HOWLINGS HODGSON

PROPERTY INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

CASE STUDY

Energising The Metroplex Business Park, Salford

Property: Multi-let business park
Client: Institutional Fund Manager

Project: Income security, void mitigation and rental growth



Problem

- Income risk from tenant break events and key occupiers with shortening leases
- Vacant units, in excess of 13% void rate
- 'Full' service charge rate running at 64p sq.ft with some occupiers not contractually obliged to contribute
- EPC concerns
- Run down feel to the estate with poor signage, obsolete lighting, dated and unreliable security, over grown and outdated presentation of the common areas.
- Lack of a continuous business relationship between landlord and tenants
- Major development in the location contributing to tired feel of the estate

Solution

- Full occupier audit and review of services provided
- Single point of contact for the client, the tenants and supporting property consultants
- Intense period of tenant engagement
- Review of product quality and offer
- Review of common parts, service charge thresholds and branding
- Targeted investment in the estate and void units

Results

- Improved landlord / tenant relations
- Within 14 months of appointment, 10 deals were completed.
- New headline rents established across all size brackets including hybrid stock
- The client grew sufficiently confident in the product to acquire an adjacent asset, increasing their exposure to this location and sector.
- The estate was fully let within 16 months of appointment.
- Net income increased by circa 25% in 16 months
- £1m of common area works and 'front of house' tendered, agreed and implemented within 18 months of appointment
- Reduced underlying service charge to sub 50p sq.ft