

Planning a Commonwealth Games in a Global Pandemic

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BIRMINGHAM 2022 IN NUMBERS

72 Commonwealth nations
11 days of sport
6,500 athletes and officials

A regional showcase with venues in Sandwell, Solihull, Cannock Chase, Coventry, Warwick, Wolverhampton and Royal Leamington Spa

2.4 billion citizens across the Commonwealth

Up to **1.5 billion** global TV viewers

Over **1 million** tickets for the Games

43,000 (approx.) Games time roles

First ever **carbon-neutral** Games

A 6 month cultural festival that will reach more than **1 million** people

Potential boost to the regional economy in excess of **£1 billion** (based on GC2018)

At least **12,500** trained volunteers

3:1 cost benefit for the West Midlands

A predicted population of **2.9 million** for the West Midlands by 2022

Estimated **£300m** of Games contracts expected to benefit local and regional suppliers

A catalyst to build **1,400** new homes in Perry Barr



19 SPORTS

INCLUDING 8 PARA-SPORTS



VENUES



VENUES IN OR CLOSE TO BIRMINGHAM



Alexander Stadium



Arena Birmingham



Edgbaston Stadium



NEC



NEC Arena



**Sutton Park,
Sutton Coldfield**



University of Birmingham



Smithfield

WEST MIDLANDS VENUES

A REGIONAL SHOWCASE



Cannock Chase, Cannock



Coventry Stadium



**West Park,
Wolverhampton**



Sandwell Aquatics Centre



**Victoria Park,
Royal Leamington Spa**



**St Nicholas Park,
Warwick**

NOW THREE CAMPUS VILLAGES

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, NEC, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



**University of
Warwick**



NEC Hotels



**University of
Birmingham**

CAPITAL PROGRAMME



Sprint Bus Rapid Transit schemes

- A34 Birmingham to Walsall: Providing enhanced connectivity with Alexander Stadium
- A45 Birmingham to Airport and Solihull: Supporting connectivity with the NEC



West Midlands Metro

- Extension of the Metro routes to Centenary Square, Five Ways and Edgbaston
- The delivery of a new multi-modal transport interchange at Wolverhampton



Rail station improvements

- Increased capacity and enhanced passenger experience at University station
- Transport Interchange at Perry Barr during the Games.
- Improved capacity and accessibility at Coventry rail station



Cycling Upgrades

- New segregated cycleway along the A34 and the A38
- Introduction of the West Midlands bike hire scheme



Road Upgrades

- Improved traffic flows to reduce congestion on the Key Route Network
- Improvements at M6 J10 to reduce congestion and delays
- Improved layout at A34 Perry Barr to benefit pedestrians, cyclists & public transport

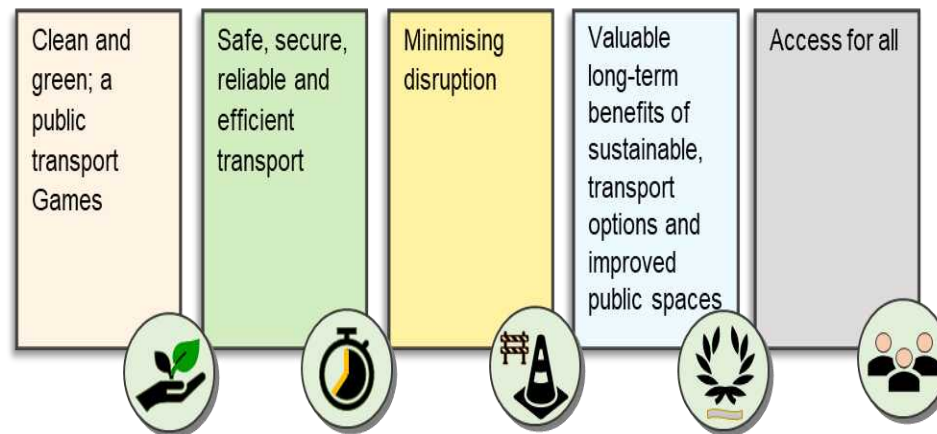


West Midlands Regional Transport Coordination Centre (RTCC)

