



Be Birmingham Executive Board Brief 10.07.08

Having replaced the former programme board, the new Be Birmingham (BB) executive board has just met for the first time. The new board has a more inclusive membership and is empowered to make financial decisions as well as drive forward the delivery and development of Birmingham 2026 and the new LAA 2008-11.

Appointments

Cllr Paul Tilsley was elected chair of the board with Jerry Blackett, chief executive of Chamber of Commerce, elected vice chair. This is the first time in the local strategic partnership's seven-year history, that the business sector has taken a senior role on the board.

Government approves Birmingham's LAA

The executive board celebrated its first meeting with the news that Hazel Blears, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has approved Birmingham's Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-11. This follows months of complex negotiation between Be Birmingham and its partners and central government. The LAA will deliver Birmingham 2026, the new sustainable community strategy, which was also agreed at this meeting.

Worklessness

Waheed Nazir, the LAA delivery plan lead for worklessness, presented the key elements of the action plan to meet the target of reducing the number of Birmingham residents on welfare benefits by 5000 people over the next three years and getting them back into work.

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

Dianne Thomas from the Audit Commission highlighted that BB will be piloting CAA. This gives the partnership the opportunity to help shape the national CAA agenda. At the next board meeting a roundtable CAA discussion will take place with the Audit Commission and other inspectors to discuss how well the city is performing.

Be One Birmingham

The board agreed to establish a set of core competencies and behaviours which will be embedded across the partnership. These will help set the right culture for a strong "one team" Birmingham where stronger partnership working, constructive challenge and support can flourish.

Other key decisions

The board agreed its new terms of reference, membership and governance arrangements as well as its business priorities for the coming year. These will revolve around partnership development and delivery; communications and forward planning.

The board also agreed its first set of LAA delivery plans covering domestic violence, waste management, low carbon economy, alcohol harm, arson, and climate change readiness. Further plans will be considered at its next meeting on 20th August.

The recruitment process for community representatives for the summit has begun. Members will be elected in August in time for Be Birmingham's inaugural summit on 17th September.

Jackie Mould, Director, Be Birmingham

