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**BIRMINGHAM STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIP  
ANNUAL REPORT 2006**

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**BIRMINGHAM STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2006**

**FOREWORD**

This is the first annual report from the Birmingham Strategic Partnership (BSP). The BSP is responsible for developing and delivering Birmingham's Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement (LAA). The Birmingham Strategic Partnership (BSP) is a partnership between different parts of the public, business, community, faith and voluntary sectors that work together to find, and then make happen, better outcomes for Birmingham people.

Working together to achieve more for our citizens is a common and longstanding tradition in Birmingham and the BSP has been in existence since 2001, so you may ask why the BSP is producing this report at this time. There are three main reasons.

1. Firstly, we recognise partnership working is now a permanent and exciting feature of public service delivery.
2. Secondly, we believe it is only by working effectively together as well as separately that we give the best service possible to our citizen and have a better chance of radically improving the lives of those individuals with the worst prospects.
3. Thirdly, this annual report allows us to show you how the multiple strands of activity are being woven together to establish a common framework and new ways of working.

We want to be bolder as Birmingham's Community Strategy looks further into our collective future, than ever before, and the Local Area Agreement (LAA) encompasses more financial commitment than anywhere in the country. Standing together as a powerful, broad and inclusive 'partnership of partnerships' we will continue to advocate real improvements for people in the city.

This report takes a fairly high-level look at the main areas of achievement in 2005-6, outlines the main areas of work for 2006-7 and signposts you to additional, more detailed, information.

It sets the direction of partnership working and is a shared commitment to continue the journey, with you, to make Birmingham the best place to live, visit, study, work, relax and play.

Cllr Paul Tilsley (Chair)  
on behalf of the  
Birmingham Strategic Partnership

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The BSP is a partnership between different parts of the public, business, community and voluntary sectors to work together and support each other for the greater good of the people of Birmingham. In doing so it is also responsible for ensuring partnership activity benefits those individuals and groups with the worst prospects.

The BSP consists of:

- A Strategic Board (the BSP Board)
- A Programme Board
- Thematic Arrangements around the 4 Local Area Agreement (LAA) themes
- A network of ten Constituency Strategic Partnerships (CSP)
- A network of performance and other cross-cutting themes such as sustainability and community engagement.

The membership and an information handout of the BSP can be found on [www.bhamsp.org.uk](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk)

### **COMMUNITY STRATEGY - TAKING BIRMINGHAM FORWARD**

*Taking Birmingham Forward*, Birmingham's Community Strategy, explains how we want to improve the city over the period 2005-2010. It identifies a limited number of issues, and key critical actions. The community strategy for Birmingham (*Taking Birmingham Forward*) was endorsed as a partnership responsibility in October 2005 (1). It is our shared vision for the future of the city, supported by a five-year action plan (2).

A summary of some key progress against each theme is provided in this report.

### **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY – BIRMINGHAM 2026**

More recently the focus has been on developing a Sustainable Community Strategy. This strategy will integrate social, economic and environmental issues. Delivering genuinely sustainable communities in Birmingham requires a joined-up approach with a focus on multiple social, economic and environmental benefits. The Birmingham Strategic Partnership appointed the UK's first 'sustainability champion' in 2005 who leads on the overall sustainable development approach.

### **LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA)**

The Local Area Agreements (LAA) is a 'contract' between local partners and central government. Central government offers simplified funding, performance management, and accountability arrangements. Local partners agree to deliver the outcomes (which are based on national and local priorities). The objective is to improve key outcomes by making integrated use of funding and innovative delivery of services.

The Birmingham Local Area Agreement's overarching vision was agreed with Government in March 2006 (3). The agreement commits partners to deliver significant improvements in the lives of people in the city with particular focus on making the fastest improvements for the people and for the places with the greatest need. This is supported by clear targets in the four thematic arrangements;

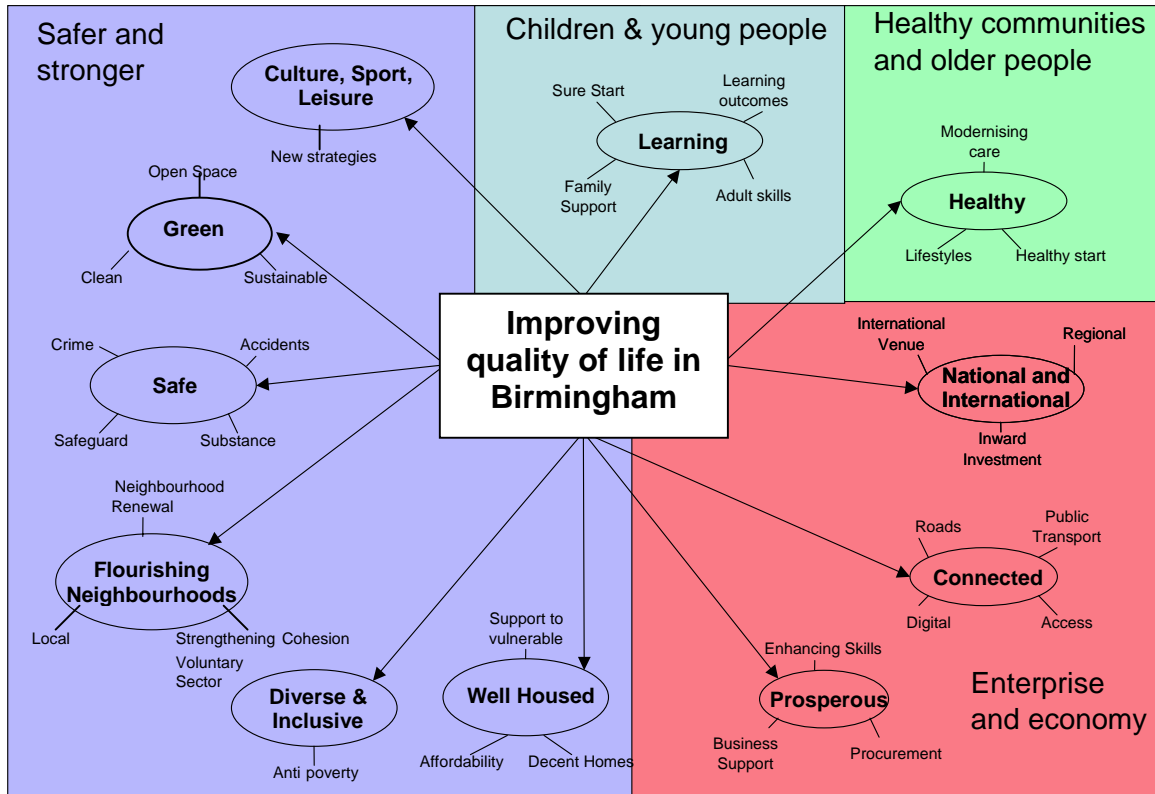
- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Healthy Communities and Older People
- Children and Young People
- Enterprise and Economic Development

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This short report explains how we are organising to deliver and explains how we are listening to Birmingham people and reports the progress (and difficulties) in achieving real improvements for people in the city.

