

Caerphilly Town 2035

Interchange Corridor



CAERPHILLY
TOWN
2035



Prepared by:

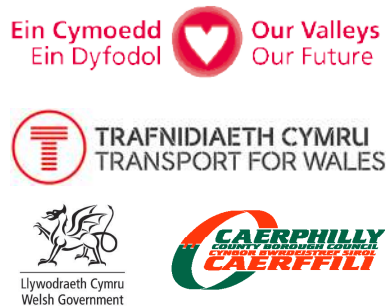
Liam Hopkins and Georgia Love
Address: The Urbanists,
The Creative Quarter,
8A Morgan Arcade,
Cardiff, CF10 1AF,
United Kingdom
Email: liam.hopkins@theurbanists.net
Website: www.theurbanists.net

All plans within this document are reproduced from Ordnance Survey with permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office (C) Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution/civil proceedings. Licence No 100054593.

Produced By:



On Behalf Of:



Contents

- 01. INTRODUCTION
- 02. CAERPHILLY TOWN IN 2035: CORE AMBITIONS
- 03. CAERPHILLY TOWN IN 2035: DESIGN DRIVERS
- 04. CAERPHILLY TOWN 2035
- 05. INTERCHANGE CORRIDOR

01 INTRODUCTION



Caerphilly town centre is an established tourism destination, is well connected to Cardiff and the wider region, and is a gateway to stunning landscape. The town is also about to receive significant investment, with Cadw transforming the Castle into a tier one destination and the South Wales Metro committed to enhancing the town's connectivity by providing six trains per hour between Caerphilly and Cardiff by December 2023. The town is therefore an area of great opportunity, and there are big ambitions for it.

Caerphilly 2035 provides a bold and ambitious vision for the town centre and the role that it performs in the Capital City Region. A series of short, medium and long-term projects that can be implemented over the next 15 years are identified to deliver the vision. A coordinated effort between public and private sector partners will be required to realise the opportunity in the town centre.

The upgrade of transport infrastructure is essential to Caerphilly 2035. A series of strategic transport projects have been identified and will be progressed in accord with the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance.





Regional location of Caerphilly



02

CAERPHILLY TOWN IN 2035: CORE AMBITIONS

To agree the core requirements and outcomes that Caerphilly 2035 must deliver, a series of core ambitions and design drivers have been identified for the town centre. These have been identified to respond to the key issues and opportunities identified during the analysis and have been agreed iteratively through two stakeholder workshops with key officers and personnel from Welsh Government, Caerphilly County Borough Council and Transport for Wales. The core ambitions and the key design drivers are identified below.

During the workshops the transport objectives for the town were also agreed. Improved transport infrastructure is key to delivering new development in the town centre. The transport objectives were therefore identified alongside the core ambitions and key design drivers to ensure that the Caerphilly 2035 is underpinned by a robust transport approach that will help to deliver the key projects. The transport objectives were identified previously and detailed in the Strategic Outline Case.



CAERPHILLY 2035 WILL BE....

1. A RENOWNED TOURISM DESTINATION

.... that fully exploits the presence of Caerphilly Castle to provide a unique visitor experience that people want to revisit.

2. A CONNECTED TOWN

.... with a modern transport interchange that provides a landmark entrance to the town, connects the town to the wider region and provides a base from which to actively explore the surrounding landscape

3. A BUSINESS DESTINATION

.... with a landmark economic hub at the transport interchange, a bespoke development corridor that connects the interchange with a consolidated Caerphilly Business Park, and a series of flexible workspaces in the town centre.

4. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

.... with an excellent environment for existing and new residents that is based on a choice of new homes, accessible workspaces, and diverse leisure choices.

5. A LEISURE TOWN

... that provides a varied retail and leisure offer that satisfies everyday requirements, but also includes bespoke products and great food and refreshments day and night.

6. INCLUSIVE AND ENGAGING PUBLIC PLACES

.... a town with a network of unique green streets and spaces that optimise views of the Castle, provide space for outdoor activity and are safe and accessible.



