

Old Town to see largest development since 12th century

The Caltongate project is a major building and redevelopment proposal for central Edinburgh. The aims of the scheme are to improve links between the Old Town, Waverley train station and the Parliament building, and to provide an eclectic mix of new office, retail, residential, leisure and hotel facilities. Described by developers as “a once-in-a-generation opportunity”, Caltongate is intended to both regenerate Edinburgh’s Old Town and attract new business and investment to the city.

Major features of the Caltongate proposal, the largest development of the Old Town since the 12th century, include a prestigious open plan office building, 200 new homes, a shopping complex and a five-star hotel with fully equipped conference centre.

The intended site, centred on the former New Street Bus Station, runs from Canongate to the bottom of Calton Hill. Retail spaces are planned to range from 600 to 20,000 sq ft each, with the intention of attracting a variety of retailers to the area, from local businesses to international companies. The housing proposals include penthouse flats and family townhouses, many with views of the historic Old Town.

The centrepiece is a proposed 200,000 sq ft five-star hotel and conference centre. This potential future landmark will be situated on a new street, Parliament Way, to link Waverley Station and the Parliament and will potentially attract business from the conferencing and corporate sectors as well as the higher end of the leisure market.

www.caltongate.com



Edinburgh Airport broadens horizons

With Edinburgh’s visitor numbers increasing year upon year as the city continues to gain a worldwide reputation for business and tourism, the city airport has recently undertaken a programme of expansion. Development plans announced in 2008 highlight major projects underway or scheduled to begin including expansion of the terminal departure lounge, resurfacing of the runway and a new £9.5m car rental centre.

The departure lounge is set to double in size following a £40m injection of funds, one of the biggest single investments by BAA in the airport’s 30-year history. Resurfacing the main runway at a cost of £16m lengthens its use by a further 15 years. The launch of a new consolidated car rental centre, the first of its kind in the UK, will both maintain car rental facilities and release space within the terminal building.

New long-term development plans for Edinburgh Airport have been published after rising costs of relocating the Royal Highland Showground. The new plans require 25.5 hectares of additional land beyond the airport’s current boundary but will not require the Showground to relocate before 2020. Gordon Dewar, Managing Director of Edinburgh Airport, explained: “Our new plans provide a more cost-effective future for the development of the airport,” adding: “If we are to attract more airlines and flights to Edinburgh, then we have to maintain a competitive airport.”

Following the Edinburgh Airport Master Plan of 2006, there are specific plans for the airport’s expansion and development up to 2013. BAA Scotland intends to invest £300m in Edinburgh over a 10-year period and increase capacity to 26 million passengers a year by 2030. Longer-term proposals outlined in the Plan include further expansion of the terminal, improved public transport links and the possibility of a second runway.

www.edinburghairport.com

