


Title of proposed EIA	Southside Public Realm Improvements
Reference No	EQUA466
EA is in support of	New Function
Review Frequency	Six Months
Date of first review	03/08/2020
Directorate	Inclusive Growth
Division	Transport and Connectivity
Service Area	Transport Projects
Responsible Officer(s)	 Elena Browne
Quality Control Officer(s)	 Janet L Hinks
Accountable Officer(s)	 Andy Chidgey
Purpose of proposal	To seek approval for the Full Business Case for the Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme.
Data sources	Consultation Results; relevant reports/strategies
Please include any other sources of data	N/A
ASSESS THE POTENTIAL IMPACT AGAINST THE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	
Protected characteristic: Age	Wider Community
Age details:	<p>Children, young people and the elderly can be more concerned over personal security and would be more sensitive to any changes in pedestrian access. Children and elderly people will be positively impacted by changes to pedestrian access through the resurfacing and public realm improvements to Hippodrome Square. The resurfacing will mean that particularly children and the elderly will be able to easily cross the Square without needing to step up/ down off the kerb or find a suitable dropped kerb to cross.</p> <p>Improved segregation of the cycle route will have a positive benefit for people of all ages, in particular younger and older cyclists who are less confident at cycling on busy roads. This</p>

will lead to health and environmental benefits. Additionally, changes to the eastern pedestrian crossing at the Smallbrook Queensway/ Hurst Street junction will make access easier for cyclists of all ages and those in wheelchairs or with prams to navigate the crossing. On-crossing detection will be used, to identify whether the green time needs to be extended slightly to allow older people to clear the crossing.

The consultation received responses from a range of age groups. The majority of age categories were over-represented in comparison to the 2011 census of Birmingham. The age categories that were either not represented or under represented were 0-17 years which was not seen as unusual. Over 60s were also under represented, however this is due to the small amount of responses to the consultation.

Protected characteristic: Disability

[Service Users / Stakeholders; Wider Community](#)

Disability details:

The proposed scheme will bring benefits to disabled people by improving existing pedestrian and cycle measures in the Southside area. Wider and level paving footways and improved crossing facilities will bring benefits to disabled people making travel through the area easier.

The improved public space will impact pedestrian access across Hippodrome Square. However, these changes will be positive as the removal of the existing road layout and resurfacing it with granite paving will allow for better pedestrian access. This resurfacing will mean that those with mobility issues or use a wheelchair/ walking aids can

easily travel across the Square without having to step down off the kerb or find a suitable dropped kerb.

The improvements to the existing cycle route will include using coloured paving route for cyclists. The coloured surface will help define where user groups should be on the highway, particularly for those with a visual impairment e.g. pedestrians and wheelchair users on the footway and cyclists on the cycle route, therefore improving safety for all. People with a disability, who want to cycle, are likely to benefit from these proposals knowing that they can use the route, segregated from vehicles and pedestrians.

The changes to the eastern pedestrian crossing at the Smallbrook Queensway/ Hurst Street junction will make access easier for those in wheelchairs to navigate the crossing.

The public realm measures being introduced as a part of this scheme will improve connectivity between Birmingham New Street Station and the Chinese Quarter as well as providing a future route to Smithfield development.

The public consultation included engagement with disability groups to seek their feedback on the scheme proposals. Although they did not submit a response, feedback was collected from individuals who stated they had a physical or mental health condition or illness. 2011 Census data was collected for Birmingham. The public consultation feedback received an under representation from disabled people as 8% of respondents stated they had a disability compared with census

data which shows 18.4% of people in Birmingham had a disability.

Responses received from those with disabilities were analysed and despite some concerns all who responded showed support for the overall scheme.

Protected characteristic: Gender

Gender details:

Wider Community

2016 mid-year population estimates show that for Birmingham has a 49.5%/ 50.5% split of males and females respectively. The consultation responses represented a 64%/ 23% split of males and females, with 11% selecting prefer not to say or not answering. The survey has an under representation of respondents who are female, when compared to the Birmingham population, this is due to the small number of respondents to the consultation. It is not considered that the Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage people because of their gender.

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment

Gender reassignment details:

Not Applicable

It is not considered that the Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage transgender people.

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership

Marriage and civil partnership details:

Not Applicable

It is not considered that the Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage people who are married or in civil partnerships.

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity

Pregnancy and maternity details:

Not Applicable

The improved public space will positively impact pedestrian

access across Hippodrome Square as the removal of the existing road layout and resurfacing it with granite paving will allow for better pedestrian access. This resurfacing will mean that expectant mothers with reduced mobility and mothers with prams and small children can easily travel across the Square without having to step down off the kerb or find a suitable dropped kerb.

