

Title of proposed EIA	A34 Perry Barr Highway Improvement Scheme
Reference No	EQUA369
EA is in support of	New Function
Review Frequency	Six Months
Date of first review	03/03/2020
Directorate	Inclusive Growth
Division	Transport and Connectivity
Service Area	Infrastructure Delivery
Responsible Officer(s)	Lucy Ronaldson
Quality Control Officer(s)	Janet L Hinks
Accountable Officer(s)	Jaswant S Chahal
Purpose of proposal	To seek approval for the Full Business Case for the A34 Perry Barr Highway Improvement Scheme.
Data sources	Consultation Results; relevant reports/strategies
Please include any other sources of data	N/A
ASSESS THE POTENTIAL IMPACT AGAINST THE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	
Protected characteristic: Age	Wider Community
Age details:	<p>Children, young people and the elderly can be more concerned over personal security and would be more sensitive to any changes in pedestrian access. Children and elderly people will be positively impacted by changes to pedestrian access through capping Birchfield Island and introducing at-grade pedestrian crossings meaning they do not need to negotiate subways and steps. The removal of the subway will also increase the perception of safety. The controlled crossing introduced across the A34 linking Gailey Park and One Stop Shopping Centre will include on-crossing detection meaning the signals will be able to identify if a pedestrian is still crossing the road and extend the green time accordingly, giving more time for elderly people to cross the road, if required.</p> <p>The introduction of a mostly segregated cycle track linking Perry Barr Centre to the existing Birmingham Cycle Revolution route at Heathfield Road will have a</p>

positive benefit for people of all ages, in particular younger and older cyclists who are less confident at cycling on busy roads. This will lead to health and environmental benefits.

The consultation received responses from a range of age groups. The majority of age categories were over represented in comparison to the 2017 mid-year population estimates of the affected wards (Aston, Birchfield, Lozells and Perry Barr). The age categories that were either not represented or under represented were 0-17 years which was not seen as unusual. Over 80s were also under represented, however data shows that they represent 1% of the population. A number of comments received during the consultation regarding the cycle infrastructure stated that the introduction of a segregated route would encourage children, families and other individuals to make use of the facilities due to improvements in safety.

Protected
characteristic:
Disability

Disability details:

Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community

The proposed scheme will bring benefits to disabled people by improving existing pedestrian and cycle measures in the Perry Barr area. Wider footways and improved crossing facilities will bring benefits to disabled people. The capping of Birchfield Island and introducing at-grade, controlled pedestrian crossings will mean people with mobility impairment will not need to negotiate subways or steps. Subways can also raise concerns over personal security, thus their removal will increase the perception of safety.

Tactile paving is laid flush with the adjacent footways to ensure step-free access to the crossing point for people with reduced mobility or wheelchair/ walking aids. Tactile cones will be introduced at all controlled crossings, signalling to pedestrians with visual impairments when it is a green man and safe to cross.

The extension of the existing A34 Birmingham Cycle Revolution route from Heathfield Road to Perry Barr Centre will provide a mostly segregated, coloured paving route for cyclists. The coloured surface will help define where user groups should be on the

highway, particularly for those with a visual impairment e.g. pedestrians and wheelchair users on the footway and cyclists on the cycle route, therefore improving safety for all. People with a disability, who want to cycle, are likely to benefit from these proposals knowing that they can use the route, predominately segregated from vehicles and pedestrians.

The public realm measures being introduced at Birchfield Island and Aldridge Road will improve connectivity between One Stop Shopping Centre and the new residential development.

The public consultation included engagement with disability groups to seek their feedback on the scheme proposals. Although they did not submit a response, feedback was collected from individuals who stated they had a physical or mental health condition or illness. 2011 Census data was collected from the affected wards: Aston, Lozells and East Handsworth and Perry Barr. Note that ward boundaries changed in 2018 and these ward boundaries reflect the 2011 census boundaries. The public consultation feedback received an over representation from disabled people as 17% of respondents stated they had a disability compared with census data which shows 12% of people in the affected wards had a disability.

Responses received from those with disabilities were analysed and despite some negativity towards the scheme in terms of perceived delay to their journey as a result of removing the flyover, this does not affect them because of their disability.

Protected

characteristic: Gender

Gender details:

Wider Community

2017 mid-year population estimates show that the wards of Aston, Birchfield, Lozells and Perry Barr have a 49%/51% split of females and males respectively. The consultation responses represented a 41%/49% split of female to male, with 10% not answering or preferring not to say.

It is not considered that the A34 Perry Barr Highway Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage people because of their gender.

