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**Mitie makes profit despite the credit crunch**  
**Evening Post (extract) - 31st March**

West Country building services group Mitie yesterday said it is winning new contracts which are keeping it on course to increase profits this year and next year.

Chief executive Ruby McGregor-Smith said that overall trade was growing, despite the recession, and the company was more than replacing any work it lost.

The Bristol-based business – whose services include maintenance, cleaning, security, engineering and landscaping – is on track to meet expectations for the year to April.

It said it was "particularly pleased" with a host of deals landed from public and private clients since January.

These include contracts from Eurostar for security checks at its St Pancras, Ebbsfleet and Ashford International terminals, as well as a £100 million management deal for utility Thames Water's estate.

Mitie has also landed a repair deal for 6,500 properties throughout Hampshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire from the Wessex Housing Partnership.

**Primary capital funding bid success**  
**Bristol City Council Press Release (extract)**  
**- 27th March**

Bristol City Council has been successful in its bid for £12 million funding to renew and rebuild primary schools, the government announced today.

Part of a £46 million overall package of investment in primary schools in Bristol over the next five years, the money will be used to fund major development projects at schools across the city.

Bristol City Council is on track to be the first council in the country to rebuild or significantly refurbish all of its secondary schools by 2013.

Attention is now focused on taking forward plans at primary level to ensure schools are fit for teaching and learning in the 21st century. The major review of primary schools undertaken by the council to inform its bid for funding also ensures school places

will be available where they are needed and offers a solution to the current pressure on school places in some areas.

Councillor Clare Champion-Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said: "Today's announcement is good news for Bristol, boosting our existing programme of investment in rebuilding and refurbishing schools. We want to give our children good quality classrooms and outside play space, so they enjoy school. This is part of our work to drive up standards and maintain them.

"At secondary level, Bristol is already being held up nationally as an example of good practice for its development of first class schools, purpose built to suit the needs of modern teaching and learning. At primary level, we are still at the early stages of the redevelopment process, but we fully intend to deliver good learning environments."

**Bristol and Bath: changing lives around the world**

**Science City Bristol Press Release (extract)**  
**- 26th March**

Work being done in universities and businesses across the West of England is having a fundamental impact on lives around the world, according to a new film released today.

The film, which charts a day in the life of a city, opens with the message that pioneering research by Professor Peter Fleming at the University of Bristol has changed medical opinion; his advice that placing babies on their backs to sleep is thought to have prevented at least 100,000 infant deaths worldwide.

The film then follows the city through its working day and leisure time; outlining Bristol and Bath's impact on an increasingly digital world. The region is the centre of the second largest silicon design cluster in the world – second only to Silicon Valley in California – and has influenced everything from the development of the mobile phone and digital TV. It is also a hotbed of creative industries, well known globally for Aardman's Wallace and Gromit, but increasingly a world-leading location for alternate reality gaming and pervasive media.



Sarah-Jane Chilcott, Programme Manager for Science City Bristol explains:

“We have a long pedigree of science and technology, but there is so much more than Brunel and Concorde. It will be a surprise to many that local science affects many aspects of people’s lives both here and across the world. This film captures the essence of what makes this a special place.”

The film was produced by Green Lit Media, a corporate and broadcast film and video production company, based at Bristol’s Paintworks.

To view the film or to find out more about the impact of Bristol and Bath science on the world, please visit [www.sciencecitybristol.com](http://www.sciencecitybristol.com)

**We're shopping our way out of the recession in Bristol**

**Evening Post (extract) - 26th March**

Shops are defying the economic gloom by opening new branches in Bristol city centre.

Five new store openings at Cabot Circus include a new occupant of the shop in Quakers Friars left empty when upmarket tailor Hardy Amies went into administration.

When the £500m Cabot Circus opened last September, 90 per cent of the units were taken and there has been a steady stream of lettings since.

Cabot Circus centre director Richard Belt said: "These recent lettings to well-respected brands continue to demonstrate retailer confidence in Cabot Circus, despite challenging market conditions and a UK-wide downturn."

David Ball, retail property manager for Joules, described Quakers Friars as a "perfect" spot for the company to open a branch.

He said: "Bristol has undergone a face lift in the past few years and is a vibrant city. A number of great brands have opened in the centre, which has really helped put Bristol on the retail map.

"We know that our target customer lives in this area."

Managing director Tom Joule said "Bristol is a fantastic city with lots to offer and we are thrilled to be opening our shop on April 2."

Gant spokeswoman Ella Hitchins said: "Our location and positioning within Cabot Circus is key for our brand as it provides our customers with easy access, plenty of parking spaces, in a premium location with excellent dining contained within a scenic square."

