

Property Breakfast, Manchester, 27th September 2017

Health and wellbeing: What are the opportunities for the property sector?

“ A very positive event ”

“ I thoroughly
enjoyed the
conversation ”

“ Thanks for putting on such a well-informed
event on health and wellbeing ”

This BRE breakfast event brought together representatives from a range of organisations from the property and built environment sector in the Manchester area. Manchester is one of the UK's leading and most dynamic cities with a rich industrial and cultural heritage, and one of the most dynamic areas for property growth and urban regeneration. Attendees listened to presentations from BRE on our emerging

work in health and wellbeing, and in particular research to understand, in a live refurbishment project, the impact of biophilic design on occupants. We also had an excellent guest presentation from Richard Walmsley of Peel Group, on the sustainable placemaking and wellbeing priorities at Wirral Waters, the largest regeneration project in the UK, transforming the semi-derelict Birkenhead dock system.

We then discussed the issues of health and wellbeing for the built environment, and the opportunities and challenges that it provides. Here are some of the main comments, discussion points and feedback from the event.

“ We built our business around
looking after the health and
wellbeing of our staff. It has
made a difference in terms
of improved staff retention
& reduced sickness absence ”



There are two sides to value – about reducing the negative (e.g. less days off sick) and accentuating the positive (e.g. higher productivity and staff retention).



Early engagement is key for health and wellbeing issues, and should involve the client/end user. Wider community engagement also brings many positive benefits.



Return on investment is key! We need more case studies based on building performance reviews with evidence of payback over time.



All attendees agreed health and wellbeing was an important issue. There is work to do, but a lot of potential value to be realised.

More information

Keep in touch with BRE and our property team via www.bregroup.com and for more on BRE's Biophilic Office project go to www.bregroup.com/biophilic #biophilicoffice

More on Peel Group's Wirral Waters development is at www.peel.co.uk/wirral-waters