

# COLMORE LITE

DIGITAL MAGAZINE



In this issue:

**Returning to the office safely:  
Business leaders' verdicts**





# A message from Colmore Business District

While summer may have not been the one we were expecting this year, many people who I have spoken to have taken time away to rest and recuperate, even if it's just at home. 2020 has been a challenging year for all and it's vital that we take care of both our physical and mental wellbeing. For many, September is seen as a fresh start – we've had our summer break and people are raring to go. This can be seen in the District as more and more businesses return to their offices. After months of almost empty streets, both new and familiar faces are returning to the area as we try to define the 'new normal' everyone is talking about. **On page 8, we caught up with two businesses in particular about their experiences of lockdown** and what it's like being back in the District.

Despite it being holiday season, Colmore BID has been busier than ever. If you've not been in the area recently, you'll notice a new addition on Waterloo Street as **we installed our first ever parklet, more details of which can be found on page 4**. The scheme has been months in the planning and it has been welcomed with open arms by both businesses and patrons who are frequenting it.

Hopefully we'll see you down there very soon.

**MICHELE WILBY**  
 COLMORE BID



**CLICK HERE FOR THE COLMORE BID CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS SUPPORT HUB**

## THE BID TEAM

**Michele Wilby**  
 Chief Executive Officer

**Jonathan Bryce**  
 Operations Manager

**Chris Brown**  
 Communications Manager

**Katy Paddock**  
 Events Manager

**Paul Street**  
 Strategic Projects Officer

**Lisa Richards**  
 Finance Officer

**Mike Mounfield**  
 Projects Manager

**Lee Stirrup**  
 Database Officer

**John-Jo Von Johnson**  
 Street Operations Manager

**Aaron Franklyn-Payne**  
 Security Supervisor

**Ryan Boothe**  
 Security Officer

**James Crooks**  
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**Samantha Birch**  
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## FOR COLMORE LIFE MAGAZINE

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# COLMORE Lowdown

Email: [life@colmorebid.co.uk](mailto:life@colmorebid.co.uk)

**DID YOU KNOW?** Five million meals were eaten by Midlands diners as part of Eat Out to Help Out. According to OpenTable, restaurant bookings increased by 53% on Monday-Wednesdays.



## Keep Eating Out To Help Out

As August came to a close, so did the Government's Eat Out To Help Out scheme, which was launched to encourage people to get back out to their favourite bars, restaurants and other eateries.

During August, 100 million meals were claimed under the scheme, as diners made the most of the state-backed 50% discount. Restaurants up and down the country have made over 130,000 claims, worth £522m, according to research from booking site OpenTable. But while the scheme may have come to a close on August 31, many venues within Colmore Business District have launched their own offers to allow you to grab a deal throughout September and beyond.

The conditions of the offers we've been sent all vary, so please do ring in advance to see when they are applicable.

### IMPORTANT:

Check with venues before travelling as opening hours and capacity may differ due to COVID-19

## LATEST OFFERS

### ASHA'S

£5 off to all customers subject to minimum spend on all food

### GAUCHO

50% off up to £10 throughout September Monday to Wednesday

### HOME CAFÉ AND DELI

Two for one cocktails Monday - Thursday 4-6pm Friday 4-7pm

### OPUS RESTAURANT

Tuesdays: from September 8th £10pp off 2 and 3-course menu – All day!

Fridays and Saturdays: 2-course menu £27.50 | 3-course menu £32.50

DINNER:

Thursdays and Fridays: 2-course menu £27.50 | 3-course £32.50

Saturday: 5-Course Tasting Menus £50pp

### PURNELL'S BISTRO AND GINGERS BAR

Sunday Set Menu. Two courses for £20.00 or three courses for £23.00

### PURNELL'S RESTAURANT

3 courses for £45.00 per person – lunch menu

### THE ALCHEMIST

Any Brunch dish and 3 cocktails for £25 every Saturday (10am-2pm)

### THE COLMORE

Two pizzas for £12

### THE OLD CONTEMPTIBLES

Lunch meal and a drink from £7.25

### ZEN METRO

£5 off to all customers when you spend £25 or more on food and soft drinks

**DID YOU KNOW?** Colmore BID is releasing an autumn edition of its Colmore Cook Book, featuring comfort foods submitted by chefs from the District. Keep an eye on **BID social media**.



