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PRESS RELEASE

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Exciting Plans For The Former Loco Works At Horwich

Manchester based specialists HOW Planning have been appointed by Horwich Vision to act as lead consultants for a major regeneration scheme planned for the former Horwich Loco Works site in Bolton.



Horwich Vision is a partnership between Alderley Edge based Bluemantle Ltd which is the major landowner in the area and Orbit Developments, which developed the adjacent Middlebrook retail, leisure and office development, including the Reebok Stadium.

The 73 hectare (180 acre) site is identified in Bolton's Core Strategy document for major residential and employment development with potential for up to 1600 new homes, offices and other employment opportunities, public open space and supporting infrastructure, including a new link road. The plan is due to be formally examined by an Inspector at a public inquiry during the summer.

Gary Halman, Partner at HOW Planning, comments: "The identification of the former Horwich Loco Works as a strategic site in the Core Strategy is an important step in the regeneration of this significant brownfield redevelopment opportunity. We will also be looking to respect the heritage of the site and the important role that it has played in the development of Horwich over the last century.



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“Our emerging plans will maximise the potential of this highly accessible and sustainable location and breathe new life into a very large site which will make a really important contribution to the economic well being of Bolton as well as provide much needed new homes, open space and other benefits for the local community at Horwich and beyond”, Halman adds.

The development will comprehensively regenerate the site of the former locomotive works which closed its doors in 1983. Since then parts of the site have been utilised as an industrial estate whilst the remainder comprises large areas of open storage land and unused former railway sidings.

Mark Caldwell of Horwich Vision said: “Bluemantle acquired Horwich Loco Works almost 10 years ago as a medium to long term redevelopment opportunity. Since then we have worked closely with Bolton Council and other local stakeholders culminating in the site being identified as a “strategic site” in the Council’s Core Strategy.

“The site represents one of the largest brownfield redevelopment opportunities in the North of England and as with all schemes of this scale it comes with its fair share of challenges. We are delighted to have HOW Planning on board as our lead consultant and Gary Halman’s experience in dealing with complex planning issues will help to guide us through the planning process.

As lead consultants, HOW Planning will be working with masterplanners CASS Associates of Liverpool and transport experts JMP based in Manchester.