

Carlisle Station Gateway

Public Consultation: Wednesday 22 September - Wednesday 3 November 2021

Cumbria County Council in partnership with Carlisle City Council, Network Rail and Avanti West Coast has secured £20 million of funding through the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal for improvements to Carlisle Railway Station. This will strengthen Carlisle's position in the national rail network, improving connectivity to, from and within the Borderlands region and future-proof the station for accommodating future HS2 services.

Following previous consultations (September - October 2019 and January 2020 - February 2020) we have agreed the station objectives and identified the key improvements as:

- ❖ **Court Square** - Partial pedestrianisation of Court Square and improved pedestrian connections to and from the station.
- ❖ **Station Interior** - Enhancements to the Court Square access, improved facilities for customers and an upgraded and welcoming entrance from George Square.
- ❖ **George Square (station entrance from James Street)** - Public car parking being relocated to George Square to reduce the vehicular traffic at Court Square together with drop-off and bus replacement services.
- ❖ **Sustainable Transport and Junction Improvements** - A focus on improving pedestrian and cycle connectivity.

We have prepared initial designs of the improvements set out above and we would like to hear your views. This is the opportunity for you to have your say and influence our proposals before we seek formal approvals and consents.





Artist impression: Court Square.

Background

Carlisle is a city with a district population of more than 108,000 and attracts people from across the Borderlands region and beyond. It acts as a regional hub for leisure, retail, employment and education for 1.1 million people, as well as businesses across the Borderlands. Its location on the M6 and on many significant railway lines allows the city to act as a strategic gateway to the wider Borderlands region. Carlisle Railway Station, located in the city centre, is a key part of the national rail network. It accommodates more than two million passengers every year and acts as a major interchange for the entire Borderlands region providing access to branch-line services from the West Coast Mainline to the Cumbrian Coast, Tyne Valley, Settle to Carlisle, Glasgow, Edinburgh and South Western lines.

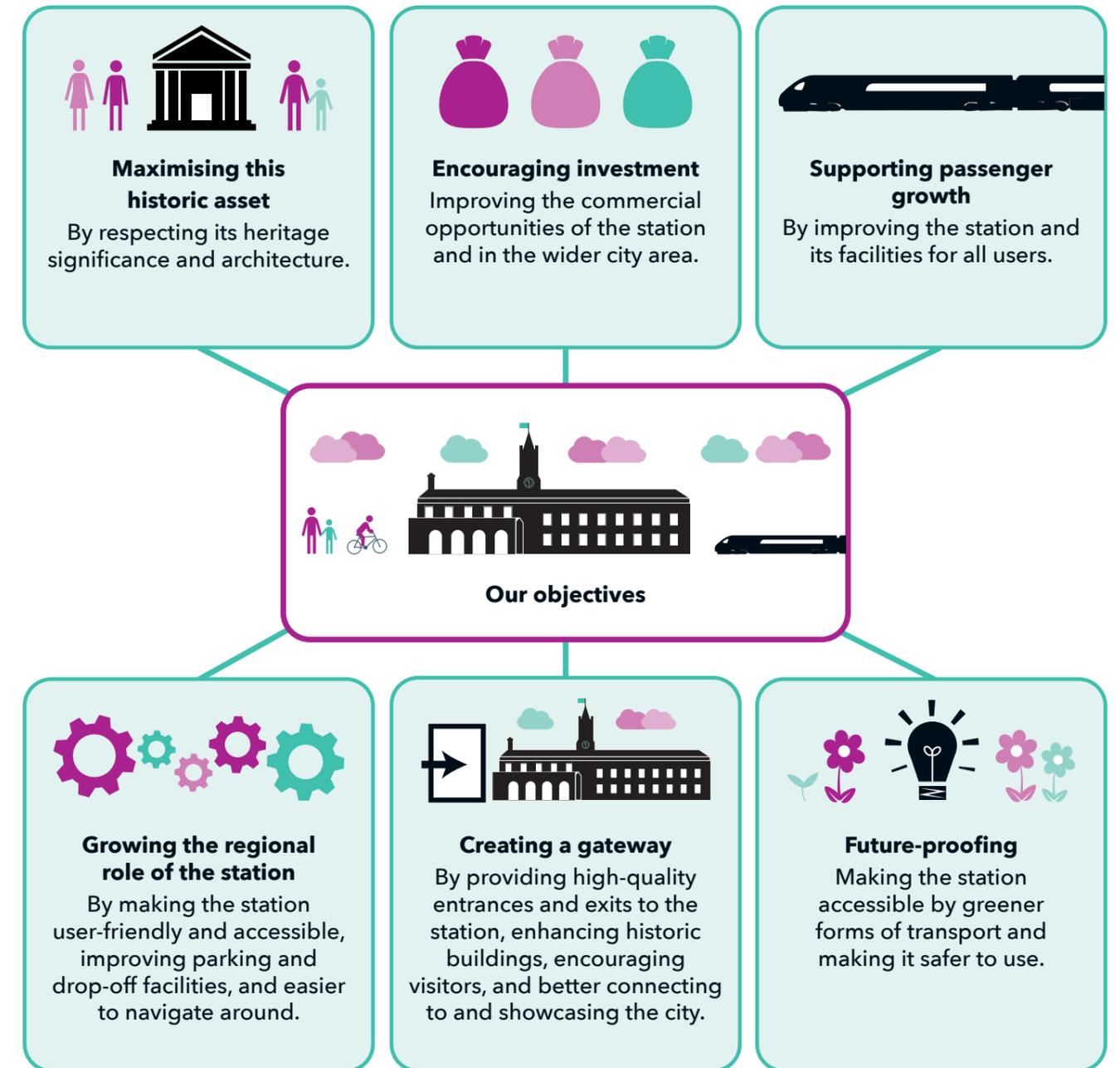
We plan to improve connectivity and access for Carlisle and the Borderlands. By improving access, shops and cafés, facilities and onward travel options at Carlisle Railway Station, it will boost the appeal of the city centre and support passenger growth.

