

Sustainability and Transport Overview & Scrutiny Committee CABINET MEMBER ANNUAL REPORT



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Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment

16 February 2022



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;

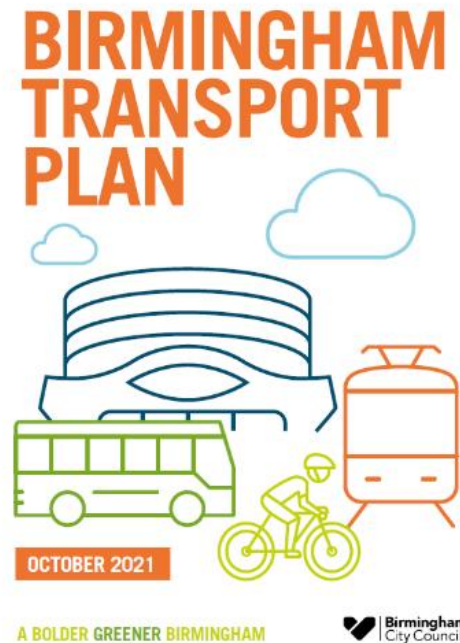
- Commence operation of the Clean Air Zone
- Adoption of the Birmingham Transport Plan
- Continued delivery of key public transport and active travel projects in time for the Commonwealth Games
- Publication of the UK's first Urban Forest Master Plan

Transport Updates



Delivering the Birmingham Transport Plan

- Adopted in October 2021
- Sets out;
 - “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”.*
- Commissioning of a Consultant to support the development of the BTP Delivery Plan is currently underway.



The Birmingham Transport Plan focuses on Four Principles:

Reallocating Road Space

The allocation of road space will change away from prioritising private cars, to support the delivery of public transport and active travel networks fit for a global city, fundamentally changing the way that people and goods move around the city.

Progress on Improving Connectivity

Projects on site and to be completed for the 2022 Commonwealth Games;

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



Progress on Improving Connectivity

Rail

- **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.
- The Whole Industry Strategic Plan (WISP) for Rail was published in December and sets out how the fragmented parts of the rail industry will be brought together, under the strategic umbrella of Great British Rail to deliver a better performing, better value railway for Britain. Officer currently preparing a response to the plan.



Metro

- **Eastside Extension** (to Digbeth)
 - Section 1 (Corporation Street /Bull Street) main works ongoing on Bull Street but delta junction complete. Track replacement on Corporation Street has been substantially completed.
 - Section 5 (Digbeth High Street) utility diversions have commenced prior to main works.
- **Westside Extension** (to Broad Street/Hagley Road) nearing completion, detailed discussions regarding the TROs have delayed works completion.



Progress on Improving Connectivity

Bus, Road & Rapid Transit

- Phase 1 of **Dudley Road Improvements Project** commenced and completed by the 2022 Commonwealth Games. £20m Levelling Up Fund grant received to complete phase 2.
- **Cross City bus** development ongoing; some city centre measures approved for delivery.
- Proposal for Lyon (Paradise) Queensway to re-open to public transport, taxi and cycles only, with local access arrangements.
- **Hagley Road Phase 1 Sprint** scheme on-going review, with works programmed to commence post-Commonwealth Games.
- Funding for phase 2 of A34 and A45 Sprint Routes included in City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement.

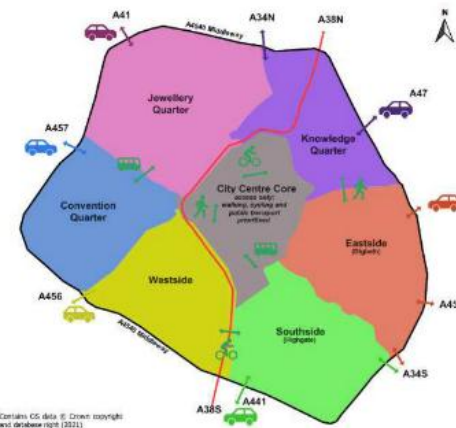


Transforming the City Centre

The city centre of Birmingham will be transformed through the creation of a network of pedestrianised streets and public spaces, integrated with public transport services and cycling infrastructure.

