

“Forward in Partnership”

Erdington District’s Community Plan 2016-2017



Erdington

16/17

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September 2016

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1. Introduction

From District Executive Member, Councillor Josh Jones

Having been the chair of the Erdington District Committee and its Executive Member for the two years now my aim is to continue to build on the foundations put in place by Councillor Penny Holbrook when she was

the chair of Erdington District and to take Erdington District 'forward in partnership,' through our working with our many great partner organisations and community groups.

Erdington continues to be a vibrant and diverse district, rich in community, people and social engagement. We have a wide range of economic activity with a vast array of businesses, communities and active groups. Our sense of community and pride is often hidden by statistics and a humility that prevents us from celebrating our abilities.

Together in partnership we are stronger and more resilient to face the considerable challenges across the district. Birmingham is facing its biggest cuts in history and this means some services will remain and some will be lost. There have been constant cuts to services and budgets since 2010, with even greater cuts to come as the City Council must identify another £250million of savings between now and 2020. This has removed and will continue to remove support for some of those most in need and limiting the opportunity locally to influence change.

Our collective *vision* for Erdington, formed by residents, community groups, businesses, Birmingham City Council and its district officers and elected representatives is of a "*prosperous and vibrant community, where everyone has the chance to achieve their potential with good opportunities available for all and where fairness is at the heart of everything we do and those most in need are supported.*"

Our guiding principles are that everyone has a right to a decent, affordable, warm home in pleasant and safe surroundings, access to a good standard of education and the opportunity to have a decent paid job or career and, above all, a community where no one is left behind and everyone is valued. Progress toward these aims will be delivered through five work streams:

- Employment, Skills & Enterprise
- Clean and Green
- Housing
- Health
- Community Safety

Of personal concern to me is the fact that residents across Erdington District live 2 years less than the average Birmingham resident and around 6 years less than residents of neighbouring Sutton Coldfield District just a few miles away. My ambition is to improve the health and well-being of Erdington residents to match that of our neighbours but this will not happen overnight and is a 20 year vision and objective I will work towards. This challenging agenda, and indeed all the other priorities set out above, cannot be delivered by the council alone. I will be working on creating an Erdington District Regeneration Trust model, with cross party support, to assist take us forward with our aims. Collectively, with all our partners, and led by the residents, we firmly believe we can move towards the above vision. This Erdington Community Plan has been developed with our friends and partners and sits alongside our District Policy Statement. Both documents help in identifying the direction we need to take, and who can play a role in helping to deliver the vision.

2. Purpose of this Community Plan

This District Community Plan outlines the priorities and associated actions of the Council and its Erdington based partners for the year ahead. These priorities and actions draw from the views and experiences of local councillors, local residents, businesses, service providers, voluntary and community organisations and other partners. Consultation with partners has included an Erdington District Convention held on 28 November 2015.

There are already a number of key documents and plans in place in Erdington District that help identify the priorities of the district and the needs of local people. These existing documents and plans make a vital contribution to the overall District Community Plan. These include:

- The Erdington District Policy Statement 2015
- The Erdington District Profile 2014/15
- The Erdington District Convention 2015 Summary report
- The Erdington District Jobs and Skills Plan 2015/16 onwards
- The Birmingham North (Erdington & Sutton Coldfield) Community Safety Partnership's Plan 2016 onwards
- The Erdington District Health & Wellbeing Plan 2016 onwards
- Erdington 'clean & green' Neighbourhood Challenge Report 2016

All these documents are available electronically from the district lead officer who can be contacted on email mike.davis@birmingham.gov.uk or 0776 692 4147.

This Erdington District Community Plan will be monitored periodically by the District Committee and its partners to review progress in delivering on the priorities it contains and to determine if delivery is broadly on track as well as whether any new or different priorities are emerging that may need to be incorporated into the District Community Plan.

3. The Changing Context

This Erdington District Community Plan has been produced at a time of significant change within the city.

