

News

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Muse hands over distribution hub to John Lewis at Logic Leeds

Muse Developments has officially handed over the keys to John Lewis for its new £6.2 million customer delivery hub at Logic Leeds.

The 50,500 sq ft state-of-the-art distribution warehouse is situated in the heart of Muse's flagship 110-acre development in the Leeds City Region Enterprise Zone by Junction 45 of the M1. It includes 4,000 sq ft of offices.

John Lewis, which has signed a 20-year-lease, will create 65 jobs at its new facility. The hub, which will become fully operational in July, will service online orders for home delivery. The new hub reinforces John Lewis's commitment to the region with the store in York which opened in April 2014 and the new shop in Leeds, set to open later this year.

John Lewis Leeds will be one of the retailer's biggest department stores outside London at 252,000 sq ft.

The building was sold to AXA's UK Long Lease Property Fund for £6.2 million by Muse last year prior to commencement of construction.

In an important week for Logic Leeds, retail giant Amazon has taken occupation of Building One, an 80,840 sq ft warehouse and distribution space which includes 4,000 sq ft of offices and 100 car parking spaces.

This is the largest building of its kind to be speculatively developed in Leeds since the recession and the deal underlines the significant investment in the Leeds City Region by these high-profile retail developments.

The Leeds offices of Knight Frank and Carter Towler advised on the deal.

David Wells, regional director of Muse in Leeds, explained: "Handing over the keys to John Lewis is a real milestone in the Logic Leeds story. The decision by such a major and well-respected player in the British retail industry to come to Logic Leeds was a ringing endorsement of our development and put it firmly on the map.

"Our pioneering manufacturing and distribution development benefits from a number of incentives for occupiers because it is part of Leeds City Region Enterprise Zone. These incentives, plus Logic Leeds's superb location just half-a-mile from Junction 45 of the M1, makes this development a very attractive proposition indeed," said Mr Wells.

"We have received tremendous support from Leeds City Council, who have recognised the potential of Logic Leeds from the very start," he added.

Recognising shopping habits are changing and with omni-channel giving shoppers more choices than ever before, John Lewis is strengthening its distribution network to ensure it continues to deliver a coordinated and convenient shopping experience to its customers.

Mark Robinson, director customer delivery operations at John Lewis, said: "I'm delighted that we

are opening a new customer delivery hub in the Leeds area. This will allow us to successfully support our customers in the Leeds catchment and surrounding areas with the wide range of delivery, installation and assembly services we have on offer for our customers.”

Roger Marsh, chairman of the Leeds Local Enterprise Council, said: “I’m delighted to welcome John Lewis Partnership to the Leeds City Region Enterprise Zone. Its new state of the art distribution centre at Logic Leeds, further bolsters the Zone’s existing cluster in e-fulfilment, distribution, printing and packaging.

“The Zone’s location at the intersection of the country’s arterial roads, alongside the available local workforce and the high quality design and build by Muse, underlines to me that Logic Leeds is on the road to becoming one of the North’s premier manufacturing and distribution parks.”

Leader of Leeds City Council Councillor Judith Blake said: “We are delighted to welcome John Lewis to Logic Leeds, as a further endorsement of the council’s support for the Leeds City Region Enterprise Zone which is attracting significant investment and creating new jobs for the city and wider region. This distribution hub complements the new John Lewis store opening in Victoria Gate later this year, which is another very exciting development for the city.”