

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2021 AT 14:00 HOURS
IN BMI MAIN HALL, 9 MARGARET STREET, BIRMINGHAM, B3 3BS

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site (www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

3 - 8

4 ACTION NOTES

To confirm the action notes of the meeting held on 7th July.

9 - 20

5 RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

West Midlands Trains: - Jonny Wiseman, Customer Experience Director;
Sophie Morris, Customer Experience Manager and Sian Sansum, Public
Affairs Manager

National Express West Midlands: - TBC

West Midlands Metro: - TBC

Transport for West Midlands: - Pete Bond, Director of Integrated Transport
Services

6 **WORK PROGRAMME**

For discussion.

7 **REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)**

To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).

8 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.

9 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

Chair to move:-

'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE

1400 hours on 7th July 2021, Online Meeting – Actions

Present:

Councillor Liz Clements (Chair)

Councillors Mick Brown, Timothy Huxtable, Zaker Choudhry

Also Present:

Councillor Waseem Zaffar

Philip Edwards, Assistant Director, Transport & Connectivity

Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Baseema Begum, Scrutiny Officer

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised those present that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's Youtube site and that Members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

The Chair noted that some Councillors were not physically present due to continued concerns relating to Covid-19 but were dialling in from home on this occasion.

3. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE AND CHAIR

Noted.

4. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Councillor Julie Johnson was confirmed as Deputy Chair.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Standing declarations noted.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee's Terms of Reference as listed in the Council constitution were noted.

7. SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE ACTION NOTES

The action notes of the meeting held on the 17th March were agreed.

8. CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT - ANNUAL REPORT AND PRIORITIES

(See Item No.8)

The Chair welcomed Councillor Waseem Zaffar and Phil Edwards, Assistant Director, Transport & Connectivity who talked through the presentation circulated and made the following points: -

- Clean Air Zone (CAZ) air quality (AQ) data will be shared with Members following the introduction of the CAZ and going forward this will be done on a monthly basis.
- Engagement for Tranche 2 of the Active Travel Fund (ATF) will be improved.
- 4 bids have been submitted as part of the Levelling Up Fund (LUP).
- In consultation with residents and businesses and following feedback received improvements are being made to the Kings Heath Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN). Further 'Places for People' schemes in other wards are being constructed in consultation with the community and local stakeholders.
- A backbench group of Councillors chaired by Councillor Fred Grindrod has been formed on the use of E-Scooters. The group meet for the first time today to pick up concerns and issues raised by residents, Councillors and other stakeholders.
- There are currently 12 car-free school street schemes and it is anticipated that this will be extended to double the number over the summer period.
- Highway works on the A34 Perry Barr underpass continue with a weekend closure planned for 15 & 16 July. This will be a challenge, but the focus is on completing key work over a single weekend and to keep disruption to a minimum by communicating as widely as possible in advance of the works commencing. It is anticipated that by the autumn traffic flow will have improved until completion of the works in the new year. A sum of £1m has been spent on traffic management to aid traffic flow in the area.

- Private briefings on the Highways Management and Maintenance PFI contract have been provided and open to all councillors and it is hoped that this will enable local Members to advise residents. A backbench group of Councillors has also been formed to look at issues and concerns raised.

Following the presentation, a discussion was held with Members and the following points were made in response to queries raised: -

