

# News

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## First office at Northshore starts on site

Work has started on site for the new head office of housing group Thirteen at Muse Developments' £100m Northshore scheme in Stockton on Tees.

The new 43,000 sq ft building will be located next to the iconic Infinity Bridge and will accommodate more than 400 employees.

Representatives from Muse, Thirteen, Stockton Council and the Homes and Communities Agency met on site to celebrate the milestone with a ground-breaking ceremony.

The Northshore office will give the Thirteen Group a contemporary and environmentally efficient building designed specifically to meet its needs and promote more efficient working practices within the workforce.

Simon Dew, senior development surveyor at Muse Developments, said: "Starting on site for the first commercial building at Northshore is an important milestone for the project. The Vivo residential scheme has been hugely successful to date, so we're looking forward to building on that success with the development of the next commercial phase.

"It's great to see progress at Northshore now really picking up pace, with the construction of a 36,000 sq ft state-of-the-art Innovation Centre also starting on site later this year."

Alison Thain, Chief Executive of Thirteen Group, said: "The launch of the Thirteen Group has created an organisation aimed at driving our work to a new level, supporting tenants in 32,000 properties in communities across the North East and Yorkshire. This new development will give us a modern, bespoke working environment which brings together a large part of our 1,400 staff to deliver a service which changes people's lives and perceptions for the better."

Chris Munro, Area Manager at the Homes and Communities Agency, commented: "The start of this building shows how well the partners are working to deliver the future for Northshore. This new office building for Thirteen Group and the Innovation Centre which will start on site soon will help create a new commercial centre for Stockton, creating and safeguarding local jobs close to the town centre."

Leader of Stockton Council, Councillor Bob Cook, added: "With easy access to the region's major roads and rail network, being in walking distance Stockton Town Centre's shops, businesses and leisure opportunities, with spectacular views of the River Tees and iconic Infinity Bridge - what better place to base a major headquarters than at Northshore?"

"The housing element of the scheme has progressed significantly within the last year so it is exciting to see the commercial part of the Northshore scheme begin to come to fruition alongside the homes. I'm sure many more companies will join Thirteen in this prime location in future so they can grow and develop in purpose built space."

The building is scheduled for completion in early 2015.

Northshore has already seen the completion and sale of 50 new homes, as part of the first phase of the award-winning Vivo residential scheme. The development of 76 further new homes is now

underway as part of phase two.