

News

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Green light for second phase of South Shields 365



The next phase of the ambitious South Shields 365 project is set to get underway following the granting of planning permission for a new Transport Interchange.

The application from South Tyneside Council, its development partner Muse Developments and Nexus was given the green light at the latest planning committee.

The decision means that the current metro station will be demolished and in its place a new “landmark” building will be constructed to house both the metro and bus concourse.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Iain Malcolm said: “The development of a new Transport Interchange is a core element of our ambitious 365 South Shields masterplan. One of the key aims of that plan is to harness regeneration success to increase footfall in other parts of the town. This Interchange is a vital step towards this objective which will provide a better visitor experience and encourage people to stay longer in the town which will ultimately boost expenditure in the Borough.

“The suggested design is a landmark piece of architecture which will reflect and enhance the surrounding area and provide an attractive gateway to the town and improve the sense of arrival in the town centre.”

Tobyn Hughes, Managing Director of Nexus, said: “Bus and Metro passengers can look forward to a brighter, better and more comfortable environment once the interchange is built, which we believe will help attract more people to South Shields for shopping and leisure.

“We have worked hard with South Tyneside Council to develop and fund this new asset for South Shields, using money from the Metro: all change modernisation plan.”

Situated at the heart of the town, the new Transport Interchange will provide a striking point of arrival into South Shields town centre.

The planning approval for the Transport Interchange will allow work to start on the next phase of the Council’s 365 masterplan which is aimed at boosting the fortunes of the seaside town and turning it into an all year round tourist destination.

David Wells, Development Director at Muse Developments, said: “We are delighted that the planning application has been approved for the second phase of the redevelopment work in the South Shields 365 Project.

“The new Transport Interchange and transport plan will revolutionise the town, making it far more accessible by making the arrival point into the town far more attractive and connecting the Riverside and Foreshore areas. Our plans will create a Town Centre that will be far more pleasant to visit and will in turn increase the time that visitors and tourists stay in the town. This will all help in achieving the aim of the South Shields 365 masterplan, creating a year round tourist destination, increasing visitors to the area and ultimately boosting the local economy. This is an exciting vision for the future of the town and we are looking forward to seeing the second phase come to fruition.”

The partnership between South Tyneside Council and Muse is already transforming South Shields town centre. Work on the first phase of the £100million 365 regeneration project is already underway with construction of the new library and digital media centre, The Word, on schedule.

The Word, the North East Centre for the Written Word, will provide an improved library offer and interactive exhibition space that aims to provide a home not only for the North East's writing talent, but to become a real community hub for the people of South Tyneside.

The construction of the three-storey build is on schedule and is set to open to the public late next year.