The Community Strategy and LAA themes link together. The diagram is a simplification of a complex picture (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Community Strategy themes linked to LAA themes**



## Six-Month Self Assessment 2006

Birmingham's Local Area Agreement became operational on 1 April 2006. A self-assessment was published in December 2006 (4) and reports the performance against the first six months (April – September 2006) of the LAA. Approximately a quarter of the indicators are off target. These will receive extra attention to ensure the LAA commitments are delivered. The overall Self Assessment was awarded an amber direction of travel by the Government Office for the West Midlands (5).

## Resources

The BSP is committed to using funds (approximately £350 million) in the most effective ways to achieve shared targets, described in the Local Area Agreement. There are associated financial and risk management protocols.

## ORGANISING TO DELIVER

As the BSP's role has developed and expanded, partners have recognised the need to ensure it is "fit for purpose". During 2005-6 the BSP undertook an extensive review and made several changes:

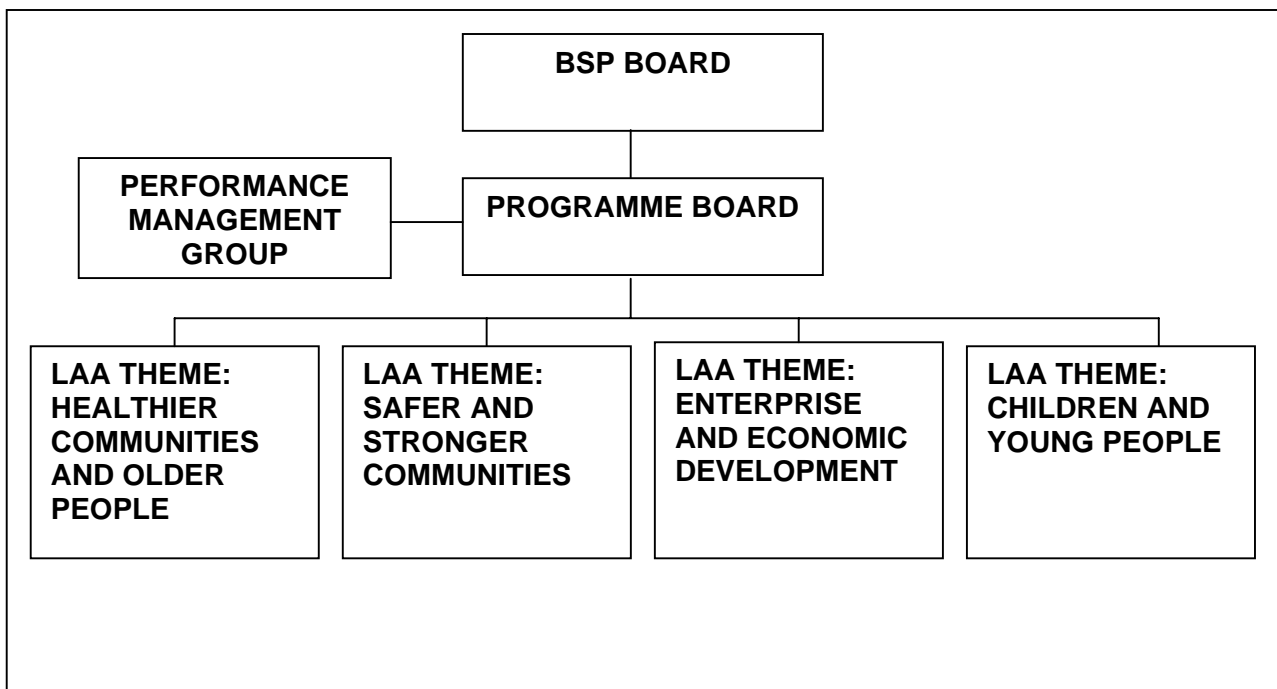
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1. Clear arrangements for governance (6) and principles for engagement (7).  
The BSP Board meetings have been open to members of the public since April 2005 and all papers and notes are available on the Internet (8).
2. Committees, dedicated to driving delivery of our Local Area Agreement. The Programme Board is currently chaired by the regional director of the Learning and Skills Council and includes senior leaders responsible for delivering each of the four LAA themes. Programme Board minutes are available on the Internet (9).
3. Dedicated performance management team with shared technology across partners.

We have strengthened our financial management capacity and built in new capacity for Constituency Strategic Partnerships (CSP) and the LAA thematic arrangements. We are also developing a strong delivery support team providing both oversight and support and expertise.

There are four main thematic partnerships, below the BSP Board and the BSP Programme Board, focussed on the LAA themes (figure 2). This enables the BSP to take a view across each of the themes to ensure actions are “joined up”.

**Figure 2: Simplified structure of the BSP**



In addition to this the BSP has prioritised specific issues related to health, housing and worklessness for special attention and each of these has a detailed Floor Target Action Plan.

## **LISTENING, LEARNING AND CHALLENGING**

### **Community Strategy**

A strategic assessment was carried out before developing the Community Strategy and is regularly reviewed. The Community Strategy Implementation Plan was

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adopted in June 2005 and, a chapter at a time, has been reviewed at BSP 2006/07 Board meetings.

As part of an Audit Commission development on area profiles the BSP developed a single summary of residents' views, organised into ten quality of life themes (10). This information has helped the BSP to understand what residents' priorities are for improvement around the city.

