

## Green light for head office development

AS part of plans to raise £3.4 billion in non-fare revenue to invest into the transport network, TfL will redevelop its historic HQ – 55 Broadway. Planning approval from Westminster Council means the iconic building above St James's Park Tube station can be transformed into a residential-led development with 23.5 per cent affordable housing, including family-sized homes.



There will be around 1,300 square feet in retained office space, as well as some retail units on the ground floor.

Charles Holden designed the building between 1927 and 1929, and it was constructed as a new headquarters for the Underground Electric Railways Company of London (UERL), the main forerunner of London Underground.

### Did you know?

Contemporary artists of the day were invited to sculpt decorative features into the stone façade of the building. The sculptors were: Jacob Epstein, Eric Gill, Henry Moore, A H Gerrard, Eric Aumonier, Allan Wyon and Samuel Rabinovitch.

# Step-free station boost for London

**MORE** than half of TfL's rail and Underground stations will be step-free by 2018 under new plans set out by Mayor Boris Johnson.

So far, TfL has made 45 per cent of its rail and Tube stations step-free. This means there are no steps between street and platform level, making them fully accessible to people who are unable to use stairs.

This new target comes as it was announced that Brent Cross Tube station will be the next to gain a lift, which will make travelling at the station easier for anyone with mobility difficulties and those travelling with luggage or small children. The station, which opened in 1923, was originally built with more than 30 steps between the street and platform.

Commenting on the plans, Boris Johnson said: 'London has one of the most accessible public transport networks of any major city, but while we may be ahead of Paris and New York there is much more to be done to enable more people to get around the capital more easily. Brent Cross Tube station is the latest to benefit



from our step-free programme and is a great example of how City Hall, TfL and the private sector can deliver improvements together.'

In October 2014, the Mayor announced an extra £76 million for step-free access schemes. The fund is expected to help around a dozen more stations become step-free and the Mayor is writing to all London boroughs to seek their nominations for stations that could be made more accessible.

### Step-free stations in numbers

- Sixty-six Tube stations are currently step-free
- Around 40 more Tube and Overground stations will become step-free over the next decade
- When Crossrail fully opens in 2019, all of its 40 stations will be step-free



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MAYOR OF LONDON



## New poem display celebrates Yeats

A NEW selection of poems are now on display across the Underground network to mark the 150th anniversary of W.B. Yeats.

The six poems have been brought together as part of a year-long celebration of the Irish poet.

The collection will be on display for four weeks and includes one of Yeats's best known works –

When You Are Old – reflecting his lifelong love of the actress Maud Gonne.

A leaflet celebrating Irish poetry including poems by W.B. Yeats, Seamus Heaney, Patrick Kavanagh and Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, in a translation from Irish by Paul Muldoon, is available at selected Tube stations.

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