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APPRENTICE JOSHUA IS BUILDING HIS CAREER AT TRINITY LEEDS

Land Securities' £350 million Trinity Leeds development, which is transforming the city centre, is providing the opportunity for young people to build their careers in the construction industry.

More than 250 workers are currently on site and, at the height of development activity, up to 1,000 people with a vast range of skills will be involved in delivering the landmark scheme.

Among them is 17-year-old apprentice carpenter Joshua Richardson, who is employed by principal contractor Laing O'Rourke.



After leaving Horsforth School with 8 GCSEs Joshua started with Laing O'Rourke on the company's Apprenticeship Plus programme in August 2010 and has been working on Trinity Leeds since last October.

He said: "I have a mentor and am working in a team of carpenters and labourers, where I am learning all aspects of carpentry and formwork joinery, including installing hoardings and signage, fitting doors, building stairs and making the shuttering for concrete pours. I'm learning something new everyday."

Joshua, who lives in Horsforth, has completed a six-week block release course at Leeds College of Building, where he has passed the level 1 diploma in carpentry and joinery and will be returning to college on day release this autumn to study for the level 2 diploma.

He said: "I want to become a qualified joiner and progress my career as far as I can with Laing O'Rourke. This is a brilliant opportunity for me and I'm so proud to tell people that I'm working on the Trinity Leeds development. I'm gaining experience and building confidence all the time."

Laing O'Rourke's Apprenticeship Plus programme, developed in partnership with the Construction Industry Training Board ConstructionSkills, is a full-time skills and learning programme which enables apprentices to learn through a mixture of practical skills training and formal industry education in all aspects of modern engineering, manufacturing and construction. Its aim is to develop talent for the future by building both capability and capacity.

The 1million sq ft Trinity Leeds development will open in spring 2013, bringing big international brands and boutiques alongside a number of stylish restaurant and leisure operators. This urban city centre development will be a dynamic, evolving shopping experience and become a retail beacon for the UK. Trinity Leeds will transform the city centre and changes the face of the evening economy in Leeds.

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