

News

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Morgan Sindall reaches financial close on £38 million Basildon Sporting Village scheme

Construction and regeneration group Morgan Sindall has reached financial close on a 25-year, £38 million PPP scheme to deliver a unique, energy-efficient sporting hub for Basildon Council.

Known as Basildon Sporting Village, the scheme is being led by Community Solutions for Leisure, a subsidiary of Morgan Sindall's Investments Limited. Construction work is being carried out by the Group's construction division Morgan Ashurst, with its design and engineering business Morgan Professional Services undertaking the civil and structural engineering, mechanical and electrical design. Once the facility is opened, it will be operated by Sports and Leisure Management (SLM) Ltd. Identified as a potential training camp for the 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games, Basildon Sporting Village is the largest sports project in the Thames Gateway, Europe's biggest regeneration scheme. Facilities will include a 50-metre, eight lane swimming pool with a viewing area for 450 people; an eight-court multi-purpose sports hall with retractable seating for 480 people; a fully-equipped gymnastics centre; a multi-purpose studio; a 100-workstation health and fitness suite and a climbing wall. The centre will also accommodate meeting rooms, exhibition areas, a crèche and a café, making it a community hub. It will also support the existing athletics track, synthetic turf pitch, 12 outdoor netball courts and 10 grass pitches. Work is due to commence in October 2009 and the project is due for completion in Spring 2011.

"We are delighted to be the chosen partner to work with Basildon Council on this exciting project," says Paul Smith, chief executive of Morgan Sindall plc. "It is a perfect example of the synergies that exist within our divisions, drawing on the Group's investment, design and construction capabilities.

"The pipeline of investment-related opportunities is healthy and we expect to be pursuing a growing number of these opportunities in the future." Nigel Franks, General Manager of Community Solutions for Leisure (CSL) says: "Since our appointment in April 2009 as Preferred Partner for the Basildon Sporting Village project, we have developed a strong partnership with the Council. Together we are working actively to provide state-of-the-art sports and leisure facilities, offering value for money and a real source of pride for the residents of Basildon. We are excited to assist the Council in delivering facilities that not only promise to put Basildon on the map as a training venue for the London 2012 Olympics, but offer families, children and adults the real opportunity to put sport and well-being at the heart of their leisure activities. We are confident the Sporting Village will increase sports participation, community integration and encourage healthy living in Basildon and we are proud to be the chosen partner to work with the Council to make this great facility a reality for Basildon residents."