

NEWS RELEASE

16 DECEMBER 2015

CLEAN UP CONTRACT GOES TO LOCAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

A LOCAL social enterprise has cleaned up after scooping a major contract at one of Dundee Waterfront's most prominent building projects.

Hillcrest Maintenance Services (HMS) secured the main site cleaning contract with Balfour Beatty for the Dundee Railway Station development.

Ken Guild leader of Dundee City Council said: "It is great to see that our community benefits approach to major projects such as this one is bearing fruit and giving local social enterprises a crack at getting work.

"Through our approach we encourage contractors on some of the most important construction projects to work with supported and social enterprise organisations in the city."

Social enterprises, such as HMS sell goods and services to individual consumers, local authorities, government and private businesses while aiming to make a profit to reinvest into their social and environmental purposes.

HMS merged with Clean Close Company earlier this year and provides a range of effective cleaning services to private, commercial and industrial clients. As part of the Hillcrest Group of Companies it has a strong social focus, and works to benefit the community in a number of ways.

Mark Percival Hillcrest's director of property said: "We are delighted to have secured the main site cleaning contract for Dundee's exciting railway station development, it is without a doubt one of our biggest cleaning contracts to date.

"The profits from this contact, like all our surplus income, will be reinvested back into the charitable areas of the Hillcrest Group and will go towards helping disadvantaged people and communities."

2.

The company's profits are invested into the charitable arms of the group through the Gift Aid funding programme which is used to benefit people and communities across Dundee and Scotland.

Hillcrest provides a unique apprenticeship training scheme and work experience programme to develop local youngsters into highly-skilled tradespeople.

Derek Marshall chair of Dundee Social Enterprise Network (DSEN) said: "With the support of the city council, the social enterprise sector has been building a range of successful partnerships with private sector companies operating in Dundee, particularly in construction and environmental services.

"These developing relationships are helping to maintain employment and training opportunities in the local economy for local people and we are looking to accelerate and expand these partnerships over the coming year."

The Dundee Railway station concourse will see construction of a new passenger concourse and ticketing facilities, as well as a café/restaurant and retail space. A new 120 bedroom hotel operated by Sleeperz Hotels will also be accommodated on three floors above the new concourse.

The proposed new station building will occupy the site of the former concourse and it has been designed to create an impressive new landmark within the Central Waterfront development and also an attractive new gateway into the city for rail passengers.

Work started on the site in October after Dundee City Council awarded Balfour Beatty the £28m contract for the redevelopment of Dundee Rail Station at a meeting in August.

Hector MacAulay, Balfour Beatty managing director for Scotland, said: "Balfour Beatty is dedicated to creating local employment opportunities and community involvement in the areas in which it operates and working with social enterprises such as Hillcrest is a great opportunity to do so.

"Throughout the construction phase of this project we will continue to work closely with the council to deliver sustainable benefits to the local areas."

The project will be over the live railway with normal train services continuing during the work which is expected to be completed in just over two years. The station's completion in time for the opening of the V&A Museum of Design is critical to its business and travel planning.

Media enquiries: Mike Boyle 01382 434196