



## **Dobbies granted planning permission for new store at Reading**

Dobbies, the UK's leading garden centre retailer, today (Friday 13 May) announces it has been granted planning permission to build a new 60,000 sq ft store in Reading. The retailer currently has a store at Hyde End Road, Shinfield, and the new store will be built on the land behind the existing store.

The current store will remain trading for the majority of the build. The existing site will become a car park with EV charging facilities and the entrance from Hyde End Road will be improved for access.

The new store will offer an outstanding garden centre experience for customers, with a comprehensive range of plants and gardening products, as well as carefully curated home, pet and gifting ranges. There will also be a foodhall with butcher and 10,000 sq ft restaurant with soft play.

Graeme Jenkins, CEO at Dobbies, said: "Reading is already a popular store and we are delighted to be able to offer our customers an even better experience in our new store."

Construction works will start later this year, with the new store expected to open in Autumn 2023.

**-ENDS-**

### **Notes to editors**

#### **About Dobbies**

- Dobbies was founded in 1865 by James Dobbie and is headquartered near Edinburgh.
- It is the UK's largest garden centre retailer, with 74 stores, having bought 37 stores in 2019.
- The company employs around 4000 team members.
- It is privately owned by Midlothian Capital Partners Limited and Hattington Capital LLP.
- EBITDA for 2020-2021 was £37m.