**Apprentice careers flourish at FPM Luton**

Luton is one of the largest towns in South East England, with a population of over 215,000 residents. Investing in Luton jobs and skilling up people is crucial in driving the borough forward in contributing to the success of make Luton a viable option to work, learn, live and enjoy.

FPM Facility Services, based in Luton, operate in the electrical contracting and maintenance sectors. Both Directors at the company started their careers as apprentice electricians and understand how important it is for their staff to have a full understanding of the industry from the ground up. Recognising the value of the training, FPM has been using the apprenticeship scheme for the past 15 years.

David, (pictured left) became an approved electrical training applicant by passing the entry assessment, completing a telephone discussion and being successfully awarded a colour vision certificate. He joined FPM back in 2001 as an apprentice electrician and undertook a three year college course at Barnfield Technology Campus while working for the company.

Working alongside experienced staff, combining theory with practical on-the-job training, David quickly learnt how to install, maintain and repair electrical equipment, understand technical drawings and identify circuit faults.

Keeping a log book detailing all onsite work experience including pictures, David’s work was initially signed off by his colleagues before being reviewed by the college assessors. Having completed his course and the final practical test, he spent the next three years working as an onsite electrician for various clients before being promoted and transferring into the office full time as a Trainee Project Manager in September 2009.

An extremely varied role, David underwent again rigorous training again to up skill him as a Project Manager. David said: “It’s great that firms such as FPM invest in their work force. I have been given some fantastic opportunities here including certified training, but also the chance to progress my career right here in Luton.”

FPM continued to invest in David’s education, sponsoring him for a Certificate of Higher Education in Construction Management and David’s career has continued to flourish. Having successfully completed all of the training, fifteen years since joining, he is now a well-respected Project Manager and is in fact mentoring the new apprentice Office Administrator.

Laura Church, Corporate Director, Place and Infrastructure said: “It’s brilliant to hear that local businesses are skilling up and supporting their employees like FPM Facility Services. Apprenticeships are a great way to attract local talent and amerce them within the business right from the beginning of their career.”

According to government statistics, 90% of apprentices will stay in employment, with 71% staying with the same employer. This has certainly been the case for FPM in Luton. Continuous training and ongoing recruitment of trainees has strengthened the skill base in the town and staff turnover is low, with the majority of their employees having seen their careers flourish from Apprentice to Management.