

**Hodge Hill District
Community Plan 2016/17
Draft 1**

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1.Introduction:

From District Executive Member, Councillor Ansar Ali Khan

My sincere belief is 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. Having been the chair of the Hodge Hill District Committee for 10 years I have witnessed the many challenges faced by residents of Hodge Hill District. Hodge Hill continues to be a vibrant and diverse district and whilst there have been improvements in some aspects of modern life overall many residents find things are not getting any easier.

The City Council has to make £250 million of savings from its budget between now and 2020 on top of the £560 million of cuts it has already made in recent years. Sadly this means that some services will be lost from the district and that vital support will be removed for some of those most in need in our community. When faced with mounting challenges the Council will strive to make the best of the resources it has available. Through my role as the Hodge Hill Executive Member for the past 2 years I have had the opportunity to contribute to the Council's Cabinet Committee and to work for positive change and improvement across the district to better meet the needs of local people. However, the council cannot work in isolation - it also needs to work in partnership with local third sector organisations to add value and make the Birmingham pound stretch that bit further especially in Hodge Hill. Together in partnership we are stronger and more resilient to face the considerable challenges across the district.

Whilst the district has a good number of small businesses and enterprises it lacks some of the larger employers that exist in other parts of the city. Clearly the High Speed Rail link that will come through a part of our district in the coming years will not be welcomed by all residents but viewed positively will bring economic growth to the city and employment opportunities to residents of Hodge Hill. We need to work to ensure our young people (and those not so young) have the necessary skills and qualifications to compete for jobs associated with HS2 but also at other major local employers such as Heartlands Hospital and Birmingham Airport as well as in the city centre financial, commercial and retail opportunities. Progress is being made to establish a Hodge Hill Jobs and Skills Partnership Group to progress the local priorities within the Hodge Hill Jobs & Skills Plan that was agreed at District Committee this year.

This Hodge Hill District Community Plan has been developed with our friends and partners and it helps us to identify the direction we need to take, and who can play a role in helping to deliver a bright future for all who live, work and study in Hodge Hill District.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan

2. Purpose of this Community Plan

This District Community Plan outlines the priorities and associated actions of the Council and its Hodge Hill 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 a Hodge Hill District Convention held on 28 January 2016.

There are already a number of key documents and plans in place in Hodge Hill 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 and have previously been reported to district committee. These include:

- The Hodge Hill District Policy Statement
- The Hodge Hill District Profile 2014/15
- Hodge Hill District Convention Summary report
- The Hodge Hill District Jobs and Skills Plan
- East Birmingham Community Safety Partnership's Plan
- The Hodge Hill Youth Unemployment Neighbourhood Challenge report

These documents are available from the District Lead Officer Mike Davis who may be contacted by phone on 0776 692 4147 or email mike.davis@birmingham.gov.uk

This Hodge Hill 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 Hodge Hill Plan has been produced at a time of significant change within the city.

New 2020 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 for 2020. This vision is based on the fundamental ideals of prosperity, fairness and democracy, and, within that, to have a:

- strong economy;
- safety and opportunity for all children;
- a great future for young people;
- thriving local communities;
- a healthy and happy population;
- and a modern council.

Early citywide priorities include keeping our children's and education improvement plans on track and successfully concluding the work set for us by the Birmingham Independent Improvement Panel. Arising from our longer term thinking, we are focusing on a small number of big issues for the city including the provision of decent, affordable housing, investment in our transport infrastructure and a city for young people and for their learning and skills.

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 for 2020 and its associated financial plan continues 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 £360 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.

Many other public sector and third sector partners operating across Hodge Hill 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 several 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 expected to be introduced in 2016/17 that can be used within the district to support neighbourhood and service improvements.

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

4. Hodge Hill District – Who Lives Here?

Hodge Hill District is located in the east of Birmingham and comprises the four wards of Bordesley Green, Hodge Hill, Shard End and Washwood Heath. The district stretches from the inner city wards of Washwood Heath and Bordesley Green to Shard End on the eastern boundary of the city. Although there are a few pockets of relative affluence, particularly in Hodge Hill Ward, Hodge Hill District as a whole has high levels of deprivation and is characterised by households of reduced means.

Hodge Hill has the largest population of all the districts in the city with an estimated population of 123,537 and around 39,483 households. The district has a slightly younger age profile compared to Birmingham as a whole with 30.4% of Hodge Hill residents being 15 and under compared to 22.8% citywide. In contrast only 10.4% are aged 65 and older compared to 13.0% across the city. In Hodge Hill District, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups make up just less than half (45.6%) of the total population; this is a higher proportion than the city average and five times the national average. Nearly 83% of its population identify with a religion – the highest proportion of all ten districts with the largest religious group being the Muslim community accounting for over half of the district's population. However, the religious profile of the district is not uniform across the wards with Shard End having a higher proportion that identify themselves as Christian.

