

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

14 December 2021



Subject: Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Transport Plan

Report of: Director of Planning, Transport & Sustainability

Relevant Cabinet Member: Councillor Ian Ward – Leader of the Council
Councillor Waseem Zaffar – Transport and Environment

Relevant O & S Chair(s): Councillor Liz Clements – Sustainability and Transport

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Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 009504/2021		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:		

1 Executive Summary

1.1 In June 2020, Royal Assent was given to the Birmingham Commonwealth Games Act 2020, which makes provision for a Games Transport Plan. As a key element of planning for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and in line with s.25(1) of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games Act, the Secretary of State for

Transport formally directed the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to prepare a Games Transport Plan for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

- 1.2** In order to develop and deliver the Games Transport Plan, over the last 12 months Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), in close collaboration with the City Council and other delivery partners, prepared the Games Transport Plan for consultation and engagement which concluded on 24th September 2021.
- 1.3** The aim of the Games Transport Plan is to set out the approach to the planning, delivery and management of transport services during the Games. It outlines how the existing demand from local people and businesses will be managed, how additional demand during the event will be catered for and how any impacts from the Games will be minimised to limit disruption.
- 1.4** This report seeks endorsement of the principles, themes and legacy aspirations of the Games Transport Plan; provides an update on the public consultation undertaken by TfWM on the Games Transport Plan and outlines the approach towards approval and publication of the final Games Transport Plan.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1** Endorses the key principles, themes and legacy aspirations of the Games Transport Plan (as outlined in Appendix One: Draft Games Transport Plan);
- 2.2** Notes the consultation responses received by TfWM as part of the Games Transport Plan consultation (as per Appendix Two);
- 2.3** Notes that the B2022 Commonwealth Games Transport Plan will be presented for approval at the January 2022 West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board meeting by TfWM.

3 Background

- 3.1** The Games Transport Plan showcases how high-quality, sustainable transport and access for residents, spectators, athletes and businesses will be provided during Games time.
- 3.2** The Five Core principles for Games transport as set out in the Games Strategic Transport Plan are:
 - Clean and Green: a public transport Games
 - Safe, secure, reliable and efficient transport
 - Minimise disruption
 - Valuable long-term benefits of sustainable, transport options and improved public spaces
 - Access for all
- 3.3** Since the agreement of the Games Strategic Transport Plan in 2019 there has been a considerable amount of planning undertaken in preparation for the games

including confirmation of venues, the sports and events programme and spectator requirements. This has enabled the development of the Games Transport Plan in response to these principles. It provides a more detailed framework for the more detailed transport planning which provides guidance and information on the transport arrangements during the Games.

- 3.4** The Games Transport Plan has been produced by TfWM, part of the WMCA, in close collaboration with Birmingham City Council and the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee. There has also been continued close working with Local Authorities and key transport partners including Department for Transport, West Midlands Police and other host Local Authority venue partners.
- 3.5** As part of the development of the Games Transport Plan, TfWM undertook consultation with statutory stakeholders and engagement with the public during the Summer 2021. A summary of the consultation is outlined in Section 5 of this report.
- 3.6** The Games Transport Plan has a dual purpose. Firstly, it informs the public and businesses of the approach to transport planning and provides guidance and information on the arrangements during the Games. This aims to give confidence that there is joint planning with relevant partners to provide safe, secure, reliable and efficient transport during the Games.
- 3.7** Secondly, the Games Transport Plan sets the context for transport planning and cooperation, formally capturing the commitment by all partners to deliver the transport interventions that will be required. More detailed operational planning will follow and will continue to be developed right up to the Games - ensuring the transport provisions are the best they can be for residents, visitors and businesses.
- 3.8** The Games Transport Plan sets out the approach to the planning, delivery and management of transport services during the Games and explains the need for restrictions such as those placed on vehicles accessing and parking on roads to get people to events and to minimise the wider impact. The Games Transport Plan does not however, define the precise location or nature of where restrictions will be. Details such as these will follow in TfWM documents such as the Local Area Traffic Management and Parking plans which will be subject to separate engagement with the City Council, residents and businesses.

Key Transport Themes of the Games Transport Plan

- 3.9** To meet the demand for transport during the Games three types of measures have been identified that will be required:
- Effective use of the network: Managing journeys and key routes to ensure the safety and resilience of the transport network.
 - Provision of temporary additional services: New temporary services to provide the vital support for extra demand.

- Investment in infrastructure: New infrastructure projects will be delivered in time for the Games to help meet the increase in demand.

Spectator and Workforce Transport to Venues

3.10 The Games Transport Plan provides a summary of a variety of transport services that will be in operation to serve the different competition venues throughout the Games. As part of the commitment to delivering a clean and green public transport Games, for events in the West Midlands, as previously announced, Games tickets will include access to public transport in the local area on the day of the event. Games time volunteers, the Organising Committee workforce and all members of the Games Family will also be able to access the local public transport network. All competition venues will have bookable blue badge parking available.

