



# Battersea Power Station:

## A destination for energising jobs



**Andre Burwood**

We pride ourselves at Battersea on our commitment to jobs and apprenticeships for the local community which is why we've established our own Battersea Academy for Skills and Employment (BASE). BASE is a Community Interest Company set up to train and upskill local people, so they are ready for the jobs of the future.

As we enter a new phase for our country, upskilling and training of local people into jobs of the future becomes even more important. We know the challenges and barriers that people often face when looking for well paid, high skilled jobs and we seek to offer solutions. Whether its training courses in hospitality for those who've never worked in the industry or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), BASE offers something for everyone. We have a focus on quality employment, career progression, engaging and upskilling workers, and supporting those workers on a lower wage and have experience of how to target employers to improve employment practices. Since launching BASE, we have trained 280 staff in a bespoke customer service programme; provided ESOL

**B**attersea Power Station (BPS) will have created over 20,000 new jobs when the project completes; 3,000 construction jobs and 17,000 long term

courses to around 50 workers; trained over 100 unemployed residents through BPS' pre employment programme.

Our goal is to expand and develop the workforce leading to improvements in the quality of wage and progression, drawing on the knowledge and expertise of BASE to make this a reality.

Thanks to a Government commitment to create national construction hubs across the country, BPS became an on-site Construction Gateway project helping to support local people to get into the construction industry. Funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, this project, which officially opened in 2019 and has since trained over 350 local people in three-week courses. As a result, 150 people have taken on full time employment. This gives local people, who have never had the opportunity to work on a construction site, gain their Construction Skills Certification Scheme card free of charge and access to a range of construction jobs.

As we mark the 13<sup>th</sup> annual National Apprenticeship Week at Battersea, we are proud to announce we have hit our target of over 200 apprentices working across our 42-acre site. Apprenticeships provide opportunities to earn whilst



you learn. For those looking to gain experience and qualifications by not going down the traditional University route, apprenticeships can be the answer. Chavadne, an electrical Apprentice with T Clark, a contractor on Phase 2 of the Battersea Power Station development. On working on this iconic construction project, he says: "I'm really enjoying working here. I'm getting lots of experience and meeting a lot of experienced people. I'm learning from others about becoming an electrician, and by speaking with people I really get pushed to progress."