New unified city vision:

With a new Council Leader, Councillor John Clancy, from 2015 there is a renewed sense of purpose and direction for the city with a developing vision based on the fundamental ideals of prosperity, fairness and democracy.

The Council Leader together with the leaders of the two opposition parties issued a joint statement in September 2016 as follows:

"Birmingham: a city that works for all of us:

We are proud to serve the people of Birmingham. This is a welcoming city with an historic past and, more importantly, an exciting and influential future. A place where future success for the city means opportunity for all.

As the most youthful city in Europe, supporting young people to realise their potential is paramount - enabling Birmingham to be a great place for children to grow up and learn in, for adults and families to thrive in and, as we mature, to grow old in.

Working together, we must strive for a city that offers a good quality of life to everybody - a city where your postcode or background does not determine your ambitions and achievements.

The council's role is to lead with others. Our shared purpose is to improve people's lives, working with partners from across this great city - pulling together, with leaders across Birmingham and the West Midlands, to ensure citizens have services they deserve.

Our collective efforts must put people first; responding to their needs. We must invest in communities, creating opportunities for people to achieve their aspirations and give everyone neighbourhoods and a city to be proud of.

We will strive to make this vision a reality and look forward to working with the many who share these ambitions.”

As touched upon in the statement above significant change across local government is also underway with new city-regional leadership in place through the West Midlands Combined Authority, with new powers devolved from central government to allow it to drive economic growth, investment and the reform of public services. Birmingham City Council will therefore become more strategic and smaller. See www.birmingham.gov.uk/wmca for more details. Another major change moving forward is the Local Government Boundary Commission's proposal for new, smaller Wards with only one, or occasionally two, elected councillors as well as a national plan to review Parliamentary constituencies.

Despite all these changes right across the city and the wider region there will be more opportunities than ever for delivering services at the neighbourhood level and new ways people can engage in their local community, such as the new local council for Sutton Coldfield. To support the Leader's commitment to further devolution and improved local services a new Cabinet Committee Local leadership was formed in 2016/17 and four elected member 'Assistant Leaders' appointed to drive forward devolved arrangements and new approaches to engaging and empowering local people and partners.

Financial Challenges:

The City Council's vision and its associated financial plan continue to be set in the context of reducing resources available to fund the provision of services and investment in its assets. This is largely as a result of the continuing cutbacks in grant funding as part of the Government's policy of reducing public expenditure in order to address the deficit in public finances. Birmingham City Council needs to find £250 million of savings from its budget between now and 2020 on top of the £560 million that has already been identified as savings since 2011. In addition, central government funded neighbourhood renewal initiatives have also been cut since 2011 removing much needed resources from the local economy. There is now also considerable uncertainty about the financial impact for the public sector and the timetable for implementing the June 2016 national referendum decision to leave the European Union.

Many other public sector and third sector partners operating across Erdington are also working with considerably less resources than in years gone by. The council's new approach is to look at how we can best meet the needs of citizens, through providing services ourselves, but also with a renewed focus on how we can work with partners to achieve shared aims.

District Committees:

The role of District Committees has been reshaped in response to the financial pressures and also taking account of the recommendations of the Kerslake Review of Birmingham City Council undertaken in 2014. This Review recommended that Birmingham's ten District Committees should no longer have a responsibility for directly managing local services and instead:

...should be refocused on shaping and leading their local areas through influence, representation and independent challenge of all public services located in the District, including those of the Council.

(From: 'The way forward: an independent review of the governance and organisational capabilities of Birmingham City Council', December 2014)

The District Committees now have a duty to promote effective neighbourhood management and a duty of "Neighbourhood Challenge" – "to investigate, review and gather data on the performance of all local public services, working in a collaborative but challenging way with all service providers and seeking out and promoting new ways of improving services, in conjunction with Cabinet Members as appropriate."

