnerships' strategy in 2004 to expand the amount of work it is carrying out in framework and partnership contracts. Realising that the construction industry is moving further towards the recommendations by Sir John Egan in the DTI 'Rethinking Construction' Report, the company has been amongst the front runners in developing partnerships with clients and expanding the strategy to encompass its entire supply chain.

The award of the framework contract adds further long term stability to the organisation and allows both parties to forge a trust based relationship for the foreseeable future.

### **About Cumbria County Council:**

Cumbria County Council is a directly elected body providing a wide range of important public services for the people of Cumbria. The Council also champions the interests of Cumbria at regional, national and European levels. The Council has 84 elected members, each representing a single electoral division. The last Council elections in June 2001 returned 40 Labour members, 33 Conservative members, 10 Liberal Democrat members and 1 Independent member.

### **About Stobarts:**

Established over 20 years ago in Workington, Cumbria, Stobarts started supplying joinery services to major contractors in the area. Today after much success, the company leads as a major contractor on many projects throughout Cumbria, North Lancashire, South Scotland and Northumbria. Having vastly expanded the scale and scope of the services it can provide in-house the company continues to go strength-to-strength, currently employing 240 people directly across a number of sites. The company has achieved profitable growth successively for a number of years through a skilled and trained workforce, providing high quality services to a diverse client portfolio. Core skills include, but are not limited to: building, civil engineering, demolition, ground works, term contracts, nuclear works, formwork, joinery, responsive repairs and maintenance

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