

The Society is grateful to the University for the invitation to the stakeholders' presentation that preceded the reserved matters planning application for the residential buildings of its new campus. It is unfortunate that we cannot also comment upon the proposed academic development. The Society has consistently supported the University's new campus. The University's initiative has already created significant developer interest in the Enterprise Zone and the wider St. Philip's Marsh area. The Society was pleased to see that the University will partner part of the Silverthorne Lane redevelopment scheme which will increase the social and economic regeneration of this deprived area of the city.

At the outset we said that the new campus should be distinguished by buildings as recognisably 'Bristol' as the Wills Memorial Building. It is disappointing to make a negative response to the proposed design. The Society considers that the proposed buildings are anonymous and indistinguishable from many of Bristol's speculative office blocks. The tall orthogonal blocks have repetitious fenestration in elevations that have no horizontal hierarchy and minimal vertical articulation. They have no 'tops' or 'podiums' as Part 3 of the Special Planning Document suggests. The dark colour of the proposed materials emphasises the buildings' mass. Only the buildings' height makes them 'memorable landmarks'. These 'anywhere' commercial structures do not indicate that they are part of an exciting future campus. The Temple Island buildings lack recognisable character or distinction. The University sees its proposed Woodland Road new library as a 'landmark building', we suggest the same ambition for the new campus. There is no better place in Bristol for a contemporary landmark building.

Apart from the station, the site has no architectural context. The University has an unconstrained opportunity to use modern architecture and materials. There is no reason to refer to the nearby industrial heritage when the purpose of the new campus is to signal that Bristol University is at the forefront of the development of new technology, design and sustainability. The site is at the heart of the developing commercial area that will transform and reunite this run-down area with the economic life of the city. It must be a beacon to attract inward investment into the city. Temple Meads Station is an example of how 19th century Bristol used new materials and architecture to signal the arrival of new technology and ideas.

The Society supports the Temple Island access and landscape strategy. Despite the University's policy to restrict motor traffic we are concerned about the inevitable aggregate increase of motor traffic. The plans for the redevelopment of the Station and for Temple Quarter, and the new Campus with many new jobs will put further pressure on Bath/Wells Road junctions and Temple Gate. The Temple Gate traffic realignment has not designed to take more traffic; it will release land for more development and traffic.