## MUSEUM PREPARES TO WELCOME VISITORS AGAIN

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is gearing up to welcome back visitors as it reopens its doors on Thursday, October 7th, after one of the most significant closures in the museum's history due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Opening from Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 5pm, this will be the first chance for visitors to explore BMAG at their leisure in almost seven months. Capacity will be reduced to accommodate social distancing and timed tickets must be booked at [www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/bmag](http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/bmag) to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Tickets will be free but, if possible, visitors will be asked to donate to help Birmingham Museums Trust secure its future. Tickets will be released regularly on a rolling basis up to a month in advance. BMAG branded masks, hand sanitiser and museum guidebook, can also be pre-ordered when booking.



# Are you sitting comfortably?

## BID PARKLET PROJECT CREATES NEW OUTDOOR SEATING AREAS

Workers, visitors and residents of Colmore Business District can enjoy new outdoor spaces after Colmore BID launched a series of parklets, providing nearby hospitality venues with more facilities to serve customers.

The new community spaces, which are located on Waterloo Street outside Purecraft Bar and Kitchen, Church Street near Hotel du Vin and Barwick Street near Primitivo, are part of a larger scheme to support the District's leisure and hospitality industry that has suffered tremendously during lockdown.

The parklets have capacity for

around 20 people within four defined areas; seating with a low table for coffee and drinks, an area for dining with a high table, standing room only and an area that has been specifically designed to be accessible for wheelchair users.

The parklets feature raised seating amongst timber walls, providing additional protection from highway traffic. The framework also ensures the parklet is more visible to larger vehicles in the area making deliveries.

Colmore BID has worked with EventMen to design

'THE SPACES AREN'T JUST FOR USE BY PEOPLE VISITING NEARBY VENUES. YOU CAN HAVE MEETINGS WITH COLLEAGUES, CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS OR TAKE YOUR OWN LUNCH'

**DID YOU KNOW?** West Midland Railway has temporarily withdrawn some services due to the impact of COVID-19, which makes it difficult to provide the full timetable. Check [www.wmr.uk](http://www.wmr.uk)



**WHERE THEY ARE:**  
**Church Street**  
 by Hotel du Vin.  
**Barwick Street**  
 by Primitivo.  
**Waterloo Street**  
 by Purecraft.

the parklets for their specific locations, ensuring they meet relevant planning, licensing, counter terrorism and equalities standards. It has also commissioned Birmingham City Council's award-winning nursery team to add floral decorations, keeping with the BID's ethos to 'green' the District, much like its popular flower towers.

The District's parklet project has been welcomed with open arms by other cities who have implemented similar schemes. If deemed a success, further parklets will be installed, potentially saving hundreds of jobs across the District.

Michele Wilby, CEO of Colmore BID, said: "Parklets is a project that Colmore BID has been working on for some time now, pre-dating the coronavirus pandemic. With the lockdown in

place, we reassessed the viability of the scheme, making alterations which would provide additional support to leisure and hospitality venues in the area.

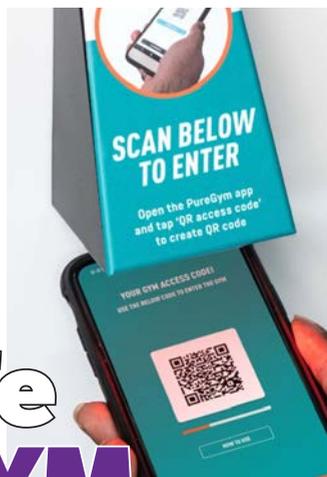
"Bars, restaurants, cafes and other eateries have been ravaged by the lockdown and while many have re-opened, socially distancing does not allow businesses to operate at full capacity, meaning they are missing out on vital income.

"The parklets will be managed by Colmore BID with the support of businesses in the area. Venues can encourage their customers to take drinks and food into the spaces, allowing them to increase their capacity to serve customers.

The spaces aren't just for use by people visiting nearby venues though. You can have meetings with colleagues, catch up with friends or even take your own packed lunch out there.

"We want these spaces to become a permanent feature within the city and have plans for many, many more."

Matt Lockren, General Manager at Purecraft Bar & Kitchen, said: "We're really excited to be working with Colmore BID to offer a fantastic opportunity to guests from across Birmingham to sample our great beer and fantastic food in an alfresco setting, and to be the first is a great honour."



# Train Safe AT PUREGYM

As PureGym reopens its gyms across the country, including Snow Hill Plaza in the Business District, the group has introduced 'Train Safe' policies to ensure members' health and safety remains a top priority.

The gyms are following all government guidelines which includes all equipment being cleaned a minimum of every three hours to the NHS non clinical standards. The cleaning products used are of the same standard as anti-viral products used by the NHS.