7. A SMART TOWN

... with excellent digital infrastructure for new workspace and a distinctive digital brand that businesses, public services, residents and visitors can inform and benefit from.

8. A LOW CARBON TOWN

... which is designed for the energy needs of the 21st Century to facilitate low energy use, renewable energy and travel, low environmental impact and adaptability.



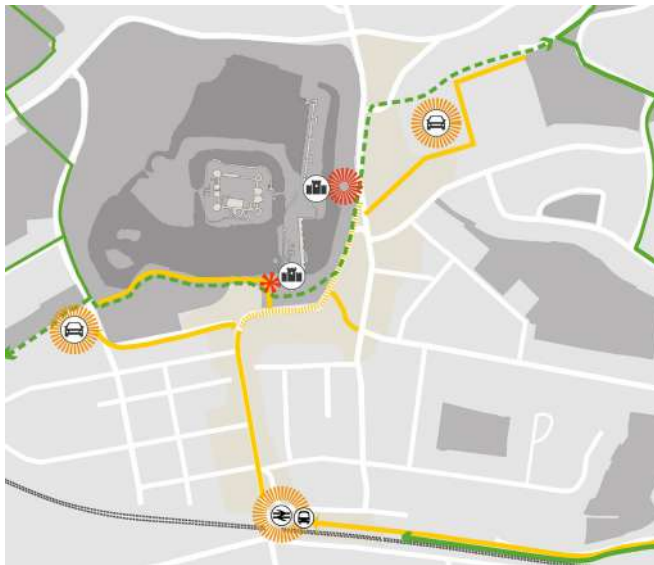
03

CAERPHILLY TOWN IN 2035: DESIGN DRIVERS



HEART OF CAERPHILLY

- Sew together the 'top of the town', the Castle, and the Castle Court retail area with a true community heart.
- Create character areas that work in synergy to support the local community and the tourist economy.
- Fully exploit the town's growing tourist economy.
- Introduce new food and drink, and other leisure opportunities.
- Make the town centre a place where people come and want to stick around.



GATEWAYS AND CONNECTIONS

- Enhance the interchange and other gateways to the town to create the right first impression.
- Discourage through-traffic from the town centre.
- Establish better walking routes to the Castle, and improved entrances to the Castle.
- Create places that are accessible, inclusive and engaging for pedestrians.
- Improve cycle connectivity across the town.
- Improve connections to Caerphilly Business Park, and safeguard routes to the Ness Tar site.
- Create secure, high quality routes to Lansbury Park.



DEVELOPMENT

- Focus development around the transport interchange to take advantage of excellent accessibility and to create a new gateway into Caerphilly.
- Create opportunities for new workspace throughout the town centre and at Caerphilly Business Park.
- Focus new development around the Castle to take advantage of the amazing views and tourist traffic.
- Create new food, beverage and hotel opportunities overlooking the Castle.
- Deliver urban homes and diversify the choice of homes.
- Progress redevelopment of the strategic Ness Tar development site.

03

CAERPHILLY TOWN IN 2035: DESIGN DRIVERS



TOWNSCAPE

- Create new frontage to the Castle.
- Intensify development at key nodes and gateways.
- Conversion of space above shops to workspace and apartments.
- Improvements to shop fronts along Cardiff Road.
- Encourage a curated mix of independent retail and cafés along Cardiff Road.



CULTURE & RECREATION

- Create a more diverse food and beverage offer.
- Create a well publicised events schedule that is co-ordinated with both town and Castle.
- Create new places to enjoy views of the Castle.
- Improve opportunities for active leisure within the town and better connections to those in the local surrounds.
- Improve children play and recreation opportunities.



LOW CARBON TOWN

- Create a sequence of new and improved streets and public open spaces that are connected by green infrastructure, to make walking easier and more enjoyable.
- Make cycling more attractive through improving cycle paths, crossings, and wayfinding.
- Improve linkages to natural resources around the town.
- Create an electric hub at the interchange with electric buses, cycle rental and electric car charging points across the town.

