

# **East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Programme Programme Update to Board October 2023**

**BE BOLD BE BIRMINGHAM**

## Programme Status

This report to the East Birmingham Board summarises the progression of the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Programme since the previous Board meeting in July 2023. The appendices to this report provide further information on the specifics of project activity.

### Introduction

The East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Programme (the Programme) was established to deliver the vision and objectives of the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy (EBIGS) which sets out the Council's approach to the East Birmingham/North Solihull Inclusive Growth Corridor in the context of major planned infrastructural investments including HS2 and the planned Midland Metro extension to Solihull.

The first phase of the Programme commenced in August 2021 with the aim of being both to secure immediate "quick wins", and to begin the process of unlocking the longer-term and more extensive benefits that can be progressed by building the Council's capacity alongside that of the community and other stakeholders to collaborate in the delivery of inclusive growth.

During the past two years significant progress has been made and it is now anticipated that the Programme will enter a new and larger phase of delivery during 2024, enabled by the establishment of the East Birmingham Impact Coalition and the potential designation of East Birmingham and North Solihull as a Levelling Up Zone. In readiness for this new phase of activity a review of the Programme has been undertaken and actions taken to refine and focus the approach. This has including changes to way that projects are identified, developed and implemented, and ongoing improvements to transparency, communications and reporting.

### Implications of Section 114 Notice

On 5<sup>th</sup> September the Council issued a report under section 114 of the Local Government Act relating to the Council's financial liabilities relating to Equal Pay claims. The report states that the Council has insufficient resources to meet the equal pay expenditure and currently does not have any other means of meeting this liability. The issuing of the notice means that the Council is required by law to immediately cease all non-essential spending and to act to reduce its operation and service delivery costs.

As an initial response to these circumstances, and building on the review already in progress, steps have now been taken to minimise the costs to the City Council incurred by the Programme. This has meant that some Council-funded projects have been placed on hold until such time as alternative funding can be identified. Overall, however it is expected that project activity can be sustained and even somewhat expanded by drawing on external resources including UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Further information regarding specific projects, funding, and workstreams is set out in the body of this report.

On 19 September 2023, the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) announced the government's proposals to handle the City Council's financial and governance problems. The proposals included the appointment of commissioners who are responsible for governance, scrutiny of strategic decision making, finance, and senior appointments.

The commissioners team joined the City Council in early October 2023. In due course the Programme team will be engaging with the commissioners to address key issues including how the establishment of the Levelling Up Zone and wider continued delivery in East Birmingham can contribute towards the delivery of the Council's financial recovery plan.

## Activity Update

### East Birmingham/North Solihull Levelling Up Zone

Previous updates to Board have described how the Council has worked with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and West Midlands Combined Authority to develop and progress proposals for a joint approach for East Birmingham and North Solihull which will drive investment and co-ordinated intervention to improve residents' quality of life and their economic opportunities. The concept is to combine investment into infrastructure and development with comprehensive public service improvement and to maximise the impacts of all of this work through bespoke governance and delivery arrangements.

A key enabler for this approach is the proposal to establish "Growth Zones" for East Birmingham and North Solihull which would allow the designation of local (employment-oriented) sites where 100% of business rates could be retained within a 25-year window.

Since the previous meeting in July the Programme team have been working with colleagues from Solihull MBC and WMCA to progress proposals for the EBNS Growth Zones and to agree the detail with Government. These discussions have been progressed in parallel with the development of proposals for a West Midlands "Investment Zone" which seeks to deliver growth within the Advanced Manufacturing sector through collaboration between public, private and academic partners. Government announcements are expected on both of these policies at the Autumn Statement in November.

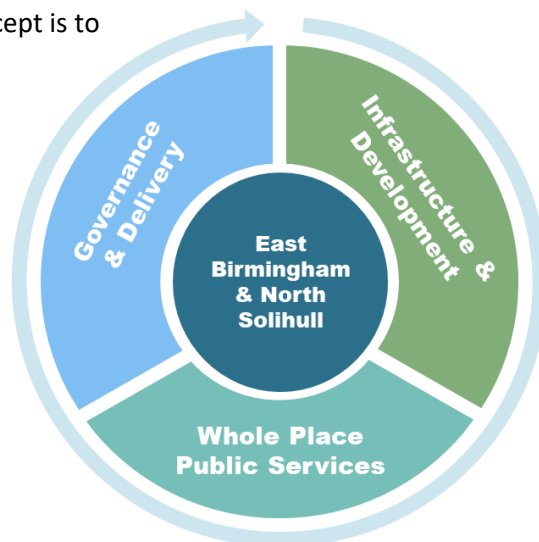
An update on this will be brought to the October Board as item 4.2.