The Station Gateway project is at the heart of this wider transformation of Carlisle City Centre taking place over the next five years, ensuring Carlisle reaches its full potential as the hub of the Borderlands area. £100 million of investment has been secured for Carlisle, providing funding to:

- ❖ Redevelop the Citadels buildings for a new University of Cumbria campus in the city centre.
- ❖ Transform vacant and unused sites, such as the former Central Plaza, Caldew Riverside and 6-24 Castle Street.
- ❖ Invest in culture, through Project Tullie and the Lighting Up Carlisle project.
- ❖ Re-invigorate key public sites and buildings, including Market Square, the Market Hall, and Bitts Park.
- ❖ Improving public realm to enhance Botchergate and English Street.
- ❖ Improve active travel and pedestrian routes around the city.
- ❖ Create better digital facilities for local businesses and communities alike, through the Citadels Business Infrastructure and Digital and Community Learning Hub projects.

Our Objectives

We have set the following objectives for the Station redevelopment, which were supported by the public at our initial consultation in autumn 2019.



You said - We listened

In our consultation early in 2020, you provided us with some useful feedback on our proposals. We have listened and tried to incorporate a number of your comments in our latest designs. A summary of the feedback is as follows:

You said	We are listening
Removing vehicles from Court Square will help to reduce pedestrian/vehicle conflict.	We have significantly reduced vehicle access onto Court Square.
The relocation of the drop-off spaces needs more consideration.	Drop off spaces are being proposed at the George Square entrance to the station with extra disability spaces being proposed. Disability bays are also proposed at the Court Square station entrance.
Facilities provided at George Square should be similar to those currently provided at Court Square.	This is reflected in the current design of George Square facilities which include: car parking, pedestrian access, disability bays, cycle parking, rail replacement, changes to ticket buying facilities and more.
Improve access to the station's undercroft areas.	Sections of the undercroft will be opened up to the public and a new staircase will be installed to facilitate access from the undercroft onto Platform One.
Extra car parking at George Square would be beneficial.	We will be significantly increasing and improving car parking facilities at George Square.
Emphasis is required for sustainable transport options at the station.	The scheme will see improvements aligned to catering for more sustainable travel options to connect to the station. This will include cycle provision and general access/junction enhancements, making it easier for cyclists and pedestrians to travel to the station. We are also proposing electric charging points for cars/bikes.
George Square needs to be considerate of the setting of the Turkish Baths.	The Turkish Baths building will be retained once the current swimming pools are demolished. Our designs at George Square will improve the setting of the Turkish Baths. We will be working closely with Historic England and local planning authorities.
Proposals to relocate the rail replacement buses onto Botchergate or English Street would displace the issues caused on Court Square.	City centre bus services will continue to stop on Botchergate and English Street. Rail replacement buses will be relocated to George Square. Junction improvements will be undertaken to enable coaches and cars to more easily access facilities at George Square.

