

## **University of Birmingham School Planning Submission**

### **PRELIMINARY Response to Pre-application Consultation**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The University of Birmingham undertook pre-application consultation ahead of submission of the planning application for the development of land at the University's Selly Oak campus to house the proposed University of Birmingham School and Sixth Form. The summary report on this consultation can be read in the 'Statement of Community Involvement and summary of planning consultation output' prepared by Clarke Associates.
- 1.2 This document sets out the University of Birmingham's preliminary response to the findings from the consultation.

#### **2. Car parking**

- 2.1 An initial transport assessment commissioned by the University of Birmingham indicated that the proposed parking provision is sufficient for a development of this size.
- 2.2 However, in response to the concerns expressed by residents and Weoley Hill Village Council that the proposals had insufficient car parking, it is intended to create an overflow car park, subject to the approval of the Highways Authority. This would create in the region of 50 spaces in addition to those previously proposed.
- 2.3 This will have a dual function as an additional parent drop-off area which will alleviate the level of traffic on the Weoley Park Road/ Bristol Road junction.
- 2.4 Spaces within the overflow car park would be available for day-to-day parking if necessary and will provide additional parking for community events, visitors and parent evenings.
- 2.5 The car park would be located to the South of the building with access from Bristol Road.

#### **3. Campus access from Fox Hill**

- 3.1 Weoley Village Hill Council submitted a request that access to the campus via Fox Hill be closed off.
- 3.2 Alternative views were presented through the consultation.
- 3.3 The University of Birmingham is investigating closure of the entrance and will report definitively in due course.

#### **4. Traffic and transport**

- 4.1 The Transport Assessment and development proposals consider measures to minimise impact on the local transport network and encourage the use of public transport.
- 4.2 In light of concerns expressed by some residents, including Weoley Hill Village Council, in relation to traffic and disruption along the adjacent residential streets, The University of Birmingham School will make a payment of £50,000 to be used for traffic management measures on the local highway network that are required as a result of the operation of the new school. A monitoring exercise will be commissioned by Birmingham City Council 'Smarter Choices' team on a cyclical basis to monitor vehicle behaviour at the site and on the local highway network, and also consult with local resident groups to gather feedback on general 'day to day' experiences. This process will commence from the school opening in 2015. Birmingham City Council's Smarter Choices team will lead the process and consult with residents on any appropriate measures (details of potential measures are listed in the School Travel Plan)
- 4.3 At the A38 Bristol Road / Weoley Park Road junction, it has been demonstrated that the impact of the school development from 2015 to 2020 is between 2.44% and 8.11% which is under the generally accepted level of daily variation in traffic flows of 10%, demonstrating that the proposed school development is not likely to have a major impact on the junction. However, the development of the school may exacerbate traffic growth, and it is proposed that monitoring and assessment of the A38 Bristol Road / Weoley Park Road junction is carried out each year

following initial occupation of the school in 2015, and up to one year following full occupation of the school in 2019. Subject to the establishment of an appropriate legal mechanism, The University of Birmingham School will make a contribution of up to £200,000 for junction improvement works if required as a result of the operation of the school; to be carried out at the discretion of the Highway Authority.

- 4.4 In addition, once opened, the School will make a financial allocation to support pupils to use public transport to travel to the school, based on an annual analysis of need.

## **5. On-going consultation and engagement**

- 5.1 The University of Birmingham will provide feedback to all those who inputted to pre-application consultation. This will include publishing the measures taken in response to the pre-application consultation and holding a public feedback session.
- 5.2 The University of Birmingham will continue to engage with the community, including community groups, in relation to the proposals.