

610 NOTES FROM LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 5th September, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

611 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

612 MATTERS ARISING

There were two matters arising;

- Cllr Evans expressed concern about the lack of NRF exit strategies, especially for environmental projects. Stephen Hughes replied that they were awaiting a Government announcement around conditions of grant, which were expected at the beginning of December. Cllr Tilsley added that a process had started to address Cllr Evans concerns as the BCC baseline budgets include long term plans for environmental issues.
- Mick Rice said that last month a potential NRF under spend of £5-8 million was mentioned and that if this was the case emergency procedures needed to be put in place to ensure the money was not lost. Cllr Tilsley assured the group that the money would be spent by the deadline. Jackie Mould said that 100% of the £37 million was approved and allocated by the end of October and that 34% had been spent to date. This was ahead of previous years and Jackie was confident they would reach 100% spend by March 2008. The blocks were also in the process of preparing contingency projects to allocate any under spends.

613 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Cllr Tilsley informed the board of the following;

- The launch of the new brand Be Birmingham (BB) and new website www.bebirmingham.org.uk. Cllr Tilsley asked board members to support the new brand and identify partnership communication opportunities.
- The change of name coincides with the start of the consultation period for the Community Strategy 2026. The BB board would be asked to sign off the consultation leaflet under agenda item 7.
- The BB stock take was close to completion and was in the process of evaluating the feedback from meetings with board members. This would be discussed further under item 9.
- There was a new Working Neighbourhood Fund of £2 billion over 3 years, although it was not yet known how much Birmingham would receive.

614 REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMME BOARD CHAIR

David Cragg informed the board of the work the Programme Board (PB) had been focusing on over the past couple of months;

- Preparing the Community Strategy and linking it to the LAA.
- The Business Transformation Programme and customer service approach.
- Agreeing the second phase of the Social Enterprise regarding its implementation.
- Agreeing the Innovation Fund projects.
- Discussing having the Community Call for Action pilot in Birmingham.
- Preparing contingency plans for individual NRF projects.
- Preparing the draft LAA.

Jackie Mould updated the board on the community engagement work that had taken place and drew the board's attention to the paper that had been circulated for information. She highlighted the following developments;

- Working with BCC and other partners on coherent approach to working in neighbourhoods;
- Delivering community engagement in the future. A group had been established to look at involving community, faith and voluntary sectors more effectively in the future;
- The commissioning approach for the third sector, linked to LAA outcomes;

- Improving the existing consultation strategy by producing a community engagement database to help partners to shape services in the future.

The PB will bring proposals to the main board in the New Year.

The board made the following comments;

- Cllr Bore asked that the list of NRF projects facing closure referred to in the 14th November Programme Board be circulated to constituencies. David Cragg responded that the continuation and exit strategies of NRF funded projects has been a standing item at PB meetings and that a stock take of the projects took place in the autumn, the primary concern being the employment of people involved in the projects. Jackie Mould confirmed that there were now exit strategies for all NRF projects and that they were in regular contact with constituency directors. Cllr Tilsley added that it is important to ensure elected members are kept informed.
- Yann Lovelock said he was encouraged by the work done so far on community engagement and asked who was representing the faith sector on the group. He also asked if the Birmingham Council of Faiths could be included in the consultation. Jackie welcomed Yann's comments and asked him for suggestions about how to proceed.
- Hannah Worth stated that the board decided in January to move towards a commissioning approach but this hadn't happened yet. Jackie responded they were still awaiting clarity on what will happen after NRF and that there were community engagement activities currently taking place across the LAA blocks.
- Peter Tinsley asked why BCEN was being finished today before a replacement organisation was in place. There will be people out of work on Monday and there was an understanding that vacancies would be made available in constituencies. Peter asked how the £250,000 that was ring fenced for community engagement had been spent. Cllr Tilsley confirmed that the process was slow due to receiving legal advice that they had to take into account. Jackie said that the community engagement budget is being used to take forward community engagement activities. Jackie agreed that discussions around employment hadn't taken place as quickly as they could have.
- The BANF management committee was grateful for the support from BCC, £15,000 for the whole year would only cover minimal costs and not core staff. BANF had made an application to the Reaching to Communities Fund and Mick asked if the PB could consider what support BANF might need so Birmingham doesn't lose the grant if it is won.
- Cllr Anderson said that the third sector assembly could be used for help with contacts and facilitating any discussions with the third sector.
- Cllr Evans said that there had been no clarification on what budget was available or how staff would be deployed.
- Ifor Jones said that the community engagement paper dealt with some of the issues and that there are ongoing discussions with Jackie to ensure that the new system is a fit for purpose. A proposal would be taken to the constituency meeting in December. Jackie Mould said that they are trying to put in place a consistent approach and identify activities that partners would like to commission.