04

CAERPHILLY TOWN 2035: TOWN PLAN

The ambitions, design drivers and transport objectives have been taken forward into the identification of 62 potential development, placemaking and transport projects. These have been harnessed into Caerphilly 2035 and their implementation would help to transform Caerphilly, achieve the core ambitions and address the design drivers.

Implementation of the projects would deliver:

- A new transport interchange building that provides a landmark entrance into the town and new commercial floorspace within easy reach of the station.
- An active travel corridor to a consolidated Caerphilly Business Park, with a safeguarded route to the Ness Tar site which will be redeveloped into an exemplar mixed use site.
- Diversification of Cardiff Road with new workspace and homes.
- A Leisure Quarter overlooking the Castle;
- Improved connectivity and pedestrian environment throughout the town.
- An extension to Castle Court shopping centre and improved active travel routes to Lansbury Park (which is to be subject to focussed investment and regeneration and training and education initiatives).
- Improved townscape at the northern entrance into the town.

The Caerphilly 2035 plan shows all the proposed projects throughout the town centre.



04

CAERPHILLY TOWN 2035: KEY AREAS

The majority of town centre projects (43) can be grouped into four key spatial areas. The remaining (19) are standalone projects or digital measures.

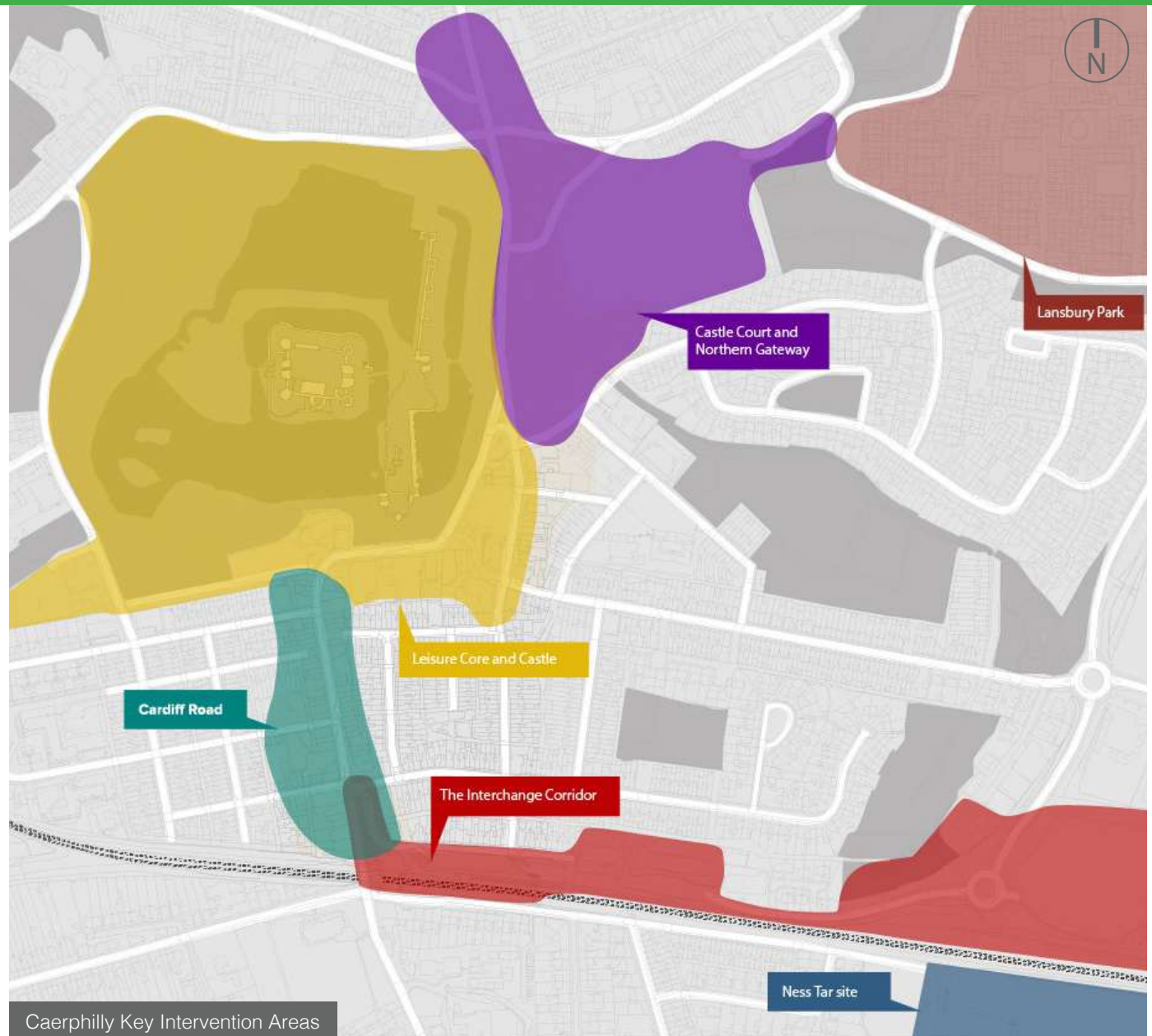
The projects are grouped into the following areas:

1. The Interchange Corridor.
2. Cardiff Road, Pentrebane Street and Clive Street.
3. The Leisure Core and the Castle.
4. Castle Court and the Northern Gateway.

The Ness Tar site is shown as a separate area on the opposite plan, given its strategic importance as an identified strategic development site.

Lansbury Park is also illustrated, as while detailed proposals for are not provided in this prospectus, the area is a regeneration priority for Caerphilly County Borough Council. Better connectivity between Lansbury Park and the town centre is therefore a key priority of the plan. However, it is also essential that the community of Lansbury Park is equipped to take advantage of the socio-economic opportunities that would be delivered by Caerphilly 2035. Education and training initiatives are therefore to be delivered in Lansbury Park and the wider local area as complementary activities to Caerphilly 2035 to ensure that local communities have the skills and knowledge to pursue the new economic opportunities created.

The following pages include a comprehensive list of the potential projects within the Interchange Corridor.



05

INTERCHANGE CORRIDOR

Caerphilly is a well-connected town with a train station and bus station providing regular public transport to the intermediate and wider area. It is only a 15 minute journey to the centre of Cardiff by train and has an integrated bus and railway station that is located at a key gateway into the town. The interchange is a key strength for the town, but currently the aesthetic appearance of the interchange and the surrounding uses provides a poor sense of arrival. To address this and provide Caerphilly with an entrance that is befitting a national tourism destination, a modern transport interchange is required.

The proposed interchange would need to provide:

- A landmark building that improves visibility of the station and connectivity to the town (1).
- New commercial space for a range of new active uses (1); and
- Improved pedestrian and cycle links to, from and through the transport interchange (3 and 4).

Caerphilly 2035 identifies an opportunity for a new interchange building that would be delivered over 2-4 storeys (subject to detailed design) and provide new active frontages to Station Terrace and Mountain Road. A concept layout that illustrates how this might be progressed is provided.

To deliver the proposed connection to Mountain Road it is proposed that the interchange include new stepped and lift access on both station platforms to a plaza that would span the rail line. In doing this, the interchange could incorporate the historic station building and provide an opportunity for passengers and visitors to enter Caerphilly at a sufficiently high vantage point that would provide views down Cardiff Road and a first glimpse of the Castle.

The new interchange should have a contemporary look, but also be sensitive to the character offered by the existing heritage architecture of the original station building and shelter.

- Railway station over the railway line | Meridian Water
- Glazed station building | Altrincham





- Building**
- Potential Intervention
- Possible Refurbishment
- Existing
- Historic Station Building
- Hardscape**
- Proposed Plaza / Key Public Space
- Existing Plaza / Key Public Space
- Proposed Pedestrian Area / Street
- Existing Pedestrian Area / Street
- Proposed Reinforced Area
- Existing Road
- Existing Plot
- Railway

1 Transport Interchange – including new train station, new bus station and potential transport oriented development. The building would integrate the historic old station building that spans Mountain Road.