- In recognition of the Council's commitment to tackle climate change and the requirement for senior leadership to take this work forward the post of an Assistant Director is due to be appointed shortly.
- Recognise that there has been slowness in getting the River Cole partnership set up in respect of having set flood defences that also provide added benefits such as the positive effect on biodiversity, air quality and the local environment. A detailed response will be provided on this however due to staffing shortages in the last few years this has impacted some of the work around flood defence measures that the city has been looking to implement.
- Metro works continue and as noted in the extensions progressed to Westside and Eastside during the pandemic. The additional work on the track realignment on Corporation Street has been necessary and the impact of further disruption on businesses has been noted and discussions have taken place with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) on this. There are funding issues related to the extension of the Metro through the Smithfield development however there is a commitment to protect this travel corridor through the planning process to put in the necessary provision for any future works and ensure that future costs are mitigated.
- Revenue generated from the CAZ will be used to support public transport options and to promote options to increase clean air and reduce air pollution across the city so that safe levels can be met. Funding for ward initiatives is still a priority within this and will be based on the data received.
- Data and reports on AQ and real time statistics have been collated and will be available shortly as sources of data are held by different partners and will need to be brought together for the baseline report. An annual status report on the AQ position will be reported back formally.
- The benefit of trees on the environment and well-being is noted and there is the ambition to increase tree canopy in every ward but particularly those with lower coverage. Planting more trees does have an impact on leaf fall during the autumn months and is a concern for residents where due to budget savings street cleansing has not been as frequent.
- Where trees are removed or replaced then an assessment is undertaken to place new trees at the nearest location. Replacements are made on a like for like basis.
- 20mph zones and traffic measures aimed at ensuring drivers reduce speed around schools is of interest as the city looks to bring further schools on board as part of future phases of the Car-Free School Streets scheme. This can be explored further with Members interested in schemes in their wards.

- The refresh of the Local Transport Plan by the WMCA will pick up the issues in relation to the future and long-term vision for public transport including train (and stations), bus and other modes of transport. It is due to go out to public consultation and will pick up the key issues of importance to residents, businesses and other stakeholders.
- The Council is working with partners on the WMCA Bus Alliance and Chair of the WMCA Transport Delivery Committee, Cllr Hartley to tackle some of the bus related issues with operators. Current bus usage is at 66% of pre-covid levels and is increasing. There is concern that users are not wearing face masks and the reluctance of others to use the bus however work is taking place by bus operators and the WMCA Safer Travel teams to encourage bus use and for people to wear masks.
- The No. 11 bus route has been temporarily re-routed to deal with utility works in the Kings Heath LTN area. The bus operator has stated that the bus route will return to normal in the autumn. A group of Members and MPs in wards affected are part of a group that meet weekly to discuss issues to get the LTN working better for all affected parties. As a result, a number of interventions have been brought forward to improve the traffic flow in Kings Heath. It has been noted that other Members have an interest in other LTNs.
- Concerns have been raised and noted in relation to the use of VOI e-scooters and safety concerns by road users especially those with disabilities and visual impairments. A working group chaired by Cllr Cotton has been set up and a meeting has already taken place with some very good points raised that will be investigated further. The provider (VOI) are looking at a number of options to ensure that users behave considerately. VOI are also undertaking testing in Northampton that would prohibit the use of e-scooters on pavements. Additionally, there are a number of docking stations across the city and users are being encouraged to leave the e-scooters in a safe place.
- More work needs to be done on messaging so that some cyclists ensure that they ride safely and are considerate of other users on canal towpaths and around busy key locations in the city centre.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance today and expressed her gratitude to all transport workers for their hard work in keeping the city moving during the current pandemic.

RESOLVED: -

1. The report was noted.
2. Cllr Zaffar to provide Cllr Huxtable with an update on the work happening in relation to the River Cole partnership.
3. Cllr Zaffar to confirm the availability of AQ monitoring data, the traffic baseline study and CAZ monthly factsheets and when these will be available for access by Members.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

(See Item No. 9)

Cllr Huxtable raised the issue previously discussed on considering the importance of the transport and environment aspects of urban regeneration frameworks. This is in particular reference to ensuring that traffic flow is improved through the designing of traffic schemes for local centres that bring about improved environmental and active travel benefits including the public transport offer.

The Chair, Cllr Clements agreed that this could be explored further with officers ensuring that any work the committee undertakes would add benefit.

RESOLVED: -

1. The report was noted.

10. DATE OF MEETINGS 2021/22

Future meeting dates were noted.

11. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

None.

12. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The meeting scheduled in April will be during the purdah period so it would be beneficial to move this to May ahead of the AGM.

RESOLVED: -

1. Scrutiny Officers to re-arrange the April meeting date to May.

13. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

RESOLVED: -

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 15:34 hours.

