



Transport for
West Midlands



Midland
Metro Alliance

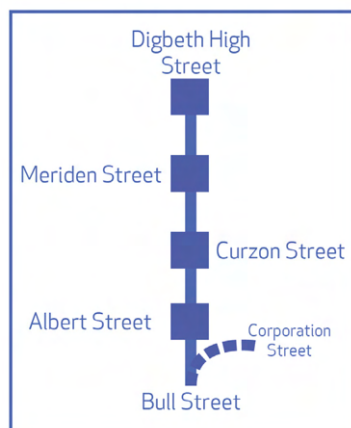
Eastside EDITION

ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2022

Welcome

Welcome to 'Eastside Edition', a newsletter designed to keep those working and living in the area up-to-date on the progress of the Birmingham Eastside Metro extension to Digbeth, which is being designed and delivered by the Midland Metro Alliance on behalf of Transport for West Midlands (TfWM).

When complete, four new tram stops will connect passengers from the existing Metro line at Bull Street to High Street Deritend in Digbeth, via Curzon Street Station, helping to connect more of the region to high-speed rail services.



Getting Around



For the latest information, advice and live info on the region's roads follow the @wmroads Twitter feed and for wider transport updates follow @transportforwm.

ICYMI: A round up of construction activity from the previous issue

Construction activity resumed on Lower Bull Street and Digbeth High Street in mid-August following the Commonwealth Games

Residents and businesses met the MMA team during an information session in Digbeth;

Wayfinding designs were created and installed to support local businesses.

What you need to know

With the ever-changing pace of the construction activity that is underway for the Eastside extension, here is a snapshot of important information that you need to know; some of which is covered in more detail for you throughout the newsletter.

Lower Bull Street area

- Scaffolding and hoarding have been installed along the Kings Parade building in Dale End, with the demolition of the building now underway
- If you are driving in the area you will need to follow a clearly-signed diversion route via Carrs Lane, while pedestrian access is maintained at all times
- Disabled bays in Albert Street have been suspended and the nearest provision for blue-badge holders is on Dale End and High Street

You can read all about these changes on page two.

Moor Street Queensway, Park Street and Albert Street

- We will be carrying out utility diversions in this area in the coming weeks. We will continue to work closely with partners at Birmingham City Council and Transport for West Midlands, as well as local stakeholders, to minimise disruption where possible.

Digbeth High Street

- From early November the project will enter the next stage of traffic management. Those travelling out of the city will be moved onto the new carriageway, as will the associated bus stops. Traffic heading into the city will remain the same.
- Also from this date, Oxford Street and Heath Mill Lane will re-open to vehicular traffic for a left turn in and a left turn out onto Digbeth High Street
- Allison Street, Milk Street and Floodgate Street will open for a left turn out of the high street. The exit from Gibb Street onto Digbeth High Street will also open.
- From late November 2022 all vehicular traffic heading in and out of the city will do so on the new carriageway
- From this date activity will begin on the opposite side of the high street as we start works to convert the existing carriageway into the new tramway. (I will be in touch to discuss loading and any other requirements directly with any affected local businesses)
- Most of the hoarding currently installed on the north side will be removed.

See page four for more detail on these upcoming traffic changes.

I will be holding an engagement event at The Square Shopping Centre next month, so do come along if you would like to find out more about any of the above information. All the details including date and time can be found on page four.

Shervorne Brown,

Your dedicated Stakeholder Liaison Officer



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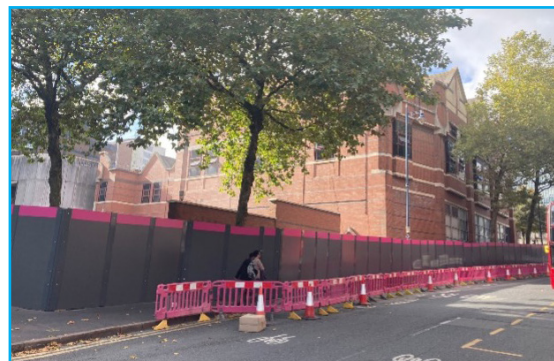
Construction for Metro route takes step forward

You may have noticed some changes in the Dale End area of the city centre.