Our Latest Designs for Carlisle Railway Station

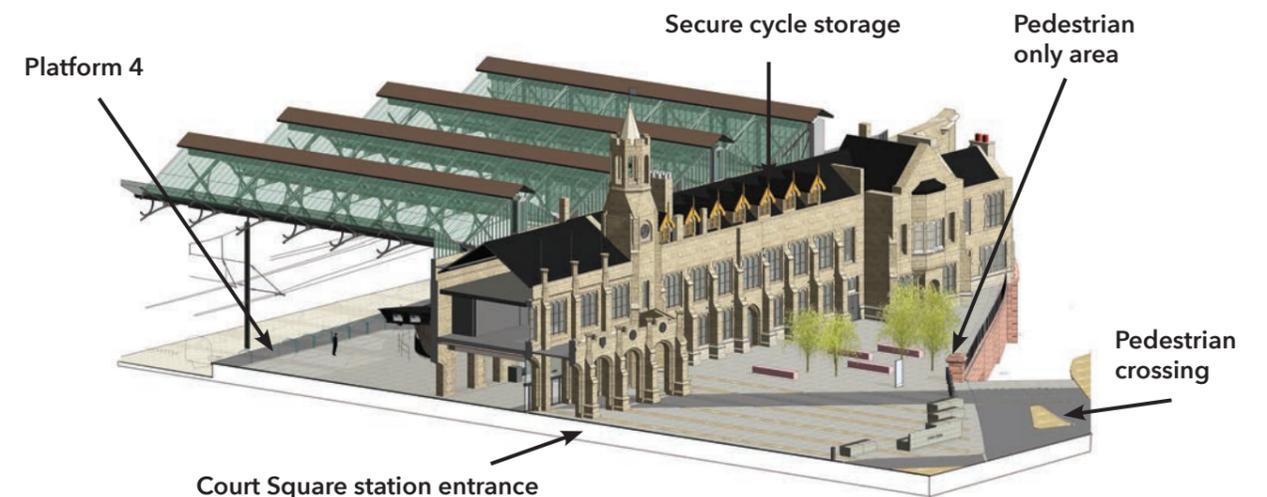
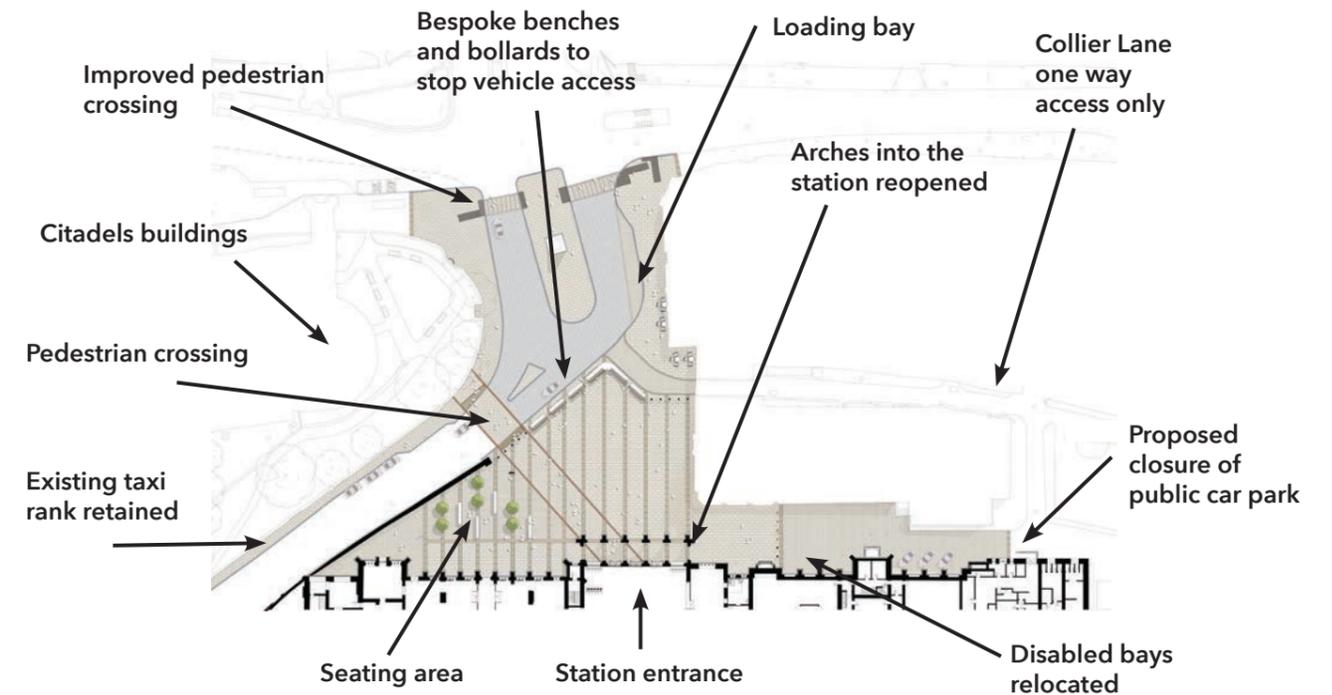
By improving the Railway Station and its facilities, we want to encourage visitors to come again, help young people to stay, make the station work better for the public, and stimulate investment in Carlisle.