### **BSP Extended Sessions**

The BSP Extended Sessions are designed to allow a wider and deeper exploration of issues and to guide the BSP's thinking on complex and difficult issues. During 2006, the BSP hosted 6 Extended Sessions on;

- Delivering Sustainable Development in Birmingham (13<sup>th</sup> January 2006)
- Breeam and Beyond (25<sup>th</sup> January 2006)
- Developments for 14-19yrs and emerging patterns of provisions (11<sup>th</sup> September 2006)
- Neighbourhood working and community engagement (11<sup>th</sup> October 2006)
- Life Expectancy (15<sup>th</sup> November 2006)
- The Local Government White Paper (7<sup>th</sup> December 2006)

Throughout the year over 300 people attended the BSP Extended Sessions representing the public, private, voluntary and community sectors within Birmingham. For more detailed information and individual reports on the Extended Sessions please visit the website (11).

### **Consultation and Engagement**

The BSP partners are committed to listening and responding to Birmingham people's views and several have their own mechanisms for engaging with their specific client group or service users.

In 2006 the BSP partners collaborated on a major public consultation exercise across the city. In total over 5,000 people were interviewed on what matters locally, what needs to improve, and how public services are doing (12).

### **Birmingham Prospectus**

In March 2006, Birmingham City Council committed themselves to developing a Birmingham Prospectus to help set out a coherent, long term vision for the development of the city over the next 20-30years. Five Theme Groups were established drawing together people from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors. These are:

- A **Global** city
- A **Visible** city
- A **Connected** city
- A **Prosperous** city
- A **Growing** city

A draft Birmingham Prospectus was launched in November 2006 and a revised report was considered by the BSP in February 2007 (13).

### **Challenging Performance**

The Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) has assessed the BSP performance for the last three years; 2003/4, 2004/5 and 2005/6. In July 2006 they confirmed the BSP performance in 2005-6 had improved significantly. The GOWM headline judgement changed from "amber/red" (poor) to "amber/green" (good).

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“[Birmingham] has set targets to improve outcomes for the most deprived neighbourhoods and groups and, through its three floor target action plans, it has identified the actions which will deliver against those targets. Furthermore, improved performance management arrangements are being put in place to ensure that delivery is on track.” (14)

### **Website**

The BSP has had its own dedicated website since January 2005 and in its first 2 years has had approximately 150,000 ‘hits’. The BSP site is linked to most of its partner’s web sites. The single page on the Birmingham City Council website which describes the BSP receives approximately 500 page-views a month.

### **Progress**

This annual report describes the progress made on the implementation of Birmingham’s Community Strategy. The next section details key milestones and achievements made in 2005-06 for each core area and outlines aims and objectives for 2006-07.

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### A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CITY

We have achieved strong inward investment and redevelopment of the city centre including key iconic developments such as the Bullring shopping centre. Perceptions of the city are improving with 45% of people in England now seeing Birmingham as "a leading European city" (up from 35% in 2005).

The Key Actions listed in the Community Strategy 2005-2010 are:

#### **N&I 1: Promoting Birmingham**

Ensuring the city remains internationally competitive.

#### **N&I 2: A prosperous city-region**

Tackling common issues like transport planning and promoting joint approaches to problems that cross boundaries, such as housing market renewal.

#### **N&I 3: Birmingham – the place to be**

Making Birmingham an attractive place to live and work.

#### **N&I 4: Improving international connections**

Strengthening business connections and making the most of our international links.

#### **N&I 5: Exploiting our knowledge**

Improving arrangements for the commercial exploitation of knowledge through closer working between the city's universities and businesses, supporting regional arrangements.

<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
<p>Engaged over 140 Birmingham companies on international trade development programmes and structured market visits.</p> <p>Supported over 50 new exporters in over 65 new markets.</p> <p>Progress with Eastside development, including: Masshouse Phase 1 nearing completion; joint venture agreement with AWM for technology-led Learning &amp; Leisure Quarter approved; and approval of process for advancing City Park.</p> <p>Birmingham Unitary Development Plan adopted and good progress made on delivery of key strategic policies. E.g. new housing completions achieved are above targets; high level of development on 'brownfield' sites; significant new investment in city centre; majority of new retail/leisure/office development is in local centres, or edge-of-centre locations.</p>	<p>First meeting of Task Group to consider International Strategy Framework on 7 July 2006</p> <p>Birmingham Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2006, along with Prospectus for Birmingham that will further develop plans to secure long-term population and economic growth.</p> <p>Assist the science community to attract in the first instance medical related companies into the Science and Technology Corridor (A38).</p> <p>Establish 'Technology Transfer Fund' will provide grants for new and developing businesses along the A38 corridor.</p>

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**A CITY OF FLOURISHING NEIGHBOURHOODS**

The BSP has made strong progress in closing the gaps in outcomes between different groups and parts of the city in areas including education, community safety, teenage pregnancy, liveability and housing. Nevertheless, outcomes on most of these indicators are worse in some parts of the city than in others, and for particular disadvantaged groups. The Birmingham Local Area Agreement sets out challenging targets to narrow these gaps within the city even further.

The Key Actions listed in the Community Strategy 2005-2010 are:

**FN1 – Neighbourhood renewal**

Reducing inequalities between different parts of the city with a focus on involving local people in planning improvements for their community.

**FN 2 – Better access to local services and centres**

Planning and developing local centres that provide shops and other services.

**FN 3 – Public service standards**

Assessing and improving standards of performance.

**FN 4 – Civic renewal**

Promoting active citizenship, helping people to become involved actively in their local community.

**FN 5 – Developing local governance**

Making services more responsive to local people, their needs and preferences.

**FN 6 – Developing the voluntary sector**

Building on the Voluntary Sector Compact to develop the thriving voluntary sector in the city.

**FN 7- Business engagement**

Supporting the engagement of local businesses in the development of neighbourhoods.

<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
<p>Accessibility Strategy completed and included as part of West Midlands Local Transport Plan. Accessibility review of 5 Districts completed.</p> <p>Improvements completed to seven local centres.</p> <p>Media campaign to increase awareness of opportunities to volunteer.</p> <p>Business needs survey completed – local employer engagement in some DSPs.</p> <p>Better Together (corporate social responsibility) programme now covers 272 businesses in the city and resulted in</p>	<p>Complete accessibility reviews for all Districts by April 2007.</p> <p>Submit local development framework to Government.</p> <p>Progress improvements in seven further local centres.</p> <p>Implement Change Up investment plan.</p> <p>Expansion of Business Improvement District approach.</p>

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<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
over 2,300 pledge commitments.	

