

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

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Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment

16 December 2020

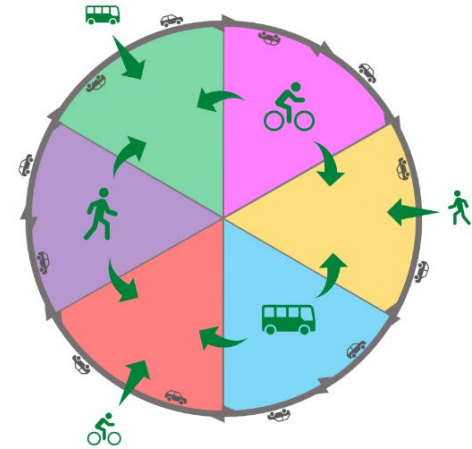


# Climate Change and Green Recovery



- The Council declared a climate emergency on June 11<sup>th</sup> 2019
  - Ambition for the city to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- Route to Zero (R20) Taskforce
  - Birmingham's direct carbon emissions have decreased by 38.6% against 1990 levels, but much more required.
  - Recommendations were presented to full Council in September 2020
  - A more detailed and costed action plan will be reported to Full Council in January 2021.
- Clean Air Zone – scheduled for launch on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2021
  - Over 1,000 deaths per year in Birmingham are linked to man-made air pollution.
  - All exemption and financial grant schemes open for application or expression of interest
  - Camera and sign installation due for completion by end of 2020. Testing of all systems scheduled to start at the beginning of 2021.
- Reopening High Streets Safely fund
  - Birmingham has been allocated £1M
  - Coordinated by Neighbourhoods Directorate, but significant activity led by Transport activity around city centre and local centres/high streets – c£600k programme
  - Providing space for social distancing in shopping areas and providing spill-out space for hospitality linked to café licenses
- Transport and Highways Capital Programme approved by Cabinet February 2020
  - Six-year rolling programme worth £256.211m, over £48m specifically on Air Quality and Climate change programmes.
  - Implicit in wider programme as transport policy already strongly aligned to carbon reduction and lower emissions

# Birmingham Transport Plan: Big Moves and consultation



- **Consulted on during January to March 2020**
- **Four Big Moves –**
  - **Reallocating road space** away from single occupancy private cars to create safe space for walking & cycling.
    - 56% of respondents agreed with this, 25% disagreed
  - **Transforming the city centre**, creating walking & cycling routes while maintaining (reduced capacity) public transport services.
    - 53% agreed, 26% disagreed
  - **Prioritising active travel in local neighbourhoods** so walking & cycling is how many people get around their local area.
    - 60% agreed, 19% disagreed
  - **Managing demand through parking measures** repurposing land & space for walking, cycling and social distancing.
    - 49% agreed, 29% disagreed
- **The BTP is due for adoption due in 2021 – likely to be tied to R20 programme**

# Birmingham Emergency Transport Plan and response to COVID-19 – Tranche 1

- **Emergency Active Travel Fund (Tranche 1) / Active Travel Fund (Tranche 2) (DfT)**
  - West Midlands (WMCA) received £17.2m in 2020/21 (indicative)
  - £3.847m tranche 1
  - £13.098m tranche 2
  - The Council received:
    - £1.131 million in tranche 1
    - C £4.5m (tbc) in tranche 2
- **Tranche 1** - Temporary measures, with potential to become more permanent
- **Pop-up cycle lanes** (to city centre and other key destinations)
  - A45 (City Centre to Small Heath); A38 (Selly Oak to Northfield); A47 (City Centre to Fort Dunlop); City centre to City Hospital via JQ; Bradford Street; A38 to A34 link
- **Park & Pedal** (from railway stations and other suitable locations, largely connecting to existing routes with some spurs added)
- **City Centre Segments initiative** (reducing through traffic)
- **Places for People** - Low Traffic Neighbourhoods – two pilots in Lozells and Kings Heath
- **Pavement widening** in Stirchley & Moseley local centres



