

Chester Northgate – Planning application submitted

I am writing to confirm that a planning application has now been submitted on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council for the redevelopment of the Northgate area of the city centre with a retail-led, mixed-use development.

The Chester Northgate Scheme aims to deliver around 500,000 sq. ft. of new shops, restaurants and leisure facilities which, if approved, will be delivered over two phases of construction. Phase one, which is forecast to start in autumn 2017, will see the development of two restaurants within the shell of the current library building, a new market hall replacing the current Chester Market, a 6-screen cinema and a new, 167 bedroom 4 star hotel and conference centre, as a replacement for the Crowne Plaza hotel. The existing hotel would, together with the Forum and several other buildings on the site, be demolished in 2019. Work would then begin on the second phase of construction to create the main retail offer, department store and new homes.

Chester Northgate has been the subject of extensive public consultation since 2011 when a draft of the current proposals first emerged. Over 1,100 people have viewed the proposals at one of the public events held in Chester during December 2015 and March 2016, and over 10,000 people have visited the project website www.chesternorthgate.com since first going live. The submitted plans have developed in response to feedback from the public and from statutory planning consultees.

Once the planning application has been validated and made available (through the Council website and at its offices) there will be a formal 16 week period of statutory consultation on the plans, leading to a decision by the planning committee hopefully in early autumn. Further details of the Chester Northgate scheme can be found on the project website, including updated images and links to the submitted planning documents.

Kind regards,

Matthew Evans

Community engagement, for and on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council