
Birmingham Centenary Square Competition Questions and Answers

Q1. Please let me know if you could share the information on the underground conditions of the competition site? As the library is utilizing spaces below the square, I'm sure there will be occupied underground spaces which will affect the design of the square in some way. It would be great if the participants can access the information if it's available.

A1. The only underground design considerations to be taken into account at Stage One are the railway tunnel and the library basement including the well.

Q2. What are the elements that I can change, remove or modify other than mentioned in the design consideration from trees, seats, lighting, fixtures, poles and Statues?

A2. The elements which are not listed in the design considerations can be modified, changed or removed to accommodate your design.

Q3. The circular open area surrounded by trees in front of the Birmingham library can be modified or removed?

A3. The well needs to be maintained but the surroundings soft and hard landscaping can be modified or removed

Q4. What are the height constraints in that area? Is it according to certain laws and regulations in the UK so that we can know our limits?

A4. The maximum height for any structure within the city centre is 120m. Further information on legislation over heights in the city can be found at <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/highplaces>

Q5. Could you provide me with the part of the big city plan that is related to Centenary Square?

A5. Centenary Square sits within the west side quarter of the big city plan.

Q6. What will be the means of transportation within the square and what is the preferable place of the metro station which passes through the centenary square?

A6. The majority of the square is pedestrianized with the exception of the public transport corridor on the Broad street side.

Q7. Is it possible to propose underground solutions in that area when I am designing?

A7. Yes, as long as you take into consideration the site constraints such as the tunnel and the library basement and well.

Q8. What is the open air living room?

A8. As the world is becoming more urbanised, there is a greater need for outdoor spaces to improve people's liveability. The open air living room is referring to the public space which is everyone's outdoor living room.

Q9. The first question is about the retention of the existing "carpet" of brick paving by Tess Jaray. This "carpet" is located in front of the ICC and the Rep theatre correct? We should incorporate this pavement within the design or we can modify?

A9. The extent of the Tess Jaray paving design, referred to as the Persian Carpet can be seen on the supporting photographs. The remainder of the paved area is outside of the formal design but laid in a pattern to compliment it.

Drawn detail of the design is not available at this stage but can be made available at stage 2 if required. Additional photographs and a sketch plan have been uploaded to the supporting information.

Competition designers need to consider the specific Tess Jaray design but the retention is not essential if it substantially detracts from a competitors design.

Q10. With regard to the constraints of the new metro stop. In the pdf of the constraints plan the metro stop is drawn, with the tram line, however in the AutoCAD file the metro stop isn't drawn. Should we draw the metro stop or should we consider the one drawn in the constraints plan?

A10. The AutoCAD drawing is a topographical survey which indicates what is there today. The metro stop is due to be built in 2018 and must form part of the design.

Q11. Should Broad Street be a street only for public transport? Because in the constraints plan there is 2 tram lines and one lane for each side, only for buses and taxis.

A11. The existing proposal removes private traffic from Broad Street. Post 2018 when the metro has been completed it is envisioned that only buses, metro (over-ground) and taxis will use Broad Street in Centenary Square

Q12. Is it possible to have the Arena Central development line along the south side of the square added to the CAD base drawing?

A12. The AutoCAD drawing is a survey of the existing site, any future development or plans for the area such as Arena Central can be accessed on their website. The outline/boundary for Arena Central can be seen on the sketch up model which was included with the supporting information.

Q13. Could the Metro station be also added to the CAD drawing?

A13. The AutoCAD drawing is a topographical survey which indicates what is there today. The metro stop is due to be built in 2018 and provided in the supporting information and will have to be added as part of your submission.

Q14. Can you confirm that general traffic will still flow in both directions along Broad Street?

A14. All private traffic will be excluded for the centenary square section of Broad Street in both directions. Post 2018 when the metro has been completed it is envisaged that there will be only buses, metro (over-ground) and taxis in both directions in the Centenary Square section of Broad Street.

Q15. The requirement for counter terrorism measures are to be an integral part of the design. Can you confirm the extent and scope of these measures across the site's extents?