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**A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE CITY**

The Key Actions listed in the Community Strategy 2005-2010 are:

**D&I 1 – A diverse future**

Making Birmingham a city that welcomes and encourages everyone’s contribution.

**D&I 2 – Community cohesion**

Fostering an understanding between generations, and work with local communities and organisations to promote a better and shared understanding among the many groups that make up our city.

**D&I 3 – Reducing poverty**

Reducing the number of people for whom poverty limits opportunities by improving access to work and welfare.

**D&I 4 – Services that listen and respond**

Seeking to understand the needs and expectations of those who use – and those who might use- public services.

**Community Cohesion**

Local surveys in 2006 reveal that we have strongly cohesive communities with 82% of residents feeling people from different backgrounds get on well together (up from 77% in 2004). In October 2005 the Lozells area of the city experienced heightened levels of community tension. The BSP has endorsed the Birmingham City Council Community Cohesion Strategy in September 2006.

**Inequality**

According to local surveys in 2006 only 7% of Birmingham residents feel that racial harassment is a problem, which is well below the national average, and a reduction on 12% in Birmingham in 2004. The city experiences persistent patterns of inequality in areas such as educational attainment. There is evidence to suggest the rates of improvement in Birmingham, in particular ethnic groups, are higher than the national average.

**Influence and involvement**

Birmingham residents feel increasingly able to influence decisions affecting their local area. Our 2006 survey showed a 46% improvement on this measure in the last two years (15).

<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
<p>Cross-partner network of officers responsible for consultation created.</p> <p>Talking Tent (inclusive consultation) event completed October 2005.</p> <p>Outline anti-poverty strategy developed.</p>	<p>Develop coordinated programme of consultation in the city.</p> <p>Complete first collaborative residents’ survey.</p> <p>Repeat successful “Talking Tent” event with support for “hard to reach” groups to engage.</p> <p>Adopt community cohesion strategy.</p>

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### **A PROSPEROUS CITY**

The Key Actions listed in the Community Strategy 2005-2010 are:

#### **P1- Developing sustainable business**

Supporting businesses in responding to shifts towards sustainable consumption and production.

#### **P2 – Planning for growth**

Planning for land use to support appropriate and sustainable business development.

#### **P3 – Intelligence and skills**

Developing more systematic industry-level intelligence about business development and using it to inform education training. Working together the city's universities, further education colleges and employers are improving the retention and development of key graduate skills.

#### **P4 – Tackling worklessness**

Increasing the proportion of people in the city with sustainable jobs by improving access to job opportunities, training and support in employment.

#### **P5 – Supporting business and enterprise**

Improving the co-ordination of services to and support for small businesses in Birmingham, with a focus on entrepreneurship, setting up and sustaining new businesses, and the growth of jobs in local centres of employment.

Around one-quarter of manufacturing jobs in the city were lost in the 1990s. On the other hand, over 44,000 new jobs have been created since 1993. Future jobs will increasingly be in service and high technology areas. The closure of MG Rover in 2005 led to 6,000 job losses, although local action helped most of the people involved to move to new jobs or training.

#### **Unemployment**

Unemployment is higher than the national average and increasing. In some parts of the city there remain very high rates of unemployment (eg in Aston over 20% of people are unemployed). In August 2006, 9% of the city's working age population are job-seeker claimants for unemployment, above national average (3.5%).

#### **Employment**

Employment rates are lower than the national average, although this "gap" has narrowed from 12.6% in 2000/1 to 7.7% in 2004/5. Some groups experience disadvantage in employment – although we have seen these gaps narrowing for lone parents and for black and ethnic minority people. The gaps have not narrowed yet for older people or people with low qualifications, and there is clearly more to do for all disadvantaged groups.

As mentioned before the BSP reviewed worklessness in Birmingham and developed a Floor Target Action Plan (16).

<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
Demolition in prep for University Science Park at Pebble Mill site.  LSC disseminated information on skills requirements for young people to head	Implement integrated employment and skills system in line with worklessness floor target action plan.

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<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
<p>teachers and college coordinators.</p> <p>Successful bid for HEFCE development funding for employer-specific skills development.</p> <p>Establishment of new employment hub for major developments – IMI Northwest Birmingham, Eastside and the new University Hospital Birmingham hub.</p> <p>Fair Cities mapping undertaken. Pipeline projects with Mitchells and Butlers lead to 75% conversion rate into employment.</p>	<p>Agree growth plan for city-region.</p> <p>Develop city centre Masterplan.</p> <p>Develop strategy for SW Birmingham.</p> <p>Improve information and career guidance services for young people.</p> <p>Develop graduate retention plan (HE institutions)</p> <p>Implement ESF co-financing programme targeted at developing people excluded from labour market.</p> <p>Further development of Fair Cities approach in line with LAA/FTAP.</p> <p>Implementation of public service compact to enable disadvantaged groups into employment.</p> <p>Establish Centre of Expertise in Enterprise with UCE</p> <p>Pilot Enterprise City, encouraging greater entrepreneurship in priority client groups</p>

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**A CONNECTED CITY**

The Key Actions listed in the Community Strategy 2005-2010 are:

**C1 – Improving strategic connections**

Working to improve the city’s key gateways.

**C2 – Getting about in the city**

Improving the condition of Birmingham’s roads to ensure the efficient movement of people and goods.

**C3 – Improving advice and information services**

Ensuring access to and co-ordination of advice and information services, making it simpler for people to contact public services and to get information and advice.

**C4 – Digital city**

Developing strategic approaches to exploit new information technologies for the benefit of the city.

The BSP has robust plans to develop further rail and aviation connections to the city. Northfield relief road has been started and funding secured for Selly Oak new road. Public transport trips accounted for 54% of trips into Birmingham city centre (a.m. peak) in 2005, compared with 53% in 2003 and 49% in 2001). Our Digital Birmingham initiative will improve access to Internet and digital technologies.

