

Westside Business – a regular newsletter bringing you the latest news, ideas, celebrations and offers from BID members...



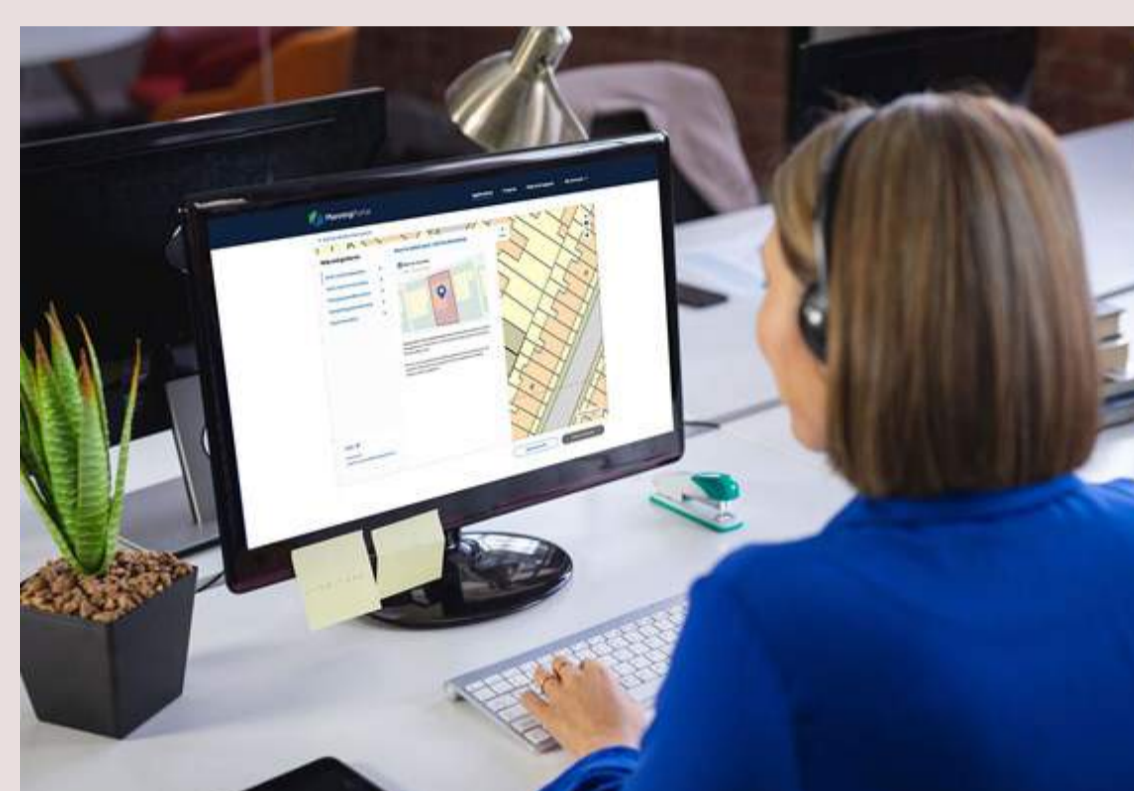
How Easter spending has helped to lift retail sales across the UK

Deloitte, one of the world's leading auditors, finance and tax advisors with offices in Brindleyplace, has commented on the latest rise in retail sales.

Oliver Vernon-Harcourt, head of retail at Deloitte, said: "April saw a surprising uplift in retail sales despite ongoing inflationary pressures. The Easter Bank Holiday weekend contributed to consumers spending more in department stores, and on clothing and accessories."

"The economy remains incredibly tough, but consumer confidence is slowly improving from record lows. The importance of loyalty programmes, promotions and great value product will remain key to success for retailers."

