



Be Birmingham Executive Board Brief

The meeting of the executive board on 15th January considered the following:

Birmingham Investment Study

The BB executive board held a strategic session on the Birmingham Investment Study. EKOS presented its emerging findings from its examination of the scale, purpose and discretionary element of the investment coming into the city.

The study had so far mapped and aligned £7.2billion of public sector investment against Community Strategy/LAA priority outcomes and strategic themes and partnerships.

The work is helping to support the development of joint strategic commissioning and investment planning where it can add value to the delivery of outcomes for Birmingham's residents. The board was challenged at the meeting to consider the overall benefit and whether better investment alignment could secure greater value.

It also very much welcomed the challenge of doing things differently. Finally, it asked that two issues be worked up into demonstration pilots where joint commissioning could be modelled.

Multi Area Agreement and LAA Refresh

The board agreed its approach to LAA refresh. This would focus on the renegotiation of targets, particularly economic targets in view of the economic downturn. Progress was noted on developing the MAA for skills and employment with a view to being clear about the additional benefits.

Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework

The Core Strategy setting out the spatial framework and physical development for the next 20 years was explained. Whilst the strategy clearly complemented Birmingham 2026, the Sustainable Community Strategy, there was benefit for greater alignment and integration. The board thus agreed to set up a small working group to consider more fully its response.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

A progress report highlighted that most WNF had been allocated. The board supported some proposed additional projects on debt and benefit advice, environmental wardens, and neighbourhood management. It also welcomed a proposal for WNF to pump prime the work arising from the EKOS study and asked for this to be worked up in more detail.

Business transformation

The board was asked to engage its partnerships and agencies in the council's business transformation programme where mutual benefit could be realised. A specific example raised was proposals in Yardley for a new customer service centre and property portfolio rationalisation to improve outcomes for local people.

Social capital / enterprise proposals

Progress on the social enterprise strategy, Voice 09 and the design of a programme for the social capital and enterprise fund was noted. This in turn will be run as a grants programme from April 2009.

Next meeting

The next executive board meeting will take place on 26th February 2009.

Jackie Mould

