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# PRESS RELEASE

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## Cityblock Gets Planning Thumbs Up For New Build

Manchester based specialists, HOW Planning have secured planning approval for CityBlock's innovative multi million pound redevelopment of a derelict city centre building in Leicester. Planners gave the thumbs up for CityBlock's new development of quality student accommodation comprising 76 private, en suite study bedrooms and suites.

The application, prepared by HOW Planning in conjunction with architects SSHarc, will see the demolition of an existing building in a conservation area and full planning permission for a new build next to CityBlock's first, hugely successful development in Careys Close, which opened last September.

Plans for the new development include similarly high spec accommodation in place of a redundant factory located immediately next to the existing scheme.

Trevor Bargh, the entrepreneur who founded CityBlock in 2003, said: "We are really delighted the planners have given the go-ahead to this exciting project. We have developments in other parts of the UK but we chose Leicester for our next project because we identified a need for high end, off-campus student accommodation. We also love the vibrancy of student life in Leicester and the proximity of the site to De Montford University. This will be our flagship development."

Richard Barton, Principal Planner at HOW Planning, added: "Our plans will contribute much more positively to the conservation area by replacing what is currently a run down, redundant building. Furthermore there is huge demand for student accommodation in Leicester and this proposal will help address that."

CityBlock specialise in contemporary, student focused accommodation in an open plan and secure environment. The en-suite apartments all feature broadband access, fully equipped kitchens and weekly cleaning services.

The existing development at Careys Close in Leicester is the first CityBlock in the city, following other successful schemes in the North West. CityBlock is currently looking to develop further accommodation in other university towns throughout the country.

