

Construction Industry Report 31

SINCE re-establishing historic North-East construction giant Brims Construction last year, directors Ian Clift, Jason Wood and Richard Wood have wasted no time in securing a first year turnover of almost £10m.

Ian Clift said the team was on track to expand the business up to the planned £30m a year turnover and was currently in various stages of negotiation for future work which is expected to lead to a second year turnover in excess of £12m.

The work already secured includes Keel House – a mixed office and residential new build development affording views over the Newcastle Quayside and Millennium Bridge – and the refurbishment of the Gateshead Railway Club into 25 luxury apartments with the creation of a new bar on the ground floor.

The Keel House project started in November 2006 with the earthworks, piling and foundations already complete.

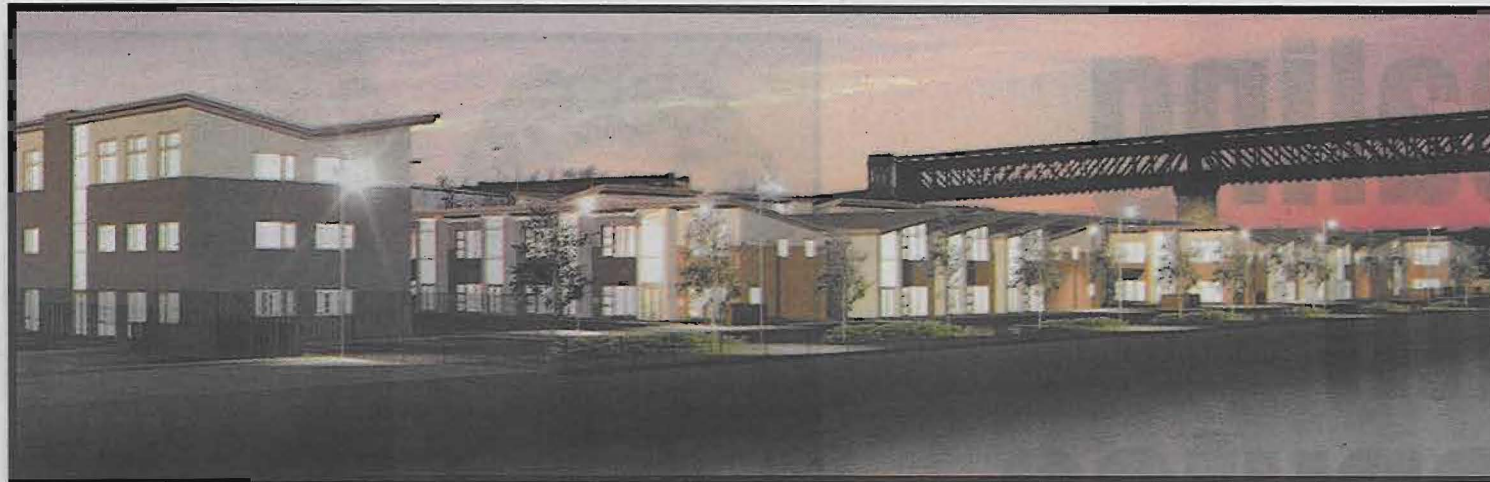
Work to the steel frame has now commenced, leaving a permanent alteration to the Newcastle Quayside Vista.

The project is on programme for completion in October 2007.

The conversion of the locally Listed Gateshead Railway Club commenced last month with the internal strip out and certain enabling works. External scaffolding has also now been erected in readiness for the restoration of the buildings brickwork, windows and roof.

Richard Wood said: "The diversity of work we are currently undertaking should not only demonstrate to clients the kind of expertise we have available, but also the scale of projects we are capable of tackling.

"Having the opportunity to improve on



BRIMS: And all with your own front door!

Sleeping giant awakes

the procedures we learned from a combined history of 47 years at Tolent is particularly exciting for us.

"We have taken the best ideas and added our own to form what we believe is an extremely competitive and efficient infrastructure.

"We invested heavily in management and office staff to ensure that systems are correct from day one. We have no doubt that we have the capacity to take on some serious contracts."

Of the potential future projects, the redevelopment of Sunderland's Quay West or the former Austin Pickersgill Shipyard into a business park is one project Brims

is particularly looking forward to undertaking.

Jason Wood explained how the former Brims & Co was responsible for constructing major elements on the old Shipyard site. He said: "It is ironic that Brims will be re-building this site. We are pleased to be carrying on the legacy of Brims's association with this area."

The Quay West project on Sunderland's riverside, which is being undertaken by Adderstone Group, is due to commence this summer and will have end values approaching £18m.

This landmark development is set to bring significant regeneration to the area

creating workspace for as many as 1,000 employees. It will provide over 100,000sqft of new office space in a variety of different sizes but the emphasis will be on house-like or 'own front door' offices, aimed at smaller businesses.

Managing director of Adderstone, Ian Baggett, said: "Along with our agents, Lofthouse and Partners, we are very confident of demand for this type of office building.

"There are many small companies in non DDA compliant 'period' properties who are desperate to either let or buy their own premises. We also believe there to be many new and exciting businesses

currently in incubator units such as those at the Business Innovation Centre (BIC) or larger, shared office blocks that are looking to progress into their own premises. We are proud to be behind Sunderland's first "own front door" office park.

"The rapid expansion of our development programme would not have been possible without Brims. The lads are an absolute pleasure to deal with. Their combined heritage within the construction industry speaks for itself, having managed projects father larger and more complex than we have been able to throw at them so far."