A15. The anti-terrorist measures should apply to the whole of the site. The scope will relate to the design. For further information please follow the National Counter Terrorism Security Office's and RIBA's Guidelines

<http://nactso-dev.co.uk/system/cms/files/109/files/original/RIBAguidanceoncounterterrorism.pdf>

Q16. Can you confirm known constraints around the Network rail tunnel? ie at what depth is the tunnel and what is the construction build up?

A16. Full details about the tunnel are not available at this stage. More detailed information will be available during the design development in Stage 2. However, designers should avoid placing structures, water features or trees directly above the tunnel or in close proximity

Q17. Are there any CAD drawings showing the proposed arrangement of the new tram link?

A17. Unfortunately this information is not in the public domain. Please refer to the PDF constraint drawing provided.

Q18. Please could you let me know if the circular void to the library basement can be bridged over albeit still maintaining the void?

A18. Yes, but consideration must be given to the natural day light requirements of the library space below.

Q19. There is a new development for Paradise Circus. Are there any plans for this new site in order to engage our proposed concept design with this new proposal or shall we design regardless of this new development? (e.g. paving design, proposed materials).

A19. At the present time only the master plan is available. Please see link: <http://www.paradisecircus.co.uk>

Q20. There is a proposed location for a new underground station on Broad Street. Is this location on the square or at the opposite side of this street? Are there any dimensions of the building of this proposed station to accommodate it in our plan?

A20. There is no underground station on Broad Street, existing or proposed. The proposed metro is above ground at street level.

Q21. I would like to ask a question regarding the requirement for phase 1 submission: Is there any specific kind of model images that are allowed to be included or is it allowed for any kind of images (i.e. sketch, photoshop) as long as it is not architectural models?

A21. Images of any type or origin can be used for your submission as long as it is presented on one A1 sheet.

Q22. 'New Birmingham Family statue by Gillian Wearing is not shown in any of the information provided. Where is it and what is it?

A22. The images were uploaded to the website on the 31st October when the sculpture was unveiled. It has been installed adjacent to the library well. This is now indicated on the revised constraints plan. The statue can be retained or relocated within the square or removed from the square altogether.

Q23. Should all the existing 'carpet' of brick paving be retained or is it ok to retain only a part of it? How important is it?

A23. The extent of the Tess Jaray paving design, referred to as the Persian Carpet can be seen on the supporting photographs. The remainder of the paved area is outside of the formal design but laid in a pattern to compliment it.

Drawn detail of the design is not available at this stage but can be made available at stage 2 if required.

Competition designers need to consider the specific Tess Jaray design but the retention is not essential if it substantially detracts from a competitors design.

Q24. Is the red circle shown around the Hall of Memory on the Constraints Plan the boundary of the listed building or only the structure of the stepped plinth and the building itself are listed?

A24. For further information on the listed status of the Hall of memory please follow this link <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1244943>

Q25. Do you need cycle routes within the square or is it just along Broad Street? Shouldn't people dismount from their bicycle on the square?

A25. Cycling movement across the pedestrianized square should be considered as part of the design. People will not be required to dismount their bicycles.

Q26. Is there going to be a tram station (street level) as well as a metro station (underground)? If it's a metro where are the exits/entrances?

A26. There is no underground station on Broad Street, existing or proposed. The proposed metro is above ground at street level.

Q27. Should the 3 x pedestrian crossings be perpendicular to Broad Street?

A27. The present proposal is for the three perpendicular crossings. Other options can be considered as part of the design.

Q28. There seems to have been a Ferris wheel in the square in winter. Should the space for this be kept?

A28. The need for an event space is fundamental and therefore would facilitate a wide range of events such as the Ferris wheel and ice rink at certain times of the year.

Q29. What's the minimum width required for Emergency access in front of ICC?

A29. Please allow a clear width of between 3100mm to 3700mm in front of the ICC to allow access for emergency vehicles.

Q30. The project aims state a requirement for "Contemporary" proposals. We are assuming that the new Centenary Square will be a new layer in the historic fabric of the City and to this extent the design could be quite different in appearance to its context - is this assumption correct?

A30. Yes

Q31. With a requirement to consider the existing square and highway as one, is there an opportunity to change the materials and refine the alignment and width of the public highway or is the aim more related to common approach to street furniture?

