

Lancashire Building Schools for the Future programme

Lancashire has been selected as one of the first counties to benefit from the Government's Building Schools for the Future initiative (BSF), which aims to rebuild or renew every secondary school in England over a 10-15 year period.

One of the key aspirations of BSF is to position sustainability at the heart of its approach, both in the construction of new schools and at a social and economic level for their surrounding communities. The partners delivering Lancashire BSF, who include Urban Vision, have wholeheartedly embraced this approach and have put into place a number of practices to ensure that sustainability is at the top of the delivery agenda for every new school within the Lancashire programme.

Lancashire BSF's selected engineers, Environmental Design Consultants Limited, work with the team on Lancashire BSF to ensure that all materials and technologies specified in the design and build of the schools are energy efficient and environmentally friendly. Frank Mills, Environmental Design Consultants comments: "A genuinely sustainable approach requires buy-in from all stakeholders and luckily in Lancs BSF the whole team is fully committed

to delivering the county's new schools as exemplars of sustainable development, not only through the environmentally efficient measures put into place during the design and build stage, but also through the inclusion of the local community, with local training and employment and the use of local suppliers where possible. We aim to include positive teaching and learning as part of our sustainable approach and will be displaying details of each building's environmental credentials for pupils to see within their new schools."

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Frank Mills,
Environmental Design Consultants,
Team member, Lancashire BSF

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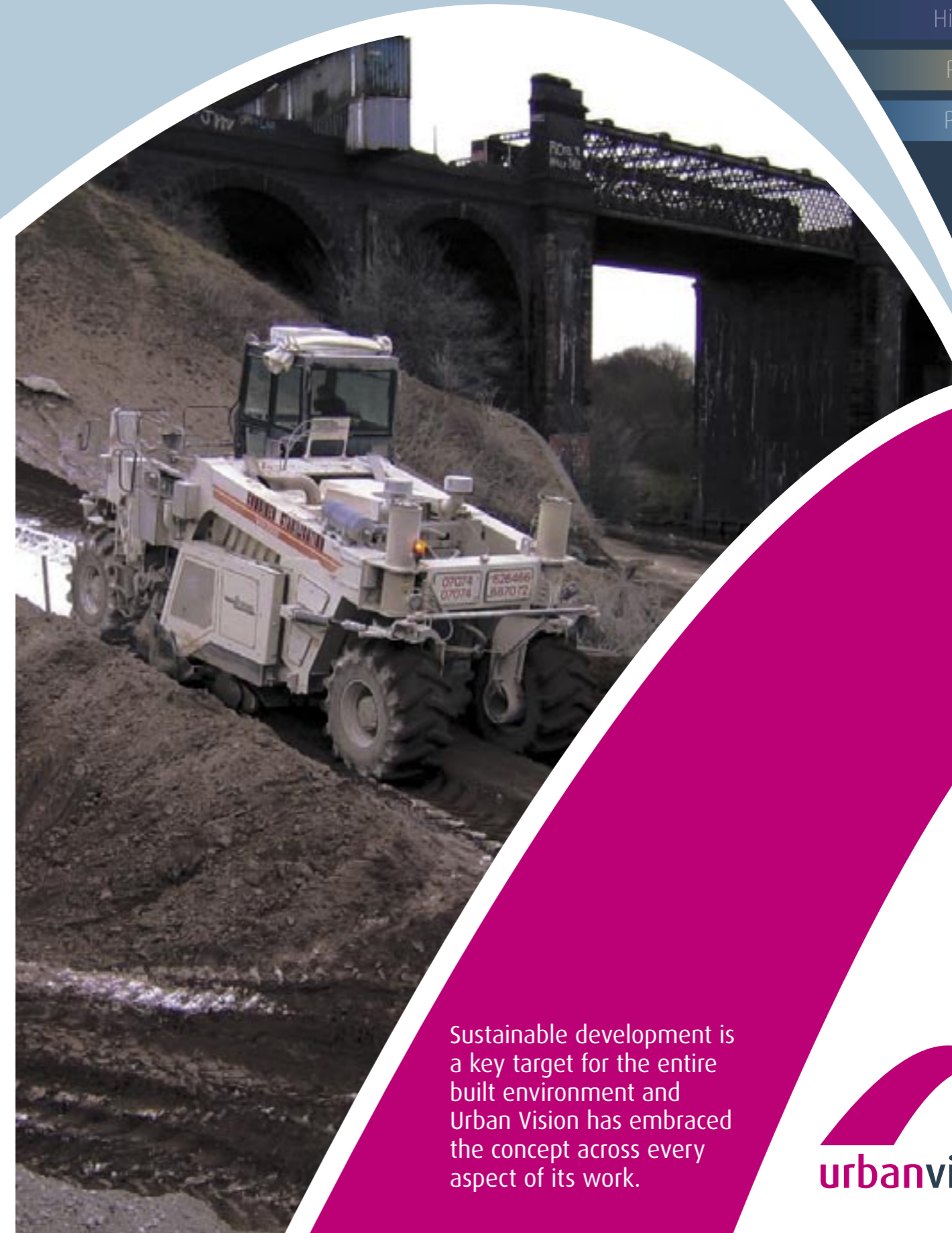
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Urban Vision is a unique joint venture company, combining the highest level expertise from the public and private sectors to provide support across property, planning and building control and highways services.



"Urban Vision's philosophy as a company is to promote sustainability in everything we do. The concept of sustainability runs through our design, construction and maintenance projects, with the aim of reducing carbon emissions and energy costs for our clients, whilst recycling most of our waste highway construction materials."