2 Possible refurbishment to existing buildings to accommodate workspaces and / or residential use.

3 Regenerated street, with access limited to local traffic, delivery traffic and public transport.

4 Improved link to Caerphilly Business Park.

5 Potential leisure uses.

6 Drop off / pick up

3 Taxi rank

Drop off point

Drop off and disabled parking

Bus Station

Railway

Caerphilly Transport Interchange Concept Plan

St Martin's Church



05 INTERCHANGE CORRIDOR

NEW INTERCHANGE BUILDING AND TRANSPORT ORIENTATED DEVELOPMENT

A new bus and rail interchange could be directly connected to Cardiff Road by an upgraded public space on Station Terrace.

The new interchange would need to include sufficient circulation space to accommodate passengers waiting to board buses and those moving through the facility.

An internal connection from the bus hall through to the railway station would also be required to allow an easy transportation between modes.

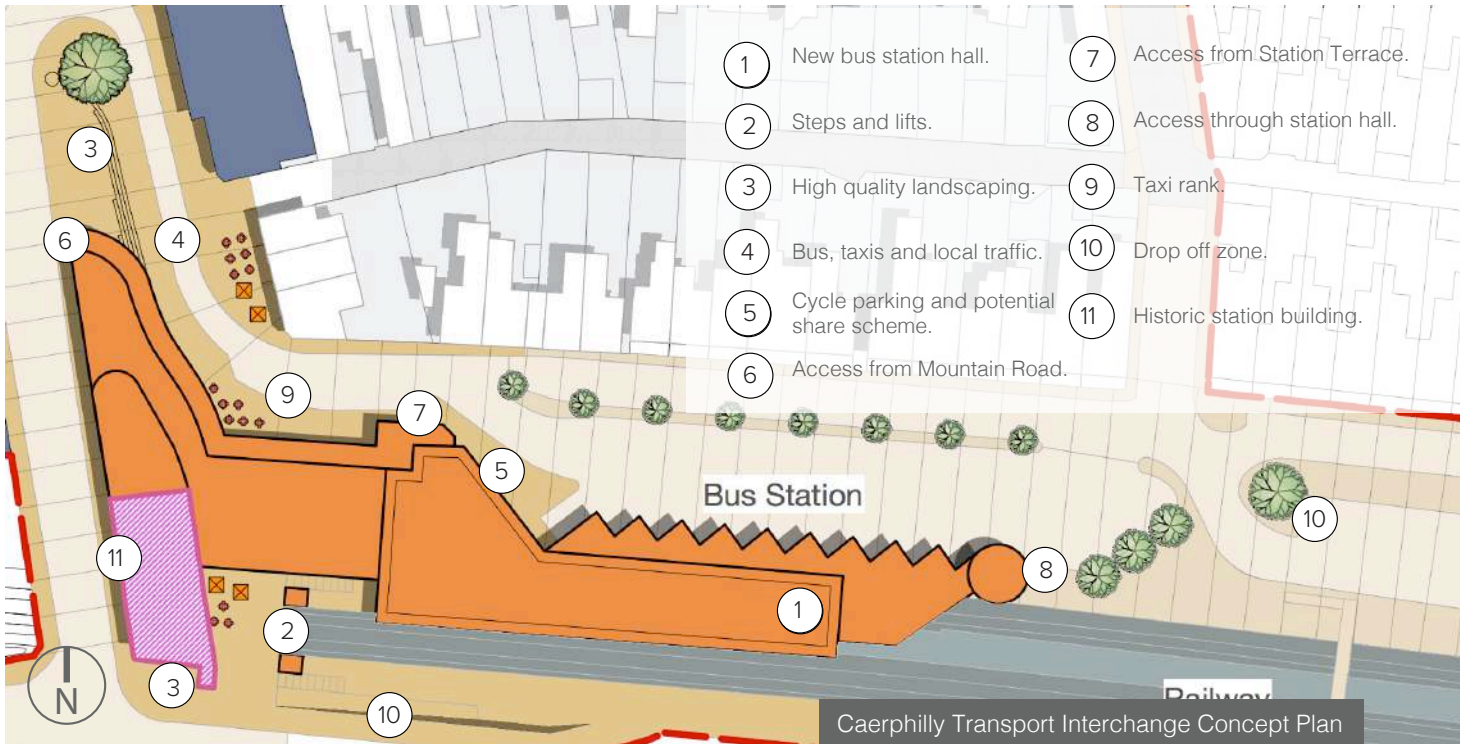
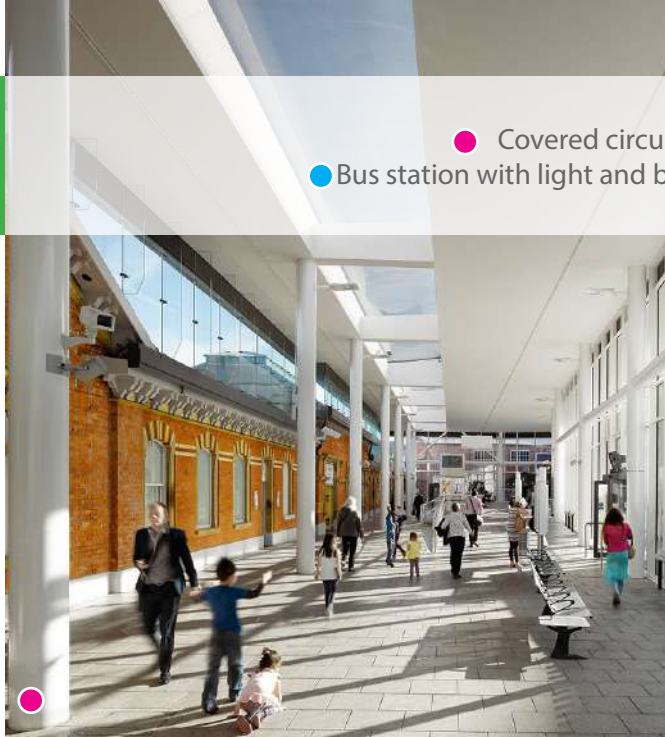
It is proposed that the interchange and adjacent parking area should be a green hub that provides vehicle charging points and a bicycle parking and storage and serves electric buses.

