

Q&A for Bolton Bus Station Public Consultation

Useful information

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An exhibition will be available in Moor Lane Travelshop between **25th January and 5th March 2010**

The exhibition will be staffed by representatives from GMPTE and Bolton Council on the **4th and 9th February 2010 between 12 – 7pm**

Facility related questions

Q: What facilities will the bus station have?

The design and layout have not yet been finalised and the one shown in the leaflet is for illustrative purposes only. However, based on other recently built bus stations, typical facilities will include;

- A GMPTE Travelshop;
- High quality accessible toilets and waiting areas;
- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV);
- Clear and concise electronic passenger information;
- Better retail and café facilities;
- Changing Places facility
- Shopmobility;
- Cycle parking facilities; and
- High quality and natural lighting.

If you have any further comments on the proposed facilities please complete the consultation leaflet which is available at Moor Lane Travelshop. It is also available online.

Q: What will make the bus station safe and secure?

The proposed bus station will have enhanced CCTV provision and will be designed in a way to make passengers feel safe while using the facility during the hours of operation. This will include a lighting scheme that uses both natural and artificial lighting and having improved passenger surveillance. The station will also be staffed during the hours of operation.

Q: Will there be a car park?

There are currently no plans to have a car park within the development as there are good public transport links to the proposed site. Also, Bolton Council is currently reviewing car parking in the vicinity of the proposed bus station as part of the wider town centre car parking strategy.

Q: What is a Changing Places facility?

It is an accessible public toilet that is large enough for disabled people and their carers to use. It also contains suitable equipment, including a height adjustable changing bench and a hoist.

Q: What is a Shopmobility facility?

It is a scooter and wheelchair hire facility for disabled people when shopping in the town. The facility at the proposed bus station is intended to be a secondary facility within the town centre to support the main Shopmobility premise located at Topp Way car park.

Q: Where will the pedestrian bridge go to and from?

There will be a direct pedestrian link bridge from the bus station to the train station entrance on Newport Street to make transferring between different modes easier for passengers.

Q: What does fully accessible mean?

The facilities at the bus station will be accessible and the design of the station will meet, as a minimum, best practice guidance to ensure it is compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Letter related questions

Q: Will I have to sell my property/business even if I don't want to?

In order to progress these proposals a number of properties will need to be acquired by Bolton Council and the businesses operating from those properties relocated. It is hoped that the Council will be able to acquire the land needed for the development by agreement with owners and occupiers but if not then Bolton Council will consider promoting a Compulsory Purchase Order to secure ownership of the land required. Bolton Council will, through its Business Bolton Team, offer support in identifying alternative premises within the town centre.

All enquiries regarding land and regeneration queries should be directed to Christine Ellis, Bolton Council, by calling 01204 336122.

Q: Will the day to day running of the proposed bus station have an impact on my house/business?

All stakeholder needs and concerns will be considered throughout the design stage to try to reduce any potential problems that may arise from the development both during and after construction.

Location related queries

Q: Why is the bus station moving?

The new bus station will be closer to the train station allowing better connections between bus and rail services. The relocation of the facility will allow a modern high quality interchange to be constructed within the town

centre whilst maximising opportunities for regeneration within the town centre in the future.

The relocation of the bus station is also a key element of Bolton Council's Innovation Zone regeneration initiative which will see the town centre further enhanced. It is also anticipated that the facility will act as a catalyst for further regeneration in the Trinity area of Central Bolton and act as an attractive gateway into the town centre.

Q: What will happen to the market if the bus station moves?

All decisions as to the future of the market will be made by Bolton Council, not GMPTC. The council is currently working up a long-term plan for the future development of the market and, over the next few months, will be investigating a number of options. If you would like more information, please contact Christine Ellis at Bolton Council on 01204 336122.

Q: I have a premise/retail unit at Moor Lane bus station, what will happen to it?

The existing leases at Bolton Moor Lane will be brought to an end with the tenant being served the required notice. The tenants will be able to submit a tender for the newly created retail units at the new facility. Each tender will be judged on its merits and considered with all other tenders received.

Process related queries

Q: When will Moor Lane be closed?

Moor Lane Bus Station will continue to operate until the new bus station is built and is fully operational. If the planning applications are successful it is hoped that construction will begin in 2012 and be completed by the end of 2014.

Q: What will outline planning permission mean for this scheme?

Outline planning permission will be sought from Bolton Council in its capacity as the Local Planning Authority in the form of a planning application. The application will seek to approve the principles of relocating the bus station and other key elements of the scheme which include commercial development opportunities. Any design plans submitted during the outline planning stage are for illustrative purposes only.

Q: What will full planning permission mean for this scheme?

If the principles of relocating the bus station are agreed, the next step will be to develop the plans/proposals for the new bus station taking on board stakeholder views from this consultation. The final design and layout will then be subject to further public consultation.

Q: What will happen to the existing site at Moor Lane?

Within the Development Prospectus for the Innovation Zone, Bolton Council has identified the Moor Lane site as a potential development opportunity capable of offering family-focused uses to enhance the existing Cultural

Quarter within the zone. If you require further information, please contact Christine Ellis at Bolton Council on 01204 336122.

Miscellaneous queries

Q: How much is the new bus station going to cost

The scheme will be financed through the Greater Manchester Transport Fund and delivered by GMPTE, who will be working in close partnership with Bolton Council. It is estimated that, in total, the development will cost around £48 Million in accordance with the AGMA report dated 8th May 2009.

Q: What is an interchange?

A transport interchange is the name given to a specific area where two or more modes of public transport interface to make travelling easier and more convenient for passengers. In this instance the development will bring together the bus and rail networks.

Q: Are any improvements planned for Bolton Train Station as part of the bus station developments?

Work is being carried out independently as part of the National Station Improvement Programme (NSIP) and is due to start in spring 2010. At street level improvement work includes the refurbishment of the booking hall area and ticket office.

At platform level improvements include:

- Additional waiting canopies and shelters
- New Electronic Customer Information Screens, closed Circuit Television and Public Address equipment;
- New fully accessible toilets on all platforms;
- Refurbishment of passenger waiting rooms;
- Redecoration;
- New clocks, seating and litter bins;
- Lighting enhancements;
- New cycle stands;
- External improvements to cafeteria facilities; and
- Improvements to platform surfacing and drainage.

The new bus station proposals are not due to start on site until mid 2012.

Q: What will be happening to the existing bus facilities outside of the railway station, the car drop-off and disabled access facilities?

Bus provision outside of the train station will be retained along with the existing taxi ranks, car drop off/pick up points and disabled access. Some minor modifications may be required as part of the scheme.