<p>Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment Gender reassignment details:</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p> <p>It is not considered that the A34 Perry Barr Highway Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage transgender people.</p>
<p>Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership Marriage and civil partnership details:</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p> <p>It is not considered that the A34 Perry Barr Highway Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage people who are married or in civil partnerships.</p>
<p>Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity Pregnancy and maternity details:</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p> <p>Changes to pedestrian access at Birchfield Island will impact upon pedestrian access. However, these changes will be positive, as the introduction of at-grade crossings will mean expectant mothers with reduced mobility and mothers with prams and small children will not need to negotiate steps and subways at Birchfield Island.</p>
<p>Protected characteristics: Race</p>	<p>It is not considered that the A34 Perry Barr Highway Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage people who are pregnant.</p>
<p>Protected characteristics: Race details:</p>	<p>Wider Community</p> <p>Compared to England and Wales, much of Birmingham has a high proportion of its population that identifies as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME). Data collected from the 2011 census shows that of the population of the affected wards (2011 census wards: Aston, Lozells and East Handsworth and Perry Barr), show that 71% identify as BAME. The public consultation received comments from a range of ethnicities however BAME were under represented with 20% of responses from this group. White ethnicity represented 65% of the responses received compared with the 20% of the population in the area they represent. This was a 45% over representation of this group.</p> <p>It is not considered that the A34 Perry Barr Highway</p>

Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage people because of their race.

Protected characteristics:
Religion or Beliefs
Religion or beliefs details:

Wider Community

2011 census data shows that the four affected wards (Aston, Lozells & East Handsworth and Perry Barr) show that Muslims represent 42% of the population and Christians represent 32%. Muslim's were under represented in the public consultation responses, representing 10% of respondents. 32% stated they had no religion.

It is not considered that the A34 Perry Barr Highway Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage people who have a religious belief.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation
Sexual orientation details:

Wider Community

66% of respondents to the consultation identified themselves as heterosexual or straight with 21% choosing not to say. This question was not asked in the 2011 census so there is no data to compare this to. However, it is not considered that the A34 Perry Barr Highway Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage people because of their sexual orientation.

Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.

There are no relevant issues therefore no actions are currently required. The equalities assessment will be updated upon completion of the detailed design.

Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended
What data has been collected to facilitate the assessment of this policy/proposal?
Consultation analysis
Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.
Could the policy/proposal be

NO

modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact? How will the effect(s) of this policy/proposal on equality be monitored?

What data is required in the future?

Are there any adverse impacts on any particular group(s) No

If yes, please explain your reasons for going ahead.

Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal

Consulted People or Groups

Informed People or Groups

Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA

This highways improvement scheme forms a key part of the wider regeneration of Perry Barr, delivering sustainable transport alternatives including bus priority and promoting active travel. These measures will help unlock and deliver sustainable economic growth, improved connectivity and will facilitate the delivery of circa 5,000 additional homes over the next 20 years. The hosting of the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham has provided an opportunity to accelerate the planned investment in Perry Barr to bring forward the benefits this scheme will deliver.

The new residential development, which will be used to host the athletes during the 2022 Commonwealth Games, will also provide a long-lasting legacy contributing to significant investment and the creation of circa 2,000 dwellings. The new development has been approved with a low level of parking so it is important that high quality transport links are delivered to support the local reduction in car usage. Improved provision of sustainable and active travel facilities will also support sustainable

economic growth. Changes need to be made to the local road network to enable the provision of new housing as part of the growth and development of Perry Barr.

The proposals will provide improvements to pedestrian and cycle infrastructure, encouraging more people to walk and cycle; improving health and the environment as well as reducing car dependency. The changes to the road layout and introduction of public realm will make Perry Barr a more attractive, accessible and connected place to live, work and encourage further business and residential development.

The scheme has no adverse impacts on the protected characteristics groups listed below. Many of the measures proposed will provide benefits to pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. The scheme will contribute to the regeneration of Perry Barr by improving connectivity, providing high quality pedestrian and cycle measures whilst improving health and the environment.

As part of the A34 Perry Barr Highway Improvement Scheme, the City Council undertook extensive public and stakeholder engagement. Consultation took place between 3 June 2019 and 19 July 2019. The consultation period was then extended by 2 weeks to 2 August 2019. 1,577 responses were received via the City Council's online consultation platform, BeHeard. Further responses were received from Transport for West Midlands, cycling groups and other key stakeholders.

The results of the consultation will be presented to the Cabinet as part of the Full Business Case. The views of individuals and groups representing protected characteristic groups were invited to comment on the impact of the scheme proposals on their protected characteristic. All comments received were considered as part of the consultation analysis. No adverse impacts relating to protected characteristics were received.

QUALITY CONTROL
SECTION

Submit to the Quality No

Control Officer for reviewing?

Quality Control Ok to proceed to Accountable Officer 03 09 2019

Officer comments

Decision by Quality Proceed for final approval

Control Officer

Submit draft to No

Accountable Officer?

Decision by Approve

Accountable Officer

Date approved / 11/09/2019

rejected by the

Accountable Officer

Reasons for approval

or rejection

Please print and save Yes

a PDF copy for your

records