Scaffolding and hoarding has been installed around the Kings Parade site, which was home to McDonalds before it closed in 2021, as the building is set to be demolished to make way for the new route.

The complex demolition is due to be completed in spring 2023. Throughout the programme of works the site will be continually cleared in order for advance utility diversions and upgrades to take place. These essential works are expected to be finalised next year to allow track laying to begin later in 2023.

Construction for the scheme has been ongoing in Lower Bull Street since spades hit the ground in 2021, and since then considerable progress has been made including the development of the delta junction and street scene improvements.



Michael Anderson, Metro Programme Director at Transport for West Midlands, said: "The work to demolish Kings Parade will bring us one step closer to completion of this highly-anticipated scheme; not only that but the removal of the building will also pave the way for the regeneration of this area of the city centre. The Kings Parade building is well-known, but since the units have become empty we have had many questions from local businesses and residents about when it will be demolished to allow Metro progress to continue, and we are delighted to be able to confirm that these works have begun."

Traffic measures already in place in Lower Bull Street remain with motorists diverted via Carrs Lane. Buses, which were diverted in spring 2021 when activities began, continue to serve amended routes and stops, while the current Hackney carriage bays in Dale End are still accessible via a new location at Lower Bull Street.

This new phase in the project comes within weeks of a major milestone being celebrated following the installation of the first pieces of track on Digbeth High Street last month.

Maria Ion, Project Director, said: "We have made major strides on the scheme in recent months and the demolition of Kings Parade signals the significant construction progress that has been delivered by the team. Site clearance and preparation for track laying will follow next year after the building is removed which will bring us ever closer to connecting the route."

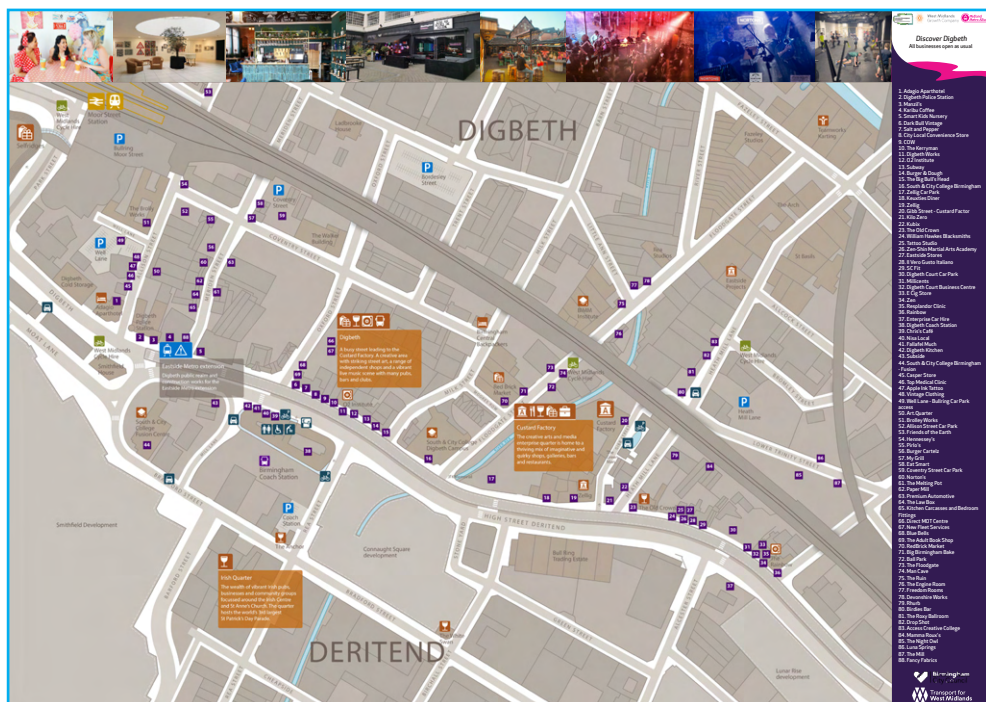
Map helps visitors locate Digbeth's vibrant venues during construction

Those visiting Digbeth will be able to locate the area's vibrant venues more easily with wayfinding maps that have been created for the high Street.

