



Financial Performance and Contracts Committee

14 March 2022

Title	Brent Cross Update
Report of	Director of Growth
Wards	Childs Hill, Golders Green and West Hendon
Status	Public with accompanying exempt report (Exempt by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972) on account that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding the information and information in respect of which professional legal privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1 – Extracts LBB progress update presentation to the Government Assurance Board, 09 February 2022
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Summary

This report provides an update on the delivery across the Brent Cross programme and updates on emerging issues relating to the Brent Cross West station works contract.

Officers Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note delivery progress across the Brent Cross (BX) programme as set out in the presentation to the HM Government Assurance Board on 9 February 2022 (Appendix 1) and the issues relating to the Brent Cross West station works contract.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update on progress delivering the Brent Cross Programme since the last meeting of the Committee on 1 February 2022. The latest presentation on programme delivery to the Government Assurance Board on 9 February 2022 is included at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Since the last report works on the Brent Cross West Station have continued, with a number of significant milestones reached including completion of the bridge deck slab, completion of the concrete structures of the Station Eastern Entry Box (SEEB), the fitting of the first escalators and wooden (“Glulam”) pillars in the SEEB, and the installation of the roof panels in the main concourse. The concrete form work for the Western Entry Box is largely complete.
- 1.3 The report to the Committee in November 2021 noted the review into station costs that had been undertaken in late 2021, and that a number of the cost risks identified in that process were more likely to materialise as the station neared practical completion, leading to an increase in the Anticipated final Cost (AFC) as a result. Further updates were provided to FPCC Committee on 1 February 2022 and Housing & Growth Committee on 17 February 2022 (see section 6).
- 1.4 A number of options for mitigating costs are being pursued by the council and progress will continue to be reported to the committee. It may be necessary to make use of other funding within the programme to cover short term overspends on the station project whilst these mitigations are being put into place.
- 1.5 At the last meeting of the committee it was reported that cancelled railway possessions by Network Rail have led to further impacts on the programme. Network Rail have proposed a mitigation option for replacement possessions which was accepted by the delivery team and is now incorporated into the programme. As the cancellation was a decision by Network Rail and at short notice the associated costs should be recoverable via the Network Rail Industry Risk Fund, which the council will be applying to in due course. The cancellation by Network Rail has significantly contributed to the cost and funding issues referred to in 1.4 above.
- 1.6 Any future cancellations outside of the council’s control e.g. in relation to inclement weather or by Network Rail may impact further on the station programme.

- 1.7 Updates will continue to be reported both to this Committee and to Housing & Growth Committee as the programme progresses over the coming year.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To provide an update to the Committee on the HMG funded elements of the BX programme that the council is directly delivering.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None.

4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 None.

5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The comprehensive regeneration of Brent Cross Cricklewood is a long-standing objective of the council and of the aims under the Corporate Plan Barnet 2021-2024 and a key regeneration priority of the Mayor of London.

5.2 Resources (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

Budget Monitoring

- 5.2.1 Budget, performance and risk information across the BXC programme is set out in the latest report to Housing and Growth Committee on 17 February 2022.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 As set out in the report to the Housing and Growth Committee on 17 February 2022.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 Article 7 of the Council's Constitution, the terms of reference of the Financial Performance and Contracts Committee includes the followings responsibilities:

Responsible for the oversight and scrutiny of:

- (a) the overall financial performance of the council
- (b) the performance of services other than those which are the responsibility of the: Adults & Safeguarding Committee; Housing & Growth Committee; Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee; Community Leadership & Libraries Committee; Environment Committee;
- (c) the council's major strategic contracts including (but not limited to):
 - Analysis of performance
 - Contract variations
 - Undertaking deep dives to review specific issues
 - Monitoring the trading position and financial stability of external providers

- Making recommendations to the Policy & Resources Committee and/or theme committees on issues arising from the scrutiny of external providers

5.4.2 The general power of competence under paragraph 1 of Section 1 of Chapter 1 of the Localism Act 2011 enables the Council to do anything that individuals can do subject to any specific restrictions contained in legislation and the 'incidental power' in Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that a local authority has power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or is incidental to, the discharge of its functions.

5.4.2 Any necessary procurement activity will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended by the Public Procurement (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 SI 1319 (PP Amendment Regulations 2020)).

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 As set out in the report to the Housing and Growth Committee on 17 February 2022.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 As set out in the report to the Housing and Growth Committee on 17 February 2022.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 As set out in the report to the Housing and Growth Committee on 17 February 2022.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 As set out in the report to the Housing and Growth Committee on 17 February 2022.

5.9 Insight

5.9.1 As set out in the report to the Housing and Growth Committee on 17 February 2022.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Financial Performance & Contracts Committee, 07 October 2021

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s66893/BXC%20Financial%20Performance%20and%20Contracts-PUBLIC-October%202021%20FINAL%20V2.pdf>

6.2 Financial Performance & Contracts Committee, 01 February 2022

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s69886/Brent%20Cross%20Update%20Report.pdf>

6.3 Housing & Growth Committee, 17 February 2022

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s70575/20220210HAG-Brent%20Cross.pdf>