Other duties of District Committees are to:

- Adopt a Community Plan;
- Make Elected Member appointments to outside bodies;
- Advise or make representations to Council bodies on all matters affecting community interests in their District, including on proposals referred to them by Council bodies;
- Consider and respond to consultations on planning matters affecting their District;
- Consider and make recommendations on 'the performance, integration and co-ordination of public services in the district';
- Promote and improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area;
- Ensure tenant engagement in the management and development of social housing;
- Promote cleaner and safer neighbourhoods;
- Promote and support 'active citizenship, community empowerment and a diverse and dynamic civil society';
- Ensure effective ward level governance;
- Approve neighbourhood forum grants.

These duties will be aided by a new Local Innovation Fund to be introduced in 2016/17 that can be used to support neighbourhoods and service improvements. The role and remit of District Committees is likely to be further reviewed during 2016/17. A new *Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership* with membership comprising the Leader and Opposition Leader, four Assistant Leaders and ten district chairs will determine the future of district committees as the year unfolds.

Ward Committees:

Ward Committees are changing too with an ability to operate as forums or to explore alternative structures to engage local communities in decisions affecting the local area.

"The ward committees or forums will:

- Provide a forum for community engagement in decisions affecting the local area (through regular meetings including neighbourhood forums, residents associations, parish, community or neighbourhood councils and other local organisations);
- Make representations to the district committee, the Executive or to Council on matters affecting the ward and to support the work of Overview and Scrutiny committees as appropriate;
- Make comments on behalf of residents on significant planning applications within the ward or which have an impact on the ward, subject to the appropriate planning timescales;

- Co-ordinate the work of councillors with neighbourhood forums, residents associations and neighbourhood, community or parish councils to enable local community engagement, debate and action in relation to local issues and priorities;
- Plan work with the other wards in the district to support the functions of the district committee and to engage with partners such as the police.”

More details are contained within the Council’s Constitution and can be viewed at www.birmingham.gov.uk/constitution

Going forward the review by the Independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is likely to result in some further changes in the political map of Birmingham with new ward boundaries coming into effect from the local elections in 2018. For more information visit www.lgbce.org.uk

4. Erdington – Who Lives Here

Erdington District is located to the north of Birmingham and comprises the four wards of Erdington, Kingstanding, Stockland Green and Tyburn.

The four wards are largely residential; Kingstanding and Tyburn are the least affluent wards, with many households classified as hard-pressed or of moderate means. Erdington and Stockland Green are much more mixed with pockets of affluence interspersed with areas of relative poverty. Levels of deprivation are high, particularly to the west and south of the district.

At the time of the 2011 Census Erdington had a population of 97,778 the third lowest of all ten districts in Birmingham. This is now estimated to have grown to 98,603 according to the latest mid-year population estimates. The district is 2,197 hectares in size, and the population density is 44.5 people per hectare making Erdington around average density for the city.

It's important to understand who lives within the district as often different groups have varying requirements from public services. For example an older population is likely to have different service needs to a younger one.

Some key background information follows:

Population:

- The total population of Erdington District is estimated to be 98,603 with 41,008 households

Age:

The district has a slightly older age profile compared to Birmingham as a whole.

- 14.1% of Erdington's population are aged 65 or over (compared to 13% city average)
- 63.5% of Erdington's population are aged 16-64 years
- 22.4% of Erdington's population are children 0-15year olds (compared to 22.8% city average)

Ethnicity:

- 73.1% of its population are of White ethnicity
- 5.60% of its population are of multiple ethnicity
- 10.4% of its population are from Asian or Asian British ethnicity
- 10.2% of its population are from Black or Black British ethnicity

Other key statistics:

- 15% of its population were born overseas
- 21.9% of its population have limiting long term illness

The data above is from the '*Erdington District Profile 2014/15*' (Google 'Erdington District Profile' 2014/15 – Fair Brum) which presents a wide range of statistical information about Erdington; the people who live here, the jobs they do, their health and education and also their perceptions of the district and the city. Some brief observations follow on what residents think about the district in which they live and their stated priorities.

