

Sustainability and Transport Overview & Scrutiny Committee CABINET MEMBER ANNUAL REPORT



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Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment
7 July 2021



Birmingham Transport Plan

- Consultation Jan to Mar 2020
- Paused due to COVID-19 and Emergency BTP
- Big Moves:
 - Reallocating road space
 - Transforming the city centre
 - Prioritising active travel in local neighbourhoods
 - Managing demand through parking measures
- Consultation report publication Jun 2021
- Target for adoption of final document Sep 2021
 - Link to related programmes, including R20 and Our Future City Plan
- Delivery plan to support main document
 - Scoping work underway
 - 'Live' document



Climate Change and Air Quality

- Route to Zero (ambition for net carbon neutral by 2030)
 - Action Plan approved Jan 2021, progress update to Full Council annually, from Jan 2022
 - Recruitment underway for Assistant Director – Route to Net Zero Carbon; interviews mid July
 - Route to Zero Task Force will transition to Route to Zero Climate Assembly, focussing on delivery of Action Plan; first meeting 23 Jun (online)
- Clean Air Zone launched 1 June, enforcement and charges from 14 June 2021
 - At 14 June just over 6,000 approved local exemptions were in place; and
 - 66 applications to scrappage scheme; thirty approved, ten non-compliant vehicles scrapped
- Air Quality Action Plan published in Mar 2021
- Monitoring:
 - Air Quality and Traffic baseline study due for publication summer 2021
 - Monthly CAZ factsheets to be published beginning July 2021
 - Air Quality annual status report due July 2021, reporting on 2020 data



COVID-19 Recovery: Emergency BTP

- Emergency Active Travel Fund
 - Cycle routes, Places for People, city centre traffic segments and local centre improvements
 - Review published Apr 2021: traffic and transport data, technical/engineering review, Equality Impact Assessments, engagement analysis
 - Recommendations being acted on: monitoring scheme performance, enhanced communications and engagement
- Birmingham Bus Statement
 - Bus is the backbone of Birmingham's mass transit system
 - Strong commitment to regrow bus travel through partnership and investment
 - 'Ready when you're ready' campaign to get people back on public transport



Key funding

- Transport and Highways Capital Programme (approved Feb 2021)
 - Six-year rolling programme worth £237.601m, with £18.5M specifically on Air Quality and Climate change programmes.
 - Implicit in wider programme as transport policy already strongly aligned to carbon reduction and lower emissions
- Levelling Up Fund
 - £19.9M bid submitted for A457 Dudley Road Improvements project (total scheme cost £30.1M)
 - Potential to submit further bids
- Intra-city Transport Settlement
 - Estimated £800M for West Midlands, over 5 years
- Bus Back Better
 - Future funding, £3bn national fund, local allocation to be distributed via WMCA

Delivery: Active Travel Fund

- Follow up to Emergency Active Travel Fund
- Programme includes cycle routes, Places for People, city centre traffic segments, local centre improvements and supporting measures (local and regional)
- Initial round of engagement undertaken
- Concept designs being created/revised
- Stakeholder engagement underway
- Formal consultation summer 2021
- Detailed design to follow consultation
- Mix of TROs and ETROs
- Scheme delivery from Sept/Oct, completion by Mar 2022



Delivery: active travel, micromobility, schools

- West Midlands Cycle Hire
 - Launched Apr/May 2021; stations in city centre, Edgbaston, Sutton Coldfield
 - Once fully operational: 1,500 bikes and 170 docking station across the region
- E-Scooter (Voi) trial
 - Launched Sep/Dec 2020, covers city centre and corridors to Perry Barr/Selly Oak
 - Current operational area 36 km² with around 1,200 scooters
 - Docking stations added to address public feedback and safety concerns
- E-cargo bike trial
 - Ongoing
- School travel
 - Schools across the city engaged with Modeshift STARS
 - Twelve Car Free School Streets; thirteen Safer Routes to School schemes
 - Schools in priority areas receiving support through School Restart