To provide a high-quality pedestrian environment to the interchange from the town centre the footway width along Station Terrace would need to be increased to accommodate new external areas, hard landscape enhancements and soft landscape. The redesign of the intersection of Mountain Road, Bartlett Road, Clive Road and Cardiff Road could also be redesigned to further improve pedestrian connectivity.

Further highway modelling and testing is required to inform the proposed design solution, but a key requirement would be to reduce the amount of traffic moving through the junction by discouraging use by vehicles that are not bound for the town centre and adjacent local area.

Improved pedestrian and cycle connections to the allocated Ness Tar site would also be required as the site is developed.

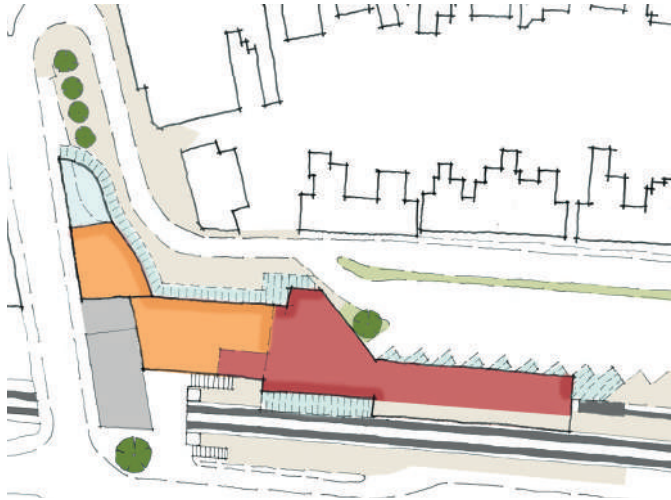
- Covered circulation space | Altrincham
- Bus station with light and bright double height space | Blackburn