5. Erdington Resident Priorities

By using Birmingham Residents Tracker Survey, it is possible to identify what residents in each area identify as their priorities, and how these compare to the city as a whole. The Resident Tracker is a face to face survey carried out each month until July 2015. A top up resident survey took place in Sept-Dec 2015 covering 1,200 adults with 120 from Erdington District in order to ensure a statistically significant sample size.

In terms of the main challenges facing Erdington, "helping people to find jobs" is the number 1 ranked priority both within the district and across the city as a whole. "Supporting Families", "Improving the local environment and highways infrastructure", and "meeting the needs of the city's aging population" are issues of greater importance to Erdington residents compared to elsewhere in the city.

Main Challenges Facing Birmingham	Erdington	Rank	Citywide	Rank
Helping people to find jobs	25.6%	1st	20.1%	1st
Supporting Families	19.1%	2nd	11.6%	4th
Providing high quality public services	17.8%	3rd	13.5%	2nd
Improving the Local Environment	13.5%	4th	7.8%	6 th
Providing more affordable housing	9.6%	5th	11.9%	3 rd
Improving the highway infrastructure	9.3%	6 th	6.8%	9 th
Meeting the needs of the city's aging population	9.0%	7 th	5.8%	11h
Dealing with crime	7.4%	8th	10.5%	5th
Improving relations between various communities	6.2%	9th	5.0%	13th
Making people feel safer	5.4%	10th	6.4%	10th

Looking at what specific issues need improving in Erdington, "roads and pavement" is the issue which the highest proportion of Erdington residents say needs improving – the issue also ranked number 2 across the city. A higher than average proportion of Erdington residents identified "refuse collection" "care and support for older & disabled people" and "play facilities for young children" as in need of improvement.

Quality of Life Issue in Need of Improvement	Erdington	Rank	Citywide	Rank
Road & Pavement Repairs	37.4%	1 st	30.2%	2 nd
Clean Streets	30%	2 nd	32.5%	1 st
Refuse Collection	25.4%	3 rd	19.1%	7 th
Police Presence	22.7%	4 th	19.2%	6 th
Parking	20.9%	5 th	20%	3 rd
Activities for Teenagers	20.6%	6 th	19.5%	4 th
Job Prospects	20.5%	7 th	19.3%	5 th
Care & support for older & disabled people	14.2%	8 th	11.2%	10 th
Play facilities for young children	14.2%	9 th	10.1%	13 th
Wage levels & cost of living	11.9%	10 th	10.4%	12th

The Council is currently considering options on how to conduct an opinion survey in the Autumn of 2016.

6. Summary of Erdington District Priorities

The previous section outlined local residents expressed views regarding their priorities and the things they felt needed improving locally.

In addition to these there is also the statistical information contained in the Erdington District Profile 2014/15 (Google 'Erdington District Profile' 2014/15 – Fair Brum) that cannot be ignored and, since then, other data sets from sources such as the BCC Employment Team and the BCC Public Health Team have emerged to shape and inform future priority actions. For instance, whilst not figuring in the resident Survey top ten priorities, the district profile and public health data would suggest the district should adopt a key aim around improving health and wellbeing as the majority of health outcomes in Erdington are significantly worse than national averages and in some cases worse than the city average.

As well as addressing all these priorities we would also like to support local enterprise across Erdington District by encouraging a “shop local, spend local” ethos. Shopping and engaging local service providers and tradesman from our area is not only more convenient for residents but supports local businesses who, in turn, prosper and potentially offer employment opportunities to local people.

