

## Question and Answer - Athletes' Route (southern section)

Last updated: 9 November 2020

### 1. What is the purpose of the Athletes' Route?

*The Athletes' Route is an access route which will facilitate the drop-off and departure of competing athletes during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games (via accredited vehicles and buses). It will also facilitate construction of the additional temporary features required to deliver the Games (known as 'Games overlay' works), and accommodate associated construction traffic. The Athletes' Route will also provide a second means of access to the transport mall required as part of the temporary Games overlay works.*

### 2. Why has the southern section of the route changed from the proposed alignment shown in the original planning application?

*The planning application for the Alexander Stadium Redevelopment (reference: 2019/07968/PA, accessible [here](#)) included a proposed alignment for the Athletes' Route, but noted that the form and alignment was unconfirmed at that stage. The proposed alignment followed an existing tarmac surfaced route from the A453 Aldridge Road (southern section of Athletes' Route), and continued to the rear of the East Stand and up to the proposed warm up track (northern section of Athletes' Route). However, this element of the design was submitted in 'outline' because at this stage the requirements for the route were still being considered and more time was required to carry out the necessary surveys and design work to inform a preferred design.*

*The alignment of the northern section of Athletes' Route will not be affected, and will remain as per that presented in the landscape drawings within the original planning application (drawing numbers 264876-ARP-ZZ-XX-DR-L-0001 and 264876-ARP-ZZ-XX-DR-L-0022). The northern section of Athletes' Route is currently under construction, with the base course level (lower level) expected to be completed in December 2020. As such, the focus of this engagement is the southern section of Athletes' Route, which will be the subject of the reserved matters planning application.*

*On more detailed investigation of the original proposed alignment for the southern section of the Athletes' Route, several issues were discovered related to the existing trees and their proximity to the vehicles likely to use the route. This scenario would negatively impact several trees, and therefore make use of the existing route unsuitable.*

*We have therefore undertaken an option selection process to develop a preferred alignment for the southern section of Athletes' Route. The preferred alignment will utilise an existing access from Church Road (adjacent to Aston Manor Cricket Club) and pass through Perry Park to join the northern section of Athletes' Route shown in the landscape masterplans submitted as part of the original planning application.*

3. What will happen to the Athletes' Route in legacy mode?

*In legacy mode, the southern section through Perry Park (north of the junction with the transport mall) will be converted into a pedestrian and cycle route, which will involve a reduction in the width of the route and changes to the materials.*

*The northern section of Athletes' Route will be retained as a restricted access route for similar event use, and for emergency and maintenance access.*

4. Will the updated route require the loss of any trees?

*A key consideration in the option selection process was the need to minimise impacts to existing trees. The preferred alignment will result in the loss of one small, immature tree, but replacement trees will be planted to mitigate for this loss. This is a much improved scenario when compared to the original proposed alignment which would result in impacts to several trees.*

5. Will the updated route result in increased traffic along Church Road, during construction and operation?

*Church Road will be utilised by vehicles associated with construction of the Athletes' Route, and the Commonwealth Games overlay works.*

*Accredited vehicles and athletes' buses will utilise Church Road during the Games period, with peak vehicular movements occurring during the opening and closing ceremonies. The access arrangements for Church Road during the Games will be determined by the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee.*

*The traffic modelling undertaken to date shows that the proposed shape and alignment of the Athletes' Route will cater for the anticipated capacity requirements. However, the junction with Church Road will be delivered separately ahead of the Games, and will be the subject of a separate planning application supported by a Transport Assessment which will provide further detail on the anticipated traffic movements during Games time, and any associated mitigation measures.*

*In legacy mode, the Athletes' Route will have little use, as gated access will restrict admission to vehicles associated with similar events, and emergency and maintenance uses.*

6. Will the updated route increase the risk of flooding?

*The need to minimise flood risk has been a key consideration in the design process, and therefore the preferred alignment for the southern section of Athletes' Route avoids the Perry Park flood zone. We are also actively liaising with the Lead Local Flood Authority to determine a suitable sustainable drainage solution.*

7. Who is responsible for delivering the Athletes' Route?

*Birmingham City Council is responsible for delivering the Athletes' Route, as part of the Alexander Stadium Redevelopment project. We are supported by our consortium of consultants which comprises of Arup, Mace and Arcadis, as well as our lead contractor McLaughlin and Harvey.*

*The transport mall and the junction with Church Road will be delivered separately ahead of the Games. As such, these elements will not be included within the scope of the Athletes' Route reserved matters planning application.*

8. When will the southern section of the Athletes' Route be constructed?

*Construction of the southern section of Athletes' Route is scheduled to take place between May 2021 and October 2021.*

9. Will facilities need to be closed during the construction of the southern section of Athletes' Route? e.g. playground, areas of the park etc.

*With the exception of a designated construction area which will follow the route of the alignment, the remainder of the park (including play area) will be accessible during construction of the Athletes' Route.*

10. How can I provide feedback on the proposal?

*Please share any comments on the proposal for the southern section of Athletes' Route by contacting [Jade.Tilley@arup.com](mailto:Jade.Tilley@arup.com) by **5pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.*

11. How can I find out more information?

*You can find more information on the proposal for the southern section of the Athletes' Route on the Alexander Stadium development section of the Perry Barr Regeneration webpage: <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/perry-barr-regen> .*

*Should you have any further questions, please contact [Jade.Tilley@arup.com](mailto:Jade.Tilley@arup.com).*

*We will also be presenting the proposal during our Community Meeting on **25 November 2020 at 5:30pm to 6:45pm**. The meeting will be a forum for our neighbouring residents and businesses to hear about the proposals, raise any questions with the project team and provide feedback. To register your attendance please email [Jade.Tilley@arup.com](mailto:Jade.Tilley@arup.com) . Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting will take place on Microsoft Teams and participants will be sent a link via email to access the meeting.*