3.11 It should be noted that as part of the Games time planning, the intention is to plan full spectator presence with a maximum capacity at venues. Likewise, the Organising Committee are also working a similar scenario, with key prompts to alter planning following a review of the Covid-19 situation.

The most prominent transport services available for each competition venues are summarised below:

	Rail	Bus Shuttles	Bus	Metro	Cycling & Walking	Park & Ride	Park & Walk
Alexander Stadium							
Cannock Chase							
Birmingham City Centre Venues							
Coventry Arena							
Coventry Stadium							
Edgbaston Cricket Ground							
NEC Cluster							
Sandwell Aquatics Centre							
St Nicholas Park, Warwick							
Sutton Park							
University of Birmingham							
Victoria Park							
Wolverhampton West Park							

Legacy Aspirations for the Games Transport Plan

3.12 The Games is a unique opportunity to create a positive transport legacy of increased sustainability, improved public transport infrastructure and reduced dependency on private car journeys across Birmingham and the West Midlands. Moreover, the Games has been a catalyst for other transport schemes such as SPRINT and the A34 works associated with the Perry Barr Regeneration Scheme along with the redevelopment of Perry Barr and University Stations, which between them represent investment of approaching £200m in transport infrastructure. This will create a seamlessly integrated transport network which will operate throughout Games time and beyond to maximise opportunities for sustainable and active travel.

3.13 As a result of this investment and the opportunities this creates will enable more people to take up active travel, reduce levels of physical inactivity and improve overall wellbeing. These opportunities can also help tackle some of the most challenging issues faced as a society by improving air quality, combatting climate change, reducing congestion and increasing the health of our communities. Investment in sustainable transport also helps to address social inequalities by rebalancing the transport system in favour of those who do not have access to a car and ensuring all our communities have equal opportunities to access essential services, education, employment and leisure. Equally, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Games will play an important role in building back confidence in public transport through showcasing public transport options as transport modes of choice. As such, the transport related legacy aspirations within the Games Transport Plan are:

- Enhance Sustainable Transport:
 - Restored confidence in public transport post Covid-19 pandemic
 - Reducing the carbon footprint of our journeys
 - Investment in Sprint, rail upgrades and Metro extension
 - Enhanced passenger experience
- Active Travel
 - Additional walking and cycling routes
 - Enhanced cycling services
 - Improved health, wellbeing and physical activity
 - Reduced dependency on cars to benefit air quality
- Less Congestion
 - Integrated network management through greater collaboration
 - Better demand management
 - Reduced car travel

- Real-time Travel Data
 - Live, responsive information
 - Improved and reliable journey times
 - Better informed travel choices through easy to access information

Sustainability

- 3.14** Birmingham 2022 aims to be the first carbon neutral Commonwealth Games. The primary goal is to reduce carbon at every possible opportunity and offset what remains through credible initiatives. The Games Transport Plan highlights the B2022 Organising Committee’s work with stakeholders and experts to maximise the use of cleaner generators, supply a modern and cleaner bus fleet. The vehicle fleet for accredited clients will be sourced by the B2022 Organising Committee. All vehicles will meet or exceed minimum standards for emission levels which will at least meet the standards of Birmingham’s Clean Air Zone. In addition, the three-site campus village model will see some athletes staying closer to their training and competition sites which will also support a reduction in travel and carbon emissions.
- 3.15** As part of the pledge to increase conservation and sustainability, the Games partners will also clean 22 miles of canals through the ‘United by 2022’ partnership that exists with the Canal and River Trust and will continue to work with expert organisations such as the National Trust, Environment Agency, and Carbon Trust to ensure all activities are measurable.

4 Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 Option 1 - Do Nothing.** Should the City Council decide not to endorse the key principles, themes and legacy aspirations of the Games Transport Plan (as outlined in Appendix One: Draft Games Transport Plan) this would result in a lack of strategic direction and vision for transport in the city during the period whilst the Commonwealth Games is being hosted. This could result in significant impacts in terms of congestion and network inefficiency, which would damage the city’s reputation.
- 4.2 Option 2 – Endorse the key principles, themes and legacy aspirations of the Games Transport Plan draft Games Transport Plan.** This is the preferred option which will ensure the City benefits from a clear shared strategic direction and vision for transport provision in the city during the period whilst the Commonwealth Games is being hosted.

5 Consultation

- 5.1** Consultation on the Games Transport Plan was coordinated and delivered by TfWM and took place between June to September 2021.

