

Appendix 2

Birmingham City Council's commitments towards promoting community cohesion

Birmingham city council is committed to building a fair and cohesive city and will continue to work in partnership to develop policy initiatives that promote community cohesion. Some of the work already underway is highlighted below.

Adult Social Care

All age approach to Autism and ADHD in Birmingham

BCC is currently developing an all-age strategy for autism and ADHD in Birmingham, focusing on the achievement of two main aims:

- People with autism and/or ADHD are enabled to reach their full potential and play a full role in society.
- The gap in life expectancy between people with autism and/or ADHD and the general population is reduced.

We will work with citizens and local providers on five key areas of improvement as identified in national guidance:

- Measuring, understanding and reporting the needs of people with autism and/or ADHD;
- Workforce development;
- Health, care and wellbeing;
- Service specific support; and
- Participation in the local community.

In developing this strategy we will be taking a strengths-based approach that what people *can* do not what they cannot, working in co-production with experts by lived experience to improve outcomes.

Birmingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017+

Birmingham's new strategy focuses on preventing people from becoming homeless in the first place and supporting those who are homeless to build a more positive future in good health, sustainable accommodation and long lasting employment. We will be working with partners across the West Midlands including the West Midlands Combined Authority and the West Midlands Mayoral Taskforce to eradicate homelessness in our city.

We are taking a whole system approach built on collaboration, best practice and service integration. Our approach sets out five key areas that can be used flexibly to ensure that no matter what stage people enter the pathway; they will be supported as early and as effectively as possible.

The five key areas are:

1. Universal Prevention
2. Targeted Prevention
3. Crisis Prevention and Relief
4. Homeless Recovery
5. Sustainable Housing.

We are radically changing the way we respond to homelessness in Birmingham; shifting the balance from a reactive crisis prevention response to proactively addressing homelessness in all of its forms throughout a person's or family's journey.

Domestic Abuse Strategy: Towards a Domestic Abuse free City

This strategy sets out the city's commitment to tackling domestic abuse. Aligning our approach with national strategy, we are focusing our approach on women and children, recognising that they are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse. The focus of our new strategy is different from the past as we are shifting towards pro-active prevention and early identification of abuse as early as possible to limit its future impact.

Our long-term ambition is for a city free from domestic abuse, and we are taking all practical steps to eliminate domestic abuse, reducing harm and demand for services along the way. Our vision is rightly ambitious and cannot be achieved by a single agency alone – to be successful, domestic abuse must become everyone's business.

MiFriendly Cities project

We are delivering a 'Migrant Friendly Cities' project as part of 11 partners working across the West Midlands. The MiFriendly Cities project aims to facilitate the integration and participation of migrants and refugees in the economic, social, and civic life – for the benefit of the city and its residents. Specific activities include:

- Facilitating and delivering 'Share My Language' informal English language provision;
- Developing and delivering drop-in employment information sessions for residents in some of the most deprived wards of the city;
- Producing a guide to employment in 100 careers with an identified skills shortage in the city;
- Setting up a Community Repair Café for refugees and migrants to repair/adapt/build/upcycle furniture, as the culmination of formal training in painting, decorating and DIY. Products will be used to complete home makeovers and adaptations for vulnerable adults in the city

The project will also deliver a wealth of opportunities for migrants and refugees to develop skills in digital fabrication; to innovate and invest; to improve their understanding of health services rights, entitlements, and key public health messages; to gain accreditations; and to train as Citizen Social Scientists.

Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme (SVPRS)

We are currently commissioning resettlement services for years 2-5 of the SVPRS, covering six themes that support the integration of refugees into the wider community in Birmingham. The themes are:

1. Syrian engagement and representation
2. ESOL partnership development and facilitation
3. Employability service
4. Mental health awareness
5. Welfare and tenancy support
6. Birmingham Navigators (social networks and public services)

Themes 1 and 6 are particularly pertinent to community cohesion. Theme 1 will aim to develop awareness of Syrian culture across Birmingham, build links between existing Syrian communities and newly arriving refugees, and get refugees feeling more confident about getting involved in their local community. Activities under theme 6 will connect refugees to the range of services and activities delivered in the voluntary and community sectors in Birmingham, tackling social isolation.

