

# FOR KEEPING PLYMOUTH ON THE MOVE

## Pledge 14 – Support the development of the gateway project at Plymouth Train Station

**What we said we would do:** Working with Network Rail, Plymouth University, Great Western Railway (GWR) and Government partners, we will support the development of the new gateway project at Plymouth Train Station. This will include plans for a grand new entrance overlooking the city, a new car park and more spaces for business and retail.

**What we wanted to achieve:** We recognised that the successful regeneration of the city's train station and the area around it could only be achieved if we worked with Network Rail, GWR and the University of Plymouth. Each of these parties have an important stake in the project and a critical role to play in its delivery. We therefore wanted to set up an effective governance structure for the project that would help all of the parties to work together. We also needed to agree to a number of property deals that would release land for development, and we needed to secure internal and external funding to ensure that the project is financially viable.

**What we have done:** We have set up a governance structure, which has ensured that the key stakeholders have remain engaged and have understood what is required to deliver the project, including a quarterly Steering Board and a monthly Executive Group. In July 2019 we carried out public consultation on a draft masterplan for the site and this has been incorporated within a formal Site Planning Statement, published by the Local Planning Authority. The masterplan includes the refurbishment of InterCity House by the University of Plymouth to provide a new teaching facility, improvements to the station concourse, a multi-storey car park, public realm improvements, a hotel, a new pedestrian link to the city centre, and a second university building. On 31 July 2020 the University of Plymouth completed a long lease of InterCity House, having already obtained planning consent for its change of use. At the same time Plymouth City Council exchanged contracts with Network Rail on a series of land deals that will see the release of land to the east of InterCity House for the construction of a new multi-storey car park. When that is completed Network Rail will transfer the existing car park to the Council for demolition and redevelopment. We have also secured the provision of funding for the project including £4.79m from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership; £500,000 from Cornwall Council and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership; £2.7m from the Department of Transport's Transforming Cities Fund; and over £20m from Plymouth City Council. This funding has already helped to relocate services within the station so that InterCity House could be emptied prior to the University taking it over. Work has also started on the relocation of GWR's driver training simulator and improvements to the station concourse.

**What's next:** GWR will complete the relocation of the driver training simulators later in 2020 and will continue the concourse improvement works, the final phase of which are expected to be finished in early 2022. GWR will also be providing a new building for its staff accommodation. The University of Plymouth will refurbish InterCity House and open it to students in September 2022. Meanwhile, Plymouth City Council will progress designs for improvements to the public realm and a new multi-storey car park so that work on these can start in late 2022. The Council will also continue its delivery of public realm improvements at North Cross to improve the link between the station and the city centre, including new planting, artwork and signage. The existing car park will be demolished in late 2024 in order to make way for a new hotel, pedestrian link and university building.

### Find out more!

Here are some news stories about our work to deliver the pledge:

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/plymouth-railway-station-look-like/>

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/plans-create-new-gateway-plymouth-railway-station-set-green-light/>