5. Hodge Hill 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.

In terms of the main challenges facing Birmingham, "helping people to find jobs" is the number 1 ranked priority both within the district and across the city as a whole. "Dealing with Crime", "providing more affordable housing", and "making people feel safer" are issues of priority to a higher proportion of Hodge Hill residents compared to across the city.

Main Challenges Facing Birmingham	Hodge Hill	Rank	Citywide	Rank
Helping people to find jobs	21%	1st	20.1%	1st
Dealing with crime	17.2%	2nd	10.5%	5th
Providing more affordable housing	14.9%	3rd	11.9%	3rd
Supporting families	10.3%	4th	11.6%	4th
Providing high-quality public services	9.7%	5th	13.5%	7th
Making people feel safer	7.8%	6th	6.4%	10th
Improving the condition of existing housing	7.2%	7th	7.0%	8th
Improving the local environment	6.6%	8th	7.8%	6th
Making Birmingham more prosperous	5.3%	9th	7.2%	7th
Improving relations between various communities	4.2%	10th	5%	13th

Looking at what specific issues need improving locally, "clean streets" is the issue which the highest proportion of Hodge Hill residents say need improving – the issue also ranked number 1 across the city. A significantly higher than average proportion of Hodge Hill residents identified this and the "level of crime" as in need of improvement. A higher proportion of Hodge Hill residents also identified Parks and Open spaces and Health services as needing improvement compared to the rest of the city.

Quality of Life Issue in Need of Improvement	Hodge Hill	Rank	Citywide	Rank
Clean Streets	43.6%	1 st	32.5%	1 st
Level of Crime	25.9%	2 nd	14.2%	3 rd
Road and pavement repairs	25.2%	3 rd	30.2%	2 nd
Job Prospects	22.6%	4 th	19.3%	5 th
Refuse Collection	20.6%	5 th	19.1%	7 th
Parking	20.2%	6 th	20.0%	3 rd
Activities for Teenagers	17.5%	7 th	19.5%	4 th
Police Presence	16.6%	8 th	19.2%	6 th
Parks and Open Spaces	12.2%	9 th	8.2%	12 th
Health Services	11.1%	10 th	8.7%	16 th

6. Summary of Hodge Hill District Priorities & Neighbourhood Challenge

This section of the Community Plan expands on the priorities identified by residents who participated in the most recent Residents Tracker Survey (see section 5) and it also has regard for the priorities identified by stakeholders; including local councillors, statutory partners, voluntary and community organisations, at the 2015 Hodge Hill District Convention. (See Appendix x)

These priorities are organised under four broad headings:

It is important to recognise that success in addressing one priority is often dependent upon success in addressing other priorities. For example, residents' health and wellbeing will be improved by better housing and job prospects.

a) Jobs & Skills:

For both residents and partners working within Hodge Hill improving job prospects has been identified as a top priority particularly for young people. On 29 September 2015 the District Committee approved a specific Hodge Hill District Jobs & Skills Plan. (Appendix x) Furthermore, given that, at 7.3%, Hodge Hill District has the highest level of youth unemployment of all the city's districts, the District Committee decided to make 'youth unemployment' the theme of its first ever Hodge Hill Neighbourhood Challenge exercise in 2015/16 culminating in a report produced in March 2016 with 12 specific recommendations. (See Appendix x for full details.)

Arising from the Jobs & Skills Plan and the Neighbourhood Challenge are many day to day operational actions that need to be progressed between the BCC Employment Team, the Hodge Hill District Head, the Job Centre Plus Team and other locally based partners but, in overall terms, the strategic priorities are to:

JS1: Fully establish a Hodge Hill District Job & Skills Partnership Group to support the delivery of the District Jobs and Skills Plan and to promote improved Jobs & Skills related outcomes.

JS2: Progress the specific recommendations within the Youth Unemployment Neighbourhood Challenge and report progress to the District Jobs & Skills Partnership Group and to District Committee during the 16/17 year. (See section 7 for more background details on 'Neighbourhood Challenge'.)

JS3: Work with partners in Hodge Hill and the East to facilitate discussions around the potential for a joint partnership bid for a share of £50 million of Youth Employment Initiative contracts available across Birmingham & Solihull.

Desired Outcomes:

With an increased focus within the district on Jobs & Skills it is hoped that the following outcomes will be achieved:

- Reduce the gap in educational attainment between Hodge Hill young people and the Birmingham average at key stage 4 (GCSE) and level 2 (A Level.)
- Reduce the gap between the number of Hodge Hill young people (aged 18-25) not in education, employment or training and the Birmingham average.
- Strengthen work with Hodge Hill families to address complex and challenging issues for young people and, in doing so, to assist in improving the previous two outcomes outlined.