The map, which highlights the position of each business with a handy key to help you find what you're looking for, is available online at www.metroalliance.co.uk. The map is also at the end of this newsletter. A stock will be shared to key businesses, including venues such as Digbeth Coach Station, to benefit those entering the area. They will also be placed in various locations along the construction fencing.

'You are here' stickers will also be added to the maps to further assist with navigation.

Antony Lowbridge-Ellis, Head of Communications at the Midland Metro Alliance, said: "We understand that our works can cause disruption to nearby businesses and the maps will help pedestrians locate the many businesses in and around the high street during our construction activity."



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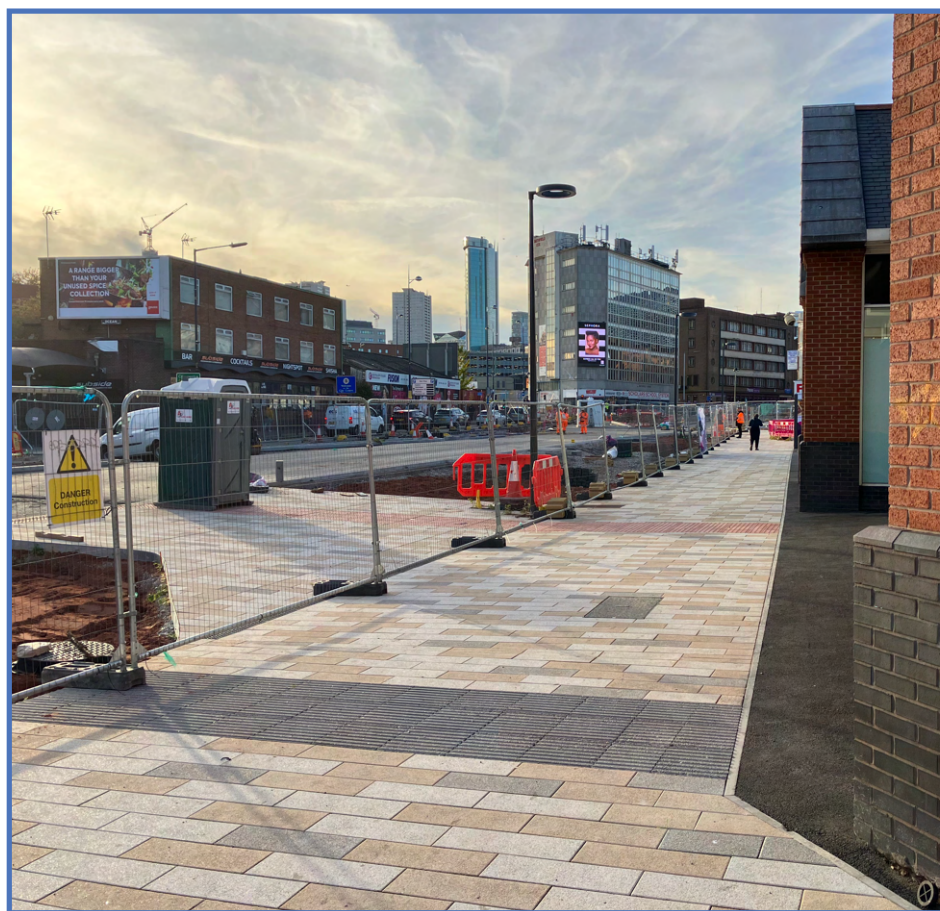
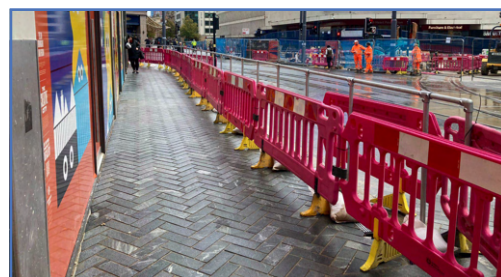
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Recent project progress

Lower Bull Street and Corporation Street areas

Good progress has been made on the installation of new paving in this section with these works ongoing; pedestrians are now being directed along the newly laid walkway on Lower Bull Street. More paving has also been laid for the new traffic island outside the Big John's eatery. Meanwhile, the existing road surface has been removed on Upper Bull Street in preparation for a new surface to be laid in the coming months.



