



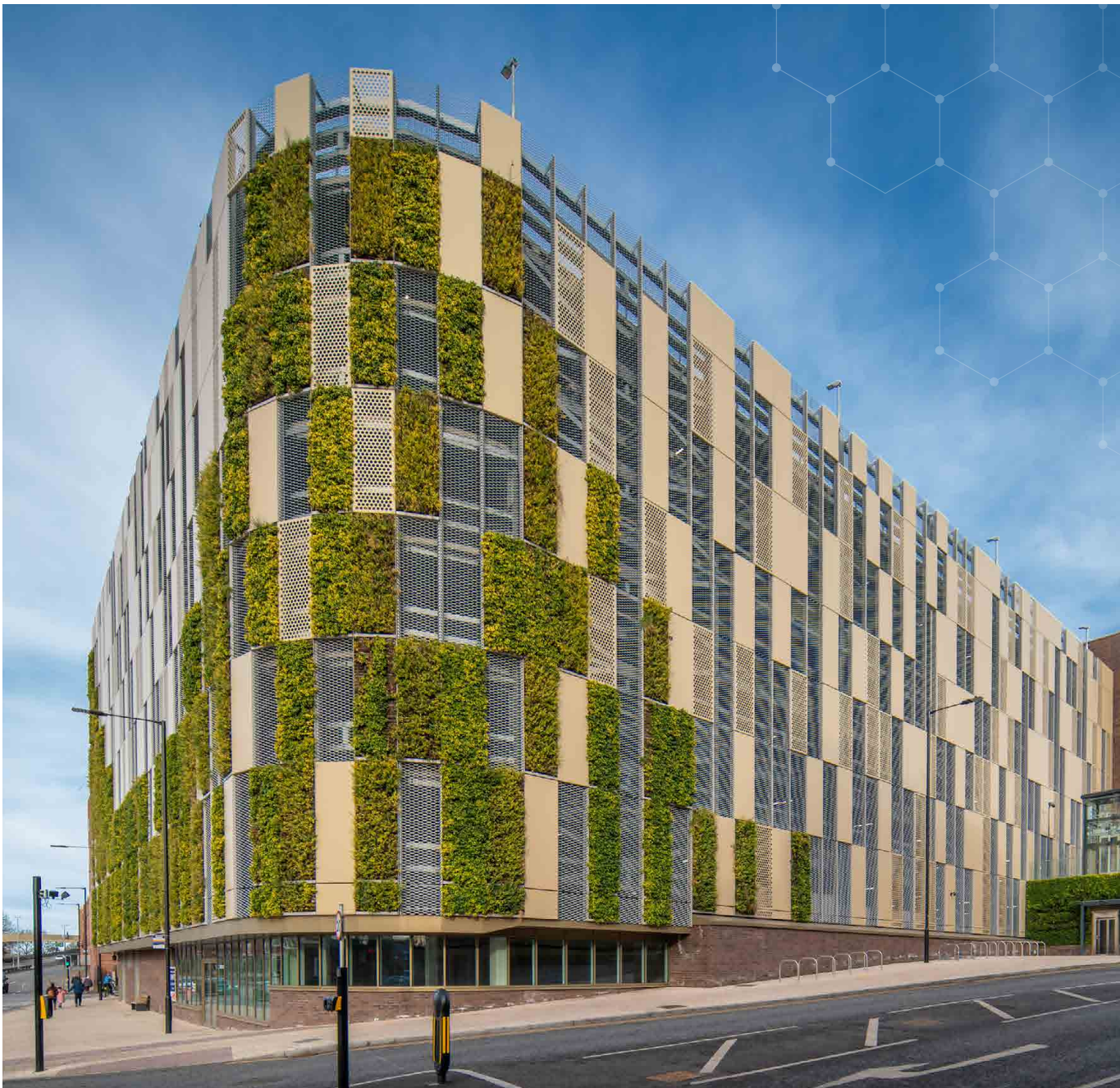
 Chester
Northgate

 VINCI
CONSTRUCTION

UK



Cheshire West
and Chester



INTRODUCTION

At VINCI we are committed to delivering Social Value to the people who live in the Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) borough.

We believe Social Value is about creating a positive change in someone's life, and the value that creates whether through supporting a person, a community, a local business or improving the area they live in.

