



## Media Release

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### **Plans for £100 million investment to transform North Westgate move closer with submission of outline planning application**

The long-awaited redevelopment of North Westgate has moved another step closer with the submission of plans for a £100 million investment in a new leisure quarter in Peterborough's city centre.

The plans focus on the creation of a new regionally important leisure quarter and much needed housing in the centre of Peterborough, featuring an attractive piazza and multiplex cinema, surrounded by restaurants, shops, bars and a food hall with a community of apartments and offices above.

The proposals are designed to regenerate the area around North Westgate, creating a strong visitor destination in the northern part of the city centre and acting as a catalyst for the renewal of a much wider area between the station, central ward and Cathedral Square, including Cromwell Road and Westgate itself. Importantly, the scheme will also provide a key link between the station and the city centre.

These proposed developments will in turn generate approximately 1,500 new jobs and new business opportunities for local residents, boosting the economy of the city centre and contributing to the ongoing improvement of the overall quality of life for the people of Peterborough.

Peter Breach, chairman of Hawksworth Securities plc, the company behind the proposals said, "The regeneration of North Westgate represents a unique opportunity and one that Peterborians have long-awaited for. We hope our plans will attract widespread support. This is an important part of the overall development of Peterborough that will contribute to the enhanced vibrancy of the wider city centre and benefit local communities. It will attract significant additional economic growth to the centre of Peterborough in addition to that generated by the development itself."

David Turnock, Chair of the Peterborough Civic Society said, "Peterborough is continuing to develop as a fine city with significant investment by the city council and private business. Yet close to the city centre is a large area of temporary car parks, boarded-up properties and vacant plots that seems to have been blighted for almost 20 years. Comprehensive redevelopment is long overdue.

The Civic Society and, we believe, an overwhelming proportion of the people of Peterborough, look forward to new homes, shops, restaurants and offices and hopefully a new multi-screen cinema occupying what is currently a sad and forgotten quarter of our city."

The final proposals reflect comments and suggestions made during the public consultation in April and now include

- The **creation of a new public piazza centred on Westgate Church** giving space and prominence to the most architecturally valuable building within the site, and providing a focal point for the surrounding area.
- **A new network of pedestrian streets and thoroughfares** radiating outwards from this new urban square. Lined with a mixture of leisure, retail, office and entertainment facilities, they will create a vibrant new public realm and a lively, bustling and vibrant atmosphere throughout the day and evening.
- The **food hall** will introduce a new concept to the city, providing a place for the rich mixture of cultures in Peterborough to celebrate their diversity through the shared experience of food.
- **A new water route.** The plans also now include a pedestrian and cycle route through the heart of the development to create identity, reduce flood risk, use water more sustainably, as well as promoting urban cooling and opportunities for wildlife. Rather than removing all rainwater immediately from sight, as in a conventional piped drainage scheme, it would use water imaginatively in the landscape to create attractive public spaces.
- The **buildings** around Westgate church that need to be demolished to make way for the new square will be replaced and additional community space provided.
- A **range of apartments** will provide new and attractive city centre living opportunities to a mixture of people introducing a new community to the heart of the proposed development.
- An **integrated sustainability strategy** will introduce trees, flowers, wildlife and water into the development, creating an environmentally friendly aesthetic and bringing to life the aspirations of Peterborough to become the Environmental Capital of the UK.

The planning documents can be found on the North Westgate website – [www.north-westgate.com](http://www.north-westgate.com) – and on the Council’s own planning portal.

**Ends.**

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