

News

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Construction's next generation help to deliver new Merseyside Police Operational Command Centre

The next generation of construction workers are honing their skills at the site of Merseyside Police's new Operational Command Centre, which is being built by Morgan Sindall.

The £44 million project in Speke includes the construction of a three-storey building on the Estuary Business Park on currently vacant land bounded by Speke Hall Avenue, Estuary Banks and Leeward Drive and will bring together the teams forming the Matrix Serious and Organised Crime Unit.

Over 20 apprentices employed by Morgan Sindall and its sub-contractors are gaining valuable experience on the Operational Command Centre site.

Morgan Sindall is committed to encouraging and working with apprentices across all its sites, and will be celebrating the tenth National Apprenticeship Week from March 6th to March 10th. Co-ordinated by the National Apprenticeship Service, the week is designed to celebrate the positive impact apprenticeships and traineeships have on individuals, businesses and the economy.

Apprentice events in Merseyside that Morgan Sindall will be supporting include a special apprentice-focused event held by the Liverpool Regeneration Contractors Group (LRCG) at the City of Liverpool College on Wednesday March 8th. This will provide a platform for students and contractors to meet and enable students to speak to contractors, providing them with a clear understanding of their requirements and opportunities available to those just entering the construction sector.

Merseyside's Police Commissioner Jane Kennedy said: "It's pleasing that through the creation of Merseyside Police's new Operational Command Centre in Speke we are giving a number of local young people the opportunity to learn more about the construction industry, gain new skills and increase their experience.

"When I set out my 10-year strategy for improving the Force's stations, I was clear that, where possible, I wanted to maximise social value, ensuring our projects benefitted local people. This is a great example of how through this plan we are helping young people and supporting our local universities."

Barry Roberts, Morgan Sindall area director, said: "Morgan Sindall is working hard to drive apprenticeship engagement across the UK and the work our team and subcontractors are doing on site at the Speke Operational Command Centre is a great example of this.

"The looming construction skills shortage is something which can't be ignored. It's important we take action and invest in breaking down industry stereotypes and proactively promoting construction as a great, professional industry with brilliant career prospects.

"Welcoming young people on our sites and helping them to explore the industry and all the great opportunities it offers is key. We're working side by side with local authorities, sub-contractors and suppliers to help inspire and engage with young people interested in a career in construction."

Paul Heald, senior contracts manager at Morgan Sindall, said: "We've got a really broad range of different trades on site here, including brick layers, joiners, and mechanical and electrical

engineers. Working on a high-profile project of this nature is a fantastic opportunity for apprentices to deepen and expand their skills base, get real-world experience and learn from some of the best tradespeople in the industry.

“Alongside the apprentices who are working with our sub-contractors, or are directly employed by Morgan Sindall on this project, we’ve also been able to welcome students from local universities and colleges for tours of the site.

“We’re facing a critical shortage of younger people with the skills we need in the construction industry, so it’s vital that we promote and encourage the next generation and provide them with the experience they need to be inspired and equipped to develop great careers in construction.”

The Operational Command Centre forms part of a 10-year programme to update and improve the force’s buildings, while saving running costs on the estate. The plan will provide community police stations for each neighbourhood and save £2.5m every year on the cost of running the present police estate.

For more information about this news release please contact Ruth Cobban at Influential on 0151 239 5000 or email cobban@thisisinfluential.com