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Brief News

● HOUSING refurbishment specialist Lovell, which has offices in John Street, Birkenhead, has been selected by Cobalt Housing to undertake a £7m housing improvement programme in Liverpool. The company will install new kitchens and carry out other refurbishment work at more than 1,780 homes managed by Cobalt Housing in the Croxteth and Fazakerley areas of the city.

● **FORMER T&G union general secretary Bill Morris paid tribute to the role Ellesmere Port's West Cheshire College can play in providing training and workforce development needs for local businesses through its Fusion initiative at a conference at the college. Mr Morris said: "I believe the further education sector has a key role to play in developing new qualifications, having a renewed focus on business needs and delivering employer-led programmes such as apprenticeships and foundation degrees."**

● WARRINGTON firm the Catering Academy and "green" builder SIP Build, from Widnes, are among 10 regional winners in this year's HSBC Start-Up Stars Awards. The winning business and runner-up will be revealed in London on October 24.