Our delivery of the Chester Northgate Development has provided the Council with a new market and leisure destination in the heart of Chester. Chester Northgate is a development of open streets, an arcade and square that integrates seamlessly with the surrounding parts of Chester City Centre, including:

- A six screen cinema
- Cafes, bars and restaurants - including Cosy Club and Zizzi plus Turtle Bay and North Light
- A new, indoor market
- New multi-storey market parking and cycle hub
- Four office suites

Throughout our delivery we have been able to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to the local area. We have generated new employment opportunities, supported employment of local people, reinvested construction spend to local suppliers, supported apprenticeship programmes and undertaken community activities as well as providing local people with the training they need to progress, to name a few. These actions all have a positive effect on peoples' lives.

This booklet provides a summary of our social value outputs throughout our delivery.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Bowker'.

Garry Bowker
Regional Director






WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS SAID

“ *The Northgate development in Chester is a central regeneration project in the heart of Chester city centre. In delivering this project, we have squeezed every last penny of value from every pound spent, not just to deliver the project itself but also to deliver 435 weeks of apprenticeship opportunities, 13 education events, 12 work placements, 43 training weeks, 64 employment activities and more than £22m expenditure in the local economy. On top of this, construction workers raised money for local homelessness charities, there were donations to the local food banks, Chester Football Club, a fan owned community club, had its car park upgraded, and many students from local schools and colleges gained valuable industry insight from being involved in a live and local construction project. Even the sandstone excavated from the drainage tunnel ended up being recycled in the rhinoceros enclosure at Chester Zoo. This is how we do business in Chester.* ”

MP Samantha Dixon, Former Leader, Cheshire West and Chester Council



scan the QR code to see Samantha Dixon MP speaking in Parliament



“ We stand united with VINCI Construction UK in our commitment to providing opportunities for young people as a result of the Northgate development; we look forward to seeing further apprentices benefitting from our long awaited transformation of Chester city centre. ”

Louise Gittins, Leader, Cheshire West and Chester Council



“ I am delighted we have teamed up with VINCI Construction UK to do repair work at the car park. I would like to thank the VINCI team for their hard work in helping to set up this partnership. We are a fan owned community football club and this partnership shows the commitment VINCI has to local community projects. I look forward to a long and beneficial working relationship between VINCI and Chester FC. ”

Paul Bodman, Commercial Director, Chester Football Club

SOCIAL VALUE

SOCIAL VALUE KPI's

34 Education Activities



22 Community Engagement Activities

Apprentice Weeks  **921**

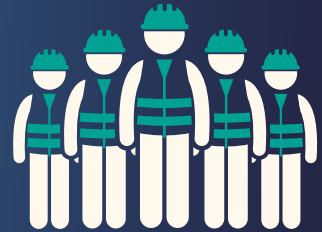
 **52** Training Weeks

20 People
receiving



Pre Employment Support

123 Employment
Opportunities



22 T-Level
Work
Placements



SUPPORTING LOCAL STUDENTS

Students from the Cheshire College enjoyed numerous site visits at Chester Northgate. These were praised unanimously by the college and the students found them beneficial to their learning journey. Throughout the project we provided continuous liaison and workshops, including undertaking remote sessions during the COVID pandemic, including 'live classroom' sessions, teams meetings and our 3D time lapse animation. These online events, arranged to take place twice monthly, proved very successful, with 10 students engaging at each session.

Silke Novak, HE Lecturer & FE Tutor said: *"I just wanted to say thanks so much for your time. It has been great, and everyone enjoyed the presentations, photos and animations which supported your discussions. Our students and staff got so much out of seeing what's happening on site and feeling like we have been involved throughout the process. VINCI has been so supportive in letting us visit the site remotely and distancing onsite when permitted. We got to directly see the development evolve over time and speak to the different professions directly involved in the industry which is great. Personally, I feel the biggest benefit is the exposure to seeing new methods and technology in action on site."*

Student, Adam Reynolds, from Chester said: *"VINCI has been so supportive in letting us visit the site remotely and distancing onsite when permitted. We got to directly see the development evolve over time and speak to the different professions directly involved in the industry which is great. Personally, I feel the biggest benefit is the exposure to seeing new methods and technology in action on site."*



“ In order to maximise value for money for local taxpayers, the Council now includes a ‘social value’ requirement on large contracts. For our current construction projects in Ellesmere Port and Chester for example, the contractor has been asked to ‘give something back’ to the local community and this has included skilled members from the VINCI team taking time out to work on much smaller projects in the community, or the sites offering learning opportunities for local students.

