

City of Nature Delivery Framework Engagement	
Date:	November 2021 – January 2022
Theme	Birmingham City of Nature Plan
Site:	City Wide
Lead:	Humera Sultan – FPA Project Director

Aims:

- The Engagement sessions delivered were to:**
- Present an outline of the steps we will take to achieve the 25-year City of Nature Plan for the City
 - Highlight the wider benefits the natural environment brings to our life that have remained invisible to many, making the invisible – visible
 - Explain why we believe there are opportunities to positively address the challenges we face and what it will mean in practice to benefit from these opportunities
 - Detail the changes that will need to be made at Birmingham City Council and beyond to achieve this
 - Show how we will give citizens, elected members and wider stakeholders’ confidence that we will deliver what we say we will deliver
 - Use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a metric to report our actions against to illustrate how many areas of city life are impacted by the natural environment
 - Gather feedback from participants to help to shape the BCoN Delivery Framework.

Method:

- Webpage created on the Naturally Birmingham Website to host information (see <https://naturallybirmingham.org/birmingham-city-of-nature-delivery-framework/>) which included:
 - 5 videos to convey main messages
 - Summary Document
 - Online survey
- PowerPoint slide deck presentation created
- Internal online engagement sessions via Teams
- External online engagement session via Zoom
- Face to Face open engagement session at the MAC
- Face to Face sessions at every Grounds Maintenance Depot
- Attendance at appropriate meetings
- Sharing weblink with FPA newsletter distribution, community groups in 6 key wards and all elected members

What has been achieved to date:

- 3 x Online Webinars via Team for BCC Parks Employees
- 17th November 2021
 23rd November 2021
 25th November 2021
 Total: 49 attendees

- 4 x BCC Parks Grounds Maintenance Depots which were face to face meetings with all employees at each depot, in small group sessions.

24th November 2021

30th November 2021

1st December 2021

14th December 2021

19th January 2022

25th January 2022

Total: **95 attendees**

1 x Face to Face meeting at the Midland Art Centre Open to all FPA Stakeholders

3rd December 2021

Total: 14 attendees

It felt important to ensure everyone had a chance to see the presentation and ask questions including anyone who may not have easy access to Teams.

1 x Online Community Conversation via Zoom

Total: 5 attendees.

Other meetings attended

Informal Cabinet	3 rd November 2021
City of Nature Alliance	8 th November 2021
East Birmingham Board	11 th November 2021
Route to Zero Taskforce	15 th November 2021
BOSF Committee Meeting	15 th November 2021
Parks SMT	16 th November 2021
City Operations DMT	18 th November 2021
City of Nature Operations Group	19 th November 2021
Star Chamber Equalities	24 th November 2021
Council Management DMT	24 th November 2021
Co-ordinating Scrutiny	26 th November 2021
Public Health	2 nd December 2021
Inclusive Growth EDMT	11 th November and 2 nd December 2021
Planning	6 th December 2021
FPA Board	8 th December 2021
Creating a Physically Active City Forum	15 th December 2021
Public Health (Grade 6's)	21 st December 2021

Online questionnaire – Delivery Framework Summary Document Feedback

Digitally, we have had a reach of 2.6 million people, together with 64,100 impressions.

67 people submitted feedback through an online survey based on the City of Nature Delivery Framework summary document.

92.3% of respondents agreed with the City of Nature approach outlined in the Summary document. Negative responses tended to either reflect a general dissatisfaction with the overall Council, or expressed a desire for more to be done on certain ‘hot topics’, such as crime, traffic, or city centre development rather than address specific issues with the City of Nature approach.

The questionnaire asked respondents to grade how important they felt each of the 5 city themes were:

- A Green City: 92.4% felt this was important or very important;
- A Healthy City: 87.9% felt this was important or very important;
- A Fair City: 83.4% felt this was important or very important;
- An Engaged City: 90.9% felt this was important or very important;
- A Valued City: 71.2% felt this was important or very important.

Respondents also had the option to add any additional comments; of which there were 46. 41.3% of these comments were positive statements of support, stating the importance of the City of Nature approach and their keenness to see it carried out. Another 43.5% of these comments were neutral, offering suggestions or general comments on the approach. 15.2% were considered to be negative comments, either disagreeing with the approach or suggesting that there were omissions in the Delivery Framework.

Demographics

The most common age bracket of respondents was 40-59, making up 63% of responses, followed by 20-39 at 23%, and 60+ at 14%.

Male respondents made up 57% of this total, and females making up 40%; 3% preferred to not say.

In terms of gender identity, 82.1% responded that they identified with the same gender as their biological sex, 4.5% identified as a different gender, and 13.4% preferred to not answer.

77% of participants were heterosexual, and 12% were from LGBTQ backgrounds. 11% preferred to not answer this question.

21.3% of respondents were from an ethnic minority background.

39.3% of respondents were from religious backgrounds, 45.9% stated that they had no religion, and 14.8% preferred to not answer.

20.6% of participants listed that they had a physical and/or mental health condition or illness

lasting 12 months or more.

Challenges:

Face to Face meetings are still difficult due to Covid – 19 guidelines.

Key Learning from Feedback

- The need to refer to this as a plan, rather than delivery framework
- Closer links to Birmingham Development Plan
- The need to use the BDP standard for the environmental justice map
- The need to ensure a history of parks as a service is included
- Change the word ‘pledge’ to an ‘ambition’ or ‘need’
- More clear links to the regeneration work in East Birmingham
- Explanation of how the first 6 wards have been selected
- Clear explanation of what the Fair Parks Standard is and how it is measured
- The links to green spaces that aren’t council owned parks land
- Importance of working with planning and making sure the right planning policy is influenced to affect the changes we need to become a City of Nature
- Strengthening the links to the Birmingham Development Plan
- Greater recognition of cultural and physical barriers to using green spaces
- Balance between the need for people to use nature and the impact that has on biodiversity
- Stronger links to West Midland National Park
- Strong support for the ambition and importance of the concept of a City of Nature, especially with it’s links to Climate Change.

How will this be taken forward:

The feedback above has been incorporated into the Plan.