<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
Local Transport Plan submitted to Government.	Birmingham International Airport – Masterplan to be published after amendments
Feasibility Study on Metro completed.	Metro – completion of final business case for Phase 1 Extension; continued development of Phase 2
Birmingham International Airport Masterplan published for consultation.	New Street Station – submit outline planning application
Planning application submitted for new coach station.	Coach station planning approval.
New Street Station – Initial design completed	Review of neighbourhood advice services.
Bus Showcase Programme including improvements to Route 11	Decision on Digital Challenge bid.
Bus Safety - £0.6m project in conjunction with bus operators and police to reduce fear of crime on buses	Progress Wireless City initiative.
Safer Routes to School - two year rolling programme and 17 schemes started	
Birmingham City Centre Partnership have recently launched ‘Wayfinder’, a talking signs system, to help blind and partially sighted people to find their way around	
Digital strategy developed in the form of a draft digital charter	

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### A LEARNING CITY

The Key Actions in the Community Strategy for 2050-2010 are:

#### L1 – A sure start

Building on the existing early years and Sure Start provision to ensure the number of childcare places in the city meets demand, with a focus on improving access to those in greatest need.

#### L2 – Closing the gap

Continuing to close the gap in attainment between Birmingham and the national average at all levels up to age 19, focusing on improving the achievements and life chances of children and young people from specific black, minority ethnic and emerging communities, those in the care of the Council, and those from low income homes.

#### L3 – Aiming higher

Promoting further and higher education by improving the links between universities, schools and colleges with employers to enable young people to access broader vocational and work experience, expanding their aspirations.

#### L4 – Support for children and parents

Improving the information and advice for parents enabling them to support their children's education.

#### L5 – Improving adult skills

Maintaining community based learning by supporting access with high-quality information and advice.

Birmingham has the best GCSE results of any core city, and have eliminated the previous 10% gap with national standards. Rates of improvement are the same as the national average at KS2, above national average at KS3 and significantly above the national average at KS4. There is however more to do in raising adult skills to meet the city-region's future economic needs.

We are targeting areas and groups with lower educational attainment to bring these up to the city average quickly. We can demonstrate clear progress here in the last four years, for example we can show that GCSE attainment has increased most in those wards with the lowest baseline positions.

The number of Young People (16-18) participating in post-16 education and training continues to increase:

	2002/03	2003/04	% change 02/03 to 03/04	2004/05	% change 03/04 to 04/05	2005/06	% change 04/05 to 05/06
FE	23,733	24,267	2.3	24,553	1.2	27,162	10.6
WBL	3,006	2,367	-21.3	2,400	1.4	2,377	-1.0
6th Form	8,066	8,296	2.9	8,227	-0.8	8,080	-1.8
E2E	n/a	1,827	0.0	1,854	1.5	1,920	3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,805</b>	<b>36,757</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>37,034</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>39,539</b>	<b>6.8</b>

Achievement rates for those in learning post-16 also shows a positive trend, comparing favourably with national and regional averages.

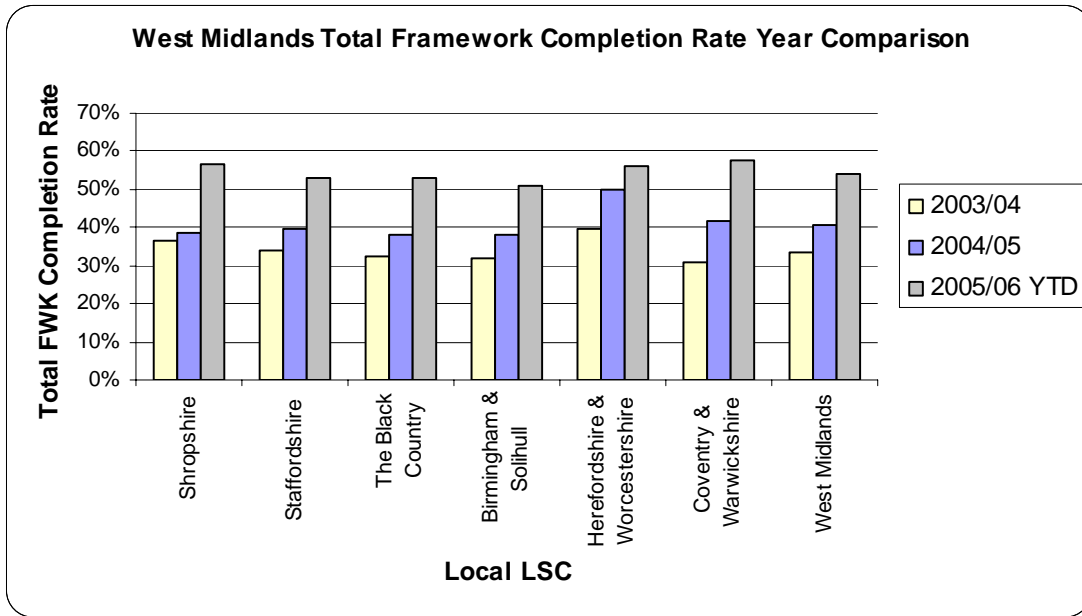
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Attainment for those following an Apprenticeship route, either at Level 2 or 3, demonstrates a growing trend; with learners, for the first time, being more likely to achieve their chosen work-based qualification than not. (figure 6.1)

The picture in Further Education Institutions provides a similar picture, with attainment for both Adults (those over 19) and Young People (16-18 year olds) across all levels demonstrating a positive trend. All colleges within Birmingham now have overall attainments levels that show institutions performing either at or above national benchmarks for the sector. (figure 6.2)

**Figure 6.1: Apprenticeship Completions, Year Comparisons**

*Attainment has improved across the whole of the West Midlands with many Birmingham learners working with employers across the region.*



**Figure 6.2: FE Success Rates, Year Comparisons**

*Attainment over the last three years has seen a marked increase across both age groups; with the national total success rate standing at 74%.*

	2004/05					
	16-18		19+		Total	
	Starts	Success Rate	Starts	Success Rate	Starts	Success Rate
Birmingham and Solihull	52,046	67%	134,010	72%	186,056	71%

	2003/04					
	16-18		19+		Total	
	Starts	Success Rate	Starts	Success Rate	Starts	Success Rate
Birmingham and Solihull	52,335	64%	148,076	69%	200,411	68%

	2002/03					
	16-18		19+		Total	
	Starts	Success Rate	Starts	Success Rate	Starts	Success Rate
Birmingham and Solihull	52,783	58%	158,504	62%	211,287	61%