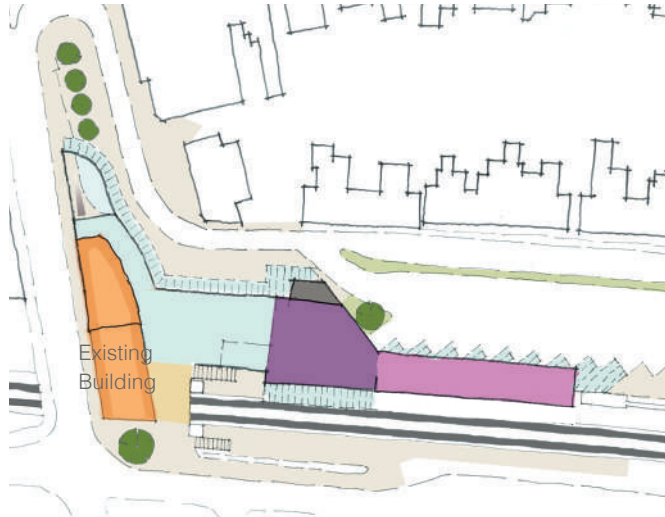
05

INTERCHANGE CORRIDOR

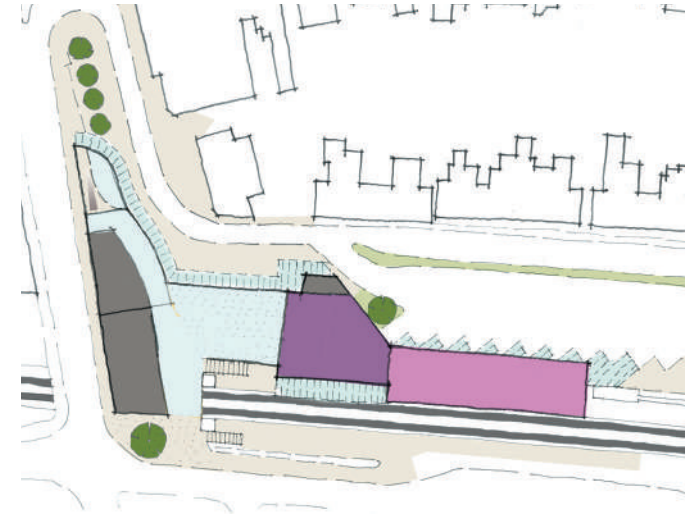
GROUND FLOOR







LEVEL 1



LEVELS 2 & 3



POTENTIAL ARRANGEMENT OF USES

-  Ground floor retail/mixed use
-  Station hall and ticketing
-  Double height space
-  Hotel/apartments/workspace

The concept interchange design identifies an opportunity to deliver approximately 23,500 sq. ft of new commercial floorspace.

6,000 sq. ft of this could be appropriate for retail space at ground floor level adjacent to the new bus and rail interchange. This would be integrated into the existing levels between Station Terrace and Mountain Road and would overlook the approach to the station.

17,500 sq. ft could be delivered above the bus and rail interchange over a further two storeys. In the concept design this space would be accessed from the new public plaza adjacent to the old station building. This floorspace

could be an appropriate space for further leisure uses or workspace.

To deliver the concept design it would be necessary to relocate the existing public toilets into the new interchange building and relocate the drop off and disabled parking to the parking zone located to the east of the interchange.

05 INTERCHANGE CORRIDOR

INTEGRATION OF CAERPHILLY BUSINESS PARK AND NESS TAR SITE

The location of the interchange would ensure that it can be well-connected to the town centre. It is also, however, important that the facility is connected to Caerphilly Business Park, which has significant potential to be further developed.