We would like your views and input into our latest designs. Your insight as customers, neighbours and residents of the area of the station will be invaluable to help us ensure we design the right scheme for Carlisle Railway Station.

The station project has been divided into four sub-areas for the purposes of consultation.

Court Square

This scheme includes partial pedestrianisation of Court Square and a substantial reduction in traffic at the station entrance. High quality materials and design will complement the adjacent Citadels, enhance the appearance and functionality of the station entrance, with improved pedestrian connections to and from the station.



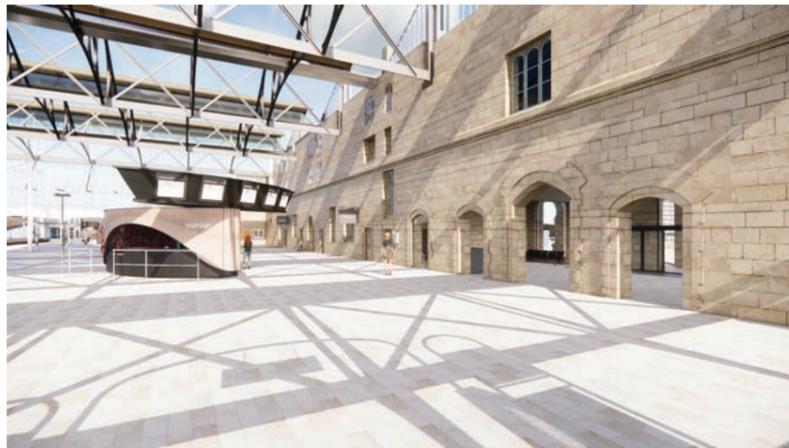
Station Interior

This includes enhancements to the Court Square access, improved facilities for customers and an upgraded and welcoming entrance from George Square. To complement Cumbria County Council's investment, as part its rail franchise agreement, Avanti West Coast, will deliver a new changing spaces facility, improvements to waiting rooms at Carlisle, installation of a new secure cycle facility, an enhanced retail offer, Automatic Number Plate Recognition in the Avanti West Coast managed car park area, installation of a building management system, improvements to lighting (LED) and a regional training centre located at the station.

Network Rail will also be investing funding to upgrade platforms at Carlisle Railway Station over the next three years.



Artist impression:
Court Square Station
Entrance with arches
reopened. Crests refurbished.