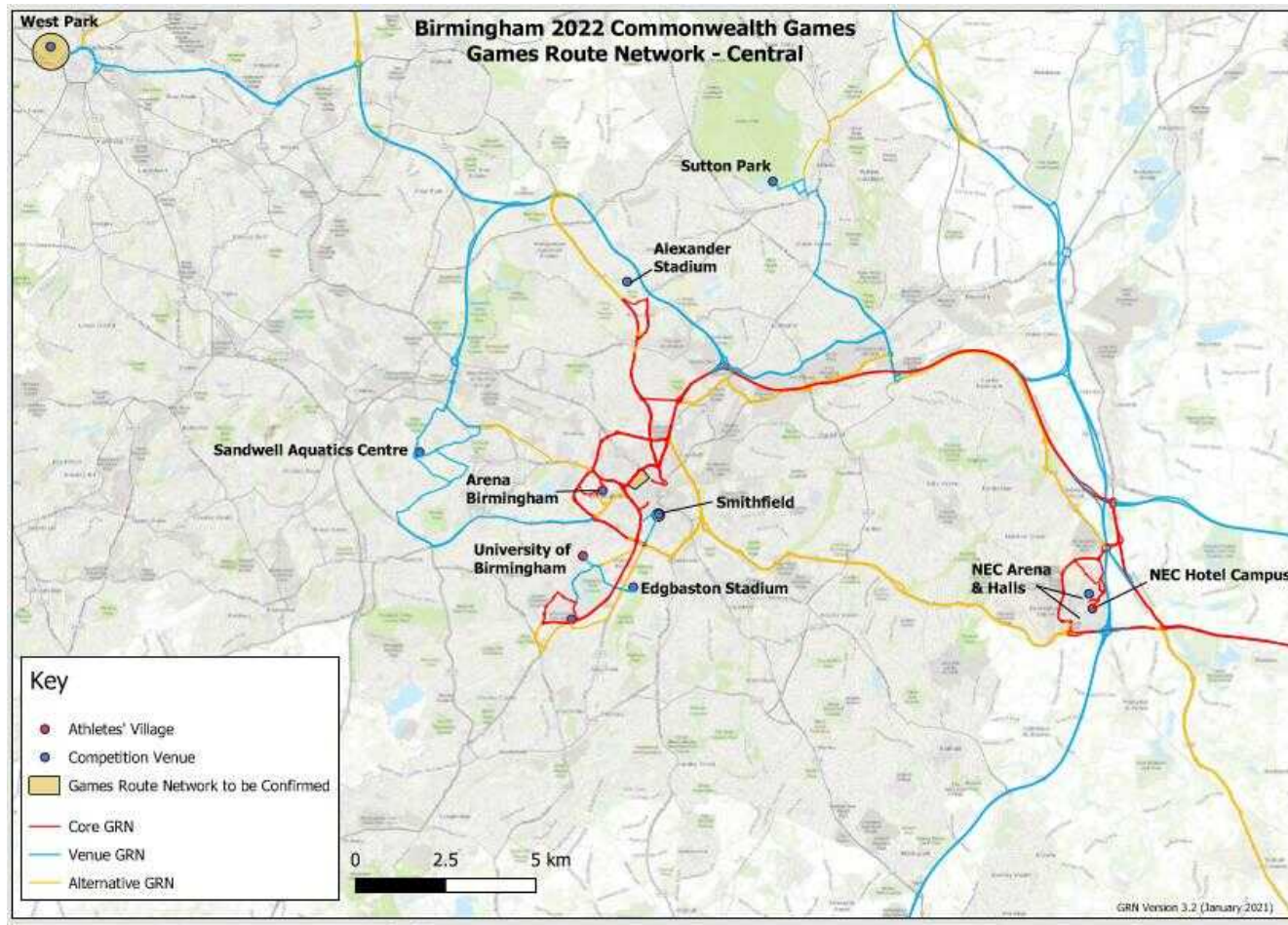
- Providing permanent regional coordination of the transport networks and services.
- Offering reliable, resilient and integrated transport services.

