

**GREATER BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP  
JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

<b>Report to:</b>	Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Joint Scrutiny Committee
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Friday, 9 July 2021
<b>Subject/Report Title:</b>	Alexander Stadium, Local Growth Fund Update
<b>Report From:</b>	NAME Christian Cadwallader Tel. 07929 056153 e-mail: christian.cadwallader@gslep.co.uk
<b>Report Author/Lead Contact Officer:</b>	Ed Watson (Interim Chief Executive)
<b>Area Affected:</b>	The Joint Scrutiny Committee is constituted by Members from District / Borough Councils in Staffordshire and Worcestershire, together with one Member each from Birmingham City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.
<b>Public/Private Report:</b>	This report is to be considered in the public session of the GBSLEP Joint Scrutiny Committee.
<b>Exempt by Virtue of Paragraph:</b>	Not applicable, the report is to be considered in the public session of the meeting.
<b>1. Purpose of Report</b>	
1.1	To update Members on the Alexander Stadium project as part of the Local Growth Fund programme.
<b>2. Recommendation</b>	
2.1	Members are asked to note progress on the Alexander Stadium project.
<b>3. Background of the Report</b>	
1.	Birmingham was announced as the Games host in December 2017. In April 2019 Birmingham City Council (BCC) submitted a proposal to GBSLEP to provide funding to support an improved and enhanced sporting facility for the Games at the Alexander Stadium for Birmingham City University (BCU) and BCC including educational, rehab, running, aquatic, leisure and other sporting amenities.

2. The proposal requested £20m LGF funding for the Commonwealth Games (CG) as a contribution to the stadium project which was anticipated to cost a total of £72.4m in two phases. The CG stadium project was phase one and aimed to provide a world-class sporting venue to host the Commonwealth Games and deliver a new leisure legacy including internal refurbishment to cater for new BCU sports science facilities once the Games have finished.
3. The Alexander Stadium, opened in 1976, has hosted numerous athletics events, and music festivals. The stadium was upgraded in 2011 increasing the capacity to 12,700 however, the predominant infrastructure deteriorated with many structural elements reaching their design life and was therefore not in a suitable condition to host the CG without significant investment. The stadium will host track and field events throughout the CG along with the opening and closing ceremonies and will seat at least 35,000 attendees.
4. The objectives of the LGF supported project were to:
  - a. Support the upgrading of Alexander Stadium to accommodate increased visitor numbers to host the Commonwealth Games;
  - b. Showcase Birmingham as an international centre for track and field events, with appropriate facilities to host similar events for many years to come
  - c. Redevelop the stadium to accommodate the CG and enable phase two which will provide a new leisure complex and accommodate the longer-term ambitions of BCU sport science directorate to expand its offer including development of new student accommodation; and
  - d. The new stadium and phase two as a catalyst for wider regeneration and further development opportunities in the local area.
5. In 2017, a study into the potential economic impact of hosting the CG, as part of the business case for LGF funding, was estimated to result in an incremental benefit to the GVA of the West Midlands by over £500m (NPV terms) and it would support up to the equivalent of circa. 4,500 workers per year between 2018 and 2022.
6. Works commenced on site in May 2020 and are targeted to complete, in line with the original programme, in February 2022.

#### **4. Evaluation of Alternative Option(s)**

NA

#### **5. Reasons for Recommending Preferred Option**

NA

#### **6. Scrutiny**

- 6.1 The GBSLEP Local Growth Fund programme, as part of the Growth Deal, was successfully completed in March 2021, which included the financial completion of the Alexander Stadium project. The £20.0m contribution from the LGF programme is now routinely monitored in accordance with the GBSLEP Assurance Framework and Government guidance. The Project Sponsor for the project, Birmingham City Council (BCC), provides regular updates on project progress including monthly reporting of social value benefits. This includes local employment, good employer targets, partnerships in the community,

sustainability data and local benefits derived from the project. In June 2021 (unless stated) the current position of social value performance against targets is shown below:

6.2 Local Employment

6.3 191 (30 target) employment opportunities have been created, 323 (No target) people have been up skilled and 534 (no target) young people engaged. 36% (30%) of the work force are from 10 miles of the site, and 26% from between 10 and 30 miles. (50% target for 30 miles).

6.4 Good Employer

6.5 100% of workforce paid the Real Living Wage. Diversity, Workforce Wellbeing and Fairness, Inclusion and Respect are all monitored and reported quarterly. Details available in request.

6.6 Partners in Communities

6.7 234 hours (400 target) volunteering hours and 53 hours (50 target) community engagement have been recorded to date, 75 hours (200 target) of school engagement have also been completed. There are three Enterprise Advisors operating across the partner schools planning school visits, activities and attending meetings. The second You Matter Communities awards ceremony was held in June 2021, all 14 organisations that were awarded the Community Fund joined the virtual awards. These are just some of the on-going activities let by the Alexander Stadium project.

6.8 Green and Sustainable

6.9 Up to May 2021, 95.97% of the waste generated on the project was diverted from Landfill (target 95%). CO2 reduction is currently at 190.7 tonnes against a target of 772 and the potable water use reduction is nearly 41% reduction against a 10% target.

6.10 Buy Local

6.11 100% of project contract opportunities are advertised via the FinditinBirmingham supplier page. To date 28% (target 20%) has been spent within 10 miles of the project, 43% (target 50%) within 30 miles. Contract spend with SME's is 73% against a target of 85%. The target of £100,000 for Social Enterprise contracts is £8,215, local social enterprise Cenrtala-Space are operational on site, delivering catering to the workforce and securing opportunities for young people apprenticeships and work placements.

6.12 GBSLEP are supporting a number of projects which will benefit the Commonwealth Games in 2022, such as Perry Barr Phase Two, Enterprise Zone Birmingham Smithfield Enabling Works (preparation of site for some events) and Southside Public Realm.

## 7. Implications

7.1 There are no implications arising that this update.

## 8. List of Appendices

8.1 None

**9. Background Papers Used to Compile this Report**

9.1 GBSLEP Programme Delivery Board Investment Report September 2019

**10. List of Other Relevant Documents**

10.1 None.