615 BIRMINGHAM SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2026

Jason Lowther gave a presentation to the board on the Community Strategy 2026 (CS) highlighting the following points;

- The CS is a legally binding contract with central government that will set the direction for the public sector and partners over the next 20 years. It will be implemented in the short term through the LAA.
- The CS is built on evidence gathered from several events including a public 2 day event in July, and was also influenced by the Birmingham prospectus discussions.
- The current draft is long and sets out the evidence base, however a shorter version focusing on the key priorities will be produced in February.
- The five main outcomes of the strategy are that we want to help Birmingham citizens to;
 - Succeed economically – necessary to drive the whole strategy;
 - Stay safe in a clean, green city – main priority for residents;
 - Be healthy – reliant on people making a contribution by changing their lifestyles;
 - Enjoy a high quality of life – affordable homes, high quality and sustainable services, cultural, leisure and sports aspects, key to attracting businesses and investors to Birmingham;
 - Make a contribution – using existing structures that exists in constituencies and targeting hard to

reach groups.

- The CS consultation will run from 1st December – 29th February 2008 with the final version being produced in April 2008.

Jason asked the board whether they thought the priorities and key actions were right. The board made the following comments;

- Cllr Evans said that there was no reference under the health or community safety chapters to illegal drug usage which is necessary to link the document to the LAA regarding antisocial behaviour and public perception of crime. Cllr Tilsley said there was a reference to drugs on pg 33 but took on board Cllr Evans comments regarding linking it to the LAA. Also, Birmingham is growing demographically in the inner city wards and there is no mention of how this will be provided for in terms of skills, services and affordable housing. Stephen Hughes said there is a need to re-examine policies around affordable housing and when considering growth issue there is also a need to provide housing to encourage those that succeed economically to stay in the city. Jean Templeton added that decent housing for everyone is fundamental to achieving the objectives in the CS and that the City Housing Partnership, after a period of review, is proposing a broader vision for housing in the city where people are encouraged to thrive and stay in the city by identifying housing pathways. Jean asked the board to support this broader agenda as it develops.
- Michael Clarke said the CS was a bold and ambitious document however, the importance of Birmingham being a learning city underpinning its economic prosperity needs to be clearer. There was only one reference to Birmingham being a learning city and one reference to universities regarding graduate retention. He felt the bigger issue of research and development, Birmingham being a science city, and the economic impact of universities was not expressed strongly enough in the document.
- David Cragg said that 70% of Birmingham's workforce has already left education. It is important to include the work Birmingham is doing with Advantage West Midlands and the Economic Strategy and the Leitch report. Also, as the public sector employs 30% of the workforce they should be encouraged to employ local people as this will help solve other problems such as transport.
- Cllr Anderson said that adult learning and skills are very important issues for the city. She questioned the impact of ESOL changes and accessibility on cohesion. Also the miss-use of alcohol should have a great prominence in the document due to the strain alcohol related injuries/illness have on hospitals. David Cragg said there had recently been a 20% increase in adult funding for basic skills. Cllr Evans asked whether this money was available for immigrants.
- Mick Rice said the document appeared driven by public sector organisations and is missing references to community leadership and how it will be organised. Mick suggested that single member wards would result in Councillors being more accountable. He said that the neighbourhood approach was signed up to by the board but not in relation to neighbourhood democracy. The voluntary sector will be taking on delivery of more services, which they may have a vested interest in, whereas community sector organisations work independently and can hold public bodies to account. Mick suggested that a commitment to devolution should be included in the CS.
- Peter Tinsley said there is not a lot said about what was needed to develop a green Birmingham or what tough action and decisions need to be taken to ensure the 60% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2026. There needed to be a clearer action plan to influence decisions around climate change.
- ACC Patani said the CS was a good foundation and sets out the agenda for the future. Birmingham's youth and diversity is also a strong positive for Birmingham. The issue of vulnerability marginalisation needs to be addressed in the CS. It is important to ensure that what really matters happens in local areas and that there is a resilient delivery mechanism in place.
- Jerry Blackett said that central government is encouraging linking the LAA to economic prosperity but the current targets around economy are very light. The targets need to tackle innovation and links between employers and universities and reflect the modern and broad economy Birmingham aspires to have. Jerry questioned the inclusion of the high speed rail network in the top priorities as it is still under discussion whether it will be good for Birmingham or not.
- Guy Horden was pleased with the reference to faith in the caring city section. He said there were many groups contributing to action in the city and they would like to have an input in the consultation.

