

Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee

29 January 2020

Update on Leader's Portfolio

Promotion of Sustainable Neighbourhoods

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Birmingham Development Plan 2017 (BDP) is the City's statutory planning framework guiding development and regeneration activity in the City up to 2017. It doing so it sets out how and where new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure will be delivered and the type of places and environments that will be created.
- 1.2 The City's population is projected to grow by an additional 150,000 people by 2031 and in order in order to provide employment for the growing population and reduce existing levels of unemployment and worklessness an additional 100,000 jobs need to be created.
- 1.3 Improvements to connectivity and infra-structure are also proposed to facilitate this growth and includes rapid transit (the extension of both the Metro and Sprint route network); improvements to existing rail stations; the opening of new rail stations (for example Moseley, Kings Heath and Hazelwell on the Camp Hill line as well as the Camp Hill Chords); bus priority measures and improved bus services; and improvements to pedestrian and cycling routes across the City.
- 1.4 In order to deliver this growth the BDP identifies ten key growth areas – the City Centre; Greater Icknield; Aston, Newtown & Lozells; Sutton Coldfield Town Centre; Langley Sustainable Urban Extension; Peddimore; Bordesley Park; Eastern Triangle; Selly Oak & South Edgbaston and Longbridge.
- 1.5 The BDP also states that future growth will be promoted in the most sustainable way both reducing the City's carbon footprint and creating resilient and adaptive environments. Such an approach has been advanced by the City's recent declaration of a climate emergency and associated commitment to take action to reduce the city's carbon emissions and limit climate change ([climate change](#)). The ambition was set for the Council and city to become net zero carbon by 2030*, or as soon as possible thereafter as a 'just transition' allows. Some of this work includes the Birmingham Clean Air Strategy (due in 2020) and the creation of a Clean Air Zone; the Natural Rivers and Green Corridors project; the Naturally Birmingham Project to enhance the city's parks and green spaces; the recently published Birmingham Transport Plan; and the Birmingham District Energy Scheme.

2. Growth and Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods

2.1 The City Centre accounts for a third of Birmingham's economic output, supports over 150,000 jobs and is central to Birmingham's growth agenda and its role as an international City. Whilst the whole of Birmingham benefits from the success of the City Centre and the jobs created, growth is and should not be just limited to the City Centre. In this regard the promotion of sustainable neighbourhoods and promoting employment across the City is a fundamental part of the Leader's portfolio with significant progress made. Some of the key projects are set out below:

Perry Barr

2.2 Perry Barr will be the heart of the 2022 Commonwealth Games and includes an enhanced and expanded Alexander Stadium and the Athlete's Village. The proposals will transform Perry Barr and will deliver the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village and the legacy development as well as the wider regeneration of the Perry Barr area - the CPO to facilitate this was confirmed on 11th September 2019. The proposals at Perry Barr include the following:

- More than £500m of investment.
- Work accelerated and increased in scope to support the Commonwealth Games – including Stadium and Village.
- Planning consent for nearly 2000 new homes.
- A redeveloped rail station and bus interchange, as well as sprint bus provision.
- Improved walking and cycling provision
- Significant redevelopment of the local centre, creating a high quality and distinctive gateway and bringing new activity and a diversity of uses into the centre
- A comprehensive approach to sports and leisure facilities.
- Enhanced provision of and access to green space.
- Providing a healthy environment for residents of all ages.
- Unlocking the opportunity for a further 3000+ new homes in the surrounding area.
- A masterplan for the Perry Barr area is being produced over the next few months.

East Birmingham & North Solihull

2.3 East Birmingham and North Solihull has been designated as an Inclusive Growth Corridor where Birmingham City Council, Solihull Metropolitan

Borough Council and the West Midlands Combined Authority are working with partners in order to maximise the benefits of the opportunities created by HS2 and the Metro extension, address the area's significant and sustained disadvantages, deliver growth, and to develop ways of working that will ensure that this growth is inclusive.

