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LOGISTICS LANDSCAPE IS CHANGING

The transformation of the Mersey Multimodal Gateway (3MG) can now begin in earnest, with landscape contractors starting on-site at Halton Borough Council Field, Widnes.

Now that key preparation work has been completed at the new warehousing and logistics hub, contractor Blakedown Landscape Operations has begun its eight-month programme to improve 3MG and its surroundings.

The community of adjoining Halebank will also benefit, with work scheduled for the redevelopment of the village's Recreation Park. The public park is a popular facility in the area and there are plans to provide a new skateboard park and make improvements to its play area and football pitch. New foot and cycle path links will also be created.

The work on Halton Borough Council Field represents a significant step forward in the plan to deliver an increase in the warehousing offer at 3MG of 3.5m sq. ft. over the next two years.

Councillor Rob Polhill, Halton Borough Council's executive board member for planning, transportation, regeneration and renewal said: "This work will enhance the local environment and make it a more attractive location for the inward investment which we hope to attract to the site in the future."

"Because the site is being developed from scratch there will be the opportunity to offer businesses a bespoke logistics solution at a fully integrated site combining road, rail, and easy access to shipping ports and airports."

3MG will continue its development through to 2012 and is already operating daily rail services. It currently has 750,000 sq. ft. of existing sheds in place which will increase up to 3.5 million sq. ft. over the next two years, subject to planning approval.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- Mersey Multimodal Gateway (3MG) is located in Widnes, WA8 0PE
- The project is being delivered by a partnership comprising of Halton Borough Council and O'Connor, a division of the Stobart Group. It is endorsed and supported by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA)
- 3MG offers:
 - Large, highbay warehousing to customer specification
 - Motorway access
 - Secure and on-site rail access
 - Daily rail links to deep sea ports (such as Felixstowe and Southampton)
 - Proximity to two international airports
 - Proximity to three major ports, including the Port of Weston
 - 60,000 sq ft of office space in planning

For more information please contact:

Daniel Gerrella, Paver Smith & Co

T: 0151 239 5000

D: 0151 239 5017

E: gerrella@paversmith.co.uk