

Plans for former Housing Executive office as bakery chain hope to open another Belfast location

A popular fast-food chain has applied to open another location in a new Belfast city centre office development. The store will open as part of a new £25million office development on Great Victoria Street.

The Vantage Belfast will transform the former Housing Executive building into a Grade A office space where employers will be able to adjust to a more “flexible, hybrid working model”.

English bakery chain Greggs has applied to open a sit-in cafe in one of The Vantage’s retail units, opposite both Great Victoria Street bus and train station and the Europa Hotel. This will become the ninth Greggs location in Belfast.

According to planning documents, the bakery giants have applied to “change of use of retail unit into unit for the sale of food and drink including consumption on the premises”.

The extensive refurbishment and two floor vertical extension will boast 67,500sq ft of premium city centre office space with a contemporary and corporate design aimed at attracting a dynamic mix of business types.

Construction has already commenced during which 150 jobs will be supported, with a further 750 permanent roles to be facilitated within the building across a range of business sectors upon completion of the works.

When plans for The Vantage were announced, Stephen Surphlis,

Managing Director of MRP said: “The Vantage is a real show of confidence in the local economy following the disruption caused by coronavirus. We are excited to be bringing to the market a building that offers tenants a truly next generation working environment.

“Born for 21st century industry, the building’s city centre positioning and unrivalled transport connections offer tenants an enviable location at the centre of all that Belfast has to offer. The excellent natural light combined with attractive open ceilings creates a superb environment where employees can collaborate, be inspired, be comfortable, thrive and grow.

“Conscious that more people than ever before will be connecting with colleagues virtually, the building will also be certified for the highest level of internet connectivity.”