# Birmingham Emergency Transport Plan and response to COVID-19 – Tranche 2

- The DfT Awarded Birmingham City Council c.£4.5m (tbc) for emergency transport measures - Tranche 2, on 13 November 2020
- **Upgrading Tranche 1 Projects –**
  - Moseley and Stirchley Local Centres and Pop-up cycle lanes (Sutton, Bradford St, A45, A38, A47 and A457).
- **Additional Cycling and Walking Interventions -**
  - Pop-up cycle lanes including A47/A38/B4148 spur to Walmley, A47 spur to Ward End and A38 spur to Moseley, local centres, city wide cycle parking and Big Birmingham Bikes.
- **Places for People Low Traffic Neighbourhoods -**
  - Lozells, Kings Heath, Moseley, Bournville, Castle Vale, LTN Expansion, School streets & Quick wins
- **City Centre Traffic Segments -**
  - Further delivery of Tranche 1, Scheme Six City Centre Traffic Segments initiative





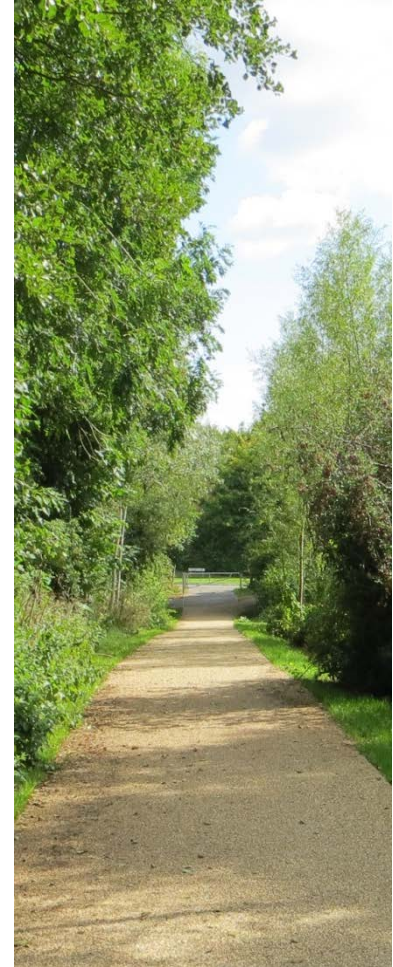
# Delivery of Rail, Metro and Sprint

- CAZ revenue surplus allocated to Cross City Bus Phase 1, University station and three Camp Hill line stations by Cabinet in March 2020
  - £12.8m towards total scheme costs of over £110m of investment in bus and rail infrastructure
  - University and all three Camp Hill Line rail stations have planning permission
- Further Cross City bus and new rail station phases to follow:
  - Pinch Point, Super Bus and Restore Your Railway fund bids to DfT in progress
- £20m allocated to Midlands Connect to prepare an OBC for Midlands Rail Hub
- Awaiting outcome of Williams Rail Review – key role for BCC in future devolution through WMRE
- Metro: Transport and Works Act for Birmingham Eastside Metro – Jan 2020
- Sprint: A45 FBC approved by Cabinet in March 2020. WM Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme subject to delegated approval in December 2020.
- Perry Barr railway station planning application under consideration



# Delivery of Key Transport Projects

- **CWG Perry Barr Highway Scheme** approved at Cabinet: Feb 2020
- **Digbeth Controlled Parking Zone** has completed on site and enforcement will start at the beginning of 2021.
- **Iron Lane, Stechford** - Construction of the project continues, and is due to be completed in March 2021.
- **Selly Oak New Road Phase 1B** - Construction is due to be completed in December 2020.
- **Snow Hill Public Realm Project 1.1 (Colmore Row / Livery Street)** - construction started in June 2020 and is due to be completed in summer 2021.
- **Snow Hill Public Realm Project 2.1 (Edmund Street)** - Construction is programmed to start in January 2021 and will last approximately six months.
- **Birmingham Cycle Revolution** - All main BCR schemes are now complete.
- **Pershore Rd/ Priory Road** - Subject to successful contract award work is due to start around Easter on site.
- **Woodgate Valley** (Building Sustainable Communities Fund) - Works at Woodgate started on site end of November and completion date is end of January, subject to weather



