

APPENDIX 2: Background to the 2022 Commonwealth Games and the WDC Commonwealth Games Project

In March 2017, Durban in South Africa was stripped of its right to stage the 2022 Commonwealth Games, after failing to meet the promises of its successful bid after a trail of missed deadlines due to financial restraints. The bidding process was reopened by the Commonwealth Games Federation attracting rival bids in England by Birmingham and Liverpool, with Birmingham selected by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) as the preferred candidate. Crucial to Birmingham's bid, being led by the City Council, was the ability to provide International standard venues for all of the core compulsory sports, of which one is Lawn Bowls and Para Lawn Bowls.

This required a venue with minimum of four International standard greens, with ideally a fifth warm up green, which already existed at Royal Leamington Spa's Victoria Park; where the Nationals were hosted annually and previously the Womens World Bowls Championships in 1996 and 2004. With the support and endorsement of Bowls England, Warwick District Council offered their venue as an option to strengthen Birmingham's bid and to bring the Games to the West Midlands. The alternative, and far less preferred option, was for a completely new venue with synthetic greens to be built within the greater Birmingham area due to timelines involved. A formal Heads of Terms agreement to use Royal Leamington Spa's Victoria Park Venue was made in August 2017.

In November 2017 the Executive approved this project being added to the Fit for the Future (FFF) Strategy as a Key Project, subject to the Birmingham bid being successful; which was confirmed on 21st December 2017 and announced publicly on 29th December 2017. The following table highlights the large number of partners involved, the key funders and the different primary roles:

Partner	Primary Roles
Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)	Owns and controls the Commonwealth Games and all rights relating to them. Monitors Host City Contract compliance.
Commonwealth Games England (CGE)	Host CGA. Represents the needs of Athletes and teams.
Organising Committee (OC)	Plans and delivers the Games
Commonwealth Games Federation Partnership (CGFP)	Supports planning and delivery of the Games through expert consultants. Lead the commercial programme.
Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)	75% Funder. Oversees delivery. Supports relationships with other HMG Departments
Birmingham City Council (BCC)	Host City. 25% Funder. Manages capital projects (Village, Athletics). Plans and delivers the cultural programme.
West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)	Represents the other WMCA authorities and ensures the wider regional dimension is considered
Transport for West Midlands (TfWM)	A subsidiary of WMCA. Transport Infrastructure Projects and leads on Spectator / Workforce / public transport.
West Midlands Police	Leads on Security, collaboratively with the OC.

The bid also had the full support of three regional local enterprise partnerships (Greater Birmingham and Solihull; Black Country; Warwickshire and Coventry) and a sustainable business plan utilising a majority of existing sports venues. This provided the CGF the assurances required to ensure Birmingham could deliver the Games to budget and within the reduced timelines.

The above background is crucial to understanding just what an achievement it was for the District Council to deliver on all its roles and responsibilities linked to the Birmingham2022 Games. It provides the context to understand the challenges that arose, in addition to a global pandemic severely impacting planning and project objectives in 2021 and 2022. It involved shortened timelines for preparing a successful bid, over 2years less event preparation time, more partners involved than any previous Games and the DCMS proactively managing financial matters to ensure bid outputs achieved.

Warwick District Council's Commonwealth Games Project

As soon as Birmingham's bid was successful, work began in earnest to create the officer resource within Cultural Services to lead a project to ensure both the successful provision for the Lawn Bowls and Para Lawn Bowls event and wider venue and districtwide objectives. This proposal was included in the Forward Plan, March to June 2018. Approval from Executive, 'for the Project Initiation Document (PID) and initial resources for the local plans for the 2022 Commonwealth Games' was granted at the 7th March 2018 Executive

The Project Board and draft project structure was established, with the CEO the Project Sponsor and a project manager was appointed on 30th April 2018. Their initial responsibility was to lead the initiation phase of the project in order to implement and develop the strategic objectives and governance of the project.

Various meetings with key personnel from the CGF, Commonwealth Games Federation Partnership, Birmingham 2022 (B2022), BCC Resilience Group and Warwickshire County Council (WCC) provided greater clarity with regard to priority objectives, stakeholder responsibilities and desired outcomes. A revised organisational structure and enhanced key objectives were agreed within an updated PID, presented to the Project Board on 7th March 2018. PID v2.1 (see Appendix 3) was adopted in April 2019.

Whilst supporting B2022 to deliver a successful Commonwealth Games Lawn Bowls and Para Bowls competition and the associated enhancement of Royal Leamington Spa's Victoria Park venue remained the priority objective, the updated PID (Appendix 3) provided more defined details with regard to the additional opportunities.