Arts, culture and sports

Arts and activities commissioning: Celebrating Community (on behalf of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme)

The 2018-19 Celebrating Community commissioning project focuses on engaging residents (specifically adults and families) living in the Perry Barr and Erdington Districts of Birmingham where the majority of the newly arrived Syrian individuals and families have been housed.

Commissioned arts projects will engage newly arrived residents with existing communities to create an environment where all people feel safe to belong, connect, contribute and celebrate their culture. The projects will:

- produce a participant engagement and support plan in partnership with Spring Housing Association;
- build on the local arts infrastructure (for example, the local arts fora networks);
- provide peer to peer support and volunteer opportunities, training and development;
- showcasing/celebrate opportunities within the neighbourhood developed and produced by project participants.

Binding Pages Project

The Cultural Development Service is working closely with Prevention, Communities & Migration and Public Health within the Adults Social Care and Health Directorate to actively explore how Arts and Culture can contribute to the health and wellbeing agenda, and how this impact could be measured.

We have just been awarded Neighbourhood Network Scheme Innovation funding to trial a place based creative approach to multiagency, arts based social prescription. This will be a one year, multi-agency arts project aimed at people at risk of isolation or loneliness and furthering cultural engagement in community libraries pilot project in two targeted libraries in Perry Barr and Selly Oak linking with the two established Neighbourhood Network Schemes in those areas.

The outcome of this pilot will inform potential NHS investment in the scheme, under the Social Prescribing banner, to be widened out to other community libraries and linked to arts organisations delivering multi-agency funded programmes of arts prevention activity.

Community Events

The Events team deliver a wide range of exciting and distinctive community events to engage local communities, including the staging of major one-off events such as Royal Visits and foreign delegations. We do this through building effective, positive and proactive relationships with local people and communities to ensure that the events that we plan and deliver represent the many diverse communities across our city.

Examples of community events include:

- Chinese New Year
- Colmore Food Festival
- Birmingham International Dance Festival
- Boldmere Summer Community Festival
- Celebrate Eid Prayer
- Concert in the Park
- Harborne Carnival
- Diwali Festival & Lights Switch On
- Middle Earth Festival
- St Patricks Day
- Vaisakhi parade
- Big Johns Mela
- Simmerdown
- Summer in Southside
- Sutton Film Festival
- Shardfest
- RAF 100

Sport England Local Delivery Pilot

Through the Sport England Local Delivery Pilot delivered by the Active Well Being Society, we will use interventions of physical activity and active citizenship to bring communities together, reduce social isolation and improve community cohesion.

1. It will target the unusual suspects i.e. the pre-complentators
2. It will work to co-create work with local communities using for example active streets projects
3. It will use a whole system approach to create stronger more resilient communities
4. It will use distributive leadership to make sure the least heard voices are not left behind.

Communities and neighbourhoods

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (BCSP)
The Birmingham Community Safety Partnership is a group of partnership agencies, including Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, and key NHS bodies, that come together to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. The BCSP seeks to promote community cohesion through tackling the issues that matter to local people.
Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF) and Friends of Parks
Our Parks Service works with Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF) and Parks Friends groups to coordinate volunteer work within Birmingham's parks and projects such as conservation working days, building orchards, edible gardens and events such as CoCoMad. We engage with these groups to ensure that parks are run the way that local residents want them to be.
Birmingham Tree People
Birmingham Tree People is a group of 20 people who act as local tree champions within the community – monitoring young tree establishment, supporting the tree planting programme, delivering a regional Tree Warden conference for the Tree Council. The programme assists the Park Service with local insight but also brings community together with a common purpose and promotes healthy activity.
Localism: Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods
We have recently completed the formal consultation on the green paper Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods, which sets out proposed policies for better working relationships with parishes and other neighbourhood groups, the setting up of more parish councils and local charters and devolution deals. The wider dialogue with local groups about this will continue. The localism agenda will seek to bring communities together to shape services that meet the needs of our changing communities. A white paper setting out a clear and positive policy framework will be produced in the coming months.

