

## Be Birmingham Executive Board Brief

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

### BB's response to the global financial crisis

Vice chair Jerry Blackett led a discussion on the impact of the credit crunch on the delivery of Birmingham 2026 and the LAA to ensure the city's economic resilience was maintained during this turbulent time. The board agreed a package of measures to meet the challenges including:

- To pursue public-private sector partnership opportunities to respond to the downturn in the housing market and pursue new social housing
- To explore increasing demand on the Citizens Advice Bureau and other advisory services as a result of rising levels of debt, with a view to strengthening capacity
- To explore scope for increased home insulation support for vulnerable people to tackle fuel poverty and rising debt
- To strengthen support for enterprise and innovation
- To strengthen land acquisition and site assembly to increase city "readiness" for upturn
- To promote progress on developments in Birmingham to sustain confidence
- To market the city in London to secure additional investment and possible business relocations as a result of market conditions and financial pressures

### Effective partnership working

The board received a report about partnership working behaviours and competencies. They discussed the importance of core behaviours, which were identified as: belief, commitment, honesty, openness, relationship building, effective partnership working behaviours embedding and leadership.

These will be further developed at the board away day in January.

### LAA Delivery Plans

The board agreed its third tranche of LAA delivery plans. It has now received 38 out of a total of 43 plans, of which 34 have been agreed either in full or in principle.

Stephen Hughes, BCC chief executive, emphasised the importance of BB's EKOS study which mapped all investment coming into the city and said that delivery plans should show overall investment levels and mainstream services that relate to the outcomes, not just a focus on small pots of additional money.

### Social Capital & Enterprise

Whilst discussing social capital and enterprise, the board agreed the following:

- To back the Voice 09 national social enterprise conference awarded to Birmingham
- Tender for a specialist organisation to design and manage social capital
- To develop a social enterprise strategy for Birmingham

### Birmingham CAA Pilot

The board received the first draft of the Audit Commission's CAA report. It contains three green flags for improving the cleanliness and attractiveness of the city, providing services to carers and working with the third sector with two red flags requiring further consideration.

### BB Summit

The board was delighted with the success of the inaugural summit in September, at which all sectors were well represented, including the recently appointed Be Birmingham community sector champions.

Full minutes of the October meeting will be made available on the Be Birmingham website, [www.bebirmingham.org.uk](http://www.bebirmingham.org.uk)

