

Fleet managers seal major deal with electrical retailer

FLEET specialist Activa Contracts has won a sole supply, full outsourcing deal with electrical retailer Hughes. The firm, which has outlets across the Midlands and East Anglia, runs a 175-strong vehicle fleet of light commercial vehicles and company cars and decided to contract hire all company cars and vans following a comprehensive funding review.

Activa Contracts, the Milton Keynes-based division of Arnold Clark Finance, has undertaken a sale and leaseback deal on 86 vehicles and will fleet manage the remainder until renewal.

Sales and marketing director Lisa Temperton said: "Our consultancy approach has transformed Hughes' company car policy so that employees now have hundreds of

vehicles to choose from, while ensuring that the fleet is cost-effective to operate and fit for purpose."

Hughes, also operates a significant van fleet driven by employees delivering and servicing white goods, including televisions and washing machines. Finance director Chris Hughes said: "The van fleet is business critical to Hughes."

Theo

Theo Chalmers is managing director of Verve Public Relations and chair of Urban Eden.



Chalmers

www.urbaneden.org
www.vervepr.co.uk
e: t.chalmers@vervepr.co.uk
Tel: 01908 275271

Let's get ready for MK City Fest

THOSE of us who love Milton Keynes - and the two polls conducted by research body ICM a few years ago show we are many - will know that this city has been copied all over the world and our City Discovery Centre at Bradwell Abbey hosts planning delegations on a regular basis from every continent bar Antarctica.

Now it seems that our specialness has been recognised by two important institutions and that interest is currently being developed into a prestigious week-long event at the heart of our metropolis, as I can exclusively reveal.

The MK City Fest - as it has been dubbed - will take place in Middleton Hall, thecentre:mk from June 26 until July 1 in a specially designed auditorium and exhibition place. The MK City Fest programme, which as I write is not finalised, is designed to deliver a multi-purpose Festival of Creative Urban Living which was conceived as part of the MK Futures 2050 Commission process.

Explore

Its aims are to celebrate Milton Keynes' 50th birthday; to showcase its unique designed-city framework; to acknowledge its role as a model for city living across the world and to explore ideas around its future and the future of urban developments per se. As it celebrates the 50th anniversary, it will be looking ahead at the challenges of the relay race for the next 50 years, a baton I and

many others hope will not be dropped.

At its core will be the annual conferences of the Institute of New Towns and the Academy of Urbanism that will bring in thought leaders and inspirational speakers from all over the world.

Further related activities are being programmed around these two core events including tours, talks, workshops, exhibitions and creative activity focused on modern urban living and showcasing the city and its features. Many of the events and activities will be open to the public.

Creativity

The City Fest idea ties in well with that of a Festival of Creative Urban Living. It, and the council's intention this year to submit Milton Keynes as a contender for European Capital of Culture in 2023, all aim to build on and grow the reputation of Milton Keynes as an international centre for urban planning, creativity and design.

The MK City Fest has been led by Milton Keynes Council working with a number of key public, voluntary and private partners and stakeholders in Milton Keynes, with the initial headline sponsors the council and thecentre:mk.

Milton Keynes businesses are invited to become involved and some already are.

City Fest will be a pilot for the festival concept and, if successful, may provide the basis for regular future events. Cheerio.

So far these events are planned:

- June 26** City Community - Who's City? Who's Future?
 - June 27** City Innovations - Mobility, Lifestyles, City Building
 - June 28** International New Town Day 2017
 - June 29** Exploring MK
 - June 30** City Urbanism - The AoU Symposium - New Towns, What's Next?
 - July 1** MK City Club
- More information will be available at www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk/MKCityfest

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