Financial Inclusion Partnership

The City Council continues to provide secretariat support the Financial Inclusion Partnership. The Partnership was set up to support individuals and families improve their financial capability. It is involved in a wide variety of activities across the city, including:

- Increased Credit Union membership and take up of social housing contents insurance;
- delivering digital and financial literacy training (delivered by Catalyst CIC);
- informing local community organisations on welfare reform changes and implications for individuals, children and families;
- an employment pilot for young people, an outreach programme for 15 – 29 year olds in partnership with People Plus (YPP funded) targeting young people from St Georges. BFIP are also negotiating trainee and apprenticeship opportunities for this cohort providing development opportunities for the young people; and
- Piloting placed based activity in St Georges, Ladywood. This pilot works with locally based agencies and community organisations to support families and individuals build financial resilience.

Birmingham's Financial Inclusion Partnership works alongside partner organisations, such as Citizens Advice, the Consumer Credit Counselling Service, Job Centre Plus, credit unions, housing associations, banks and utility companies (gas, electricity and more).

In its aim to promote a sustainable approach to financial inclusion, the FIP has developed a strategy and [action plan](#) to address the factors that lead to financial difficulties. The strategy and action plan are underpinned by the three key principles of prevent, survive and recover.

Green Academies Project

The Ranger Service of Parks is working with the National Trust, council's Youth Service and Housing on the Green Academies Project (GAP). GAP works with 16-21 year olds from deprived targeted areas of Pool Farm, Hawksley and Druids Heath, on planting of over 500 bluebell, wild garlic and wood anemone bulbs, together with hundreds of trees and several hedgerows.

Hajj and Umrah Travel Fraud project

Birmingham Trading Standards (BTS) has successfully worked in partnership with the Association of British Hujjaj, the Council of British Hajjis, and the City of London Police to identify and tackle fraud in this area. A key success to building confidence and trust with the Muslim community to enable reporting of this crime. Over the last 10 years BTS has carried out annual proactive inspections of Birmingham traders selling pilgrimage packages and reacted to complaints made by consumers. The result has been regular and successful prosecutions of package tour operators resulting in significant fines and custodial sentences.

BTS represent the trading standards profession at the All Party Parliamentary Group on Hajj and Umrah. All-Party Parliamentary Groups (**APPGs**) are informal, cross-party groups formed by MPs and Members of the House of Lords who share a common interest in a particular policy area, region or country.

Litter Picks

We support local communities to run Litter Picks, providing advice, support, and equipment to enable communities to clear up their environment and take pride in their neighbourhoods.

Prevent and counter-extremism

The Prevent Delivery Plan 2018/19 has a number of priorities which contribute to enhancing community cohesion which, including developing effective engagement strategies for communities across the Prevent agenda in order to strengthen community resilience to defeat terrorism. The aim is to increase engagement with local communities around the Prevent agenda and help build and grow community resilience to defeat terrorism.

Counter-extremism work covers four themes:

- countering extremist narratives;
- building partnerships with all those opposed to extremism;
- disrupting extremists;
- building cohesive communities.

The best way to counter extremism is to address the societal drivers that can lead to disengagement and social isolation. Under the Building Stronger Britain Together programme, the government funds community initiatives, and other social policy programmes to enhance social cohesion and integration by supporting community harmony, migrant integration and strengthening economic and civic participation. We engage with partners locally and nationally to share information and best practice approaches to supporting communities.