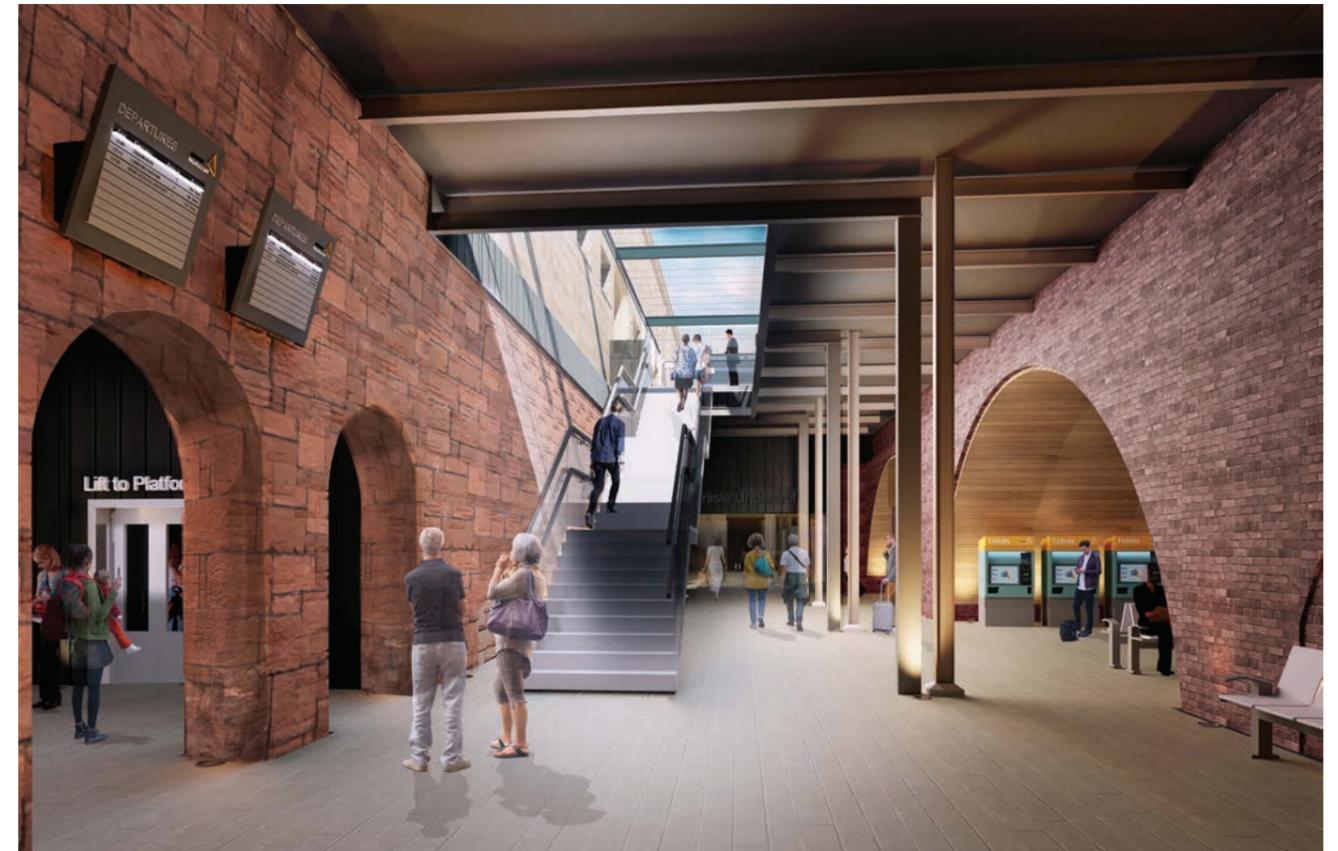
Artist impression:
Upgraded concourse area.
Arches reopened from
existing booking hall.
Optional pod for ticketing
and retail to be determined.



Artist impression: Staircase
to the new George Square
entrance from Platform 1.



