



Be Birmingham Executive Board Brief

The meeting of the executive board on 11th March considered the following:

Total Place, next steps

Birmingham has received positive feedback after submitting its final Total Place report to Government. Discussions are taking place about the next stage of development.

The executive board have agreed to develop seven broad action areas including:

1. A review of our strategic priorities and Vision 2026
2. Review governance/partnership arrangements needed for the future
3. Develop the principle of a budget for Birmingham
4. Apply a Total Place approach to planning and implementing capital projects across partnership organisations
5. Develop behavioural and cultural change
6. Exploration of other potential areas of collaboration such as data sharing
7. Review plans for the six Total Place themes

Adopting a Total Place approach will require Birmingham to move rapidly towards 'the way we do things around here' way of thinking and working. There is real potential for Birmingham to make an impact on the next stage of the programme.

Detailed implementation plans are to be drawn up over the next few weeks.

Sustainable Community Strategy, way forward

The Vision 2026 will be reviewed in the light of Total Place. A programme of stakeholder engagement and dialogue will take place over the coming months. Locally determined priorities will be agreed.

PCT futures

Moira Dumma, chief executive of South Birmingham PCT, gave an update on the reorganisations of PCTs in Birmingham, which will see three PCTs moving to one.

This new PCT for Birmingham will be established by October 2010.

Moira highlighted the progress that has been made with the establishment of a transitional steering group that will focus on maintaining key services and activities including implementing Total Place during the transition period.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund update

WNF spend and performance is improving with a revised forecast spend of £42 million.

There has been good progress with a number of projects particularly within the Economic Development Partnership.

The board approved the following projects:

- Approved £1,345,910 on a Birmingham Apprenticeship Scheme which encourages employers to take on apprentices
- Approved £210,000 for dedicated employment and monitoring pathways projects for gang nominal
- Approved £2,000,000 for a Children and Young People's Partnership wellbeing project that provides support to reduce the impact of child poverty and other factors with a strong determining link to increased worklessness aged 19 plus

LAA performance

The 2009/10 quarter three performance report shows improvement on a number of LAA indicators. There are still indicators including delayed transfers of care that are off-track and will be monitored closely over the next few months.

There has been progress in addressing underperforming areas, in particular with the application of the testing improvement plans toolkit.





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LAA refresh

As a result of the economic downturn Government agreed that a number of LAA targets for 2010/11 could be re-negotiated.

The renegotiation of the targets on child poverty, employment rate and out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods has been affected by uncertainty over the course of the recession. Consequently targets have been set relative to performance across the region as a whole. GOWM and DWP have accepted this approach.

Unresolved local indicators will be approved before the end of March.

Educational performance

John Hill, research and statistics manager for Children Young People and Families gave a presentation to the board on Birmingham's education examination and assessment results for 2009. The presentation highlighted the results having regard to the factors ethnicity and deprivation.

Early Years and GCSE results continue to improve and further progress has been made in closing gaps in performance.

Improving pupils' skills in reading, writing and mathematics continues to be a major focus for Birmingham.

Connecting to opportunities

Following the executive board's successful application to Advantage West Midlands, Birmingham has been allocated £2.65 million to develop a programme (Connecting to Opportunities) that will build on and complement existing WNF and other activities to tackle worklessness.

The city council's Development Directorate will take lead responsibility for delivering the programme with oversight from a steering group of partners

The programme will focus on targeting individuals from three groups:

- Pakistani and Bangladeshi
- Long term unemployed white males
- Black Caribbean

Three areas of the city with high levels of worklessness have been identified to follow the approach: Washwood Heath, Lozells and East Handsworth and Stechford and Yardley North.

The approach will offer a person-centred support service offering one-to-one tailored support services.

The programme aims to engage with:

- 1,500 residents who have been unemployed for over two years
- Move 900 people closer to finding a job through implementing personal action plans
- Support 300 individuals into employment (with 200 remaining in work for at least 13 weeks)





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Future Job Fund update

Birmingham's FJF programme was launched in October 2009 as a six month programme with a target to create 1,700 jobs. Due to its success Government has extended the programme to run until end September 2011 with a job creation target of 2,550.

Birmingham's programme continues to make good progress and is still being held up nationally as an example of best practice.

Currently there are:

- 657 young people have jobs
- 40 organisations employing people through FJF

An FJF employers' event took place on 24th March to celebrate the success of the programme so far in achieving its targets and announcing the extension of the programme.

2011 Census

Jason Lowther presented a report on the 2011 census. The results of the census will be invaluable to local partners in generating detailed population information enabling us to understand our residents better. To ensure the census is successfully implemented in Birmingham partners are being called upon to help communicate its key messages.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 27th April at West Midlands Fire Service, Safeside.

Jackie Mould
Director