Ranger Service

The Ranger Service works in parks and green spaces across Birmingham, with projects including:

- an events programme across the city including people from all communities (12,510 attended 181 Ranger Service events in 2017/18);
- life-long learning opportunities for all children, from nursery groups all the way up to Duke of Edinburgh Awards (4,488 pupils attended ranger-led school events in 2017/18);
- targeted activities for special needs groups, such as carers;
- 39 Active Partnerships on conservation and community projects, including 'Teamworx' (a project jointly run with West Midlands

Police and West Midlands Fire Service), which works with children of primary school age where there is a risk of exclusion, poor behaviour, identified vulnerabilities or a need to raise aspirations and confidence levels; and

- providing horticultural training for vulnerable individuals who assist with habitat management and Parks infrastructure, reducing social isolation and increasing skills levels.

Stirchley Baths

Stirchley Baths is a community hub for the Stirchley and wider neighbourhood – a meeting and mixing place that enables community cohesion, integration and catalyst enabling positive relationships between people from different backgrounds. There is a programme of activities and opportunities for all, delivered in partnership with a group of local volunteers.

Urban Regeneration Mix

URBACT funded 2 year-long project that supports the localism agenda by opening up the discussion on social aspects of regeneration, participation and co-design of public spaces. This is an international project where Birmingham alongside cities like Bologna, Braga, Zagreb and Lodz share and learn about best approaches to regeneration of urban areas affected by poverty. The project analyses practical examples of effective communication platforms that work both for city planning and regeneration teams as well as for the residents. Local stakeholder group comprising of political representatives, BCC, local organisations and residents has been established to drive the work forward for Birmingham. This project is currently being trialled in West Birmingham.

Economy

Business Growth Programme

The Birmingham Growth Programme is a £33m programme designed to help improve economic prosperity through growing businesses, encouraging investment, stimulating enterprise and creating sustainable new jobs. The programme operates across Greater Birmingham and Solihull, the Marches and Stoke-On-Trent, and Staffordshire LEP areas. It will grow 576 businesses, generate 335m in private sector investment and create 1,500 new jobs. All business and skills-based programmes are inclusive and open to all.

The second phase of the programme (BGP2) is expected to start January 2019 and run until March 2022. It will grow 300 SMEs, start 143 new businesses, create 1000 new jobs, and generate 13.2m of private sector investment.

European and International Affairs Team

The EIA Team delivers an international strategy that seeks to bring economic and cultural benefits to the city and its people. This includes:

- securing European funding to support some of the city's most vulnerable people in education, employment and training outcomes;
- utilising international partner/sister city links to support and promote cultural and economic exchanges benefiting local people and communities;
- working with partners such as Birmingham Commonwealth Association and Eurocities to promote and develop initiatives that engage and involve local people;
- engaging in strategic projects with European partners to address key policy areas such as employment, skills, health, migration and social and economic inclusion;
- attracting capital and investment into the city supporting key economic challenges such as the provision of affordable housing.

Working in partnership with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

We work with the WMCA around prosperity and skills, ensuring that the needs of citizens in Birmingham are fully represented within WMCA policy and commissioning/delivery (particularly those from target community cohorts).

Specific areas of work include:

- Employment Support Pilots: focusing on personalised employment support targeting hard and hardest to reach residents, and those in work but on low pay. Over the next 3 years the project will seek to achieve 342 job starts in Washwood Heath and 269 job starts in Shard End alongside other support and progression targets.
- Employment Support Framework: we are contributing to the development of a common regional Employment Support Framework, to ensure that this framework is underpinned by good practice to actively engage and create progression routes to employment and training for Birmingham residents, particularly those from disproportionately excluded communities.
- Regional Skills Plan and skills agreement: work is ongoing to influence the WMCA's skills deal allocation and Adult Education devolved budget from 2019 to ensure appropriate targeting around the needs of Birmingham's residents and target communities.