Being able to give local young people first-hand access to live sites is a fantastic opportunity that doesn’t happen all the time. During both projects in Chester and Ellesmere Port the VINCI team has been working with local schools and the college to provide an insight into the multitude of career opportunities in their industry.

Both sites have also welcomed Apprentices onsite and recently University students have also been working side by side with the VINCI team. ”

Councillor Richard Beacham, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Growth, Economy & Regeneration, Cheshire West & Chester Council



QUEENS PARK HIGH SCHOOL VISIT

Chester Northgate arranged with Queens Park High School to provide their pupils with a presentation package about construction sector jobs. We provided feel for the scale of the sector in terms of employment and the range of roles that exist in the industry. On the slides we included a link to the Go Construct website together with details on Labour Market Information about construction sector jobs.

The website also provided a detailed list of job roles and typical salary expectations, which the youngsters were very interested in. There was also a personality quiz to help the students match their characteristics with a relevant job type.



BLUECOAT SCHOOL PUPIL SITE VISITS



Chester Northgate hosted visits for the Bluecoat Primary School in Chester where 30 pupils were given an introduction to the site in a classroom on Forum Precinct by Andrew Arditti of Cheshire West and Chester Council, together with a presentation from the Oxford Archaeology team regarding the history of the site and its recent findings.

Chester Northgate VINCI team, Richard Griffiths and Andrea Hayes, escorted the children for a site walk to show them the new development, which was well underway. In September arrangements were made for a small group of the school children to return to site to bury a time capsule.

“ The children and the staff had an unbelievable time. They were so excited when they came back and each one of them readily talked about the whole experience. We are so thankful to everyone that helped to pull this together for the children. The staff said that the experience was pitched perfectly and enabled every child to get something from it. ”

Matthew Hover, Headteacher,
Bluecoat CE Primary School

“ We were thrilled to host our first Chester Bluecoat Year 4 visit to learn about the site, it’s history and its future. Thanks to VINCI for all your help in providing PPE and preparing content which kept the pupils engaged throughout. ”

Andrew Arditti, Project Communications Manager,
Cheshire West and Chester Council



VINCI'S VERY OWN 'DRAGONS DEN' WITH ASPIRING YOUNG INVENTORS!

A number of the VINCI's Chester Northgate team changed their career for a day, stepping into the shoes of becoming VINCI's in house 'Dragons'. Emulating Deborah Meaden and Peter Jones, the team judged pitches prepared by groups from Chester's local primary schools. The teams were given a brief to design a new eco friendly form of transport whilst utilising a shipping container.

The event was organised by Make It!, who set up initiatives with local councils to inspire young children into the world of manufacturing. The challenge aims to encourage decision making, in which a virtual company is created with Managing Director, Marketing Manager and Designer to devise, develop and create a brand identify for their product.

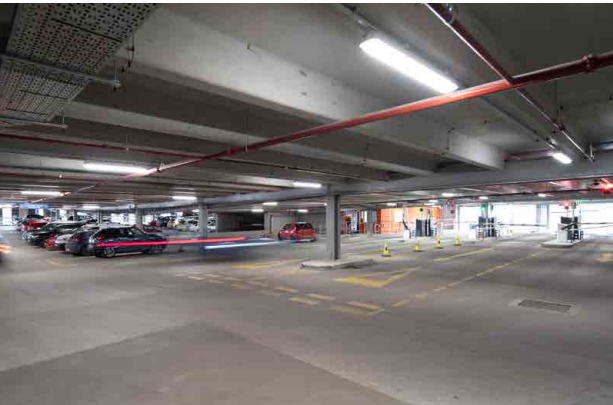
From Bolt Bikes to H2O GO!, children came up with a plethora of weird and wonderful transportation ideas and truly innovative solutions.





