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Chevin hopeful for PFI success in Salford

Throughout the last 18 months, Chevin has been bidding as part of a small dedicated team (SP+) to plan a new future for an estate of Council homes located in Pendleton, in Salford. This project is part of the Government's Private Finance Initiative where desperately needed investment is available to regenerate areas that are run down and in need of investment.

So far so good as the SP+ team has beaten off all the opposition and reached the final stage where the last two bidders are now completing their proposals for this large project.

The work that SP+ is planning is extensive and involves creating an entirely new future and master-plan for the area. The plans are to refurbish over 1200 existing Council homes, demolish a further 800, in addition they will build over 550 new homes for rent and over 1000 new homes for sale. The team have very exciting proposals that not only produce the new homes that are needed but will ensure the community that is created is as a result of local involvement.

SP+ have been involved in extensive consultation with residents throughout the process and received hundreds of comments that have been taken on board to develop plans further. Some of the most recent events that the team have co-ordinated include a family fun day which housed a large consultation marquee with all of SP+ plans displayed for discussion with residents. This included examples of kitchens and bathrooms, estate layout and the planned community facilities. Outside of the marquee there were lots of activities including: bricklaying/plastering/tiling classes for kids and adults to have a go, theatre workshops, face painting, magician, belly dancing, circus performers, craft workshops, sports games, competitions and much more. SP+ have also been able to showcase their proposals at other events including the Salix Carnival, The Big Green Festival and a Tell us over Tea event with more events planned later in 2010.

Paul Hayes, PFI Director for Chevin Housing Group said "This is a fantastic opportunity to help with the wholesale regeneration of Pendleton. There is so much potential and enthusiasm in the area, with local people full of ideas and energy. We hope to work alongside everyone to bring transformational change and long term prosperity to the area".

Photographed: Paul Hayes talking through plans for the area with residents.

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