

Balfour Beatty

News Release

16 August 2007

FRESH APPROACH TO LIGHTING GIVES OLD BUILDINGS A FACELIFT

Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Services, the highways management and maintenance business of Balfour Beatty plc, lit up some of Gloucester's most historic buildings for a night as part of its contract with Gloucester City Council to devise a lighting strategy for the city.

Sodium lamps at the cathedral were replaced with white metal halide lamps, supplied by Eye lighting, to bring out the building's true colour and provide a good contrast to the lit interior. Arches within the grounds were lit with uplighters, which provided a dramatic yet cost-effective solution.

At the back of the cathedral, a statue of Bishop Hooper that was already part of the cathedral environment was relit using red LED floodlights, which are more responsive and advanced than standard floodlights. Bishop Hooper, the Church of England's Bishop of Gloucester when Queen Mary took the throne, and, was burned to death in Gloucester in 1555 for refusing to adopt Catholicism, so red lighting was used as a special effect for the purposes of the trial.

The Guildhall is a key council building and to underline its importance the trial used close offset lighting to highlight its impressive facade. This involves the use of small lamps very close to the subject they are lighting, as opposed to big floodlights which can 'wash out' the details in the front of a building.

Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Service's, Lighting Design Manager, Nigel Parry said:

“The City Council is keen to progress the results of the strategy we are working on and these early trials were a great success to mark the commencement of the relighting of the city centre.”

The council is currently looking into installing lighting designs based upon the results of the trials permanently.

ENDS

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Notes for Editors

1. Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Services is a leading provider of highway and off-track rail maintenance and asset management. We offer a unique service that combines our well-established highway network maintenance skills with a range of professional services including planning and strategic advice, project and programme management and highway design. The breadth of resources and expertise within our organisation is complemented by the extensive capabilities and backing of the Balfour Beatty group.
2. 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.”