A31. The materials can be changed. The alignment and width of the public highway should not be changed. A common approach to design across the pedestrianized area and the public highway must be considered.

Q32. To what extent would the Client consider large-scale new built elements such as covered exhibition spaces, glass-houses, stages and other large art or leisure equipment installations?

A32. The client would consider any proposals which acknowledge the design constraints.

Q33. In the “Selection of Typical Events” list, an ice rink and a panoramic wheel are mentioned as typical Christmas Market attractions. Will such amenities be located within Centenary Square also in the future? Must we reserve an area for both the big wheel and the rink in our proposal?

A33. The need for an event space is fundamental and therefore would facilitate a wide range of events such as the Ferris wheel and ice rink at certain times of the year.

Q34. It is mentioned in the brief that cycle routes and parking must be considered in the design. Is there a detailed plan of Birmingham's planned cycle routes we can refer to?

A34. Cycling movement across the pedestrianized square should be considered as part of the design and will be incorporated into the city's cycling routes. Further information is available at <http://bigcityplan.birmingham.gov.uk/big-city-plan/>

Q35. Can you please provide a dwg reporting the layout of the planned tram line into Centenary Square?

A35. The AutoCAD drawing is a topographical survey which indicates what is there today. The metro is due to be built in 2018 and the layout is provided in the supporting information and will have to be added as part of your submission.

Q36. After the Tram Line completion, will the vehicular traffic layout for Broad Street remain as it currently is? Will Broad Street remain a two-way road?

A36. All private traffic will be excluded for the centenary square section of Broad Street in both directions. Post 2018 when the metro has been completed it is envisioned that there will be only buses, metro (over-ground) and taxis in both directions in the Centenary Square section of Broad Street.

Q37. “Proposals to consider constraints of Network Railway Tunnel running below”. Can you explain further this point? How is it expected we should cope with the underground tunnel?

A37. Full details about the tunnel are not available at this stage. More detailed information will be available during the design development in Stage 2. However, designers should avoid placing structures, water features or trees directly above the tunnel or in close proximity

Q38. Is the Network Railway Tunnel underneath Centenary square already present or does it require to be excavated? In the latter case, will the excavation works have an impact on the square?

A38. Yes it is an existing tunnel

Q39. What are all the limitations in designing built structures for the square design? (In terms of height and built up area)

A39. All proposals will be considered in the context and fabric of the surrounding city and the client will consider any proposals which meet the design constraints

Q40. Is it mandatory to retain the existing flooring or the carpet design? If the design demands change in flooring, can we change it?

A40. The extent of the Tess Jaray paving design, referred to as the Persian Carpet can be seen on the supporting photographs. The remainder of the paved area is outside of the formal design but laid in a pattern to compliment it.

Drawn detail of the design is not available at this stage but can be made available at stage 2 if required. Additional photographs and a sketch plan have been uploaded to the supporting information.

Competition designers need to consider the specific Tess Jaray design but the retention is not essential if it substantially detracts from a competitors design.

Q41. If there is an Autocad drawing for the square and the context buildings, roads, pathways etc. please make it available in the competition website or mail us. (It will be useful for our design development and mapping apart from the provided Sketchup model).

A41. All the information which is currently available has been uploaded on the competition website

Q42. What is the "open air living room" supposed to contain of elements? Or in another way what do you mean by the "open air living room"?

A42. As the world is becoming more urbanised, there is a greater need for outdoor spaces to improve people's liveability. The open air living room is referring to the public space which is everyone's outdoor living room.

Q43. Is it possible to build architecture, such as pavilions for information booth/cafe/exhibition, an outdoor theatre and etc? If so, are there any height or capacity restrictions?

A43. Yes, the client would consider any proposals which meet the design constraints.

Q44. Is it possible to excavate or fill to change the site topography?

A44. Yes, as long as you take into consideration the site constraints such as the tunnel and the library basement and well.

Q45. Is it possible to create a fountain (such as an Olympic park in London)?

A45. Yes, subject to design constraints and cost implications.

Q46. I have a doubt to where you have given to preserve the statues at specific place. Am I supposed to preserve the whole structure from the base or is it allowed to give a new design to the base structure given that I keep the original statue in its original place and position?

A46. The base and statue are one piece and should not be considered separately.