It has to be recognised that the newly established Hodge Hill Jobs & Skills Partnership Group has no new resources of its own to address these priority outcomes and to tackle these deeply entrenched and difficult issues. However, the Group will still look to influence and bend mainstream resources to ensure the best possible outcomes are delivered locally with the resources available. It should also be appreciated that external factors beyond the control of the district and its partners – such as the national referendum 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, that does not stop Hodge Hill partners doing all within their means to support and encourage the drive toward improved outcomes.

b) Health and Wellbeing:

There is a Shard End based Health & Wellbeing Network that aims to meet around 4 times each year, typically at the Welcome Change Community Centre in Shard End. This is being led in 2016/17 by Birmingham Settlement. The Network is supported by a high number of Hodge Hill based partner organisations as well as enjoying attendance at times from NHS, CCG's (clinical commissioning groups) and BCC's Public Health. Once again this Network of itself has no funds to draw upon to address health related priorities but through joint working and collaboration between partners over health and wellbeing related activities and events there is added value to the district's desired outcomes.

The immediate and realistic priorities that can be delivered by Hodge Hill District's health partners in 2016/17 are as follows:

HWB1: To sustain and expand the Shard End Health & Wellbeing Network to include representatives from across the wider district.

HWB2: To share with the above Network the BCC Public Health profile for Hodge Hill District and to agree which of the priorities within the profile partners within the Network feel able to support. These could then potentially form the basis of a brief but effective Network action plan to demonstrate the contribution partners are making to Health & Wellbeing across Shard End and the wider District.

Broader Desired Health Outcomes for the district include:

- to improve overall levels of life expectancy
- to reduce obesity including childhood obesity
- improve mental health and wellbeing.
- Increase numbers of people engaged in sport and physical activity
- Improve opportunities for older people to be socially and physically active

Clearly there are strong external influences on the health of the populations that individual Hodge Hill partners cannot control. Nevertheless, individual partner organisations operating within Hodge Hill make a valuable contribution to the above desired outcomes and, whilst it is not possible to directly measure the impact made by partner organisations on these outcomes, it does not stop us working together to add value and make a positive difference to the lives of Hodge Hill residents.

c) Housing:

Detailed information on Hodge Hill District housing stock is contained within the District Profile document appended to this plan. In addition the *Birmingham Housing Prospectus* available on the

council's website provides details of future development opportunities the council is progressing in Hodge Hill. These include:

- **Cole Hall Lane, Shard End** – site for up to 350 dwellings with 50% affordable council housing and 50% for open market sale. Anticipated on site start date of January 2017. The City Council contact officer is Shahid Iqbal, Planning and Regeneration, telephone: (0121) 303 6474, e-mail: shahid.s.iqbal@birmingham.gov.uk
- **Former Smith & Nephew site off Alum Rock Rd, Washwood Heath** - the site has capacity for 124 dwellings. It is now privately owned and is ready for immediate development. The City Council contact is Richard Thomas, Planning and Regeneration, telephone: (0121) 303 8453, e-mail: richard.l.thomas@birmingham.gov.uk.
- **Bordesley Park / Humpage Rd / Cherrywood Rd area, Bordesley Green** - These sites are likely to come forward within a 5 year timescale. City Council contact: Doug Lee, Planning and Regeneration, telephone: (0121) 303 9858, e-mail: doug.lee@birmingham.gov.uk.

In order to progress both strategic and local operational housing related issues across Hodge Hill a number of opportunities currently exist for residents to engage and get involved in their neighbourhood.

1. District Housing Panel – this has not met regularly for a number of months but can provide an opportunity for housing stakeholders – including council housing officers, registered housing providers and others - to come together and consider the housing related needs of the wider district.
2. Local Housing Liaison Boards – these exist principally (but not exclusively) to allow council housing tenant representatives to work closely with housing officers to improve the quality of the service they receive and to tackle wider issues within the neighbourhood.
3. Neighbourhood Forums and Residents Associations – these provide local residents in clearly defined areas but smaller areas the opportunity to meet with each other and to progress locally identified resident priorities.

The Hodge Hill council contact for the above is Firoza Loonat, Tenant Participation Officer, Tel: 0121 303 7128, email: firoza.loonat@birmingham.gov.uk

The immediate and realistic priorities that can be delivered by Hodge Hill District's housing partners in 2016/17 are as follows:

H1 – to re-establish the Hodge Hill Housing Panel, to agree its priorities for 2016/17 and to publish its short plan of action.

H2 – to support and contribute to the work of the Council's 'Place Managers' in each of the four Ward's of Hodge Hill District to provide high quality housing management services and to tackle underlying issues affecting our neighbourhoods

H3 To work with the Housing Panel, Place Managers (including the Streetscene Co-ordinator,) community organisations, local residents, local businesses and other stakeholders to maintain and improve the quality of the District's housing estates, parks and green spaces, to reduce litter and to improve the general cleanliness of our neighbourhoods.

