

Bruntwood SciTech appointed as development partner for £210m Birmingham Health Innovation Campus

The development of Birmingham Health Innovation Campus (formerly known as Birmingham Life Sciences Park) has taken a major step forward today, with the announcement of a new long-term partnership between the University of Birmingham and the UK's leading property provider for the science and technology sector, Bruntwood SciTech, a 50:50 joint venture between Bruntwood and Legal & General.

A £210m, 10-year masterplan will be developed for the Campus, which will provide up to 657,000 sq ft of state-of-the-art lab, office and incubation space acting as a catalyst for the growth of the Midlands' life sciences sector. It is set to create up to 10,000 new jobs and contribute £400m GVA to the regional economy by 2030.

The Campus was recently awarded Life Science Opportunity Zone status by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and has been awarded development funding from Birmingham City Council and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership. It sits at the heart of an important cluster of health excellence led by Birmingham Health Partners (BHP), a strategic alliance between the University of Birmingham, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust.

The first phase of the development includes a new 130,000 sq ft purpose-built, six-storey building which will be home to BHP's Precision Health Technologies Accelerator (PHTA), providing incubation space, cleanrooms, prototyping and makerspace as well as the Birmingham Precision Medicine Centre and Healthcare Technologies Innovation Hub. It will also be a hub for businesses working in medtech, biopharma, precision medicine, healthcare AI, and genomics, with the opportunity to access a fully connected clinical trials translation ecosystem and collaborate with academia and clinicians for commercialising and rapid translation into the healthcare system. This will in turn accelerate the development and deployment of new drugs, diagnostics and healthcare technologies to patients and provide a pathway for innovation challenges in the NHS to be met at scale.

Dr David Hardman, Managing Director, Bruntwood SciTech- Birmingham, said:

“ This is a huge opportunity for the UK's life science sector. By creating an environment that will not only help businesses to form, scale, collaborate and grow, we will establish a new thriving life sciences hub, which will create much needed capacity for the West Midlands and help to attract further international investment to the region and beyond.

“Working alongside Birmingham Health Partners, Birmingham Health Innovation Campus will help to align academic, NHS and industry capabilities. It will also provide additional much-needed world class facilities for pioneering healthcare businesses and will bolster the UK's position as a life sciences leader on the global stage.”

Professor Tim Jones, University of Birmingham Provost and Vice-Principal, said:

“ With access to Birmingham's world-class genomics laboratories, health data programmes, healthcare technology development teams, clinical trials leadership and academic expertise, Birmingham Health Innovation Campus will become the ideal place for innovative health and life sciences businesses to thrive.

This ambitious new development will leverage the expertise of the existing Birmingham Health Partners ecosystem to drive innovation and economic growth – all centred on a shared mission to transform the health of all citizens, in Birmingham and beyond, by accelerating the development and adoption of healthcare innovations.”

Eleanor Jukes, Senior Investment Manager – Future Cities at Legal & General Capital, said:

“The Birmingham Health Innovation Campus, once completed, will provide world-leading office and lab facilities which will not only boost economic growth and job opportunities in the region, but also aid the development of potentially life-saving treatments and technologies. Over the next ten years this landmark scheme will unlock over 10,000 new jobs and contribute around £400m to the local region, acting as a major catalyst for economic recovery in the wake of Covid-19.”

Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, said:

“Life sciences is an incredibly exciting and important sector that we have been quietly growing in the West Midlands over the last few years. Now with today’s announcement we are cementing our ambition to be one of the global leaders in this sector.

“The timing of this announcement, given the clear current economic challenges, is also critical. By acting as a catalyst for investment, the campus will help to create a significant number of high-quality, well-paid, local jobs for local people.

“Today’s announcement is momentous for the West Midlands. I applaud Birmingham Health Partners and welcome Bruntwood SciTech, and I am pleased to have played my part in making it happen.”

Work will begin on an extensive public consultation in the coming months, with the first phase currently set to complete in 2023.

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Notes to editors

About Legal & General

Established in 1836, Legal & General is one of the UK’s leading financial services groups and a major global investor, with international businesses in the US, Europe, Middle East and Asia. With over £1.2 trillion in total assets under management (as of 30 June 2020), we are the UK’s largest investment manager for corporate pension schemes and a UK market leader in pension risk transfer, life insurance, workplace pensions and retirement income.

About Legal & General Capital

Bruntwood SciTech represents one of a number of Legal & General Capital’s recent investments in the health and life sciences sectors. The company is working to nurture and grow a series of innovation districts in key locations throughout the country, including through a £4bn partnership with the University of Oxford and a significant investment in the 24-acre Newcastle Helix, which is home to the UK National Innovation Centre for Ageing and National Innovation Centre for Data. Earlier this year Legal & General formed a £20m partnership with Edinburgh University to develop the Advanced Care Research Centre (ACRC) and, on 14 September, provided a £5m to donation to Newcastle City Council, helping to develop a series of affordable living facilities for elderly people as well as a ‘new model’ residential care home.

Legal & General Capital (LGC) is the early-stage investment business and alternative assets originator of Legal & General Group. With a direct investment portfolio of £3bn (as at 30 June 2020), LGC invests shareholder capital to deliver attractive financial returns through the development of real assets and operating businesses. LGC self-manufactures attractive, matching adjustment-eligible direct investments to back Legal & General Retirement’s growing annuity liabilities and creates a portfolio of alternative assets for Legal & General Investment Management, such as build to rent (BTR) housing, specialist commercial real estate, climate and energy infrastructure and principal investing (including funding for SMEs and early stage enterprises).

Legal & General has invested around £25bn in levelling-up regional economies, including through major regeneration schemes in Cardiff, Newcastle and Salford. Legal & General recently made a commitment to enable all new homes across its portfolio to operate at net zero carbon emissions by 2030, including Legal & General Modular Homes, CALA Group, Legal & General Affordable Homes, Build to Rent and Later Living.

About Bruntwood SciTech

Bruntwood SciTech is the UK's leading developer of innovation districts, creating the environments and ecosystems for science and technology businesses to form, scale and grow.

A 50:50 joint venture between leading property company Bruntwood and Legal & General, Bruntwood SciTech provides high quality office and laboratory space and tailored business support, offering unrivalled access to finance, talent and markets, an extensive clinical, academic and public partner network and a sector-specialist community of over 500 companies.

Bruntwood SciTech has unique experience in creating and developing strategic

partnerships with UK regional cities, universities and NHS Trusts to drive economic growth through investment in science and technology infrastructure.

Bruntwood SciTech has a portfolio of over 1.8m sq ft including Alderley Park in Cheshire, Platform in Leeds, Innovation Birmingham, a cluster in the heart of Manchester's Oxford Road Corridor innovation district - Manchester Science Park, Citylabs 1.0 & 2.0 part of the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) campus and Circle Square - a joint venture with Vita Group and a development pipeline of 850,000 sq ft which includes Birmingham Health Innovation Campus.

About University of Birmingham

The University of Birmingham is ranked amongst the world's top 100 institutions. Its work brings people from across the world to Birmingham, including researchers, teachers and more than 6,500 international students from over 150 countries.

Further information

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