It is also recognised that education and schools attainment is a key priority for the Erdington District. The Birmingham Education Partnership is taking a strong leadership role around schools improvement and therefore, to avoid duplication, this key district priority is the plans that underpin it, are not detailed in this District Community Plan. More details can however be obtained from Sarah Moxon, Birmingham North's Co-ordinator for the Birmingham Education Partnership at sarah.moxon@bep.education

The key priorities actions for Erdington District for 2016-17 will now be outlined over the coming pages of this Plan together with the relevant accompanying themed plan in the set of appendices. These are grouped together under 4 main themes as follows:

Theme 1: Employment, Skills and Enterprise

Theme 2: Clean, Green and Safe

Theme 3: Housing

Theme 4: Health

For each theme the pages that follow give a concise indication of the factors that led to the theme becoming an Erdington District priority including some brief baseline data and then the key priority areas are identified together with a contact for anyone who feels they can contribute to the delivery of agreed actions under that theme.

Theme 1: Employment, Skills & Enterprise

There is much economic data available via:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/birmighamconomy

Just a few headlines, provided by the BCC Employment Team as at August 2016, are:

- The Erdington District unemployment claimant figure (as a proportion of the working age population) as at July 2016 is 5.3% which is the joint second highest District in the city. Stockland Green Ward recorded the highest figure of the four Wards at 5.9% followed by Kingstanding Ward at 5.4%, which make them the 7th and 8th highest of 40 Wards in the city.
- Erdington District has the highest (of ten districts) youth claimant unemployment proportion (7.2%) as at July 2016. Sutton Coldfield District has the lowest youth unemployment proportion (2.3%). Stockland Green Ward is 7.6% and Kingstanding Ward 7.3% which make them the 5th and 7th highest of 40 Wards in the city.
- 19.0% of Erdington District residents are workless (i.e. claim an out-of-work benefit), the highest proportion of all the city's districts (Feb 2016).
- Erdington District has the 2nd highest proportion of residents with no qualifications whatsoever of the ten districts at 23.9%

The data and the views of local people and stakeholders have been used to identify priorities for action. In brief, the key employment related priorities across Erdington District are:

- Helping young people achieve their potential by reducing youth unemployment and NEETS
- Reducing levels of worklessness, particularly in neighbourhoods and with families experiencing complex multiple barriers to the labour market
- Increasing self-employment, social enterprise development and the establishment of small businesses.

To address these key priorities a separate and comprehensive 'Employment, Skills & Enterprise' Action Plan (Appendix 2) has been developed and this outlines the delivery strategy, delivery activities and associated outcomes and performance indicators.

It should be recognised that the partnership group of itself has no dedicated financial resources to tackle these deeply entrenched issues. However the group will look to influence and bend mainstream resources to ensure the best outcomes possible are delivered locally. External factors beyond the control of the district and its partners such as the decision to leave the European Union, central government policy and the state of the national and international economy, can all have an impact on outcomes locally. Nevertheless, this does not stop Erdington partners doing all within their means to support and encourage the drive toward improved outcomes.

The key contact for this section of the overall District Plan is:

Afzal Hussain, Chief Officer, Witton Lodge Community Association on 0121 382 1930.

Theme 2: Clean, Green & Safe

Clean & Green:

Living in a clean, green environment free from high crime continues to be a high priority for Erdington residents. The city carries out Environmental Quality Survey's in each Ward using 'Keep Britain Tidy' criteria. The survey assesses the percentage of sites surveyed that fall below an acceptable standard. Considering the surveys undertaken in 2014 – 2016 the position is as follows:

WARD/ Element	Sites falling below an acceptable standard			
	Target	May 2016	Jan 2016	Jan 2015
Erdington				
Litter	5.00%	4.29%	7.14%	6.43%
Detritus	8.35%	5.97%	5.22%	7.97%
Fly posting	1.00%	0.00%	2.14%	0.71%
Graffiti	7.00%	0.00%	2.14%	2.86%
Kingstanding		June 2016	July 2015	Sept 2014
Litter	5.00%	14.29%	16.43%	5.00%
Detritus	8.35%	16.91%	10.29%	7.46%
Fly Posting	1.00%	0.71%	0.00%	1.43%
Graffiti	7.00%	6.43%	1.43%	9.29%
Stockland Green		April 2016	Oct 2016	Nov 2014
Litter	5.00%	9.29%	5.00%	7.14%
Detritus	8.35%	5.22%	13.85%	10.45%
Fly Posting	1.00%	5.71%	0.71%	2.14%
Graffiti	7.00%	0.00%	2.14%	5.00%
Tyburn		July 2016	Aug 2015	July 2014
Litter	5.00%	12.14%	10.00%	6.43%
Detritus	8.35%	6.52%	11.94%	15.67%
Fly Posting	1.00%	1.43%	4.29%	1.43%
Graffiti	7.00%	5.00%	8.57%	3.57%