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<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
<p>Significant “closing the gap” with national standards in school attainment, and within the city. Improvements at all key stages. Best results of all big cities for GCSEs.</p> <p>Programmes of support, linked to national initiatives, focused on raising the attainment of Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Turkish, Somali and African Caribbean heritage pupils in 11 sec schools.</p> <p>Plan to promote higher education (Aimhigher 2006-8) drafted.</p> <p>Fifty extra people trained in construction compared to 2004-5 (mainly level 2 16-18 year olds).</p> <p>Phase 1 of development of Children's Centres completed.</p>	<p>Increased childcare provision through children's centres (62,000 places by Apr 2008).</p> <p>Complete Children's Centre Phase 2.</p> <p>Targeted support to schools with low results or challenging circumstances.</p> <p>Further development of vocational and academic progression 'pathways' for students aged 14 – 19.</p> <p>Implement common assessment framework for Children's services across agencies.</p> <p>Whole city to be covered by extended school clusters.</p> <p>Participation rates for post-16 education and training to rise amongst 16-18 year olds.</p> <p>Numbers of 16-18 year old learners considered not to be in education, employment or training to fall compared with previous years.</p> <p>Improved participation and attainment by minority ethnic groups on Work-Based Learning Programmes</p>

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The Key Actions listed in the Community Strategy 2005-2010 are:

### **H1 – Promoting healthy lifestyles**

Making the city smoke free, encouraging healthy eating and exercising amongst people of all ages.

### **H2 – Reducing health inequalities**

Ensuring deprived communities' benefit from the promotion of healthy living by customising approaches to their needs.

### **H3 – A healthy start**

Reducing infant mortality and teenage pregnancies, improving access to services across the city for parents and young children, and developing child and adolescent mental health services.

### **H4 – Modernising adult care and the management of long-term illness**

Modernising approaches for the care of adults and the management of long-term illness. Making sure older people and adults with special needs can access the mainstream services that enable them to stay active and healthy.

### **H5 – A centre for health**

Developing new approaches to recruiting and training health and social care staff, especially among the unemployed.

In relation to health, areas with higher than average proportions of BME residents tend to have higher rates of infant mortality but it is not always the case. For example Perry Barr ward with a BME 22.2 % has a lower infant mortality rate of 6.4 than Moseley and Kings Heath with a BME 23.8% with a rate of 15.4 or Aston ward with a BME 64.9% and infant mortality rate of 9.1%. It is likely that there are other issues to consider, for example the made-up of the BME group (Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani and Caribbean), health provision or social circumstances. The Birmingham Health and Well Being Partnership published its Floor Target Action Plan in April 2006 to explore these inter-relationships and put in place suitable strategies.

Health inequalities remain a major challenge facing the city. There have been significant reductions in premature deaths from key diseases (e.g. circulatory disease deaths down 27% in six years), increasing life expectancy by 1.5% over the last five years, and reducing teenage pregnancy (down 5% in the last year alone). Infant mortality is high, although there was a small reported decline in 2002-4 figures. There are clear plans to accelerate these improvements through the Health Floor Target Action Plan (17).

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<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
<p>Developed floor target action plan on health (life expectancy, premature mortality, infant mortality).</p> <p>Developed older people's commissioning framework.</p> <p>Consulting on frameworks for strategies for people with disability and mental health problems.</p> <p>Smoke-free coalition established</p> <p>44% of schools have Birmingham Healthy School standard and 57% working towards national healthy schools status</p> <p>Child &amp; Adolescent Mental Health Services locality management teams in place.</p> <p>Almost 12% reduction in under-18 conceptions between 1998 and 2004.</p> <p>Corporate third sector commissioning framework for services for older people developed.</p>	<p>Implement floor target action plan on health, including improved midwifery and maternity provision.</p> <p>All NHS and public sector agencies to be smoke-free.</p> <p>Complete survey of private sector buildings and smoking policies – City Centre venues.</p> <p>All schools in schools sports partnership by 2006</p> <p>Develop CAMHS services for young people with a disability.</p> <p>Teenage pregnancy – educational outreach to high incident areas/schools. Further develop sexual health services for young people.</p> <p>Implement four Special Care Centres and four Extra Care Sheltered Housing schemes</p>

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**A WELL-HOUSED CITY**

The Key Actions listed in the Community Strategy 2005-2010 are:

**WH 1 – Decent homes**

Bringing all social housing up to the Decent Homes Standard by 2010, moving beyond the basic Standard where we can.

**WH 2 – Restructuring housing markets**

North West Birmingham is already a nationally funded Housing Market Renewal Area. Using this experience to help develop appropriate interventions in other parts of the city that are experiencing changing demand for housing.

**WH 3 – Affordable homes**

Adopting a range of initiatives to increase the supply of affordable housing, both to rent and to buy, that will meet needs in then city, especially those of households with children.

**WH 4 – Supporting vulnerable people**

Increasing the opportunities for vulnerable people, such as the elderly and those with disabilities, to live independently by providing a range of accommodation which meets their needs better.

**WH 5 – Improved housing services**

Working to improve housing services in the city, with a focus on better repairs and maintenance.

We are on track to achieve the decent homes standard in all social housing by 2010. We are investing in work with the private sector to tackle issues for vulnerable tenants there. Details of this are provided in the Housing Floor Target Action Plan (18).

<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
<p>Completed floor target action plan on housing.</p> <p>Council and RSL investments to increase percentage of social housing which meets decent standards (achieved in 49% of council homes)</p> <p>Provided support to 341 vulnerable households to achieve decent homes standard. Advice provided to over 4,000 vulnerable people.</p> <p>Work to achieve affordable warmth and thermal comfort to 2,946 vulnerable households.</p> <p>Delivered 965 affordable homes (grant funded).</p> <p>Established team to bring private</p>	<p>Implement floor target action plan.</p> <p>Increase council decent homes to 64%.</p> <p>Complete private stock condition survey.</p> <p>Coordinated programme of private sector decent homes action in Washwood Heath ward</p> <p>Provide decent homes services to 519 vulnerable households.</p> <p>BCC will work with Family HA to expand their programme to install solar water heating panels in Urban Living Area as well as to other landlords in the area. Project delivery to begin in Oct 06 with targets of: 2006/7: 100 homes.</p> <p>Over 1,200 affordable homes to be delivered in 2006-8.</p> <p>Bring a further 125 private empty homes back</p>

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<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
<p>empty properties back into use – 100 achieved in-year.</p> <p>Significant reductions in homelessness through improved support and preventative advice.</p> <p>Improvements to council housing repair and maintenance service (e.g. 96% of right to repair jobs now on time).</p> <p>Resolved 75% of anti-social behaviour disputes through mediation, undertook 185 legal actions.</p>	<p>into use.</p> <p>Start on-site development of Fosseyway drive extra care village.</p> <p>Reduce homelessness acceptances to 3,250, and repeat applicants to less than 7%.</p> <p>Further improve council housing repairs and maintenance (e.g. 98% of right to repair jobs completed on time).</p> <p>Maintain strong performance in resolving anti-social behaviour disputes.</p> <p>Launch district tenant groups.</p>

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**A CITY OF CULTURE, SPORT AND LEISURE**

The Key Actions listed in the Community Strategy 2005-2010 are:

**CSL 1 – New visions for sport and culture**

Preparing new strategies for the development of sport and physical activity and a new cultural strategy that will include the promotion of the arts and culture of all communities in the city.

