

Lidl eyes 63 UK site disposals as rapid expansion continues apace

As Lidl snaps up sites and relocates to better spots, a raft of residual retail units, development sites and resi plays become available



Lidl on Waltham Forest High Street. The group is in the early stages of expanding in London. Picture: CoStar

By Paul Norman - CoStar News

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Lidl, the German budget food chain, has appointed agents to dispose of 63 principally surplus-to-requirement sites and residual land as it continues to acquire and shed locations at a rate of knots.

The opportunities include development land, retail and leisure subleases and residential opportunities and are being offered via a mix of leasehold and freehold arrangements with the group.

The sites are in: Cheltenham, Bristol (two), Peterlee, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Barnstaple, Knaresborough, Oadby, Leicester, Swansea, Lichfield, Cross Hands, Penzance, Chard, Atherton, Aberdeen, Blackburn, Cowplain, Harmworth Poole (two), Southampton, Borehamwood, Peckham, Bromley, Kirkcaldy, Twickenham, Southend-on-Sea, Hinckley, Bathgate, Chester, Llangefni, Rossington, Chesterfield, Sheffield, Broxburn, Manchester, Aberystwyth, Chichester, Colchester, Brentwood, Morden (three), Cheltenham, Tooting Broadway, Norwood (nine), Hamstead Birmingham, Witney, Carmarthen, Ipswich, Melton Mowbray, Uttoxeter, Porthmadog, Lanark, Wishaw.

Lidl has expanded rapidly in recent years and has often decided to move to better and bigger sites in specific locations more suited to its updated floor size spaces and need for car parking. It also will buy retail parks or larger units because the location is right, and with the express purpose of subleasing space or selling on development land or opportunities to work up residential schemes, which it does not pursue. There are a number of opportunities for distribution unit schemes among the latest batch of disposals.

The largest opportunity is the 61,000 sq ft Dovefields Retail Park in Uttoxeter which it is marketing as freehold or leasehold via FHP Property Consultants. There are a significant number of retail units in excess of 10,000 sq ft in size as well as numerous residential development opportunities.

It uses multiple agents, with advisers appointed on this latest round of disposals including Green & Partners, Hartnell Taylor Cook, **Fletcher Morgan**, Connect Property North East, Rees Denton, Mather Jamie, EJ Hales, Johnson Fellows, Vickory Holman, Parkinson Real Estate, CBRE, Trevor Dawson, Sibbett Gregory and LSH.

At the moment it has an active requirement for 60 sites per year in prominent town centre, edge of centre or out of town locations. It wants main road frontage with easy access and is looking for leasehold or freehold opportunities ranging in size between 14,000 sq ft and 26,500 sq ft, or 7,000 sq ft upwards in London.

It is seeking standalone units on 1.5 acres plus or four acre mixed-use development sites.

Lidl, owned by Germany's Schwarz Group, announced plans for its first branch in London's West End in June of last year and said it is investing £500m expanding in the capital over the next five years.

Lidl opened its first stores in Great Britain in 1994 and has grown to employ more than 22,500 people nationwide. The supermarket has more than 760 stores and 13 warehouses across the country.

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