

Appendix 2

Equalities Appraisal: Perry Barr Regeneration Scheme (PBRS) formerly known as the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village

Update 2

March 2021

1. Introduction

- 1.1. An Equality Analysis (EA) report (Reference Number: EA002780) was produced as part of the Commonwealth Games Village and wider Perry Barr regeneration programme Outline Business Case Cabinet Report (“the OBC”) (26th June 2018), in line with the City Council’s duties under the Equalities Act 2010. The EA report identified; “that there is some potential for the programme to have differential impacts on protected characteristics but that mechanisms are in place to mitigate this.”
- 1.2. A review of the EA was undertaken with an update paper (Update 1) provided as part of the Full Business case (FBC) presented to Cabinet in June 2019. This update concluded that, “no additional equalities issues have been identified... and the Council will continue to monitor this”.
- 1.3. A separate analysis was produced to support the compulsory purchase process and is available at <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/12237/bcc41 - equalities appraisal update>. However, this paper provides an update on the equalities position since 2019 including the outcome of the Compulsory Purchase Order (“the CPO”) and the progress on the development of the Perry Barr residential scheme and wider Perry Barr regeneration Updated Revised Full Business Case report (“the Updated RFBC”).
- 1.4. This paper does not address in any detail the highway scheme or public transport improvements currently being delivered adjacent to the residential scheme.

Equalities duties

- 1.5. The City Council has a duty under the Equalities Act 2010 (“the Act”) to consider the needs of diverse groups when designing and delivering services, so that people can get fairer opportunities and equal services, to consider all the protected characteristics, and to tackle socio-economic inequalities.
- 1.6. The Act protects you from discrimination by; employers, businesses and organisations which provide goods or services, health and care providers, someone who you rent or buy a property from, school, colleges and other education providers, transport services and public bodies like government departments and local authorities. The Act contains nine protected characteristics which are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership (in employment only), pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

2. Background

Perry Barr Residential Scheme

- 2.1 The scheme for the regeneration of Perry Barr, as set out in the Updated RFBC includes the delivery of the Perry Barr Residential Scheme (formerly known as the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village), the wider demolition works, highways and public transport works, and site assembly.

The Residential Scheme is on target to delivery its planning condition requirement of providing 312 affordable homes for the scheme on plots 6, 7, 8 and 9. The discharge of this condition provides the Council the opportunity to consider if the existing plans for plots 1, 2, 10 and 11 are still the most appropriate design for the scheme.

The discharge of the affordable homes condition has provided the opportunity to reconsider the scheme being delivered for Plots 3, 4 and 5 and these have been redesigned to provide an increased number of homes that will be available for sale. This increase in houses, increases the mix of house types available within the scheme and introduces more family size homes than originally envisaged.

The delivery of the residential scheme has provided opportunity to tackle some of the local inequalities in the area. A Construction Skills Hub has been established on site and thus far has been used to upskill over 1000 workers. A target of 400 jobs was established for the scheme and to date 214 new jobs have been created of which 6 are ex-offenders and 20 are women. The scheme has also provided 27 apprenticeships and 4 summer placements and continues to work with partners to improve on these figures.

Language classes are due to commence at the Training Hub very soon. This will provide English language lessons with an emphasis on teaching terms used within the construction industry and the expectation is the lessons will also be made available to the local community.

Highway Works

- 2.2 The highway works which include the demolition of the flyover and changes to the highway network, improvements to the Birchall Roundabout and introduction of a dedicated cycle lane and Sprint bus lane are no longer part of this project and subject to separate business cases and assessments.

The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)

- 2.2 In September 2019 the Secretary of State confirmed the CPO. The Council managed to successfully acquire around 90% of the land required through negotiation with the remaining 10% or so vested.
- 2.3 Where residents have been affected, BCC have offered support and assistance for relocation, as well as compensation in line with the compensation code.

- 2.4 The Local businesses affected have been supported with finding alternative accommodation and some temporary units have been made available locally for those interested in staying within the local area.

3. Conclusions

- 6.1 The Council has worked hard to ensure the construction work on the scheme provides opportunity to create employment, provide skills and training for both the workforce and local community and tackle socio-economic inequalities.

It has also worked to minimise the impact of the CPO both in a residential and commercial property capacity. Throughout the process measures were taken to ensure that those affected by the CPO were given the opportunity to engage with the Council and benefit from appropriate support.

- 6.4 No additional equalities issues have been identified as a result of this paper. The Council will continue to monitor this.