Digbeth High Street

New street lights have been installed following the upgrade of the existing columns, while further paving works have taken place throughout this area. These paving works are almost complete and pedestrians can now navigate the area more easily.

The team are also currently fitting ducting for the central reservation and laying surfacing for the new carriageway along the stretch of the high street. Preparations are also underway for greenery, such as trees and shrubs, to be planted later in the programme.



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Traffic changes in Digbeth as construction progresses

Traffic changes have been implemented in Digbeth as construction activity continues to move forward.

Adderley Street and a section of Digbeth High Street, outbound between Alcester Street and Coventry Street, have reopened to traffic following works in the area wrapping up.

Meanwhile, vehicles travelling out of the city will be moved onto the new carriageway from early November along with bus stops.

Oxford Street and Heath Mill Lane will also reopen to vehicular traffic in and out of Digbeth High Street during this time, while drivers will be able to turn left into Allison Street, Milk Street and Floodgate Street. The exit from Gibb Street onto Digbeth High Street will also open.

Find out more at Stakeholder event

Residents and businesses are being invited to find out more about progress on the scheme during an event next month.

Our dedicated Stakeholder Liaison Officer for the route, Shervorne Brown, will be at The Square Shopping Centre on Thursday 10 November from 11am until 2pm to answer any questions about recent activity and upcoming works.

Shervorne said: "This event will be a great opportunity for those living and working in the area to learn more about the works currently underway as well as activity planned over the coming weeks and months. I look forward to seeing many of our stakeholders on the day."

The event follows a successful information session held in Digbeth earlier in the summer.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT EVENT

Midland Metro Alliance would like to invite you to a stakeholder information session.

Come and join us to find out more about the Birmingham Eastside Metro extension, upcoming works and meet the team.

Thursday 10 November

The Square Shopping Centre
2 The Priory Queensway, B4 7LJ

11.00am - 2.00pm



Operatives come to aid of man during seizure

Two operatives working on Lower Bull Street put their first aid skills into action when they helped a man having a seizure.

Steve Gray and Kiran Kishore witnessed the man fall to the floor opposite the worksite and quickly ran to his aid. They placed him in the recovery position and kept him calm and warm until the ambulance arrived.

John Ellison, Head of Safety and Sustainability, said: "Steve and Kiran showed exemplary courage by putting their first aid training into action and helping the member of the public without hesitation. Their actions are a great credit to them."

Urban realm improvements near completion

Construction will switch to the opposite side of the high street in the coming weeks as urban realm works are completed.

The street scene improvements currently underway are expected to be completed next month and much of the hoarding currently in place will be removed ahead of activity moving to the opposite side. All traffic will then be switched to the new carriageway.

Hamish Falconer, Construction Manager, said: "We are delighted that our street scene improvement works will shortly be completed. The majority of the fencing will be removed in this section, opening up much of the area. Though urban realm activity on the northern side of the high street will be completed, works, such as the installation of planters, bus shelters and street furniture, will continue."



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MMA Senior Buyer volunteers with Army Cadets

Our Senior Buyer for the project swapped the site office for the great outdoors when she volunteered with the Army Cadet Force.

Julie Hendry took part in training to become an adult volunteer for the Army Cadets. The organisation aims to inspire young people aged between 12 and 18 to challenge their limits, grow their abilities, and go further in life and as a volunteer Julie will be on hand to directly train the cadets.

She said: "I decided to volunteer for the Army Cadets as I want to make a difference and help young people get onto the right path. There is far too much bad press about our youngsters these days especially in my local community. I want the press to report the good that the majority of our children achieve and do. It was a fantastic experience and I met some great people and learned many new things, including teamwork and leadership skills, in a completely different environment. I am now looking forward to completing my training and becoming a fully-fledged adult instructor, helping the cadets achieve their hopes, dreams and ambitions."



Going the extra mile for charity

Another member of our Procurement Team has also gone the extra mile to help raise funds for three charities.