Q47. could you clarify the intention for Broad St that runs between the intended Arena Central and Centenary Square? Will this remain open to traffic – if so will this include private cars or be limited to public transport i.e. buses as well as the new Metro trams?

A47. Post 2018 when the metro has been completed it is envisioned that there will be only buses, metro (over-ground) and taxis in both directions in the Centenary Square section of Broad Street.

Q48. Is there detailed information about Arena Central (i.e. proposed design)?

A48. The only information available at this time is available on the following website <http://www.arenacentral.com>

Q49. Will the existing roads continue over/through Centenary Square or will it be completely pedestrianized (aside from trams)?

A49. Yes the existing road will continue through Centenary Square in both directions. Post 2018 when the metro has been completed it is envisioned that there will be only buses, metro (over-ground) and taxis in both directions in the Centenary Square section of Broad Street.

Q50. Will there be a bus stop next to the proposed Metro stop?

A50. There are bus stops adjacent to the metro stops. Please refer to the updated constraints plan.

Q51. The red line site boundary is displayed differently across the information provided. Our main question is: does it include King Alfred's Place?

A51. Yes King Alfred's Place is included.

Q52. Why does the red line exclude the southeastern corner of Centenary Square?

A52. There are no opportunities to develop this part of the site as it is a highway and levels cannot be altered

Q53. Is it possible to be given accurate data of surrounding building heights (so we can gauge solar shading etc.)?

A53. The sketch up model can be used for this purpose.

Q54. It is possible to be given accurate data of heights in Centenary Square itself (i.e. which areas slope etc.)?

A54. Refer to the topographical survey which has levels indicated on it.

Q55. Can the Statue of Spirit and Enterprise be relocated or does it have to be retained?

A55. This has already been removed as part of the library redevelopment and will not be relocated within the square.

Q56. What is the unit in which the topographical survey map (in the AutoCAD file) has been drafted?

A56. The units are 1:1m

Q57. Can the railings designed by Tess Jaray be

- a) Omitted
- b) Redesigned
- Or do they have to be
- c) Retained
- d) Relocated?

A57. These railings are being removed as part of the metro and do not have to be considered within the design.

Q58. Can we get more details about the Library Void and its surrounding area with the dimensions? For example, the height of the void, presence of any slope in and around the void etc.

A58. The survey information has picked up any levels surrounding the void/well. The height of the void internally is 5.48 m to the underside of the beam.

Q59. What is the wind direction through the Centenary Square?

A59. The prevailing wind direction throughout the year is from the south-west. There is a secondary peak from north easterly winds, especially in the spring and summer.

Q60. As a site visit will not be possible for us, could you also give a brief idea about the microclimate of the Centenary Square?

A60. The micro-climate in Centenary Square is not particularly different from the surrounding city centre. Birmingham has a temperate maritime climate, with average maximum temperatures in summer (July) being around 21.5 °C (70.7 °F); and in winter (January) around 6.5 °C (43.7 °F) Like most large cities, Birmingham has a considerable urban heat island effect.

In comparison to other large UK conurbations Birmingham is a snowy city because of its inland location and comparatively high elevation.

Q61. Highways: Metro Line: Can additional information be provided on the proposed Metro line in this area, Ideally in CAD? If detail is not available clarifications on aspirations for the Metro at Centenary Square. Specifically:

- a. What will the platform requirements be (height, size, tickets, shelters etc.)
- b. Will taxis and buses share the tram surface along Broad Street or will this be separated

A61. a) Please refer to the Metro drawings which have been uploaded onto the competition website

b) They will be separated as the constraints drawing indicates.

Q62. Highways: Metro Line: Is there scope to amend the Metro line station/stops layout or is the layout provided on the drawing: Centenary Square Constraints Plan, to be used for the design

A62. No. Please use the information provided.

Q63. Highways: Bus Stops: Can the number of required bus stops along Broad Street be provided.

A63. The current proposals are for 4 bus stops which have been shown on the constraints plan.

Q64. Highways: Bus Stops: Can the required size of bus stops be provided.

A64. Not at this time.

Q65. Adoption/Maintenance: who will own and maintain the space

A65. Presently Birmingham City Council is the owner and retains the responsibility for the maintenance of the square.

