

## Birmingham Transport Plan - Consultation & Engagement

### 1. Background and objectives

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Birmingham City Council will be engaging with local communities, businesses and other stakeholders in the production of a new Birmingham Transport Plan (BTP).

The Birmingham Transport Plan sets out the city's ambitious plans for our transport network. To support inclusive growth, a transformational change in the way we travel is needed; unprecedented population, development and economic growth will be hindered unless we tackle some of the challenges we are facing, such as poor air quality and congestion, and develop a high-quality, sustainable public transport system fit for all users.

The purpose of the BTP is to set out a vision for the city, focused around the transformation of our transport network to tackle climate change, air pollution and meet the ever-changing future needs of the city. The four 'Big Moves' set out in this document will operate together in harmony with each other to help achieve this vision.

The Transport Plan will specifically:

- summarise the past, present and future transport context of Birmingham;
- outline the challenges and opportunities that face Birmingham at the current time and how we plan to address or take advantage of these to benefit the people of Birmingham;
- set out our vision for a sustainable, green, inclusive, go-anywhere transport network;
- outline the four 'Big Moves', the delivery of which will help achieve the vision for Birmingham;
- describe how this will be achieved through strong partnership working and integrated delivery.

The plan identifies key delivery components for each of the 'Big Moves' detailing the schemes, actions and initiatives to be implemented by Birmingham City Council and various partners to achieve our vision. This will be further supported by a Delivery Plan, to be monitored annually. Consultation feedback will help to ensure that these actions are appropriate and identify vital partner and stakeholder support.

As a draft document, the City Council will consult widely on the content of the BTP, with the final version to be formally adopted by the City Council by the end of 2020. This document sets out consultation activity to be undertaken and provides information on engagement that has occurred to date.

### 2. Strategic Context

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The **Birmingham Development Plan** (adopted in 2017) sets out a spatial vision and strategy for the sustainable growth of Birmingham up to 2031, and is used to guide decisions on planning, development and regeneration. Transport is identified as one of the essential elements enabling sustainable growth.

The **Birmingham Connected White Paper** (2014) set out a 20-year transport strategy to support this, calling for a reduction in reliance on private cars and the development of an extensive public transport system supported by active modes of travel. This strategic vision for transport remains largely the same, but recent developments and actions have combined to stimulate an acceleration of this process. These have included the catalytic impact of the HS2 high speed rail programme, the development of Birmingham's Clean Air Zone and the hosting of the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

This means that the city now has an opportunity to bring forward investment in our transport system to address important challenges and maximise opportunities such as:

- **Climate change**; aspiring to be carbon neutral by 2030 in response to the climate emergency.
- **Air quality**; reducing transport related emissions that are harmful to health and wellbeing.
- **Accommodating future growth**; delivering new homes, new jobs and other opportunities.
- **Road and rail capacity**; improvements that improve efficiency and best manage demand.
- **Public transport investment**; to improve bus, rail and tram infrastructure and services.
- **Commonwealth Games**; offering a unique opportunity to invest in our transport network.
- **Future technologies**; being at the forefront of developing further advances in transport.

The adopted **Statement of Community Involvement** (2008) sets out how the Council will engage with people on a range of documents such as this Transport Plan. Key principles are identified, as well as a four-stage process: evidence gathering; consultation on draft plan; adoption; monitoring and review.

### 3. Previous engagement

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Effective stakeholder engagement has been a guiding principle to delivery of the Birmingham Connected Transport Strategy over the last few years. Through this we have developed good relationships with a wide range of delivery partners and stakeholders that have been used for disseminating information and stimulating discussions in support of various consultations and engagement activity.

Methods of doing this have included sending out regular Birmingham Connected email bulletins, ensuring appropriate web content is available, social media activity, holding stakeholder briefing sessions and undertaking formal consultations on transport projects and schemes, including bus priority measures and the Birmingham Cycle Revolution programme.

Formal consultation on strategies delivered as part of Birmingham Connected, such as the Road Safety Strategy, Brum Breathes Clean Air Strategy and Walking & Cycling Strategy and Infrastructure Plan, have fed into and supported the development of the BTP. We also carried out the Birmingham Bus Survey at the beginning of 2019.

Engagement on the forthcoming BTP was a key feature of the Birmingham Transport Summit, held on 7 March 2019. As well as hearing from a range of knowledgeable speakers, this event invited delegates to consider what needs to be done to ensure our transport network works for everyone and supports the city's agenda of sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Meetings with key partners and stakeholders have continued to shape the development of the Birmingham Transport Plan over the last few months, to the point where this is now being published for consultation.