**CSL 2 – Local sport, leisure and culture**

Improving access to and opportunities for cultural, sport and leisure activities outside the city centre.

**CSL 3 – Enriching our heritage**

Promoting opportunities for people to enrich their understanding of Birmingham’s heritage and of the heritage and cultures of Birmingham’s many diverse communities.

Birmingham has a first class sporting and leisure facilities including the National Indoor Area, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Birmingham Royal Ballet. The perception of the city by people outside Birmingham as a leading place for events and festivals increased from 49% in 2005 to 54% in 2006, and as a place with a vibrant nightlife increased from 39% to 42%.

<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
<p>Appointed director for Sport &amp; Physical Activity Partnership</p> <p>Development of community museums including new strategy.</p> <p>Weoley Castle – allocation of capital funding of £500k towards repairs to the stonework and development of visitor facilities.</p> <p>Development of community museums, including new strategy <i>and achieved 3% increase in visitor numbers</i></p> <p>Further development of exhibition programme at Gas Hall and Waterhall, including successful ‘Black Victorians’ exhibition.</p>	<p>Completion of Heritage Strategy.</p> <p>Undertake ‘Renaissance in the Regions’ programme, offering increased access to museum collections.</p> <p>Agree play, sport &amp; leisure opportunities within Children’s Centres and Extended Schools.</p> <p>Complete the major redevelopment project for Birmingham Town Hall, in preparation for reopening late 2007.</p>

## **DRAFT COPY A SAFE CITY**

### **SA 1 – Safer and cleaner neighbourhoods**

Reassuring people and businesses through a co-ordinated approach to crime, safety and environmental improvements, so that neighbourhoods look and feel safe.

### **SA 2 – Reduce re-offending**

Identifying priority offenders and improving their access to drug treatment, education, training and employment opportunities and housing.

### **SA 3 – Cutting violent crime**

Working with local communities to reduce levels of violent crime in particular gun crime and gangs, domestic violence and hate crime.

### **SA 4 – Safeguarding children**

Reducing the likelihood of young people being the victims of crime.

### **SA 5 – Work with young people**

Offering young people at risk of offending constructive alternatives to crime ie purposeful activities through leisure, sport and culture and volunteering in the local community.

### **SA 6 – Reducing drug and alcohol misuse**

Using targeted interventions to reduce the supply and availability of drugs in the city and through expansion of treatment for those dependent on drugs. Working with young people to discourage them from experimenting with drugs and alcohol.

### **SA 7 – Accident prevention**

Working to preventing accidents occurring, ensuring better protection to reduce the impact of accidents, and rapid responses to incidents.

Birmingham is the safest big city in the country after reductions in the last seven years: burglary has reduced by 48%; vehicle crime has reduced by 41% and robbery by 26%<sup>1</sup>. There has been a 17% reduction in crime in the last two years, although there was a small increase in burglaries this year.

This has led to significant improvements in people feeling safer, with 10% more feeling safe at home after dark and 8% more feeling safe walking outside after dark between 2004 and 2005. Latest Police survey figures show continued improvements in feelings of safety. The partnership is working to tackle specific areas of continuing concern such as feeling safe on public transport and in parks.

Deaths and serious injuries from road traffic accidents increased last year by 12%, although they remain 26% lower than the baseline (nine years ago). **Need more**

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<sup>1</sup> National baseline year for robbery is six years ago (seven for burglary and vehicle crime).

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<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
<p>Overall crime reduction target achieved, an 18.4% reduction against 2003/04 baseline.</p> <p>LPSA interim targets exceeded for Robbery of personal property and Burglary of dwellings, resulting in significantly fewer recorded crimes and victims.</p> <p>Introduced strategy for Priority &amp; Prolific Offender (PPO) management.</p> <p>Over 5500 drug misusers in treatment programmes and achieved target for retaining adult PPOs in drug treatment programmes for 12 weeks (59%).</p> <p>Introduction of drug testing on arrest for trigger offences.</p> <p>Control strategy to tackle gun crime developed and 20% reduction in shooting fatalities compared to 2004/05.</p> <p>LPSA fire reduction targets achieved or exceeded Across three separate categories.</p> <p>Secondary "Wise Up" Attendance strategy launched in 32 schools.</p> <p>Recruitment of 310 'Street Champions'</p> <p>Birmingham Alcohol Strategy developed and BCSP Alcohol &amp; Crime &amp; Disorder Group established.</p> <p>Achieved interim target for % of sites having unsatisfactory levels of litter &amp; detritus (18.3% achieved).</p> <p>Proposals for 10 new safety camera sites developed</p>	<p>Establish and implement multi agency training plan and quality assurance framework for all agencies in safeguarding children.</p> <p>Establishment of sharing panels to reduce exclusions and improve reintegration of pupils.</p> <p>Recruit over 400 additional Street Champions, concentrating most on neighbourhoods with highest environmental degradation.</p> <p>Implement Anti-Social Behaviour strategy by March 2007.</p> <p>Launch strategy to tackle domestic violence.</p> <p>Implement the common assessment framework to enhance partnership working to safeguard children.</p> <p>Work to reduce levels of bullying and abuse of all kinds, with particular attention to monitoring levels of hate-motivated bullying such as racist and homophobic bullying.</p> <p>Develop joint working to raise awareness of actions young people can take to reduce the risks of becoming victims of crime.</p> <p>Effectively manage those children and young people identified as prolific and other priority offenders.</p> <p>Increase the level of participation in community activities by young people, particularly amongst groups at risk of social exclusion.</p> <p>Develop mentoring projects for young people, through voluntary and community sector organisations, including the use of peer educators and peer mentors.</p> <p>Birmingham drug enforcement forum to reduce drug dealing.</p> <p>Promotion of parents' awareness raising sessions about substance misuse.</p> <p>Develop &amp; implement local road safety programmes.</p>

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A GREEN CITY**

The Key Actions listed in the Community Strategy 2005-2010 are:

**G1 – Greening the city**

Improving people’s access to and enjoyment of green and open space

**G2 – Improving streets and public space**

Working to get the city clean and keeping it clean through better street cleaning and clearing rubbish promptly.

