

Press Release
8th September 2005

Westgate Partnership Launch Formal Response To Consultation

The Westgate Partnership has today unveiled details of its formal *Response to Consultation* document on the proposals for the Westgate area of Oxford City Centre which was submitted to Oxford City Council earlier today.

The masterplan for the re-development of the Westgate area of Oxford, prepared by architects Allies & Morrison, received support from Oxford City Council's Strategic Development Control Committee in October 2004. Since then The Westgate Partnership has been working on reviewing and responding to issues raised during the consultation process with a view to publishing this formal response which sits alongside the existing masterplan.

"All the issues raised during the consultation process have been reviewed and analysed and we have reconsidered each aspect of the scheme," commented Richard Cable. "A number of significant changes have been incorporated, such as an increase in the amount of residential development including affordable housing, a public realm and landscaping strategy with the re-landscaping of Paradise Square Gardens, provision for public art, work on cycle routes, improved access and facilities for the disabled, the redesign of the Abbey Place car park to allow for additional residential units and a bus stopping and turning facility next to Thames Street."

The document incorporates the technical transport solutions prepared by The Westgate Transport Working Group (TWG). The TWG was established during the masterplanning process with representatives from Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford Bus Company, Stagecoach and the Westgate professional team.*

*The results of the TWG report are outlined in the accompanying press release.

The proposals for Westgate are for a mixed use development which will involve the demolition and redevelopment of the existing multi-storey and surface level car parks, the refurbishment and extension of the Westgate Centre to provide new shopping streets and department stores, the establishment of a pattern of east-west routes across the site resulting in three new lanes, new residential units, and a replacement multi-storey car park of 1,335 spaces at Abbey Place.

The Westgate Partnership has continued to consult with the local authorities, members of the public and key stakeholder groups on a regular basis. Work has recently started on the detailed design process with a view to submitting a planning application at the start of 2006. Further consultation on the design process is planned via a series of workshops and an exhibition in the Autumn.

Full details of the *Response to Consultation* and the Westgate masterplan proposals are available on www.westgateoxford.co.uk.

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The Westgate Partnership

The re-development and extension of the Westgate Centre is being carried out by The Westgate Partnership, a joint venture between Capital Shopping Centres and La Salle Investment Management.

Capital Shopping Centres PLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty International PLC, is the leading company in the UK specialising in the ownership, management and development of regional shopping centres. It specialises in retail-led town centre regeneration, providing mixed-use schemes which respond to the needs of particular locations. Schemes it has developed and still owns and manages include The Glades (Bromley), The Harlequin (Watford) and The Chimes (Uxbridge)

LaSalle Investment Management, one of the UK's largest investment fund managers, is responsible for the British Coal Industry Pension Funds' property portfolio, which includes The Westgate Centre.

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