### Impact Coalition

A report was presented at the July Board setting out a proposal for the East Birmingham Impact Coalition: a strategic partnership of organisations invested in East Birmingham, collaborating with the benefit of innovative place-based working to ensure that that investment coming to East Birmingham has maximum economic, social and environmental impact. This approach is a development of previous projects, policy and partnership working undertaken by the programme team over the past two years as well as local and international precedents.

The core of the concept is the creation of a delivery structure (the bridge) connecting the macro-assets (opportunities, finance, development, etc.) identified by the partnership with micro-assets (skills, community assets, local SMEs, micro-finance, etc). This requires the development of strong relationships with the local business base, training providers, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations including local community anchors, religious organisations and the local community.

Activity since the July Board has focussed on establishing a set of projects that will start to implement this concept utilising a core resource of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF). These projects will become a major focus for the Programme during the next eighteen months and are intended to introduce and test scalable concepts for future expansion. Further information on these projects is set out below under Project Development and Delivery.



In addition to the development of this SPF funded sub-programme, the Impact Coalition has been further progressed through the co-ordination and alignment of partnership development and engagement activity including:

- **National Trust:** current activity includes co-funding of the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Pocket Parks projects and further development of a draft MoU setting out an approach to future collaboration.
- **University Hospitals Birmingham:** wide-ranging discussions are in progress regarding UHB as an Anchor organisation within East Birmingham, with significant potential for collaboration around careers and recruitment as an initial priority.
- **Tyseley Strategic Alliance:** current activity includes the DIATOMIC and Fast Followers projects (detailed below) and mobilisation of a new phase of feasibility activity which seeks to identify and refine opportunities to progress the development of Tyseley as the city's green energy and innovation quarter.
- **Severn Trent Water:** STW continued their commitment to employment support for East Birmingham, hosting a call-to-action event on 27<sup>th</sup> September which showcased a recent report [The Good Jobs Project](#) by ReGenerate. The report calls for corporations to target their workforce recruitment at areas of deprivation to gain talent and a representative workforce. STW's CEO asked significant employers in the audience (including Birmingham Airport) to contact STW for joint consideration of how to collaborate to maximise their impact. The East Birmingham Programme Team will be meeting with STW and ReGenerate on 26<sup>th</sup> October to create a joint plan.
- **East Birmingham Employment and Skills Collaboration:** In Spring 2023, the Programme Team supported the coming together of the two groups who were separately seeking to collaborate on employment and skills in East Birmingham. The group has met twice since August, and has considered the evidence of the barriers to employment gathered by JCP and the DEMOS report, and also the persistence of low skills levels (data from WMCA), and established 3 working groups to tackle what it sees as some underlying conditions which are preventing local people from responding to service offers and support:
  - English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL): this is a task and finish group to feed in the region-wide consultation and review of ESOL currently being undertaken by WMCA.
  - Informal working: this is a longer-term working group to consider the promotion of employment rights and real living wage in the area.
  - Gangs and drugs: this is led by a small number of partners who feel they have remit to support this issue that blocks progression, it is being explored whether it is feasible to create a working group, or better to network with other bodies set up to tackle this issue.

The Programme Team are also seeking additional funding for projects supporting increasing household income (noted below in the next section relating to Cost Of Living Funds) and developing the plan for the use of SPF People and Skills funding when this becomes available in April 2024; the plan centres around the creation of Good Jobs Hub services in the area. There will be an update on this subject on the main agenda.

- **Schools engagement:** The schools engagement work with primary and secondary schools has concluded in the first phase, resulting in a set of key themes expressing the levelling up priorities of local schools. This is the subject of a full agenda item and will include an update on the Partnerships for People and Place pilot that the Programme team delivers in partnership, and which is entering a second phase.

### Funding updates

At the time of the previous report to Board the Programme had secured £3m of external funding to support projects and wider activity. Following the recent programme review focussed activity is now in progress to secure further resources to progress two key priorities: the implementation of the Impact Coalition and readiness for the proposed Levelling Up Zone. The principal opportunities are as follows:

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund:** further to the update presented to the previous Board, a package of £1.265m has now been secured for East Birmingham, split across the three UKSPF Investment Priorities. The basis for the planned activities is the Impact Coalition concept, and further information about the work to be undertaken is set out below under Project Delivery. The funding is allocated and profiled as per the table below. Please note that the Communities and Place pillar has not yet been allocated for 2024-25, however it is proposed to seek funding for further EB elements once this is available.

	2023-2024	2024-2025	Total
<b>Communities and Place</b>	565,000	-	565,000
<b>Supporting Local Business</b>	84,000	416,000	500,000
<b>People and Skills</b>	-	200,000	200,000
<b>Total</b>	649,000	616,000	1,265,000

**Cost of Living Support:** funding is currently available for Phase 2 of the City Council’s Cost of Living support programme, derived from ringfenced Public Health budgets and thus not constrained by S114 financial controls. The East Birmingham team has proposed two interventions in alignment with this fund:

- 1) Support for maximisation of education pathways (PfPP project Phase 2): £160,000 sought
- 2) Boost funding for the existing NHS ‘I CAN’ partnership project that changes engagement and recruitment practices, helping local people in deprived wards gain NHS jobs: £220,000 sought

Although the funding is ringfenced, it is still subject to ratification via the S151 process controls within the Council; time estimates are that this may be approved in November for delivery across 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.