Buyer Jatinder Gill joined his wife, Amarpreet, in Poundland's Colour Obstacle Rush in aid of the store chain's charities Make A Wish UK, Tommy's and Whizz Kidz.

The pair endured 20 obstacles, six colour stations, 20 music zones, and foam to complete the 5k fun run at Wolverhampton Racecourse, with a total of £5,000 raised on the day.

Jatinder said: "I've never done anything like this before but when my wife, who works for Poundland, was getting sponsors to take part in the event I also decided to get involved; after all it's such a good cause. It felt good giving back but it was also a lot of fun. It won't be my last charity event."



West Midlands
Combined Authority

News from WMCA:

West Midlands submits Investment Zones bid to drive economic growth, new homes and jobs

The West Midlands announced its formal submission to Government for a package of Investment Zones capable of accelerating economic growth and delivering tens of thousands of new homes and jobs.

If accepted by Government, the zones have the potential to boost the regional economy by more than £4.7bn a year, creating 65,128 new jobs, 18,616 new homes and 3.1m sqm of commercial space. In a comprehensive case, the region's political and business leaders said their Investment Zone proposals would help regenerate and lift up some of the more deprived areas of the West Midlands.

The bid emphasises how the zones offer an opportunity to unlock new public and private investment to help rebalance the economy and tackle long-standing issues around deprivation, fuel poverty, jobs, skills and health – goals that are central to the region's on-going devolution discussions with Government.

The region's case to Government, which is expected to make a decision on the proposals in the weeks ahead, has been jointly developed by the WMCA, local councils and business leaders. It concentrates Investment Zone sites in key locations and along major economic corridors.

These include an East Birmingham North Solihull Investment Zone which involves large strategic sites at Arden Cross in Solihull (around the HS2 Interchange station), sites in East Birmingham, and smaller sites in Solihull Town Centre, all focused on attracting private investment to deliver new jobs, alongside housing and town centre regeneration.