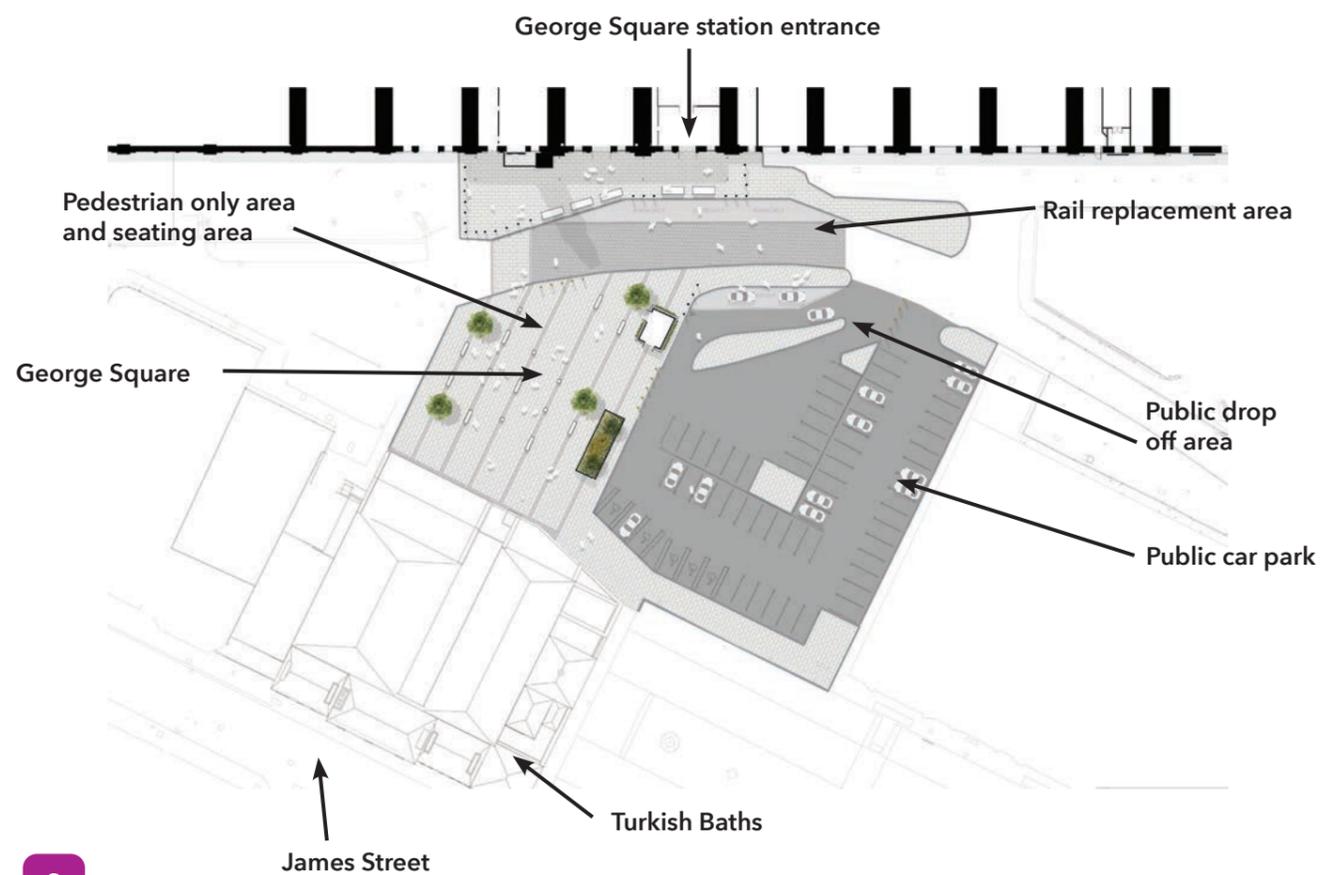
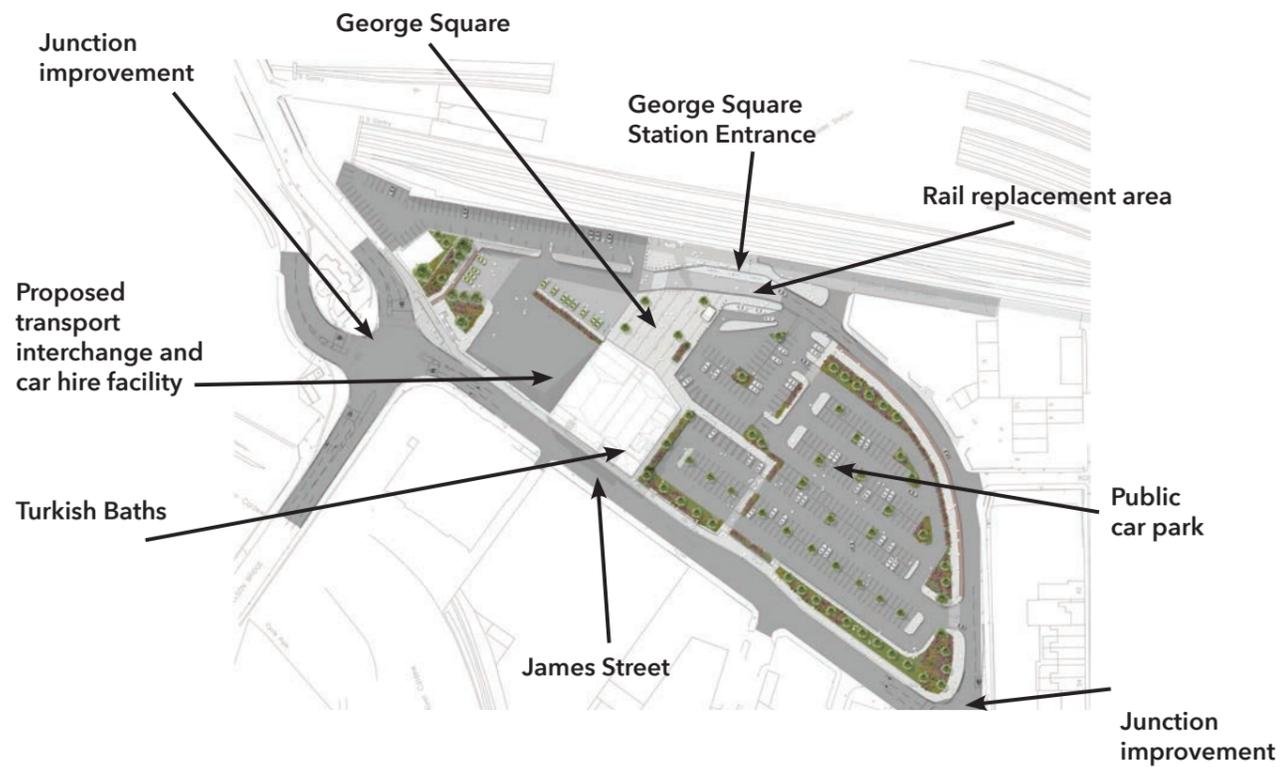
Artist impression: View onto the proposed concourse.