While it is not possible anywhere to remove the risk of infection completely, the measures will dramatically minimise the risk of infections within gyms. PureGym pumps a minimum of 2,000 litres of fresh air into gyms every second through ventilation systems.

This is vital in the fight against

COVID-19 as it helps dilute airborne virus particles and ensures members have clean fresh air to workout. PureGym systems provide a fresh air supply to all areas of the gym such as studios and changing rooms and air is not recycled between different areas.

"Here at Pure Gym Snow Hill we've created the space you need to work out while keeping a safe distance from everyone, using clearly marked out zones to support social distancing," explains a spokesperson.

"We'll also control the numbers in the gym at any given time so it never gets too busy, so you can keep working out safely."

Gyms are deep cleaned every night with high-grade anti-viral disinfectant. The team will also clean every piece of kit and surface throughout the day, from dumbbells to treadmills and

everything in between, so you can train with confidence.

The gym has installed self-cleaning stations so you can clean your kit before and after use, for added peace of mind. You'll also find more hand sanitising stations around the gym so you can easily and regularly clean your hands during your visit.

"We've also got QR contactless entry and all our staff are trained to ensure our safety measures are delivered to the highest standard.

"If you're struggling to make a visit to your local gym we've still got you covered with our personal trainers' live workouts: Join Yvonne Heidens bodyweight legs, bums and tums class every Thursday at 12.30 or if you want to challenge your workout further you can tune into our very own high intensity, interval training every Saturday at 12pm with @trainpowersnowhill via the Colmore Business District Facebook group."

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WE'VE CREATED THE SPACE YOU NEED TO WORK OUT WHILE KEEPING A SAFE DISTANCE FROM EVERYONE, USING CLEARLY MARKED OUT ZONES TO SUPPORT SOCIAL DISTANCING

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Visit <https://www.puregym.com/gyms/birmingham-snow-hill-plaza/>

# GLYNN'S JOURNEY

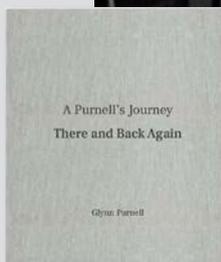
## MASTERCHEF BACK IN PRINT WITH NEW BOOK

Four years after publishing his last much-acclaimed cookbook, Birmingham's award-winning chef Glynn Purnell has released a new book.

A Purnell's Journey: There and Back Again features over 30 memorable dishes representing the best of Glynn, his innovative menus and the creative chefs and staff members who make up the Purnell's brand and family.

With stunning photography, A Purnell's Journey: There and Back Again reveals a glimpse into the inner workings of Purnell's and Glynn's philosophies. There are updates on time-proven favourites, inventive new ideas and contemporary twists on the classic dishes of Purnell's. Looking backwards as well as forwards, the book reflects on Glynn's remarkable path from the Chelmsley Wood estate he grew up on to a TV audience of millions, acknowledging those who have provided influence and support; it is a joyous, moving and frequently hilarious story of one man's vision and drive.

Glynn is known for his imaginative, cutting-edge cuisine. He is now the proud owner of two establishments in Birmingham – Purnell's on Cornwall Street, which opened in 2007 and was awarded a Michelin star in 2009, winning the AA Restaurant of the



Newhall Street, which opened in 2012.

Glynn became a household name after taking part in the Great British Menu, winning twice and later appearing as a mentor. He has previously featured on The Great British Food Revival and The Secret Chef, among other television programmes. He can regularly be seen on Saturday Kitchen as a host and guest chef. He presented the latest series of My Kitchen Rules UK alongside Rachel Allen on Channel 4 in 2017. Glynn said: "I've said it many

times, but I'm living the dream. I have my own restaurant; I've held a Michelin star for the last eleven years and I work with some of the best, hardest working and most creative people in the industry. There are times when I feel truly blessed.

"This book reflects on just that. It follows my journey. It retraces the steps I've taken from the council estate I grew up on to working with some of the greatest producers and most brilliant chefs in the world. It's all in there."

**A Purnell's Journey: There and Back Again is available now, £85, on sale at Purnell's or [www.awaywithmedia.com/buy-books/glynn-purnell](http://www.awaywithmedia.com/buy-books/glynn-purnell)**

When and how we return to workplaces has become a national talking point for businesses large and small. **CHRIS BROWN** speaks to two Colmore Business District executives.

