

Community Strategy for Birmingham – A Green City

Overall Messages:

- **Quality of Local Environment** (Clean and Green) – consistently one of top three local priorities for residents (LAA Baseline Survey 2006)
- **Climate Change** – residents most significant global concern (64% Climate Change, terrorism 15% - BMG survey 2006) - Birmingham leading core city on tackling climate change
- **Improving the environment:** enhances health and well being, reduces the fear of crime, promotes community cohesion, reduces fuel poverty, attracts inward investment and creates jobs
- **Birmingham Environment Partnership** – restructured to better deliver five core objectives.

Objectives:

- **Green City** – improving parks and open spaces
- **Clean City** – reducing litter, detritus, graffiti and fly tipping
- **Cutting Pollution** – improving water and air quality
- **Tackling Climate Change** – reducing emissions and adapting to warmer climate
- **Reducing Waste** – increasing recycling and cutting landfill

Successes:

(Highlights from table below)

- 2007 Winner of cleanest city centre
- 4 Parks achieve Green Flag accreditation
- Produced and consulted on draft Climate Change Strategy
- Largest UK domestic solar water installation programme launched with Housing Partnership focusing on fuel poverty
- First Wind turbine installed in Birmingham School Grounds
- Established Environmental Employment Programme with Fair Cities – 26 long term unemployed gained work in first three months.
- 500 fixed penalty notices issued for littering, 460 illegal vehicles removed
- Recycling of domestic refuse on course to meet and/or exceed its Performance target of 20%.
- 740 Street Champions focused on most disadvantaged neighbourhoods
- Secured additional £540,000 using £100k green city funding as pump priming

Key challenges:

- Achieving our clean city LPSA target
- Mainstreaming Environmental Crime Unit and Street Champions Programme
- Establishing the Birmingham Climate Change Agency to deliver BSP strategy
- Ensuring a truly “Sustainable” Community Strategy is produced
- Better integration of environment and economic development partnerships
- Delivering social, economic and environmental outcomes through better procurement

The Community Strategy Priorities:

The following table summarises some of the key achievements last year and planned activities for the current year.

Key action	Key achievements 2005/6	Planned activities 2006/7
G1 – Greening the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Parks maintained Green Flag accreditation – Cannon Hill, Lickey Hills and Kings Heath, with 4th = Centre Park, Castle Vale, prepared for entry. • Shire Country Park and New Hall Valley Country Park launched • Scrutiny “Trees in the Public Highway” completed, and reported to full Council. • Birmingham Open Spaces Forum conference held and standard “friends group” constitution devised. • Annual biodiversity report completed • Top five biodiversity priorities agreed and action plans developed • Brandwood pilot Neighbourhood nature project completed • Nature Conservation review completed and long term programme developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter 4 parks for Green Flag award, prepare a 5th site for entry. • Council to adopt, with SPD status, ‘The future of Birmingham Parks – a parks & open space strategy’, and ‘The future of Birmingham Playing Pitches – strategy’; with District action plans. • Kingfisher, declared as a Country Park • Publish revised Tree Policy for Highway Trees; embed with Highways PFI specifications. • Devise and get approval for a 10 year development plan, for Birmingham Nature Centre • Publish a Birmingham Parks Ranger Service Annual Report and executive summary. • Collate information and returns from Public Wildlife Survey on Trees & new survey topic for 2007 • Wildlife Trust, to acquire / open, new Reserve(s). • Support year-out Ecology students, with their research and project work.
G2 – Improving streets and public open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENCAMS baseline survey results published. • Agreement reached with DEFRA and ODPM around a stretch target BVPI 199 target of 12% by 31.3.08, and a milestone target of 15.3% by 31.3.07. • Achieved 18.3% against target of 19.7% of sites with unsatisfactory levels of litter and detritus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve LPSA milestone target of no more than 15.3% sites with unsatisfactory levels of litter and detritus. • Set districts individual targets to assist the City to achieve its milestone target of 15.3% • Increase the number of street champions from 374 to 734 by 31.3.07 • Achieve BV187 target of no more than 25% of roads in an unsatisfactory condition. • Achieve BV178 target of 60% for footpaths free of litter or

		obstruction.
G3 – Cutting pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transport Plan approved National air quality objectives for seven pollutants achieved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2008 adopt plans to eliminate exposure to road traffic noise levels that may be harmful to health or that are unacceptably high and to protect existing quiet areas and create additional quiet areas where necessary. Establishment of water partnership to address water quality including misconnections
G4 – Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change partnership developed – 7 thematic strands established Climate change identified as target in Local Area Agreement £60 million thermal comfort programme established Household CO2 reduction programme on target – 70,000 tonnes saved in 2005/6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public consultation by end 2006, strategy to be launched early 2007 Renewable energy scheme for homes to be established minimum 350 solar water heaters by 2007 Energy Services Company established Invest to save scheme established Community awards scheme
G5 – Cutting Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outturn for percentage of domestic waste recycled was provisionally 17.03% Percentage of waste going to landfill just over 18%, (24% in 2004/5) Approximately 23,800 home composting bins supplied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet or exceed 20% percentage of domestic waste recycled and composted. Extend Green waste collection to cover 240,000 households by 31.3.07 100,000 households to receive multi-waste collection by 31.3.07 Number of schools with Litter charters City-wide to increase from 99 to 150