Artist impression: New George Square entrance with stair
up to Platform 1, Ticketing facilities and access to the existing lift.

George Square Enhancements

The proposals include public car parking being relocated to George Square to reduce the vehicular traffic at Court Square together with drop-off and bus replacement services. This will create just over 400 station car parking spaces, including disabled, staff and electric vehicle charging points (currently there are 244 station spaces).



Artist impression: George Square entrance to Carlisle Station.



Artist impression: George Square entrance to Carlisle Station.

Sustainable Transport and Junction Improvements

With all the proposed improvements to Carlisle Railway Station, it is essential that access to and from the station is also improved and that more people use the train to travel as a result of this investment. A key aim of the scheme is to encourage people to travel by less or non-polluting modes of transport for all elements of their journey. This supports wider UK policy to reduce carbon emissions to a net zero target by 2050.

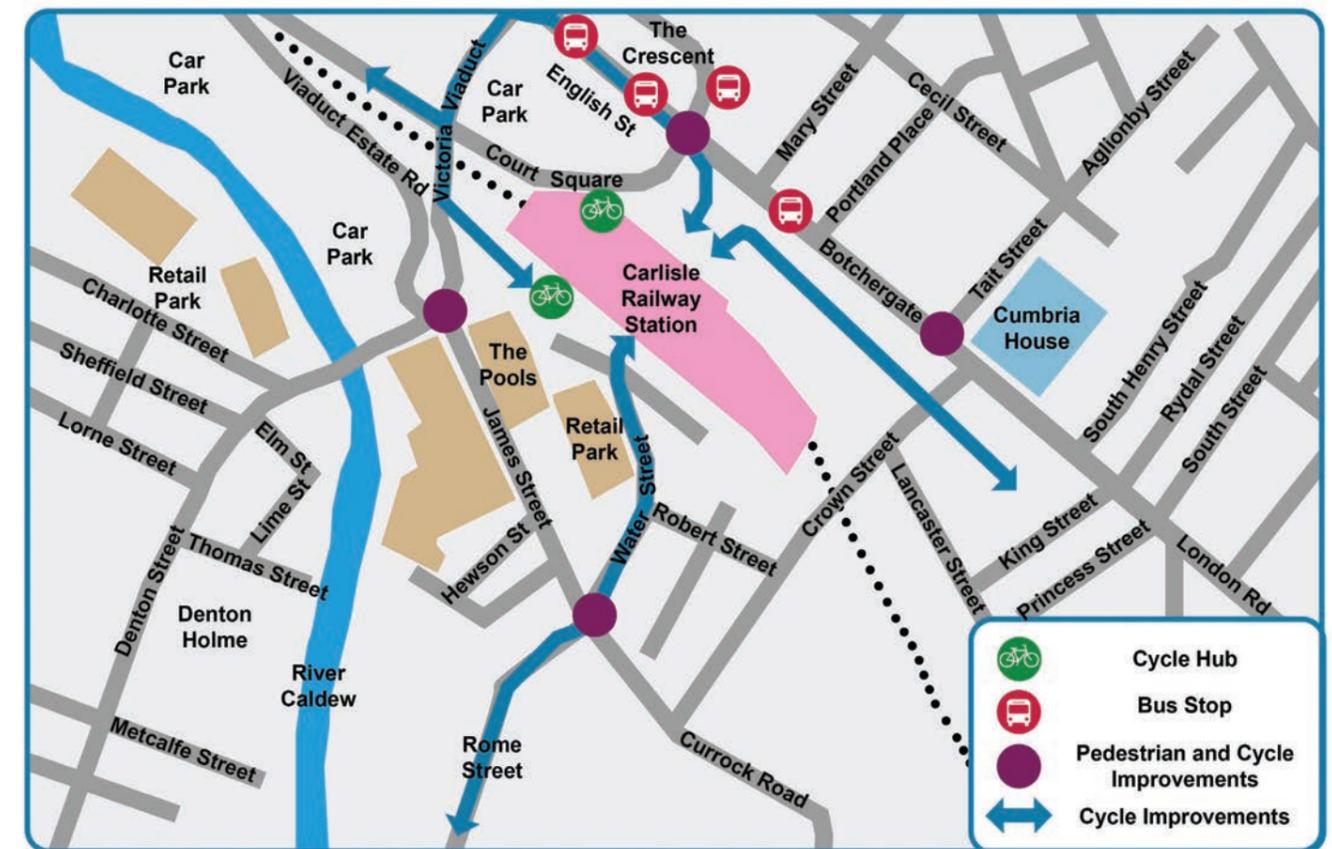
- ❖ **Cycle hubs** - Working with the station operator, two new cycle hubs are proposed. Avanti West Coast plan to build a complementary cycle storage on the platform in the short-term ahead of a bigger cycle hub at the new George Square. It will provide secure and sheltered bike storage in one of the station arches by the new entrance, with other new facilities planned to assist people cycling to the station.



