Profits rise at BOXPARK ahead of Liverpool opening

Sales and profits at BOXPARK rose during its latest financial year ahead of it opening a new venue in Liverpool in the spring.

The business is due to open in the historic Canning Hall, part of the Cains Brewery Village estate, early next year. It <u>had originally been expecting to launch the venue</u>, which will be its first outside of London, this autumn.

BOXPARK Liverpool will extend over 21,000 sq ft and have room for 600 covers, featuring eight kitchen units and bars inside as well as a 5,000 sq ft garden. The scheme represents an investment of more than £3.5m into the Baltic Triangle and is expected to bring 150 new jobs to the local community.

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BOXPARK, which currently runs sites in Shoreditch, Croydon and Wembley, was founded in 2011 and was backed by LDC in 2021. It holds a 15-year lease with Cains Brewery Village for the site.

Cains Brewery Village is already home to Cains Brewery, Lu Ban Restaurant, Bongo's Bingo, Ghetto Golf, Punch Tarmey's Irish Pub, ArCains, Baltic Market, Northern Lights, The Royal Standard Liverpool, Hub Art Studios, SORT Recording Studios and Ryde Coffee Shop.

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BOXPARK Liverpool is now expected to open in early 2024 (Image: BOXPARK)

It opened its gates in November 2015 and is centred around the grade II-listed Cains Brewery which was established in 1850 by Robert Cain. Liverpool City Council approved plans for the city's BOXPARK venue in January this year.

Newly-filed documents with Companies House show that BOXPARK's turnover increased from £18.8m to £20.5m in the 12 months to April 30, 2023. Its pre-tax profits also rose from £3.5m to £3.9m.

A statement signed off by the board said: "Group revenues have been robust despite macro-economic pressures, with the group also having to adapt its customer offering to adjust for the change in work patterns post pandemic, not least the reduction on commuters into central London, exacerbated by the rail strikes."

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BOXPARK said its Liverpool venue represents an investment of over £3.5m

(Image: BOXPARK)

It added: "The group had to manage significant cost inflation and volatility during the year. Volatility was caused because the group's utility contracts expired in December 2022, a time when supplier prices were spiking.

"The group agilely mitigated this situation, partly through price negotiation but also a c.20% reduction in electricity usage and is now fixed into longer term supply contracts."

Chief executive Simon Champion added: "We are pleased with our results in this period, delivering growth in like-for-like sales. We've successfully navigated a challenging trading environment with high-cost inflation, a stress on consumer spending, and changing patterns of consumers going out.

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The plans for BOXPARK Liverpool were approved by the city council in January 2023

(Image: BOXPARK)

"Our results are testament that our agile and resilient approach is working but we still need to remain cautious in such a tough market. Whilst we anticipate these macro challenges to continue for now, we are optimistic about the future prospects for the business, having announced the opening of BOXPARK Liverpool, the first of its kind outside of London in 2024, and now Birmingham."