It is not considered that the Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage people who are pregnant.

Protected characteristics: Race

Wider Community

Race details:

Compared to England and Wales, much of Birmingham has a high proportion of its population that identifies as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME). Data collected from the 2011 census shows that of the population of Birmingham 42% identify as BAME. The public consultation received comments from a range of ethnicities however BAME were under represented with 12% of responses from this group. White ethnicity represented 74% of the responses received compared with the 55% of the population in the area they represent. This was a 16% over representation of this group due to the small number of responses to the consultation.

It is not considered that the Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage people because of their race.

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs

Wider Community

Religion or beliefs details:

2011 census data shows that for Birmingham Muslims represent 22% of the population and Christians represent 46%. Both Muslims and Christians were under represented in the public consultation responses, representing 18% of respondents. 59% stated they had no religion compared to 19% in the 2011 Census. Again, this was due to the small sample size received from the consultation.

It is not considered that the Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage people who have a religious belief.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation details:

Wider Community

54% of respondents to the consultation identified themselves as heterosexual or straight with 17% choosing not to say. This question was not asked in the 2011 census so there is no data to compare this to. However, it is not considered that the Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme is likely to disadvantage people because of their sexual orientation.

Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.

There are no relevant issues therefore no actions are currently required. The equalities assessment will be updated upon completion of the detailed design.

Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended

NO

What data has been collected to facilitate the assessment of this policy/proposal?

Consultation analysis

Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.

Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact?

How will the effect(s) of this policy/proposal on equality be monitored?

What data is required in the future?

Are there any adverse impacts on any particular group(s)

No

If yes, please explain your reasons for going ahead.

Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal

Consulted People or Groups

Informed People or Groups

Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA

Birmingham City Council (BCC) and Southside Business Improvement District (BID) have developed plans to create a vibrant and high quality public square outside the Hippodrome Theatre.

In 2011 the council adopted the Big City Plan which included proposals for improved streets and a public square in Southside.

The City Council have now completed the changes to traffic movements in the area. The final step is to transform the pedestrianised area outside the Hippodrome into a high quality, lively public space suitable for everyday use and special events. The square will create a new heart for Chinatown and will provide an enhanced setting for the Hippodrome and Back To Back Houses plus a gateway to the Gay Village. It will also transform pedestrian and cycling links between New Street Station and Birmingham Smithfield development. We expect that these improvements will add value and appeal to the area, attracting more visitors to this part of the city.

Well known as one of the most diverse and creative areas of Birmingham, Southside BID supports a diverse range of businesses. This truly unique public space will create a cultural heart for Southside to further promote the area, whilst celebrating and highlighting a huge range of local talent.

Not only will this be a great opportunity to attract new visitors and tourists to the Southside district, it will also increase dwell time and provide an exciting new space for events, festivals and entertainment to take place and act as a magnet to drive footfall.

The proposals will provide improvements to pedestrian and cycle infrastructure, encouraging more people to walk and cycle; improving health and the environment as well as reducing car dependency. The introduction of public realm will make the Southside area more attractive, accessible and connected place to live, work and encourage further business and residential development.

The scheme has no adverse impacts on the protected characteristics groups listed below. Many of the measures proposed will provide benefits to pedestrians and cyclists. The scheme will improve connectivity, providing high quality pedestrian and cycle measures whilst improving health and the environment.

As part of the Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme, the city council undertook extensive public and stakeholder engagement. The consultation ran for 5 weeks and took place between 17 June 2019 and 19 July 2019. 95 responses were received via the City Council's online consultation platform, BeHeard. Further responses were received from Transport for West Midlands, Hammerson and other key stakeholders.

The results of the consultation will be presented to the Cabinet as part of the Full Business Case. The views of individuals

and groups representing protected characteristic groups were invited to comment on the impact of the scheme proposals on their protected characteristic. All comments received were considered as part of the consultation analysis. No adverse impacts relating to protected characteristics were received.

QUALITY CONTORL SECTION

Submit to the Quality Control Officer for reviewing?

No

Quality Control Officer comments

Proceed tp Accountable Officer 17 02 2020

Decision by Quality Control Officer

Proceed for final approval

Submit draft to Accountable Officer?

Yes

Decision by Accountable Officer

Approve

Date approved / rejected by the Accountable Officer

17/02/2020

Reasons for approval or rejection

Please print and save a PDF copy for your records

Yes

Content Type: Item

Version: 40.0

Created at 31/01/2020 12:00 PM by  Brandon Wright

Last modified at 17/02/2020 11:51 AM by Workflow on behalf of  Andy Chidgey

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