In summary and having regard for the most recent survey findings::

- 3 Wards in Erdington District failed by a considerable margin to meet the target of 5% unacceptable sites on the **litter** standard.
- Kingstanding Ward had double the number of unacceptable sites due to **detritus** that it should have had as per the target.
- Stockland Green had five times the level of **fly posting** it should have had to keep within target.
- All Wards were pleasingly below target for unacceptable sites due to **graffiti**

It is appreciated this survey is 'a moment in time' but the resident survey results showed that residents feel this is a matter that needs further improvement. Elected Members also expressed concerns about the cleanliness of the district and in 2015/16 chose to make 'Clean & Green' the subject of the District's first Neighbourhood Challenge. See the separate section on 'Neighbourhood Challenge' later in this document and the relevant report appended.

Some key '**clean & green**' priorities for Erdington District are:

- Developing the existing clean and green partnership with representation from all four wards.
- Maintaining and enhancing green open spaces and promoting their value for physical activity
- Ensuring a good quality refuse collection service is provided and street cleanliness standards and raising recycling rates

The key points of contact for such clean and green issues are:

John Porter, BCC North Birmingham Parks Manager on 0121 354 4070

Mike Davis, BCC Erdington District Head on 0776 692 4147

Nick Reid, BCC North Waste Management Operations Manager on 0121 303 1975

Safe:

A district that feels a safe place to live and with low levels of anti-social behaviour are high priorities for Erdington residents. Such factors influence whether people wish to live, visit and invest in an area. The statistics suggest:

- Over the year there has been 7397 total recorded crimes. That is 5.31% more comparing 2015/16 to the previous year 2014/15. That is an increase of 373 reported crimes. The top five crime types are assault (726 crimes reported), theft from shop (707), burglary (486), criminal damage to vehicle (472), theft from vehicle (364).
- While the majority of residents (92.8%) feel safe during the day in their local area this is the 9th lowest figure of ten districts.
- Just over half (52.7%) feel safe outside after dark which again ranks 9th lowest of ten districts.

The key 'safe' related priorities of the District are:

- Maintaining a coordinated approach to engaging and working with young people and providing interventions that contribute toward the reduction of crime and anti social behaviour.
- To raise awareness of domestic abuse issues and contribute toward interventions designed to reduce the occurrence of domestic abuse
- To create a coordinated approach to dealing with all aspects of drug and alcohol abuse.
- Building engaged and informed neighbourhoods right across the district and increasing 'feelings' of safety

There are a comprehensive set of plans in place to progress all these safe priorities and these are attached as appendix 4. The key point of contact for safe issues is: Pam Powis, BCC Safer Places Officer on 464 2200.

Theme 3: Housing

Housing related concerns feature strongly in resident expressed priorities.

There are just over 41,000 homes in Erdington District for which the tenure is as follows:

- Owner occupier 52.7%,
- Council 17%,
- Housing Association 11.9% (therefore 28.9% social housing)
- Private Rent 16.7% and
- Other 1.7%

Owner occupation and renting from the Council have fallen since the last set of figures were produced whilst private rental and renting from a social registered landlord have increased with the greatest increase in private rentals. The cost of renting in the private rented sector has continued to rise across the city and district, with just 12.6% of advertised available for let properties falling within local housing allowance rates (housing benefit).