Carol Vella, Snr Economic Development Officer, Cheshire West and Chester Council said:

“ Praise to all for the enthusiasm and commitment to their roles as ‘dragons’ and great to have two members of your team who are fabulous examples of Chester grown talent, I look forward to the High School session in a week of two. ”



EMPLOYMENT, APPRENTICES & WORK PLACEMENTS

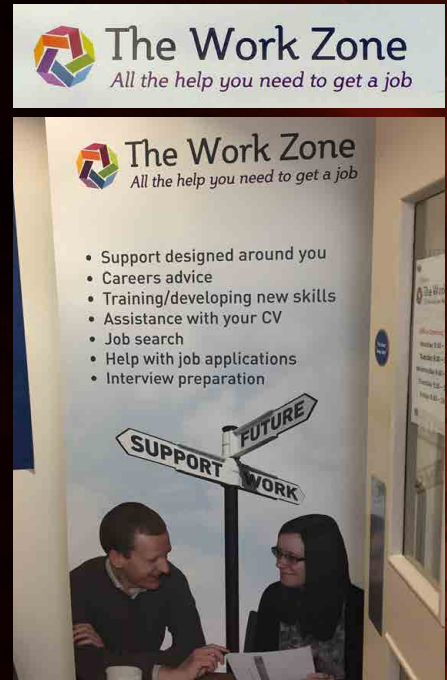
SUPPORTING THE WORK ZONE

VINCI worked with Cheshire West and Chester Council's Work Zone team to supply the labour needs for the project.

We supported their Get Into Construction courses by providing guest speakers at the end of each course and getting candidates signed up to work on site.

“ *The reports from site are very encouraging. Construction has been one of the essential business areas permitted to continue during the COVID restrictions. What this means is there is local work for other businesses and new employment opportunities as the new buildings progress.* ”

Councillor Carol Gahan, Cabinet Member for Legal and Finance, Cheshire West and Chester Council



123

New Employment Opportunities

2

Members of the Armed Forces

2

16-25 Care Leavers

60

Unemployed

1

Ex-Offenders

UTILISING THE PROJECT TO UPSKILL

Site visits at Chester Northgate has provided our apprentices with the opportunity to gain an understanding of how these complex works occur and how they are managed on one of our sites.

As part of the visits, the apprentices were given a detailed presentation on the project which included:

- Shaft and tunnelling techniques
- Preconstruction and site investigation works
- Monitoring
- Traffic management and third party interfaces
- Archaeology and associated risks

LOCAL APPRENTICE APPOINTMENT

Rachel is a Design and Build Apprentice who was taken on for the scheme. Rachel chose an apprenticeship over university as an opportunity to get into the construction industry and further her education to degree level.



“ Being a practical individual, finding an apprenticeship in the construction industry was always my first choice, however, due to COVID-19, and the shortage of apprenticeships available, university subsequently became my fall back option.

However, as soon as I saw the job advertised as a Design and Build Technician I had no hesitation in applying. With this apprenticeship I've had a fantastic opportunity to gain valuable onsite experience with the benefits of earning whilst i'm learning and becoming a valued member of the Northgate team. ”



WORK PLACEMENTS

The project has welcomed four students from local Chester schools, giving them the opportunity to spend a week on site through a work placement.

They have spent time with our engineering team which has enabled them to experience a site in operation, the trades involved, the opportunities available, and its daily progression.

They have also spent time with our commercial and design departments, attending daily meetings, as part of their placement. Feedback from the students has been very positive.

238 
**Work
Placement
Weeks**

T-LEVEL PLACEMENTS

VINCI partnered with Cheshire College (South & West) to deliver 7 45 day+ T-Level placements. Design, surveying and planning students spent time on site with the Chester Northgate team which facilitated in successful completion of their course.

T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

WORK PLACEMENT FOR THE SUMMER: ADAM REYNOLDS

Adam is a Year 1 construction student from Cheshire College completing a Construction and The Built Environment course.. He lives in Chester and was very keen to have real exposure to site work. Following a site visit with his fellow students earlier this year, Adam stood out on the day as a potential T-Level placement. He was shadowed by our Construction Manager two days week throughout the summer to excel his skills.



THE LACHE ALLOTMENT UPGRADE

The Chester Northgate team breathed new life into a neglected allotment at The Lache, Chester. This has helped to bring the local community together again with new outdoor activities. Our subcontractor partners were also involved, including:

- Supply of gardening equipment from Lee Brothers
- Supply of compost and bark from Dandy's Topsoil
- Skips supplied by Kenny Waste



“ I just wanted to say thank you for all the support VINCI has given us and the materials. We had a great day and it has made a real impact to what we hope to achieve. ”

Ria Burns, Neighbourhood Partnerships Manager,
Sanctuary Housing Association





TIME CAPSULES

Three time capsules were buried at the New Exchange Square at Chester Northgate on 29th June 2022 by students from Chester Bluecoat CE Primary School, Queen's Park High School and The Queen's School.

