

# AN INFRASTRUCTURE REVOLUTION

## PERRY BARR REGENERATION INVESTING IN BIRMINGHAM'S FUTURE

Birmingham was selected as the host city for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in December 2017. Since then, a series of infrastructure projects have been announced as part of the preparations for and legacy of the Games, which leave the community with significant upgrades to its public transport network, 5,000 new homes, the largest dedicated athletics stadium in the country, and a new aquatics centre.

In line with political ambitions to level up the economy across Britain, central and local Governments combined forces to fund the **Perry Barr Regeneration** in North Birmingham, which is accelerating growth, attracting investment, and leaving a lasting legacy for the city.





## WHAT IS THE PERRY BARR REGENERATION?

Centred around the area of the same name in North Birmingham, the Perry Barr Regeneration consists of three major projects which are revitalising key infrastructure in England's second city:

- Improvements to local transport routes, including an enhanced road layout for the area, a new 'Sprint Bus' network, upgrades to bus and train stations, and improved cycling and pedestrian routes
- The transformation of Alexander Stadium, with an increased seating capacity of up to 18,000, new running tracks, and improved parking facilities
- A total of 5,000 new homes to be built as part of the Perry Barr residential scheme.

The overall scheme will cost around £700 million, approximately 25% of which has been provided by Birmingham City Council and local partners, with 75% funded by central Government.

### Delivering an Infrastructure Revolution

Whilst economic and social infrastructure projects are often in the headlines due to the amount of money spent on them and the disruption caused during their construction, they generate huge long-term benefits. By providing better local services, new jobs, cleaner air and faster connections, modern infrastructure helps to level up opportunity and prosperity across the UK.

**Build UK's factsheets** cover a range of local and national projects explaining what they are and why they are being built in Britain today.





## WHY WE NEED THE PERRY BARR REGENERATION

Hosting the Commonwealth Games in summer 2022 has kick-started the transformation of North Birmingham, which had been subject to long-term underinvestment. As part of this, the Perry Barr Regeneration is:

- Improving public transport connectivity across the whole of Birmingham, with over half a million passengers expected to use the 20-mile Sprint Bus network each week
- Delivering 5,000 new homes in the Perry Barr area, as well as a new secondary school
- Acting as a catalyst for the local economy, providing jobs and new opportunities for businesses
- Providing a lasting legacy with Alexander Stadium becoming the largest permanent athletics facility in the UK, marking out Birmingham as one of the leading sporting cities in the world.

A new aquatics centre was also built in nearby Sandwell, which is subsequently serving as a community swimming pool, public sports hall and park.

## PERRY BARR REGENERATION IN NUMBERS



**£700m**  
total investment



**£180m**  
spent with small and  
medium sized businesses



**5km**  
of new cycle and  
pedestrian routes

## KEY ISSUES

- Due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the Perry Barr residential scheme, which was originally intended to serve as the athletes' village for the Commonwealth Games, suffered **delays** and moved directly to its 'legacy' use. Nevertheless, all previously-pledged funding remained in place, with construction delivered at the same cost and athletes accommodated at local universities and the NEC during the Games.
- The majority of project sites surrounded existing residential areas, and there were concerns about potential **disruption** during the construction period. The various projects were governed in an integrated way to monitor, mitigate and manage issues and risks, with time-limited construction periods avoiding rush hours and parking hosted on-site to prevent workers adding to congestion on nearby streets.

# WHO WILL BENEFIT?

## The Economy

- 512 new jobs for local people have been created in the first phase of the residential scheme alone, 50 of which are apprenticeships
- Contractors committed to buy locally, which has resulted in a £72 million boost to the regional economy, with 60% of the total investment spent with small and medium sized businesses
- Improved journey times, together with the enhanced reliability of the bus network, will result in economic benefits of over £200 million.

## The Local Community

- A new educational hub has been built to offer local residents free vocational training across a range of construction roles, with a job interview guaranteed if they complete a 20-day course
- The redesigned Perry Barr railway station has been fully integrated into the local transport network, reducing journey times for all passengers and providing full step-free access at stations
- Dedicated bus lanes and priority signalling at junctions as part of the new Sprint Bus network will result in more consistent journey times and a 20% reduction at peak hours.

## The Environment

- 5 kilometres of new cycle and pedestrian routes encourage active travel in the area and support Birmingham City Council's ambition for 5% of all journeys in the city to take place by bicycle by 2023
- Over 1,000 new trees will be planted along the Sprint Bus corridor, which will also feature electric charging stations at both ends, resulting in zero emission buses and much lower air pollution along the route.

## Further Information

Birmingham City Council (2019) [Alexander Stadium Redevelopment](#)

Birmingham City Council (2019) [Highway Improvement Scheme](#)

Birmingham City Council (2020) [Perry Barr Regeneration: Revised Full Business Case](#)

Sandwell Council (2020) [Sandwell Aquatics Centre](#)

West Midlands Combined Authority (2021) [Railway and Bus Interchange](#)

West Midlands Combined Authority (2020) [Sprint: A34 Walsall to Birmingham](#)

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[www.Birmingham.gov.uk](http://www.Birmingham.gov.uk)

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[www.BuildUK.org](http://www.BuildUK.org)