Stephen Hughes took on the points of Michael Clarke and David Cragg and said more work is needed on how Birmingham was going to achieve the targets. There are specific things planned around climate

change and there was no inconsistency, in his mind, between reducing CO₂ and the airport runway extension because if we don't have it the economy will suffer. There are bigger CO₂ issues such as how Birmingham approaches building stock and car usage. Stephen said that he would talk to Jerry outside the meeting regarding the high speed rail network and that he felt it should be kept in the leaflet.

The board approved the Community Strategy for public consultation and the wording of the leaflet that will be used as the primary consultation tool. The board noted that the CS text will be subject to minor changes for Plain English accreditation.

616 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-11

Jackie Mould informed the board that the LAA contains the key priorities for BB over the next three years. The board was asked to agree the 18 priorities, which cover cross cutting and inter related issues that need to be tackled to bring about change, so that BB can start negotiations with GOWM.

Richard Kenny gave a presentation on the first draft of the LAA and made the following points;

- The priorities were chosen by using an evidence base and criteria discussed with GOWM. There was also a wide spread consultation with partners, most of the constituencies had been visited, discussions at the PB and the visioning workshop at the September BB board had informed the process.
- The next stage was to submit the draft LAA to GOWM so that it can be challenged by Government. The second draft including the indicators will be produced in January and the final LAA with the priority, targets and outcomes framework will be produced at the end of March. The delivery framework will be in place in April.
- Richard went through the priorities for succeed economically, stay safe, be healthy, enjoy a high quality of life, and making a contribution.

The board made the following comments;

- Cllr Evans questioned the delivery of 'succeed economically' through the City Region Strategy as he felt it was out of date and had not been adopted by BCC. Cllr Tilsley responded that BCC is part of the strategy and is in the process of moving towards a sub regional approach. David Cragg said the strategy includes pooled funds and integrates investment across the seven metropolitan areas, which hasn't been possible to do before.
- Sophia Christie welcomed the document and said that while it was still in development, it was a good document to take to GOWM. She felt there had been an improvement in the way partners have been engaged in the preparation of the document. A lot has been learnt from the first LAA process regarding project and performance management and partner engagement. It showed Birmingham had come a long way in working collectively.
- Naseem Akhtar said that under 'be healthy' there should be mention of raising the profile of sport with more focus on people that are neither young nor old. Naseem asked what is being done regarding long term prevention rather than cure and how cultural provision will be taken into account. Sophia Christie responded that it is not typically the role of the NHS to focus on prevention, however there are emerging programmes within the PCTs encouraging people to make healthy choices. Sophia added that it is important to connect the 'be healthy' issues to quality of life.

617 UPDATE ON BSP STOCK TAKE

Jackie Mould informed the board that they were still only half way through the stock take. The key outcomes of this stock take was;

- To build on the partnership working already developed in Birmingham;
- To strengthen government arrangements between the local authority as the accountable body and the partners;
- To work across boundaries and getting linkages right between Constituency Strategic Partnerships (CSPs) and neighbourhoods;
- To look at stakeholder development at different levels;
- To look at strengthening BB's regional and national profile and developing good practice.