Return to Public Transport

By Transport for West Midlands

A year like no other

- Rail usage reduced to -90%
- Bus passenger journeys decreased by -60.7% to 97.5 million in 2020/21 as a result of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.
- Tram passenger journeys decreased by -57.8% to 3.4 million in 2020/21 as a result of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.
Network rapidly reduced, supporting key workers
- Several Lockdowns and subsequent re-emergence
- Changes required to how we all live, work and travel

OUR CUSTOMERS

Protected our
Customers



Protected our Staff



Worked collaboratively with
our Partners



Followed & implemented the
guidance

How we supported our customers



Kept the network running

Current context

As of the end of September 2021:

- Rail has returned to 52% of pre-pandemic levels
- Bus has returned to 71% of pre-pandemic levels
- Metro has returned to 91% of pre-pandemic levels
- Car has returned to >90% of pre-pandemic levels
- Active Travel has increased to >100%

Emerging trends

- Changes in travel habits
- Changes in peak times
- Increase in people working from home
- Increase in people working differently
- A certainty that trends will continue to evolve further
- A return to the car based economy

Mitigation for car usage

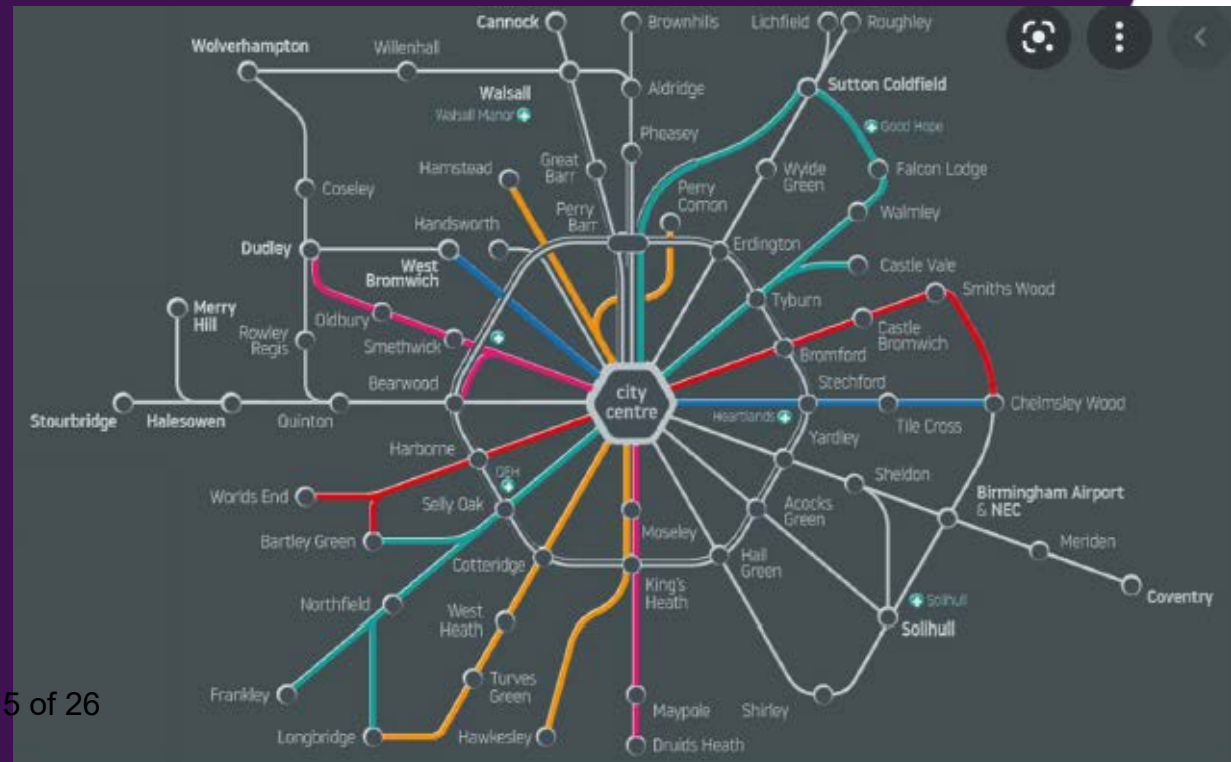
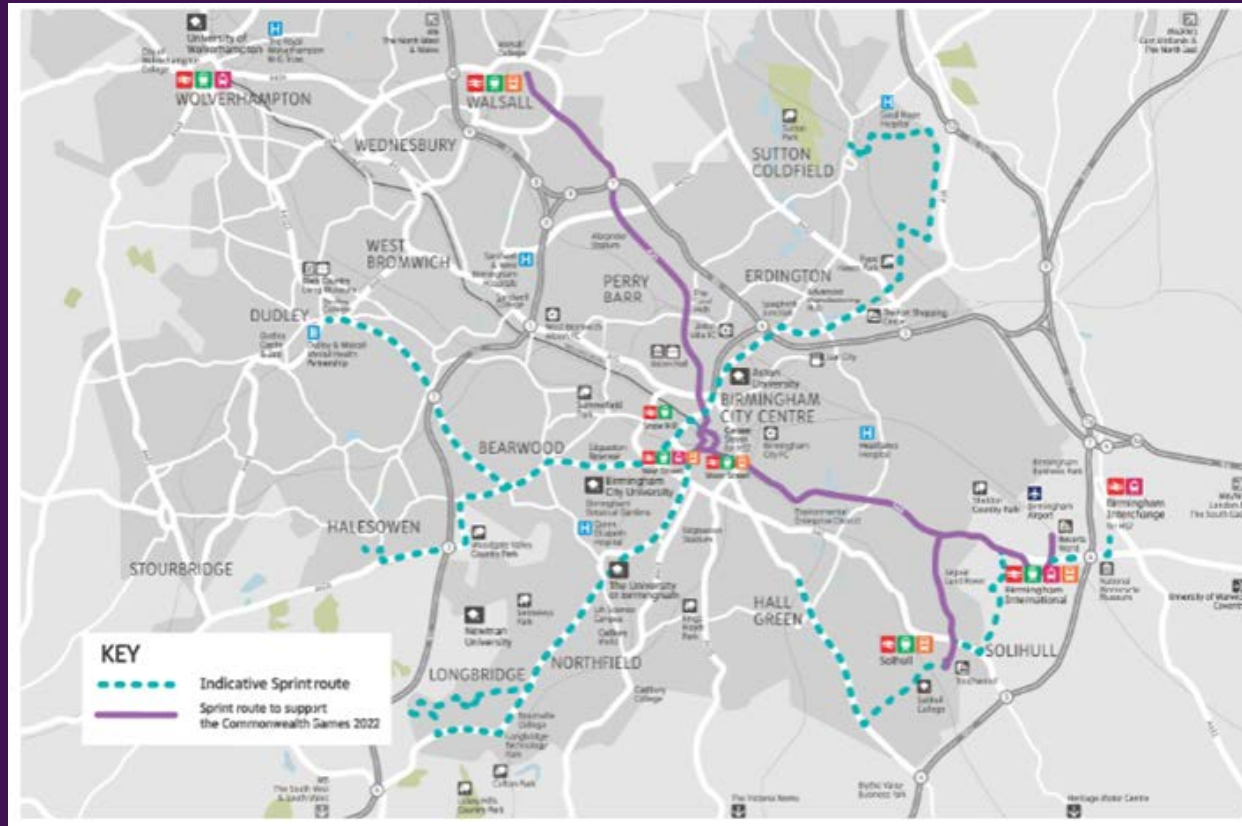
Continuation of the bold programmes underway prior to the pandemic – massive investment in fixed lines and bus priority

