

INVEST LEICESTERSHIRE NEWS • NOVEMBER 2006



Welcome to Invest Leicestershire News



This is the latest newsletter from Invest Leicestershire - the official inward investment agency for Leicester and Leicestershire. As part of Leicester Shire Promotions, we are committed to supporting businesses and other job-creating organisations in their plans to relocate to the area or to stay and expand here.

This newsletter is part of our programme to keep partners, local businesses and investors informed of the latest developments.

In this issue of Invest Leicestershire News, we announce that foreign investment is on the increase in Leicestershire, the new developers of Leicester Science Park, an update on new business parks in Leicestershire and how two Leicestershire universities have been ranked in the world's top 500.

I hope you find it interesting and useful, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to promote Leicester and Leicestershire.

Martin Peters, Chief Executive of Leicester Shire Promotions

Leicester's £17 million Science Park unveiled

Creswell Estates has been named as the preferred developers by Leicester Regeneration Company and Leicester City Council to provide purpose-built research, development and production facilities to accommodate hi-tech businesses, including those 'spun' out of university research. The 120,000-square-foot science park will be built in the Abbey Meadows area of Leicester and will consist of 56 units for hi-technology businesses of all sizes.

John Nicholls commented: "This is another milestone for Leicester's Big Build. The designs submitted by Creswell Estates were far beyond our expectations for the site and we are really looking forward to working alongside them in their delivery of one of the city's key regeneration projects."

The Creswell Estates development team has extensive experience of providing commercial and mixed use developments throughout the country and will be working alongside the Intercity Group of Companies on the £17 million project. Creswell Estates will now begin negotiations to draw up a detailed development agreement and obtain detailed planning permission.

Leicester Science Park is a one of five key projects in the city's Big Build masterplan and is part of a forecast £5 billion of regeneration activity that is taking place across the city over the next five years.

Foreign Investment on the rise in Leicestershire

Following the successful year in 2005/06 where Invest Leicestershire announced a major growth in inward investment in Leicestershire, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has announced a number of foreign direct investments into the Leicestershire area. The recent UKTI annual report highlighted a number of successful inward investment projects in the city and county including BIFFA expanding its operation in Leicester, the recent relocation of Asimco Technologies from Leicester to the MIRA complex, near Hinckley and the State Bank of India opening its first branch in Leicester as part of its UK-wide investment strategy. The UKTI report also highlighted the joint working on a number of the projects with the regional and sub-regional inward investment agencies including Invest Leicestershire on the State Bank of India project.



Leicester in top ten cultural cities in UK

Leicester has been ranked as the ninth most culturally vibrant city in the UK according to research published by Arts & Business (A&B). A&B's Cultural Vitality (CV) index creates a definitive list of the UK's most culturally vibrant communities, which sees Leicester in the top ten thanks to healthy investment from businesses in the community's cultural organisations. Leicester was placed above cities including Manchester, Nottingham and Leeds.

Leicestershire universities ranked in world's top 500

The University of Leicester and Loughborough University have both featured in the World's Top 500 universities. The list compiled by Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China featured University of Leicester in the top 200 with Loughborough in the top 500. There were only 42 UK universities that featured in the top 500.

The world ranking comes after The Times Good University Guide placed Loughborough 6th and Leicester 18th. This was the first time that the University of Leicester had broken into the top 20.



Big It Up looking for new members

Big It Up, the ambassadorial campaign managed by Leicester Shire Promotions, is looking for new members to help promote Leicester and Leicestershire to people and companies outside of the area. The campaign, which has been running for just over one year and has attracted over 70 members, is looking to increase its membership over the coming year. As well as promoting Leicester and Leicestershire, Big It Up campaigners also help raise the profile of the city and county to their own staff, assist with welcoming new companies to the area, supporting new business investment and supporting local food and drink producers.

To receive further information on Big It Up, contact **Ken Nettleship**, Campaign Manager on (0116) 225 4051 or email ken.nettleship@l-p-l.com

Work starts on new Market Harborough Business Park

Boden Properties has begun construction on a new business park in Market Harborough. The first phase of Compass Point business park will offer high quality business units ranging from 250 sq m (2,691 sq ft) to 510 sq m (5,490 sq ft) with staff and visitor parking. Units up to 4,180 sq m (45,000 sq ft) will subsequently be available.

"This is a very exciting step in the construction work at Market Harborough," said Dan Bould of Boden Properties. "The whole park will take a number of years to complete, but the initial phases will start to happen very shortly after the first sod is cut. The first buildings on the site are expected to be complete and occupied by early 2007 and we hope to attract a number of successful local companies to take up space on the park."

Boden Properties is a highly experienced business park developer and will use the knowledge and experience gained from its original Compass Point model in St Ives, Cambridgeshire to ensure the Market Harborough park creates a thriving and exciting hub for business in the area.

Looking for conference, exhibition or meeting space in Leicestershire and Rutland?

Leicester Shire Promotions offers a commission-free venue finding service for meeting, conference and event space in Leicestershire. Leicestershire and Rutland offers more than you think with over 200 venues that can provide space from the purpose built venues to unique event locations. The online venue search can be found at www.goleicestershire.com/conferences or by contacting Helen Bevins or Ashley Hopwell on (0116) 299 6666.

What can Invest Leicestershire do for you?

Our team of experts is led by your requirements and we can design bespoke information packages tailored by your needs. Our services include:

- Appointing you a project manager that will provide you with the right information to build a business case for Leicestershire
- Provide you with a wide range of business accommodation that fit your requirements, and work with you and local planning authorities to offer you a seamless move
- Coordinate visits of the city and county for your staff and board members
- Liaising with professional intermediaries and partners to offer additional relocation services including legal advice, recruitment of staff, staff relocations and ICT services amongst others

The new Invest Leicestershire website will be launched over the coming weeks. Visit www.investleicestershire.com for further information.
t: 0116 225 4071 e: invest@l-p-l.com visit: www.investleicestershire.com

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