The East Birmingham Board was established in late 2018 and has now produced an Inclusive Growth Strategy for East Birmingham (the Strategy) which is due to be reported to Cabinet in February. The draft Strategy sets out; a shared vision for the regeneration of East Birmingham over the next 20 years; the Big Moves which will secure this vision; the principles which will guide the delivery of the Big Moves and supporting activities, and a summary of the next steps that will be taken in the delivery of the vision. The Big Moves identified include the following:

- Improved local services.
- Business, employment and skills.
- Local places and green spaces.
- Midland Metro East Birmingham to Solihull extension.
- Heavy rail network.

The draft Strategy is a shared statement of vision and approach, and each of the partners will commit to working in close collaboration to progress the Big Moves and wider delivery plan to address the persistent issues of poverty, deprivation and inequality which were identified by the baseline report. The publication of the draft strategy for consultation will be the beginning of a continuous process of collaborative engagement through which local communities will shape and influence the projects emerging from the Strategy, in line with the City Council's principles of localism and community cohesion.

The draft Strategy will be brought back to the Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the consultation process.

Bordesley Park Area Action Plan (AAP)

- 2.4 The Bordesley Park AAP is a statutory plan that has been prepared to guide development and regeneration of the area to the east of the city centre and accords with the Bordesley Park Growth Area (Policy GA7) identified in the Birmingham Development Plan.

The AAP has been prepared following significant consultation with local residents, businesses, members, and a wide range of other stakeholders. It

focuses on delivering growth, improving connectivity, improving the quality of the local environment and contributing to the city's sustainability targets.

The AAP sets out land use proposals for areas which have the greatest opportunity for change including delivering employment development at the Wheels site, housing in the Cherrywood Road area, and investment in the Adderley Park area, Alum Rock Road and Coventry Road local centres. Overall aims include delivering up to 3000 new jobs and 750 new homes as well as enhanced community facilities and transport connections with Metro and Sprint.

The AAP was submitted to the Secretary of State in November 2018 and was subject to Examination in Public on 30 May 2019 where a small number of objections to the AAP were heard (including representatives of the occupiers of the Wheels site). In his subsequent report, the Inspector found the AAP to be 'sound' without the need for modification. The AAP was formally adopted by the City Council on the 14th January 2020.

Washwood Heath

- 2.5 Washwood Heath is identified as the location for the HS2 Rolling Stock Maintenance Depot (RSMD) and the Network Control Centre for the whole network as well as being the major construction centre for the new rail line in Birmingham. In recent months HS2 have revisited their design of the RSMD site and as a result the proposed layout is much simpler with the stabling areas to the west of the site and the maintenance shed to the east. The Network Control Centre is located to the centre of the new layout.

A working group has been established with HS2 to consider the depot design as it develops further as well as prepare a master plan for the overall Washwood Heath site including the employment site that will be available (in addition to the RSMD) following construction. A Memorandum of Understanding on how the City Council and HS2 will collaborate at Washwood Heath to make the most of this opportunity has been drafted and should be signed shortly.

The 'assurances' from the Secretary of State also include a requirement to develop and implement a training and skills package in connection with the construction and operation of the RSMD at Washwood Heath, the Network Control Centre and the part of rail line within the Washwood Heath area. The Nominated Undertaker is required to fund the training and skills package 'within the budget allocated by the Secretary of State for the Proposed Scheme'. Again this will be picked up through the working group.