Jerry Le Sueur told the group he had spoken to over 50 people over the last three weeks to discover the key

issues regarding the current partnership arrangements and what is needed for the future. The headline issues were;

- Regarding the board: it is unclear what the role of the board is, it does not have an executive function; it could have a stronger consultative and strategic thinking role; representation should be strengthened; meetings should be less regular.
- Regarding the programme board: it has strengths and experience to build on; its focus is on delivery and performance; accountabilities and links with the partnerships should be strengthened; there needs to be clear executive accountability for delivery of the LAA.
- Links between the Constituencies and broader BB partnership were unclear and fragmented.
- Need to develop clear and transparent arrangements to support constituencies and partnerships with the delivery of the neighbourhood programme.
- Need to clarify BCC accountable body role and ensure it reflects government guidance.
- Need to improve communication within and across partnerships.

Jerry Le Sueur suggested the following arrangements for moving the stock take forward;

- Housing and environment need to be separate partnerships instead of coming under the Safer Stronger Communities Block.
- The PB should take on the executive function and responsibility for delivering and performance management of the LAA. The PB would be reviewed periodically by the full board, which will have a scrutiny and review role of the on delivery of the LAA and Community Strategy.
- Increase the size of the main board to 80-90, so that it is more of a Birmingham summit, with the potential of an independent chair. This will bring a wider range of expertise to the board.

The board made the following comments;

- Joss Kennordrie asked who would have overall responsibility for decision making under the proposed structure. Currently the PB appears to be the decision making body, whereas it was intended that it would make proposals to the main board, as described in its terms of reference. If this is the case then what is the role of the current main board and how will it check the accountability of the PB? Stephen Hughes replied that the role of the proposed executive PB would be one of monitoring and taking intervention when the partnerships are not delivering. Currently council's cabinet has responsibility in formal terms for decisions of BB.
- Sophia Christie said there is a difference between financial accountability and the partnership role. If council's cabinet make all the decisions, what is the role of the partnership? Is it a subcommittee of the council or are the partners equal players? Sophia said that the council is not a key player in all of the sub-partnerships in terms of contribution or financially. Stephen Hughes responded that currently the board is not an incorporated body and doesn't exist in legal terms and therefore, can not be held accountable. The proposed executive PB will have the ability to make legally binding decisions as it will have the delegated authority of the main board that will contain all the cabinet members. Current government guidance is contradictory and unclear. Stephen said that the suggestions put forward are still being worked on.
- Mick Rice pointed out that the Local Government Act 2000 states decisions have to be made by the full cabinet and that they can not delegate this power. If this is the case it would mean that all BB decisions would be open to the BCC scrutiny process. Mick suggested BB staff be employed by other partner organisations to make them more independent, rather than by BCC as is currently the case. He felt the council would have too much power if they were the executive, scrutiny function and employer of BB staff. Mick asked whether making BB an incorporated body had been considered.
- David Cragg said that he approves the suggestions in broad terms but that the legal duty to cooperate, that applies to some of the partners, is expressed as a mutual duty to demonstrate 'due regard to targets in the LAA.' This is different to being accountable to the BCC for delivering them.
- DCFO Vijith Randeniya said that the real partnership spirit is not in the letter of the law and that it is important not to lose sight of the years of good work that has got the partnership this far.
- Cllr Evans said the stock take has not addressed the core issue of informing the board what is happening across the partnerships. Cllr Tilsley responded that the board would be receiving reports as detailed in Jerry's slides.
- Hannah Worth asked what will happen to the current community and voluntary representatives until a replacement organisation is put in place. Hannah suggested that the current voluntary members

continue to be allowed to attend.

- Yann Lovelock said that he was concerned about the proposed widening of the board as it may become unmanageable and will resemble an assembly rather than a partnership. It would be counter productive if it is too big and doesn't meet regularly.
- Peter Tinsley said that Constituency Strategic Partnerships (CSP) have variable membership and efficiency. CSPs lack of understanding as to how they feed into the city strategic partnership reduces their efficiency. There is also no communication about what is happening in neighbourhoods. Peter also felt that the proposed BB board would not be able to carry out a scrutiny function as it will be too big. Cllr Tilsley responded that there will not be that many partners as a lot of people will be from the same organisations.
- Elaine Elkington said that there are some very good CSPs. There are a number of proposals that the CSPs wanted to put out to consultation but they are waiting for the proposals from the stock take.
- Jerry Blackett welcomed the proposals and said there were lots of ways for the private sector to get involved.
- ACC Patani said that despite the uncertain legal ground the positive work in the current partnership should be recognised along with the passion of the partners involved. ACC Patani added that the three critical pieces of work; the LAA, Community Strategy and stock take, were good pieces of work that the police had had an input in.

