



## Be Birmingham Executive Board Brief

The meeting of the executive board on 10th June considered the following:

Helen Ghosh, Permanent Secretary, DEFRA and Birmingham Whitehall Champion, led a discussion about the policy implications of the general election. She outlined the new Coalition Government's focus on freedom, fairness and flexibility and the Big Society. An ambitious timetable for change is underway with initial spending review proposals being put together in July, for a final announcement in October. For many departments, these will mean significant cuts in public sector spending. Birmingham should be in a strong position to promote new ways of doing things and addressing service delivery issues.

The Birmingham 'whole area approach' was presented to Helen covering Total Place issues such as:

- A new approach to partnership and collaborative working
- Sharing services – to find efficiencies, work has already progressed with regard to postal services and energy procurement
- Development of a shared intelligence function – an econometric approach to quantifying benefits
- Total Capital – identifying better way of integrating services and capital asset plans
- The launch of the Birmingham Leadership for Change programme with 100 participants
- Families – developing a new joined up approach to supporting families

### Vision 2026 refresh

As part of taking Total Place forward, Vision 2026 is being refreshed. David Urquhart led a discussion to identify priorities for Birmingham for the next five years. Using the five strategic outcomes as the starting point the board began to identify and prioritise the service redesign needed to address these challenges.

The first stage of the process will be the Be Birmingham Summit on 19th July 2010 and will involve a summer of dialogue to firm up commitments. The focus will be on how to deliver the Vision 2026, in view of the economic environment.

The discussion identified

- The importance of wealth creation, increasing economic activity within the city and seeing a rise in average earnings
- The aim of improving health outcomes so that citizens 'live long and live well'
- Continuing to increase public and investor confidence in neighbourhoods and protecting the most vulnerable
- Increasing citizen wellbeing, improving housing quality and the local environment
- Encouraging responsible citizenship and strengthening community cohesion





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### LAA, end of year performance

Birmingham is now in the final year of 2008-11 Local Area Agreement. The LAA quarter four performance report was noted by the board.

After the recent Government announcement, all work on the Comprehensive Area Assessment will stop.

### WNF panel meeting

The board agreed to wait for the announcement by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on reductions in Working Neighbourhoods Fund in 2010/11 before implementing panel recommendations on Social Capital and Enterprise programmes.

### Volunteering strategy

Birmingham's Volunteering Strategy aims to inspire people to make a difference to lives and communities through volunteering. The strategy will sit under the Third Sector delivery plan and will include any work that comes as a result of the Government's Big Society concept.

### FJF update

Government has announced it will not be extending the Future Jobs Fund Programme. It will run until end September 2011.

Early monitoring reports highlight that 50% of people in placements were going on to find employment.

### Total Place article in the Guardian

A recent Guardian article highlighted Be Birmingham's Leadership for Change programme which has seen over 100 people from the public, private and voluntary sectors attend. The article focused on the concept of creating a public servant for Birmingham, who works across organisations and boundaries. The programme will focus on the benefits of leading through collaboration and build upon these ideas through practical examples.

### Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 20th July at West Midlands Police Headquarters.

Jackie Mould  
Director