Q66. Income Generation: Is there an aspiration for income generation for Centenary Square

A66. Yes there is an aspiration for income generation for the square.

Q67. Access: Is the area between the ICC and the bollards required to be kept clear at all times for fire/emergency access? Could the requirements for this access be clarified in regards to frequency and type of vehicles?

A67. Please allow a clear width of between 3100mm to 3700mm in front of the ICC to allow access for emergency vehicles. The bollards do not need to be retained as the design may propose other counter-terrorism proposals. We cannot predict the

frequency of use but the types of emergency vehicles will include ambulances, fire engines and police vehicles

Q68. Design : Library: Can the rational/concept and design intent around the library landscape within Centenary square be explained. Specifically:

- a. Why is the path from the void running in a south western direction – what is it aligned with?
- b. Choice of hard materials – why were these selected?
- c. Shape of the planting beds – what has driven the shape and layout of these?
- d. What is the concept behind the plant species and what is hoped to be achieved by the planting?

A68. Landscape surrounding the library well was a temporary solution prior to the redesign of Centenary Square. This landscaping does not need to be retained in its present form.

Q69. Design: Persian Carpet: Can the original rational/concept and design intent around the “Persian Carpet” be provided. Available information suggests this is just a pattern exercise as opposed to having any grounding in the local area and context or wider Birmingham area.

A69. The extent of the Tess Jaray paving design, referred to as the Persian Carpet can be seen on the supporting photographs. The remainder of the paved area is outside of the formal design but laid in a pattern to compliment it.

Drawn detail of the design is not available at this stage but can be made available at stage 2 if required. Additional photographs and a sketch plan have been uploaded to the supporting information.

Competition designers need to consider the specific Tess Jaray design but the retention is not essential if it substantially detracts from a competitors design.

Q70. Heritage: Hall of Memory Listed Status: Does the extent of the listing extend to the adjacent walls/steps and the free standing walls within the plaza area (to the north and north east) that appear to be of the same material.

A70. It is currently listed as Grade I. Refer to the updated constraints plan and the following link <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1244943>

Q71. The brief mention "retention of the existing carpet of brick paving by Tess Jaray should be considered", and we would like to know if is possible have or find one file where is reported the pavement (layout) or if is not necessary or where is possible find some indication that explain this point.

A71. The extent of the Tess Jaray paving design, referred to as the Persian Carpet can be seen on the supporting photographs. The remainder of the paved area is outside of the formal design but laid in a pattern to compliment it.

Drawn detail of the design is not available at this stage but can be made available at stage 2 if required. Additional photographs and a sketch plan have been uploaded to the supporting information.

Competition designers need to consider the specific Tess Jaray design but the retention is not essential if it substantially detracts from a competitors design.

Q72. Who/what kind of organization is supposed to be in charge of the management of the square?

A72. Presently Birmingham City Council is the owner and retains the responsibility for the maintenance of the square.

Q73. As it is shown on the provided Centenary Square Constraints Plan, “Area of external seating area to be retained or replaced with reconfigured seating area”(the seating area next to the Birmingham Repertory Theatre); and “ Void of library to be retained, surrounding may be reconfigured”.

However, the brief (p.3) only said “the current external areas of seating associated with the Rep and The library of Birmingham should be retained within the design”.

Please confirm if the seating area outside Birmingham Repertory Theatre is allowed to be reconfigured; and if the surrounding area of the library void (including the seating) can be reconfigured.

A73. The REP’s seating area needs to be maintained the shape of the area can be reconfigured.

A provision for seating under the canopy of the library needs to be considered. This seating area is to the eastern side of the library by the café. Please see revised constraints plan.

The well needs to be maintained but the soft and hard landscaping above ground can be modified or removed.

Q74. Please confirm if the existing landscape features including: fences along the Broad Street, trees, flower beds, lawn are allowed to be omitted/changed.

A74. The railings will be removed as part of the metro development and do not have to be considered within the design. All other elements can be removed if the designer wishes.

Q75. Brief (p.2) mentioned “These new buildings will be considerably taller than the existing context, therefore the proposed proportions of the square have to be considered as well as the newly created public realm.” Please indicate the approximate heights of the new buildings. Are those buildings in the provided sketchup model with the correct new heights?

