

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	27 March 2019
Executive Member/Reporting Officer:	Councillor Warren Bray – Executive Member (Strategic Development and Transport) Jayne Traverse – Director (Growth)
Subject:	TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE UPDATE
Report Summary:	To provide an update on progress in respect of the new Transport Interchange and associated works.
Recommendations:	Executive Cabinet are asked to:: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge progress on the Interchange Construction Project • Approve the name of the Interchange as Ashton-under-Lyne.
Corporate Plan:	The wider initiative supports economic growth and opportunity across the borough area
Policy Implications:	The Vision Tameside initiative underpins a number policies both at a local and wider Greater Manchester level in investing in the regeneration of a major Greater Manchester District Centre
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	This report provides an update on the naming of the scheme. A detailed report on the proposed next stage of the scheme is in development. It is important that the next report references this report and that consistency is maintained.
Risk Management:	There are no risks associated with this report
Background Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting



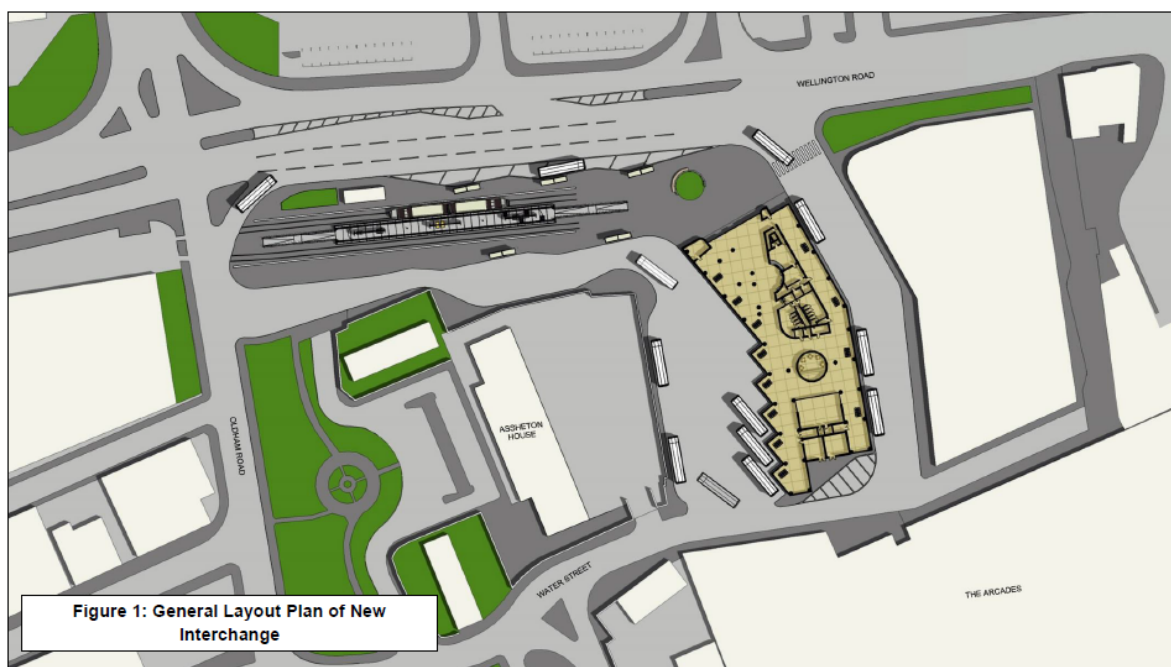
Telephone: 0161 342 3920



e-mail: nigel.gilmore@tameside.gov.uk

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The 2014 Greater Manchester Growth Deal set out a multi-million pound investment programme for the wider conurbation and included funding to construct a new interchange in Ashton Town Centre. Planning permission for the initiative was secured in October 2016 and construction commenced in June 2018.
- 1.2 The new interchange forms part of the wider Vision Tameside initiative for the borough, a flagship development aiming to provide much needed economic growth and investment especially for the Borough's young people. As well as the interchange the Vision includes a new 7,000m² Advanced Skills Centre for Tameside College, a new Joint Public Service Centre for Tameside Council and its partners and retail space for Wilko Retail Ltd.
- 1.3 As part of the interchange design process, Tameside officers worked closely with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and its consultants to ensure a local perspective was included on the finished product to align to the town's wider palette of materials.
- 1.4 As has previously been reported to Members, the footprint of the new interchange has moved to the western edge of the current facility and includes an area of land previously owned by the Ministry of Justice. The majority of stands will operate from a single concourse building with a small number located either side of the existing tram stop, creating a truly integrated facility between bus and Metrolink.



2.0 INTERCHANGE UPDATE AND NAMING

- 2.1 Work on the interchange is progressing well and is on programme for an opening date of spring 2020. As well as ongoing existing groundworks, steelwork can visibly be seen forming the nucleus of the main building and associated bus shelters.
- 2.2 In order to maintain existing bus services during the construction period, bus stop facilities continue to be provided within the existing bus station site with additional temporary stops on Gas Street and Katherine Street.

- 2.3 To reinforce the region's confidence in the Vision Tameside Initiative and the importance of the new transport interchange, Metrolink began a six minute tram service to Ashton on 28 January 2019 with an initial low key launch to prove the robustness of increased service levels. Supplementing the existing Eccles service, alternate trams now run to Media City. Both services run via Market Street and St Peter's Square. Tameside officers are working closely TfGM monitoring the effects of traffic flows and congestion along the tram route within the borough.
- 2.4 Over time, with a new shared service centre nearing completion, new educational facilities to be imminently occupied and proposed wider public realm enhancements it is clear that Ashton is becoming a major force as a retail, administrative and commercial centre for the whole east Manchester area. To underpin this message it is intended that the interchange will be known as **Ashton-under-Lyne Interchange**.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The new Interchange forms part of a substantial investment package for the whole of Ashton. By the time of the Interchange opening in spring 2020 and in combination of other works within the Vision Tameside initiative, the benefits of greater economic and educational improvements will begin to be felt more widely through the town area and is to be welcomed to contributing to the wider economic regeneration of the borough.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The recommendations are set out at the front of the report.