The time capsules were sponsored by VINCI as part of the Northgate community engagement activities and the chambers have been marked with a commemorative stone plaque.



DONATING SAND TO CHESTER ZOO

Sand excavated from the new surface water drainage tunnel through Chester city centre has been donated to Chester Zoo by the Council in partnership with its contractor, VINCI Construction UK.

Over 200 tonnes of red sandstone has been provided from the works along St. Martin's Way and Nicholas Street and will be used in the charity Zoo's Eastern Black Rhino and Painted Dog habitats.



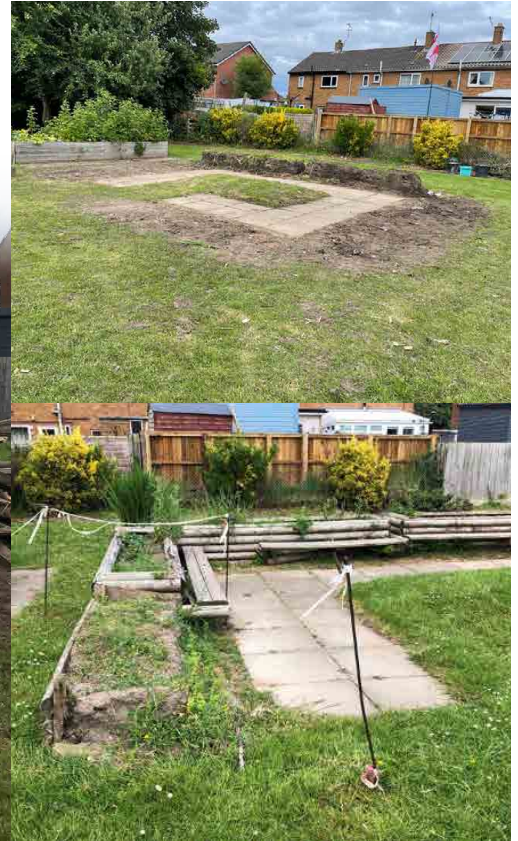
CREATING A NEW AREA FOR GARDENING AT UPTON LEA SCHOOL

A joint VINCI and subcontractor, HE Simm, team, set about dismantling flowerbeds and planters to provide a new area for gardening at Uptonlea School. This gave pupils and teachers alike access to learning how to grow fruit, vegetables, plants and flowers, and helped increase wellbeing and inclusion within the local community.



“ Absolutely brilliant, we can't thank you enough. You have all worked so incredibly hard, I can't believe how much was done. Thanks again. ”

Kathryn Carruthers, Headteacher, Uptonlea School



CRABWALL HALL CARE HOME CHRISTMAS DONATION

During the COVID-19 pandemic, local Crabwall Hall Care Home reached out to the team for a donation to help them buy Christmas trees and decorations to bring some much-needed cheer for residents and staff. The Christmas lights were switched on by the Mayor of Chester.



SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITIES

Throughout the Chester Northgate project, the VINCI team set about fundraising for two local charities: KIDSBANK and Tattenhall Football Youth Team. Football tournaments were arranged with our project team and subcontractors with each team paying a donation for entry into the games. £2,000 was raised and donations were divided between the two very deserving charities.





MOVEMBER INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT OUTSIDE IN

During November the VINCI site team at Chester Northgate took part in a very successful Movember fundraising event. The challenge was to being with a clean-shaven face and, after a period of 30 days, attempt to grow their facial hair in various guises.

The team were delighted to present to Outside In, a charity that works to tackle poverty and inequality, a cheque for £2,300.

SUPPORTING HOSPICE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Chester Northgate project team recently took to hills for a challenging sponsored walk to Moel Famau from Ruthin, Denbighshire, raising £1,844 for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Chester.



STAFF WELLBEING

We decided to improve the air quality within our offices by purchasing a plant for each desk. A Peace Lily was chosen as it purifies the air, prevents mildew formations and removes mould spores, whilst creating a nice environment. We chose funny slogans to put on the pots relating to plants and the business, and have started a team challenge to see who can keep their plant alive the longest.





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