A75. All of the buildings on the sketch up model are to the existing and proposed new heights.

Q76. Are any of the trees covered by a Tree Protection Order?

A76. No

Q77. Is it possible to have access on any information regarding the ‘carpet’ paving ie. Any drawings of the pattern itself.

A77. The extent of the Tess Jaray paving design, referred to as the Persian Carpet can be seen on the supporting photographs. The remainder of the paved area is outside of the formal design but laid in a pattern to compliment it.

Drawn detail of the design is not available at this stage but can be made available at stage 2 if required. Additional photographs and a sketch plan have been uploaded to the supporting information.

Competition designers need to consider the specific Tess Jaray design but the retention is not essential if it substantially detracts from a competitors design.

Q78. Where is Gillian Wearing's 'A Real Birmingham Family' statue located in the square and what are the approximate dimensions of the statue?

A78. The images were uploaded to the website on the 31st October when the sculpture was unveiled. It has been installed adjacent to the library well. This is indicated on the revised constraints plan. The statue can be retained or relocated within the square or removed from the square altogether. The plinth is 900mm wide by 2500mm long and 250mm high. The overall height of the statue including the plinth is 1800mm

Q79. Among the design considerations are "information capabilities to facilitate evolving culture and use of space". This description is very vague and do not make clear whether the brief is referring to IT facilities, signage or other items. Please, could you define the point above with explicit examples.

A79. As part of the Centenary Square project, the square will be future proofed with a digital infrastructure. Designers should explore the opportunities this will present in their design.

Q80. Is the Broad Street's section passing through the Centenary Square to be limited to public transport only (bus, tram and Metro)?

A80. Yes the existing road (Broad Street) will continue through Centenary Square. Post 2018 when the metro has been completed it is envisioned that there will be only buses, metro (over-ground) and taxis in both directions in the Centenary Square section of Broad Street.

Q81. Is there a standard typology for the temporary stalls that use to be installed in the Square designers should refer to?

A81. No

Q82. Are there major details on the metro station entrance to be created in Centenary Square? Shall the submission propose for the metro station entrance a design integrated with the other features proposed for the competition?

A82. There is no underground station on Broad Street, presently or existing. The proposed metro is above ground at street level.

Q83. What is the submission's maximum size accepted by the application server? Any limitation for the individual items of the submission (the PDF, the JPG, ...)?

A83. There are no individual file size limitations, however the overall submission should not exceed 20mb in total.

Q84. Shall the PDF be created with a specific resolution and colour scheme (for example to allow for high definition print)?

A84. There is no specific resolution or colour scheme required however competitors should be mindful that the PDF's will be viewed on a screen initially and therefore should be low resolution if possible.

Q85. Under what form of contact would the winning consultant be appointed. Landscape Institute, NEC, ICE or BCC etc?

A85. This will be confirmed at Stage 2

Q86. Do you have any existing pedestrian and / or traffic counts through the Square and along Broad Street?

A86. No this information is not available.

Q87. Are any drawings available showing underground utilities and statutory services

A87. At this stage the only considerations which are worthy to note are the existing tunnel, the library basement and well. Further detail will be provided if required at the next stage of the competition.

Q88. Are any specific security measures required, particularly for the ICC and CCTV within the Square?

A88. Currently all the buildings in Centenary Square have their own CCTV. There is an aspiration by the police to have a CCTV system in Centenary Square which goes back a central base.

Q89. Any additional emergency access requirements (over and above the route to the east of the Square along the ICC frontage as already shown on the constraints drawing)?

A89. The emergency access shown is the minimum requirement.

Q90. Do you have details of loading / deliveries access routes to the buildings surrounding the square?

A90. The only building which is serviced off the site is the Rep which is serviced from King Alfred's Place

Q91. What are the current land ownership boundaries?

A91. For the purposes of the competition please assume that all of the land within the redline is owned by Birmingham City Council

Q92. Who will own and maintain the square in the future?

A92. Presently Birmingham City Council is the owner and retains the responsibility for the maintenance of the square.

Q93. Are the walls and planting beds around the Hall of Memory outside the competition boundary, or can they be amended within the proposed design?