**GBSLEP Legacy:** Birmingham and Solihull Councils have jointly presented a proposal to GBSLEP (which winds-down in December 2023) seeking £1m of GBSLEP residual funding for a project entitled *Birmingham and Solihull Workforce Development Service*. The project seeks to support the work of the partner Councils to develop a range of employment and skills services, available across the Birmingham and Solihull area to meet the strategic needs of its customers. The scope of work includes both a package of employment and skills activities for delivery between January 2024 and March 2025, and resources to support the co-development of the EBNS Levelling Up Zone during the same period – the Levelling Up Zone being a key vehicle and enabler for investment in employment and skills reform and tackling underlying conditions due to inequality and deprivation. The outcome of the application will be known by the end of November and will be reported to the next Board meeting in January.

**Nuffield Foundation:** A meeting was held with Nuffield Foundation on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Dolphin Centre in Ward End Park to discuss a potential application to the Foundation’s Research, Development & Analysis Fund at the next opportunity in March 2024. The Fund is available for activity focussed on education,

welfare and justice, and could potentially support future stages of work in East Birmingham by providing insight and evaluation of activities relating to these key topics.

## Project development and delivery

Following the Programme review carried out earlier in the year, which was facilitated by the recruitment of a dedicated Programme Manager, a new approach has been developed to project development and delivery with the intention of creating a more coherent and tightly aligned programme which will actively enable the establishment of the Impact Coalition and Levelling Up Zone. This approach has been further refined in light of the S114 Notice and associated spend controls.

The Project register (appendix 1) will now distinguish between direct delivery (projects where delivery and finances are managed by the programme team) and any associated projects (where the programme team plays a supporting role in work led by another partner). Transport projects will be reported via a separate tracker (appendix 2 below). It is anticipated that there will be a further significant evolution of the approach as part of the establishment of new governance and delivery arrangements associated with the Levelling Up Zone.

## Summary of changes

The following table summarises the changes to in-flight and planned projects since the July meeting of the Board. A decision has been taken in each case as follows:

- Retain on register – projects that will continue in active delivery.
- Remove from register – projects which are completed, to be discontinued, or otherwise not progressed as a project within the programme.
- Retain on/Move to development list – projects that are not funded or require further development.

Project (live)	Summary	Review outcome
EB007: Bordesley Spatial Pilot	A place-based to study which seeks to establish a framework for assessing the quality of local places in terms of utility and amenity in line with the theory of the “15-minute city”.	Project paused due to unavailability of BCC funding under current financial controls. Alternative funding opportunities to be explored. <b>Move to development list.</b>
EB010: Cole Valley Country Parks (inc. Tyseley Community Commons)	Sub-programme comprising activity associated with Cole Valley including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for River Cole Community Commons project (ERDF)</li> <li>• Improvements to walking, cycling and ecology along River Cole Valley</li> <li>• Further designation of Country Parks and/or Local Nature Reserves</li> </ul>	The Cole Valley Commons project has been completed. Other elements are to be disaggregated and progressed individually to facilitate clearer management and reporting. <b>Remove from register.</b>
EB014: Pocket/Pop-up Parks	Aligned with the East Birmingham Green Infrastructure Vision this project will deliver improvements to 1-3 local green spaces as pocket parks and/or local growing space via community-led activity.	To be rescoped and progressed in partnership with National Trust, utilising UKSPF and National Trust funding. <b>Retain on register</b>
EB015: Youth Employability Pilot (Partnerships)	‘Partnerships for People and Place’ funded - A locally designed scheme of employment support, focussed on innovation in earlier	Project completed and evaluation currently in progress. Further phases

