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Quay West: A New City Quarter for Hull

Henderson Global Investors and Insight Investment have this week submitted an outline planning application to Hull City Council for a major new city quarter adjacent to Princes Quay Shopping Centre.

The Quay West proposals, which were first revealed back in February, are for a £250million retail-led development, combining retail and leisure facilities with public squares and open spaces. They also include new space to accommodate flagship stores for retailers and space for restaurants, cafes, car parking and a hotel and health club.

Over 3,000 new full and part time jobs will be created in this landmark urban regeneration project. A further 6,000 plus will be generated during the construction phase which will have a very positive impact on Hull's economy both through employment creation and associated skills and training programmes.

A comprehensive programme of public consultation - including exhibitions at Princes Quay, a questionnaire encouraging people to give their thoughts on the scheme, a focus group, and a number of meetings with stakeholders - has been carried out on the proposals over the past six months and has shown overwhelming support for the plans: 80% of those who filled in the questionnaire believed that an improved retail offer is very important to contributing to Hull's offer as a city, and a massive 91% agreed that the area surrounding the Princess Quay Shopping Centre is in need of redevelopment.

Lawrence Hutchings, Senior Portfolio Manager for Henderson Global Investors said:

“Following an extensive period of consultation with residents, stakeholders and councillors in Hull, we believe that Quay West is a much-needed and much-desired development in the city.

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“We hope that, by introducing a mixture of national multi-store retailers and independent boutique traders to the city proposals, Quay West will significantly help to bring Hull’s retail offer up-to-date, thereby putting Hull back on the map as a first-class shopping destination in the region.

”Subject to planning permission, we hope to start construction of the scheme in early 2007 with the aim of delivering the new shopping centre by late 2009 / early 2010.”

Subjit Jassy, Director of Property Investment for Insight Investments said:

“The amount of positive feedback we received during the consultation process was extremely encouraging and we look forward to being able to respond to this feedback by providing people in Hull with a quality retail and leisure development.”

It is anticipated that the plans, which would form a key part in the delivery of the city centre Masterplan, will be determined at the Council’s Planning Committee within six months.