



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

### **GB Building Solutions kicks off New Year with £2.2m library project**

Northumberland County Council (NCC) has appointed GB Building Solutions to build a library with community facilities in the Northumberland market town of Haltwhistle.

Haltwhistle's Victorian Mechanics Institute, which currently houses the library and other community services, will be partly demolished and redeveloped to create a three-storey facility of strong contemporary design, contrasting but complimenting the Victorian structure. GB will preserve the stone-built Institute building, which was opened in 1900, as a local landmark, while making it suitable for 21<sup>st</sup> century needs. It is also intended to improve the character and appearance of the town's conservation area in which the building sits.

The new building will consist of a public library, community activity space and offices that will better meet the needs of the town. GB Building Solutions is starting detailed design work this week and plans to start work on site in May 2009.

Northumberland County Council received a £1.472k grant just before Christmas, from the Big Lottery Fund's Community Libraries Programme for the new library and community facility. Additional £0.7m funding has also been provided by NCC and Tynedale District Council.

The GB team will organise the library's move into temporary accommodation within the next few months to ensure that the community still has access to full library facilities during the demolition and rebuilding programme.

GB was awarded the contract as part of the Northumberland County Council Framework; GB has been on the Council's Framework for five years and has built or refurbished over 200 schools and other buildings during that time.

Martin Smout, chairman and chief executive of GB Building Solutions says, "It is excellent news that Northumberland County Council is continuing to invest in the buildings and



facilities around the county to improve the lives of the people who live and work there. GB has worked on over £40 million of projects with NCC over the past five years which has had a significant effect on the communities throughout Northumberland.

Marguerite Gracey, Acting Divisional Director for Customer Services, Libraries and Archives at Northumberland County Council, said: "We were delighted to have the lottery funding confirmation and things can now move forward. Successful libraries are right at the hub of their community and that has been our vision for Haltwhistle.

If you want to find out more about GB Building Solutions please visit the website at:

[www.gb-building.co.uk](http://www.gb-building.co.uk)

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***For further information please contact:***

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**Notes for Editors**

GB Building Solutions is a solutions-focused construction company which believes in adding value and delivering on the promises it makes to its customers.

GB Building Solutions has six offices based throughout England and undertakes a range of new build and refurbishment projects in both the public and private sectors. It specialises in five sectors:

- ❖ Accommodation
- ❖ Commercial
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Hotels and leisure
- ❖ Non-acute health

GB Building Solutions was previously known as Gleeson Building. The name change to GB Building Solutions is the final step in a transition that started with a management buyout of MJ Gleeson's building division in July 2005.