

LSH completes move to “vibrant” Spinningfields

Property consultancy Lambert Smith Hampton has completed the deal to move to Spinningfields, Insider can reveal. The agency will be a sub-tenant of accountancy firm BDO at 3 Hardman Street, occupying around 10,000 sq ft. BDO was advised by OBI Property and Drivers Jonas Deloitte.

LSH is the first property consultancy to open an office in Manchester’s new business district, although some Drivers Jonas staff now work from Deloitte’s office following the two firms’ merger. Under its original name of WH Robinson, LSH had been resident in Manchester’s Mosley Street since 1935.

Roger Tunnicliffe, head of the Manchester office, told Insider: “Choosing a location is all about how you can generate business and how your staff feel about it. I’ve never seen the advantage of being next door to your competitors. We’re looking to expand our services and being based on one floor at 3 Hardman Street will allow greater multi-disciplinary services for our clients.”

LSH had been close to agreeing terms at Belvedere on Booth Street, before rival firm CB Richard Ellis paid £29 per sq ft for the space. It also considered Bruntwood’s 1 New York Street and the Cobbetts building on Mosley Street, both of which would have kept the firm physically close to the cluster of consultancies around Fountain Street.

But this move represents a clean break, said head of office agency Peter Skelton: “This raises the profile of the firm. It has put a sparkle in peoples’ eyes here. There’s been an expectation that the firm should move and this gives us the opportunity to work with like-minded professional organisations - something this location lacks. Spinningfields is increasingly vibrant as other uses have come in alongside offices.”

Tunnicliffe, who returned to the firm as head of office to lead the move and allow long-time local figurehead Skelton to return to a fee-earning role, said that the office would be operational by the end of the year. LSH has now taken over the auctions arm of Colliers International and expects to hold its first North West auction early next year.

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