The 2015 benefit cap, commencing November 2016, sets a new lower limit on the total amount in benefit that most working aged people can claim. This is estimated to affect 543 households in Erdington District with Kingstanding Ward (175) followed by Stockland Green Ward (154) having the highest number of households affected. Capped households will have a reduction made to their housing benefit which may lead to difficulties maintaining tenancies (private and social tenants) due to the cost of housing.

In terms of home ownership and affordability the average property price in Birmingham as at June 2016 was £159,732 (land registry) this is over 6 times the average income in Birmingham. Prices have recovered following a steep fall in 2012 when the average was £115,209.

In 2012, there were 2031 persons registered from addresses in Erdington District on the Council Housing Register, however figures as at March 2016 show that the persons registered has fallen to 1572, indicating a reduction of 20%. 2016 figures indicate 1136 (72.3%) persons registered require a one or two bedroomed properties in Erdington which continues to be the greatest need 434 (27.6%) households require properties with 3 bedrooms or more.

In 2015/16 there were 272 homeless acceptances from households living in the Erdington district. In comparison to previous years (2012/13) there were fewer numbers of homeless applications (-212) and acceptances (-157). Parental exclusion and the ending of tenancies in the private sector made up the top reasons for homelessness in the district.

In 2015, a strategic assessment of housing was carried out, which is available upon request to the district head or housing lead. This highlighted the link between poverty/deprivation and housing markets at risk. There were four key sub-districts that require a specific policy intervention; the report recommended that a stewardship model was developed with the aim of identifying lead agencies to take forward the strategic interventions required. There is some positive progress through the support of local agencies, including Witton Lodge Community Association and the Pioneer Group.

The Housing Panel has set out the more immediate priorities for action in 2016-17 being as follows:

Place Management

- Understanding the impact of Welfare Reform on peoples' ability to access and maintain housing, seeking out alternative housing options.
- Tackling fuel poverty
- Tacking the challenges in an overheated private rented sector
- Understanding the impact of anti social behaviour an crime

New development

- BMHT development programme
- Identifying development priorities, including use of land and tenure requirements

Housing Renewal

- Exploring community based housing models to support housing renewal
- Retro-fitting and grants available
- Access to funding/finance for homeowners

The main points of contact for this theme within our Erdington Plan are:

Peter Richmond, Chief Executive, Pioneer Group on 0121 748 8100

Patrick Canavan, BCC Senior Housing Service Manager (North) on 0121 303 1984.

Theme 4: Health & Well-being

Major challenges face the City, including the health inequalities that exist between neighbourhoods, communities and districts. There is a need to modernise services so that they meet people's aspirations for health and social care in the 21st Century. For Birmingham to become a healthier city, action is needed to create the physical and social environments in which people find it easier to stay healthy.

Again the Erdington District Profile 2014/15 is where more statistical evidence can be located but a few key observations on our District's health:

- Life expectancy in Erdington is 77.9 years which is 2 years less than the city average of 79.7 years.
- Although on a downward trend smoking prevalence in Erdington, at 25.1% is still higher than the Birmingham average of 20.7%. Mortality from respiratory disease (related to smoking) are also high.
- Misuse of alcohol remains a concern with alcoholic liver disease mortality rate at 192.5 (92% higher than the national average). Hospital admissions due to alcohol were also significantly high for Erdington District residents.

Therefore, helping people to live healthier lifestyles is a key aim across the district. The key priorities are:

- Increasing smoking cessation
- Tackling alcohol and substance misuse
- Reducing obesity levels in children and adults
- Helping older people improve their general health including falls prevention
- Contributing to improved mental health and well-being

An Erdington District Health and Wellbeing Action Plan has been produced and this outlines the health delivery strategy, delivery activities and associated outcomes and performance indicators. This reflects a focus for the district around common approaches, effective and efficient pathways and an overall focus on mental health and wellbeing. There is consensus which is reflected in the plan that all of the priorities for the district could be as result of poor mental health and wellbeing or can lead to a decline in mental health so as a group the main priority is to provide opportunities, training and joined up working around this key priority.