A93. The planting area and beds can be amended as they are outside of the curtilage of the listed building.

Q94. What is the deadline for registration?

A94. There is no deadline for registration however competitors should allow sufficient time to complete the registration process and receive their Unique Registration Number as this will need to appear on their design.

Q95. Could we receive an additional base-map in AutoCAD format showing greater context of the surrounding city?

A95. No, this unfortunately is not available.

Q96. Can we propose design interventions that make changes to building facades to create a more cohesive and aesthetically pleasing square?

A96. No the redesign of the buildings are not part of the brief.

Q97. What is the space between the Library of Birmingham and Baskerville house (north of the site) currently used for? Can we propose changes to this area?

A97. This area is outside the site boundary and therefore cannot be changed. It is currently used for parking and servicing of Baskerville House.

Q98. Will the proposed Tram Line change the vehicle traffic routing in the area?

A98. Yes the existing road (Broad Street) will continue through Centenary Square. Post 2018 when the metro has been completed it is envisioned that there will be only buses, metro (over-ground) and taxis in both directions in the Centenary Square section of Broad Street.

Q99. What is the Birmingham Canal currently used for?

A99. The canal was key to the city's historic past and it is currently used for leisure purposes.

Q100. Are there any historical maps, drawings or images of Birmingham and the Centenary Square?

A100. These could not be uploaded to our website due to copyright but can be found at this location <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/historicalmaps>

Q101. Could we propose design interventions and changes to the areas surrounding Centenary Square to better integrate it with its context?

A101. This area is outside the site boundary and therefore should not be considered.

Q102. Is the space north and west of the Convention Centre open for re-interpretation? (Adjacent to the Birmingham Canal).

A102. This area is outside the site boundary and therefore should not be considered.

Q103. Could we raise the grade of paradise Circus Queensway so that it meets the edge of the square?

A103. This area is outside the site boundary and therefore should not be considered.

Q104. I would like to ask you to please elaborate on the counter-terrorist measures exposed on the competition brief, for example, special requirements already in mind, level of intervention required, etc.

A104. The anti-terrorist measures should apply to the whole of the site. The scope will relate to the design. For further information please follow the National Counter Terrorism Security Office's and RIBA's Guidelines <http://nactso-dev.co.uk/system/cms/files/109/files/original/RIBAguidanceoncounterterrorism.pdf>

Q105. Existing seating area around the REP theatre: In the brief is said: "The current external areas of seating associated with the Rep and The Library of Birmingham should be retained within the design", however the pdf plan called "CONSTRAINS PLAN" says "External seating area to be retained or replaced with reconfigured seating area".

Does it mean that we could reconfigure that seating area according the new design proposal?

A105. The REP's seating area needs to be maintained the shape of the area can be reconfigured.

A provision for seating under the canopy of the library needs to be considered. This seating area is to the eastern side of the library by the café. Please see revised constraints plan.

Q106. New Arena Masterplan: I would like to know if in the 3D model provided, the part corresponding to the new Arena Development is the last version of the project, because in another masterplan that appears following the link in the brief, the location and shape of the buildings and public spaces is not exactly the same.

A106. For the purpose of the competition please use the sketch up model.

Q107. Birmingham Conservatoire: Is it going to remain the Birmingham Conservatoire at the same location after the Paradise Circus development?

A107. This area is outside the site boundary and therefore should not be considered.

Q108. Please provide clarification on what is meant in the brief regarding the Tess Jaray paving installation and taking this into consideration within the redesign? Is removal of the paving acceptable?

A108. The extent of the Tess Jaray paving design, referred to as the Persian Carpet can be seen on the supporting photographs. The remainder of the paved area is outside of the formal design but laid in a pattern to compliment it.

Drawn detail of the design is not available at this stage but can be made available at stage 2 if required. Additional photographs and a sketch plan have been uploaded to the supporting information.

Competition designers need to consider the specific Tess Jaray design but the retention is not essential if it substantially detracts from a competitors design.

Q109. Regarding the paving is it possible to get an aerial view of the original paving design layout or plan of the design?

A109. The extent of the Tess Jaray paving design, referred to as the Persian Carpet can be seen on the supporting photographs. The remainder of the paved area is outside of the formal design but laid in a pattern to compliment it.