618 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were 3 items of any other business;

- David Cragg informed the board that work had been conducted on the impact of migrant workers on the labour market and suggested that a separate meeting be held on the topic early in the new year with representatives from Warwick University. The report is available on the LSC website.
- It was Jon Bright's last BB meeting as he had a new post as Director of the Government Office for the South East.
- It was also the last meeting of Hannah Worth, Peter Tinsley, Naseem Akhtar, and Mick Rice. The chair thanked them for their contribution and encouraged them to take part in the emerging community trusts. Cllr Tilsley invited Hannah, Peter and Naseem to attend the next BB board meeting and confirmed that BANF would continue to be represented on the board through its voluntary arm until new arrangements are in place.

MEETING ENDED 16:00

NEXT MEETING 12:45 to 16:00 hours on Friday 25th January 2008 in Committee Rooms 3 and 4, The Council House, Victoria Square, B1 1BB

Appendix A Attendance

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Naseem Aktar, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network
Cllr Sue Anderson, Cabinet Member for Adults and Communities, Birmingham City Council
Jerry Blackett, Chief Executive, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Sir Albert Bore, Leader of the Opposition, Birmingham City Council
Jasbir Rai (for Brian Carr) Birmingham Voluntary Services Council
Sophia Christie, Chief Executive, Eastern and North Birmingham Primary Care Trust
Professor Michael Clarke, Vice Principal, University of Birmingham
David Cragg, Regional Director, Learning and Skills Council
Elaine Elkington, Strategic Director of Local Services, Birmingham City Council
Martin Perkins (for Trudi Elliott), Government Office West Midlands
Cllr Jerry Evans, Sparkbrook District Chair
Cllr Ray Hassall, Birmingham Culture Consortium
Stephen Hughes, Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council
Ifor Jones, District Director, Birmingham City Council
Cllr Les Lawrence, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families, BCC
Yann Lovelock, Birmingham Council of Faiths
Steve Morely, Co-chair, Birmingham Environment Partnership
ACC Anil Patani, West Midlands Police
DCFO Vijith Randeniya, West Midlands Fire Service
Mick Rice, Birmingham Association of Neighbourhood Forums
Cllr Paul Tilsley, Deputy Leader, Birmingham City Council (Chair)
Peter Tinsley, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network
Jean Templeton, Birmingham Housing Strategic Partnership
Jon Wright, Chief Executive, Jobcentre Plus
Joy Warmington, Chief Executive, Birmingham Race Action Partnership
Hannah Worth, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network

MEMBERS APOLOGIES

Jon Bright, Director of Policy and Delivery, Birmingham City Council
Martin Clark, Director of Operations, West Midlands Fire Service
Geoff Inskip, Director General, Centro
Cllr Ayoub Khan, Cabinet Member for Local Services & Community Safety, BCC
Mark Pearce, Partnerships Director, Advantage West Midlands
Dr Abdul Rashid, Faith Leaders Group
CSUPT Paul Scarrott, West Midlands Police

SUPPORTING OFFICERS

Richard Kenny, Performance Manager, Be Birmingham
Jason Lowther, Head of Delivery Support Unit, Birmingham City Council
Jackie Mould, Director, Be Birmingham
Denise Thompson, PA to the Director, Be Birmingham (notes)
Sue Webb, Policy Officer, Be Birmingham (notes)

ALSO PRESENT

Jayne Bench, Be Birmingham; Barnard Borham, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network;
Natascha Bowett, Be Birmingham; Keith Budden, Birmingham Environment Partnership; Tony Bunker,
Be Birmingham; Amerdip Dhesy, Birmingham City Council; Guy Horden, Birmingham SACRE; Joss
Kennordrie, Birmingham Community Empowerment Network; Ken Lawrence, Be Birmingham; Graham
Moore, Birmingham City Council; Sandy Taylor, Birmingham Strategic Partnership; Samantha Tinsley-
Hunt, Be Birmingham.