Progress on Making the City Centre Cleaner & Greener

- Completion of the initial phases of the **Snow Hill Public Realm** project.
- **Southside Public Realm** interim scheme to be completed for the commencement of the Commonwealth Games. Final scheme will recommence post games with completion in Spring 2025.
- **City Centre Public Realm** project includes the restoration of the Victoria Square fountain, repaving of Victoria Square, Colmore Road and Waterloo Street. The fountain works will be completed by the Commonwealth Games with the remaining works to recommence in January 2023 through to completion in May 2024.
- Commencement of the delivery of **City Centre Segments** scheme to restrict trips private vehicle trips through the city centre.



Progress on Making the City Centre Cleaner & Greener

Clean Air Zone launched 1 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

Clean Air Strategy

- Launched on 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



Climate Change and Air Quality

Clean Air Zone Revenues Usage

- Over the projected lifetime of the CAZ it is expected to generate surplus revenues of c. £40m. A number of uses for any surplus revenue have already been identified; funding for hydrogen buses, public realm work upgrades to University and delivery of Camp Hill stations, Cross City Bus Programme and Clean Air Fund.
- As the latest estimates of surplus CAZ revenues for 2021/22 suggest that the levels of useable reserves will be in excess of previous estimates, the CAZ scheme in conjunction with colleagues from transport and environment are bringing forward proposals to make use of some of these revenues in order to realise the maximum possible benefit.
- Projects to be taken forward will build awareness and understanding around the sources of air pollution. Initially, this will involve increased AQ monitoring at schools, data captured through this exercise will be published through an information portal and will be used to help inform the development of future interventions, for example the expansion of the Clean Air Cops programme and Car Free School Streets.
- The use of the data from the enhanced AQ monitoring and analysis capacity to provide targeted activity at locations of concern. We will then seek to invest in schemes (highlighted through the Birmingham Transport Plan) that increase access to or the use of active modes of transport and public transport.

Prioritising Active Travel in Local Neighbourhoods

Walking, cycling and active travel will become the first choice for most people making short journeys in their local neighbourhoods. Cars will no longer dominate street life around homes and schools.

Progress on Measures to Enhance Our Communities

Active Travel Fund Programme

- Design work now underway to make some schemes permanent as part of tranche 2 of the programme.
- Consultation has been undertaken on all proposed schemes.
- Detailed design work is now underway.
- Approvals and TRO adverts to follow, projects will be delivered with a mix of TROs and ETROs.
- Scheme delivery to commence in spring 2022.
- All project due to be completed late 2022 (subject to restrictions around Commonwealth Games).



Progress on Measures to Enhance Our Communities

West Midlands Cycle Hire

- Launched May 2021: Initial scheme now fully operational across the West Midlands with 1,500 bikes, including 150 e-bikes and 170 docking stations across the region.
- Docking stations in Birmingham in the City Centre, Edgbaston, Sutton Coldfield and Newtown (approx. 70 locations).



E-Scooter (Voi) trial

- Stats from November 2021
 - 1,200 e-scooters in operation
 - 720k trips covering 1.4million km completed by 70,000 active users in the city
- The trial has been extended until the end of September 2022, with plans to also extend the geographical area of the scheme.



E-cargo bike trial

- Trial is ongoing with a number of organisations, including BCC, using the bikes.

Progress on Measures to Enhance Our Communities

School travel

- We have 14 safer routes to school schemes completed in the period – detail on schools in attachment
- We are introducing 12 new Car Free School streets this term (Phase 3) – takes us to 18 total
- Evaluation of Phase 2 complete and in process of making permanent
- 272 schools registered on Modeshift – bit more detail on that in attachment



Road Safety

- Continued evaluation and development of Local Safety Schemes and 20mph areas. Delivery of schemes to progress post Commonwealth Games.
- 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.



