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PRESS RELEASE (FINAL)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS APPOINTED TO WESTGATE CENTRE

The Westgate Partnership has appointed a landscape and public realm architect, Townshend Landscape Architects, as part of its plans for the Westgate Centre, Oxford.

A masterplan for the redevelopment of the Westgate area of Oxford City Centre, prepared by architects Allies and Morrison, was endorsed by Oxford City Council's Strategic Development Control Committee in October 2004. The scheme will include the refurbishment, remodelling and extension of the existing Westgate Centre including a new department store for John Lewis.

Richard Cable, Director for The Westgate Partnership, explained; "One of the key issues to emerge when we consulted the public on our masterplan proposals last Autumn was the desire to see significant improvements to the public realm and environment around the Westgate Centre. We have appointed Townshend Landscape Architects, a specialist landscape architect, to examine some of these issues and to help us create a greener and more vibrant public space around the development for local people to enjoy."

Townshend has been responsible for landscaping high profile redevelopment projects such as Bluewater, Kent; Brindleyplace, Birmingham; Bishops Square, Spitalfields and Morelondon, and is currently working on the Kings Cross Central Masterplan.

Robert Townshend, Principal of Townshend Landscape Architects, said; "We are delighted to have been appointed to work on this flagship development within this important historic environment. I see it is an opportunity to extend and improve the quality of the public realm which will help re-establish the character and vitality to this piece of the city, allowing people to have the opportunity to enjoy and use the public spaces again in a positive way. As part of this we are particularly looking at how we can establish a framework of pedestrian links

and squares to the area which improve the public access; create identity and character and provide opportunities for more outdoor activity to enliven the street scene.”

Robert Townshend, working with existing architects Allies and Morrison and Building Design Partnership, will be responsible for the design and drawing of all aspects of the public realm including the hard landscaping, street furniture, water features and planting as well as for a series of environmental improvements to a section of Castle Mill stream which includes improving public access to it.

The Westgate Partnership has been working on reviewing and responding to issues raised during the consultation process with a view to publishing a “Response to Consultation” document. It is intended that this document will sit as an addendum to the existing Westgate masterplan submitted to the City Council last year. The Westgate Transport Working Group (TWG) will also be publishing its report outlining the technical transport solution which could enable the proposals for the Westgate area to go ahead.

Further public consultation will take place on the proposals in the Autumn when outline design and landscape proposals for the new development will be unveiled via a series of workshops and an exhibition in the Westgate Centre.

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THE WESTGATE PARTNERSHIP

The re-development and extension of the Westgate Centre is being carried out by The Westgate Partnership, a joint venture between Capital Shopping Centres and La Salle Investment Management.

Capital Shopping Centres PLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty International PLC, is the leading company in the UK specialising in the ownership, management and development of regional shopping centres. It specialises in retail-led town centre regeneration, providing mixed-use schemes which respond to the needs of particular locations. Schemes it has developed and still owns and manages include The Glades (Bromley), The Harlequin (Watford) and The Chimes (Uxbridge)

LaSalle Investment Management, one of the UK’s largest investment fund managers, is responsible for the British Coal Industry Pension Funds’ property portfolio, which includes The Westgate Centre.

For further information, please see www.westgateoxford.co.uk or contact:
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