

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

11 February 2020



Subject: Public consultation on the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy

Report of: **Interim Director - Inclusive Growth**

Relevant Cabinet Member: **Councillor Ian Ward, Leader of the Council**

Relevant O &S Chair(s): **Councillor Lou Robson, Economy and Skills**
Councillor Liz Clements, Transport and Environment

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Are specific wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s): Alum Rock, Bordesley Green, Bordesley & Highgate, Bromford and Hodge Hill, Castle Vale, Garretts Green, Gravelly Hill, Glebe Farm and Tile Cross, Heartlands, Nechells, Pype Hayes, Shard End, Sheldon, Small Heath, South Yardley, Sparkbrook and Balsall Heath East, Tyseley & Hay Mills, Ward End, Yardley East, Yardley West and Stechford.		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 006922/2019		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek authority to undertake public consultation on the draft 'East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy' for a period of 12 weeks starting on 17th February 2020.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the commencement of public consultation on the draft 'East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy' (Appendix 1) for a period of 12 weeks commencing 17th February 2020. The outcome of the consultation and recommended next steps will be the subject of a future report to Cabinet.

3 Background

- 3.1 The East Birmingham and North Solihull (EBNS) area has historically faced a number of economic, social and environmental challenges including persistently high levels of unemployment; low levels of academic attainment and skills; poor transport connectivity; a shortage of employment land and a weak development market. A number of these challenges were highlighted in the independent review of Birmingham by Sir Bob Kerslake. Area based initiatives and programmes across the area have delivered positive outcomes, however persistent inequalities remain suggesting that these entrenched challenges will require a new approach.
- 3.2 The coming of HS2 and the proposed East Birmingham to Solihull extension of the Midland Metro, which will run through East Birmingham, are major opportunities for the area which can be harnessed to deliver wider positive change. The Metro will provide new connections to the two nationally significant economic hubs around the HS2 stations at Birmingham Curzon and UK Central in Solihull, and greatly improved connectivity along the route itself.
- 3.3 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 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.
- 3.4 The East Birmingham Board (the Board) was established in late 2018, bringing together senior officers from multiple service areas within the City Council alongside external partners including Solihull Council, the NHS, emergency services, Department of Work and Pensions, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the West Midlands Combined Authority. The Board is responsible for the Birmingham section of the East Birmingham/North Solihull Inclusive Growth Corridor and has two key objectives: to deliver growth; and to bring forward the key interventions to enable local residents to benefit from the jobs and opportunities created.
- 3.5 The Board has now produced an Inclusive Growth Strategy for East Birmingham (the Strategy), (attached as Appendix 1) which 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.

- 3.6 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 (see Background Documents below).
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 Consultation will commence on 17th February 2020 for a period of 12 weeks. The approach to consultation is set out in the engagement plan attached as Appendix 3.
- 3.9 The purpose of the consultation is to invite comments on the draft Strategy and to establish a stakeholder framework to guide the subsequent work which will implement the Strategy. Following consultation, the Strategy will be amended taking account of the representations received and in due course it will be brought back to Cabinet to seek approval for its adoption by the City Council.

4 Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 Do Nothing: Do not consult on the Strategy. This would prevent the community of East Birmingham from becoming engaged to shape the way in which the inclusive growth agenda is progressed in their area.
- 4.2 Consult on the Strategy in line with the engagement plan attached as Appendix 3. This will enable the community of East Birmingham, and the wider city, to influence the emerging strategy and to become engaged with the delivery of the strategy in the future.
- 4.3 Based on the evidence assembled the recommended option is to proceed with consultation.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Through the East Birmingham Board, the strategy has been prepared with the input of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group, the West Midlands Combined Authority, West Midlands Police, the Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Business, Employment, Industry and Skills, Homes England, Public Health England and Birmingham Children's Trust.
- 5.2 In addition, a range of other stakeholders have been engaged with via the East Birmingham Board working groups (Health, Employment, Skills and Education, and Development and Infrastructure). There has also been direct engagement with a number of local community stakeholders.

6 Risk Management

- 6.1 The programme for completion and adoption of the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy allows flexibility to account for any potential issues. This allows time for extensive discussion with stakeholders and for issues to be addressed, as well as the processing of any comments made.
- 6.2 The draft Strategy and consultation materials have been carefully worded to ensure that the approach and commitments of the City Council and partners is clear. This will minimise the risk of creating false expectations and facilitate ongoing positive engagement and collaboration in the future.

7 Compliance Issues:

7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

- 7.1.1 The East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy is consistent with the Council Plan 2018-2022 (2019 Update). The principles and objectives of the Strategy are aligned with the six Council Plan Outcomes: Birmingham is an entrepreneurial city to learn, work and invest in, Birmingham is an aspirational city to grow up in, Birmingham is a fulfilling city to age well in, Birmingham is a great city to live in, Birmingham residents gain the maximum benefit from hosting the Commonwealth Games, and Birmingham is a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change.

7.2 Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 The Council has general power of Competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 and it is using this to undertake the production of the draft Strategy. Whilst not a statutory document, the draft Strategy will provide guidance to support the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy in alignment with the Birmingham Development Plan 2031. The consultation will follow the principles set out in the Birmingham Statement of Community Involvement (2020)

7.3 Financial Implications

- 7.3.1 The East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy has been prepared using existing Inclusive Growth Directorate (Planning and Development) staff resources and the staff resources of East Birmingham Board partners. Following this consultation, the cost of the amendment and adoption of the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy will be met from the approved Planning and Development revenue budget for 2020/21.
- 7.3.2 The East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy sets out an approach to improving the City Council and Board partners' performance based around partnership working and public sector reform methodologies. This work will utilise existing approved resources (both staff and other resources).

- 7.3.3 Any schemes delivered by the City Council as a result of the strategy will be subject to approval through the Council's Gateway and related Financial Approval Framework, which will include the identification of financial implications (both capital and revenue) and associated resources.

7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)

- 7.4.1 No implications.

7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)

- 7.5.1 No implications.

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 7.6.1 The East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy is being prepared in line with Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 in ensuring that public bodies in the exercise of their functions have due regard to and consider the needs of all individuals in shaping policy. An initial Equality Impact Analysis has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix 2.

8 Appendices

- 1: Draft East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy
- 2: Equality Impact Analysis
- 3: Engagement Plan

9 Background Documents

- East Birmingham-North Solihull (EBNS) Stage 1: Baseline (Peter Brett/OCSI 2017)