Heeton consortium's Leeds hotel to be run by Hilton

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A CONSORTIUM comprising Heeton Holdings, KSH Holdings, Lian Beng Group and Ryobi Kiso Holdings on Friday announced that it has signed a franchise agreement with international hotel chain operator Hilton for its 192-bedroom hotel in Leeds, United Kingdom.

The hotel will be operated under the brand Hampton by Hilton.

It is part of the first phase of a new regeneration project, being developed by the consortium, that is currently under construction. Operations are expected to start in late 2019.

Patrick Fitzgibbon, senior vice-president for development at Hilton, said: "An important regional capital, Leeds is at the centre of the north of England's economy, and with the UK government's Northern Powerhouse proposals set to boost the regional economy – with investment in High Speed 2 (a planned high-speed railway in the UK linking London, Birmingham, the East Midlands, Leeds and Manchester) and local businesses – visitor numbers are set to increase considerably in the next five to 10 years."

This follows news last August that the consortium had received approval for the first phase of its proposed masterplan from the city council. The first phase of the plan involves the refurbishment and extension of the existing office building, which is south of the site. The plan is to transform it into a hotel, with ancillary restaurant and gym. The hotel will have an internal floor space of 78,490 square feet and 61 car parking spaces for staff and guests, the consortium said at the time.

It had also proposed the second phase of the masterplan, comprising about 780 apartments, cafes and creative workspaces, which required the locals' and the authorities' approvals, it added.

On Friday, Heeton shares finished flat at S$0.42, KSH fell two cents to S$0.735, while Lian Beng fell half a cent to S$0.61.

Artist's impression of the Leeds hotel, which will have an internal floor space of 78,490 sq ft.