

MKDP BRINGS BP CHARGEMASTER TO CITY



Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP) has announced a deal which will see the UK's biggest electric vehicle charging company, **BP Chargemaster**, moving its national headquarters to the city.

BP Chargemaster, currently based in Luton, will be moving to a new premises in Linford Wood that will be developed and financed by MKDP.

Work will begin on the new HQ later this month and is due to be completed by Christmas this year. The new facility will house the company's office and manufacturing facilities, bringing 150 hi-tech jobs to Milton Keynes. MKDP has awarded the contract to build the scheme to Milton Keynes-based **Parkway Construction MK Ltd**.

The two-storey 45,000 square foot headquarters will be roughly triple the size of its existing facilities, enabling the business to develop in line with the fast-growing electric vehicle market.

MKDP Development Director, **Matthew Green**, said: “It’s a great testament to Milton Keynes’ reputation as a magnet for forward-thinking businesses of the future that BP Chargemaster chose to be based here.

“It is also an endorsement of our new strategic direction that, following a rigorous procurement process, BP decided to deal directly with MKDP rather than through a third party. This new strategy of developing our commercial land ourselves gives MKDP flexibility and the opportunity to create even greater value combined with a sustainable, long-term income stream for Milton Keynes Council.”

David Martell, Chief Executive of BP Chargemaster, said: “We are very excited to be moving to Milton Keynes – undoubtedly the electric vehicle capital of the country – and to much larger premises that will enable our next phase of expansion and growth of our business. As well as increased head office space, we will be tripling the size of our manufacturing facility, allowing us to significantly expand our production capacity.”

MKDP was established by Milton Keynes Council in 2013 to facilitate the continued growth and economic success of the city by selling and developing its land assets via third party developers and investors.

As of March 2019, MKDP can sustainably service the £32m due to the Council that was part of its formation. Having exceeded its core financial objectives, MKDP is evolving and this transaction marks an important shift, to develop its commercial land itself rather than through third parties.

Having already facilitated over 1 million sq. ft of commercial space through land sales to developers, MKDP currently has 74 developable acres of commercial land remaining, over half of the portfolio it was originally given by the Council, available for its own development. It will continue to work with third party developers on its residential portfolio.

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About Milton Keynes Development Partnership:

Milton Keynes Development Partnership LLP (MKDP) is owned by Milton Keynes Council. It facilitates Milton Keynes’ continued growth and economic success by promoting the development of its land assets to deliver economic and social value from its 70+ sites in line with the Council’s Plan and Core Strategy. The MKDP estate comprises around 265 developable acres.

Its role is to develop and grow stakeholder relationships with investors, developers, occupiers and others to provide a fair playing field conducive to conducting professional property business. MKDP is operated by a specialist team who report to MKDP’s board and Milton Keynes Council.

About BP Chargemaster:

BP Chargemaster is one of the UK’s leading providers of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and operates Polar, the largest electric vehicle charging network in the UK, with more than 6,500 public charge points. Founded in 2008, the company provides a comprehensive, flexible and practical range of electric vehicle charging solutions. BP Chargemaster supplies public, workplace and home charging units in the UK and has supplied over 50,000 charging points across Europe. In 2019, BP Chargemaster will begin rolling out 150kW ultra-rapid chargers on BP forecourts in the UK.

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