

# News

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## **Birkenhead regeneration begins as Milton Pavements demolition contractor announced**

Wirral Growth Company – the 50:50 joint venture between Wirral Council and national urban regenerator, Muse Developments – is taking a major first step in the transformation of Birkenhead town centre as specialist demolition contractor, PP O'Connor, has been appointed to demolish part of the vacated Milton Pavements and former B&M store, with work expected to begin over the next few weeks.

This is the first on-site activity in the delivery of an innovative masterplan for the town centre which will see a highly-accessible, central business district created with new energy-efficient office buildings set within extensive public realm and green space. Wirral Council is looking to occupy part of the new office space as part of its commitment to improving its carbon footprint and reduce its unsustainable estate. Later phases will see a new replacement market that will blend a vibrant food and beverage hall, alongside a thriving market, which will bring a new daytime and evening economy not seen before in the town to benefit the Wirral community and kick start the wider regeneration of the Leftbank urban development area.

Wirral Growth Company was formed in 2019 to deliver a long-term vision for regeneration, which aims to improve the homes, lives and communities for key areas across the borough.

Mike Horner, director at Wirral Growth Company, said: “Despite challenging circumstances, we’re delighted to be starting on site. This is a key moment in the transformation of the town centre as we will all start to see construction activity and a physical change on the ground.

“The demolition of Milton Pavements, which will be completed in line with the government’s construction guidelines, will pave the way for the exciting first phase of commercial development. This will really kick start our journey on the Wirral, as we start to see the physical manifestation of our collective vision for Birkenhead that will drive growth and prosperity for the borough.”

Chair of Wirral Council’s economy, regeneration and development committee, Cllr Anita Leech said: “The appointment of the Milton Pavements demolition contractors marks tangible progress in our plans to implement significant change in Birkenhead.

“This is the start of a flagship project which will regenerate the town centre, making a statement that Wirral is open for business, despite the current challenges, ensuring it will continue to transform itself to secure a positive future for its people and its business communities.”

Following the demolition of Milton Pavements, the first phase of development will bring forward two office buildings totalling 150,000 sq ft, which are anticipated to be on site in the middle of 2021.