



East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Programme Update

2nd March 2022

1. Introduction

1.1 This report is to:

- i. update the Economy & Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress with respect to the East Birmingham and North Solihull Inclusive Growth agenda following the most recent previous report in September 2021.
- ii. provide a further update on progress towards transitioning the East Birmingham work from the strategy-making into the delivery phase.

2. Background

- 1.2 At the time of the previous report to this committee, the Enhanced Business Case for the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Programme (the Programme) had recently been agreed by the City Council's Cabinet during July 2021. The purpose of the Programme is to begin delivery of the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy (EBIGS) which was approved by Cabinet in February 2021.
- 1.3 The report set out a summary of the Enhanced Business Case which is for an initial phase of work covering the period 2021/22 - 2024/25. At the end of this funding period there will be a review of the programme and a further business case will be prepared for the next phase
- 1.4 The focus for the East Birmingham Programme is on holistic regeneration: the delivery of physical development and infrastructure, systems change/organisational transformation, and inclusive economic growth that will benefit the target population.
- 1.5 The Programme Objectives for the period 2021-41 are as follows:
 - Improve performance across a range of key socio-economic indicators including the seven objectives set out in the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy to at least the national average.
 - Deliver 5,000 homes within the area, of which a minimum of 35% will be at least affordable.
 - Create at least 10,000 jobs within the area which will pay the Real Living Wage
 - Support the Council's aspiration to be net carbon neutral by 2030, or as soon after as a just transition permits.

3. Progress Since Previous Update

1.6 The following key activities have been progressed since the previous report:

Levelling Up Strategy Launch

- 1.7 In November the Council launched Prosperity and Opportunity for All: Birmingham's Levelling Up Strategy which urges the Government to support five 'Levelling Up Accelerators'

- 1.8 The document identifies East Birmingham as one of these accelerators; an 'integrated place delivery model demonstrator'. This is further explained in a companion document to the Levelling Up Strategy which identifies the following key areas of activity, drawn from the priorities set out in the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy:

- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Delivering Net Zero
- Skills and Employment
- Enhancing Connectivity

- 1.9 The Council is continuing to engage with Government to advocate for East Birmingham via the current consultation on the Levelling Up White Paper.

Project Delivery

- 1.10 The Programme currently includes eleven live projects which are being progressed according to agreed plans. Three new projects (EB009 – EB011) have been mobilised since the previous report to this Committee.

- EB001: USE-IT Transfer Network
- EB002: Ward End/Cole Valley Skills Hub
- EB003: Meadway Local Centre
- EB004: Tyseley Clean Energy Masterplan for Growth
- EB005: Community Engagement Pilot
- EB006: EBNS Transport Study
- EB007: Bordesley Spatial Pilot/Healthy Living Zone
- EB008: Community Economic Development Planning Policy Lab
- EB009: Dolphin Centre Youth Hub
- EB010: Cole Valley Country Parks
- EB011: Housing Delivery Pipeline Study

- 1.11 Further detail regarding these projects is provided in Appendix A and paragraph 2.3 below. Additional projects are also being developed by the Programme team for future mobilisation.

Submission of Full Business Case for EB009: Dolphin Centre Youth Hub

- 1.12 Following an initial Expression of Interest in late 2021, a Full Business Case has been submitted to GBSLEP seeking an additional £315k to expand the scope of planned improvements to the Dolphin Centre in Ward End Park (part of the Ward End Lakeside Renewal Project) to include the creation of an inclusive Youth Hub with full disabled access, integrating Jobcentre Plus services to deliver engagement of young people after a period of not being in employment and education into healthcare and other key employment sectors. The improvements include:

- A fully fitted-out social enterprise café;

- A lift and WC for disabled access;
 - Upgraded digital connectivity technology (including secure closed Wi-Fi for the Youth Employability Coach and a free public hotspot for the use of the community); and
 - Internal building infrastructure to enable the effective functioning of the youth employment coach.
- 1.13 On completion of the project, 400 individuals will be engaged annually through new training programmes delivered at the Dolphin Centre and of these, an estimated 150 unemployed individuals per year will enter employment within the first 6 months of receiving the support.
- 1.14 A revised Full Business Case for the Ward End Lakeside Renewal Project incorporating the additional funding and increased scope will be brought to Cabinet in March 2022. The Project is expected to be completed by the end of the 2022/23 fiscal year.

Progression of a Partnerships for People and Place bid

- 1.15 The City Council is working with partners including Birmingham Education Partnership, City-REDI, Department for Work and Pensions, Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership, University of Birmingham and the WMCA to formulate a bid to Government for a new pilot project to address youth employment in East Birmingham, following a successful first stage bid to the Partnerships for People and Place programme during 2021. This work addresses one of the ten recommendations in the City Council's report Breaking Down Barriers which was launched in July 2021. A stage 2 bid has now been submitted setting out a proposal which focusses on innovation in earlier support in schools for successful careers for East Birmingham young people. If successful, the pilot project will be delivered during 2022.

