The number one ask we’ve heard is to provide a range of green and open spaces for all to enjoy. With this in mind we are taking a landscape-led approach to the design. At the heart of the site will be a public park, connected through and beyond the site by a network of green public spaces which integrate biodiversity, water, play and leisure.

Environmental wellbeing is a priority, using planting to improve local air quality, welcoming nature to the site and using the landscape to address flooding and other future climate issues.

Welcoming at all times throughout the day and night

Public spaces will be designed and managed so that everyone feels safe, with ‘eyes on the street’ provided through bustling cafes, shops, offices and other uses fronting on to parks and squares.

PRIP design thoughts on the overall ‘feel’ of the public spaces

Our panel members thought that the ‘feel’ of the public spaces should be:
- Welcoming, embracing, tolerant, not segregated.
- Respectful of differing needs, such as providing a variety of seating options throughout and being aware that some people are sensitive to noise and bright lighting.
- Socially diverse by age or ability.
- Free to use, with affordable food and drink.
- Conversational places and places of activity.
- Green – allowing people to directly connect with nature and wildlife.

Our landscape architects, the Copenhagen based SLA, bring a wealth of expertise and have set out the following principles for landscape design.

- Accommodate sport and exercise spaces promoting active lifestyles within the urban realm
- Achieve a combined Blue Green Infrastructure through nature-based solutions
- Design for multigenerational, flexible open spaces that can host outdoor events
- Guarantee universal access for everyone, without segregating routes
- Celebrate the industrial character of the site, bringing back a sense of wonder
- Maximise microclimatic comfort, whilst mitigating the effects of air pollution
- Provide active and interesting play space for all age groups
- Support local biodiversity and ecological corridors with lush nature areas

Table Park*

At the heart of the site will sit a new park. This new city park bridges the rail lines, bringing together the two sides of the site in a shared space for everyone. The richly biodiverse gardens of woodland, aromatic plants, open lawns and meadows, connected by accessible paths, will be inclusive places for everyone, young and old. A focal point of leisure, work and commerce for all age groups, it will be:

- A place to walk your dogs.
- A place to catch up over a coffee.
- A place to enjoy a picnic.
- A place to play.
- A place to relax.
- A place to exercise.
- A place to learn.

*These are our working titles and we will be engaging locally to explore how the new streets, places and buildings could be named.

PRIP design thoughts on the Table Park

PRIP members felt the Table Park should provide:
- A range of spaces and experiences, and varied to approach and access the park.
- Room to experience different areas which are gently connected and layered by plants. Every space should be explorable, ranging from hidden nooks to fully accessible play areas.
- Well-lit routes, from rail and sea, where people can hang out and rest.
- A way to get up high and experience views (a giant swing, helter skelter or fairground ride).
- Outdoor shelters, from rain and sun, where people can hang out and rest.
- A way to get into and out of the park, whether on foot, by bike or by bus.
- A good place to relax, before entering or returning to the site.
- Sensing strong routes for people to sit and rest.
- Entry and exit.
- A place to walk your dogs.

Key benefits

- Over 40% of the land has buildings on it, so we can genuinely prioritise the streetscape and public open spaces.
- A quarter of the site is dedicated to fully accessible new squares, gardens and parks.
- The park itself is located at the heart of the site, larger than Trafalgar Square. A further fifth of the site will be used for beautiful new tree-lined streets where people can walk and spend time.
- A place to provide a range of outdoor activities.
- A place to provide a range of play spaces for all age groups.
- A place to provide a range of sensory activities.
- A place to provide a range of places to walk your dogs.

PRIP design thoughts on the overall ‘feel’ of the public spaces

Our panel members thought that the ‘feel’ of the public spaces should be:

- Welcoming, embracing, tolerant, not segregated.
- Respectful of differing needs, such as providing a variety of seating options throughout and being aware that some people are sensitive to noise and bright lighting.
- Socially diverse by age or ability.
- Free to use, with affordable food and drink.
- Conversational places and places of activity.
- Green – allowing people to directly connect with nature and wildlife.
The Warwick Road Square*

Outside the repurposed Train Shed, home to a mix of restaurants, cafes and food markets, will be a new city square. This will be a thriving space with outdoor dining, green spaces, water and play spaces.

*These are our working titles and we will be engaging locally to explore how the new streets, places and buildings could be named.

Empress Place

As a key entrance to the park and wider site, we will be maintaining much of the historic character of the existing buildings and retaining ‘The Prince’ pub building, which will be given a new lease of life. This part of the site will provide workspace, an active street bustling with life, with glimpses up to the new park.

PRP design thoughts on Warwick Road Square

Our panel members thought that the new square on Warwick Road could:

- Have a more formal character.
- Be adaptable, allowing for seasonal events.
- Become a focal point where people come together to meet friends and enjoy community activities.
- Feature water, such as pools and fountains.

Community feedback

As much of the site as possible should be accessible green and open space.

Scan here and answer Q1 to tell us what you think of these proposals.