- 5.2** The City Council's response to the consultation highlighted support for the plan and emphasised a key objective is to ensure that all those involved in competing, watching, administering and reporting on events are transported in a safe, reliable and efficient manner whilst seeking to minimise impacts on everyday journeys. The City Council's response also highlighted the significant collaboration between officers in development of the plan to date, and how the City Council looks forward to continuing this partnership to ensure the plan's successful implementation when the Games arrive in Birmingham next summer
- 5.3** Key themes from the consultation are summarised in TfWM's Consultation Summary document attached to this report. (See Appendix Two: TfWM B2022 Commonwealth Games Transport Plan - Consultation Summary note). The key themes identified include Map layout, need to maximise public transport options to access venues, Electric Vehicle Charging Points, emphasis that daily commuters should not be impacted, Public transport legacy benefits, Operator engagement on Local Authority Traffic Management Plans, Freight, Covid pandemic impacts and Travel Demand Management. TfWM are reviewing the comments from the consultation and will incorporate any changes in the final version of the Games Transport Plan.
- 5.4** TfWM have updated the draft Games Transport Plan to reflect the outcomes of the consultation exercise and intend to present this to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee Board in December 2021. Subsequent to this, a final version of the Games Transport Plan will be presented to the West Midlands Combined Authority Board for approval in January 2022. The final version of the Games Transport Plan will also be published in January 2022.
- 5.5** Assuming the final version is agreed at the WMCA Board meeting in January 2022, the Games Transport Plan will set the framework for TfWM's detailed Tactical and Operational Planning. The City Council will continue to be a key partner to help shape quality transport operations for the Games.

6 Risk Management

- 6.1** Risks have been considered extensively and mitigated as part of the development of the Games Transport Plan. Further details of mitigative measures are set out in that document (Appendix One).

7 Compliance Issues

- 7.1** How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?
- 7.1.1** The Games Transport Plan aligns towards achieving the City Council's key policies and priorities as set out in the City Council Plan and Budget 2021-25, West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan, Birmingham Development Plan, The Birmingham Transport Plan, Local Walking and Cycling Strategy

and Infrastructure Plan, Air Quality Action Plan, Route to Zero (Carbon), and Commonwealth Games agendas.

- 7.1.2 In the context of inclusive economic growth, the Games Transport Plan has a strong focus on supporting the City Council's core mission to be a 'city of growth where every child, citizen and place matters'. In addition, the plan seeks to make a significant contribution towards the key priorities of jobs and skills, housing and health by reducing congestion, enabling growth, improving road safety, improving accessibility, improving air quality, encouraging active and sustainable modes of travel, and tackling the climate emergency. The Games Transport Plan is also supporting the delivery of Inclusive Growth priorities including Route to Zero and Our Future City Plan.
- 7.1.3 The Games Transport Plan builds upon the visions and aims set out in the West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan, 'Movement for Growth' and places the importance of equality and accessibility strongly at the heart of the Games Transport Plan. The Games is a unique opportunity to create a positive transport legacy of increased sustainability, improved public transport infrastructure and reduced dependency on private car journeys across the West Midlands. This fully aligns with the principles set out in the newly adopted Birmingham Transport Plan.

7.2 Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 The Birmingham Commonwealth Games Act¹ creates new temporary responsibilities to support the planning and delivery of transport operations for the Games. There are no direct legal implications for the City Council arising out of the GTP as the statutory duty to prepare a Games Transport Plan for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games rests with the WMCA, but the City Council has worked in close collaboration with WMCA.
- 7.2.2 Although there is no duty to carry out a public engagement, TfWM recognised the importance of keeping the public informed and aware of the Games Transport Plan. Therefore, public engagement activity to keep residents and businesses informed with the content of the Games Transport Plan was undertaken.

7.3 Financial Implications

- 7.3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, it should be noted the City Council has committed funding and resources to capital, planning and maintenance works as part of our role as Host City

¹ [Birmingham Commonwealth Games Act 2020 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

for the Games. The delivery of those projects and schemes are subject to separate governance and approvals.

7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)

7.4.1 There are no direct Procurement implications associated with this report.

7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)

7.5.1 There are no direct Human Resource implications associated with this report.

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

7.6.1 An Equality Analysis (EA) for the Games Transport Plan has been undertaken by the WMCA and is attached in Appendix Three. It should be noted that although the EA has not been completed by the City Council; instead the WMCA has undertaken a comprehensive Equality Analysis which aligns with the duty placed on the public sector for Equality Assessments. Therefore, a separate EA has not been developed by the City Council for this report.

7.6.2 The Games Transport Plan outlines how equality and accessibility have been considered throughout the transport planning for the Games.

7.6.3 To support the delivery of accessible transport services during the Games, the EA has outlined the key potential barriers to equal accessibility during the Games and presents an 'Action Plan' of all the practical measures required to promote inclusion and prevent any adverse impacts.

7.6.4 The Games Transport Plan Communication and Engagement Strategy was also designed to reach a broad and diverse audience. Community, faith and outreach partnerships were used to help communicate key messages to the harder to reach groups. In addition, the use of established business forums through the Chambers of Commerce and Local Enterprise Partnerships were utilised to ensure effective engagement. These principals will follow through to more targeted resident and business engagement surrounding local area traffic management plans and travel demand managed through the 'Get Set for Games' business and community readiness campaign.

7.6.5 Birmingham 2022 has also developed a Games-wide Accessibility and Inclusion Commitment Report which is informing the consultation and engagement plans.

8 Appendices

8.1 List of Appendices accompanying this report include:

- Appendix One – Draft Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Transport Plan

- Appendix Two – TfWM Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Transport Plan - Consultation Summary note
- Appendix Three – Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Equality Analysis – Games Transport Plan v2