



# **The Evolution of Devolution within Birmingham:**

## **A Better Deal for Neighbourhoods - improved ward & neighbourhood working**

Briefing for Cabinet Committee  
Local Leadership  
7 March 2017

## Working Together

- Role of Assistant Leaders and Cabinet Committee is to work with all councillors and the community
- We started by listening:
  - Met Labour Group and opposition leaders/ Cons group
  - Met with nearly 70 councillors
  - Learn from what works here and elsewhere eg Oldham
- This meeting:
  - Report back on what you have said
  - Set out the direction of change for the year ahead

## What You Said:

- “We want a ‘Can Do’ officer who can help us get things done locally”
- “We want flexible delivery of basic front-line services to meet the needs of our communities”
- “We want residents to see they can get local issues resolved”
- “We want more joined up working between services to better serve the locality”
- “We want a willingness by the Council to try out different ways of doing things”

# The Direction of Change

**Our Vision** *(taken from Report to Cabinet 28 June 2016 'Establishment of the Cabinet Committee Local Leadership' Appendix 2 The Evolution of Devolution)*

- The “centre of gravity” will shift from the Leader and Cabinet to the local leadership of councillors in their communities
- From districts to wards and real neighbourhoods
- From formal decisions made by committees and cabinet to decisions made with the community

**Our Measures of Success** *(taken from 'Devolution: Making it Real' 2013)*

- Services being different, better suited to the area, and more efficient
- Officers work for the locality first, not their service or directorate
- Local councillors can have more influence on services
- Residents believe they are more in control of their services and their local area

## Improved Ward & Neighbourhood Working

- **Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinators** - report to April Cabinet Committee
- **Ward Teams** - named officers from different services with 'can do' attitude
- **Flexing services locally** - Cleaner Streets & other local services
- **Toolkits for local solutions** eg Alleyways
- **Local budgets** – review starting, Housing Environment Budget approved by Cabinet - more local control

## Locally Influenced Services

- Street Cleaning
- Enforcement
- Community Safety
- Parking Enforcement
- Amey
- Highways
- Jobs & Skills
- Health & Wellbeing

## **Additional Areas ALs are Exploring**

- Strengthening our relationship with local groups
- Better partnership working with other statutory agencies
- Supporting and boosting our Local Centres
- Better utilisation of the Corporate Social Responsibility offer with supporting local groups
- Neighbourhood Planning Toolkit
- Volunteering and Timebanking
- Data Sharing
- Current set up with Health & Wellbeing localised services
- Reviews of asset based approaches
- Member Development

## Transition Teams

- District Committees to become Transition Teams
- October – start transition to new ward working
  
- Transition Teams will work with ALs  
Different Services tackled at different levels:
  - Jobs & Skills
  - Health & Wellbeing
  - Housing
  
- What issues need to be tackled at a level above the ward?



## Tackling Jobs & Skills Locally

- Work at a level above the ward
- Clusters of wards put on a series of Local Skills Events or mini skills shows, that will put employers and providers in touch with local people (Employment Access Team advise us on suitable clusters)
- Engaging with local members on the COG app – single point of entry for young people

## Improved Ward & Neighbourhood Working

- Supporting other forms of governance:
  - Neighbourhood (parish) Councils
  - Supporting neighbourhood forums, co-operatives, community development trusts
  - Oldham: “Devo deals” with local areas
- Culture change
  - Default position for officers – ‘Yes we can’ ‘Don’t walk by’
  - More support for councillors
  - “Stepping forward” – supporting people in the community
- Oldham: Local Leaders programme
- Corporate Resources O & S - Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils