

Birmingham Matters @ MIPIM **Media Pack**

“Birmingham is an exciting, energetic and ambitious city that is fast becoming a leading choice for investors looking for a cost-effective European base that delivers on talent, connectivity, infrastructure and growth opportunities.”

Mike Whitby, Leader of Birmingham City Council

This media pack contains details of the events, partners and spokespeople involved in Birmingham's presence at MIPIM. It also features information about:

- Birmingham's key areas of focus for MIPIM
- Key facts and figures
- Relevant case studies and quotes

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Birmingham is attending MIPIM on stand number: R27.09

Businessbirmingham.com

Bigcityplan.birmingham.gov.uk

Contents

Section One: Birmingham at MIPIM

1. Why Birmingham?	p.3
2. Birmingham's MIPIM messages	p.4
3. MIPIM events	p.5
3.1 Events summary	p.5
3.2 Event speakers	p.9
4. Birmingham at MIPIM partners	p.10

Section Two: About Birmingham

5. Birmingham: a changing landscape	p.13
5.1 Big City Plan	p.13
5.2 Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership	p.13
5.3 Birmingham City Centre Enterprise Zone	p.14
5.4 Westside: Library of Birmingham and Paradise Circus	p.14
5.5 Low-carbon strategy	p.15
6. Connectivity	p.16
6.1 Transport infrastructure	p.16
6.2 Vision for Movement	p.18
6.3 Digital connectivity	p.18
7. Investing in Birmingham	p.19
7.1 Developments in Birmingham	p.19
7.2 Business Birmingham	p.20
7.3 Innovative funding	p.21
7.3.1 Sovereign wealth	p.21
7.3.2 Private investment	p.21
7.3.3 Business Improvement Districts	p.21
7.3.4 Tax Increment Finance	p.22
8. Tourism	p.22
8.1 Visitor economy	p.22
8.2 Hotel developments	p.22

Section One: Birmingham at MIPIM

1. WHY BIRMINGHAM?

- Home to over **42,000** companies, including **900** international firms, Birmingham is in the centre of a **£94 billion** regional economy
- **Largest** concentration of businesses outside of London
- Air, road and rail connections provide access to **400 million** people across Europe, while Birmingham Airport serves **143** direct scheduled & charter routes
- At the **heart** of the UK rail network and national motorway network (M5, M6, M40 and M42)
- More than **90%** of the UK market – consumer and business – is within a **4 hour** travel time
- Provides a talent pool of **97,000** graduates each year, from **15** universities and **three** university colleges within a one hour drive
- Access to **4.3 million** people of working age population within one hour drive of the city centre
- Investments in infrastructure including the **£17 billion** High Speed rail link, **£600 million** New Street Gateway project and **£200 million** development of Birmingham Airport
- The most attractive UK regional city for quality of life (Mercer Quality of Living global survey)
- **Youngest** population of any major European city
- The UK leader in e-commerce and the **first** BT Wireless City
- **1.2 million** square feet of Grade A office space available for immediate occupation – and a development pipeline of **5.15 million** square feet of office space
- Attracted **£575 million** of inward investment in 2011 – the most of any regional city in the UK
- The city attracts **33 million** people a year for business and pleasure
- The **best** English core city in terms of languages spoken (Cushman & Wakefield 2010)

2. BIRMINGHAM'S MIPIM MESSAGES

Birmingham: a changing landscape

Birmingham is creating the physical and economic environment needed to attract investment and help businesses grow.

- The **Big City Plan** is the glue that will bring together and deliver the city's development needs over the next 20 years
- The introduction of Birmingham city centre's **Enterprise Zone** by the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership will unlock regeneration schemes and boost the local entrepreneurial environment

Connectivity

Birmingham's 'joined up' approach to infrastructure, including transport, opens the city to global opportunities.

- We believe more **investment** is currently taking place in Birmingham than any other UK regional city, ensuring it is at the top of investors' location lists as a city to watch
- Exciting investments into Birmingham's transport infrastructure have cemented the city's reputation as a **highly accessible destination** for businesses with a global reach
- Our **digital** and wireless infrastructure provides additional support for businesses that are growing and adapting

Investing in Birmingham

Innovative funding models are enabling Birmingham's growth in the age of austerity.

- They create a culture of enterprise and entrepreneurial spirit as landowners and developers find new, **pioneering partnerships** with the public sector

Tourism

New hotel developments are demonstrating the confidence investors have in Birmingham as a vital leisure and business destination.

- Tourists and business visitors are boosting Birmingham's economy, driving new leisure and conferencing developments and demonstrating that the city is a leading European destination for **investors to visit**

3. MIPIM EVENTS

3.1 EVENTS SUMMARY

Tuesday 6 March 2012		Venue
16.00	<p><u>Welcome Reception</u></p> <p>Birmingham welcomes its partners and a range of delegates to MIPIM, in partnership with The Birmingham Post and Drivers Jonas Deloitte.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Kehoe, Chief Executive, Birmingham Airport • Mike Whitby, Leader, Birmingham City Council • Gary Cardin, Partner and Head of Drivers Jonas Deloitte, Midlands 	On Stand R27.09
Wednesday 7 March 2012		Venue
08.00	<p><u>Global FDI Trends</u></p> <p>Leading FDI experts at Oxford Intelligence and Ernst & Young present an overview of global FDI trends, alongside an in-depth perspective on what they mean for Birmingham.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Kehoe, Chief Executive, Birmingham Airport • Peter Lemagnen, Managing Director, Oxford Intelligence • Marc Lhermitte, Partner, Ernst & Young International Location Advisory Services 	JW Marriott 'Salon Renoir'
10.00	<p><u>Birmingham: Global City, Local Heart – Totally Connected</u></p> <p>New transport and infrastructure developments connecting Birmingham to the world will provide a number of compelling opportunities for investors. Birmingham has cemented its position as the UK's central transport hub following the Government's recent approval of HS2, together with key transport schemes including Birmingham Airport's runway extension and the New Street Gateway project. These major investments underpin exciting opportunities for investors.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Whitby, Leader, Birmingham City Council • Geoff Inskip, Chief Executive, Centro • Paul Kehoe, Chief Executive, Birmingham Airport 	On Stand R27.09
11.30	<p><u>Icknield Port Loop with British Waterways</u></p> <p>Icknield Port Loop is an opportunity to create a new Waterside Quarter in Birmingham – an exciting new area of transformation on the edge of Birmingham city centre. The project will deliver around 1,000 new homes for families and can</p>	On Stand R27.09

	<p>bring innovative family housing typologies into the market. This exciting new redevelopment opportunity is being launched on the Business Birmingham stand.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Whitby, Leader, Birmingham City Council • Stuart Mills, Property Director, British Waterways on behalf of Icknield Port Loop Partnership 	
14.00	<p><u>Sovereign Wealth and Institutional Funders Investment Prospectus launch</u></p> <p>Sovereign Wealth Funds and large institutional funds are playing an increasingly large role in the property world. Birmingham City Council is launching an investment prospectus and targeted campaign at these funds at MIPIM 2012. With a 20-year vision of future city centre development, in the shape of the Big City Plan, Birmingham is proactively seeking to engage sovereign funders to outline what is available in the second most populous city in the UK. Delegates will also receive a copy of Birmingham's Sovereign Wealth and Institutional Funders Investment Prospectus.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Whitby, Leader, Birmingham City Council • Mark Barrow, Strategic Director of Development, Birmingham City Council • Gary Cardin, Partner and Head of Drivers Jonas Deloitte, Midlands 	On Stand R27.09
15.00	<p><u>Paradise Circus - Case study</u></p> <p>New plans are revealed for one of the city's most strategically important redevelopment opportunities. Paradise Circus is at the forefront of Birmingham's new Enterprise Zone and the Big City Plan. It is one of the most complex development projects in the UK and strategically vital to Birmingham's future as a centre for business and professional services.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Whitby, Leader, Birmingham City Council • Gary Taylor, Executive Director, Altitude Real Estate LLP • Glenn Howells, Director, Glenn Howells Architects 	On Stand R27.09
17.00	<p><u>UK Cities - Investing in Infrastructure for Growth</u></p> <p>How important is infrastructure investment in delivering growth? The leaders of the UK's biggest cities set out their vision for their regions, and talk about the projects that will determine their future success – from transport and housing to regeneration. To register interest in attending, please email events@gva.co.uk.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – Damian Wild, Editor, Estates Gazette • Mike Whitby, Leader, Birmingham City Council • Sir Edward Lister, Deputy Mayor of London • Sir Howard Bernstein, Chief Executive, Manchester City Council 	Main conference programme , Palais des Festivals, Le Corbusier room, Level 01

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neil McLean, Chair, Leeds City Region Enterprise Zone • Stephen Hollowood, Head of Public Sector, GVA 	
18.00	<p><u>Business Birmingham reception</u></p> <p>Birmingham welcomes delegates to a reception in partnership with Property Week and Jaguar Land Rover.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Whitby, Leader, Birmingham City Council • Giles Barrie, Editor-in-Chief, Property Week • Les Ratcliffe, Head of Community Relations, Corporate Governance & Social Responsibility, Jaguar Land Rover 	On stand R27.09

Thursday 8 March 2012		Venue
08.30	<p><u>Birmingham Unlimited: leading the UK in attracting investment</u></p> <p>So you thought you knew about Birmingham? The city is ahead of the game as a world-class business destination. With £18 billion worth of investment in the future growth of new businesses and homes by 2026, nearly £1 billion in transport infrastructure and over £1 billion in mixed use developments, Birmingham has got everything for ambitious companies. Add to this HS2, which will cut journey times to London to less than 40 minutes, and its status as the UK leader in e-commerce, and you'll know why Birmingham attracted £575 million of inward investment in 2011 – the most of any regional city in the UK.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Kehoe, Chief Executive, Birmingham Airport • Gary Taylor, Executive Director, Altitude Real Estate LLP • Rob Groves, Project Director, Argent 	JW Marriott 'Salon Renoir'
10.00	<p><u>Birmingham City Centre Enterprise Zone</u></p> <p>This event will look at how Birmingham's innovative Enterprise Zone – the only urban city centre Zone in the UK – will help unlock Birmingham's potential for business growth and regeneration through 26 specified sites.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Whitby, Leader, Birmingham City Council • Mark Barrow, Strategic Director of Development, Birmingham City Council • Gary Taylor, Executive Director, Altitude Real Estate LLP 	On Stand R27.09

11.30	<p><u>The international ownership of Birmingham's real estate</u></p> <p>The unveiling of research conducted by GVA, which outlines how much of Birmingham's Central Business District is owned by overseas investors and which dominions have invested most into the City and in which sectors.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Whitby, Leader, Birmingham City Council • Ian Stringer, Regional Senior Director, GVA 	On Stand R27.09
14.30	<p><u>Energy efficiency: new and refurbished projects</u></p> <p>This event will look at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing energy consumption and efficient facilities management • Technical improvements and technological innovations • New challenges: data building, new set of tools and general standards for a given portfolio <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Barrow, Strategic Director of Development, Birmingham City Council • Christoph Kohlen, Head of the EcoCommercial Building Program, Bayer • Tristram Carfrae, Director, Arup 	Main conference programme, Palais des Festivals, Le Corbusier room, Level 01
15.00	<p><u>Tourism and the visitor economy</u></p> <p>Birmingham's booming £4.6 billion visitor economy is bucking the UK trend by growing every year, while it is hosting more conferences than any regional UK city. As a result, Birmingham is attracting numerous world-class hotel and leisure developments, with investments including 28 hotel developments, a £120 million Resorts World complex and the £20.6 million transformation of the National Indoor Arena. This event will look into the influence of Business Premises Renovation Allowance on developments in the city, and how tourism in Birmingham has created an industry worth billions.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Whitby, Leader, Birmingham City Council • Paul Kehoe, Chief Executive, Birmingham Airport 	On Stand R27.09

3.2 EVENT SPEAKERS

Mike Whitby, Leader of Birmingham City Council

Mike Whitby has held the post of Leader of Birmingham City Council since 2004. During his time as Leader Mike has been synonymous with transformational infrastructure developments (including the £600m New Street Station development and £188m Library of Birmingham), award-winning master-planning (through the Big City Plan), an ambitious new international strategy (creating links with China, the Middle East and India) and the transformation of Birmingham's brand and reputation. Mike is also Chairman of Birmingham Science Park Aston, President of Marketing Birmingham and a key figure in the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership.

Paul Kehoe, Chief Executive, Birmingham Airport

Paul Kehoe has been CEO at Birmingham Airport since October 2008 and prior to that he was CEO at Bristol International Airport. Previously he worked for TBI from 1997 to 2005, joining as MD for Belfast International then running the Plc's European division, before becoming MD at London Luton Airport. In November 2001 he was appointed to the main board of TBI Plc as Operations Director. Paul has long been an active member of the Airport Operators Association and was chair in 2004-05.

Mark Barrow, Strategic Director of Development, Birmingham City Council

As Strategic Director of Development, Mark Barrow is responsible for providing leadership, vision and direction for development related activity, including delivering the Birmingham Enterprise Zone, economic development, inward investment, transportation infrastructure, physical and social regeneration, sustainability and the green economy. Mark's ambition is to deliver transformational change to further develop Birmingham as a smart, sustainable and diverse global city.

Geoff Inskip, Chief Executive, Centro

Geoff has more than 20 years' experience in the finance, rail and public transport sectors. Formerly Deputy Director General of the Greater Manchester Transport Authority he was instrumental in delivering Phase 2 of the city's Metrolink tram system and approvals for Line 1 upgrades and Phase 3A. Geoff joined Centro as Chief Executive in October 2006 and has been a driving force in setting up and taking forward the Midland Metro, introducing smartcards to the West Midlands bus network and driving regeneration through transport projects.

Gary Cardin, Partner and Head of Drivers Jonas Deloitte, Midlands

Gary heads up the Drivers Jonas Deloitte Birmingham office and the Planning and Development team, where he is responsible for a wide range of clients including private sector developers and investors, public sector bodies and local authorities. Gary is actively involved in a wide range of complex project work covering regeneration, town centre development and commercial planning advice.

Gary Taylor, Executive Director, Altitude Real Estate

After 17 years at Argent, Gary Taylor established Altitude Real Estate LLP in 2011. At Argent, Gary oversaw the development process, asset and estate management of major developments including the internationally renowned mixed-use development, Brindleyplace in Birmingham and One St. Peter's Square in Manchester. Gary also oversaw the acquisition and refurbishment of properties at Paradise Circus in Birmingham, a long term development opportunity that Altitude is now progressing in partnership with Argent.

Glenn Howells, Director, Glenn Howells Architects

Glenn Howells is the founding director of Glenn Howells Architects, having established the practice in 1990. Glenn has led the practice to win numerous major design competitions for a diverse range of building types including residential, commercial, urban regeneration, education and arts projects. Glenn is on CABE's Design Review Panel. He advises Birmingham City Council and Warwick University – sitting on the board and as Chair of the Building Committee – and is also an ambassador for the West Midlands. He is also on the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Boards and has recently joined the Hippodrome Board. In the academic field, he is a visiting Professor at Nottingham Trent University, an

external examiner at Sheffield Hallam University and a lecturer at the Centre of Alternative Technology in Wales.

Ian Stringer, Regional Senior Director, GVA

Ian Stringer is a Chartered Surveyor and the Regional Senior Director of GVA, commercial property consultants in the region where the company houses 370 of its 1,300 UK directors and employees. Ian is also head of the firm's National Markets Division, which encompasses, Offices, Industrial, Retail, Investment, Residential and Commercial Land and Development activities outside of Central London. He is a current board member and a past non Executive Chairman (2005-2007), and has spent most of his career dealing with offices and office development in Central Birmingham. Involvement with notable schemes and clients include Brindleyplace and The Mailbox, currently Paradise Circus and Arena Central, and RBS at 2 St Philip's Place and KPMG at One Snow Hill.

Stuart Mills, Property Director, British Waterways

A chartered surveyor, Stuart joined British Waterways (BW) in 1990 after working with private sector property consultants Drivers Jonas. He has responsibility for revenue generation from BW's £500 million property portfolio, including its various property joint ventures with the private sector.

4. BIRMINGHAM AT MIPIM PARTNERS

Argent has a strong track record in developments that combine offices, shops, hotels, cafés, restaurants and other uses including residential; and has become a leading practitioner of city centre regeneration. Argent schemes include Brindleyplace in Birmingham; the rejuvenation of Piccadilly in Manchester; the redevelopment of brownfield sites in the Thames Valley; major commercial developments in the City of London; and the eight million sq ft planned at King's Cross in London. Argent in conjunction with Altitude, is currently working in partnership with Birmingham City Council on proposals for the redevelopment of eight acres at Paradise Circus - the most strategically important redevelopment opportunity in Birmingham city centre. www.argentgroup.plc.uk, www.altitudeuk.com, www.paradisecircus.co.uk

Spokespeople: Rob Groves, Project Director, Argent and Gary Taylor, Founding Member, Altitude Real Estate

Nikal specialises in major town and city redevelopment, regeneration and investment opportunities throughout the UK. It is currently developing five major schemes across the UK, with a combined gross value in excess of £600 million. Nikal's latest Birmingham development at Masshouse is Hive, an award-winning and commercially successful £30 million residential scheme of 167 apartments and mixed use retail, completed in March 2011 and taking the total number of residential units on the site to 340. Nikal is now pushing forward with the development of a mixed-use scheme on the adjacent Masshouse plot, which has planning consent for the development of 600,000 sq ft of office accommodation across three buildings, complimentary retail and a 200-bed hotel. www.nikal.uk.com

Spokesperson: Nick Payne, Managing Director

Birmingham Airport is a public/private partnership. It is the UK's third largest airport outside London, and the UK's seventh largest overall, handling some nine million passengers a year. Birmingham currently serves 143 direct scheduled & charter routes and offers an additional 279 possible connections worldwide. www.birminghamairport.co.uk

Spokesperson: Paul Kehoe, Chief Executive

British Waterways – In 2009 Birmingham City Council, the Homes & Communities Agency and British Waterways established the IPL Partnership “to create by 2025, a high quality, family orientated, sustainable and mixed-use waterside neighbourhood” for the 18 hectares of land in their ownership.

The project will deliver a high quality, housing led, mixed use development supporting a truly sustainable community building on Birmingham City Council's Big City Plan and its vision for Greater Icknield by providing around 1,000 new homes for families and an opportunity to bring new innovative family housing typologies into the market. www.britishwaterways.co.uk

Spokesperson: Stuart Mills, Director of Property

Bruntwood is a family-owned, commercial property company with 101 buildings in the North and Midlands. From a single desk for one day to a whole building for 25 years, Bruntwood creates places that help businesses succeed. Bruntwood's concentration of properties allows it to be flexible, as well as being able to move customers easily within its portfolio as their needs change. The long-term relationships that develop from this approach have resulted in a customer retention rate that is more than twice the national average. www.bruntwood.co.uk

Spokesperson: Peter Crowther, Development Director

Centro, the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority takes a lead role in co-ordinating and developing transport services for over 369 million passenger journeys a year at the heart of the UK's transport network. Centro has a clear vision for transport and lobbied successfully with Birmingham and other partners to secure high speed rail for the West Midlands. Centro is also extending the Metro tram system into the heart of the city centre – to link up with the £600 million redevelopment of Birmingham New Street Station – at the heart of the nation's rail network. www.centro.org.uk

Spokesperson: Geoff Inskip, Chief Executive

Carillion is a leading support services company with a substantial portfolio of Public Private Partnership projects and extensive construction capabilities. The Group has annual revenue of over £5 billion, employs around 50,000 people and operates across the UK, in the Middle East and Canada. Carillion has a portfolio of award-winning work in areas vital to society which touch the lives of millions of people every day. It operates across a wide range of sectors including health, education, transport, defence, facilities management, energy services and utility services. www.carillionplc.com

Spokespeople: Simon Dingle, Carillion Operations Director for the Library of Birmingham, and John Swinney, Carillion Energy Services Director – Business Development – Public Sector

Drivers Jonas Deloitte provides comprehensive property consultancy, transaction and advisory services across the private and public sectors. The Real Estate group at Deloitte and Drivers Jonas Deloitte consists of over 1,000 professionals, with specialist real estate knowledge across all areas of business. The breadth and depth of the practice allows expert teams with specific skills to address clients' needs. It is the largest real estate business in Europe. www.djdeloitte.co.uk

Spokesperson: Gary Cardin, Partner and Head of Drivers Jonas Deloitte, Midlands

The Custard Factory Quarter: The 15-acre Custard Factory Quarter has set the tone for Digbeth, Birmingham city centre, to be the creative, digital and media district for the region. 500 companies including Microsoft occupy 500,000 sq ft of space developed so far. There is potential for development of further workspace together with hotel accommodation, educational space, residential and retail.

The Local Enterprise Partnership has declared parts of Digbeth as an Enterprise Zone, creating incentives for creative digital and media occupiers for coming developments. www.custardfactory.co.uk

Spokesperson: Lucan Gray, Owner

Glenn Howells Architects was established in 1990 and has built up a strong reputation as one of the foremost design led architectural practices in the UK. The work of the practice is based on clarity of vision and innovative use of materials. Glenn Howells Architects has won numerous national and international design competitions and received over 70 awards for projects ranging from cultural buildings and housing to large-scale urban mixed-use developments. www.glennhowells.co.uk

Spokespeople: Glenn Howells, Founder and Director, and Dav Bansal, Director

GVA is a leading UK commercial property advisor with a major presence in the Midlands, providing a comprehensive range of property solutions to owners, occupiers, investors, lenders and developers.

With a team of over 370 directors and staff, GVA's Brindleyplace office has grown to be one of the largest offices in the industry outside of London offering over 20 specialist disciplines and seamless, best-in-class advice to clients Midlands-wide. www.gva.co.uk

Spokesperson: Ian Stringer, Regional Senior Director

Hines & Moorfield: Brindleyplace is a premier business and leisure destination located in the heart of Birmingham. Predominantly acquired by Hines Global REIT and Moorfield Group in 2010, the estate covers 17 acres of Birmingham's city centre, is the winner of several international design awards and is widely recognised as an exemplar for urban regeneration throughout Europe. Brindleyplace has been designed to offer the perfect work life balance incorporating beautiful public squares, tree lined streets, striking architecture and a whole host of stylish and elegant bars, restaurants, cafes and shops.

www.brindleyplace.com

Spokespeople: Jeremy Marchant of Moorfield and Igor Mathias of Hines

Jaguar Land Rover is firmly focused on engineering and manufacturing innovative, exciting and high-quality vehicles, and doing so in a way which reduces the impact of its products and processes on the environment. The company believes very strongly that the future prosperity of this region depends on encouraging creative new manufacturing and technology businesses to thrive, and grow businesses which place future sustainability at the heart of their operations. Each year, Jaguar Land Rover will be spending £1 billion annually on product investment (CAPEX and R&D) in the years ahead at its two engineering centres in Whitley and Gaydon. www.jaguarlandrover.com

Spokesperson: Les Ratcliffe, Head of Community Relations

Rider Levett Bucknall is an independent, global property consultant, providing advice focused on the cost, quality and sustainability of the built environment. The firm, which has over 2,500 staff operating from more than 100 offices, offers three core services – Quantity Surveying, Building Surveying and Project Management, alongside a number of advisory services. Its international reach ensures that it provides services in line with the latest innovations and examples of best practice, supporting expertise in a range of sectors including civil and social infrastructure, commercial, energy, sport and leisure, retail and residential. www.rlb.com

Spokesperson: Mark Weaver, Managing Partner

Willmott Dixon is the UK's second largest privately owned capital works, regeneration and support services company. It has a long track-record in Birmingham, employing over 1,000 people in the region. Last year the company spent £70m on local suppliers within 25 miles, and also contributed nearly £100,000 to community projects such as the Jericho Foundation. Services in the region include property development alongside building schools, health facilities, academies and new housing. It also repairs and maintains 60,000 properties for Birmingham City Council. Increasingly, Willmott Dixon's regeneration business is aiming to work with local authorities to deliver complex mixed-tenure projects, often in joint venture with developers and social landlords. As part of its continued investment in Birmingham, Willmott Dixon has announced plans to open a national training and development centre in the city, which will provide a range of skills training for up to 2,000 people every year."

www.willmottdixon.co.uk

Spokesperson: Nick Gibb, Director

Section Two: About Birmingham

5. BIRMINGHAM: A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

5.1 THE BIG CITY PLAN

Developed by Birmingham City Council and its partners, the [Big City Plan](#) is the most ambitious, far-reaching development project in the UK, and seeks to define how more than 800 hectares of land in the city centre will be developed during the next 20 years.

As well as outlining specific areas where the Council will concentrate its resources in the future, the Plan highlights individual projects, schemes and infrastructure that it aims to develop and defines specialist quarters/areas where particular types of investment and development will be encouraged. Mike Whitby, Leader of Birmingham City Council, said:

“Our Big City Plan will provide a clear blueprint for investors, businesses and residents alike – with the detail, the grain and the soul, which I believe will inspire imaginations across the world – and capture billions of extra investment and value for our local economy.”

Key objectives of the Plan are to deliver significant change in the city centre, supporting sustainable growth, creating new and improved public spaces, giving streets back to pedestrians and enhancing cultural life in the heart of the city. It addresses how future economic growth can be achieved by expanding the City Core area by over 25%, and in the process delivering:

- More than 1.5 million sq metres of new office, retail, leisure and cultural floorspace
- 50,000 new jobs
- A £2.1 billion growth in the local economy per annum
- Five key areas of transformation based around New Street Station, Westside, the Snow Hill District, Eastern Core Expansion and The Southern Gateway
- 65,000 sq metres of new and improved public spaces and 28,000 metres of enhanced walking and cycling routes
- Over 5,000 new homes to attract more families
- Sets out the value and role of heritage in supporting the creation of an authentic city centre
- Visionary proposals for city centre quarters: the City Core, Eastside, Southside and Highgate, The Jewellery Quarter, Westside and Ladywood, Digbeth and The Gunsmiths' Quarter

5.2 GREATER BIRMINGHAM & SOLIHULL LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

The [Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership](#) (GBSLEP) was set up in October 2010 to help strengthen local economies, encourage economic development and enterprise, and improve skills across the region.

The LEP comprises the urban core of Birmingham and Solihull, the southern Staffordshire districts of Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Tamworth and East Staffordshire (based upon Burton upon Trent) and the northern Worcestershire districts of Redditch, Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest (based on Kidderminster). This covers an area with a population of 1.9 million, over 800,000 jobs and contributing £36 billion in GVA to the economy meaning the LEP has a crucial role as an engine of growth both for the region and the UK as a whole.

Board members are drawn from the private sector, local authorities (at Council Leader level) and a representative of Universities and Colleges (at Vice Chancellor level). The LEP is business-led and business community representatives have been recruited with the aim of reflecting the geography of the area as well as different sizes and sectors of commerce and industry.

The LEP has set out ambitious transformational aims to:

- Create 100,000 new private sector jobs by 2020
- Boost indigenous and inward investment
- Build a world-class workforce
- Increase GVA by more than £8 billion by 2020 and
- Achieve global leadership in key sectors

GBSLEP has already delivered a number of notable achievements, including the award of the City Centre Enterprise Zone, securing more than £15 million from the Government for the Growing Places infrastructure investment programme and becoming a national pathfinder on reducing regulation.

5.3 BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE ENTERPRISE ZONE

In March 2011, the Government announced in its Budget a new wave of Enterprise Zones (EZs), which were allocated to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as key vehicles for delivering economic growth. GBSLEP chose Birmingham City Centre as the location for its Enterprise Zone.

The EZ comprises 26 sites across the city centre in seven clusters identified in the Big City Plan as offering significant growth opportunities at Westside, Snow Hill District, Eastside, Southern Gateway, Digbeth Creative Quarter, Birmingham Science Park Aston and the Jewellery Quarter.

These sites are focused on the business and financial services, ICT, creative industries and digital media sectors which are already clustered in the city centre and present significant growth opportunities.

The EZ will enable growth, promoting the delivery of the Big City Plan and LEP objectives through:

- A simplified planning regime in the wider EZ in addition to Local Development Orders (LDOs) being used in Digbeth and Birmingham Science Park Aston
- LDOs removing the need to apply for planning permission for a wide range of changes of use, making it easier for growing small businesses to be mobile
- Additional support provided through business rates relief of up to £275,000 over five years to businesses locating within the EZ before 2015
- The EZ providing superfast broadband infrastructure focused on the clusters of IT, creative and digital businesses in Digbeth, Eastside, the Jewellery Quarter, Southern Gateway and St George and St Chad Quarter

It is anticipated that when all of the development is in place, the EZ can deliver a £2.8 billion per annum uplift to the economy and create 40,000 jobs. However, the benefits of the EZ go far further than the 26 sites that feature in the plan and the businesses located within them. It will play an important role in the delivery of the LEP's priorities through the acceleration of development and related employment opportunities in the EZ, and the wider impacts this will have on the regional economy, and the use of retained business rate uplift on key projects and initiatives.

5.4 WESTSIDE: LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM AND PARADISE CIRCUS

Library of Birmingham: Birmingham's new £188 million [Library](#) will occupy a prime site on Centenary Square between Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Baskerville House, and will open in 2013. Carillion is

Birmingham City Council's construction partner for the Library – its Operations Director Simon Dingle commented:

“The partnership approach we have adopted with Birmingham City Council has proved to be a very successful model and a strategy that can be adopted on projects in the city in the future.”

The Library is a major flagship project for the regeneration of the city, which will:

- Provide 20% more space, at 31,000 sq metres, than the existing Birmingham Central Library and be capable of taking up to 10,000 visitors a day
- Function flexibly around rapidly developing new digital technologies, creating new opportunities for learning and access
- Provide increased space and improved climatic conditions for storage of the library's world famous archives
- Provide employment – since 2010, 160 local people who were unemployed have got back into work, with Carillion committing to ensuring this reaches 250 by the end of the project

Paradise Circus: Argent, in conjunction with Altitude, is currently working in partnership with Birmingham City Council on proposals for the redevelopment of eight acres at [Paradise Circus](#) – the most strategically important redevelopment opportunity in Birmingham city centre. Rob Groves, Project Director at Argent, said:

“This innovative and vibrant proposal has the capacity and capability to create a high quality development that will encourage new visitors, open up access to other parts of the city and return Birmingham’s world class historic buildings to a more suitable setting at the very heart of the city.”

Award-winning Glenn Howells Architects has led on the emerging vision for the redevelopment of Paradise Circus. In the future, it will be working together with a number of other architectural practices to create buildings with a diverse range of architectural styles throughout the development.

Key points about the scheme:

- Will comprise up to 1,700,000 sq ft of commercial space in up to 12 new buildings, set in a series of new streets and squares
- Creates a first class working environment and setting for Birmingham's listed civic buildings
- At the forefront of Birmingham's new Enterprise Zone, and the Big City Plan
- An outline planning application for the redevelopment will be made in summer 2012 with the development planned to commence in 2014
- Birmingham City Council and Argent signed an Exclusivity Agreement in February 2009 and, between them, own or lease the majority of the land within Paradise Circus

5.5 LOW-CARBON STRATEGY

Birmingham 2026 is the long-term sustainable community strategy shaping Birmingham's future. As part of this strategy, Birmingham City Council has pledged ambitious carbon reduction targets to reduce climate-change emissions (CO₂) in the city by 60% in 2026. This is beyond the current government target that requires a 34% reduction by 2022.

Birmingham District Energy Company provides low-carbon heat, electricity and chilled water to a range of buildings across the city. District Energy Schemes enable the integration of different types of technologies to generate energy, such as combined heat and power (CHP). Since the first phase of the Birmingham District Energy Scheme became operational in 2009, it has reduced the city's carbon emissions by some 17,000,000 kg and is now delivering savings in excess of 300,000 kg per annum.

Birmingham Energy Savers (BES) will undertake £1.5 billion of green retrofit work for nearly 200,000 buildings in Birmingham and across the West Midlands over the next 15 years. It is also expected to create and safeguard 60,000 'green' jobs, from installation engineers to designers. The programme will help local businesses take forward new technologies and engage in the 'Green Deal' scheme.

In December 2011 Birmingham won the Urban Retrofit Award presented by the World Green Building Council during the 2011 UN Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa. Paul King, CEO of the UK Green Building Council and chair of the WorldGBC Policy Task Force, stated:

"Birmingham's leadership in urban retrofit is trailblazing, and highlights the critical role local authorities can and should play as a trusted partner in rolling out the Green Deal nationally."

6. CONNECTIVITY

6.1 TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

With a city of over a million residents, home to the busiest train station in the UK and located at the heart of the country, Birmingham is an integral part of the national transport infrastructure.

The UK Government's recent approval of HS2 is the latest in a number of transport schemes aimed at underpinning Birmingham's ongoing economic regeneration and cementing its future as a vibrant, global city. In addition, a £1.3 billion transport package is underway to support economic regeneration and cement Birmingham's future as a vibrant, global city. Centro's Chief Executive, Geoff Inskip, said:

"Successful cities have excellent connectivity, international, national and local and our £1.3 billion transport package will secure massive benefits for businesses and passengers."

The package includes:

- £65 million runway extension at Birmingham Airport
- The £600 million Gateway redevelopment of the New Street rail station
- A £127 million extension of the Midland Metro tram system
- The £250 million Evergreen project to cut rail journey times between Birmingham Moor Street and London Marylebone
- A £126 million congestion-busting managed motorway scheme
- More than £90 million of new train carriages for the local network
- A £30 million reorganisation of the city's bus services including six new passenger interchanges, the introduction of Smartcard ticketing and new on-street information
- An £11 million rapid transit system known as Sprint, running between Five Ways in the city centre and Walsall to the north

All of the projects have been earmarked for completion by 2015 under [Vision for Movement](#), a collaborative project between the city's business community, Birmingham City Council, transport authority Centro and bus company National Express West Midlands.

HS2

Birmingham is pioneering the high-speed rail revolution with the construction of the London to Birmingham rail link. Starting in 2017, the first phase between the cities is due to open in 2026 with the second, northern Y-shaped route from Birmingham to Manchester and Leeds completing in 2033.

HS2 has the potential to transform the economy of Birmingham and the wider West Midlands. It will open up fast links with major UK and European cities and provide extra capacity. An independent KPMG

report found that HS2 alone would deliver 10,000 jobs and a £600 million per year economic boost to the West Midlands. This more than doubles to 22,000 jobs and £1.5 billion per year when combined with improvements to the local transport network.

Passengers will be able to travel from Birmingham city centre to London in 49 minutes, while journey times to Leeds and Manchester will be halved and travellers will be able to reach Paris from the West Midlands in less than three hours. HS2 will free up capacity on the existing rail network, allowing better services for towns and cities across the region, including Wolverhampton, Coventry and Lichfield.

New Street Gateway

The £600 million redevelopment of Birmingham's New Street train station will transform it into a world-class gateway for the city by 2015. It promises to deliver:

- More space for passengers with an enlarged concourse enclosed by a spectacular, giant, light-filled atrium
- World-class customer information systems and better access to brighter and clearer platforms facilitated by 42 new escalators and 14 new lifts
- A new contemporary station exterior to complement the redeveloped city centre with two new open public spaces
- New pedestrian links across the city centre to give direct access and interchange with the planned Metro stop in Stephenson Street
- The stimulus for the physical regeneration of the areas surrounding the station will lead to the potential creation of over 10,000 new jobs across the city
- Over 140,000 passengers currently use New Street every day, more than double the number it was designed to cater for. The new Birmingham Gateway project will support over 52 million passengers a year

Birmingham Airport Extension

Birmingham Airport is the UK's third largest airport outside London, and the UK's seventh largest overall, handling some nine million passengers a year. It is connected to Birmingham International Rail Station, which operates several trains an hour to Birmingham city centre, just eight miles away. Furthermore, direct trains to London Euston operate four times an hour, taking just 70 minutes. Paul Kehoe, CEO of Birmingham Airport, stated:

“Through Birmingham’s ambition, vision and investment, it has become the UK’s premier city where people can meet, visit and invest. Birmingham Airport is paying a key part in the city’s future success by making a £200m investment to allow for more routes, planes and passengers.”

The recent expansion project and the runway extension at Birmingham Airport means that:

- There is enough spare capacity at Birmingham to take another 9 million passengers immediately, and an additional 21 million plus passengers in future years. The Airport's strategy sees a tripling of passenger numbers by 2030
- Birmingham is the only UK airport with planning consent for a runway extension. Its 2,600-metre runway means that the furthest reach of the larger aircraft is Dubai or Islamabad, but proposed work is set to start this year on an extension to be completed in 2014
- The longer runway will comfortably place Los Angeles, Tokyo and Beijing in range, opening up the Midlands to essential business markets
- Linked by high-speed rail to London, such capability will confirm Birmingham's role as an additional port of entry serving the South East of England

Midland Metro Extension

The joint £127 million project by Centro, Birmingham City Council and the Black Country local authorities is expected to boost the West Midlands economy by £50 million a year and create up to 1,300 sustainable new jobs.

It will provide a quick link between Birmingham's two major rail stations – Snow Hill and New Street – and deliver more than 3.5 million passengers a year right into the heart of the city's shopping district. It will also give an easy connection from New Street Station to the emerging business district at Snow Hill and serve as a platform for a future rapid transit network that can connect and feed into the city's forthcoming High Speed Rail terminus.

The project will also see the introduction of a fleet of new, bigger trams that will bring major benefits to Metro in the Black Country by increasing passenger capacity and frequency of service to every six minutes throughout the day. The project is due for completion in 2015, coinciding with the opening of the redeveloped New Street Station.

6.2 VISION FOR MOVEMENT

[Vision for Movement](#), an important element of the Big City Plan, lays the foundations for a comprehensive network of rapid transit, bus, rail, cycling and walking routes. It aims to create a well connected, efficient and walkable city by finding transport solutions that are realistic and deliverable in the short to medium term but also co-ordinate with longer-term schemes in its 20-year timeframe.

Although Metro trams remain at the heart of the long-term strategy to support economic regeneration in the city centre, in the shorter term a network of flexible rapid transit routes, known as Birmingham Sprint, will be developed. These will be high quality, tram-style services benefiting from highway priority measures to speed up journeys. The Vision's other smart proposals include:

- Alterations to the rail network to open new passenger stations
- The transformation of existing bus services with high quality, green vehicles, new city centre passenger interchanges and hi-tech travel information
- Park and Ride facilities to support rapid transit and cycle routes and reduce demand for car journeys into the city
- Improving the efficiency of the existing road network by remodelling key junctions, and installing traffic management systems

6.3 DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

Birmingham is driving forward a number of digital initiatives to ensure that the city's infrastructure will support significant economic growth and act as an enabler for new agile workstyles, which are crucial to meeting the city's environmental responsibilities. Key projects include:

- Its Digital Districts Programme, which will see the creation of a digital infrastructure capable of delivering ultra fast broadband speeds in excess of 100 mbps
- Birmingham Science Park Aston is the first network 'node' in Cisco's National Virtual Incubator – a sustainable public technology network that promises to stimulate entrepreneurship by connecting physical sites through IT infrastructure

Birmingham is accelerating the race to become a world class ubiquitous wirelessly connected city, by delivering a citywide high-speed wireless network to close the digital divide and support business development. This connectivity will complement the ultra-fast networks planned for the city and will begin to provide an environment of total and seamless connectivity.

7. INVESTING IN BIRMINGHAM

7.1 DEVELOPMENTS IN BIRMINGHAM

Nick Payne, Managing Director, Nikal, said:

“With the partnership of the city’s public and private sectors, the support structure is in place for investors to come and be a part of the next stage in Birmingham’s continued evolution.”

Icknield Port Loop: In 2009 Birmingham City Council, the Homes & Communities Agency and British Waterways established the IPL Partnership, ‘to create by 2025, a high quality, family orientated, sustainable and mixed-use waterside neighbourhood’ for the 18 hectares of land in their ownership.

The site presents an exciting opportunity to stimulate the regeneration of this area of Ladywood in Birmingham, embracing its relationship with the adjacent Edgbaston Reservoir and the Icknield Port Loop of the Birmingham Canal.

The project will deliver a high quality, housing led, mixed use development supporting a truly sustainable community building on the Big City Plan and its vision for the area by providing some 1,000 new homes for families and an opportunity to bring new innovative family housing typologies into the market.

Brindleyplace is a premier business and leisure destination located in the heart of Birmingham and its convention quarter. It has been designed to offer the perfect work life balance incorporating beautiful public squares, tree lined streets, striking architecture and a whole host of stylish and elegant bars, restaurants, cafes and shops.

Predominantly acquired by Hines Global REIT and Moorfield Group in 2010, the canalside development provides businesses with a safe, clean and vibrant working environment complemented by a range of outstanding leisure opportunities. The estate:

- Covers 17 acres of Birmingham’s city centre
- Has won several international design awards and is widely recognised as an exemplar for urban regeneration throughout Europe
- Has high profile businesses occupying its buildings, including Deutsche Bank, Lloyds TSB, GVA, Deloitte, RBS, Michael Page International and Colliers International
- Has 8,500 people currently working on the estate across all businesses

Custard Factory: The 15-acre Custard Factory Quarter has set the tone for Digbeth, Birmingham City Centre, to be the creative, digital and media district for the region. 500 companies including Microsoft occupy 500,000 sq ft of space developed so far. There is potential for development of further workspace together with hotel accommodation, educational space, residential and retail.

Nearby, the terminal for the recently confirmed High Speed Rail link to London Euston will be built together with Birmingham City University’s new campus for 5,000 students opening in 2013. The Local Enterprise Partnership has declared parts of Digbeth as an Enterprise Zone, creating incentives for creative digital and media occupiers for coming developments.

The Mailbox is Birmingham's premier shopping and lifestyle destination. It offers a mixed use environment comprising 640,980 sq ft of lettable accommodation including office, retail and restaurant units, and a 686 space public car park across a strategic site of 4.8 acres.

Located on the west side of Birmingham's traditional core, mid-way between Bullring shopping centre and Brindleyplace, The Mailbox sits around 300 metres from Birmingham New Street Station, which is currently undergoing a £600 million transformation, including a 250,000 sq ft John Lewis department store. The John Lewis store and new entrances to New Street Station will re-orientate this footfall towards The Mailbox. Plans are likely to be made public in spring 2012.

Hive is Nikal's latest Birmingham development, an award-winning and commercially successful £30 million residential scheme of 167 apartments and mixed-use retail, completed in March 2011 and taking the total number of residential units on the site to 340.

Following the positive announcements regarding HS2 and the Enterprise Zone, Nikal is now pushing forward with the development of a mixed-use scheme on the adjacent Masshouse plot, which has planning consent for the development of 600,000 sq ft of office accommodation across three buildings, complimentary retail and a 200-bed hotel.

With planning consent secured, a cleared site, and infrastructure already in place thanks to BDEC's low-carbon heating system, the future of Birmingham's newest business district is already looking bright.

Snowhill Two: Rider Levett Bucknall is acting as quantity surveyor on behalf of Wragge & Co LLP at Snowhill Two. The UK-based international law firm will be the key tenant at the landmark office development, occupying eight floors of the 14-storey high scheme.

The Cube represents a £100 million investment and was completed in summer 2010. It includes residential apartments, exclusive retail and extensive office space. The building's glass clad roof was constructed using 666 glass panels, while a sophisticated £2 million robotic system enables cars to park themselves in the car park. Tenants include Hotel Indigo, Marco Pierre White's Steakhouse Bar and Grill restaurant and the Highways Agency.

7.2 BUSINESS BIRMINGHAM

The ongoing development and securing of high-value private sector inward investment will be central to the future economic growth and prosperity of Birmingham and the wider region.

[Business Birmingham](#) – the city's inward investment programme, managed by strategic marketing partnership Marketing Birmingham – is the link for investors to establishing or growing their presence in the area. Birmingham attracted £575 million in inward investment in 2011, more than any other regional city in the UK.

In addition, almost 1,800 jobs have been created as a result of Business Birmingham's activity between April and November 2011, with nearly 40% in financial services and more than 20% in transport technologies. Recent investors include the £2.5 billion Business Growth Fund, leading construction group Skanska, law firm Trowers & Hamblins and lighting manufacturer NVC Lighting.

7.3 INNOVATIVE FUNDING

7.3.1 Sovereign wealth

The UK is traditionally a key destination for sovereign wealth, second behind only the USA in attracting investments between 2005 and 2011, according to TheCityUK.

In October 2010 Birmingham signed a ground-breaking 'Memorandum of Understanding' with the Abu Dhabi municipal government (DMA). Effective for five years with an option to extend, it aims to:

- Showcase Birmingham as an investment-friendly city to rival the capital
- Offer support, advice and consultancy to help the DMA set up and develop a local government structure in Abu Dhabi
- Provide Birmingham with direct support in facilitating meetings and inductions, and advising and advocating credentials, to some of the most important and able private and state backed investors across the UAE and the Gulf

Excellency Rashid Mubarak Al Hajeri, Chairman of Abu Dhabi's Department of Municipal Affairs, said:

"By partnering with Birmingham City Council, we can learn from their experiences to inform and drive our ambitious plans and achieve recognition for our accomplishments so far."

7.3.2 Private investment

John Lewis has announced a £100 million store for Birmingham, which will open in 2014. The development project comprises:

- A 250,000 sq ft store located alongside the Birmingham New Street redevelopment
- One of John Lewis's largest department stores outside London
- The creation of 900 new jobs for the wider economy, including 650 jobs at the store

Chiltern Railways completed a £250 million upgrade to the Birmingham-London Mainline route in September 2011. This has been supported by a £13.5 million upgrade to Birmingham Moor Street undertaken by Carillion, creating a new Birmingham hub for trains to London. The new Mainline will:

- Cut journey times to London by 20%
- Result in shorter commutes, increased capacity, new trains and new station platforms along the length of the M40 corridor
- Ensure that the fastest journey time from Birmingham to London is just 90 minutes

7.3.3 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)

BIDs integrate public and private sector organisations, to provide added-value investment and achieve positive tangible results in their defined areas and across the city more broadly.

They represent a significant advance in the management of town centres and help to develop partnerships between business ratepayers and the City Council. They enable businesses to play a more central role in managing and maintaining their local environment.

Birmingham currently has six BIDs – Broad Street, Retail Birmingham, Colmore Business District, Southside, Erdington and Kings Heath, which collectively bring in an additional £13 million over their five year terms to spend on priorities determined by local businesses. This is vitally important at a time when the public sector finds it difficult to provide funding for new projects and service improvements.

Three more BIDs are to be established in Sutton Coldfield, Acocks Green and Northfield.

7.3.4 Tax Increment Finance (TIF)

TIF involves borrowing against future increases in business taxation from investments. Mike Whitby, Leader of Birmingham City Council, has said:

“The Government has laid down the gauntlet to the Public Sector to do more with less – and innovative finance mechanisms like TIF should enable local authorities to do just that.”

Birmingham has well developed plans for Accelerated Development Zones using TIF. One such TIF opportunity is the regeneration of the site of the former MG Rover car factory in Longbridge.

8. TOURISM

8.1 VISITOR ECONOMY

The tourism, events and conferencing industries in Birmingham are key drivers of the local economy. The city’s visitor economy is now worth £4.6 billion and attracted 32.8 million people city in 2010, an increase from 32.6 million in 2009.

- From boutique hotels to serviced apartments, there are more than 28,600 bed spaces available for visitors in the city centre and surrounding area
- There are some 39 four star + hotels, B&Bs and guesthouses in and around Birmingham
- Hotel occupancy in the city reached 74% in November 2011 – the highest rate for four years

Neil Rami, Chief Executive of Marketing Birmingham, commented:

“The choice of where to go for a break has taken on greater significance than ever – and by opting for Birmingham, visitors are voting with their feet.”

Birmingham’s great sporting venues include the redeveloped Edgbaston Stadium, Aston Villa Football Club and The Belfry, while the Black Country Living Museum, The Public and The Heritage Motor Centre are all regional venues that can be easily reached from the city centre.

The city is home to four of the world’s finest exhibition, conference and event venues: The National Exhibition Centre, The International Convention Centre, The LG Arena and The National Indoor Arena – all part of the NEC Group. It boasts an additional range of venues at the University of Birmingham, Aston University, the Birmingham Hippodrome, Ikon Gallery and Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

8.2 HOTEL DEVELOPMENTS

Birmingham’s hospitality sector is on the cusp of several exciting additions to its existing portfolio, with nearly 30 hotels currently at various stages in planning and construction. By the end of 2012, there will be 6,200 hotel bedrooms within 20 minutes’ walk of Birmingham’s International Convention Centre.

These new developments demonstrate the confidence investors have in this sector and Birmingham itself as a vital leisure and business destination.

Hotel La Tour is a £24 million hotel in the City Park Gate district of Birmingham opening in March. Hotel La Tour has chosen Birmingham for its flagship development in a new chain of city centre hotels, with 174 bedrooms and suites, and a conference floor with flexible space accommodating 150 delegates theatre style. The eye-catching three-sided building will be close to Bullring Shopping Centre and the Central Business District and within easy walking distance of the city's main railway stations.

Hampton by Hilton: Sanguine Hospitality Management has acquired Cumberland House tower, which is undergoing a £30 million transformation into a 285-bedroom Hampton by Hilton hotel, the largest in the chain's European operations, opening in May 2012.

Holiday Inn Express: Sanguine Hospitality is transforming Birmingham's Kennedy Tower into a new generation, 224-bedroom Holiday Inn Express Hotel. The hotel will be located in Snow Hill, in the city centre at the heart of the financial district with excellent travel links. It will open at the end of 2012.

Hotel Indigo is a major new hotel and restaurant development that opened in Birmingham in December. The launch marked the completion of a 26-week build programme on the 1,319 sq m restaurant, situated on the 25th floor, and 52-bedroom hotel on levels 23 and 24.

Resorts World: a proposed £120 million leisure and entertainment complex in partnership with Genting Casinos at the NEC could be up and running by early 2014. The 55,000 square metre facility will include a 4/5 star hotel and casino, banqueting and conference centre, retail units and cinema.

Auchinleck House: Staywell Group has retained Rider Levett Bucknall as cost consultants and capital allowances advisor on the redevelopment of the vacant Auchinleck House office block in Edgbaston, Birmingham. The Group proposes the conversion of the 12-storey Auchinleck House into a 300-bed, 4 Star deluxe hotel, the creation of a new 1,200 seat banqueting/conference facility, a new retail store and a refurbishment of existing retail frontages, as promoted by Birmingham based developer Seven Capital. The 475,000 sq ft scheme has a completed development value in excess of £100 million.