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**Black Country Constructing Excellence Club**

## **Helen Jones CEng MICE, Account Director, Carillion**

Helen is an Account Director at Carillion. A chartered Civil Engineer, she started at Carillion as a site engineer in 2004 and has subsequently worked as design engineer and facilities manager before becoming a Regional Director, Operational Director, and then Head of Sustainability.

Carillion are delivery partners with Birmingham Council for the Birmingham Energy Savers (BES) programme to deliver energy services as part of the Green Deal.

Helen has a responsibility to engage with neighbouring contracting authorities throughout the Midlands and with local potential supply chain partners to deliver similar projects.

As part of the Birmingham partnership, Carillion has committed to create and sustain at least 360 jobs and to help 600 people from priority groups into placements, training and jobs, many through its own investment and skills training but also by encouraging its business partners to invest locally in a range of new green energy facilities. The eight-year BES contract is estimated to be initially worth up to £600m, but has the potential to be extended to the wider Midlands area under a framework agreement worth up to £1.5bn over eight years.

Carillion is embarking on a recruitment programme to hire locally-based energy assessors, who will evaluate properties and provide advice on the energy efficiency improvements they require.

It is Carillion's aim to work with very small, not just 'tier one', SMEs to keep the wealth and the jobs generated by the Green Deal in the places where the work is carried out. To do this they aim to remodel its supply chain processes and tackle internal red tape so it could work with small, local suppliers.

Carillion believe using local companies would reduce overhead costs and should also get "more momentum" behind the Green Deal to encourage households to take up the financing scheme. "The idea will be to use local products, local installers, local everything. We will want to engage with the community so they will be providing the referrals."

