Statement on previously planned short-term continued use of Alexander Stadium Athletics Track

8 June 2020

Following the news Birmingham was named as Host City for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, everyone involved with the operations and use of Alexander Stadium was thrilled by the long-term legacy that the event will undoubtedly secure for the venue – as a focal point for sport, leisure, health and well-being activity in Perry Barr.

The initial intention was for the track and related facilities to remain available for use during the early phases of construction work to deliver the revamped stadium, with a new warm up track also delivered early in the programme.

However, the impact of COVID-19 on construction schedules and the Government's continued guidance on social distancing and the use of sporting facilities, now means that keeping the track open is no longer possible.

The work schedule has been pushed back by a few weeks, but is still absolutely within the timescales required in time for handover for Birmingham 2022.

But this shift and the impact associated with COVID-19 has unfortunately closed the window of opportunity for some final weeks of use in 2020 and now means that the site needs to remain a construction site throughout 2021 in order to meet the desired programme.

The athletics track will therefore now be closed until further notice after the conclusion of the Games.

We know this will be disappointing for those that had hoped to use the facilities, but the health and safety of site visitors is of paramount importance and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Please note that in line with Government guidance on reopening of sports facilities the Gymnastics & Martial Arts Centre (GMAC), High Performance Centre (HPAC) and fitness gym will reopen as soon as possible.

Every effort is being made to work with existing users of the track, in particular Birchfield Harriers, to identify alternative provision and the city council will do everything feasibly possible to aid those that this affects.