

Translink welcomes planning approval for Belfast Transport Hub

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Translink has welcomed the announcement from the Department for Infrastructure that planning permission has been granted for the new Belfast Transport Hub.

This transport led regeneration project is one of the NI Executive Flagship Projects and a key element in delivering the outcomes of the draft Programme for Government. It will be a key driver of economic growth and prosperity for Belfast and Northern Ireland.

The new station will include an integrated transport interchange comprising; station concourse, 26 bus stands, 8 railway platforms, bus maintenance and parking, track and signalling enhancements, bus access bridge, cycle and taxi provision, car parking, new public square, public realm improvements, highway improvements, infrastructure improvements, temporary structures for bus operations during construction and temporary site construction compounds.

Following the Department's announcement earlier today, Translink Group Chief Executive, Chris Conway said,

"We welcome today's announcement, the scheme which will take around 5 years to complete is a further milestone in the transformation of public transport in Northern Ireland. It is hugely important as the main transport gateway, with rail, coach and bus connections to all parts of Northern Ireland and beyond.

"It will provide over 400 direct jobs during construction as well as additional longer term investment and

job opportunities”.

“As a catalyst for the regeneration of the local area, the plans will play a key role in positioning Belfast as a modern, confident and progressive city supporting the City Councils Belfast Agenda.

“We have seen strong passenger growth in recent years with a record 81 million passenger journeys last year, the highest in 20 years. This modern, innovative Transport Hub will allow us to build on this success, to meet growing customer demand, increase transport connectivity and enhance the customer experience as even more people choose to use public transport.

“There is widespread support across the local community, businesses, city stakeholders and political parties, and we are delighted that this project has been given the green light.

“We look forward to getting this ‘transport led regeneration’ project underway, in order to meet the future needs of commuters, visitors and residents in Northern Ireland. We will continue to work with all our stakeholders as the development progresses”, Chris concluded.

Integrated Design Team

The impressive multi-million-pound facility is being designed by leading architectural practice John McAslan + Partners with Arup.

John McAslan, Chairman of John McAslan + Partners said, “This major development of an integrated bus and rail transport facility will form a key gateway into Belfast’s city centre. Our proposal improves permeability across the site, integrates the new station with the existing city grain and creates new civic spaces – a high quality urban realm befitting this progressive and ambitious city.”

Chris Caves, Infrastructure Director from the local design team Arup Belfast said, “Staff at Arup’s 100-strong Belfast office feel honoured to have contributed their expertise to this transformative development for Northern Ireland. Our global experience has taught us the importance of cities and regions investing in high-quality public transport infrastructure to drive inclusive growth.”