

04 March 2020

## The Oracle starts 2020 with a bang

### Japanese restaurant Osaka and Natwest opened in January

### Skechers and Leon coming soon

While 2020 is only a couple of months old, Hammerson's flagship destination The Oracle has already welcomed two new brands to its line-up, and it today announced that another two are due to open later this year.

Global footwear powerhouse brand Skechers will open a new 3,200 sq ft store in 2020, and the brand will be joined by the pioneers of naturally fast food, Leon. The brand's new 3,600 sq ft restaurant will serve all of its popular meals, including its famous Fish Finger wrap. Since it opened its first restaurant on Carnaby Street in 2004, Leon has gone from strength to strength, and now has restaurants all over the UK.

Japanese restaurant Osaka opened in January, and has already proved a hit with hungry locals. The new 3,100 sq ft eatery combines traditional techniques with modern twists, and serves a range of delicious Japanese dishes including ramen soups, Katsu curry, and sushi. It also has a bar, which offers a range of delicious drinks include Sake, hot tea, cocktails and much more. Natwest also opened a new 3,900 sq ft branch in January.

**Iain Mitchell, UK Commercial Director at Hammerson,** said: *"These lettings really highlight the Oracle's appeal to both consumers and brands, and demonstrate its position as a leading retail and leisure destination. We know that more and more consumers are looking for an experience when they visit our destinations, combining shopping with a meal or a leisure activity. That's why we are targeting engaging F&B brands like Osaka and Leon, and outstanding fashion brands like Skechers. This is just the start for the Oracle; we have a lot more planned for 2020."*

**LEON Property Director, Adam Blaker** said: *"We're delighted, at long last, to be coming to Reading. For several years we've had an increasing number of requests from customers to be there. We think the position of the site in Broad Street, so close to the entrance of The Oracle, is convenient for shoppers and office workers alike. We're really excited and this is just the beginning of our plans in this wonderful city."*

## News Release

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **Hammerson**

Hammerson create vibrant, continually evolving spaces, in and around thriving European cities, with a focus on flagship retail destinations and Premium Outlets. As of 31st December 2019, our portfolio of high-quality venues had a value of £8.3 billion and includes 21 flagship destinations in thriving cities, and investments in 20 premium outlet villages, through our partnership with Value Retail and the VIA Outlets joint venture. Key retail venues include, Bullring & Grand Central, Birmingham, Bicester Village, Oxfordshire, Freeport Lisboa Fashion Outlet, Lisbon, Dundrum Town Centre, Dublin; and Les Terrasses du Port, Marseille. We manage over 2,000 brand relationships and during trading hours, over 80,000 people visit our shopping centres hourly across our flagship destinations in the UK, France & Ireland.