

News

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Planning application for Sovereign Street, Leeds

Muse Developments has today submitted a planning application for a 60,000 sq ft office building to be let to KPMG, the first new build office in Leeds city centre since 2006.

It was announced in July this year that Muse would provide Sovereign Leeds Limited (SLL) with the funding and development platform to progress the scheme which would see KPMG occupy the new 60,000 sq ft office development, designed by Scott Brownrigg, which is the first of three buildings proposed around a new area of green public realm on Sovereign Street. Leeds City Council has also submitted a planning application for this element today.

The new public realm will provide the first public green space in Leeds for many years and a focus for both the immediate business users and the wider community within the city. The space will feature both tranquil grassed areas with seating and a water feature which will hark back to the previous industrial uses of the site.

David Wells, development director, Muse Developments said: "We are pleased to have submitted a detailed planning application for Sovereign Street which subject to a positive planning decision will enable Muse and our partners to deliver one of the few pre-let, Grade A, office buildings to be proposed in the city over the next few years."

Councillor Richard Lewis, executive member for development & economy, Leeds City Council, said: "Leeds City Council is facing the economic challenges head-on – taking action to do everything we can to stimulate growth in the city.

"We are an ambitious council with a progressive programme of development that is expected to stimulate economic growth including the Trinity Leeds and Eastgate shopping developments, Leeds Arena, and Sovereign Street itself - and we are pleased that the plans are going forward to the planning committee for their consideration.

"Our £2.5 million green space development of Sovereign Street will provide our city with a green space that will further our ambition to be a Child Friendly City and provide a place for residents, workers, visitors and shoppers to unwind and relax."

Chris Hearld, managing partner of KPMG Leeds said: 'The submission of the planning application represents another key milestone and step forward in the development of KPMG's new Leeds HQ and we are hopeful for a positive planning decision'

Sovereign Street has been a council-owned car park since the Queen's Hall was demolished in 1989. In close proximity to the city's vibrant waterfront area, railway station, city centre and retail core it forms a key part of the Council's plans to enhance and regenerate the southern part of the city centre. Plans for the site include two further new buildings and public green space, the first in this area of the city, as set out in the council's adopted Informal Planning Statement of July 2011 and will be near to the new southern station entrance also due to commence next year.

As well as the Sovereign Street redevelopment scheme Leeds City Council is working with the private sector across the city to deliver and support several major development projects to facilitate economic growth. These include; the Arena which will be delivered by 2013, the Trinity retail and leisure scheme also due to open in 2013 and the Eastgate retail scheme.

Subject to planning approval, construction of KPMG's building will commence in summer 2013. The completion of the public greenspace is targeted to complete spring 2015.

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