Bill Taylor, Managing Director
Urban Vision Partnership



Sustainable development is a key target for the entire built environment and Urban Vision has embraced the concept across every aspect of its work.



Urban Vision

Highways

Property

Planning

Benefits

Urban Vision set out its strategies for sustainability as a priority when it was established in 2005. By examining its services separately and producing a list of objectives for each at the outset, it was able to introduce environmentally friendly initiatives as standard practice.

As a result Urban Vision has made strong progress in achieving its aims for sustainability across its core services in construction, highways and regulatory support.

“Just as importantly, our work in creating effective labour supply chain management systems on construction contracts, which result in local labour and training initiatives, has been very successful, thereby helping to sustain local communities.”

Paul Mallinder, Director
Urban Vision Partnership

The results:

- Building and Landscape Construction – maximising the reuse/recycling of waste materials, adherence to BREEAM standards where possible and the training of BREEAM Assessors
- Environment – The protection of existing trees and planting of native species to improve the environment by creating healthy and varied ecosystems
- Design – Walkways and cycle paths introduced to promote healthier and safer forms of transport. Two BREEAM assessors trained
- Highways – Avoidance of tipping and waste with around 90% of recycling of all waste, use of volumetric concrete supply
- Regulatory services – Promotion of the redevelopment of brownfield sites and sites within public transportation corridors where possible. Travel plans produced for local communities and staff for every scheme

Aims

One of Urban Vision’s key goals at the outset was to place sustainability at the heart of its approach, ensuring that it is central to the solutions it creates and the work it carries out. Working closely with communities in Salford, Urban Vision developed its approach to sustainability to be inclusive, encouraging the public to live healthier lives, helping local businesses to thrive and protecting the environment for future generations.

In particular the organisation outlined the following objectives:

- Work with local communities to deliver lasting economic and social benefits
- Develop designs that promote healthy living and working environments to enhance citizens’ quality of life and allow businesses to thrive
- Adopt construction practices that make maximum possible use of local businesses including the supply of building materials, whilst having minimum impact on the environment and the people who live, work and travel in the community
- Provide regulatory services which facilitate and promote sustainable patterns of urban and rural development
- Ensure that all projects are undertaken sensitively with an awareness of the adverse effects they may have on the natural world

The Challenge

The Government set out its strategy for sustainable development in 1999, with four key aims:

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone
- Effective protection of the environment
- The prudent use of natural resources
- The maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment

With these aims the Government placed itself at the forefront of the move towards sustainable development and as a result the public sector has embraced a sustainable approach to its work in the built environment. As a provider of services primarily to the public sector, Urban Vision has taken the four key aims as outlined by the Government and has made great progress in applying them to every aspect of its service.

The Solution

Urban Vision generated a list of sustainability objectives for each service and developed project plans for every piece of work with these objectives guiding its approach.

Four themes for delivery were identified and adopted:

1) Good design

- High quality, high density mixed development with local amenities provided nearby
- Specification of long lasting materials with low embodied energy and the prevention of energy wastage by considering whole life costings
- Renovation and regeneration of existing buildings instead of demolition
- Community safety as a priority – incorporation of ‘Secured by Design’ principles
- Recycling of greywater and rainwater, on-site drainage for rainwater, leak prevention methods and metering of water use
- Promotion and use of lean construction methods, design for minimum waste on de-construction
- Consideration of the best use of natural light, ventilation and heat gain to create healthy new buildings
- The use of local suppliers, contractors and materials to enhance the local economy and reduce transport of goods and personnel

- Design of residential areas to promote the priority of pedestrians and cyclists over vehicles
- Retention and re-use of built heritage to preserve character and enhance sense of place
- Incorporation of art and community facilities into public spaces
- Consideration of long term maintenance and management during the design phases of all projects
- Preservation of existing ecosystems and large trees wherever possible and the creation of new ones to improve and enhance the environment for all species
- Strictly limiting the incidence of pollution in all its forms (including light, water, noise and air) by thoughtful project design

2) Climate change

- Use of high standards of insulation
- Assurance of energy reduction/efficiency
- Reduction in the need to travel and the promotion of green travel plans and public transport
- Provision of good walking and cycling routes
- Protection of air quality by minimising emissions from transport and buildings
- The use of alternative forms of energy and heat generation to reduce NOx and CO2 emissions

3) Public development

- Setting examples of excellence in terms of quality of design, materials, energy efficiency and minimal need to travel
- Social progress by recognising the needs of everyone
- Effective protection of the environment and prudent use of natural resources

4) ‘Greening the city’

- Provision of well designed and managed open and green spaces
- Protection and provision for wildlife by ensuring planting of indigenous species of plants
- Avoidance of city ‘heat islands’ by providing shade and heat absorption
- The retention of valuable trees and the incorporation of new planting where appropriate
- An increase in bio-diversity by creating new ecosystems and enhancing existing ones

The Outcome

Since Urban Vision commenced work it has adhered to its objectives for sustainable development across a number of projects. Notable achievements include:

- Minimal tipping and a 90% recycling rate for all waste materials produced through highways maintenance
- Planning team working with Super League Rugby Club, Salford City Reds, to develop the most environmentally efficient sports stadium in Europe
- Initiatives to remove commuters from the roads – free travel passes provided to residents and walking and cycling encouraged
- Increasing use of water recycling systems and sustainable urban drainage
- Regular use of high frequency luminaires and low wattage fluorescent tubes controlled by automatic sensors for lighting levels and automatic switching
- Increasing use of condensing boilers and under floor heating systems
- New street tree planting and replacement of removed highway trees