[Find out more](#)

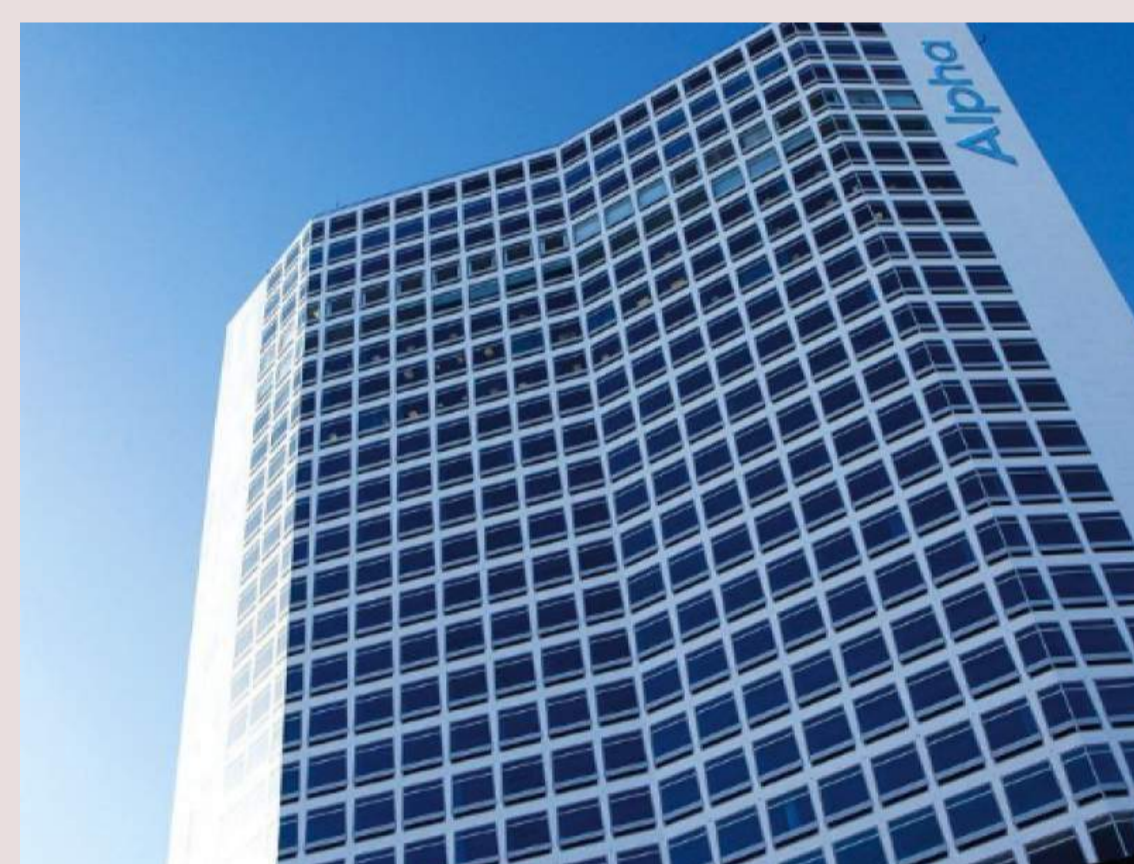


New 'location plan feature' has been made available from Terraquest

Land planning specialist Terraquest, based in Quayside Tower on Broad Street, is offering a new 'location plan feature' as an update on its planning portal. This aims to make planning applications easier as it will:

- Be simple to use – allowing you to draw your site boundary or upload an existing boundary file.
- Reduce the number of invalid applications by creating a compliant plan.
- Make the process more efficient, by streamlining the creation of a location plan, standardising the process, and removing the back and forth caused by invalidation.
- Move forward digital planning reform by sending the boundary as data, as well as a PDF, to the Local Authority.

[Find out more](#)

