

## **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

### **SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 14:00 HOURS**  
**IN COMMITTEE ROOM C, COUNCIL HOUSE EXTENSION, 6**  
**MARGARET ST, BIRMINGHAM, B3 3BG**

## **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](http://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 - 20TH OCTOBER 2021**

To agree the action notes of the meeting held on 20th October 2021

**9 - 50**

### **5 CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT – ANNUAL REPORT**

Councillor Waseem Zaffar, Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment

6 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date and time of the next meeting.

**51 - 56**

7 **WORK PROGRAMME**

For discussion.

8 **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).

9 **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.

10 **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 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021, BMI – Actions**

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**Present:**

Councillor Liz Clements (Chair)

Councillors Eddie Freeman, Timothy Huxtable and Hendrina Quinnen

**Also Present:**

Jonny Wiseman, Customer Experience Director, West Midlands Trains

Sophie Morris, Customer Experience Manager, West Midlands Trains

Sian Sansum, Public Affairs Manager, West Midlands Trains (online)

Sophie Allison, Commercial Director, West Midlands Metro (online)

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

Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Baseema Begum, Scrutiny Officer

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**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**

Cllr Zaker Choudhry.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Standing declarations noted.

**4. SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE ACTION NOTES**

The action notes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> July were agreed.

Cllr Huxtable raised an issue that he had previously raised with Simon Needle, Principal Arboriculturist and Cllr Waseem Zaffar, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment concerning the overgrowth of hedge rows and vegetation on public footpaths. It was highlighted that the overgrowth was causing an obstruction making visibility difficult for both those walking along the pavements and motorists. Cllr Huxtable added that it was necessary that action was taken to make these footpaths safe for pedestrians and as he had previously raised the issue in various forums, he was disappointed that to date no action had taken place. A request was made through the Chair if this feedback could be provided to both officer and Cabinet Member as the City Council are encouraging people to walk and cycle more however the assets need to be maintained for people to safely do this.

**RESOLVED: -**

1. On behalf of the Chair the Scrutiny Officer will follow up this issue with Simon Needle and the Cabinet Member for a response.

## **5. RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

(See Item No.5)

Jonny Wiseman, Customer Experience Director, West Midlands Trains and Sophie Morris, Customer Experience Manager, West Midlands Trains and Pete Bond, Director of Integrated Transport Services, Transport for West Midlands were in attendance for this item. Sian Sansum, Public Affairs Manager, West Midlands Trains and Sophie Allison, Commercial Director, West Midlands Metro also took part in the meeting virtually.

An apology was received from Ali Bell from National Express West Midlands (NXWM) as she was on leave however any questions raised will be responded to by Pete Bond, where possible. Written responses will also be provided where required.

Presentations were received from WMT, West Midlands Metro, Transport for West Midlands and on behalf of NXWM.

During the discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the following were among the main points raised: -

- Flexible season tickets produced by the rail industry covering the entire network has been offered to customers however the feedback has been that overall, it has not met customer demand or deemed to be value for money as the fares structure is very complicated.
- However, although the initial uptake was low to begin with it is increasing in the West Midlands and have been generally well received. The tickets offer flexibility to travel outside of the peak times.
- Similar to train usage for leisure purposes on the weekend the pattern for bus use shows an increase in 3-4% during the same time. The recovery of bus usage in Birmingham is lower in comparison to other strategic centres in the region as it is more office based and there are less commuters using the bus for this purpose.