**MATT HAMMOND,**  
 MIDLANDS REGION  
 CHAIRMAN, PWC

Working from home for PwC has been a relatively smooth transition from the traditional day-to-day office environment. Three years ago, we invested heavily in technology to enable our employees to quite literally work from anywhere. On 16 March 2020, we sent our entire office home, a week prior to the official lockdown going into place. The following morning, the team was set up and ready to continue working from home. Within the first week of this new regime we had a live stream with 10,000 clients and a further 20,000 colleagues just a few days later.



# OUT OF OFFICE?

While there has been no disruption to our own services, I think the sudden shift to working from home has had an impact globally that we just don't understand yet. The positives have of course been a reduced carbon footprint and travel costs as well as improved wellbeing management for colleagues. However, as human beings we need unscheduled interaction for our own mental health. Conversations over the proverbial

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**'AS HUMAN BEINGS WE NEED UNSCHEDULED INTERACTION FOR OUR OWN MENTAL HEALTH'**

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watercooler are often vital to collaboration and team dynamics. There's only so much you can do over Zoom and Google Meet. As we enter autumn, we're well into planning a return to the office, which is covered by two

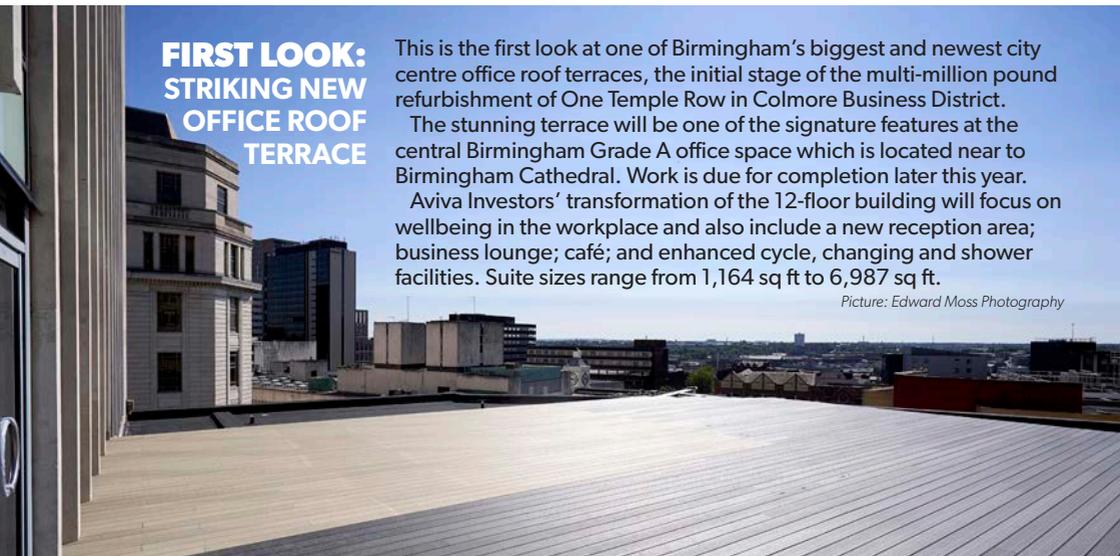
## FIRST LOOK: STRIKING NEW OFFICE ROOF TERRACE

This is the first look at one of Birmingham's biggest and newest city centre office roof terraces, the initial stage of the multi-million pound refurbishment of One Temple Row in Colmore Business District.

The stunning terrace will be one of the signature features at the central Birmingham Grade A office space which is located near to Birmingham Cathedral. Work is due for completion later this year.

Aviva Investors' transformation of the 12-floor building will focus on wellbeing in the workplace and also include a new reception area; business lounge; café; and enhanced cycle, changing and shower facilities. Suite sizes range from 1,164 sq ft to 6,987 sq ft.

*Picture: Edward Moss Photography*





*PwC's new Chamberlain Square offices and Matt Hammond and Rachel Roberts, right*



bookends; Government and Public Health England advice, but also how comfortable the team is to return to the office.

To ensure staff are safe at all times, we've implemented a number of measures including one-way systems, temperature testing on arrival as well as booking systems for the days that you are planning to work from the office.

With 2,000 staff working from our Birmingham office alone, capacity is being monitored extremely closely. All colleagues are being encouraged to come back into the office, however we have a capacity constraint of 50%. This gradual return will allow people to overcome any apprehension caused by travelling and seeing other people after months of lockdown.

We won't end up with a full office anytime soon, but we now have a variety of workplace settings to allow people to return, should they wish and we're looking forward to welcoming everyone back when they are ready.

