

Snow Hill Growth Strategy – Transport and Connectivity Work Stream Update

Report to:

Snow Hill Growth Strategy Strategic Board

Report from:

Phil Edwards, Assistant Director Transport and Connectivity, Birmingham City Council.

Date:

26 May 2020

Background

Snow Hill Growth Strategy Transport Programme has been split into two separate but related workstreams. Snow Hill Rail Station, and the wider Transport and Connectivity package. The Transport and Connectivity package aims to build a business case for repurposing of the A38 through the city centre, with its recognised transformational impacts to the city centre, and the wider public transport schemes and highway changes that would be required to facilitate this. The public transport package includes the capacity improvements predicted to be realised through the Snow Hill Rail Station project. The Transport and Connectivity workstream is led by a board comprising of TfWM, DfT and city council officers.

In the first stage of this project Jacobs consultants produced a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC), using DfT Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG) compliant methodology, however this showed that whilst individual elements within the business case showed good value, the transport costs created by downgrading the A38 gave an overall poor value for money. It was however recognised that the policy basis for downgrading the A38 was still strong, removing the severance it creates, opening up development sites and improving air quality by removing a major trunk road from the heart of the city centre.

Progress Update

- Initial discussions took place with DfT in late 2019 on an informal basis regarding next steps for the project. It was agreed that scenario testing of the impact of the emerging Birmingham Transport Plan (BTP) proposals was required to further define the level of highway and public transport investment required to mitigate the A38 proposals.
- The Council has now re-procured Jacobs through its framework in a mini-competition to carry out the next stage of the work.
- This stage will test the impacts of repurposing the A38 through the city centre in 5 future scenarios including one where the BTP strategy is fully delivered. The Study will use the Birmingham Saturn Model which is DfT TAG compliant, and has also been updated and upgraded with a public transport module.
- An inception meeting was held on 11 June 2020.

Next Steps

- Agree 5 future scenarios to test through the study – June 2020
- Complete Scenario testing study - October 2020
- Agree next steps in progressing outline business case/cases (OBC) with Snow Hill Growth Strategy Board – November 2020

Contact details

Phil Edwards, Assistant Director Transport and Connectivity, Birmingham City Council

T: 0121 303 6167

E: Philip.edwards@birmingham.gov.uk