A bold City plan from Birmingham City Council

The emerging Local Transport Plan through TfWM

Increased promotion of, and investment in, sustainable travel

Sprint and Cross City





Active Travel

Emergency Active Travel Fund

On 9th May the Government announced that an 'Emergency Active Travel Fund' will fund local authorities across the country to help make it easier for people to use bikes to get around. An allocation of £250 million from the £2 billion investment in cycling and walking, previously announced at the March budget is to be made available immediately to support the delivery of temporary schemes such as pop up cycle lanes and widening pavements.

A total of 57 infrastructure schemes, including pop up cycle lanes, pedestrian and walking zones and Places for People (also known as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods) have been delivered through the EATF Tranche 1 programme.

Tranche 2 scheme are currently being implemented across the region and will be in place by March 2022.

Local Authority	No. Schemes	Length (miles)
Birmingham	15	13.38
Coventry	7	1.48
Dudley	7	1.25
Sandwell	4	1.30
Solihull	14	4.38
Walsall	5	1.57
Wolverhampton	5	0.76
West Midlands	57	24.12

Cycling & Walking Programme

- West Midlands Cycle Hire
- Cycling & Walking Programme
- Living Streets
- Better Streets Community Fund

E-Scooters



Progress



12 months active

1200 active eScooters

Over 80,000 registered users

c. 800,000 individual rides

1.6million km ridden...that's over 4x to the moon!

10% of all rides taken under Voi4Heroes (100% free) or Voi4All (75% discount) schemes

30% of all journeys modes shift away from car

c. 250,000 car journeys saved

From November 2021 this will expand to

1500+ eScooters

Area scaling **35sqkm – 50+sqkm**



Sustainability & Transport O&S Committee: Work Programme 2021/22

Chair:	Cllr Liz Clements
Deputy Chair:	Cllr Julie Johnson-White
Committee Members:	Cllrs Mick Brown, Zaker Choudhry, Mohammed Fazal, Eddie Freeman, Timothy Huxtable and Hendrina Quinnen.
Officer Support:	Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager (303 2786) Scrutiny Officer: Baseema Begum (303 1668) Committee Manager: Louisa Nisbett (303 9844)

1 Meeting Schedule

Date	What	Officer Contact / Attendees
9th June 2021 (informal) 1400 hours Online meeting Report Deadline: 1 st June	To discuss priorities for the 2021/22 work programme.	Scrutiny Office
7th July 2021 1400 hours BMI Main Hall Report Deadline: 28 th June	Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment – Annual Report & Priorities	Rose Horsfall, Cabinet Support Officer
22nd September 2021 (informal) 1400 hours Online meeting Report Deadline: 13 th Sept	Birmingham Tree Policy Inquiry – Tracking West Midlands Local Transport Plan Consultation E-scooters briefing	Simon Needle, Principal Arboriculturist David Harris and Alex Greatholder, Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) Ioanna Moscholidou and Kurt Sullivan Inclusive Growth Directorate



Date	What	Officer Contact / Attendees
20th October 2021 1400 hours BMI Main Hall Report Deadline: 11 th Oct	Restoring confidence in public transport	Transport for West Midlands; West Midlands Metro; National Express West Midlands; West Midlands Trains
17th November 2021 1400 hours BMI Main Hall Report Deadline: 8 th Nov	Plastic Free Birmingham – Tracking Waste Disposal Procurement - update Disinvestment in fossil fuels – Follow up on Motion to City Council (TBC) Priorities for the in-house Climate Change team	Cllr John O'Shea, Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Parks and Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene and Parks Cllr John O'Shea, Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Parks Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene and Parks Michelle Climer, Contracts Manager TBC Ellie Horwitch-Smith, Assistant Director for Climate Change
15th December 2021 1400 hours BMI Main Hall Report Deadline: 6 th Dec	TBC	
19th January 2022 1400 hours BMI Main Hall Report Deadline: 10 th Jan	TBC	
16th February 2022 1400 hours BMI Main Hall Report Deadline: 7 th Feb	TBC	



Date	What	Officer Contact / Attendees
16th March 2022 1400 hours BMI Main Hall Report Deadline: 7 th March	Flood Risk Management Annual Report (TBC)	Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director, Highways & Infrastructure
18th May 2022 1400 hours BMI Main Hall Report Deadline: 9 th May	TBC	

2 Outstanding Tracking

Inquiry	Outstanding Recommendations	Last Tracking
Birmingham Tree Policy Inquiry	R01, R03, R06, R07, R08, R09, R10 & R11	November 2019
Plastic Free Birmingham	R01, R02, R05, R06 & R07	September 2020

3 Further work areas of interest/Work to be programmed

3.1 The following items could be scheduled into the work programme if members wish to investigate further:

- Improving the public realm to aid the cycling and walking offer and using the sustainability agenda to green-up areas including an update on the City of Nature Vision for Birmingham.
- DFT Active Travel Fund update including an update on e-scooters, West Midlands Bike Scheme, Places for People and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs).
- Commonwealth Games (CWG) Sustainability Pledge (TBC)
- Update on the progress made with the development of the Clean Air Strategy (TBC)
- Car Free School Streets Pilot Scheme – A review of the pilot completed in March 2021 and future proposals
- The West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee's work on Bus Strategy.
- An update on the status of the Highways Management & Maintenance PFI contract and future proposals following the appointment of Kier in April 2020 for an interim period.



