

News

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Groundbreaking ceremony marks new era for Leeds office market

Officials kicked off the city's new vision for Sovereign Street, Leeds at a groundbreaking ceremony.

The auspicious occasion marked the start of works at Sovereign Street. KPMG will occupy the first building at the scheme - a new 60,000 sq ft office development to be developed by Muse following a landmark funding arrangement with British Steel Pension Fund.

Our joint Managing Director, Matt Crompton was joined by: Chris Hearld senior partner at KPMG; Councillor Richard Lewis executive member for development and the economy at Leeds City Council; Martin Farrington director of city development at Leeds City Council; Richard Ross of British Steel Pension Fund, and Roy Perry project manager at Morgan Sindall, to celebrate this important milestone.

The building - designed by Scott Brownrigg is the first of three proposed around a new area of green public realm which will provide the first public green space in Leeds for years and a focus for both the immediate business users and the wider community within the city. Leeds City Council are developing the new public realm themselves which is expected to be completed in Spring 2015 in time for KPMG occupying the building later that year.

Matt commented: "The start on site at Sovereign Street demonstrates what can be achieved by the public and private sectors when working in partnership. We are very proud to have worked closely with both Leeds City Council and one of the city's major occupiers - KPMG in delivering this first phase of significant regeneration to the area".

Councillor Richard Lewis, executive member for development and the economy, Leeds City Council, said: "It is vital when considering regeneration that land is not seen in isolation but that all parties work together to maximise the benefits to the area and Sovereign Street is a great example of that. This is an excellent commercial use of the land which will also benefit hugely from the associated green space we are developing, in turn encouraging further investment in what is one of the best mixed-use development sites in the North of England."

Chris Hearld, KPMG Leeds senior partner added: "These very first visible signs of our new home in Yorkshire mark the start of a seriously exciting phase of the development, which comes after a good deal of planning.

"It represents a significant investment in the region by KPMG, reflecting our confidence in, and ambition regarding, this marketplace."