- There was concern on the lack of mask wearing across various modes of public transport. There has been an increase in the number of people not wearing masks in the last 6 weeks. This has been discussed between operators however messaging encouraging users to wear masks would need to be agreed industry-wide however further guidance in this area from government is awaited.
- Some changes have been made to on-board train teams to encourage mindful behaviour in relation to mask-wearing and senior guards are also on the train to remind customers via announcements to show consideration for other passengers. Colleagues at WMT meet twice-weekly to consider issues relating to Covid-19 safety including social distancing and ventilation.
- Behaviour of passengers is considered through a survey of customers perception of safety. WMT work closely with West Midlands Police and the Safer Travel teams on this.
- In relation to making wearing a mask a condition of carriage on the Metro similar to how TfL are operating it was confirmed that although this was considered it was felt that it wasn't enforceable as there were no powers to do so and may bring issues for staff on-board in relation to anti-social behaviour. The Police were consulted on this issue and stated that as there were no powers to enforce, they would not be doing so. Additionally, dialogue with colleagues at the Manchester Metrolink where mask wearing is a condition of carriage reported that they were struggling to enforce it and it was felt therefore that for the safety of staff it would be best not to proceed with enforcing it.
- It was confirmed that the rail companies do have assimilation training that is used as part of driver training and development however more could be done industry-wide with investment in this area.
- Exceptional customer service is key to getting more people to use trains. In addition, where modern technology goes wrong it is imperative that across public transport the ability is in place to deal with any issues in a modern and pro-customer way.
- Passenger surveys have taken place to understand travel behaviour and what instigates behaviour change. Transport for West Midlands have undertaken work in this area and in relation to the factors why people are using the Metro more it highlighted that there was a number of reasons for the increase in use that could not be singled out as solely an effect of the introduction of the Clean Air Zone.
- Metro works are due to finish at the end of the month on Corporation Street meaning that the line will be reinstated up to the Library of Birmingham. Work on the extension to Edgbaston Village with a planned opening in December 2022. Further work to grow the two metro extensions is planned.
- The extension to Digbeth will be promoted and this will be a key part of the wider expansion of the Metro increasing patronage and generating more revenue. Equally the connections to HS2 and wider work in the region on

interconnectivity will yield greater economic prosperity and the Metro will play a key part of this.

- Discussion on middle door buses has been considered and routes have been discussed with bus operators. The Sprint Metro buses planned to be in operation on the A34/A45 corridors in 2023 will have middle doors.
- The re-instating of the cross-city bus was welcomed but it was noted that it was different to the previous version as it should fit in with the city's ambition for improving air quality. Likewise, its role in future connectivity with other transport networks and policy objectives was highlighted with the aim being to integrate wider transport services together.
- Acknowledgement that park and ride services were very popular pre-pandemic however the return to date in usage is relatively low compared to other modes of travel. Further work would need to be undertaken on whether these should be expanded as this would need to link into wider work on parking policy.

The Chair extended her thanks to everyone for their attendance at today's meeting and frontline workers.

**RESOLVED:** -

1. Sophie Allison to send a link to the report on 'Light Rail' to be shared with the committee.
2. Pete Bond to provide further information on Better Streets Community Funding Tranche 2.

## **6. WORK PROGRAMME**

(See Item No. 6)

In discussion with Members on the future work programme Cllr Clements highlighted the report on Electric Vehicle (EV) charging that is due to be presented to Cabinet for discussion in December and the opportunity for the Committee to discuss with officers the wider approach being taken by the Council at a future meeting.

The motion on de-investment in fossil fuels agreed at City Council in 2017 was highlighted by the Chair and it is anticipated that the West Midlands Pension Fund will be able to join the Committee in a discussion in the near future.

Cllr Freeman raised the possibility of inviting Kier together with Highways officers to a future meeting to give an update on the work currently scheduled and the status of the PFI contract.

The opportunity to discuss the Birmingham Transport Plan Refresh during the consultation period was highlighted by Cllr Huxtable and the Chair agreed that this would be helpful as part of the Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment's next update to Committee.

Cllr Huxtable also raised the work taking place in relation to 'Waste to Zero' with reference to transport and environmental elements and asked if these could be picked up with the Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Parks who is scheduled to attend

the Committee's next meeting. The Chair agreed that this would be a good opportunity to raise concerns.

Furthermore, Cllr Clements re-iterated that the new Assistant Director for Climate Change has been invited to attend the next meeting to set out her priorities. It was anticipated that the Committee will delve further into the work that the Council will be undertaking in relation to the Climate Change Action Plan agreed at City Council once the team is in place to support this work and this is likely to be next year.

**RESOLVED: -**

1. The report was noted.

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

None.

**8. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**9. 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.

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The meeting ended at 16:08 hours.





