	<p>In July 2013 Thurrock Diversity Network invited the Regional Director and Senior Managers of Lakeside to talk to Thurrock Diversity Network about the new building work and changes that will be happening at Lakeside.</p> <p>Lakeside was renamed in January 2013 and is now called Intu Lakeside.</p> <p>The company kept the name Lakeside as it is popular, well known and has been linked with the Shopping Centre since its first launch in 1990. Lakeside consists of 1.43 million square feet of space, 259 shops, 4 Department Stores and has 25 million visitors per year.</p> <p>The planned development</p> <p>Debenhams to be moved to where the Bus Stop currently sits, and a new multi-storey car park to be built.</p>



The existing Bus Station will be relocated to an undercover transport hub.

There will be a new leisure zone and a new hotel. In July 2012 – Lakeside carried out 650 surveys – 78% of respondents stated that they would like more leisure space, including the Boardwalk area which will have terraced/galleried areas, plus other spaces plus other outdoor areas.

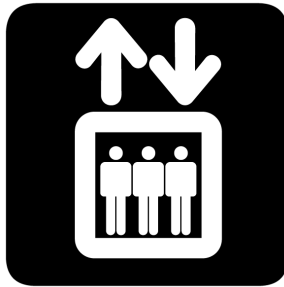
Main Points

- There will be a Transport Hub for buses, trains and taxis, it will be completely DDA (Equality Act) Compliant. Taxis will also be able to drop off at other points.
- There are plans for a Northern Relief Road at the top of the lake that Buses, Taxis, Cycles and pedestrians will be able to use. There will also be a road to the south of the lake also. There will be a pedestrian bridge, connecting what is currently the Boardwalk to the Retail park (by Costa & Subway).
- The majority of open air car parks will remain.
- The new transport hub will be covered (weather-proof), have complete step free access,
- Help Points (staffed) and real time travel information and will have






“talking times” capability

- Senior Lakeside Staff are happy to Liaise with Lead Council Staff to discuss and develop Dementia Awareness further
- There will be more Seating available across both new and existing areas (including seating with backs and arms – Paul recognised that backs and arms on chairs are very useful for people with limited mobility e.g. Arthritis).
- From January 2014 there will be a “Customer Lounge” for people to go and sit (perhaps read the paper, have a coffee)
- Improvements will be made to information points
- Intu Lakeside have recently spent £1.4 million on replacing the lights with special Light Emitting Diode Lights (LEDs) over the last 12 months, both inside Lakeside and in the car parks. New sign improvements and signs are planned. Suggestions were made re: more prominent signs and audio signage.



- There are plans for more lifts in the new development and with better signage. Special emergence carriage lifts are already in place for use in event of emergency/fire/evacuation.
- All new changing rooms will have hoists. Thurrock Coalition will provide the Lakeside Director and Managers with information on “Oxford” hoists.
- The Police presence at Lakeside is reviewed every 12 months. They will still have an onsite presence but will likely have to move elsewhere on site once the transport hub moves. Also, more security officers will be recruited.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There will also be better all-round access, toilets and lifts.
 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lakeside is knocking down some shops and buildings and creating new buildings on the site.• Lakeside is not building on any new land.• Building will start in 2014.• It will cost £180 million over 3 years and will create 1130 construction jobs, 790 indirect jobs and 2600 permanent jobs.