Managing demand through parking measures

Parking will be used as a means to manage demand for travel by car through availability, pricing and restrictions. Where development potential exists, land currently occupied by car parking will be put to more productive use.

Proposed Way Forward for Maximising the City's Assets

- Adoption of Parking Supplementary Planning Document in November 2021.
- Reduction in council-owned car park spaces and redevelopment of a number of large car park sites.
- Progress the feasibility study for a Workplace Parking Levy (WPL).
- Produce and deliver a Kerbside Management Strategy to ensure that kerb space is allocated in a fair, efficient and sustainable way.
- Expansion of the Controlled Parking Zone.
- Release of car parks for more efficient uses such as housing developments.



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 a further £95m to be delivered through to 2023.
- This is an important platform for the long-term service.

Long Term Re-Procurement

- An Outline Business Case was submitted to DfT in December 2021 and has been received positively, looking forward to receiving approval.
- A supplier day was held on 18 January 2022.
- Procurement will be formally starting in February 2022, with the aim of starting the long-term contract in September 2023.



Transport & Highways Funding

- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS).
 - West Midlands allocation confirmed by government as £1.05bn for the five-year period between 2022 and 2027.
 - Final programme submitted to government submitted 21 January 2022.
 - Indicative direct investment for Birmingham ~£193m.
 - Key projects include;
 - East Birmingham to Solihull Corridor
 - A45 & A38 Cycle Routes
 - Sutton Gateway
 - City Centre Active Travel Connections to Interchange
 - One Station and Smallbrook Queensway
 - Indicative indirect investment for Birmingham ~£135m
 - Figures above do not include the Local Network Improvement Plan programmes, which will replace Integrated Transport Block funding. Estimated that BCC will receive approximately £6.225m per annum. This is a 21% uplift of the value received over the past few years.
- Transportation and Highways Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2027/28 currently 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)

- The updated R20 Plan was approved by full Council on 11 January 2022.
- The Assistant Director for R20 is in post. Adverts have gone out to recruit five members of R20 Team with interviews anticipated in February-March 2022. Team to be assembled in May 2022.
- Route to Zero Taskforce transitioned to Route to Zero Community Assembly. Two meetings have taken place. The next Community Assembly is an online meeting on the 9 February 2022.



Flooding

- As Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), have responded to an influx of planning applications and helped inform sustainable drainage and to mitigate against sources of flood risk including sites related to the Commonwealth Games sites, HS2 and sustainable urban extensions (SUEs).
- The LLFA envisage sizeable investment in Birmingham and will look to attract external and internal contributions through the submittal of business cases to the Environment Agency.
- Working alongside the Environment Agency 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.
- Bund works at Eastern Avenue, Selly Park complete. 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 on-site plans for all BCC-owned reservoirs ensuring that BCC fulfils obligations under the Reservoirs Act 1975.



Trees, Green and Blue Infrastructure

- Tree City of the Word status retained for 2020 (2021 applied for)
- Birmingham is the first UK city to produce a comprehensive Urban Forest Master Plan (2021–2050). This sets the direction and ambition for the holistic management of all trees within the Birmingham boundary. This has generated interest both nationally from other cities and Government departments but also from Europe and America.
- Working in partnership with Birmingham Tree People, another 1st for the UK is the production of a Tree Equity platform. This uses IMD data, canopy cover, Urban Heat Island, flooding and air quality information at LOSA level to enable the prioritisation of tree planting to where it is needed most, delivering the climate adaptation and resilience measures to our citizens
- This winter will see Birmingham Trees for Life project plant their the 100,000th tree in partnership with BCC. The trees they plant this year will be part of around 32,000 new trees planted this winter as part of a number of initiatives such as the Commonwealth Legacy Forest.
- Looking forward we are partnering with the National Trust, Woodland Trust and Community Forest Trust to secure funds for a 2 year Urban Forest Accelerator pilot that will deliver work on a number of aspects including sustainable finance and investment models, training and community engagement.