for People & Place)	employer support in schools for successful careers for East Birmingham young people	of related activity to be brought forward. <b>Retain on register</b>
EB017: Green Infrastructure Action Plan	This work will progress the approach set out in the East Birmingham Green Infrastructure Vision document.	To proceed as planned. Completion anticipated January 2024. <b>Retain on register.</b>
<b>Project (planned)</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Review outcome</b>
Meadway Phase 3	Building on previous work including NHS Strategic Outline Case, to develop an overall Outline Business Case for the redevelopment of the site of the former Poolway Centre at Meadway. Requires design, feasibility and full development phases.	To be progressed as priority site within LUZ spatial development workstream and in alignment with WMCA Single Settlement funding opportunities. <b>Retain on development list.</b>
Green Development Zones	This policy development project will explore how the development of strategic sites in East Birmingham can be delivered in line with the Green Development Zones concept.	To be progressed as part of LUZ policy development in conjunction with Birmingham Development Plan review. <b>Remove from register.</b>
Tyseley Clean Energy Masterplan for Growth Stage 2	Taking forward the study delivered by project EB004, this proposal is to prepare a Clean Energy Masterplan for Tyseley for adoption by the City Council. The Masterplan will address both spatial and infrastructure planning and also the proactive development of low and zero carbon assets to maximise the potential of Tyseley at the forefront of the city's response to climate change.	To be progressed by Tyseley Strategic Alliance under the Development Framework workstream. Next step will be the development feasibility study which is fully funded by the Tyseley partners. This will be reported to Board as an associated project. <b>Retain on development list.</b>
Coventry Road Local Centre Environment	Linked with EB007: Spatial Pilot, and the development of East Birmingham Business Improvement Districts, this proposal is for the delivery of co-ordinated improvements to Coventry Road local centre through use of a range of measures including environmental enhancements, community clean ups, proactive use of enforcement powers and liaison with local stakeholders including traders and residents.	No funding available at present. To be retained as concept for consideration against future funding opportunities. <b>Retain on development list.</b>
East Birmingham Heritage at Risk Survey	This project will assess the condition of all Grade II and Locally Listed historic assets in the East Birmingham area in order to create a Heritage at Risk register, facilitating the prioritisation of interventions to safeguard and celebrate local heritage and culture.	To be retained as concept for consideration against future funding opportunities. <b>Retain on development list.</b>
Ward End Park Phase 2	This proposal is to utilise the outputs of project EB002 to develop business case(s) and funding bids as required to progress the refurbishment and improvement of the Ward End Park House and Boat House buildings at Ward End Park, potentially as part of a skills and training hub.	No funding available at present. Continue to provide advice and support to be to Ward End stakeholders and prioritise funding opportunities. <b>Retain on ready list.</b>



## New Projects

Since the last meeting of the Board the following projects have commenced. Both projects are funded by Innovate UK following successful funding bids earlier in the year, and both are focussed on the Tyseley area in conjunction with the Tyseley Strategic Alliance.

### **EB018: Fast Followers.**

This £200k project will fund a Net Zero Innovation and Delivery Officer who will work with the Council's East Birmingham Development Team and with our partners: University of Birmingham, Tyseley Energy Park and Places in Common to support businesses in the Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District, in their journey to net zero. The funding will also resource other specialist support for community and technical support, and careers and jobs promotion.

### **EB019: DIATOMIC Inclusive Innovation Network**

Part of a £6m project with multiple partners, the aim of this £160k work package is to establish an Inclusive Innovation Network with a cohort of businesses run by members of excluded communities (both ethnic minorities and women) in East Birmingham. It will open procurement opportunities to the diverse base of SMEs and social businesses (traditionally attracting women and migrants) who represent a very significant source of untapped economic potential.

### **UK Shared Prosperity Fund Projects**

The city-wide Grant Funding Agreement was agreed with WMCA in early October. East Birmingham is the only area with an integrated package of projects across the three funding pillars, totalling £1.265M so far (Communities and Place funding for 2024/25 has not yet been allocated at city level, and we will be seeking further funds when possible).

The work will comprise seven UKSPF-funded projects to be initiated and directly delivered by the programme team across this financial year, and next year for those elements where funding has been allocated:

<b>SPF Priority - East Birmingham focussed elements</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Communities &amp; Place (not yet allocated for 24/25)</b>	<b>565,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>565,000</b>
EB020: improving green infrastructure for community use	165,000	-	165,000
EB021: Locally delivered community leadership/Levelling Up capacity-building to at least 10 organisations across East Birmingham.	140,000	-	140,000
EB022: 10 grants (£16k each) for local organisations focusing on inclusive growth priorities and establishing a network of community organisations partnering the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy	160,000	-	160,000



EB014: Pocket Parks environment demonstrator project: creation of 3 - 4 pocket parks with community groups for future local management	100,000	-	100,000
<b>Business Support</b>	<b>84,000</b>	<b>416,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>
EB023: Market research and tailored support for businesses located in the immediate vicinity of new markets to enable readiness for contracts and diversification	74,000	296,000	370,000
EB024: 10 grants per annum (various grant value categories and purposes)	-	80,000	80,000
Business Support and Procurement Liaison Officer (staff time to deliver EB023 and EB024)	10,000	40,000	50,000
<b>People &amp; Skills (funding pillar starts in 2024/2025)</b>	-	<b>200,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>
EB025: Creation of a Good Jobs Hub (funds only available in 2024/25)		200,000	200,000

## Key activity for the next period

The main focus of activity for the next three months will be on the following priorities:

**Ongoing engagement with Government around strategic funding and delivery capacity** – principally this activity will seek to the maximise the opportunities afforded under the Levelling Up Zone and Investment Zone policy agenda. Announcements on these policies are expected at the Autumn Statement, with commencement of business rate retention and availability of new funding opportunities expected to start no earlier than April 2024.

