

Justification for the proposed lift shaft specification

Lift Shaft Specification: the proposed amendment to the lift door specification from glazed to solid doors is required to achieve the operational and performance standards specified by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and Metrolink for passenger-facing lifts within the transport interchange environment. TfGM's operational requirement is for the lift installation to achieve Category 2 (Cat 2) compliance. Cat 2 compliance represents industry best practice for lifts operating in exposed railway and public transport environments, where equipment is subject to higher levels of use, possible vandalism, and challenging operating conditions. Similar standards are routinely adopted across the rail sector, including by Network Rail.

Historically, TfGM installed several lifts across its network that were not Cat 2 compliant, and experience has shown that these assets are more prone to poor reliability. In this location, the lift will provide the only fully accessible route to the Metrolink platforms while the interchange is closed for redevelopment. It is therefore essential that the lift is delivered to a Cat 2 standard to maximise reliability, reduce the risk of service disruption and ensure that a fully accessible route remains available to all users at all times.

The lift manufacturer has advised that incorporating glazed vision panels within the lift doors would compromise the ability of the lift system to achieve the required Cat 2 compliance standard. As a result, solid doors are necessary to satisfy operational specification and TfGM's long-term asset management requirements. The use of solid doors will contribute to improved robustness and reliability throughout its operational life, reducing service disruption. This approach aligns with TfGM's experience of operating lifts across the wider transport network, where non-Cat 2 compliant installations have demonstrated poorer reliability performance.

The proposed change is therefore driven by operational, safety and asset performance requirements and is considered necessary to ensure the lift provides a durable, reliable and accessible facility for interchange users throughout the life of the development.