GAMES TRANSPORT PLAN

- The Secretary of State for Transport directed WMCA to prepare a Games Transport Plan (GTP) for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- The GTP provides a **tactical plan** of the transport arrangements and sets out the key principles that have guided decision making for Games transport.
- Consultation on the plan ended on 24 September 2021 and the final publication is intended for **January 2022**

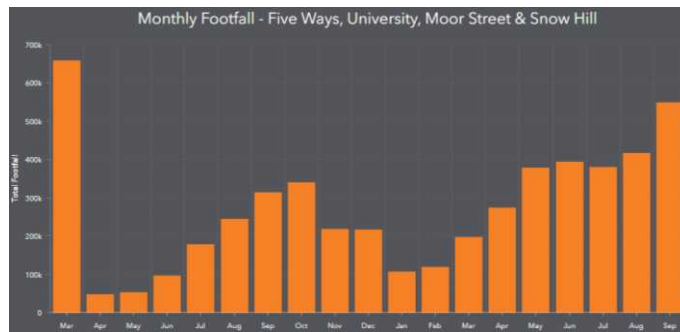
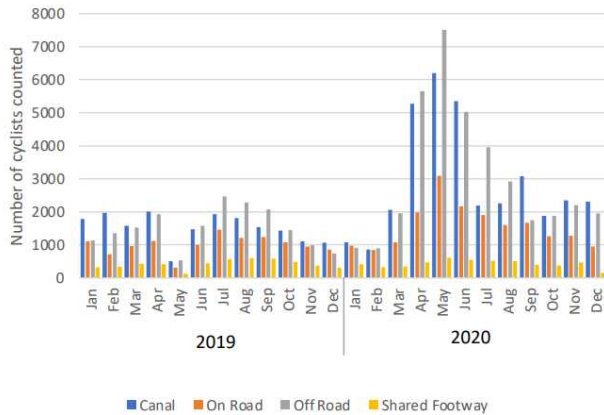


GAMES ROUTE NETWORK



THE NEW NORMAL?

Cycle counts



KEY ISSUES

- Demand modelling based on pre-covid transport demand and travel behaviours.
- Public transport usage remains significantly lower than pre-pandemic; but we are planning a public transport games
- Significant uplift in public transport required, but current shortages of bus drivers and train crew likely to persist in the medium term.
- At the same time, congestion has returned. Some locations more congested than pre-pandemic levels.
- Home working remains part of the new normal and has changed travel patterns and profiles.
- Current plan based on no covid restrictions; but this could change.

MANAGING DEMAND



- West Midlands Regional Transport Coordination Centre (RTCC) is a hub for transport coordination across the region.
- Brings together partners, providing a common view of the network and communicating transport information to residents, businesses and visitors.
- Provides live and real time view of network operation. A single source of the truth.
- Allows extra capacity to be pushed into the system and communications to be pushed to travelling public.
- Vital tool in managing games time demand and providing real time responses to changing network situations.

CONCLUSIONS

- Much uncertainty on current demand forecasting and models.
- Focus on sensitivity testing *what if* scenarios and continuous refinement of emerging evidence.
- Data from ticket sales will provide further granularity on transport planning assumptions.
- We must capitalise on active travel increases seen during pandemic to help manage demand.
- Public transport will continue to have a vital role to support policy objectives; work across industry and government needed to safeguard capacity.
- Responsiveness during Games' time key. RTCC will have a mission critical role in managing demand and sharing critical information across partners in real time.

