



## Be Birmingham Executive Board Brief

The meeting of the executive board on 8th April considered the following:

### Embedding LAA in neighbourhoods

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) process will not succeed unless Birmingham changes the way it delivers its services. That was the message delivered by Assistant Chief Constable Anil Patani at the latest Be Birmingham executive board meeting. ACC Patani added that all partners would need to work together at the neighbourhood level if the impacts of the LAA were to be sustainable in the future. The LAA is a negotiation between central government and Birmingham setting out the city's priorities and targets for improvement over the next three years.

During his presentation, ACC Patani also urged partners to challenge the current mindset of a top down approach and instead empower those working at a local level to make decisions. These decisions should be based upon working with communities to identify their specific priorities, then tailoring services to address those needs. To facilitate this new way of working, new neighbourhood managers were being recruited to manage the 31 priority neighbourhoods (25 plus six clusters).

### Survey to shape service delivery

Almost 90% of residents in Birmingham are satisfied with the area in which they live, according to BB's latest annual opinion survey. The survey provides performance

information and examines public perception of the council and partner agencies. The results were presented to the board, which heard that more than 8,000 Birmingham residents had given their views. The survey's other headline results include:

- 86% of respondents were satisfied with their local area, an increase of 7% on last year
- Residents' satisfaction with their own home is also very high at 91%
- Overall satisfaction with Birmingham City Council remained steady at 67% for the third year running, although the number of people who consider the council is efficient and well run has jumped 13% since last year to 66%

Views towards wider public services across Birmingham were also explored, with 78% of people believing that these services treat all types of people fairly. 82% believe that public services are making the local area safer.

The board was asked to consider the findings and examine how the information should influence future delivery, including the LAA. Each of the thematic partnerships will be asked to consider the findings.

### Beyond the bottom line

The Social Enterprise Strategy continues to be developed by Birmingham & Solihull Social Economy Consortium (BSSEC) and Be Birmingham to achieve a step-change in the support, development, investment and growth of social enterprises which offer a return beyond maximising the bottom line. Social enterprise achieves this by creating local employment opportunities, generating local wealth and providing alternative models for service delivery. The associated Social Capital/Enterprise Development Programme focuses on delivering specific elements of the strategy, including providing support and the resources to encourage entrepreneurial thinking.

Further work is being done to finalise the programme which will be signed of by the executive board.

### Promoting community sustainability

A report was presented outlining the Sustainable Communities Act 2007, which aims to promote the sustainability of local communities by improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of citizens. The board agreed that partners should encourage and share proposals submitted to BCC and report any feedback to the executive board meeting in June.





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### Migration Impacts Fund

Be Birmingham is working with Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) to oversee the Birmingham submissions for the Migrant Impacts Fund. The fund will help public services respond to migration through specific funding streams for local services and will promote innovative ways of managing pressures on services, for example, extra teachers for schools with high migrant populations and measures to increase GP registration.

The West Midlands region has been allocated £2.8million over two years, which is to be allocated to places and services that are in greatest need. In response, Be Birmingham is working with partners to coordinate a number of bids for the city. The deadline for submissions is 1st May, after which all bids will be appraised by GOWM. In addition, Be Birmingham will establish a steering group to monitor progress of the successful projects.

### Other decisions

#### LAA refresh

The first LAA, agreed with government in June 2008, contained a number of gaps around certain targets. To address this, Be Birmingham has just refreshed that first version to include the omitted targets and indicators. The refresh had planned to examine economic targets, but that was postponed until the impacts of the current recession are known.

#### Working Neighbourhoods Fund latest

The board heard that many Working Neighbourhoods-funded projects are now up and running. These include those designed to help people on benefits back into work and other specialist employment initiatives. The first sets of quarterly performance reports are due in July 2009. The aim of WNF is to tackle the challenges that exist in the city's most deprived neighbourhoods. Out of a total of almost £115m over three years, £57m will be used to target worklessness.

### Board Away Day

In March members of the board attended an away day that focussed on developing a team of leaders who can work effectively together. The work of the board is not just about structures or processes, it's about how we relate to each other. Board members were led through a series of exercises to make them aware of how their interaction with each other can affect their ability to collaborate as partners. This is the start of an exciting development programme, and further work will follow.

### Next meeting

The next executive board meeting will take place on 14th May 2009.

Jackie Mould  
Director