**Planning for the next phase of activity, including the development of a draft Levelling Up Zone investment and implementation plan** – in order to transition into the next anticipated phase of activity, detailed planning is required for workstreams addressing governance, delivery capacity, funding alignment and spatial planning. This work will be undertaken in close collaboration with Solihull MBC, and will provide a framework for the establishment of the Levelling Up Zone or, in the event that the Levelling Up Zone designation is not confirmed, the expansion of existing activity through other means. This activity will address all existing work within the Programme.

**Mobilisation and commencement of UK Shared Prosperity fund projects** – as detailed above, the commencement of the new UKSPF-funded projects represents a significant step forward for the Programme. The majority of these projects will be expected to deliver initial outputs within the 2023/24 financial year, and mobilisation will therefore need to be progressed at pace.

**Further development of partnership working and engagement in support of the Impact coalition** – this will take in a wide range of activities as noted under Impact Coalition above. Key elements will include work aligned with the Tyseley Strategic Alliance, including the Fast Followers, DIATOMIC work package and development feasibility study, and further development of collaboration with National Trust, University Hospitals Birmingham and other partners.

## Appendix 1: Project Register

Projects and activities which make up the programme are summarised here for the reference of the Board.

### Project Stages:

- 1: Concept - Inception, feasibility, and initial options appraisal. Production of Project Brief.
- 2: Definition - Development of preferred option. Production of Outline and/or Full Business Case (if required) and project management plan.
- 3: Delivery - Implementation of project. Delivery of project product/outputs in accordance with Business Case and Project Management Plan.
- 4: Closure - Handover of project outputs and evaluation

**Programme Review:** the project register and projects in development lists have been updated based on the outcome of the programme review as set out in the main body of the report. In addition, further information has been added to the register:

- each project is given a RAG status. The table below shows that currently all projects are rated Green or Amber. Where they are Amber, extra actions are in place to manage risk or issues arising, and these are managed through the Corporate Performance Monitoring system.
- Projects are now shown with alignment to programme delivery themes (see below) and links with Impact Coalition partners.

○ Health and Wellbeing	HWB
○ Community Influence & Participation	CIP
○ Education & Skills	E&S
○ Jobs	EMP
○ Neighbourhoods & Natural Environment	N&NE
○ Energy & Climate	E&C
○ New Homes	NH
○ Transport	TRA
○ Economy	ECO

