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WESTFIELD STRATFORD MISSES OUT ON CHRISTMAS NUMBER ONE SPOT TO BLUEWATER

Despite creating the UK's largest standalone shopping centre, Westfield Stratford City has failed to gain the number one spot as Bluewater, Dartford, has retained its pole position in the specially updated UK shopping centre hierarchy by Trevor Wood Associates. The 1.9m sq ft Westfield Stratford City, which opened in September this year, moved straight into the number three position pushing Westfield London, Shepherds Bush, to number four, according to the research which uses footfall, size, relative attractiveness of shops and facilities available to rank the UK's top shopping centres.

Whilst the East London centre, by the 2012 Olympic site, did not give the Anglo-Australian developer the number one shopping centre it does give them three centres in the UK's top 10, making them the key rival to Capital Shopping Centres, which has MetroCentre; The Trafford Centre; Lakeside Shopping Centre and Manchester Arndale, as the UK's prime owner of premier retail centres. Of the UK's top ten centres only the Manchester Arndale and the centre:mk, Milton Keynes can be considered to be town centre schemes.

Trevor Wood, senior partner of Trevor Wood Associates, says: "Millions will be making their way to Westfield Stratford City for Christmas shopping and the sales but it could not quite get top spot: This may change when our rankings are updated next year as many more stores are scheduled to open - equally other centres including Bluewater will see additional openings and long term the likes of Lakeside could grow considerably. The top four centres, of which Westfield has two, are separated by a hair's breadth and it will be interesting to see how these emerge over 2012."

Trevor Wood Associates' Top 10 UK Shopping Centres December 2011						
Q4 2011 Rank	Q1 2011 Rank	Q4 2008 Rank	Scheme	Location	Points	Size sq ft
1	1	2	Bluewater	Dartford - Greenhithe	7,706	1,670,000
2	2	1	MetroCentre	Gateshead	7,696	1,870,000
3	***	***	Westfield Stratford City	London - Stratford	7,669	1,900,000
4	3	***	Westfield London	London - Shepherds Bush	7,635	1,610,000
5	4	3	Meadowhall	Sheffield	7,293	1,484,000
6	5	4	The Trafford Centre	Manchester - Trafford	7,025	1,650,000
7	6	5	Lakeside Shopping Centre	Grays - Thurrock	6,857	1,434,000
8	7	6	Westfield Merry Hill	Brierley Hill	6,356	1,088,066
9	8	7	Manchester Arndale	Manchester	6,058	1,400,000
10	9	8	the centre:mk	Milton Keynes	5,753	1,350,000

Source: Trevor Wood Associates

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Blyth Media

Built environment communications specialists

For further information please contact:

Lawrence Higgins, Blyth Media
Trevor Wood, Trevor Wood Associates

Lawrence@blythmedia.eu

07788 916 690
01494 715846

Notes for Editors

Trevor Wood Associates was established in 1987 and is a leading, independent, provider of information on all retail and leisure schemes in the UK.

This latest table is updated from '*Going Shopping - The Definitive Guide to Shopping Centres*', which is the authoritative analysis of shopping centre and factory outlet developments within the UK and incorporates the widely quoted hierarchy of UK Shopping Centres, covering over 900 schemes.

Shopping centres currently trading are ranked by overall attractiveness to shoppers, retailers and investors. This was achieved by confirming detailed information for each scheme thought to be larger than 50,000 sq. ft. in the United Kingdom. The information was converted into points for selected features shown to be important to those groups, including tenants, lettable area, and type of scheme, weekly footfall and facilities available. The largest schemes are not always considered the most attractive.