To ensure high connectivity, a new active travel corridor could be established between the interchange and the Business Park.

A corridor would need to consist of a high-quality shared footpath and cycle path with accompanying streetscape and landscape works.

The route should also be activated, which could be achieved through the delivery of new office premises along the corridor. A particular opportunity is presented by the park and ride site, which the corridor would pass through, where there is space to accommodate a 55,000 sq. ft headquarters premises. Although to accommodate such a building, the size of the existing Park and Ride facility would need to be reduced, therefore further feasibility testing would need to be undertaken to support the proposal. An initial concept for the active travel and interchange corridor is provided opposite.

The concept also includes for a new connection to the strategic Ness Tar development site which is allocated in the Development Plan for mixed use development. A separate design will be prepared for the Ness Tar site, but it is envisaged that the site would become the location for an exemplar mixed use development with excellent connections by rail and road. The new connection could form part of a new route to divert traffic away from the town centre.

- Ample space for bike hire and bike parking
- Shared cycle and footway
- Electric car charge point
- Section through route connecting to Caerphilly Business Park





Caerphilly Interchange Corridor Concept Plan

- ① Potential business park expansion (office buildings with some on-site parking).
- ② Caerphilly Business Park link (pedestrian and cyclist shared pavement).
- ③ Improved streetscape.
- ④ Potential headquarters building circa 50,000 sq. ft.
- ⑤ Access to redeveloped Ness Tar site.

Building	Hardscape
Potential Intervention	Proposed Plaza / Key Public Space
Possible Refurbishment	Existing Plaza / Key Public Space
Existing	Proposed Pedestrian Area / Street
	Existing Pedestrian Area / Street
	Proposed Reinforced Area
	Existing Road
	Existing Plot
	Railway



05

INTERCHANGE CORRIDOR

FULFILLED CORE AMBITIONS

- **A RENOWNED TOURISM DESTINATION:** A new interchange facility would provide a landmark entrance that would create an excellent first impression that is befitting of a renowned tourism destination.
- **A CONNECTED TOWN:** A new interchange would improve connectivity between the railway and bus stations and the wider town, and provide a base for improved active travel to explore the town and its surrounds.
- **A BUSINESS DESTINATION:** The new interchange could include highly accessible office space both as part of the building and on the adjacent sites. The interchange would also be well-connected to Caerphilly Business Park and new work-spaces on Cardiff Road.
- **A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE:** A better gateway to the town and interchange would improve the experience of residents as well as visitors.
- **A LEISURE TOWN:** Development included at the interchange could leisure and food and beverage offers. The interchange would also provide an entrance befitting a high-quality leisure destination.
- **INCLUSIVE AND ENGAGING PUBLIC PLACES:** The interchange would include a new plaza space and would have improved accessibility for all pedestrians and cyclists.
- **A LOW CARBON TOWN:** The interchange would accommodate electric transport infrastructure and improved facilities for walking and cycling.

FULFILLED KEY DRIVERS



HEART OF CAERPHILLY

- Create character areas that work in synergy to support the local community and the tourist economy.
- Fully exploit the town's growing tourist economy.

GATEWAYS AND CONNECTIONS

- Enhance the interchange and other gateways to the town to create the right first impression.
- Create places that are accessible, inclusive and engaging for pedestrians.
- Improve connections to Caerphilly Business Park and the Ness Tar site.

DEVELOPMENT

- Focus development around the transport interchange to take advantage of excellent accessibility.
- Create opportunities for new workspace at the interchange and at Caerphilly Business Park.

LOW CARBON TOWN

- Create a sequence of new and improved streets and public open spaces that are connected by green infrastructure, to make walking easier and more enjoyable.
- Make cycling more attractive through improving cycle paths, crossings, and wayfinding.
- Create an electric hub at the interchange with electric buses, cycle rental and electric car charging points.

05

INTERCHANGE CORRIDOR



Illustrative Sketch of the Interchange



CAERPHILLY
TOWN
2035