Education

Communications and Autism Team (CAT)

The Communications and Autism Team (CAT) supports children and young people with a diagnosis of autism, or who are on the autism diagnosis pathway. The services they provide include:

- Department of Education approved Autism Education Training for practitioners, to enable inclusion of children and young people in universal educational settings;
- Three Youth Groups for young people aged 12-18 with a diagnosis of autism;
- Parent drop-ins and coffee mornings for families of children and young people with communication and autism needs;
- Parents Awareness Courses (CAT PACs) supporting parents to gain a greater understanding of their child's needs and the skills they need to support/advocate for them.

Educational Psychology Service - newly arrived young people

We are working with Virtual Scholl to develop a package of training and support to help education providers to better meet the needs of young people who are newly arrived to Birmingham. These are children who have often experienced significant trauma, in addition to having had limited access to formal education.

Educational Psychology Service

Our Educational Psychology Service supports schools to create inclusive environments that promote community cohesion and reduce/prevent prejudice formation in children. We also support schools around individual cases, identifying needs and promoting protective factors that can reduce the risk of radicalisation.

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Parent Ambassador Scheme

<p>The Parent Ambassador scheme is a free, accredited training course for parents to support them in engaging with other parents – in particular, being a voice for parents reluctant to speak directly to school staff. This includes supporting parents with language and literacy barriers who may require translation/interpretation services.</p> <p>The course aims to build community cohesion through creating a link between schools and ‘hard to reach’ parents, giving both the parents and the school a voice. Parent Ambassadors achieve a recognised qualification and a guarantee of voluntary work for 12 months.</p>

Sensory Support team

<p>The Sensory Support team provides a range of services for children and young people with sensory needs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekly and fortnightly ‘Listen Talk and Play’ groups for parents of children and young people with sensory needs, including children with complex multi-sensory impairment. Attendees are from a diverse ranges of backgrounds, cultures, and languages, and many feel isolated in their own communities due to their child’s disabilities.• Peer Awareness sessions to children and young people in mainstream schools on deafness and visual impairment, to raise awareness, enhance public inclusion, and develop the resilience and confidence of children and young people with sensory impairment.• Workshops for children and young people with sensory impairment and their parents, to encourage independence, choice, and inclusion. Workshops raise awareness of the different pathways and options available, preparing for transition to adulthood, raising aspirations for children and young people, and improving social mobility.
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Employment and skills

Apprenticeship schemes

Development of apprenticeship scheme to assist young people not in education, employment or training within the waste management service.

Birmingham and Solihull Youth Promise Plus (YPP)

The Youth Promise Plus project (YPP) provides personalised employment support to young people (15-29 years) who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) with a particular emphasis on young people from communities and client cohorts disproportionately excluded from skills support and the labour market. Participants are allocated an Intervention Worker who provides personal coaching and motivational support and action planning and then seeks to link the individual to employment and skills pathways and opportunities generated through the employer engagement element of the project.

The first phase of this project (April 2016-July 2018) engaged 13,092 young people, of which a significant proportion were from groups disproportionately excluded from employment. For example 7,701 (59%) were from Black and Minority ethnic communities and 2,447 (19%) had some form of self-declared disability. Overall across Birmingham and Solihull, the project directly supported the progression of 4,137 participants into employment, education & training outcomes.

Building Birmingham Scholarship

The Building Birmingham Scholarship is funded by the Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust, and provides access to a wide range of education, training, and employment opportunities for people between 16 and 24 years of age who wish to pursue a career in the construction and built environment sectors. This includes financial support for those wishing to continue their studies into higher education on related courses. BBS offers financial support to young people from priority ward in the form of bursaries. Currently the BBS programme supports 70 young people.

Employment Access Team (EAT)

The Employment Access Team (EAT) works with employers to develop customised pre-employment training pathways for identified job vacancies. Vacancies are then matched with local Birmingham residents, especially those who are unemployed and/or in communities that face disproportionate exclusion from the labour market. Using this approach, we have matched people into jobs with key employers and developments including the Bullring, Library of Birmingham, redevelopment of New Street Station and Grand Central. Moving forward, the EAT model will be applied to key opportunities including HS2 and the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

We work closely with key strategic partners including DWP Birmingham & Solihull District Office and The Prince's Trust "Get Into" programme to ensure that approaches to employers are co-ordinated and effective, and that opportunities for people in Birmingham are maximised.