Drawn detail of the design is not available at this stage but can be made available at stage 2 if required. Additional photographs and a sketch plan have been uploaded to the supporting information.

Competition designers need to consider the specific Tess Jaray design but the retention is not essential if it substantially detracts from a competitors design.

Q110. As per the given survey layouts, are the building offsets marked in red final.

A110. For the purposes of this competition please use the redline boundary.

Q111. Kindly clarify whether the new plans (paradise Forum & Arena Central) superimposed are final.

A111. The information which has been included by Paradise Forum and Arena Central is the most up to date information and should be utilised for the Design competition.

Q112. Can you provide us the elevation drawings of the site buildings including the new proposed ones (Paradise Forum & Arena Central) for our project study.

A112. This information is not available for the design competition.

Q113. Please clarify, if the track indicated in blue on the plan is of a tram or a metro.

A113. **The tram and the metro are the one thing**

Q114. Can the vehicular traffic movement intermingle with the tram line?

A114. **No**

Q115. As the proposed layout the bus shelter is shown on the road. Shall we consider the same or can we relocate it to onto the paving?

A115. **Please refer to the updated constraints plan which clearly shows the position of the bus stops and the bus stopping zones in the highway.**

Q116. Proposed tram station layout indicates road widening, shall we consider the same?

A116. **Yes**

Q117. Proposed Road widening includes pedestrian pathway or not?

A117. **No**

Q118. Please clarify whether the demarcation area is a part of the tram station or the road?

A118. **This demarcated area at the end of the tram stop is a currently pedestrian area.**

Q119. Between the tram tracks and road area, do you require any physical segregation?

A119. **Currently this scheme does not include this**

Q120. How much width of the road is proposed for busses and four wheelers, after the tram station?

A120. **On either side of the tram stop and corridor there are 2 lanes of carriageway to accommodate buses**

Q121. What are the physical constraints of the network railwork tunnel running below the square?

A121. **Full details about the tunnel are not available at this stage. More detailed information will be available during the design development in Stage 2. However, designers should avoid placing structures, water features or trees directly above the tunnel or in close proximity**

Q122. As per the proposed paradise forum and street plan, what is there any expected numbers of cyclists going to pass through the square everyday.

A122. **This information is not available as part of this competition.**

Q123. Can we get the database regarding the number of cyclist for our study?

A123. **This information is not available as part of this competition.**

Q124. What is the count of the present bicycle racks provided in the square?

A124. **At present 26 cycle racks are present on the square, these are located in front of the library under the canopy. This number should be retained as a minimum within any new design for the square.**

Q125. As per our understanding, the Persian carpet to be retained is demarked in red, kindly confirm the boundaries for the same?

A125. **The extent of the Tess Jaray paving design, referred to as the Persian Carpet**

can be seen on the supporting photographs. The remainder of the paved area is outside of the formal design but laid in a pattern to compliment it.

Drawn detail of the design is not available at this stage but can be made available at stage 2 if required. Additional photographs and a sketch plan have been uploaded to the supporting information.

Competition designers need to consider the specific Tess Jaray design but the retention is not essential if it substantially detracts from a competitors design.

Q126. During the parade, do they march all around the square or only on the Persian carpet?

A126. The processional route will be rerouted to work with the newly designed square.

Q127. Is there any common store for the barricade railings used in the events?

A127. Barricade railings are stored off site and provided by the event's organisers.

Q128. Are there any store rooms for props and events? Where can we consider putting them?

A128. Storage is not required on site.

Q129. In response to the counter terrorism/security related questions?

A129. The anti-terrorist measures should apply to the whole of the site. The scope will relate to the design. For further information please follow the National Counter Terrorism Security Office's and RIBA's Guidelines <http://nactso-dev.co.uk/system/cms/files/109/files/original/RIBAguidanceoncounterterrorism.pdf>

Q130. Where can we consider the additional power source for various events?

Q130. This is detailed design issues which will be addressed as part of the Stage 2 submission.

Q131. How do you cover the library void during extreme weather like snow fall and rainfall?

A131. Covering is not required all drainage is integrated within the existing design of the library void.