



## BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

Office of the Leader of the Council

MW/BigSoc

20 October 2011

Dear Colleague,

### **Big City, Big Society: Birmingham's Big Society Prospectus**

I am delighted to send you the attached copy of our new Big Society Prospectus.

We believe that Birmingham is in many ways the birthplace of the Big Society. Our heritage of civic leadership and civic enterprise supported a dynamic and innovative economy. Today this underpins a modern city with a tremendous diversity of community and voluntary activity. The prospectus sets out the vision and the philosophy that springs from that heritage and will guide our more detailed action plans.

Volunteering and community action are at the core of the Big Society and in Birmingham we also cannot fail to recognise the immense contribution made by the various faith communities. But the Big Society is also about creating a stronger, more dynamic and prosperous economy – a Big City in every sense of the word. It requires a new role for the City Council and all the public services – with less emphasis on directly delivering services and more on supporting others to achieve their aims.

We are proud of Birmingham's civil society and determined to play a full part in the national effort to encourage a Big Society. To that end we are already working closely with the Government on community budgets, including innovative approaches to very local neighbourhood budgets and on refining the new neighbourhood planning process.

This is an agenda that is very close to my heart and I look forward to further opportunities to work with anyone who wants to contribute to it. I hope you find the document of interest.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike Whitby'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that curves back under the name.

**Mike Whitby**  
**Leader of Birmingham City Council**