Longbridge

2.6 The City Council is continuing to work with St Modwen to progress proposals at Longbridge following the adoption of the Longbridge Area Action Plan (AAP) in 2009. Recent progress includes:

- The Longbridge Connectivity package has been progressed with seven packages of works on Longbridge Lane and the A38 completed.
- Improvements at Longbridge Station have been implemented and planning permission has also been secured for a new 5 storey 6 level decked car park providing 630 spaces adjacent to the station, with construction now on site.
- In May 2018 planning approval was secured for a building for offices and/or research & development at Plot 3 Longbridge Technology Park, Devon Way. Again construction is currently on site.
- A planning application (2019/08498/PA) has also been submitted for the development of 5700 sq.m. of grade A offices at 2 Park Square (the site, adjacent to the Bournville College building, is currently used for temporary car parking). It is estimated that this proposal will generate up to 343 jobs.

Edgbaston Reservoir

2.7 A draft framework ([Edgbaston Reservoir Draft Framework](#)) has been produced for Edgbaston Reservoir and following public consultation, a Community Partnership Forum has been established to further shape the final document. It is anticipated that the final Framework will be adopted in May. The Framework seeks to:

- Optimise the potential of the reservoir for sports, leisure and community uses.
- Deliver housing growth on the Tower Ballroom site.
- Improve connectivity with the surrounding area including new developments such as Port Loop.
- Protect and enhance the local historic and natural environment.

Sutton Town Centre:

2.8 A Masterplan is currently being developed by the Town Council seeking to deliver more fundamental change in the centre.

Selly Oak and South Edgbaston

- 2.9 The City Council has worked jointly with the University of Birmingham, the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust; Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; and Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust to prepare a framework for future growth and development of the Selly Oak and South Edgbaston area. The framework covers 120 ha including the health and university campuses as well as Selly Oak local centre and seeks to realise the aspirations for growth and supporting infrastructure set out in the Birmingham Development Plan. The framework is largely completed and following Cabinet Member agreement will be subject to public consultation.

Recent progress within the area includes:

- Planning approval has been given for a new Specialist Hospital Facility (14,728 sq m) on Mindelsohn Drive. The hospital will provide both private and NHS facilities with specific services in haematology, oncology and neurosurgery.
- 4 hectares of land have been remediated at the Birmingham Battery site with the site purchased by the University of Birmingham and outline planning approval obtained for a new Life Sciences Park.
- The remainder of the Battery site (8 ha) development has been progressed with the new supermarket (Sainsbury's) and retail parade opening in November 2018 and the new student accommodation (418 units) adjacent to the canal also now complete.
- Proposals for a new state-of-the art rail station to replace University Station are being advanced. The new station will accommodate up to 7 million passengers a year and will be open for the Commonwealth Games in 2022.
- The final phase of Selly Oak New Road is being progressed and is now on site with completion programmed for Summer 2020.

Ladywood

- 2.10 In April 2019 the Council commenced the procurement of development partners for the regeneration of the Ladywood Estate. The overarching vision for the Estate is to bring forward a comprehensive housing led regeneration creating a family focused neighbourhood delivering the next generation in city centre living set within a high quality environment, connected by a well-designed network of streets and public spaces and supported by local amenities and facilities

The development partners will work closely with local residents, community organisations, agencies and strategic partners to develop and deliver a comprehensive transformational regeneration programme that will not only improve the physical environment with the creation of a safer, well managed, diverse, inclusive and attractive neighbourhood, but that will also improve the social mobility and the economic prosperity of existing residents.

Urban Centres Framework

- 2.11 The Birmingham Urban Centres Framework has been produced to support the evolution of centres and retail parades to become successful multifunctional places. The approach adapts the success achieved in the city centre, through the Big City Plan, of setting clear strategic direction and identifying opportunities for change and investment. The overall strategy is based around three core themes: increased activity, improved connectivity and enhanced local identity. These core themes are then applied to each centre, with a focus on Big Moves that will act as catalysts for change.

Within the Framework, 10 initial Centres for Transformation are identified for directing investment decisions and targeting actions as places that can evolve to meet the city's growth agenda. These centres are Sutton Coldfield, Perry Barr, Bordesley Green, Coventry Road – Small Heath, Stechford, Meadway, Erdington, Northfield, Stirchley and Alum Rock Road.