Delivery: public transport

- Metro
 - Eastside Extension (to Digbeth)
 - Section 1 (Corporation Street /Bull Street) main works started 6 Jun 2021, includes track replacement on Corporation Street
 - Section 5 (Digbeth High Street) works start this summer, includes delivery of Digbeth Public Realm
 - Westside Extension (to Broad Street/Hagley Road)
 - nearing completion, route open to passengers Dec 2021
- Sprint
 - TfWM having Enhanced Partnership Plan/Scheme legally 'made'
 - Construction of the A34 and A45 routes ongoing
 - Hagley Road Phase 1 improvement (Monument Road/Plough & Harrow junctions) under review, looking to commence Statutory TRO process.



Delivery: public transport

■ Rail

- Perry Barr station closed for refurbishment, to re-open in time for CWG
- University station construction underway; existing station open throughout
- Final funding approved for Camp Hill rail stations (Moseley, Kings Heath, Hazelwell); clearance work underway ahead of main construction
- Restore Your Railway Ideas Fund: EOIs submitted for Castle Bromwich & Fort Parkway, and Sutton Park Line (Mar 2021)

■ Bus

- Cross City bus development ongoing; some city centre measures approved
- Proposal for Lyon (Paradise) Queensway to re-open to public transport, taxi and cycles only, with local access arrangements
- Bus Back Better funding expected (via WMCA) for further highway measures



Delivery: road safety

- 20mph evaluation underway, with a view to identifying funding for future roll out
- Working on implementing next 20mph areas: Soho Road, Handsworth, Lozells and North Edgbaston
- Work with RedOptima and Road Safety Foundation on proactive road safety schemes
- Average Speed Enforcement cameras pilot successful; discussions with West Midlands Police regarding future roll out
- £525,000 annual funding for Local Safety Schemes programme



Delivery: major schemes

- Highway schemes
 - **Selly Oak New Road phase 1B**, delivery complete, recent unveiling of bench designed by local school children
 - **Iron Lane, Stechford**, delivery complete
 - **Digbeth Controlled Parking Zone**, delivery complete
 - **Woodgate Valley (Building Sustainable Communities Fund)**, delivery complete
 - **Pershore Rd/ Priory Road junction**, in discussion with contractors, with work possibly starting in August 2021 and continuing to Easter 2022
 - **Perry Barr Highway Improvements**, completion summer 2022
- City centre
 - **Snow Hill Public Realm** (Colmore Row, Livery/Edmund Street), completion summer 2021
 - **Southside Public Realm**, completion spring/summer 2022



Roads Management and Maintenance (PFI)

- Kier Interim Services Contract
 - Performance has been good and feedback largely positive
 - COVID implications and support
 - Investment programme started
- Long Term Reprocurement
 - Working with project parties to produce viable and affordable set of standards and programme of investment for the remaining fourteen years of the contract
 - Delivery options being considered in discussion with Government and project lenders
 - Continuing with member engagement



Environment: Flooding

- Flood Risk Management Annual Report
- Statutory consultee for Planning, surface water considerations
- Attracting external grants
- Flood alleviation and new six-year year pipeline of schemes,
- Flooded sites action tracker – updated with Jun flood events
- Flood incident response and rota duty
- Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for BCC housing schemes
- Partnership works with Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust, ST Water and Environment Agency
- Reservoir Inspection and Improvement Works:
 - Witton Reservoir, Longmoor Reservoir, Manor Farm Park Pool, Powells Reservoir, Salford Reservoir, Shenley Fields, Swanshurst Reservoir, Tritiford Reservoir



Trees, Green and Blue Infrastructure

- Birmingham is a Tree City of the World
- Birmingham is a city of one million trees - but needs more
 - Trees play a vital role in lessening the impacts of climate change.
 - Birmingham currently has 18.6% average canopy cover but 25% or greater is required to make towns and cities liveable.
 - At least 176,000 more trees are needed to reach our canopy cover target.
- What is being done
 - Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP)
 - Route to Zero work ties in to the UFMP
 - Birmingham design guide
 - Development Management policies
 - Our Future City Plan - City of Nature



