

Press release

19 September 2016

Ealing, Hammersmith and West London's College set to launch local apprentice scheme in partnership with Berkeley Group

Berkeley Group today announces the launch of a local apprenticeship programme, in partnership with Ealing, Hammersmith and West London's College, with the support of Ealing Council. The Berkeley Apprenticeship Scheme will offer valuable career opportunities to local people helping to increase the level of skilled workers throughout west London.

Construction apprenticeships attract, retain and develop talented people into a range of careers, including bricklaying, carpentry, electrical engineering and plumbing. The scheme is designed to take that work one step further by offering training for progression to supervisory and management levels, helping to provide the industry with a qualified and sustainable workforce and supporting the government's pledge to have three million apprentices in the UK by 2020.

Berkeley Group gained planning consent earlier this year for the masterplan of Southall Waterside, an 88-acre regeneration project in west London, which will see the former gasworks transformed into a thriving new neighbourhood of 3,750 new homes alongside a new retail and leisure hub, community facilities and extensive open public realm.

Cllr Peter Mason, Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Skills, Employment and Transformation, Ealing Council, commented: "With glass and steel rapidly replacing traditional bricks and mortar as modern methods of construction, the industry offers decent paid, technically skilled jobs like never before. As we continue to grow our way out of austerity, we are grasping the opportunities for regeneration major investments like Crossrail offer our Borough. Through working with Berkeley to deliver their apprenticeship scheme, there are going to be many more opportunities for young people in Ealing to get a route into a lifelong profession, and gain a practical trade that will set them up for life."

Karl Whiteman, Divisional Managing Director of Berkeley Homes, added: "We are proud to be partnering with West London's College to launch the Berkeley Apprenticeship Scheme. As a key component of delivering our vision for Southall Waterside, we will be offering young people living locally the chance to get involved in shaping their futures, that of their community and also the opportunity to learn lifelong skills."

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“The College has a long standing history in the construction industry and the building profession and we are pleased to be working with Berkeley Group in providing students with the appropriate skills to help them gain the suitable employment in a growth sector.”

The scheme forms a part of Berkeley Group’s 2016-2018 commitment to provide training to 1,500 people through construction apprenticeships, its graduate scheme, or for those working on NVQ or equivalent qualifications. It follows the successes of an earlier commitment to increasing the number of apprentices and staff in work-based learning by 50% from May 2014 to April 2016; this target was exceeded with an increase of 127.5%.

- Ends -

Notes to editor:

For more information on Southall Waterside, contact Debbie Standen / Jennifer Ball at LUCHFORD APM:

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Berkeley Group

The Berkeley Group build homes and neighbourhoods. We focus on creating beautiful, successful places in London and the South East. We work together with other people to tackle the shortage of good quality homes, and make a lasting contribution to the landscape and to the communities we help create.

The Berkeley Group is made up of five autonomous companies: St George, St James, Berkeley, St Edward and St William. We are publicly-owned and listed on the London Stock Exchange as a FTSE 100 company.

Berkeley's business strategy is called 'Our Vision'. This focuses on five key areas: our customers, homes, places, operations and people. Through this framework we are striving to become a world class business.

Sustainability is at the heart of Berkeley. Our single biggest contribution is to create new places that grace their surroundings and will stand the test of time. The environmental performance of each site is monitored tightly and we publish independent research measuring our social and economic impact.

The Berkeley Group is the only housebuilder to have won the Queen's Award for Sustainable Development twice, in 2008 and 2014. In 2015, we were voted Britain's fifth most admired company across all sectors and also named British Housebuilder of the Year by the Sunday Times.

The Berkeley Foundation was set up in 2011 and supports young people and their communities across London and the South of England. So far it has committed over £5 million to over 60 charities. The Berkeley Group support this independent charity with funding and the time and talent of our staff.

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Each of our four Colleges are embedded in our local communities with their own individual strengths but with a common objective – to prepare our learners for the journey ahead of them. Over the years, we have helped millions of learners to obtain their goals and succeed in their careers.

We are dedicated to ensuring that we get students on the right course with the right support. We continue to support them whilst they transition onto further study or into the workplace with an apprenticeship. The college can provide careers advice, qualifications, personal mentoring or access to professional training — we offer the skills, support and guidance needed to achieve ambitions. Visit our website for more information: www.wlc.ac.uk

Ealing, Hammersmith &
West London's College

Ready to **Work** | Ready to **Learn**