Following public consultation Cabinet approved the revised Framework on the 21st January 2020 as well as delegating the approval of further additions to the Urban Centres Framework to the Cabinet Member.

At present it is proposed that there is need for an additional two 'stages' of the Urban Centres Strategy covering:

- Centres that will benefit from new railway stations following the reopening of the Camp Hill passenger line. This would cover Kings Heath and Moseley, looking to maximise the potential benefits of the improved connectivity. A planning application for a new train station at Kings Heath was received in September 2019 and it is anticipated that a planning application for Moseley will be received in early 2020.
- Centres within Hall Green, including Hall Green Parade, Highfield Road, and Robin Hood Island. This will provide a strategy to maximise benefits from the improved connectivity arising from the A34 South Sprint proposals as well as capitalise on the links to surrounding residential developments.
- Officers are also currently undertaking a scoping exercise of Dudley Road Neighbourhood Centre to establish if the Framework would be an

appropriate format for producing a strategy to support the transformation of this urban centre located within the key growth area of Greater Icknield.

Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust

- 2.12 The City Council's Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust (BMHT) has been running successfully since 2009 and continues to develop affordable social housing in the City. In this time over 2500 new social rented homes have been built, alongside homes for sale to cross-subsidise the costs of the new council housing.

3. Planning and Transport Policy

- 3.1 In order to deliver and support the growth aspirations of the BDP a number of planning and transport policy documents have been progressed and a summary of the most recent of these is set out below:

Planning Policy

- Development Management Development Plan Document – provides detailed policies to support the delivery of the Birmingham Development Plan. Consultation on the Publication version consultation is scheduled for 9 January – 13 February 2020. Submission to Secretary of State for Examination anticipated in July 2020. www.birmingham.gov.uk/DMB
- Review of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – consultant (BNP Paribas) has been appointed to review the CIL charges. A draft revised CIL charging schedule will be prepared for approval by Cabinet for consultation in Summer 2020. www.birmingham.gov.uk/cil
- Birmingham Development Plan (BDP) Review Scope – the BDP is due to be reviewed by 2022. Preparation work to determine the scope of the review and the technical studies that will be required will be explored during 2020.
- HMO City-wide Article 4 Direction – Cabinet confirmed the Article 4 Direction in December 2020. Work is being undertaken to prepare for the Direction coming into force on the 8 June 2020. This includes mapping of declared C4 HMOs and liaison with the Licensing Team
<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/hmoarticle4>

- Duty-to-cooperate – ongoing work with neighbouring authorities and regional bodies on cross boundary strategic matters.

Transport Policy

- Birmingham Transport Plan (BTP) – is a refresh of Birmingham Connected, taking account of climate emergency, CAZ, HS2 and the Commonwealth Games. The draft BTP was reported to Cabinet on 21 January 2020, and will be followed by consultation, analysis of feedback and adoption of final document (as revised).
www.birmingham.gov.uk/transportplan
- Parking Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – the draft SPD provides a new parking strategy and revised parking standards for the city. Consultation on draft document will take place from 9 January – 13 February. Analysis of results in March – April, followed by adoption of final document June 2020. Parking technical documents on operational approaches to support the SPD will be produced by Summer 2020.
<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/economy/parkingspd>
- Workplace Parking Levy - approved for further investigation at Cabinet in October 2019. During the course of 2020 work will be undertaken on parking surveys, data collection, development of options, preparation of Outline Business Case, with a target of reporting to Cabinet for approval to consult in 2021.
- Walking and Cycling Strategy – adopted by Cabinet on 21 January 2020, followed by mapping work, cost estimates and integration with the capital programme.
<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/economy/walkingcyclingstrategy/>
- Transport Space Allocation – identified as one of the big moves in the Birmingham Transport Plan. A TSA toolkit/ guidance will be prepared for Cabinet Member approval in 2020.