## Project Register

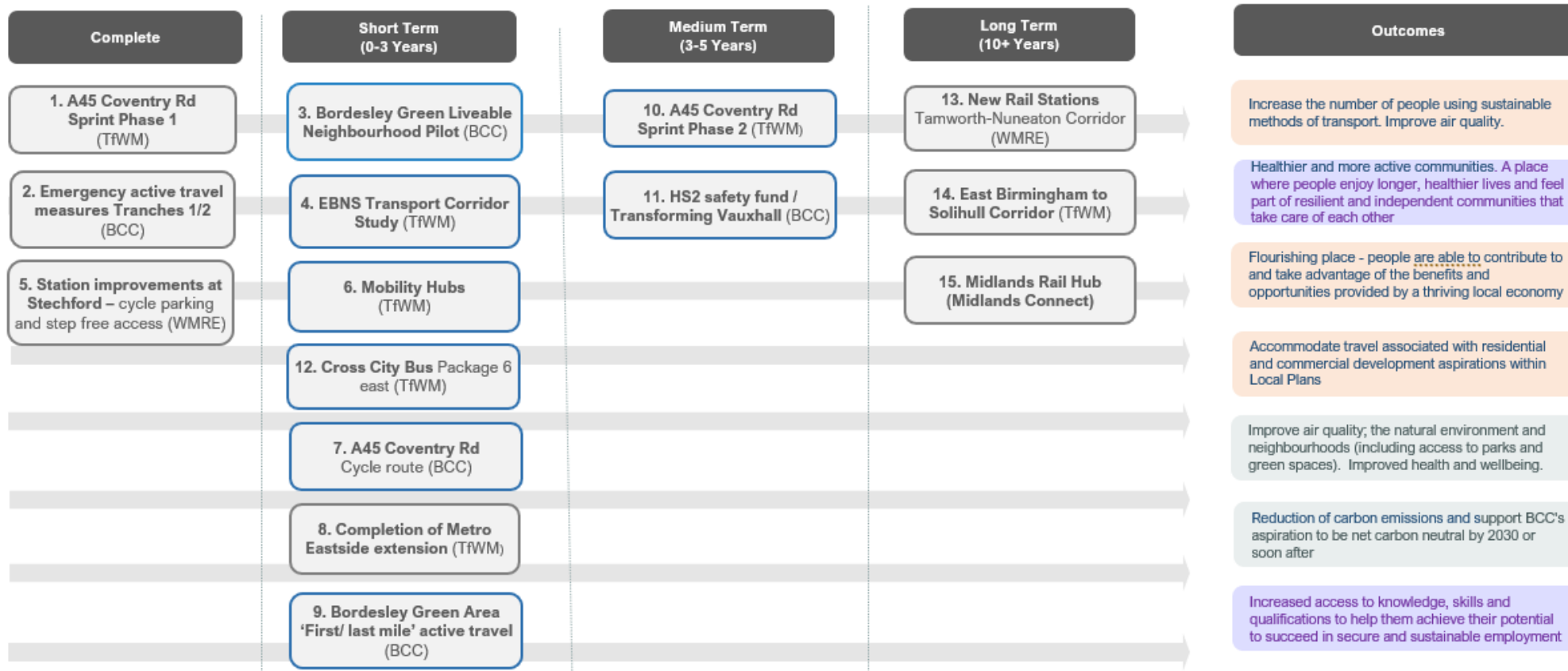
Project Reference and Title	Summary	Stage Outputs	Funding Source(s)	Agreed Budget ('000s)	Stage & RAG	Update and Next Milestone	Alignment/partners
EB014: Pocket Parks	Aligned with the East Birmingham Green Infrastructure Vision and project EB013, this project will deliver improvements to 1-3 local green spaces as pocket parks and/or local growing space via community-led activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improvements to a local green spaces as a new pocket park</li> <li>3 Pop-up parks to activate neglected spaces</li> </ul>	UK SPF National Trust	£100 £TBC	2 Amber	<b>Update at Oct 2023:</b> This delivery has been slightly delayed to enable integration with the Shared Prosperity Fund programme (funding confirmation pending) to increase the scale of this project, and work with Impact Coalition partner National Trust.	N&NE  With National Trust
EB015: Youth Employability Pilot	'Partnerships for People and Place' funded - A locally designed scheme of employment support, focussed on innovation in earlier employer support in schools for successful careers for East Birmingham young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 young people with more secure pathways ahead of them beyond this transition</li> <li>40 young people successfully progressing into employment from this transition</li> <li>Partnership learning and system change</li> </ul>	DLUHC	£335	3 Green	<b>Update at Oct 2023:</b> closedown was extended to the end of October 2023 to support maintenance of school relationships to enable a Phase 2 project (Cost of Living funds sought). A new evaluation stage involving tracking of impact means delaying the celebration & dissemination event until Spring 2024. The project team are contributing to wider review supporting development of a more integrated careers system for the city and region.	E&S  With Schools Engagement
EB017: Green Infrastructure Action Plan	This work will progress the approach set out in the East Birmingham Green Infrastructure Vision document.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Infrastructure Action Plan</li> </ul>	BCC National Trust	£50 £50	2 Green	<b>Update at Oct 2023</b> Landscape Architect now in place to deliver Action Plan by January 2024.	N&NE

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced partnerships and organisational capacity</li> </ul> <p>Information in support of business cases and funding bids</p>				Partnership working with National Trust continues and this will inform the project as it develops.	With National Trust
EB018: Fast Followers.	<p>This project will fund a Net Zero Innovation and Delivery Officer who will work with the Council’s East Birmingham Development Team and with our partners: University of Birmingham, Tyseley Energy Park and Places in Common to support businesses in the Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District, in their journey to net zero. The funding will also resource other specialist support for community and technical support, and careers and jobs promotion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business support programme - journey to Net Zero support</li> <li>Local job/careers promotion with residents</li> </ul>	Innovate UK	£200	3 <b>Green</b>	<b>Update at Oct 2023:</b> Project has commenced on time and the Net Zero delivery Officer post is in place.	N&NE  With Tyseley Strategic Alliance
EB019: DIATOMIC Inclusive Innovation Network (associated project)	<p>Part of a £6m project with multiple partners, the aim of this £160k work package is to establish an Inclusive Innovation Network with a cohort of businesses run by members of excluded communities (both ethnic minorities and women) in East Birmingham. It will open procurement opportunities to the diverse base of SMEs and social businesses (traditionally attracting women and migrants) who represent a very significant source of untapped economic potential.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business support programme – inclusive innovation network for excluded local SMEs/social enterprises</li> <li>Local job/careers promotion with residents</li> </ul>	Innovate UK	£160	3 <b>Green</b>	<b>Update at Oct 2023</b> Project has commenced, and the design of the local innovation network is underway with stakeholders.	N&NE  With Tyseley Strategic Alliance