## RACHEL ROBERTS, SPOTTYDOG COMMUNICATIONS

2020 has been a whirlwind year for spottydog communications. In January we expanded into a larger space in Birmingham, bringing two teams together under one roof. The decision was made as a way to maximise engagement within the team, allowing for improved collaboration and team building as the company grows.

When lockdown came into place, the team were well prepared to work from home. The transition was relatively seamless and in fact gave us time to breathe, refocus, recruit and even win new clients. With a new office in the Business District we were keen to get back to, we started making provisions in June to enable a return to the office in some way in July.

The safety and wellbeing of the team was and still is paramount, so we decided to split the team in half, each working two days a week from the office and a commitment to the whole team

continuing to always work from home forever on Wednesdays. With a 3,000 sq ft office we have the space to socially distance with a maximum of ten people on-site at a time, supported by the appropriate hygiene protection. With a young team at the helm, learning on the job is vital. Having someone more senior sat across from you has a massive impact, and while we're all easily contactable via phone, Zoom or email, it's not quite the same. We've now officially been back in the office since July 1 and it was the right decision for us.

Walking around the District, I'm still surprised to see so few back, but understand that every business is different and safety is paramount to ensure both the staff and facilities are safe and ready for people's return. Talking to staff about how they feel about returning was vital, and should be done in consultation rather than just a decision from the top. While working from home hasn't been a problem for us, you can't beat working in the city centre alongside colleagues, albeit socially distanced.



# Grade II-listed CHIC

## BOUTIQUE HOTEL VIBES AT REFURBISHED CORNWALL BUILDINGS

Bruntwood Works, one of the largest property providers in the UK, has transformed Birmingham's historic Cornwall Buildings as it completes the £1.3m refurbishment project. The interior of the grade II-listed building has been transformed into a workspace with the vibes of a boutique hotel, and is now home to a community of like-minded businesses based in the heart of the Business District.

The project has transformed the interior of the grade II-listed Cornwall Buildings to provide a space that celebrates the

building's Victorian heritage but adds a striking layer of contrast with contemporary interiors, modern art and cutting-edge design.

The works include chic serviced offices with hand-chosen artwork and stylish décor that provide a home away from home for businesses and their employees, as well as new flexible workspaces such as break-out areas, hot desks and a business lounge for coworking that create an ideal work-space for everyone, whatever their working style.

No two offices are the same, and Bruntwood Works will help businesses to stamp their own personality on their workspace, even helping them to choose their own William Morris wallpaper. There's even an artist's studio in the basement.



Businesses get this and more, with access to further amenities including a fitness studio and roof terrace at Cornerblock, right around the corner.

Rob Valentine, director of Birmingham at Bruntwood Works, said: "Cornwall Buildings is a historic and iconic building in the heart of Birmingham, so it was only right that the transformation did it justice. We've played heavily on the building's heritage in the design to create a space that celebrates its original



features while creating the vibe of a boutique hotel that means our customers have a comfortable and relaxing space to work from – one they feel at home in.”

Bruntwood Works offers a bespoke, flexible service for businesses, making it easy for them to adapt and grow in a professional and personalised environment.

In addition to serviced office space, which incorporates rent, business rates and service charges into a single cost per desk, Cornwall Buildings also provides co-working spaces suitable for freelancers, start-ups and mobile workers. This enables customers to choose a hot desk, while still benefiting from the support of Bruntwood Works’ high-quality communal facilities and on-site customer service team.



## CUNDALL GETS GOLD IN ‘WELL’ OFFICE RANKING

Cundall’s refurbished office at 15 Colmore Row has achieved Well Building Standard® Gold Certification from the International WELL Building Institute (IWBI), making it the second in the Midlands and the first in the city centre to achieve this prestigious accreditation.

WELL is the leading tool for advancing health and wellbeing in buildings globally.

To achieve certification, Cundall collaborated with architect Studio Ben Allen to refurbish the existing office space. The design principles had to comply with WELL Building Standard requirements to consider aspects of the built environment such as air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort and mind.

Managing Partner of Cundall’s Birmingham office, Robert van Zyl said: “The news that we have received WELL Gold certification is a tremendous achievement for our team. The redesign of our own office is a project we are all very proud of, we made the wellbeing of our staff a priority throughout the design process.

“Having a WELL designed office like this will make our return to the office following the Covid-19 lockdown easier, because the fitout is designed with the health and wellbeing of staff in mind.”

The Birmingham office is the second of Cundall’s offices to become WELL certified as the practice is committed to showcasing health and wellbeing across the world.