GBSLEP Supplier Skills Programme

The £12m GBSLEP Skills Hub will upskill 7,030 new and existing employees in SME across the Birmingham area with basic, level 2 and below and level 3+. Additionally, the proposed Skills Fund will upskill Birmingham based employees in SME's with basic, level 2 and below and level 3 training support.

Local Employment & Skills Boards (LESBs)

Working in partnership with local organisations, we are developing four Local Employment & Skills Boards (LESBs) to better coordinate employment support and skills activity in target communities:

- North Birmingham (with Witton Lodge Community Association);
- South Birmingham (with Prospects Services);
- East Birmingham (with The Pioneer Group);
- West and Central Birmingham (with People Plus).

USE-IT (Unlocking Social and Economic Innovation Together)

USE-IT! seeks to identify and connect social and economic assets existing in poor and migrant communities to the major capital and infrastructure investments (e.g. construction of a new Hospital, new housing project), in order to maximise the economic and social benefits of the urban development for marginalised residents. The project provides peer-to-peer support for communities, and acts as change and innovation drivers to bring out bold and sustainable solutions. The model relies on 3 main lever mechanisms to unlock the potential of poor communities:

- using Community Researchers to identify the ideas, talents, and skills and local people and their qualification needs (related to larger urban development projects);
- matching job skills in local communities with demand, especially focused on matching NHS sector roles with people that have overseas medical qualifications;
- creating a community of social enterprises and social production, to help local people develop their enterprise skills and trade their way out of poverty and social exclusion.

This project is delivered in partnership with 15 organisations.

Health

Developers Toolkit

Public Health has created a toolkit for use by developers to assess health impact across twelve indicators. Indicator 9 is Social Cohesion and Lifetime Neighbourhoods.

Using the toolkit, Health Impact Assessments (HIA) will be undertaken on every major development in the city (this can include redevelopment and regeneration). HIAs are now a mandatory part of the planning pre-application validation checklist (for all major applications) and we expect Community Cohesion and Severance to be a consideration. We also undertake/oversee the HIA's of major documents, strategies and plans.

Everybody Active, Every Day

We are supporting the Everybody Active, Every Day initiative from Public Health England. Early intervention is needed to make sure physical activity is accessible and efforts go a long way to prevent ill health for everyone.

Public health tackling fuel and food poverty

Public Health sits on the board for FIP and chairs Objective 3 (Food and Fuel Poverty). We're actively finalising the size and scope of the problem in the city which allows for targeted intervention.

This work addresses inequality and inequity across the city – we have fragmented communities which don't always engage in services available to them and working on community cohesion can help improve the knowledge and uptake of services. The more cohesive and engaged communities are, the more uptake of services and in turn better outcomes for the populations.

Guns, Gangs and Organised Crime

Public Health sits on the strategic board for Guns, Gangs and Organised Crime and so has clear sight and involvement of that strategy, which includes Community Cohesion. The board is considering options and opportunities for increasing and improving Community Cohesion across Birmingham, especially for priority groups.

Local Community Safety Partnerships

Public Health attends each of the four Community Safety Partnership meetings to bring together public sector agencies to work in partnership to create a healthier Birmingham and to tackle the difficult and complex problems that affect communities. This includes a joint project between Public Health and West Midlands Police, sharing data to capture joint hotspots linked to high levels of crime and deprivation and low life expectancy, hoping to tackle the cycle of deprivation.

South and West Local Community Safety Group

Public health work with the South and West Local Community Safety Group, as part of their Action Plan, to tackle 'Hidden Crimes' (modern slavery, domestic abuse, female genital mutilation) and raise awareness in communities.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

Public health is working with developers to strengthen how they work in partnership with communities to enhance the built environment. This will include focusing on areas of deprivation and a level of requirements that would add value to planning consents and benefit communities rather than the bottom line for Developers.

