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**For further information please contact: Iris Boyd on 211 5071**

Iris.boyd@newcastle.gov.uk

## **Preparation work begins for new bus station**

The first stages of work to prepare for the construction of a new bus station to replace Eldon Square Bus concourse will begin on Monday, May 9.

Sir Robert McAlpine has been appointed as the main contractor for the work and a construction site will be created just off Percy Street to begin work on a new access and exit to Eldon Square multi-storey car park.

The 40 week contract will also involve making some significant changes to the road layout on Percy Street, Prudhoe Street and Prudhoe Place to accommodate the taxi rank and maintain access to retail pick-up points, both on Prudhoe Street. Full details of the impact of these changes will be available in the coming weeks.

The construction of the new bus station is the first stage in a £170m plan for Eldon Square Shopping Centre involving the City Council, Capital Shopping Centres (CSC) and Shell Pension Fund.

The new, glazed bus station will be built on Prudhoe Street with £11m worth of government funding and will replace the underground bus concourse off Percy Street.

A four year redevelopment scheme for Eldon Square shopping centre is due to begin later this year and will involve the creation of new retail units, including a major department store and new Greenmarket, improving pedestrian links through the centre and opening up some of the blank, brick frontages with shops and cafes.

### **NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS**

Further press releases will be issued nearer the time giving details of changes affecting traffic and pedestrians using Percy Street, Prudhoe Street and Prudhoe Place