## Projects in Development

Project Reference and Title	Summary	Status
UK SPF Package of 7 projects	7 projects spanning 3 funding pillars: Communities and Place, Business Support, and People & Skills. Total value £1.255m.	<b>Update at Oct 2023:</b> Final approval (internal level) is imminent to enable launch of the package of projects in November 2024.
Tyseley Clean Energy Masterplan for Growth Stage 2	Taking forward the study delivered by project EB004, this proposal is to prepare a Clean Energy Masterplan for Tyseley for adoption by the City Council. The Masterplan will address both spatial and infrastructure planning and also the proactive development of low and zero carbon assets to maximise the potential of Tyseley at the forefront of the city's response to climate change.	<b>Update at Oct 2023:</b> To be progressed by Tyseley Strategic Alliance under the Development Framework workstream. Next step will be the development feasibility study which is fully funded by the Tyseley partners. This will be reported to Board as an associated project.
Bordesley Green Spatial Pilot	This is a place-based study which seeks to establish a framework for assessing the quality of local places in terms of utility and amenity in line with the theory of the "15-minute city".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot study to inform future transport and development activities in East Birmingham. Resident engagement platform developed with West Midlands Innovation Fund to improve co-design of local solutions with residents</li> </ul>
Coventry Road Local Centre Environment	Linked with EB007: Spatial Pilot, and the proposed East Birmingham Business Improvement Districts project, this proposal is for the delivery of co-ordinated improvements to Coventry Road local centre through use of a range of measures including environmental enhancements, community clean ups, proactive use of enforcement powers and liaison with local stakeholders including traders and residents.	<b>Update at Oct 2023:</b> No funding available at present. To be retained as concept for consideration against future funding opportunities.
East Birmingham Heritage at Risk Survey	This project will assess the condition of all Grade II and Locally Listed historic assets in the East Birmingham area in order to create a Heritage at Risk register, facilitating the prioritisation of interventions to safeguard and celebrate local heritage and culture.	<b>Update at Oct 2023:</b> No funding available at present. To be retained as concept for consideration against future funding opportunities.
Ward End Park Phase 2	This proposal is to utilise the outputs of project EB002 to develop business case(s) and funding bids as required to progress the refurbishment and improvement of the Ward End Park House and Boat House buildings at Ward End Park, potentially as part of a skills and training hub.	<b>Update at Oct 2023:</b> No funding available at present. Continue to provide advice and support to be to Ward End stakeholders and prioritise funding opportunities.

## Appendix 2: Transport Programme



Transport Scheme	Description	Status	RAG
1. A45 SPRINT Phase 1 (TfWM)	Sprint provides bus priority corridors in the West Midlands, with several separate proposals linking Walsall to Solihull and Birmingham Airport via Birmingham City Centre. The proposed route will eventually link Birmingham City Centre, along the EBS corridor, to the Airport and Solihull Town Centre.	Phase 1 delivered. Phase 2 is funded and expected to be delivered in 2024.	
2. Emergency Active Travel measures (Tranche 1 / 2)	The second tranche of funding is intended to support the creation of longer-term projects, some of which were delivered in a temporary capacity through the Tranche 1 programme. Schemes include, Bradford Street connecting East Birmingham into Digbeth and the city centre, the A45 (scheme 7 below) and A47 Nechells Road.	Delivered	
3. 15-minute neighbourhood pilot in Bordesley Green	An ambitious net-zero “15-minute city” neighbourhood with a Vision for Liveable Neighbourhoods described as: “Access to a quality green environment that is rich in wildlife, supports physical and mental wellbeing, and helps us adapt to climate change. With access to all the key daily facilities and services needed to lead a full, healthy, and happy life within a short walk or cycle journey of your home”	On hold pending the identification of alternative funding	
4. EBNS Corridor Study (TfWM)	TfWM are currently undertaking a ‘mode agnostic’ study to assess the corridor acknowledging deliverability and cost issues for a Metro extension. Recognised in the East Birmingham Inclusive growth strategy, the delivery of a high capacity transport intervention is needed to help transform the way that people move around East Birmingham. Along with improvements to bus, rail, cycling and walking routes, A45 SPRINT and Cross City Bus, the new ‘Metro style’ service could provide a fast and reliable connection, allowing local people to access employment, education and amenities.	CRSTS funding for Very Light Rail – includes a ‘modes assessment’ study on EBNS Corridor, replacing previous EBS Metro route to Airport. Scope change to assess all modes and routes.	
5. Stetchford Station improvements	The transformation of Stechford station in Birmingham to make it more accessible for passengers has reached a key milestone with the new footbridge and lift shafts now in place. The upgrade to make the station accessible for West Midlands Railway’s passengers will be finished by the end of the year.	Largely completed	
6. Mobility Hubs (TfWM)	Mobility hubs will be introduced across the region, offering shared transport options and car-free connections between neighbourhoods, local centres, and transport corridors. These will be seen in East Birmingham with the aim of creating new places for communities and active travel and linking dense outer-urban residential areas and high-footfall local centres.	CRSTS funding identified subject to business case approval. Some delay to programme.	



