



NEWS RELEASE

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Northumberland framework yields instant results for GB Building Solutions

GB Building Solutions has received its first school replacement just a month after renewing a five-year Framework with Northumberland County Council.

The company is to build a £6.2m Special Educational Needs facility at the Hexham Priory School for children with complex needs in South West Northumberland and will be the first school replacement awarded on the new Framework.

The scheme is part of Northumberland County Council's '**Putting the Learner First**' programme to improve standards and school buildings in the county and will be constructed on the current school site with state of the art facilities for pupils and specialist staff. On completion, the existing building will be demolished and the grounds refurbished and upgraded. The plans for the new development were put out to public consultation and received a great deal of support during a consultation exercise.

Martin Smout, Chairman and Chief Executive of GB Building Solutions said, "The new school will make a tremendous difference to the children living in rural Northumberland who require specialist education, as it will not only improve the facilities for existing pupils, but provide much needed space for additional students who will be attending the school from the surrounding area.

"Our relationship with Northumberland County Council has been a really positive one ever since we began working together in 2004, and it continues to grow. During our time working together on the previous four year Framework, we have built or refurbished 14 schools in Northumberland and Hexham Priory is a continuation of this very positive working relationship."

Councillor Jim Wright, Executive Member for Children's Services, said: "We're very pleased to be able, through the work at the Priory School, to provide enhanced facilities for even more young people within Northumberland. This means more children with complex needs



can attend school closer to home. It also means Hexham Priory pupils will benefit from even better facilities at the school.”

Work is expected to start on site in July and last until September 2009.

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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.