



On the move:  
Exeter bus station

# City must pay for new bus station

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CONCERNS have been raised over the funding of Exeter's new bus station after it was revealed the city council is likely to pick up the bill.

The current station is making way for the redevelopment of the site, where a £26m pool complex will be built by the city council and cinema, shops, and restaurants will be created by the owners of Princesshay.

Exeter Civic Society hosted a meeting on Friday, December 11, of groups that have objected to the redevelopment of the bus station. It was organised by the transport group of Transition Exeter and Exeter Civic Society where concerns were raised about proposals for the new bus station which will be smaller than the existing one.

Representatives of Exeter St James Forum, the Green Party, Devon Senior Voice, Devonshire Place Resident's Association, Powderham Crescent Resident's Association, Sustrans, and the Real Food Store all attended.

Those attending had assumed that any deal for the redevelopment would include the provision of a new bus station, and said they were shocked when it was revealed the private developer would not be funding the station.

Exeter Green Party member Diana Moore said: "The council must have the courage to secure a better deal for Exeter which includes an enhanced bus and

coach station. The current proposals fall well short of the council's own redevelopment principles issued in 2012."

Following the meeting a council spokesman said: "The new bus station is a vital development on the council's vital infrastructure list for attracting Community Infrastructure Levy. Our work to date on this project further underlines the important work the city council is doing to redevelop this city centre site and to enhance an important gateway to the city.

"The overall development can only proceed with a new city centre bus station and the council will work on a solution to bring it forward. We will be taking a report to our Executive in the near future to identify how the new station will be delivered."

John Grinnell, speaking on behalf of The Princesshay Partnership, said: "Our proposals for new restaurants, shops, a cinema, and substantially improved public spaces form part of a wider masterplan for the regeneration of Exeter's Bus and Coach station, which includes the council's plans for a new station and leisure centre.

"We look forward to the council reaching a decision on the outline planning application in the new year."

A Devon County Council spokesman said: "The redevelopment of the bus station site with its swimming pool and sports centre is a city council project and we are not contributing county funds."