

Our ref: 30062594  
17 November 2021

**Bernard Evans**

Account reference:request-799344-5552a11b@whatdotheyknow.com

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

To whom it may concern

I can confirm that the information requested is held by Birmingham City Council. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

### **Request**

Dear Birmingham City Council,

Please provide a copy of all correspondence, reports, briefings notes and minutes of meetings in the last 4 years that relate to the potential closure of the A38 tunnels as part of the Birmingham Transport Plan. Please ensure that as well as discussions within the service, with consultants supporting the development of plans and senior officer meetings and discussions, that this includes any information from or to the cabinet member or leader or anyone within their office, as well as discussions with the councils press office regarding publicity on transport plan proposals and denial of press stories that they will close.

### **Response**

Birmingham City Council has not set out any specific proposals to close the A38 Queensway tunnels in its recently adopted Birmingham Transport Plan. The plan includes a set of guiding policies and principles, together with a clear vision for a future city centre where the A38 is no longer needed in its current form, because people are travelling differently, and accessing the city using a range of more space-efficient transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport.

Options surrounding future options regarding the tunnels have been assessed as part of the Snow Hill Growth Strategy.

### **Business and Customer Support**

Inclusive Growth Directorate  
PO BOX 28  
1 Lancaster Circus  
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Snow Hill Growth Strategy scheme is centred on the major redevelopment and transformation of Snow Hill rail station and its immediate environs. Snow Hill is one of Birmingham City Centre's three main rail stations providing both local and regional services, as well as a direct connection to London via the Chiltern Main Line. The scheme will play a significant role in contributing to the delivery of the growth agenda for the City, by both improving the rail station and transport connectivity within the Snow Hill area and to/from surrounding areas, as well as creating 112,000sqm of new office-led development accommodating over 7,700 jobs and 200 homes.

The Snow Hill district is identified within Birmingham's Big City Plan as an area of transformation which will see the expansion of the Colmore Business District. The project will also support the aspiration for the reimagining of the A38/A4400 corridor which runs through the heart of the city centre, into a greenway within the neighbouring St. Chads area. This proposal is cited within Birmingham's 2021 Our Future City Plan which builds upon the previously published Big City Plan.

Development of a Growth Strategy for Birmingham's Snow Hill district has begun to explore how the city can maximise the potential of Snow Hill Station and the surrounding business district. This reinvention will support the city's Route to Zero carbon neutral plan by creating high quality spaces for people to work, live and play within the city centre, reducing the need to travel. In tandem, those travelling from further afield will arrive by sustainable travel to a desirable destination which will have not only seen improved transport links, but investment in local culture, employment opportunities and our communities in line with the levelling up agenda.

Please find attached the documents that you have requested.

Please quote the reference number 30062594 in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with our response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days from the date this authority issued its initial response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Corporate Information Governance Team  
PO Box 16366  
Birmingham  
B2 2YY  
Email: [infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk)

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If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office

Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

Business Support Coordinator  
Inclusive Growth Directorate

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