

Build the East (BtE) is a series of client led Construction Supply Chain Readiness Networks. BtE networks aim to provide a focal point for the construction and built environment sectors in the East of England, and by 2009, three have been established in Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Essex. Led by County Council Heads of Property, Build networks harness the influence and responsibility of local procurers to stimulate improvement and change within construction and built environment supply chains and support wider social, economic and environmental obligations.

Guided by a client led, representative Regional Steering Group, the networks assist local and regional partners in delivering demand-led business and skills improvement and provide real-time analysis of the needs of small construction businesses. Competitive tenders are obtained for projects and as much work as possible is undertaken by local businesses, providing environmental benefits and enhancing the local multiplier.

Over 1400 East of England firms of all sizes have joined the networks and to date 83% of them have accessed business support in order to improve their businesses so that they are better positioned to win work in the Client supply chains.

Network activities

Build the East networks involve both virtual and face to face activities. To date each Build network delivers the following core programme:

- A major annual network event (The Construction Marketplace)
- Up to 3 locally based events such as exhibitions and networking or themed local workshops
- A .Build network Website

Additional optional activities subject to local needs and priorities can include:

- Build Your Future interactive careers events
- Speed matching contractors with young people seeking apprenticeships
- Supporting County led initiatives such as the Future Jobs Fund, ERDF programmes and Response to Redundancy

Benefits for Main Contractors

- Access to a database of local sub-contractors and ability to view their documentation, skills, capacity and qualifications online as well as the opportunity to meet them face-to-face.
- Opportunity to multi-skill apprentices
- Ability to advertise work opportunities in a cost effective way
- Increased capacity and a simplified pre-qualification process.
- Improved ability to recruit the right people from trades to professions
- Help meet economic development objectives of clients
- Opportunities for positive contact with potential clients
- Improved efficiency and sub-contractor quality
- Community Investment demonstration
- Meet hundreds of young people seeking a career in the industry
- The networks are inclusive and attract a wide range of local firms of all sizes and competences, not just the usual suspects and early adopters.

Benefits for Local Authorities include:

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- Use construction capital and maintenance programmes to stimulate the local construction sector – driving up capability, capacity and resilience amongst local businesses
- Realise Authorities place making role by demonstrating client and community leadership
- Encourage sustainable development and procurement and a lower carbon economy
- Protect, support and develop your local construction businesses via simplified access to public sector supply chains and co-ordinated access to training and business development support
- Build, incentivise and support the workforce of tomorrow through sector specific careers activities including information, advice and guidance

BtE networks:

- Support a raft of Local Authority Client objectives and provides visibility down the supply chain.
- Bring together disparate initiatives, departments and sectors in a managed way so that reach into and engagement with the community is maximised for all.
- Utilise existing planned spend and resources to minimise cost.
- All partners benefit.
- Create a network environment wherein business drivers and opportunities are employed to generate a culture of learning, business improvement, meaningful partnering and community engagement.

For further information on Build the East see www.moorenetworking.net

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