**G3 – Cutting pollution**

Preparing plans to reduce air and noise pollution in the city, focusing on the worst affected areas.

**G4 – Climate change**

Preparing a strategy setting out how the city can respond positively to climate change.

**G5 – Cutting waste**

Managing waste effectively to reduce the amount of commercial and domestic waste sent to landfill and to increase the recycling and reuse of materials.

A Birmingham Energy Services Company has been established, which will deliver reliable, secure, low cost and low carbon power. Household recycling has increased dramatically with green waste being collected from 240,000 households and 100,000 households receiving a multi-dry waste kerbside collection service. There have been reductions in key pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide in the air and improvements to the water quality of our rivers and streams. Birmingham is the first core city with a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (19).

There are improvements to the quality of Parks across the City with a focus on the most disadvantaged areas and an additional Green Flag award. The partnership is working to improve local living environments.

The partnership has mapped levels of litter and grime across the city. In 2004/5, we found that 24% of the city had below an acceptable level of cleanliness. By 2005/6 this had reduced to 18.3% of the city. The partnership is working to improve cleanliness across the city, particularly in the areas with high levels of litter and grime, with a 2007/8 target of not more than 12% unsatisfactory sites.

<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
Achieved additional Green Flag park (Castle Vale) and maintained three existing.	<i>Parks &amp; Open Spaces Strategy 2005-2015 and Tree &amp; Woodland Strategy for Birmingham to be completed.</i>
Annual biodiversity report completed. Top five biodiversity priorities agreed and action plans developed.	Establish Kingfisher Country Park. Prepare entry for fifth Green Flag park.
National air quality objectives for seven pollutants achieved	Publish Local Performance Indicators for Biodiversity.
Household CO2 reduction programme on target – 70,000 tonnes saved in 2005/6	Develop and launch climate change strategy.

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<b>Key tasks and milestones achieved in 2005-06</b>	<b>Key tasks and milestones for 2006/07</b>
<p>Approximately 23,800 home composters supplied to reduce waste.</p> <p>BCC procurement staff trained by vol org (Groundwork) in sustainability issues.</p>	<p>Renewable energy scheme for homes to be established minimum 350 solar water heaters in 2007</p> <p>Extend household waste collection.</p> <p>Number of schools with Litter charters City-wide to increase from 99 to 150</p>

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### **NEXT STEPS**

The BSP has made significant progress in developing the family of partnerships and making them “fit for purpose” to deliver the LAA and community strategy. Important actions have been completed and measurable improvements in outcomes, including narrowing the gaps between groups and areas in the city, have been achieved.

We share the Government’s commitment to expanding the role and scope of Local Area Agreements. Over the next six months we will be refreshing the current agreement, taking into account lessons from this year. We will be pooling additional funds and updating our targets. We will be implementing the operational plans to deliver our agreed outcomes.

We will take the opportunity over the next twelve months to review our progress and what additional or different actions are required to achieve our ambitions for a Sustainable Community Strategy for Birmingham. We intend to agree an updated version during 2007. We will consult widely on what changes need to be made. This process will also more clearly align the new Sustainable Community Strategy with our Local Area Agreement.

## WEBSITE DETAILS

For more information about key BSP strategies and documents mentioned in this report, please visit the following websites:

(1) **The Community Strategy for Birmingham: 'Taking Birmingham Forward 2005-2010'**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/BirminghamCommunityStrategy.pdf](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/BirminghamCommunityStrategy.pdf)

(2) **The Community Strategy for Birmingham: Five Year Implementation Framework Plan**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/CommunityStrategyImplementationFrameworkDec2006.pdf](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/CommunityStrategyImplementationFrameworkDec2006.pdf)

(3) **Birmingham's Local Area Agreement**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/LocalAreaAgreement2006.pdf](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/LocalAreaAgreement2006.pdf)

(4) **Birmingham's Local Area Agreement: Six-month Self-Assessment**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/LAASix-monthSelfAssessment.pdf](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/LAASix-monthSelfAssessment.pdf)

(5) **The Government Office for the West Midlands: Six-month Self-Assessment rating**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/BSPGOWMAnnualReview2005-6.pdf](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/BSPGOWMAnnualReview2005-6.pdf)

(6) **BSP Governance Handbook**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/html/GovernanceHandbook.php](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/html/GovernanceHandbook.php)

(7) **BSP Principles of Engagement**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/BSPPrinciplesOfEngagement.pdf](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/BSPPrinciplesOfEngagement.pdf)

(8) **BSP Board Papers and Decision Notes**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/html/BSPPapers.php](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/html/BSPPapers.php)

(9) **Programme Board Decision Notes**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/html/BSPPapers.php](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/html/BSPPapers.php)

(10) **Audit Commission Report on Area Profiles**

(11) **BSP Extended Session Reports**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/html/ExtendedSessions.php](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/html/ExtendedSessions.php)

(12/15) **Local Area Agreement Baseline Survey Results**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/html/LocalAreaAgreement.php](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/html/LocalAreaAgreement.php)

(13) **Birmingham Prospectus**

(14) **The Government Office for the West Midlands – Annual Reports on BSP**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/html/govtofficewmanualreports.php](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/html/govtofficewmanualreports.php)

(16) **Worklessness Floor Target Action Plan**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/WorklessnessFTAP2006-2007.pdf](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/WorklessnessFTAP2006-2007.pdf)

(17) **Health Floor Target Action Plan**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/HealthFTAP2006-2007.doc](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/HealthFTAP2006-2007.doc)

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**(18) Housing Floor Target Action Plan**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/HousingFTAP2006-2007.PDF](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/HousingFTAP2006-2007.PDF)

**(19) Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Consultation Document**

[www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/ClimateChangeStrategyConsultation.pdf](http://www.bhamsp.org.uk/documents/ClimateChangeStrategyConsultation.pdf)