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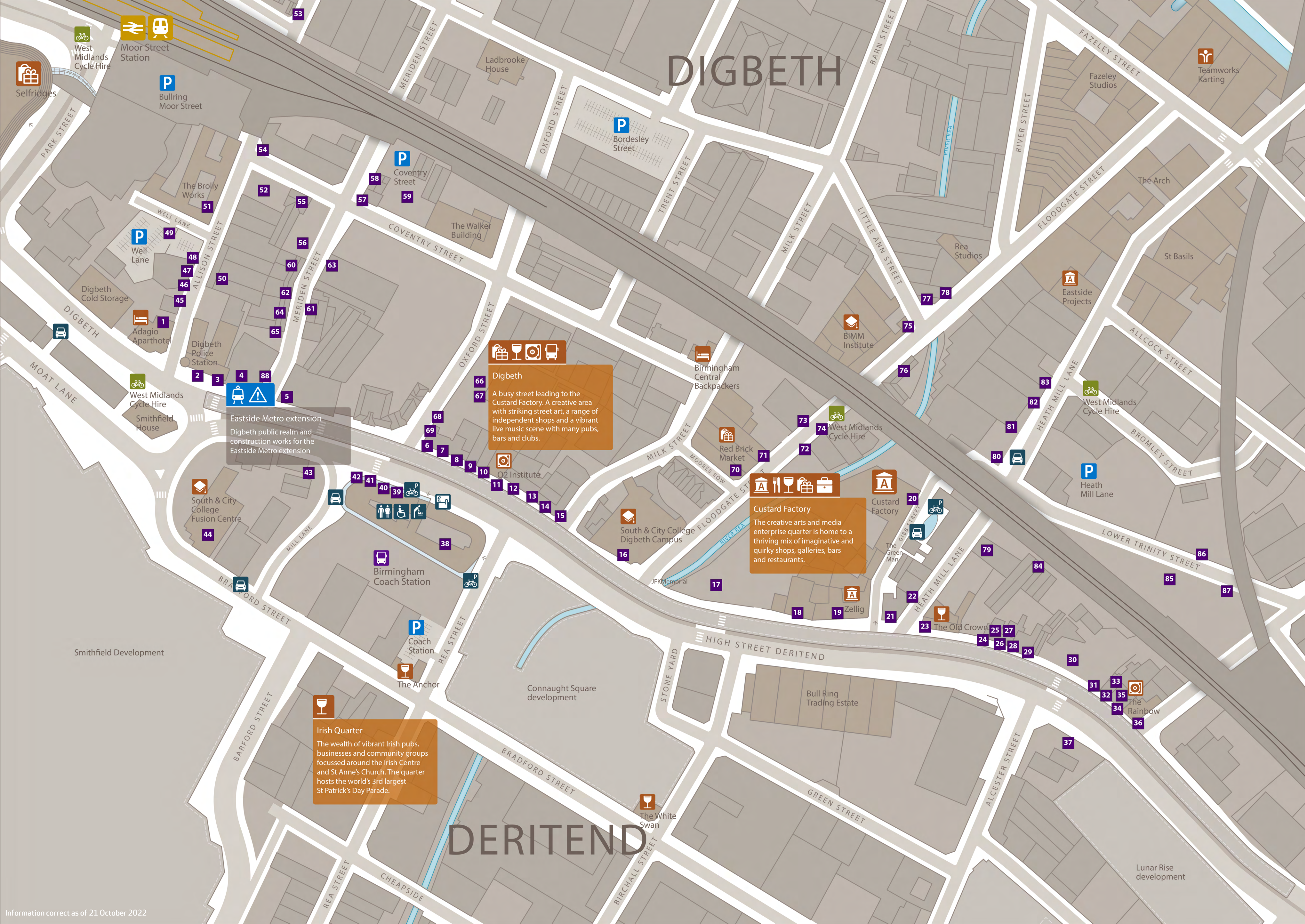
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1. Adagio Aparthotel
2. Digbeth Police Station
3. Manzil's
4. Karibu Coffee
5. Smart Kids Nursery
6. Dark Bull Vintage
7. Salt and Pepper
8. City Local Convenience Store
9. COW
10. The Kerryman
11. Digbeth Works
12. O2 Institute
13. Subway
14. Burger & Dough
15. The Big Bull's Head
16. South & City College Birmingham
17. Zellig Car Park
18. Keuxties Diner
19. Zellig
20. Gibb Street - Custard Factor
21. Kilo Zero
22. Kubix
23. The Old Crown
24. William Hawkes Blacksmiths
25. Tattoo Studio
26. Zen-Shin Martial Arts Academy
27. Eastside Stores
28. Il Vero Gusto Italiano
29. SC Fit
30. Digbeth Court Car Park
31. Millicents
32. Digbeth Court Business Centre
33. E Cig Store
34. Zen
35. Resplandor Clinic
36. Rainbow
37. Enterprise Car Hire
38. Digbeth Coach Station
39. Chris's Café
40. Nisa Local
41. Fallafel Much
42. Digbeth Kitchen
43. Subside
44. South & City College Birmingham - Fusion
45. Casper Store
46. Top Medical Clinic
47. Apple Ink Tattoo
48. Vintage Clothing
49. Well Lane - Bullring Car Park access
50. Art Quarter
51. Brolley Works
52. Allison Street Car Park
53. Friends of the Earth
54. Hennessey's
55. Pirlo's
56. Burger Cartelz
57. My Grill
58. Eat Smart
59. Coventry Street Car Park
60. Norton's
61. The Melting Pot
62. Paper Mill
63. Premium Automotive
64. The Law Box
65. Kitchen Carcasses and Bedroom Fittings
66. Direct MOT Centre
67. New Fleet Services
68. Blue Bolls
69. The Adult Book Shop
70. RedBrick Market
71. Big Birmingham Bake
72. Ball Park
73. The Floodgate
74. Man Cave
75. The Ruin
76. The Engine Room
77. Freedom Rooms
78. Devonshire Works
79. Rhurb
80. Birdies Bar
81. The Roxy Ballroom
82. Drop Shot
83. Access Creative College
84. Mamma Roux's
85. The Night Owl
86. Luna Springs
87. The Mill
88. Fancy Fabrics