



Media Release

Embargoed until 9am on 16 December 2020

New Alexander Stadium takes shape as impressive redevelopment progresses at pace

- Refurbishment has been progressing well despite the pandemic
- Stadium redevelopment is on schedule and on budget
- The facility will host ceremonies and six days of athletics at Birmingham 2022, before becoming a post-Games hub for sport, academic and community activity

An inspection of the progress on the redevelopment of the Alexander Stadium ahead of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games was carried out by athletes and project partners today (December 16).

Since planning permission was granted in January this year, the demolition of three existing stands has been completed and the site remodelled with steelwork that will form the eye-catching new West Stand, which has started to take shape in recent weeks.

And despite the challenges posed by the Coronavirus pandemic, the £72.4million scheme remains on budget and scheduled for completion in spring 2022 ahead of its initial use as the venue for the Commonwealth Games athletics competition, as well as the event's Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Kelly Sotherton, Team England's Track and Field Team Leader for Birmingham 2022, said: "It is fantastic to be able to take a closer look at the progress that has recently been made on the redevelopment of the Alexander Stadium. I'm impressed with how quickly the new parts of the stadium are taking shape.

"This will be an amazing venue for Birmingham 2022 and I'm sure that athletes from across the country, and around the world, are looking forward to competing here during the Games. This stadium has long been associated with great events and great athletes and that association can now continue in 2022 and beyond."

Post-Games the Stadium is set to become a focal point of health, well-being, sport, academic and community activity in an improved Perry Park as part of the wider Perry Barr Regeneration Scheme - which will see well over £500million invested into north-west Birmingham in the next decade.

Cllr Brigid Jones, Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council, which is delivering the Stadium redevelopment project, said: "The Alexander Stadium will be at the centre of international sporting attention during the summer of 2022, and it is really exciting to see the new stand taking shape.

"It is a testament to the hard work of everyone involved with the project that they have kept things on track despite the challenges of this year.

"As we come up to the third anniversary of Birmingham being awarded the Games, this is a hugely encouraging demonstration of the progress we have made so far in our preparations, and the long-lasting legacy that this project will create for the people of Perry Barr and Birmingham as a whole."

The Stadium, which will house around 30,000 spectators at each session it is used for during the Games, will revert to a permanent capacity of around 18,000 post-Games, the largest permanent facility capable of hosting major athletics in the UK, and the home of the world-famous Birchfield Harriers athletics club, in addition to a range of other tenants.

Ian Reid, Birmingham 2022 Chief Executive Officer, added: "I am truly impressed with the progress that has been made on this project this year. Despite the challenge of the pandemic, it is on track and on budget and the new stadium is really starting to take shape.

"The Alexander Stadium is a hugely significant venue for Birmingham 2022 and this redeveloped stadium will be the perfect stage for the athletics competition during the Games, and of course for our opening and closing ceremonies which we are currently planning.

"It is great to end the year on such a positive note and it is exciting to witness first-hand the hard work and passion that has been poured into this project over the last few months."

Nigel Huddleston, Minister for Sport, Tourism and Heritage said: "I'm delighted by the significant progress that has been made at the Alexander Stadium in the past few months and I want to thank everyone involved for their efforts so far. We are on track for the stadium to be a brilliant centrepiece of the Games and a fantastic community facility for many years to come."

Funding for the Alexander Stadium Redevelopment comes from three sources: Birmingham City Council (£27.4million), the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (£20million) and West Midlands Combined Authority (£25million). The overall project cost is part of the local contribution to the overall Commonwealth Games budget (£184million of the £778million total).

ENDS

Notes to editors

Further quotes supporting this release are as follows:

Deputy Mayor of the West Midlands and WMCA portfolio holder for finance, Cllr Bob Sleigh, said: “It’s great to see the new Alexander Stadium beginning to take shape and that this project is already supporting jobs and our local economy, particularly during this difficult year.

“The WMCA invested in the redevelopment because it meets our aims of supporting economic growth and jobs. Having a world class athletics stadium on our doorstep can also inspire people to get more active and improve the health of the region. This legacy will be more vital than ever as the West Midlands looks to recover from the pandemic.”

About WMCA: The [West Midlands Combined Authority](#) is made up of 18 local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships working together to move powers from Whitehall to the West Midlands.

Louise Brooke-Smith, Board Director for GBSLEP said: “It’s fantastic to get on site today and to see work being carried out on the revamp of the Alexander Stadium.

“Our GBSLEP investment of £20 million pounds to Birmingham City Council’s project will enable the development of a world-class sports destination.

“Our contribution will not just provide a stage for sports and events in the region but also a catalyst for wider investment.

“GBSLEP is committed to enabling inclusive economic growth through investment from the Local Growth Fund and this is just one example of how we are ensuring our city region is on the global map as well as a thriving place to live and work in for all of our residents.”

About GBSLEP: The Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Limited (GBSLEP) is a partnership of business, public sector and further and higher education leaders. Its mission is to drive inclusive economic growth across the city-region, creating jobs and improving the quality of life for everyone.

Since 2010, the government has awarded GBSLEP £433 million to invest in a range of projects to grow the local economy. These include transport infrastructure, skills development, business support, innovation, and cultural and creative assets. The GBSLEP Growth Hub provides direct business support and has helped over businesses to help realise their growth potential.

GBSLEP are proud to be contributing £20 million from the Local Growth Fund to the re-development of Alexander Stadium for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games which will provide a legacy for the GBSLEP region, businesses and residents and provide a catalyst for wider investment.

The GBSLEP area spans nine local authority areas: Birmingham, Solihull, East Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Tamworth, Redditch, Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest.

For more information, please contact Sarah Dickson, Media and PR Manager, Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games on 07494 671 802 or email sarah.dickson@birmingham2022.com