

# THE MJ BUSINESS

## EDUCATION

### Carillion in BSF venture

A consortium led by Carillion has been appointed preferred bidder for Nottingham City Council's £208m Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

The Inspiredspaces consortium also includes Capita Symonds and its Capita Architecture division, together with IT provider Ramesys.

The construction element of the contract is worth £180m, and Carillion will also provide facilities management services for three of the new schools.

Work is expected to start later this year and be completed by 2010.

'We are delighted to have achieved preferred bidder status on our third project under the BSF programme, which we expect to be a strong growth market for the group,' explained Carillion chief executive, John McDonough.

'Nottingham City Council is a leader in sustainability among local authorities, and Carillion's strength in developing sustainable solutions was an important factor in our success.'

Chris Nelhams, strategic business development director at Capita Symonds, said: 'We are confident the programme will be of massive benefit to Nottingham, providing the region with a truly exceptional educational infrastructure.'

## REGENERATION

### Jobs head east

Glasgow City Council has launched a new strategy aimed at bringing 10,000 jobs to the east end of the city.

The council's executive has approved a proposal for the East End local development strategy to revitalise part of the city.

'People in the east end of Glasgow suffer from some of the highest levels of deprivation and health inequalities in Scotland,' said executive member for development and regeneration, Cllr George Ryan.

'But this new strategy will allow us to unlock the huge potential that exists in this area of the city.'

## GEARING UP TO CELEBRATE CAR GIANT'S EXPANSION



**Sunderland City Council leader, Bob Symonds, has welcomed news that motor manufacturer Nissan is to bring 800 new jobs to the city. 'We've been working with Nissan to create the right conditions for its continued expansion in Sunderland since the company first came here in the 1980s, so we knew this was coming and we're delighted to have been part of it,' said Cllr Symonds.**

## THIRD SECTOR

### Social enterprise 'offers better value' says Hope

By Jamie Hailstone

A government minister has called on councils to cut back on public spending and use social enterprise instead.

Third sector minister, Phil Hope, said he wanted to see more social enterprises involved 'in the provision of public services'.

Speaking at a conference in Dudley, Mr Hope said: 'They bring innovation to community services that sometimes the Government finds quite hard to deliver.'

'From a local authority perspective, using social enterprises can also make a tangible difference to the council's bottom line.'

Social Enterprise Coalition chief executive, Jonathan Bland, said: 'We have a lot of members doing fantastic things. Many of them are working with local authorities, doing everything from social care to waste and transport.'

Mr Bland said coalition members included

Hackney Community Transport, which runs three London bus routes, and also more than 100 leisure trusts around the country.

'What all our members have in common is the ability to combine the rigours of the private sector with a public service.'

'It does not necessarily mean that things will be cheaper,' he said. 'It is not a quick way of cutting costs, but they are seen to give true best value and a more holistic approach.'

Mr Bland said the coalition had found the use of social enterprises by councils 'is a bit patchy'.

'Unfortunately, there are a lot of people who do not understand social enterprises and will just go for the default option. They simply head for the standard approach and do not think about cleverer ways of getting more for their money.'

Mr Bland said communities secretary, Hazel Blears, would be among speakers at its Voice 08 conference in Liverpool on 27 February.

## IN BRIEF

### Smarter progress

The Amey and Cyril Sweett consortium E4D&G has achieved financial close for the Dumfries and Galloway Council's 'smarter schools' PPP project.

The project will see more than £100m invested in the local area, with eight new schools and one refurbishment, as well as an extension project in an existing school.

### Pearson voted in

Northgate Information Systems has appointed John Pearson as electoral services consultant to its elections team.

Mr Pearson joins from Monmouthshire CC, where he worked as local democracy officer.

### £26m school deal

Construction firm Alfred McAlpine has signed a deal with Lambeth LBC to build a new, £26m home for the Elmgreen School.

'The school will provide much-needed secondary school places and is part of a borough-wide programme of rebuilding and refurbishing Lambeth's secondary schools,' explained cabinet member for children and young people, Cllr Sally Prentice.

### Banking for two

AbitibiBowater Recycling Europe has been awarded separate contracts to provide paper banks to Basingstoke and Deane BC and Winchester City Council.

The two councils are expected to generate, between them, an additional 200t a year of paper for recycling.

### Picking up speed

Hartlepool Council has picked beyerdynamic's MCW-D 50 Digital Wireless Conference System for its newly-refurbished council chamber.

'The beyerdynamic MCW-D systems come complete, which means a 40-way system can be set up in two to three minutes,' said Dave Chapman, from beyerdynamic's conference partner, Blaydon Communications.