We are setting up a Task & Finish Group that are representative of the need of our entire local population to look at how builders/developers should view their designs that would make houses safe and attractive, what should be included e.g. shops, services such as GPs, parks and open spaces that are safe for all ages wanting to participate in physical activities, and good public transport.

Housing and development

Birmingham Development Plan

The Birmingham Development Plan sets out an ambitious plan for developing the city, with 89,000 new homes including about 33,800 affordable dwellings; 745,000sq.m of new office floor space and new employment sites. The BDP was the subject of extensive public consultation with formal events and consultation periods, these involved elected members, resident and other community groups, statutory bodies, landowners, neighbourhood forums and events around the city to engage local residents.

Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust

Birmingham City Council is the largest housing developer in the city through the Birmingham Municipal Housing Trusts (BMHT). The BMHT programme focusses on delivering new homes at social and affordable rent, which is a key activity at a time when there is little Housing Association activity in the city, and there are rising levels of homelessness as a result of the current economic conditions.

The delivery of new homes at social and affordable rates makes a significant contribution to housing the poorest people in our society. The new homes built by the Council through the BMHT are of aspirational quality and space standards. This is to ensure that social and affordable housing tenants are not seen to be housed in second class accommodation but actually are being housed in homes which are built to higher standards than most built by the private sector for open market sale. The BMHT the Council build between 400-500 new homes per annum. Since its creation, 3,000 homes have been built.

As part of the delivery of the programme all new build contracts meet the criteria for the Birmingham Charter for Social Responsibility, to ensure that the maximum opportunities are secured to generate job and apprentice placements and maximise local opportunities for the supply chain industries.

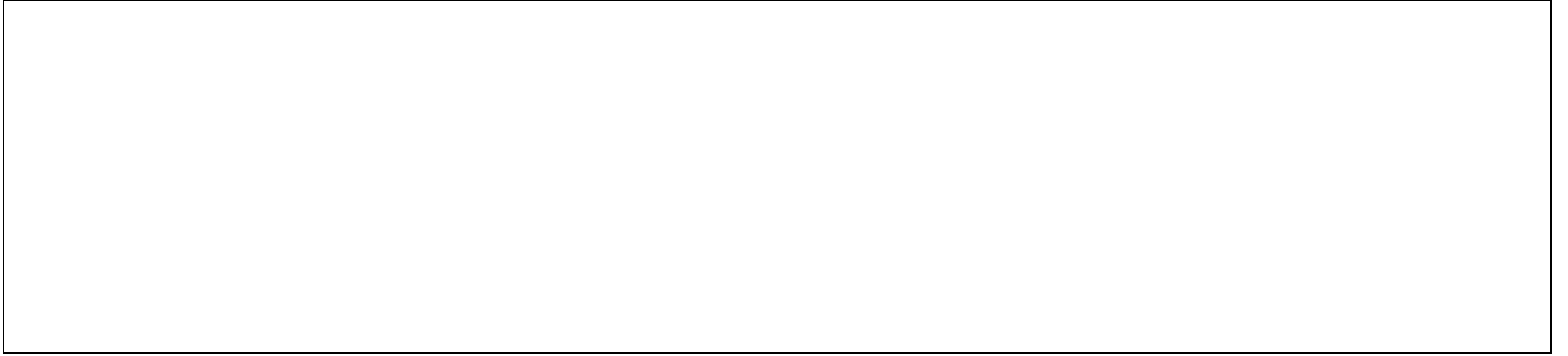
Housing Engagement Plan

We are developing an engagement plan and implementation model to improve relationships between tenants and landlords, including:

- improving transparency;
- developing good practice in managing complaints;
- renewed focus on landlord responsibility;
- involving residents and local organisations in decision-making, including better ways of engaging council tenants;
- ensuring that tenants/residents are aware of their rights and protections;
- making it easier for tenants/residents to report safety issues.

