

23 James Way, Hucclecote, GLOUCESTER GL3 3TE.

9 September 2016

Dear Mr. Ardley,

### **Kings Quarter Consultation**

I attended the exhibition today and made some comments as a private individual. I am writing now on behalf of Railfuture Severnside Branch, whose area covers Mid Western England including Gloucestershire.

1. Option 2 appears to offer the best connectivity between Gloucester railway station and the city centre because there are two clear walkways through Kings Quarter from the city side of Bruton Way. The proposed indoor market (which also features in Options 1 and 3) is a good idea because rail passengers could shop there on their way back to the station.

A hotel, which is included in all Options, is an excellent idea because it would greatly increase visitor accommodation within a few minutes' walk of the station.

2. The existing walkway across Bruton Way between the bus and rail stations is retained in all four options. Naturally we are concerned about the slow acting pedestrian lights which can result in people missing one or other mode of public transport, particularly in the evenings and on Sundays when services are less frequent. Ideally we would like to see a footbridge but in the short term we suggest the traffic lights could be rephased to respond more quickly to the pedestrian buttons. The stop for bus route 8 in Metz Way can be reached from the station without having to cross a road. Likewise route 10 from Hucclecote stops in London Road near the railway bridge, avoiding the need for rail passengers to cross Bruton Way but these two examples are the exception. Unless a footbridge can be built across Bruton Way, it may be better to adapt the station approach to accommodate certain bus routes.

3. The railway station is very close to the hospital as the crow flies but the lack of a public entrance / exit on Platform 4 involves either using the narrow, stepped subway from near the station frontage or a long detour via London Road. We welcome the moves to provide additional car parking adjacent to Platform 4 and hope this will result in the creation of a public access to that platform. This would improve access not only to the hospital but also to the Kingsholm Stadium.

4. I understand that a later phase of redevelopment would also include the railway station. The present main building has little to commend it architecturally and its concourse is not always adequate for the numbers of people using it. Improved facilities could include larger waiting areas, better shelter on the long Platforms 1 and 2; and retail outlets. Gloucester is fortunate in having its station within walking distance of all the main visitor attractions and the commercial heart of the city. The new bus station and the planned demolition of Bentinck House will give a better first impression of the city for people arriving by train but the rail station itself needs redesigning in the longer term.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Bray,  
Secretary,  
Railfuture Severnside.