

Sustainability and Transport Overview & Scrutiny Committee CABINET MEMBER ANNUAL REPORT

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Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment

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Since the last update in July 2021, teams across Transportation & Environment have continued to work successfully to develop, deliver and progress numerous projects...

Highlights include:

- Commence operation of the Clean Air Zone;
- Adoption of the Birmingham Transport Plan;
- Continued delivery of key public transport and active travel projects in time for the Commonwealth Games;
- Publication of the UK's first Urban Forest Master Plan.

Transport Updates



Delivering the Birmingham Transport Plan

Adopted in October 2021 - Key principles:

- Reallocating road space
- Transforming the city centre
- Prioritising active travel in local neighbourhoods
- Managing demand through parking measures

Development of BTP Delivery Plan underway.

*The **vision** for Birmingham's transport is for a sustainable, green and inclusive, go-anywhere network.*

Safe and healthy environments will make active travel – walking and cycling – the first choice for people making short journeys.

A fully integrated, high quality public transport system will be the go-to choice for longer trips.

A smart, innovative, carbon neutral and low emission network will support sustainable and inclusive economic growth, tackle the climate emergency and promote the health and well-being of Birmingham's citizens.

BIRMINGHAM TRANSPORT PLAN



A BOLDER GREENER BIRMINGHAM



Improving Connectivity

Projects on site, to be completed by Summer 2022:

- A34 and A45 **Sprint** routes.
- **Perry Barr** highway improvements, railway station refurbishment and bus interchange.
- Pershore Road/Priory Road junction improvement & cycle link.

Rail:

- **University Station** work ongoing; existing station open throughout.
- Funding approved for **Camp Hill Line rail stations** at Moseley, Kings Heath and Hazelwell. Clearance work underway ahead of main construction.
- **Whole Industry Strategic Plan (WISP)** for Rail published December 2021: sets out how rail industry will be brought together under the umbrella of Great British Rail to deliver a better performing, better value railway for Britain. Officers preparing BCC response.



Improving Connectivity

Metro:

- **Eastside Extension** (to Digbeth)
 - Section 1 (Corporation St/Bull St) main works ongoing on Bull Street; delta junction complete. Track replacement on Corporation Street substantially complete.
 - Section 5 (Digbeth High St) utility diversions have commenced prior to main works.
- **Westside Extension** (to Hagley Road) nearing completion, detailed discussions about TROs delaying final completion.

Bus, Road & Rapid Transit:

- **Dudley Road Improvements:** phase 1 underway, to by summer 2022. £20m Levelling Up Fund grant received to complete phase 2.
- **Cross city bus** development ongoing; some city centre measures approved.
- **Hagley Road phase 1 Sprint** under review, works due autumn 2022.
- Funding for **phase 2 of A34 and A45 Sprint** included in City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement.
- Proposal for **Lyon Queensway** to re-open to public transport, taxi & cycles.



Making the City Centre Cleaner & Greener

Public realm:

- Completion of the initial phases of **Snow Hill Public Realm**.
- **Southside Public Realm** interim scheme to be completed for summer 2022. Final scheme completion spring 2025.
- **City Centre Public Realm** (repaving of Victoria Square, Colmore Road and Waterloo Street; restoration of The River) fountain works to be completed for summer 2022. Paving work 2023 to 2024.



Traffic and Emissions Management:

- Delivery of **City Centre Segments** scheme underway; restricting private vehicle trips through city centre.
- **Clean Air Zone**, launched June 2021:
 - Since launch the percentage of unique compliant vehicles has increased from 73.8% to 82.1% (at the end of November 2021).
 - Exemptions and financial grants continue to support the transition to a clean air city.



Measures to Enhance Our Communities

Active Travel Fund Schemes:

- Consultation complete, detailed design work underway:
 - Cycle routes: city centre to City Hospital, Bradford Street and city centre to Small Heath Park, Cannon Hill Park to Moseley.
 - Places for People: Kings Heath and Moseley, Lozells.
 - Local centre footway widening: Moseley, Kings Heath, Sutton Coldfield.
- TRO/ETRO adverts to follow with scheme delivery from spring 2022.
- Project due to be completed late 2022.
- **Places for People in Bournville** consultation later in 2022.
- **Big Birmingham Bikes** giveaway due to begin shortly.

West Midlands Cycle Hire, launched May 2021:

- Initial scheme fully operational across the West Midlands with 1,500 bikes, including 150 e-bikes and 170 docking stations.
- Docking stations in Birmingham city centre, Edgbaston, Sutton Coldfield and Newtown (approx. 70 locations).



Measures to Enhance Our Communities

**BTP key principle:
Prioritising active travel
in local neighbourhoods**

E-Scooter (Voi) trial:

- By November 2021: 1,200 e-scooters in operation, 720,000 trips covering 1.4million km, completed by 70,000 active users in the city.
- Trial extended until the end of September 2022, with plans to also extend the geographical area of the scheme.

E-cargo bike trial:

- Trial ongoing with a number of organisations, including BCC.

Road Safety:

- Continued evaluation and development of Local Safety Schemes and 20mph areas. Delivery of schemes to progress autumn 2022.
- Creation of the £1m Local Improvement Budget Fund to deliver smaller scale highway measures, including road safety projects.
- Development of the expansion of Average Speed Enforcement camera pilot to commence in 2022/23.