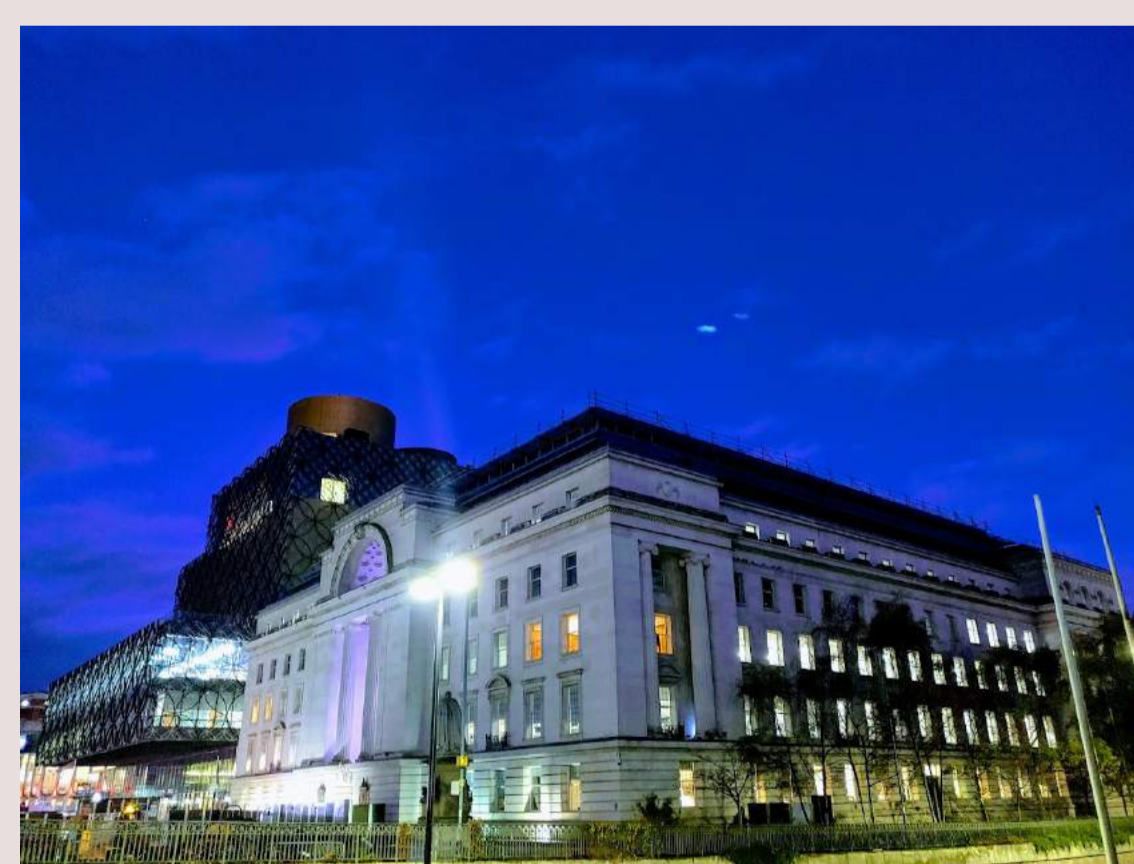


You can work, connect, create and be at Alpha Works in Westside

Alpha Works – in Alpha Tower on Westside – is offering flexible new 'work community' spaces for businesses. Features offered under its logo of "Work, connect, create and be" include:

- Hot-Desk from £105 per pass – "Roam free with our flexible Hot-Desk memberships. Perfect for the modern mobile individual; just bring your ideas, your laptop and get to work."
- Private Office from £375 per month – "We've got a range of private office spaces for you and your team to come together, be inspired and do great work."

[Find out more](#)



New £44 billion, five-year plan for improved railway across the UK

Network Rail, whose Birmingham offices are at Baskerville House in Centenary Square, has revealed a new £44 billion, five-year plan for the future of passengers and freight.

The plan covering 2024 to 2029 for the UK's railway network in England and Wales sees increased investment in tackling climate change, improving train performances, and making the railway even greener.

[Find out more](#)





Celebrating a century of artistic exploration at the Crescent Theatre

The 100th year of Birmingham's Crescent Theatre has been highlighted in a special feature on Brindleyplace's website.

The theatre began as a Christmas revue by council staff at the city's Council House, and its first permanent home was at 17-19 The Crescent, a row of Georgian buildings just north of Cambridge Street, in 1932.

This address led to its name as the Crescent Theatre, although it moved to a new arts centre in the early 1960s at Cumberland Street off Broad Street, with a revolutionary revolving stage.

Redevelopment meant the Crescent moved again in 1998 to its Brindleyplace home fronting Sheepcote Street, and it's now one of the UK's largest amateur theatres, with 340 seats in the main auditorium.

[Find out more](#)



Work in Westside.

If you're struggling to fill a vacancy, please get in touch with Luisa Huggins at luisa.huggins@westsidebid.co.uk so we can promote it on our website.



What's on in Westside?

To find out what's happening in your area visit [our website](#).

[Find out more](#)

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