



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **GB Building Solutions central to £100million Bradford regeneration project**

GB Building Solutions has been appointed as construction partner by Mi7 Developments on a £100million project which will be the catalyst for the regeneration of Bradford's Learning Quarter. The scheme will focus on sustainable construction solutions and will be divided into several phases all anchored around a one thousand-bed student village.

The first phase of the development will include managed workspace, a health and dental centre and public realm. Following the initial phase the project will move on to the Sustainable Student Village; this will become a central part of Bradford University's 'ecoversity' project. The university seeks to create a sustainable environment in which its students can live and study in the hope that they will take the 'ecoversity' experience into their lives after graduation.

An integral part of the wider Sustainable Student Village will be the 20,000 square foot of managed workspace; this will house serviced business starter units to provide employment opportunities for local residents and graduates. The enabling works for phase one will involve the refurbishment of an adjacent mill, where the business starter units will be housed; it will also accommodate the tenants and businesses that have to be relocated to make way for the new student village.

Subsequent phases of the project will include post-graduate student accommodation, key worker accommodation, grade A office space and a hotel.

The village's development will continue with the creation of attractive, affordable and environmentally friendly student accommodation. Providing 1,000 beds for the city's student population, the residential heart of the village will be a safe and healthy environment to live in. A further 80 apartments will be provided for post-graduate, mature and overseas students, as well as lecturers, and will provide the retail and



commercial centre of the village, ensuring that its residents have access to a pharmacy, a convenience store, a café, a bistro and a bar.

A CHP (Combined Heat and Power) plant will be built to meet all of the village's heat and power requirements. This will run on green fuels, such as straw bales and waste wood pellets, and will generate heat and electricity at the same time, reducing waste and making it an efficient and environmentally friendly option.

Martin Smout, chairman and chief executive of GB Building Solutions, says, "This project will be central to the regeneration of Bradford and will transform the university and surrounding area as part of the ambitious plans to create a £750m Learning Quarter in the city.

"There is a central focus on sustainability in this project; GB Building Solutions was chosen as construction partner because of our experience in sustainable construction developed on a similar project: the UK's largest zero carbon development in the heart of Middlesbrough, for Bioregional Quintain.

"Both the Middlesborough project and Listerhills are designed around a forward looking philosophy; the philosophy that we need to change our use of energy to create a more sustainable way of living."

Outline planning permission for the development has already been obtained and a reserved matters planning application has been submitted for the initial phases. Work is due to start on site this year with an estimated completion in 2013.

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

*Debbie Staveley, bClear Communications on:*

*0771 896 8434 or by email at: [debbie.staveley@bclear.co.uk](mailto:debbie.staveley@bclear.co.uk)*

**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.