Commencement of the River Cole Valley and Tyseley Community Commons Project

- 1.16 The University of Birmingham, Birmingham City Council, the Active Wellbeing Society and the Environment Agency are collaborating on a £1.2M project seeking to bring a section of the River Cole Valley at Tyseley back in to use as a community commons; a natural, cultural and societal resource that is available and accessible to all members of the surrounding community. The project will be linked with the wider River Cole Country Parks project (EB010) and will take in the improvement of walking and cycling routes, ecological measures and re-naturalisation of the river corridor, and the creation of a new public green space. The local community and stakeholders will be engaged through a Community Learning Platform approach with the aim of putting in place a long-term stewardship and management model. The project is currently mobilising and will be completed by June 2023.

Programme Development and Mobilisation

- 1.17 Internal pre-recruitment processes have been completed and recruitment of the Programme Team is underway. In addition, robust programme management and reporting structures have now been established including monthly meetings of the

East Birmingham Delivery Board which reports in turn to the City Council's Inclusive Growth Portfolio. Steps have been taken to ensure that the programme will be holistic and comprehensive in line with the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy. This activity has included the emerging Partnerships for People and Place project, engagement with the Community Safety Partnership and collaboration with NHS partners to develop proposals for an East Birmingham Forum to support integration of health services with wider public sector partners.

Community wealth building, engagement and neighbourhood working activities are ongoing

- 1.18 The Programme team continues to work with Ward Members and local stakeholders including Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations and the Neighbourhood Networks partners to empower and support local organisations through the provision of advice, assistance, and support for funding applications. In total active engagement is ongoing with over 60 organisations and support has been provided to multiple community funding bids. Community engagement and capacity building work is being further progressed by projects EB001, EB005 and EB008.

Programme Governance

- 1.19 The Programme is overseen by the East Birmingham Board which has ownership of the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy and provides political direction and support. The key objectives of the Board are to deliver growth and to bring forward the key interventions to enable residents to shape and benefit from the jobs and opportunities created. There have been two meetings of the East Birmingham Board since the previous report to this committee. On 11th November 2021 the Board received the following presentations:
- Levelling Up update
 - City of Nature
 - Net Zero Neighbourhood
- 1.20 On 2nd February 2022 the agenda for the East Birmingham Board included the following items:
- Green Infrastructure Masterplan
 - Football Foundation
 - East Birmingham Locality Forum
 - Transport Update
- 1.21 The East Birmingham Ward Members' Forum includes the 26 Councillors from 20 Wards whose Wards are directly affected by the Programme. The Ward Members' Forum meets quarterly to receive an update on the Programme activities and to provide ongoing political engagement. On 7th October 2021 the Ward Members' Forum received the following presentations:
- Regular update on East Birmingham Programme and next steps
 - Presentation: USE-IT Transfer Network and associated projects

- Presentation: East Birmingham Test and Learn
- 1.22 On 31st January 2022. The Ward Members' Forum agenda included:
- Regular Programme Update including an update on the Levelling Up Strategy launch.
 - An update on transportation in the East Birmingham/North Solihull corridor.
- 1.23 The East Birmingham Rapid Policy Unit (RPU) comprises a multi-disciplinary team of City Council officers including the programme staff, and a wider membership drawn from partner organisations. The RPU has continued to meet fortnightly to facilitate the development of the programme by bringing new partnerships, projects, and policies together and supporting quality assurance activities.

2 Next Steps

- 2.1 The principal focus of activity for the next six months will be as follows:

Recruitment of the Programme Team

- 2.2 The Programme team currently includes The East Birmingham Development Manager, one Graduate officer and a Programme Support Assistant who is with the Council as part of the Government's Kickstarter Scheme. During 2021 the team also hosted two student placements and two work experience placements.
- 2.3 Following the completion of the Job Evaluation process, recruitment to a further seven posts is now underway in line with the Programme Enhanced Business Case. It is anticipated that the additional officers will be in place during Q1 2022/23. Further graduate, work experience and student placements will also be supported on an ongoing basis.

Project Development and Delivery

- 2.4 The current phases of projects EB002, EB003, EB004, EB006 and EB008 are expected to complete by May 2022 and will be followed by future phases of associated activity. Further detail is provided in Appendix A.
- 2.5 EB009, EB010 and EB011 are new projects which are currently being mobilised. Initial work will also begin on two new projects: the East Birmingham Green Infrastructure Masterplan and the Net Zero Neighbourhood.
- 2.6 Additional project proposals are in development by the programme team as reported to the November meeting of the East Birmingham Board. This activity will be accelerated greatly by the recruitment of additional Programme personnel.
- 2.7 The Programme team will continue to work pro-actively across Council service areas and with East Birmingham Board partners to identify and develop further projects and to prepare funding bids and business cases as necessary.

Development of the East Birmingham Locality Forum

- 2.8 Following a discussion at the February meeting of the East Birmingham Board it is proposed to work with NHS colleagues to hold workshops for strategic partners to define priorities, prepare an action plan, and agree membership for an East Birmingham Locality Forum which is intended to convene local partners to guide,

accelerate and support the implementation of the integration of health with wider public sector services. This will consider the theme within the overall East Birmingham Programme and the context of objectives of the Integrated Care System place programme.

2.9 Milestones:

- Commencement of recruitment activities February 2021
- Future East Birmingham Board Meetings:
 - 10 May 2022
 - 21 July 2022
 - 03 November 2022
 - 02 February 2023
- Ward Members' Forum meetings will be held quarterly, with future dates to be confirmed.
- First annual report to Cabinet July 2022