If you can contribute to the delivery of the district's health priorities the main point of contact is:

Michelle Wilkins, Support Services Manager at Compass-Support: 0121 748 8103

7. Neighbourhood Challenge

In May 2015 the City Council gave a new responsibility to the ten district committees to undertake a 'Neighbourhood Challenge'. This involves putting the spotlight on a district issue affecting local residents and exploring ways to improve the experiences of local people.

In 2015/16 Erdington District Committee decided its Neighbourhood Challenge exercise would be on the topic of 'Clean and Green.' During the year a series of key questions were agreed as the basis of the challenge and evidence taken from a number of local stakeholders. A final Neighbourhood Challenge report has been produced containing a series of recommendations designed to improve the opportunities for young people within the district to progress along the pathway to employment. These recommendations, and the progress made, will be further considered by District Committee during 2016/17. This report is available from the district lead officer.

The District Committee members have collectively agreed to make 'mental health' the topic of its new Neighbourhood Challenge exercise in 2016/17.

8. Delivery, Monitoring and Review

As you will see a set of appendices are available with specific plans and proposals to progress and deliver a range of actions, from 2016 onwards, on our four main themes to bring vital improvements to the things that matter most to Erdington residents.

Over recent years, under the leadership of Erdington District's Executive Member, an 'Erdington Advisory Group' has been assembled and also a number of themed sub-groups with identified lead officers in order to develop and refine plans and progress actions. Each theme group will be invited to report its progress to the overarching Erdington Advisory Group at least bi-annually and, where possible, human and financial resources will be identified to assist in delivery.

The Erdington District Community Plan itself should be reviewed annually through the Erdington District Committee made up of the 12 elected councillors from the four Wards of Erdington, Kingstanding, Stockland Green and Tyburn. The Committee will wish to check on progress and on the achievement of the targets set out in the Erdington District Plan and its thematic appendices. We will continue a rolling programme of updates to District Committee on the work undertaken by each Erdington themed group to the District Committee. This will likely detail what has been achieved in that year and the actions proposed for the coming year and how residents can become involved.

It is also the intention to build on the Erdington District Conventions held on over the past few years with further annual events that will provide the opportunity to confirm that the vision and direction for Erdington District is still appropriate and reflects the sort of Erdington that we are all working towards.

9. Resources

These are very challenging times for the City Council and the public sector generally and resources are very much more limited, both human and financial. The same can be said of many of our partner organisations working with us across Erdington District.

Therefore, if we are to progress the challenging agenda set out in the Erdington Community Plan 2016-2019 it will be by working together and targeting our collective resources toward meeting priorities. Where possible existing resources should be realigned and redirected to meet agreed priorities and in the event that additional resources are required then efforts will be made to explore and secure other internal or external funding opportunities.

Local Government is under pressure across the country and Birmingham will have had its controllable budget cut by almost 50% by 2018. Many of our partners are facing similar situations. Despite this we are hopeful and positive about the future in Erdington. Working together we can, and already are ensuring that the decisions we make, the money we spend, the services we keep are connected and directed at those issues that will generate the best outcomes for our residents and communities.

This is a truly collaborative plan for Erdington, and in many cases the Council is not the lead agency, rather we are working together to use all our resources and expertise to change the future for the better.

All our partners have committed time, resource and money to this process and are in many cases delivering services the council can no longer afford to run. Without out the determination and commitment of all those who live and work in Erdington none of these ambitions would be possible.

This plan is bigger than any single agency, it is about working together with a common purpose and moving ***forward in partnership*** – to ensure Erdington remains a great place to live, work and study.

List of Supporting Documents

1. Erdington District Policy Statement
2. Erdington District Profile 2014/15
3. Erdington District Convention 2015 report
4. Erdington Job & Skills Plan
5. Birmingham North Community Safety Plan
6. Erdington Housing Priority statement
7. Erdington Health & Wellbeing Plan
8. Erdington 'Clean & Green' Neighbourhood Challenge

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