## WEST MIDLANDS CYBER RESILIENCE CENTRE

The West Midlands Cyber Resilience Centre (WMCRC) has announced the appointment of its first three Advisory Group Members.

The group will provide the WMCRC with guidance, advice and influence the



direction of the Centre which is headed up by Director Alison Hurst.

The first three members are:

Lisa Ventura from the UK Cyber Security Association, Paul Street from Colmore BID (pictured above) and Stuart Hadley from CyberQ Group.

Lisa Ventura is an award-winning Cyber Security consultant and is the CEO and Founder of the UK Cyber Security Association (UKCSA).

Paul Street joined Colmore BID in January 2019 as a Special Projects Officer for the BID's Safe and Sound working group.

Stuart Hadley is the Global Commercial Director of Birmingham based CyberQ Group, an award winning cyber security services provider. Stuart has 23 years' experience in the IT and security sector.

To find out more about the Advisory Group Members visit the [WMCRC](#) website.

## CORNWALL STREET BARRISTERS

James Farmer, Chambers Director of Cornwall Street Barristers, was named 'Future Face of Legal' at the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Future Faces Awards.

The awards are intended to bring together the best of Birmingham's young professionals in order to network, professionally develop and recognise future leaders.

A Cornwall Street Barristers spokesperson said: "We are extremely proud of James and all that he has achieved and congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition."

Farmer was named one of 11 winners at the event, alongside disability rights activist, Shani Dhanda, who was named as the overall Future Face of Greater Birmingham award winner.



## BEVAN BRITTAN

Business District law firm Bevan Brittan has promoted two new partners from its Birmingham office. They are among five promotions from the firm's office in Edmund Street.

The new promotions are:

*New partners: Sarah Greenhalgh (commercial and infrastructure) and Kirtpal Kaur-Auija (commercial and infrastructure)*

*New Senior associate: Melissa Stanford (litigation, advisory and regulatory)*

*New associates: Emma Beynon (litigation, advisory and regulatory) and Vicky Maher (property)*

Sarah Greenhalgh and Kirtpal Kaur-Auija are both promoted from senior associate.

Bevan Brittan employs over 70 staff in Birmingham.



*Kirtpal Kaur-Auija and Sarah Greenhalgh*

**MAZARS**

International accounting and advisory firm Mazars has become the latest global business to commit to Two Chamberlain Square at the heart of Paradise Birmingham.

Mazars will take 11,728 sq ft of space across the first floor of the Glenn Howells Architects-designed building and is looking to relocate the 200-strong Birmingham team from existing offices in Church Street.

Two Chamberlain Square is fast becoming a major professional services hub with other occupiers, which include global law firm DLA Piper and legal and professional services business Knights plc.

Mazars is an internationally integrated partnership, specialising in audit, accountancy, advisory, tax and legal services. It operates in 91 countries and territories around the world, drawing on the expertise of 40,400 professionals to assist clients of all sizes at every stage in their development.

Mazars Birmingham Office Managing Partner, Ian Holder, said: "Our new office in the city centre reinforces our commitment to remaining part of the fabric of the vibrant Birmingham business community, and underscores our confidence in the continued growth of the team for years to come."

At almost 2 million square feet, Paradise will deliver up to ten new flagship buildings, offering offices, shops, bars, cafés, restaurants and a four star hotel across 17 acres in the heart of the city.

'Our new office reinforces our commitment to remaining part of the fabric of the vibrant Birmingham business community'

*Pictured: Rob Groves of Argent and Ian Holder of Mazars*

**SMITH COOPER**

Smith Cooper has appointed Adam Rollason as a new tax director.

Rollason's role will help drive forward the firm's tax operations in its Birmingham office at 158 Edmund Street.

A Chartered Certified Accountant and Chartered Tax Advisor, Rollason joins from Grant Thornton where he previously worked as a Private Business Tax Manager. He will be joining a tax division that offers both corporate and personal tax services, experts in helping clients plan a tailored and tax-efficient approach to every aspect of their business and/or personal life.

Rollason said: "I am delighted to be joining Smith Cooper to head up the tax advisory offering across the West Midlands.

"Having met with a number of the firm's partners over recent months and listened to their ambitious plans for the future, I knew that this was the right place for me to be taking my first step into leadership."

Darren Hodson, a Corporate Finance Partner based in the Birmingham office, adds: "I look forward to watching Adam flourish in his new role as he helps to expand our Tax offering in the marketplace."





**Colmore  
is  Back**

**#BirminghamisBack**



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