# Sustainability and Transport Overview & Scrutiny Committee CABINET MEMBER ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor Waseem Zaffar

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;

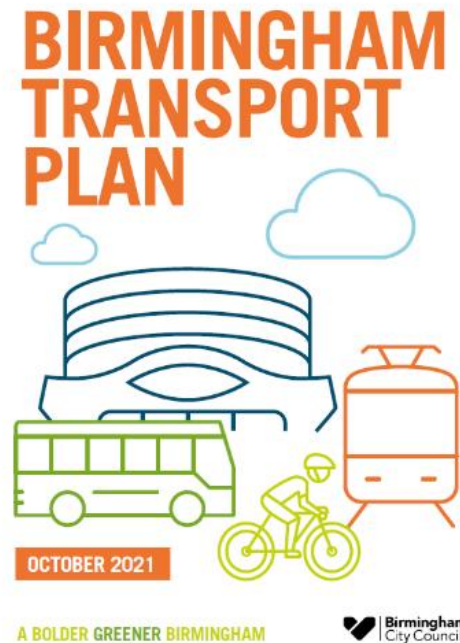
- Commence operation of the Clean Air Zone
- Adoption of the Birmingham Transport Plan
- Continued delivery of key public transport and active travel projects in time for the Commonwealth Games
- Publication of the UK's first Urban Forest Master Plan

# 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.

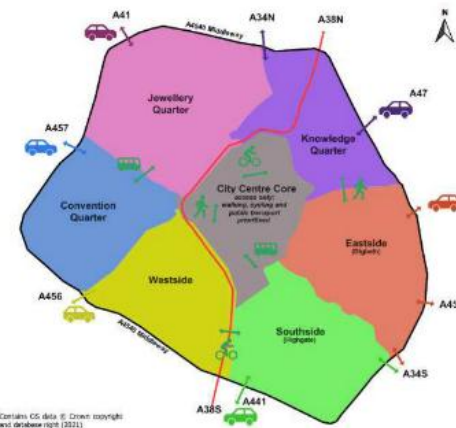


## Transforming the City Centre

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 100,000<sup>th</sup> 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.







# Sustainability and Transport Overview & Scrutiny Committee CABINET MEMBER ANNUAL REPORT

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16 February 2022



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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

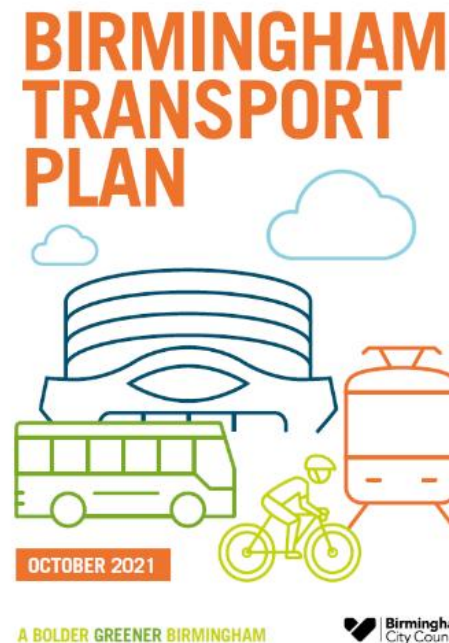
Development of BTP Delivery Plan underway.

*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.*



# 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.











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

<b>Chair:</b>	Cllr Liz Clements
<b>Deputy Chair:</b>	Cllr Julie Johnson-White
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Cllrs Zaker Choudhry, Mohammed Fazal, Eddie Freeman, Timothy Huxtable, Mike Leddy and Hendrina Quinnen.
<b>Officer Support:</b>	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
<b>9th June 2021</b> (informal) 1400 hours <b>Online meeting</b>  Report Deadline: 1 <sup>st</sup> June	To discuss priorities for the 2021/22 work programme.	Scrutiny Office
<b>7th July 2021</b> 1400 hours BMI Main Hall  Report Deadline: 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment – Annual Report & Priorities	Rose Horsfall, Cabinet Support Officer
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021</b> (informal) 1400 hours <b>Online meeting</b>  Report Deadline: 13 <sup>th</sup> 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
<b>20<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b> 1400 hours BMI Main Hall  Report Deadline: 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Restoring confidence in public transport	Transport for West Midlands; West Midlands Metro; National Express West Midlands; West Midlands Trains
<b>17<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> (informal) 1400 hours <b>Online meeting</b>  Report Deadline: 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Plastic Free Birmingham – Tracking  Waste Disposal Procurement - update  Priorities for the in-house Climate Change team  Disinvestment in fossil fuels – Follow up on Motion to City Council with West Midlands Pension Fund representatives	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  Ellie Horwitch-Smith, Assistant Director Route to Zero Carbon  Rachel Brothwood, Director of Pensions and Simon Taylor, Assistant Director – Pensions, West Midlands Pension Fund
<b>15<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b> (informal) 1400 hours <b>Online meeting</b>  Report Deadline: 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Highways PFI Programme Maintenance update  Car Free School Streets Pilot Scheme – A review of the pilot completed in March 2021 and future proposals  City-Wide Electric Vehicle (EV) Charge Point Strategy	Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director, Highways & Infrastructure and Kamyar Tavassoli, Highways Services Manager  Peter Edwards, Travel Demand Manager  Sylvia Broadley, Specialist Energy Manager
<b>19<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b> (informal) 1400 hours <b>Online meeting</b>  Report Deadline: 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Update on progress made with the development of the Clean Air Strategy  Highways Management & Maintenance PFI contract - Update	Mark Wolstencroft, Operations Manager, Environmental Protection  Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director, Highways & Infrastructure and Domenic De Bechi, PFI Contract Manager