North Face's manager for the UK and Ireland, Andrew Barker, said the company was looking to expand.

Mr Barker, 32, a keen skier and climber, said: "We have been looking at major UK cities that have new developments such as Cabot Circus. It was an obvious choice for us."

**Bristol is top of the shops Evening Post (extract) - 23rd March**

Bristol is now the best shopping destination in the South West.

The city came twelfth in the UK's league table of places people like to go shopping.

A survey was carried out by Venuescore which charts the rapidly changing face of Britain's shopping centres.

Bristol was placed at 27 last year but since the opening of Cabot Circus the city has jumped 15 places in the league table.

Bristol's overall score of 368 points means it has been classed as South West's best shopping destination ahead of Cheltenham, Plymouth and Bath, which scored 284 (rank 27), 275 (rank 28) and 266 (rank 30) respectively.

**Sign up to 'green' pledge - and boost your business**

**Bristol City Council Press Release - 20th March**

Businesses across Bristol can win new customers, reduce their own costs and make themselves more resilient to the current economic downturn by embracing 'green' policies and programmes.

And one way they can send out a powerful message to their customers and staff about their commitment to environmental issues, is by signing up to the Bristol Partnership's Green Capital Pledge. The aim is for Bristol's business community to help



the city achieve a low carbon future which will see a 60% cut by 2050 compared with the level of emissions in 2000.

[www.bristolpartnership.org/progress/activity/green-capital/pledge](http://www.bristolpartnership.org/progress/activity/green-capital/pledge)

**Welcome for think tank's report on city's future development**

**Bristol City Council Press Release (extract) - 19th March**

Bristol City Council has welcomed a report from the independent urban policy researchers Centre for Cities that backs the council's inclusive approach to sustainable future growth and development.

The report, Inclusive Growth in Bristol, is authored by researcher Catherine Glossop. It underlines the importance of Bristol planning today for future housing and employment growth - and the critical importance of ensuring city residents are 'skilled up' to get into work so everyone can benefit from the future upswing after the recession passes.

Bristol, with an above average employment rate of 76.7%, has maintained a strong economy over the past decade, outperforming all other major English cities outside London, says the report

Councillor Barbara Janke, Leader of Bristol City Council, said: "I welcome the findings of the report which underlines the stance that the new council Cabinet has always taken.

" With its partners in the West of England, the city council is determined to ensure that future major developments deliver mixed and sustainable communities – integrating employment and jobs with affordable new homes, public facilities, education and training opportunities, well planned open spaces and effective public transport.

"This report confirms what we have understood for some time and underlines the importance of the work already underway here and across the sub region to up our game when it comes to effective integrated planning for future housing and employment growth and skills development. We welcome the additional research from Centre for the Cities, which will help inform our future consideration of these complex and important issues."

**New landmark offices for site on Bristol Downs**

**Evening Post - 19th March**

This is the public's first look at a new building that will occupy a prominent site overlooking the Downs in Clifton.

Redland House will be built on a site in Westbury Road that until two years ago was occupied by NatWest.

In the same way as the new Radisson hotel was built around the shell of the former Bristol & West tower in the city centre, the frame of the current building will be retained and bigger premises built around and out from it.

The new building, like its concrete 1960s predecessor, will be six storeys high and feature 45 underground parking spaces. The amount of office space will more than double from 25,734 sq ft to more than 60,000 sq ft.

Planning consent has already been granted by Bristol City Council for the building.

Sales agents King Sturge describe it as "a landmark, headquarter office development in a unique Clifton location, adjacent to the green, open natural environment that is the Clifton Downs, whilst at the same time fronting the urban area that is the expanding and developing city of Bristol".

**Science Minister launches Bloodhound@University**

**UWE Press Release (extract) - 10th March**

Lord Drayson, Minister of State for Science and Innovation will visit the University of the West of England on Wednesday 11 March to launch Bloodhound@University – a new online resource for young engineers to get involved with the development of the Bloodhound supersonic car.

He will tour the Bloodhound Project at UWE which will showcase the engine and a mock up of the car that aims to break the world land speed record and achieve 1,000 mph.

The Bloodhound engineering team have developed the Bloodhound@University site to share a range of data and enable the Project to be integrated into engineering education.



Commenting on Bloodhound@University initiative, Lord Drayson said:

“This web resource offers huge potential for both students and universities to get involved in this exciting project. It offers a great educational resource and a unique real-life project for engineering students to get to grips with.

“Unlike most cutting-edge engineering science projects with industry, where there is secrecy around detailed technical information – the data about Bloodhound is available to all. Few if any students would have the opportunity to work on a supersonic car as part of their university curriculum, but what better way to inspire young engineers?”

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[www.investinbristol.com](http://www.investinbristol.com)