Initial Accommodation Centres

Birmingham is home to the region's two sites (and two of eight nationally), which provide temporary accommodation for newly arrived destitute asylum seekers. This is for a period of up to 21 days before being re-housed in housing located across the region whilst asylum claims are reviewed. As part of this we have a role in ensuring that accommodation complies with regulations, support provided complies with safeguarding requirements and that children and young people are able to access education.



Transport

Birmingham Connected Transport Strategy

Birmingham Connected is our vision for the future of transport in Birmingham, working towards a safer, healthier, greener city with a reliable integrated transport system which supports our growing population and economy. One of the five core objectives of Birmingham Connected is 'Equitable Birmingham' – linking communities together and improving access to jobs and services, through a transport system which provides choice and access for everyone. Barriers to movement can include cost, safety, security, information provision, and access for people with disabilities or those who have specific mobility needs; these barriers will to be removed or greatly reduced through the delivery of Birmingham Connected.

Birmingham Road Safety Strategy

A Road Safety Strategy for Birmingham is part of the Birmingham Connected vision for the future of transport in Birmingham, working towards a safer, healthier, greener city with a reliable integrated transport system which supports our growing population and economy. An important component of this is the promotion of road safety education, training and campaigns, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable road user groups and the communities where involvement in collisions is highest. Much of this work is carried out through the Birmingham Road Safety Partnership, in conjunction with the Police and Fire Service.

Community road safety projects provide a valuable way to actively engage and communicate with residents, community groups and partner organisations and get them involved in addressing this at a neighbourhood level. We are keen to introduce a Community Speed Watch scheme to further enhance this offer and are speaking with West Midlands Police about how this should be delivered. It is hoped that this can be rolled-out as part of the Regional Road Safety Strategy that Transport for West Midlands are developing.

Clean Air Zone

Birmingham is currently on a journey to cleaner air, including the introduction of a proposed Clean Air Zone from January 2020. Air pollution is a serious public health issue that affects everyone, with some people more vulnerable because of where they live and work, how they travel, and how old they are. It is vitally important that communities are engaged in this agenda and supported to take action to improve air quality.

We have already started to do this, through a series of events organised for National Clean Air Day in 2017 and again in 2018, and as part of the recent Clean Air Zone consultation – which included a number of workshops and public drop-in events and received the highest ever number of responses to a city council consultation. This engagement will be built on through the Clean Air Behaviour Change sub-programme, which will engage with people across schools, workplaces and communities to raise awareness about the impact of air pollution and deliver local solutions for reducing exposure and personal contributions to this. This will include air quality monitoring in local schools and communities, an anti-idling campaign at identified hot spots, and working in partnership to support local Clean Air champions, action groups and networks.

The introduction of a Clean Air Zone will include a series of mitigation measures and exemptions designed to address the potential negative impacts on certain groups. Successful delivery of this will depend on ensuring that the relevant groups have full access to information on the proposed measures, how they will be affected, and the various options available to them. This is especially important for harder to reach groups, including low income residents and our most deprived communities. A community outreach approach will be deployed to engage with key groups, including community organisations and places of worship, to disseminate and promote these messages in the most effective way.

Transportation Capital Programme

The delivery of the Capital Programme requires that we inform the community and key stakeholders of the transportation policies that are driving proposed traffic/transportation schemes. Engagement activities are arranged to support these schemes, inform the community of the proposals and highlight community issues addressed by the scheme (e.g. parking, road safety). Consultations seek to identify how these schemes will affect people and to address any additional issues raised. Schemes are designed to address mobility issues and consider the requirements of different community interest groups as far as possible. Where possible, community interest groups are engaged at an early stage to help shape proposals and inform development of schemes. Opportunities to influence the design of proposals are clearly identified and options available for consideration are outlined to support this process.