### 4. Consultation on draft plan - Methodology

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The following individuals and groups will be consulted:

Stakeholders		Name / Organisation	Method (Letter, e-mail etc.)
1	Birmingham MPs	All	E-mail
2	BCC Councillors	All	E-mail Briefing and consultation workshop

Stakeholders		Name / Organisation	Method (Letter, e-mail etc.)
3	Town/Parish Council	Sutton Coldfield New Frankley in Birmingham	E-mail
4	Neighbouring local authorities	WMCA, WM local authorities, neighbouring county councils	E-mail (meetings where appropriate)
5	Emergency Services	All	E-mail
6	Birmingham City Council officers	Transportation & Connectivity, Highways & Infrastructure, Planning and Regeneration, Landscape Practice Group, Parks, Public Health, Environmental Health, Commonwealth Games team.	E-mail Birmingham Connected e-bulletin Birmingham City Council Intranet, and other internal communication channels
7	Residents	Various	Press release Birmingham City Council web site Be Heard consultation portal Social media accounts (Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Connected) Library of Birmingham (paper copies) Drop-in events (face-to-face); to be held throughout February and March 2020 Information to be made available for Ward Forums and other community meetings
8	Businesses, Community Groups and other Stakeholders	Various	Stakeholder launch event Press release Birmingham City Council web site Be Heard consultation portal Social Media accounts (Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Connected) Birmingham Connected e-bulletin Library of Birmingham (paper copies) Stakeholder workshops; minimum of two events in February/March 2020 Drop-in events (see above) Information to be made available for community/stakeholder meetings

## 5. Equality Assessment

An Equality Assessment has been carried out for the consultation on the draft BTP. This highlighted that developing a more comprehensive, accessible and integrated transport network should cater to the needs of a broad range of groups, and so the overall impact is likely to be positive.

We have not identified adverse impacts on any of the protected characteristics, but the consultation period will allow the opportunity to explore this further. We will collect (optional) monitoring data on protected characteristics so it will be possible to analyse responses in line with demographics where available and relevant.

In terms of the format of the consultation itself, it is important that the consultation is accessible to all. For drop-in sessions, venues will be chosen that have level access or ramp access at the entrance and will use a room towards the front of the building to minimise walking, with chairs available for consultees to rest on.

*Report Author: Joe Green, Travel Demand Manager*

We will endeavour to make information and printed materials available in different formats where this is requested. As well as seeking to engage with citizen's directly, representative groups will be specifically invited to respond to the consultation and put forward views on behalf of their members or service users.

The final BTP would be subject to further Equality Assessment screening, along with any individual programmes or schemes to be implemented as part of this, in line with standard City Council governance and approval processes.

## **6. Timescale**

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The draft BTP will be officially launched on Monday 13 January 2020, to coincide with publication of papers for the Birmingham City Council Cabinet Meeting being held on Tuesday 21 January to consider and approve consultation on this document.

Pending approval, there will be a formal consultation period running from 28 January to 27 March 2020. This will be followed by review and any amendments to the Birmingham Transport Plan, in order to progress to Cabinet for adoption by the end of 2020.

## **7. Consultation process**

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The focus of the consultation will be structured around the four Big Moves identified in the document, which are:

- Reallocating road space;
- Transforming the city centre;
- Prioritising active travel in local neighbourhoods;
- Managing demand through parking measures.

The consultation will seek to ascertain levels of support for the City Council's vision and in particular, the four Big Moves, ask people to prioritise the key delivery components identified against each of them, and encourage the input of other ideas and contributions for future delivery and implementation.

Promotion of the consultation will be launched with a stakeholder event on Monday 13 January 2020, supported by a press release. This will be followed up with media activity, email bulletins, social media, etc, which will largely direct people to the Be Heard consultation portal for further information (also available on the Birmingham City Council website – [www.birmingham.gov.uk/transportplan](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/transportplan)) and to complete an online survey. Paper copies of the draft Transport Plan and survey will be available at the Library of Birmingham and can also be sent out elsewhere on request.

In addition, we will organise two stakeholder events as well as a number of public drop-in events during February and March 2020. These will be promoted to encourage people to come along to find out more and ask any specific questions that they have along with contributing their views and opinions.

We will produce a consultation pack with a summary version of the draft Transport Plan, a PowerPoint presentation, and other materials that can be used to share information on this with any groups that might be interested, such as Ward Forums, community organisations and resident associations.

- For further information please contact: Joe Green, Travel Demand Manager on 07548 122720 or [joe.green@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:joe.green@birmingham.gov.uk).