There are a set of broader aspirational desired outcomes relating to housing that are to a large degree outside of the immediate control of the Hodge Hill District partners but these include:

Desired Outcomes:

- To improve the conditions and affordability of the private rented sector.

- To reduce homelessness, overcrowding and the number of empty properties.
- To improve the energy efficiency of all housing and to support all new homes being zero carbon or carbon negative.

It is not possible to measure the impact made by Hodge Hill partners to these broad outcomes but nonetheless the housing partners operating in Hodge Hill will be conscious of the desirability of improving these outcomes and contribute in whatever ways they can.

d) Community Safety:

Community Safety related issues are tackled presently by means of a well-established and effective multi agency partnership for the East of the city (Hodge Hill, Yardley and Hall Green.) An over-arching partnership group meets regularly throughout the year and is currently chaired by Superintendent Bas Javid with operational co-ordination and support provided by Amelia Murray, Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership Manager. There are also several sub-groups on the East that tackle specific community safety related issues. The work of the East Birmingham Community Safety Partnership is overseen by the citywide Birmingham Community Safety Partnership.

Desired outcomes for the district around community safety would include:

- Reducing anti-social behaviour through education, support and, where necessary, enforcement.
- Engaging local residents, community organisations, local businesses and other stakeholders at a neighbourhood level to tackle crime and improve community safety.
- Tackling safety issues of major community concern including domestic violence, youth violence and business related crime.
- Supporting and protecting vulnerable adults.
- Supporting and protecting vulnerable young people

There are occasionally small funding opportunities made available to the East Community Safety Partnership that may allow it to undertake specific priority actions that contribute to the above desired outcomes. However, for the most part, the partnership works without financial resources other than those mainstream funds within each partner organisation that it may be possible to bend or direct toward East priorities.

The operational priorities of the East Community Safety Partnership are reviewed annually and for 16/17 the priority actions include:

CS1 – maintaining an 'East Domestic Violence Partnership Group' to review the new Birmingham Strategy and to oversee quarterly DV networking events

CS2 – maintaining 'East Safer Communities Partnership Group' monthly meetings to examine what can be done to address specific cases of complex and challenging behaviours of individuals and families and to hold quarterly Safer Communities networking events.

CS3 – strengthening Ward based 'Neighbourhood Tasking (local problem solving) Groups' and explore if there can be greater involvement from residents in such meetings at a Ward level.

CS4 - maintaining regular meetings of the Mental Health & Housing Local Partnership

CS5 establishing an Early Help & Safeguarding Partnership looking at the needs of young people and families with collaboration and referrals made to the Think Families programme

The East Community Safety Partnership will also aim to respond flexibly to emerging priorities during the year and at times single issues meetings may be held for a limited time to agree what action can be taken. An example in 2016/17 may be a group to look at tackling disruptive Off Road Biking.

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 Hodge Hill District Committee decided its Neighbourhood Challenge exercise would be on the topic of 'Youth Unemployment.' 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 considered by District Committee during 2016/17. This report is appended to this District Plan

A new topic will be identified by District Committee for its Neighbourhood Challenge exercise in 2016/17.

8. Monitoring & Review

As you will see a set of appendices follow, with thematic plans and proposals to progress a range of actions in varying timescales between now and 2020, to bring vital improvements to the things that matter most to Hodge Hill residents.

Over the past months a number of themed partnership sub-groups have emerged in order to develop and refine plans and progress actions. Each theme group will monitor its own progress and also be invited to report, on an annual basis, its activity to the Hodge Hill District Committee (made up of the 12 elected councillors from the four Wards of Bordesley Green, Hodge Hill, Shard End and Washwood Heath) and, where possible, human and financial resources will be identified to assist in delivery. The Committee may also wish to nominate elected councillor champions to support the themed partnership groups operating within the Hodge Hill District.

The District Committee currently has co-opted members from West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service and other co-opted partners might be considered in future to assist in the monitoring and review of district priority actions.

It is also the intention to build on the Hodge Hill District Conventions held in 2015 and 2016 with further annual events that will provide the opportunity to confirm that the vision and direction for Hodge Hill District is still appropriate and reflects the sort of Hodge Hill we are all working towards.

9. List of Supporting Documents

- A1. The Hodge Hill District Policy Statement

- A2. The Hodge Hill District Profile 2014/15
- A3. Hodge Hill District Convention Summary report
- A4. Hodge Hill District Jobs and Skills Plan
- A5. East Birmingham Community Safety Partnership's Plan

These are available from the district lead officer Mike Davis who may be contacted by phone on 0776 692 4147 or email mike.davis@birmingham.gov.uk

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