- ❖ **Encouraging more people to use train** - This scheme will make it easier to get to the station, park if you need to, and get into the station from either Court Square or the new entrance of George Square. Facilities will be modernised, and your experience waiting for a train will be improved.
- ❖ **Cycle and pedestrian links to station** - We will be soon consulting with the public to prioritise walking and cycling route improvements across the city centre, connecting the Cycle storage with the wider pedestrian and cycle network and allowing cyclists and pedestrians to easily access the station. If more people use trains instead of their cars as a result of this scheme, there will also be less traffic on Carlisle's roads, making it safer to cycle.
- ❖ **Junction Improvements** - Improvements at Victoria Viaduct/James Street, Water Street, Crown Street, Botchergate and Court Square Brow are currently being designed with a focus on improving pedestrian and cycle connectivity. We will be consulting on the detail of these improvements separately later in the year.
- ❖ **Electric Vehicle Charging Points** - We want to encourage sustainable travel but also future-proof our scheme. Now the Government are fast-forwarding plans for the country to start switching to electric vehicles, we will make sure our scheme is planned for the long-term by providing electric vehicle charging points in the new car parks so you can charge your car while travelling by rail, ready to drive home again afterwards.
- ❖ **Public Transport** - Improvements to Court Square and associated pedestrian improvements at junctions will make access to bus stops on English Street and the Crescent from the station easier and clearer.



Electric Vehicle Charging Point.



Carlisle city centre sustainable transport and junction improvements.
Map not to scale.

Next Steps

Your views on the design options for the station will be used to inform plans as they are developed for approvals and consents. Following the consultation we will publish a feedback report. This will summarise the public views on the scheme design and how this will be used to inform the project development.

Following this consultation, we will:

- ✦ Analyse your responses and summarise in a short report.
- ✦ Undertake further design work on the project and seek consents from statutory bodies.
- ✦ Prepare planning applications to the Local Planning Authorities.
- ✦ Prepare variations to the Traffic Regulation Orders.
- ✦ Continue to work with partners to coordinate the range of work planned in the local area.



How can I find out more?

You can respond to the consultation in a number of ways:

Online

Have your say at cumbria.gov.uk/CSGC between **Wednesday 22 September 2021** and **Wednesday 3 November 2021**.

Attend the public consultation events

For details on consultation events please visit cumbria.gov.uk/CSGC

A display will also be in place throughout the consultation in Carlisle Railway Station.