# Active Travel, Road Safety and Schools

- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan approved by Cabinet in January 2020
  - 250,000 car trips in Birmingham are under one mile each day; it takes six mins to cycle one mile.
- £58m spent on Birmingham Cycle Revolution
  - 47km of routes upgraded including 7km of segregated cycle routes on A38 and A34
- Safer Routes to School (SRTS): School Streets phase 2 delivered
  - Building on the success of the initial pilot, the School Streets initiative has been expanded to include 6 additional schools for the 2020 to 2021 academic year (12 in total)
  - £300,000 pa for Safer Routes to School Programme
  - 257 schools signed up to Modeshift STARS, 50 completed a school travel plan.
  - Additional 80 secondary schools engaged and supported through CV 19 schools restart programme
- Local Safety Schemes:
  - 20mph evaluation underway with a view to identifying funding for future roll out
  - Average speed enforcement cameras pilot successful. Discussions with the combined Authority regarding future roll out
  - £525,000 pa for Local Safety Schemes programme
- E-Scooter trial – started in August 2020
- E-cargo bike trial is underway





# Roads Management and Maintenance

- Highways PFI
  - Kier Interim Services Contract
    - Performance has been good and feedback largely positive
    - COVID implications and support
    - Investment programme commenced
  - Long Term Reprocurement
    - Working with project parties to produce viable and affordable set of standards and programme of investment for the remaining 14 years of the contract
    - Delivery options being considered in discussion with Government and project lenders
    - Continuing with member engagement
    - Cabinet report planned for February/March 2021



# Environment - Flooding

- Flood Risk Management Annual Report submitted in April
- Statutory consultee for Planning – surface water considerations
- Attracting external grants - Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Local Levy from the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (2020/21 = £83k Local Levy, £140k Grant in Aid)
- Flood alleviation schemes and new 6 year pipeline of schemes, as agreed with the Environment Agency (Indicative total 2021-2027: £5m Grant in Aid and £40k Local Levy)
- Flooded sites action tracker – updated with June flood events
- Flood incident response and rota duty
- Proactive and reactive maintenance on high risk grills / trash screens
- Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for BCC housing schemes
- Partnership works with Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust, Severn Trent Water and Environment Agency



# Environment - Flooding

## Reservoir Works undertaken - s12 Reservoir Inspections and works:

- **Witton Reservoir**, including repairs to survey points, removal of vegetation on spillway slabs and resealing joints and Lifford Reservoir (work in the Interest of Safety) increasing the height of the crest
- **Longmoor Reservoir**, replacing broken parts on penstock, repairing brick wing walls.
- **Manor Farm Pool** - Desilting pool, replacing broken penstock, replacing safety fencing and guard rails
- **Powells Reservoir** - Section 12 safety work to spillway, sealing joints and repairing brickwork
- **Salford Reservoir** - Section 12 work removing self-set saplings on dam, new penstock keys, water level gauge board.
- **Shenley Fields** - Pool feeder pipe, new chamber with penstock that can be operated from the surface, jetting and CCTV Survey of pipework feeding the pool.
- **Swanshurst Reservoir**, Section 12 work, repairing scour outlet slab, provision of rip rap stone to prevent erosion to receiving stream, CCTV Survey of pipes in the dam
- **Tritiford Reservoir**, Section 10 work, including repairs to scour headwall, safe path to headwall, additional survey points, removal of fallen tree and bushes on dam, removal of silt from outlet channels, topsoil to eroded areas of dam.



# Trees, Green and Blue Infrastructure



- **Birmingham is a Tree City of the World**
  - This title recognises the work that has been done understanding our urban forest and the value it adds to our citizens lives, having policies and guidance in place for how we manage it and allocate resources, and planning for a sustainable future.
- **Birmingham is a city of 1 million trees - but needs more**
  - Trees play a vital role in adaptation to and mitigating for climate change impacts.
  - Birmingham currently has 18.6% average canopy cover but 25% or greater is required to make towns and cities liveable.
  - Tree cover is not well distributed across the city with areas in most need of trees for urban cooling and additional benefits having lowest canopy cover.
  - At least 176,000 more trees are needed to reach our canopy cover target.
- **What is being done**
  - An Urban Forest Master Plan is being written.
  - Route to Zero and the Future Parks Accelerator project
  - Birmingham design guide