

FIFE SHOWCASE ATTRACTS TOP UK FIRMS

Some of Britain's leading construction companies are to take part in a unique Fife showcase that could influence the future of affordable housing in Scotland.



L-R Councillor Goodall, Bill Banks and the Preferred Partners

The overall aim of the £3.3 million project is to trial different new construction technologies, which can demonstrate the capabilities to be mainstreamed across a larger affordable housing programme in the future. Over 40 firms applied to take part in a scheme which will see 27 new homes built to test and evaluate new construction methods and renewable technologies, aimed at improving standards and cutting costs.

Yesterday Kingdom Housing Association and Fife Council partners in Housing Innovation Showcase 2012, which is also supported by Fife Construction Forum and Green Business Fife, announced the preferred house system partners who have been selected to build the houses at a site on Dunlin Drive in Dunfermline.

Bill Banks, Depute Chief Executive of Kingdom Housing Association, said, "We received an amazing response to the announcement of this unique project. We went through dozens of submissions, which were of a very high standard and demonstrated just how dynamic the construction industry is when it comes to meeting new challenges.

"It was a difficult choice but our final selection of preferred partners are: Assist/Powerwall, Future Affordable; a partnership between Springfield Properties, David Blaikie Architects and Kraft Architects; Bobin Developments / BecoWallform; CCG Scotland; Campion Homes/ Scotframe; Cube

Re:treat; Lomond Homes; Metcon and the Stewart Milne Group.”

He added, “We hope that by carefully trialling and evaluating new technologies and construction systems we will learn lessons that can be incorporated into that mainstream of affordable housing construction in Britain. Visitors from across the country will be welcomed at the site and once the homes have been completed they will be showcased in an exhibition complete with seminars to examine the different technologies employed.”

Work on the £3.3 million development is already underway and a framework team, consisting of Champion Homes, Oliver and Robb, Scott Bennett Associates and Hardies have developed the proposals and obtained the necessary consents for the project. Champion are currently on site with the major infrastructure works to service this site.

Housing Minister Keith Brown said: “I would like to congratulate all of the firms that have been selected as preferred partners. This unique project will showcase the best of available technologies that can help us do more for less.

“It is an excellent initiative that will put Fife on the housing map and enable us to learn valuable lessons.

“Despite drastic cuts by the UK Government we are investing to help increase the supply of affordable homes, which remains one of our top priorities. We are committed to delivering 30,000 affordable homes during this Parliament.”

Fife Council is playing an active role in supporting Housing Showcase 2012. Councillor Brian Goodall, Chair of Fife Council's Housing & Communities Committee and Fife Housing Partnership added: “It's great to see Fife at the forefront of innovation in affordable housing and it is incredibly encouraging to see such an impressive range of partners coming on board to help deliver this unique project. I look forward to seeing things develop on site and am confident that the initiative will deliver great results which will help shape the way future affordable housing is delivered across the country.”