7. A45 Active Travel Route (BCC)	A two-way cycle lane, separated from general traffic and from pedestrians using a combination of level differences, lane separator units and lines marked on the ground. This will route past Bordesley Circus along Small Heath Highway then via Bolton Road and Byron Road, linking directly with the cycle route along Bradford Street into the city centre, which is also proposed to upgrade from a pop-up to a permanent route.	Phase 1 and 2 now to be funded by ATF4 and CRSTS respectively, with Phase 3 to be part of future phases and funding bids. Subject to CRSTS business case approval.	
8. Metro Eastside Extension (TfWM)	The Birmingham Eastside Metro extension to Digbeth will serve the High Speed 2 (HS2) station at Curzon Street, separating from the existing West Midlands Metro line at Bull Street. The route is planned to consist of 1.7km of twin track running from Bull Street to a new terminus at High Street Deritend. The scheme includes four additional West Midlands Metro stops serving the east of Birmingham City Centre.	Construction activity set to be completed in 2023/24. Project is funded.	
9. Bordesley Green Active Travel Connectivity 'First/ Last Mile' (BCC)	Plans are currently being developed to improve the quality of active travel linkages between Bordesley Green Centre and within the East Birmingham to River Cole–Area.	CRSTS funding identified subject to business case approval.	
10. A45 Sprint Phase 2	See A45 Sprint Phase 1 for details	Status and delivery timescales TBC	
11. HS2 Safety Fund	HS2 has made £2.6m for road safety schemes in Birmingham the vicinity of the HS2 route to be delivered in the next five years. The next step will be to carry out a survey to identify high risk roads where safety improvements are needed. We will then work to ensure that schemes are designed and delivered as quickly as possible.	Status and delivery timescales TBC	
12. Cross City Bus (TfWM)	Bus Priority is a key part of achieving the objectives of the Birmingham Transport Plan and TfWM's Local Transport Plan. Most schemes are led by Transport for the West Midlands, current process is for them to be delivered by their contractor under a S278 Agreement with BCC (this may change in future). BCC leading on some small schemes linked to CAZ and BLE. TfWM also have some highway powers under Key Route Network (KRN) but BCC remains as highway authority, responsible for design reviews, TROs, Enforcement etc. Current initiatives include Sprint, Cross-City Bus, and 'Multi-Modal' Studies.	Cross-City Bus initially funded through 'Better Deal for Bus Users' (Packages 1 & 3) Remaining four packages through £59m in CRSTS. Also in CRSTS for A34 & A45 Sprint Phase 2, and £25.0m for Hagley Road Rapid Transit	

13. New Rail Stations TfWM and the West Midlands Rail Executive (WMRE)	<p>WMRE and TfWM are to explore the feasibility and business cases for five new railway stations. The five proposed stations: Balsall Heath, Coventry East (Binley), Foleshill, Castle Bromwich and Tettenhall have been selected from a long list of 15 following an initial feasibility study. The wider strategy promotes the delivery of several stations proposed as part of this study as listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Birmingham East-Tamworth / Nuneaton Corridor 2026-2043 aspiration: New stations – Castle Bromwich and Fort Parkway</li> <li>- Birmingham East-Tamworth / Nuneaton Corridor post-2034 aspiration: New stations – Streetly, Sutton Coldfield Town, Walmley, Minworth</li> <li>- Birmingham South, Worcester and Hereford Corridor 2026-2043 aspiration: New station – Balsall Heath</li> </ul>	<p>Initial 5 station SOCs to be delivered in 2023 and funded by CRSTS. Delivery timescales longer term (2030+)</p>	
14. East Birmingham to Solihull Corridor	<p>The priority for the next extension to the Midland Metro Network lies in east Birmingham-Solihull, linking growing residential areas and key community destinations such as Heartlands Hospital with the Curzon HS2 growth area, Birmingham city centre, Paradise Circus/Centenary Square and Brindleyplace/Five Ways/Edgbaston to the west, and the NEC/Airport and UK Central to the east.</p>	<p>Outcome of latest TfWM study unclear. Other modes being assessed with a phased approach to Metro delivery (see item 4) Delivery timescales longer term (2030+)</p>	
15. Midlands Rail Hub (Midlands Connect)	<p>The Midlands Rail Hub proposes building two ‘chords’ as well as 11 further engineering interventions throughout the region to deliver a massive step change in rail transport in the Midlands. A 900m - £1.5bn blueprint for faster, better and more frequent connections across the Midlands.</p>	<p>OBC delivered. Funding provisionally including in the recent government accouchement and Plan for North document. Still some uncertainty and clarity is being sought.</p>	