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BIGGER AND BETTER M&S FOR BRENTWOOD

New store to create over 30 new jobs for Brentwood

Marks & Spencer has announced plans to open a bigger and better store in Brentwood by relocating its current store to the town's redevelopment of William Hunter Way, creating over 30 new jobs in the town.

The new 26,000 sq ft store, located less than five minutes walk from the existing store, is due to open in 2013. It will offer a more extensive range of quality M&S womenswear, menswear, kidswear and homeware. It will also feature a larger Food Hall, featuring more M&S food products including ready meals, fresh produce, sandwiches, salads and snacks, and an extensive range of wines and champagne.

Customers of the new Brentwood M&S store will be able to relax in the new store's M&S Café, where specially trained baristas will serve a range of refreshments including Fairtrade teas and coffees and an assortment of sandwiches, baguettes and cakes.

Developer Stockland's multi-million pound plans for the exciting and comprehensive mixed-use redevelopment of William Hunter Way have already received consent from Brentwood Borough Council and construction is expected to begin in late 2011.

The existing M&S will continue to trade as normal until the relocation takes place in 2013. The move will free up one of Brentwood High Street's most prominent retail spaces, providing an exciting opportunity to enter Brentwood, or for an existing retailer to expand.

Brentwood Store Manager Philip Jones said "We're really excited to be bringing a bigger and better M&S store to Brentwood. Brentwood is a great location for M&S, and after 30 years in the town we're looking forward to continuing to be an integral part of the town's High Street.

Duncan Tindale, Development Director at Stockland, said:

"We are delighted to have signed M&S to occupy the largest unit at the William Hunter Way development and to anchor the scheme. It's a big step forward, especially as M&S felt that the location and the facilities on offer at our development were too good an opportunity to miss. We're looking to build further momentum with more leases to be signed in the coming months and ahead of construction of the multi-million pound scheme starting this autumn.

"With M&S on board, we can really move ahead as well as attract more exciting brands to William Hunter Way to complement both M&S and Apollo, the cinema operator. This is an exciting time for the scheme and for investment into Brentwood."

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For further information, please contact:

Brett Lowther Beattie Communications 020 053 6013

For images or background information on Marks & Spencer, please visit our website at www.marksandspencer.com/mediacentre