

# Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

**1 April 2021**

<b>Subject:</b>	Sandwell Aquatics Centre Project Update
<b>Director:</b>	Tammy Stokes Interim Director – Regeneration and Growth
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Chris Jones Project Director <a href="mailto:chris2_jones@sandwell.gov.uk">chris2_jones@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

## 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board:
- 1.1.1 Consider and comment upon the information presented on the progress of the Sandwell Aquatics Centre; and
  - 1.1.2 Identify any recommendations it wishes to make.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 This is an update report on the progress of a live project.

## 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <p>The delivery of the new Aquatics Centre will provide children and young people with opportunities to participate in physical activity and sport that have not been open to them previously.</p>
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	<p>People live well and age well</p> <p>The delivery of the new Aquatics Centre will provide the residents of Sandwell with enhanced opportunities to participate in physical activity and sport and provide opportunities to improve and maintain their physical and mental health and wellbeing.</p>
	<p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods</p> <p>The development of new and improvement of existing facilities (the delivery of the new Aquatics Centre and the highway infrastructure improvements) will make Sandwell a more attractive place to live.</p>
	<p>A strong and inclusive economy</p> <p>The delivery of the new Aquatics Centre will put Sandwell on the map and will support the development of a strong and inclusive economy in Sandwell.</p>
	<p>A connected and accessible Sandwell</p> <p>The project will see improvements in the highways infrastructure around the Aquatics Centre with a focus on sustainable and active travel, including links to local train stations.</p>

## 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 A report on progress was presented to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Panel on the 26 November 2020. This report builds upon the progress identified in the previous report.
- 4.2 Although there has been inclement weather (high winds and freezing temperatures) in the period since the last report, work has continued positively on the Aquatics Centre project and it remains on target to be handed over to the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee on time.
- 4.3 In January 2021 in response to the national spike in the COVID-19 infection rate, the site was proactively closed for 24 hours to ensure that the safety measures in place to protect operatives was still effective. Lateral Flow Testing is now also in place on site with all operatives have two tests each week to ensure that infection rates are managed.



Since these tests have been put in place over 1500 tests have been completed and all results have been negative. The site is being managed in line with the Construction Leadership Council's Site Operating Procedures Version 7 and all health and safety arrangements continue to be reviewed on a regular basis.

4.4 Building upon the activities which were highlighted in the previous report to the panel, the following works are now complete / have been started:

- All pool tanks have been measured and pressure tested to ensure that the dimensions are correct and that there are no leaks – all three pools have passed these test;
- The dive tower and associated springboard plinths have been installed;
- The primary steel frame for the building is complete;
- The cladding to the front section of the building and the eastern elevation is complete and is also progressing well on the western elevation;
- Work has commenced on the roof for the building and the roof liner sheets are 75% complete;
- Curtain walling is complete on the front section of the building, with some glazing in place, and is progressing well on the western elevation;
- Masonry work has commenced and is progressing well internal to the building; and
- First fix M&E works have commenced and are progressing well.

4.5 Over the next few months the following actions will happen:

- Work will continue on the completion of the cladding, roofing, and curtain walling with a view to having the building fully watertight by June 2021;
- Work will continue on first fix M&E works; and
- Work will commence on work to the pool hall, including laying of tiles in pools.

4.6 In the period, work has also been completed on phase one of the highways works required to support the delivery of the Aquatics Centre. The focus of all highways works associated with the project is, whilst of course maintaining traffic flow in the area, to support sustainable and active travel. The works which have now been completed is as follows:



- Dog Kennel Lane and Bristnall Hall Road – two new zebra crossings;
- Manor Road / Holly Lane – traffic island to signalised junction with pedestrian crossings and advance stop areas for cyclists;
- Manor Road / Londonderry Lane - traffic island to signalised junction with pedestrian crossings and advance stop areas for cyclists;
- Holly Lane / St Pauls Road – give way junction to signalised junction with pedestrian crossings and advance stop areas for cyclists; and
- Londonderry Lane – puffin crossing upgrade to toucan crossing and associated cycle path.

4.7 Final designs are being developed for highways works phase two which will include improvements to Queens Road / Londonderry Lane Island and also environmental improvements to Londonderry Road. These designs will be finalised in April 2021 prior to being consulted on shortly after.

4.8 A regular newsletter updating on progress on site is distributed to local residents with two newsletters being released since the previous scrutiny meeting.

## 5 Alternative Options

5.1 There are no alternative options associated with this report.

## 6 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	The project is on target to be delivered within the funding allocated to it at the meeting of Cabinet on 20 November 2019. No further funding has been required from Sandwell Council for the delivery of the project.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	There are no specific legal or governance considerations arising from this report.
<b>Risk:</b>	A full quantified risk register is in place for the project and is reviewed on a monthly basis. Risk is a standing item Sandwell Aquatics Centre Project Board.
<b>Equality:</b>	There are no equality implications as a result of this report.



<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	The Sandwell Aquatics Centre will contribute to the leisure offer in the borough, providing a world-class facility for our residents to be active, contributing to healthy lives.
<b>Social Value</b>	The benefits created by the construction of the Aquatics Centre are already being felt with local people winning new jobs and gaining valuable skills and experience.