Measures to Enhance Our Communities

BTP key principle:
Prioritising active travel
in local neighbourhoods

School travel – current picture:

- 272 school registered with Modeshift STARS: 211 primary, 48 secondary, 13 special/other.
- Five new Car Free School Streets this year (to make 17 total).
- 14 Safer Routes schemes delivered since June 2021.

School travel – look ahead:

- £1m investment from CAZ revenue to expand work.
- City wide approach to CFSS, delivery on larger scale than was possible for the pilot.
- Identify schools where CFSS is not appropriate but other measures may benefit and lead to increased sustainable travel.
- Enhanced package of engagement activity focussing on secondary schools and sites on busier roads.
- Leading to improved road safety and air quality around schools, and increased walking and cycling to school.



Maximising the City's Assets

**BTP key principle:
Managing demand through
parking measures**

Parking SPD (Supplementary Planning Document)
adopted November 2021.

Delivery approach in progress:

- Release of car parks for more efficient uses, such as housing developments.
- Reduction in council-owned car park spaces and redevelopment of a number of large car park sites.
- Produce and deliver a Kerbside Management Strategy to ensure that kerb space is allocated in a fair, efficient and sustainable way.
- Progress the feasibility study for a Workplace Parking Levy (WPL).
- Expansion of the Controlled Parking Zone.



Roads Management and Maintenance (PFI)

Kier Interim Services Contract:

- Continue to work with Kier on stabilising service performance.
- Over £50m of investment already delivered, with further £95m to be delivered through to 2023.
- This is an important platform for the long-term service.



Long Term PFI Re-Procurement:

- Outline Business Case submitted to DfT in December 2021 and has been received positively, expected to receive approval.
- Supplier Day held on 18 January 2022.
- Procurement commences formally in February 2022, with the aim of starting the long-term contract in September 2023.



Transport & Highways Funding

City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS):

- WM allocation £1.05bn for the five-year period between 2022 and 2027.
- Indicative Birmingham share: direct investment ~£193m, additional indirect investment (benefit from regional schemes) ~£135m.
- Final programme submitted to Government 21 January 2022, including:
 - East Birmingham to Solihull Corridor.
 - A45 & A38 Cycle Routes.
 - Sutton Gateway.
 - City Centre Active Travel Connections to Interchange.
 - One Station and Smallbrook Queensway.

Local Network Improvement Plan (formerly Integrated Transport Block Funding):

- Estimated BCC will receive approximately £6.225m per annum: 21% uplift on recent years.

Transportation and Highways Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2027/28 being prepared to go to March 2022 Cabinet.



Environment Updates



Climate Change and Air Quality

Route to Zero (ambition for net zero carbon by 2030):

- Updated R20 Plan approved by full Council on 11 January 2022.
- The Assistant Director for R20 is in post. Recruitment underway for five members with expected start dates of May 2022.
- R20 Taskforce transitioned to R20 Community Assembly. Three meetings have taken place, most recent on 9 February 2022.

Clean Air Strategy:

- Launched 27 January 2022;
- Sets out a number of priorities and pledges that will shape longer term policy decisions.
- Monitoring:
 - Update to air quality and traffic baseline report due to be published in early 2022.
 - Launch of air quality monitoring project at Birmingham's schools.
 - Ambition to increase capacity and capability with air quality monitoring across the city with a specific focus on schools.



Long term investments in air quality

Currently identified uses of CAZ revenue:

- Hydrogen buses.
- Public realm upgrades.
- Upgrade to University station and delivery of Camp Hill stations.
- Cross city bus.
- Clean Air Fund.

Additional projects to be taken forward:

- Increased air quality monitoring at schools, with data published to build awareness and understanding around the sources of air pollution. Data can be used to target following two interventions.
- Expansion of work on school travel, reducing car use and improving safety and air quality around schools.
- Schemes identified in the Birmingham Transport Plan delivery plan to increase access to use of active modes of travel and public transport.



Flooding

- As Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), responded to planning applications and helped inform sustainable drainage and mitigations against flood risk sources, including sites related to the Commonwealth Games sites, HS2 and sustainable urban extensions (SUEs).
- The LLFA envisage sizeable investment in Birmingham; will look to attract external and internal contributions through the submittal of business cases to the Environment Agency (EA).
- Working alongside the EA at First Avenue, Selly Park North to remove four weirs which will help lower water levels in the River Rea.
- Undertaking flood defence, watercourse flow improvements and creating flood storage areas along the Hilltop Brook in Handsworth Wood.
- Completed bund works at Eastern Avenue, Selly Park.
- Undertaken a number of emergency and urgent Health and Safety works together with Leisure and Parks Teams.
- Advising on 'works in the interest of safety' and plans for BCC-owned reservoirs, ensuring fulfilment of obligations under Reservoirs Act 1975.



Trees, Green and Blue Infrastructure

- **Tree City of the World** status retained for 2020 (2021 applied for)
- First UK city to produce a comprehensive **Urban Forest Master Plan** (2021–2050): sets the direction and ambition for the holistic management of all trees in Birmingham and has generated national and international interest.
- Produced **Tree Equity platform**, in partnership with Birmingham Tree People: uses IMD data, canopy cover, Urban Heat Island, flooding and air quality information to enable the prioritisation of tree planting and deliver climate adaptation and resilience measures.
- This winter, **Birmingham Trees for Life Project** will plant their the 100,000th tree in partnership with BCC. Trees they plant this year will be part of around 32,000 new trees planted this winter and be part of initiatives such as the Commonwealth Legacy Forest.
- **Partnering with National Trust, Woodland Trust and Community Forest Trust** to secure funds for two year Urban Forest Accelerator pilot.



