



Princes Circus – Responding to your comments

Over the summer of 2018 we asked residents, local businesses and people who use Princes Circus to share their views on the new designs for the space. This document shows how we are responding to the concerns and comments that were shared with us.

You said:

The space around the fountain is uncared for.

We did:

We were asked ensure that the unsightly disrupted space around the fountain did not spread to the rest of the new area.

As part of the design, the existing rails are being removed and the fountain will be relocated within the space and no longer separated. This will remove the rubbish trap that existed.

The new space is designed to eliminate dark secluded places which collect litter and are attractive for anti-social behaviour.

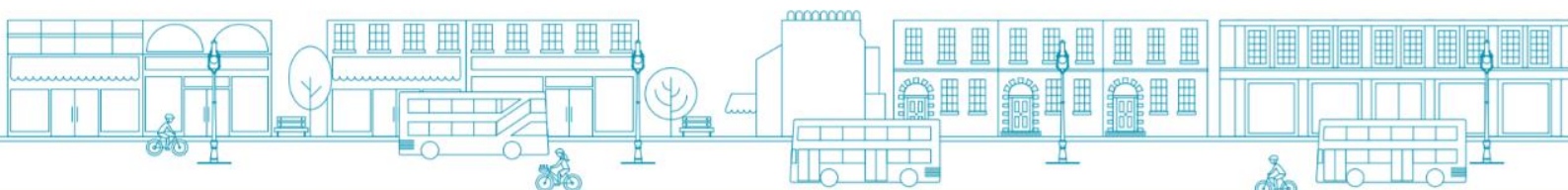
You said:

How will the substation be maintained?

We did:

We were asked to think about how vehicles from UKPN will access the substation on the site.

We have been in discussions with UKPN on this and their access requirements. A location for their vehicles has been identified on Shaftesbury Avenue and UKPN's access requirements have been fully accommodated by the design.



You said:

The northern pedestrian area will become a cycling rat run.

We did:

We were asked to ensure that pedestrians would be given priority in this area.

The cycle route runs from the north down Grape Street and West Central Street. In order to clearly define the route, we have changed the design of the surface to provide suitable contrast with the pedestrian route and a raised kerb edge to provide a stronger physical barrier.

The design also incorporates street furniture such as litter bins and cycle stands in this location to act as a visual deterrent to cycle access.



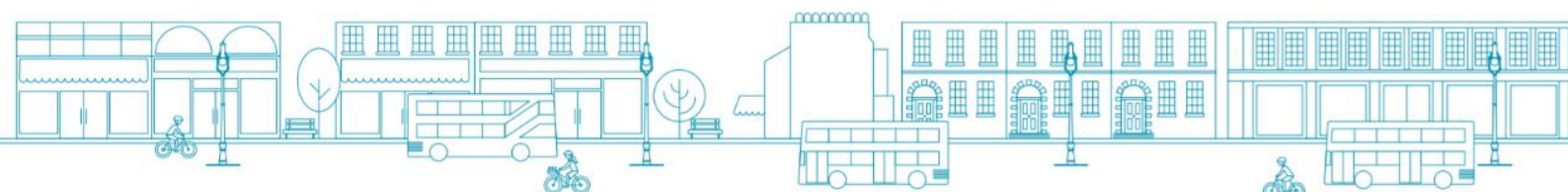
You said:

Respond to concerns of anti-social behaviour

We did:

There were several reports about drug dealing occurring in Princes Circus which were shared with us. The design team have designed the space using Secure by Design principles to improve safety. Secure by Design is a police initiative which aims to reduce crime by incorporating crime prevention techniques into the layout and landscape of an area to provide safe places to live, work, shop and visit.

This has included improving the lighting of the space and ability to see across the area. Visual obstructions have been removed where possible and clear lines of sight maintained to reduce opportunities to perform illegal acts unnoticed.



In addition all the materials that have been specified are tough, durable and well suited to an inner city urban environment. This includes Forest Stewardship Council (FCS) certified well-seasoned dense hardwood or engineered timber, which has a good resistance to burning for use on seat tops, for example. All fixings will be anti-vandal and tamperproof with no visible fixings on outside surfaces. Anti-graffiti coatings will be added to all furniture making it easier to clean and less attractive to graffitists.

You Said:

The raised platform will encourage rough sleeping

We did:

We were asked to look at the platform seating area in terms of its attractiveness for rough sleeping.

To respond to this concern we have further developed the design for this area to change it into a more sculptural seat which will make the structure less appealing to rough sleepers.



While the design alone cannot counteract social issues such as homelessness we are working closely with the local policing team, community, businesses and other stakeholders to look at antisocial behaviour more broadly.
