

**13<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**Economy & Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Programme Update**



**1. Introduction**

1.1. This report is to:

1.1.1. 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 March 2022.

1.1.2. provide a further update on progress towards the East Birmingham Programme objectives.

**2. Background**

2.1. Previous reports to this committee have stated that the Enhanced Business Case for the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Programme (the Programme) was 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 following extensive public engagement.

2.2. The approved Enhanced Business Case 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

2.3. 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.

2.4. 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**

**Programme Governance**

3.1. 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. On 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 the Board received the following presentations:

- Green Infrastructure Masterplan Vision
- Tyseley Clean Energy Masterplan for Growth
- Partnerships for People and Place
- East Birmingham transport corridor study report

3.2. The next meeting of the East Birmingham Board will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2022.

3.3. 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 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.

3.4. The Spring meeting of the Forum was deferred due to the local elections. The next meeting is expected to be in August/September 2022.

3.5. 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.

#### **Programme Development and Mobilisation**

3.6. Internal pre-recruitment processes have been completed and recruitment of the Programme Team is underway. In total the team will comprise 8 officers and is expected to reach full strength by November 2022.

3.7. The Programme Team and Rapid Policy Unit continue to feed into corporate policy across a range of agendas and are developing opportunities for the scaling up and expansion of the programme in line with the Programme business case. This has included input into the Council's Levelling Up Strategy (published November 2021) which identifies East Birmingham as the city's pilot area for place-based regeneration. Initial discussions are currently underway with the West Midlands Combined Authority to explore how this aspiration can be supported by the forthcoming Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

#### **Project Delivery**

3.8. Four projects have recently been completed:

EB003: Meadway Local Centre Feasibility Study

- This project has delivered a study which will inform the next steps for the redevelopment of this important local centre site for an estimated 100 homes, retail space, and a potential service hub incorporating Council and other

stakeholder provision. The next stage of work is expected to consist of the delivery of housing in parallel with the development of a business case for the local centre itself.

EB004: Tyseley Clean Energy Masterplan for Growth

- The output of this project is a Masterplan report which will support the ongoing development of the Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District as Birmingham's "Green Energy & Innovation Quarter".

EB006: East Birmingham to Solihull Transport Corridor Study

- This project has delivered a report which will inform the development of the transport programme for East Birmingham over the next five years in light of the recently agreed City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRST).

EB008: Community Economic Development Planning Policy Lab

- Birmingham City Council have worked with the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network to produce a report on Community Economic Development Planning (CEDP). CEDP is seen as a key tool for enabling communities to take an active role in shaping the economic development within a specific geographic area, to make the economy in that area work well for that community.

3.9. The Programme currently includes a further eleven live projects. Further detail regarding these projects is appended to this report.

- EB001: USE-IT Transfer Network
- EB002: Ward End/Cole Valley Skills Hub
- EB005: Community Engagement Pilot
- EB007: Bordesley Spatial Pilot/Healthy Living Zone
- EB009: Dolphin Centre Youth Hub
- EB010: Cole Valley Country Parks
- EB011: Housing Delivery Pipeline Study
- EB012: Net Zero Neighbourhood Phase 1
- EB013: City of Nature Pilot
- EB014: Pocket Parks
- EB015: Partnerships for People and Place Pilot

3.10. Additional projects are in the process of development including subsequent stages of activity aligned with the completed projects EB003: Meadway Local Centre and EB004: Tyseley Clean Energy Masterplan for Growth.

**Approval of Full Business Case for EB009: Dolphin Centre Youth Hub**

3.11. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March the City Council's Cabinet approved a Full Business Case for a £1.5m programme of improvements to the Dolphin Centre in Ward End Park to include the creation of an inclusive Youth Hub with full disabled access, integrating Jobcentre Plus services with the local East Birmingham Community Anchor Network

to deliver engagement of young people after a period of not being in employment and education into healthcare and other key employment sectors. All funding and approvals are now in place and the project will be starting on site shortly. 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.

- 3.12. 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 into employment within the first 6 months of receiving the support.

#### **Approval of the Partnerships for People and Place bid**

- 3.13. Approval has been given for the Council's bid for £335k Government funding for a locally designed scheme of employment support. The focus will be on innovation in earlier support in schools for successful careers for East Birmingham young people. The pilot project will be delivered during the 2022/23 financial year and has been added to the Programme as EB012: Partnerships for People and Place Pilot. The project has been designed in collaboration with Birmingham Education Partnership, City-REDI, DWP, GBSLEP, University of Birmingham and the WMCA. This work addresses one of the ten recommendations in the City Council's report *Breaking Down Barriers* which was launched in July 2021.

#### **Green Infrastructure Vision Document**

- 3.14. The Programme team has produced a Vision document which addresses the implementation of the Council's City of Nature ambition in the context of the inclusive growth and the climate change agenda in East Birmingham. It was presented to the May meeting of the East Birmingham Board for comment and response and will be followed by a subsequent Masterplan and Delivery Plan.

#### **Community wealth building, engagement and neighbourhood working activities**

- 3.15. The Programme team continues to work with Ward Members and local stakeholders including VCSE 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 EB0100

#### **4. Next Steps**

- 4.1. The principal focus of activity for the next three months will be as follows:

### **Recruitment of the Programme Team**

- 4.2. Recruitment continues and it is anticipated that the team will be in place during Q3/Q4 2022/23. Further graduate, work experience and student placements will also be supported on an ongoing basis.

### **Project Development and Delivery**

- 4.3. The current phases of EB002 and EB0011 are reaching completion imminently and will be followed by future phases of associated activity. The new projects EB012 – EB015 will be fully mobilised and will commence regular reporting to the programme board. Further detail is appended to this report as Appendix A. Additional project proposals are in development by the programme team and this activity will be accelerated greatly by the recruitment of additional Programme personnel.

### **Development of the East Birmingham Locality Forum**

- 4.4. A presentation was provided to the February meeting of the East Birmingham Board regarding the proposed establishment of an East Birmingham Locality Forum which will convene local partners to guide, accelerate and support the implementation of the integration of health with wider public sector services. Workshops have now been arranged for strategic partners to define priorities, start work on an action plan, and agree membership of the Forum. The initial workshop was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2022.

### **Enhancements to Programme Reporting**

- 4.5. In line with the principles of the Programme business case, and in response to feedback received from the East Birmingham Board, future reports to Board will be improved and expanded by the addition of further information to include:

- Programme team roles and responsibilities
- Further detail on projects in development
- A programme impact dashboard with a focus on key metrics including employment outcomes
- An overview of projects and activities beyond the core programme projects, potentially including transport, housing, and key Board partner projects

### **4.6. Milestones:**

- Completion of recruitment activities November 2022
- Future East Birmingham Board Meetings:
  - 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 Q3 2022