- Environmental, Public Open Space and Transport Issues within City Council Masterplans (i.e. Smithfield) and Urban Regeneration Frameworks.
- To continue to receive regular updates on the Waste Disposal Procurement Process from Cllr O'Shea, Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Parks.
- Clean Air Zone – Operational update (TBC)
- Public Highway issues: Parking/Grass verges/pavement parking – (information from previous sessions to be circulated to members when available).

4 Other Meetings

Call in Meetings

*None
scheduled*

Petitions

*None
scheduled*

Councillor Call for Action requests

*None
scheduled*

It is suggested that the Committee approve Wednesday at 1400 hours as a suitable day and time each week for any additional meetings required to consider 'requests for call in' which may be lodged in respect of Executive decisions.

Contact Officers

Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview and Scrutiny Manager, ceri.saunders@birmingham.gov.uk – 0121 303 2786

Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer, baseema.begum@birmingham.gov.uk – 0121 303 1668

5 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

The following decisions, extracted from the Cabinet Office Forward Plan of Decisions, are likely to be relevant to the Sustainability & Transport O&S Committee's remit. **Please note this is correct at the time of publication. Highlighted rows show a change to the previously listed cabinet proposed date.**



Reference	Title	Portfolio	Proposed Date of Decision
008947/2021	Birmingham Transport Plan	Transport & Environment	12 Oct 2021
009114/2021	Approval of Route to Zero Next Stage Business Case	Transport & Environment	12 Oct 2021
008314/2021	Adoption of Parking Supplementary Planning Document	Leader	09 Nov 2021
009059/2021	Adoption of the Development Management in Birmingham (DMB) Development Plan Document	Leader	09 Nov 2021
009251/2021	Outline Business Case for the Creation of an Integrated Transport Unit	Leader	09 Nov 2021
009090/2021	Adoption of the City-wide Electric Vehicle (EV) Charge Point Strategy	Transport & Environment	09 Nov 2021
009246/2021	Highway Network Extent	Transport & Environment	09 Nov 2021
007686/2020	Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document	Leader	14 Dec 2021
009281/2021	Adoption of Perry Barr 2040: A Vision for Legacy Masterplan and endorsement of the Perry Barr 2040 Delivery Plan	Leader	14 Dec 2021
009068/2021	Paradise Circus Update	Leader	14 Dec 2021
007349/2020	Waste Vehicle Replacement Programme	Street Scene & Parks	14 Dec 2021
008192/2021	Contribution to Decarbonising Construction of HS2 - Approval to accept Grant and Full Business Case	Transport & Environment	14 Dec 2021
008531/2021	Highways and Infrastructure: Footway Crossings Policy and Information for Applicants	Transport & Environment	14 Dec 2021
008863/2021	Metro Centenary Square Extension – GBSLEP EZ additional funding	Transport & Environment	14 Dec 2021
009037/2021	Highway Maintenance and Management PFI Contract	Transport & Environment	14 Dec 2021
009086/2021	BCC Streetworks Permit Scheme	Transport & Environment	14 Dec 2021
009142/2021	A457 Dudley Road Improvement Scheme – Revised Main Scheme Full Business Case	Transport & Environment	14 Dec 2021
009249/2021	Street Naming and Numbering Policy Revision	Transport & Environment	14 Dec 2021
008965/2021	Renewal of Building Energy Management Systems	Leader	18 Jan 2022
005048/2018	Moor Street Queensway Public Realm Improvements Outline Business Case	Transport & Environment	18 Jan 2022
009406/2022	Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 - Package 2: Kings Heath Low Traffic Neighbourhood Full Business Case	Transport & Environment	18 Jan 2022



009445/2022	City Centre Public Realm Improvement Scheme (CCPR) Full Business Case (FBC) phase 2	Transport & Environment	18 Jan 2022
009408/2022	25 Year City of Nature Delivery Framework	Leader	08 Feb 2022
009031/2022	DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN 2022-2026	n/a	08 Feb 2022