Date	What	Officer Contact / Attendees
<b>16<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b> 1400 hours Committee Room C, Council House Extension, Margaret Street  Report Deadline: 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment – Annual Report	Rose Horsfall, Cabinet Support Officer
<b>16<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b> 1400 hours TBC  Report Deadline: 7 <sup>th</sup> March	West Midlands Local Transport Plan (LTP) 5 Core Strategy consultation  Flood Risk Management Annual Report	David Harris, Transport Strategy and Place Manager TfWM Adam Tranter, West Midlands Cycling & Walking Commissioner  Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director, Highways & Infrastructure and Hannah Hogan, Flood Risk Manager
<b>18<sup>th</sup> May 2022</b> 1400 hours TBC  Report Deadline: 9 <sup>th</sup> May	TBC	

## 2 Outstanding Tracking

Inquiry	Outstanding Recommendations	Last Tracking
Birmingham Tree Policy Inquiry	R07	September 2021
Plastic Free Birmingham	R01, R02, R05, R06 & R07	November 2021

## 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)



- The West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee's work on Bus Strategy.
- 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).
- Update on the Birmingham Transport Plan as part of the Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment's annual update

## 4 Other Meetings

### Call in Meetings

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*None  
scheduled*

### Petitions

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*None  
scheduled*

### Councillor Call for Action requests

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*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](mailto:ceri.saunders@birmingham.gov.uk) – 0121 303 2786  
Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer, [baseema.begum@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto: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.**

Reference	Title	Portfolio	Proposed Date of Decision
008531/2021	Highways and Infrastructure: Footway Crossings Policy and Information for Applicants	Transport & Environment	22 Mar 2022
009142/2021	A457 Dudley Road Improvement Scheme – Revised Main Scheme Full Business Case	Transport & Environment	22 Mar 2022
009593/2022	Transportation & Highways Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2027/28	Transport & Environment	22 Mar 2022
009840/2022	Transport & Environment CAZ Funded Projects	Transport & Environment	22 Mar 2022
009854/2022	Use of Clean Air Zone revenues – creation of a clean air fund for Birmingham	Transport & Environment	22 Mar 2022
009086/2021	BCC Streetworks Permit Scheme	Transport & Environment	26 Apr 2022
009445/2022	City Centre Public Realm Improvement Scheme (CCPR) Full Business Case (FBC) phase 2	Transport & Environment	26 Apr 2022
009716/2022	HS2 Curzon Station Enhanced Public Realm Project – FBC	Transport & Environment	26 Apr 2022
009213/2021	BMHT Dawberry Fields Road, Passivhaus Development	Homes & Neighbourhoods	17 May 2022
008965/2021	Renewal of Building Energy Management Systems	Leader	17 May 2022
009892/2022	The Birmingham Plan Issues and Options	Leader	17 May 2022
009249/2021	Street Naming and Numbering Policy Revision	Transport & Environment	17 May 2022
009767/2022	Whole House Retrofit Pilot	Homes & Neighbourhoods	28 Jun 2022
007686/2020	Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document	Leader	28 Jun 2022



