



## Transport Delivery Committee

<b>Date</b>	14 March 2022
<b>Report title</b>	Update on University and Perry Barr Transport Interchange Projects
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<b>Report has been considered by</b>	

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Transport Delivery Committee is recommended:

- (1) To note the contents of this report

## **1. Purpose**

Following a request by the Transport Delivery Committee, to provide an update on progress on the University and Perry Barr Transport Interchange projects being taken forward by the West Midlands Rail Programme.

## **2. Background**

### **Perry Barr Transport Interchange**

Work is progressing well at Perry Barr Station, with construction works now in the final months. Glazing on the main building has been installed and the interior fit out continues alongside works outside to the public realm. We are on track to complete construction of the station building in early March, as planned. The project also remains within the £30.98m agreed budget for the rail station and bus interchange.

The Rail Programme has consistently sought to learn lessons from other projects across the West Midlands and as part of this work we have engaged early with the bodies responsible for approving the station's entry into service, including the Office of Rail and Road (the regulator). This is aimed at ensuring that we avoid critical challenges emerging at the last minute during the formal regulatory process.

Through this engagement, partners have indicated that they expect improvement works to be undertaken on the platforms before the station can be accepted back into service. These works would involve adjusting the platform crossfall so the slope runs away from the platform edge. The platforms fall outside the scope of the current scheme. However, in order to facilitate entry into service we have agreed that these works should be undertaken by our contractor, Galliford Try. All parties agree that these platform works will deliver a significant safety benefit for the Commonwealth Games and the longer term.

Network Rail have made available the funding to deliver the works, and at the moment we do not expect any additional cost pressure to emerge on the project as a result. However, due to difficulty in securing the necessary access from Network Rail, these works have introduced an additional risk to the schedule. We are currently working hard to establish the level of impact on the schedule, and we are confident that the scheme will, in any case, open well in advance of the Commonwealth Games.

Birmingham City Council also continue to work in parallel on the delivery of the Bus Interchange on behalf of the Combined Authority. We expect that the bus interchange will be entered into service in May, with the final elements, including installation of street furniture, completed in June.



## University Station

We are continuing to work at a fast pace to deliver University Station, and design and construction phases have progressed at an impressive pace since we broke ground in March 2021. Both the canal and rail bridges, key critical path items, were successfully installed in Autumn 2021. Currently glazing and cladding is being installed on the buildings, alongside interior fit out and works to the platforms.

As with Perry Barr, we have already started engaging with key parties in the Entry into Service process to ensure that the regulatory processes involved in opening the station will run as smoothly as possible.

Since the scheme was agreed in July 2020, several scope changes have been implemented to further enhance the station, including significant security enhancements and additional passenger facilities. Some of these changes introduced additional schedule pressure, but will deliver an improved station environment for passengers and meet higher standards of design and durability, which will offer long-term safety and reliability benefits.

Despite these impacts, and the additional delays incurred as a result of COVID-19, Brexit, and supply chain disruption, we have worked with our partners and contractors to find innovative, efficient ways to accelerate the programme to mitigate the delays and the resultant cost impacts.

Taken together, these elements have resulted in a new baseline EAC of £65.03m, which includes further provision for an interim state for the Commonwealth Games. Investing in project acceleration has helped to avoid further costs which would otherwise have emerged as a result of programme prolongation.

Thanks to the successful acceleration in delivery we have also been able to maintain a similar completion date to that set out in our Full Business Case, whilst delivering a significantly enhanced scheme. The bulk of construction work is due to finish by July 2022, and in line with the commitments we made 18 months ago, some elements of the new development will be made available for use during the Commonwealth Games:

- Widened platforms
- Full length platform canopies
- Public realm

The new station buildings will follow a programme of rigorous safety and operational checks, opening later in the summer. The existing station building will also be refurbished.



### **3. Financial Implications**

No new implications. Report presented for information only.

### **4. Legal Implications**

No new implications. Report presented for information only.

## **5. Impact on Delivery of Strategic Transport Plan**

No new implications. Report presented for information only. The projects remain aligned with the Combined Authority's strategic objectives, as detailed in the relevant Full Business Cases.

## **6. Equalities Implications**

No new implications. Report presented for information only. Both stations will improve accessibility over current rail infrastructure through improved provision of facilities including lifts and accessible toilets.

## **7. Inclusive Growth Implications**

No new implications. Report presented for information only. Both projects will improve accessibility to the transport network, as set out above, and regional facilities such as the hospital and University of Birmingham. Contractors are working to social value commitments as part of their contracts, including providing local employment opportunities.

## **8. Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

University Station is in the south of Birmingham and sits between University Hospital Birmingham, and the University of Birmingham, near the A38 in Selly Oak.

Perry Barr transport interchange is in the centre of Perry Barr, near the junction of the A4040 Wellington Road and the A34 Birchfield Road.

## **9. Other Implications**

None

## **10. Schedule of Background Papers**

None