

New homes and transport provide games legacy



A year ago, Commonwealth Games Federation President Louise Martin announced in Birmingham that the city will host the 2022 event. She said

its “rich history, cultural diversity, youthful dynamism and ambitious spirit embodies all that we cherish about the Commonwealth”.

Over the next four years, the Games will play a significant part in a shared mood of excitement – and growing economic and business confidence – across the wider Midlands region.

PwC has described Birmingham as the UK's most investible city. There is now a real sense of momentum, and a strong focus on the legacy that the Games will leave behind.

95 percent of the required sporting venues are already in place. Plans have also been approved for the athletes' village that after 2022 will be converted to provide 1,146 much-needed new homes at Perry Barr. This should kick-start wider regeneration in this area of the City eventually leading to more than 5,000 new homes over the next 10 years.

In its bid, Birmingham 2022 promised to be a ‘public transport focused’ Games. £3.4 billion is being invested in infrastructure across the Midlands that will include a rapid bus transit network Sprint, improvements to University Station, and a Perry Barr rail and bus interchange for the Games.

By linking new homes with a revitalised City transport network, the Games are on course to meet a key legacy aim – to create thriving and sustainable communities.

Birmingham and the wider Midlands region have a lot to shout about.

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Commonwealth Games

AGENDA

GREEN FOR THE VILLAGE

The flagship development for the Commonwealth Games has been greenlighted in a move set to revive one of the most deprived parts of the Midlands

Birmingham City Council has given planning permission for the residential element of the £185m athletes' village at Perry Barr, which will be used to house some 6,500 athletes and officials at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, and be turned into 1,400 homes and 13,000 sq ft of commercial floorspace and a community centre.

Work on building the village is set to begin in the next few weeks. Demolition began on 750,000 sq ft of redundant accommodation at the 24-acre site, the former Birmingham City University teaching campus, in summer 2018.

In November, Lendlease was named as principal contractor for the Perry Barr regeneration. The Australian company handled the development and construction management of the London 2012 Olympic Village.

The project also has Glancy Nicholls handling the master planning, Glenn Howell Architects, Arcadis on landscaping, Phil Jones Associates on urban design and Hoare Lea on mechanical and electrical.

After the Games, the properties will be converted to homes across a range of tenures, including social, private sale, private rent and a 238-home retirement village.

“This is the flagship Birmingham 2022 capital project – the start of what’s sure

to be an exciting three years of work to deliver something of benefit to the people of Birmingham for decades to come,” says Birmingham City Council leader Ian Ward.

“The regeneration of Perry Barr will be the most tangible and transformative legacy

we achieve as a result of hosting the Games, bringing investment and regeneration to an area that has long been crying out for it. The regeneration project has made three years' progress in just 364 days.”

The next major Games development at Perry Barr will be the redevelopment of Alexander Stadium. The plans are to expand the arena to a 40,000-seat stadium – big enough for the Games' opening and closing ceremonies – and then back to 20,000 seats as a national centre for athletics.

A planning application for the stadium development should be submitted this summer, with approval by the autumn. Work is due to start in early 2020 with completion in late summer 2021, a year ahead of the Games.

“We need to refurbish

and renew the stadium, not only to deliver a high-quality opening and closing ceremonies and Games, but ensure it has real legacy and serves its community over the next 20 to 25 years,” said Games project director Neil Carney. ■

