

# **Balfour Beatty**

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## *News Release*

13 March 2007

### **FIRST PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WIN FOR BBIS**

Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Services Limited (BBIS) has won a £20,000 contract to design and develop a lighting strategy for Gloucester.

The contract, jointly funded by Gloucester City Council and Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company (GHURC), was awarded to BBIS based on the quality of its proposals and the creative and technical approach to the project, following a two-stage bid process and an interview presentation.

Over the next few months, BBIS Lighting Design Manager, Nigel Parry and external consultant Carl Gardner will work with Gloucester City Council and the GHURC to achieve a distinct, sustainable lighting strategy that will create a safer environment, and encourage people into the city centre after dark.

The contract includes the preparation of a strategy to enhance the appearance of Gloucester's historic listed buildings, light the historic 'gate streets' – Gloucester's pedestrianised city centre - and promote lighting as an art form. BBIS will be retained for three years to carry out further lighting designs in Gloucester.

Commenting today Nigel Parry said: "This is an exciting and challenging project that will allow us to establish ourselves as a recognised provider of design, management and maintenance of exterior lighting projects."

Councillor Paul James cabinet member for regeneration, commented: "A consultation exercise with local residents showed that the 'Spotlight on the City' scheme for lighting our historic buildings at night was the favoured choice.

“It will help support all of the other work we are doing to boost our evening economy. It will create an atmosphere that encourages visitors and families to spend more time in the city at night. That’s got to be good.”

Chris Oldershaw, Chief Executive at GHURC, said: “Well-planning lighting within the city centre can have a profoundly positive effect, showcasing the city’s assets at night and providing another reason to spend time in the city. The strategy will also develop design concept schemes for up to six city centre landmarks, and buildings such as St Michael’s Tower at The Cross and St Nicholas’ Church on Westgate Street seem prime examples, along with The Guildhall which forms an important part of the city centre’s evening economy.”

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**Enquiries to:**

Marjorie Hooper  
Tel: 020 7216 6883

*www.balfourbeatty.com*

Nicky Godding  
Press Officer, GHURC  
Tel: 01285 653006 / 07966 510401

**Notes for Editors:**

1. Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Services is a leading provider of highway and off-track rail maintenance and asset management, civil engineering and related design, consultancy and specialist services. The breadth of resources and expertise within our organisation is complemented by the extensive capabilities and backing of the Balfour Beatty group.
2. Our lighting business, which began with a contract in Surrey in 1997, has grown into an £11m a year enterprise. Today we manage more than 225,000 units, and are recognised by the Association of Street Lighting and Electrical Contractors (ASLEC) as one of the UK’s 10 largest operators. In April 2006, we integrated an in-house design team to support our operational service.
3. Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Services’ vision is: “To be the leading provider of transportation infrastructure solutions and support services, renowned for first-class customer service, respect for people, providing best value, pioneering working partnerships and protecting the environment.”

## **Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company (GHURC) Ltd**

The GHURC area includes 33 ancient monuments, 490 listed buildings, including 37 Grade 1 and 51 Grade II\* listed and 36 buildings on the 'At Risk' register. A quarter of the Gloucester Heritage URC area, 88 hectares, is covered by conservation area designations.

The GHURC 10-year plan is based on the regeneration of seven key sites within the City centre. Nicknamed the 'Magnificent Seven', these are: Gloucester Docks, Gloucester Quays, The Railway Triangle, King's Square, Greyfriars, Blackfriars/Westgate Quay and The Canal Corridor. Alongside these projects, Gloucester Heritage URC is planning an integrated public realm and public art strategy linking together the key developments.

The County Council is also proposing to enhance the city's public transport links by constructing a new parkway railway station straddling the main line Birmingham/Bristol/London intercity service.

[www.gloucesterurc.co.uk](http://www.gloucesterurc.co.uk)

Press Officer: Nicky Godding 01285 653006 or 07966 510401 [nickygodding@aol.com](mailto:nickygodding@aol.com), or [nickygodding@googlemail.com](mailto:nickygodding@googlemail.com)