



Latest news from the
Northgate project team

June 2020

Sod cutting ceremony marks the start of long awaited £70m Northgate scheme

The Council agreed to continue with funding for the scheme to ensure Chester bounces back from the pandemic and to provide a catalyst for post Covid-19 recovery that will create jobs, boost the visitor economy and drive economic growth.

Set to open in early 2022; the scheme will include an arched arcade from the former library frontage into a new public square, an indoor market hall - relocated from the Forum, a six screen cinema, cafes and restaurants, co-working office spaces and a multi-storey car park to replace the Market car park which will close once Northgate is completed.

Taking part in the socially distanced sod cutting were L to R: Rob Symons, Contracts Manager and Garry Bowker, Regional Director NW - both Vinci Construction; Tom Sharp, Apprentice Quantity Surveyor – CW&C; Cllr Samantha Dixon, Chair of the Northgate Members' Working Group; Chloe Swift, Construction Apprentice – Vinci Construction; Andrew Lewis, Chief Executive – CW&C and Cllr Stuart Parker, Conservative group committee member - Northgate Members' Working Group.

The most significant new development in Chester for decades

Northgate has been designed to transform the city's historic core, supporting the whole city to thrive. It is the next phase in the regeneration of the entire Northgate area following the creation of the award-winning Storyhouse cultural centre in 2017.

We are working with our contractor Vinci Construction, to ensure the project is built following government guidance on social distancing and construction site working.

First 'recycled' bus shelter installed

The first of our 'recycled' bus shelters from the old Town Hall Bus Interchange was recently installed at Neston Primary School. It will be used as a reading room and parents' shelter.

Four other shelters are due to be 'recycled' across the borough over the summer.



Councillors add their support for Northgate

“Northgate will breathe new life into our city, taking old inefficient buildings like the market and replacing them with something that is fit for purpose, both for traders and customers.”

“Supporting local business and creating new spaces for people to come together, spend time and learn new things in the post-Covid world is exactly what Northgate is all about.

Town centres are in the midst of big change and Covid-19 has accelerated this process. If we want to support the city centre by attracting more visitors, if we want more people to be living in the city, if we want to give Storyhouse the setting that it deserves and if we love the market and want it to become an even bigger part of what it means to be in Chester, then Northgate is the future for all of these things.”

Councillor Richard Beacham, Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and Growth

Councillor Stuart Parker, Conservative group committee member of the Northgate Members Working Group, said:

“Having seen a number of proposed schemes for Northgate come and go over the past 20 years, it is especially pleasing to see work at last starting. The scheme has cross-party support, never more so than now due to the crucial role Northgate can play in our post Covid-19 recovery.”

Construction Plan Update

Work is now starting on site for the main Northgate building works. In view of the Covid-19 situation, there has been some slippage on the proposed project timescales.

The following key milestones are currently expected to take place as follows, subject to further Covid impacts:

- **Princess St. reopens for access onto St Martin's Way from Northgate St. – Early July**
- **Site secured and Hunters Walk closed off – Early July**
- **Hoardings on Northgate Street installed in front of former library building – Early July**
- **Drain enabling works commence on St Martin's Way – Mid July**
- **St. Martin's Way/Nicholas St. closed to southbound traffic for drain works – Mid September**
- **Hunter St. realignment complete and opens onto St Martin's Way – Late October/early November**
- **Princess St. closed to access from Northgate St. - Late October/early November.**

Further details of the drain works and traffic diversions will be provided in our July update.

Visualisation of the new
Northgate St. Arcade

