

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

15th October 2024



Title:	BIRMINGHAM CITY VISION
Lead Member: Cllr John Cotton	Councillor John Cotton, Leader of Birmingham City Council
Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate and Finance O&S Committee
Has this report been shared with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair?	Yes
Report Author:	Sal Naseem, Assistant Director Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships Sal.Naseem@birmingham.gov.uk
Authorised by:	Richard Brooks, Director of Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships Directorate
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes No Forward Plan Reference
Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:	Not Applicable
Is this a Late Report?	No
Reason(s) why Late and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:	Not Applicable
Is this decision eligible for 'call in?'	Yes
If 'call-in' has been dis-applied, please provide reason(s) and confirm who has authorised:	Not Applicable
Wards:	All Wards

Does this report contain exempt or confidential information?

No

Has this decision been included on the Notification of Intention to consider Matters in Private?

Not Applicable

Reasons why not included on the Notification and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:

Not Applicable

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This City Vision sets out long-term aims for the city to be shared by the Council and its partners, and a way of working across the partnership in the best interests of the city and its residents. Once agreed, it will provide the framework and direction for all the Council's strategic planning (including a new Corporate Plan), it is intended to be shared and owned across the whole city partnership to inform their work.
- 1.2 The 'Birmingham City Vision' would sit at the top of this hierarchy and provide the guide for all our strategic planning. It sets out the overall priorities, opportunities and challenges for the city, not just for the council.
- 1.3 This has been produced through extensive citizen and partner engagement over the past six months through Shaping Birmingham's Future Together. The aims also draw on extensive insight and analysis from the Birmingham City Observatory, plus existing Council and partner strategies.
- 1.4 It has been recommended that this draft is approved to enable it to be issued for a four-week period of engagement with strategic partners. Once this engagement exercise has been completed by the Strategic Partnerships Team, all the feedback will be reviewed and where necessary amendments made in consultation with the Leader and the MD, and then a final version of the City Vision will be produced, with a view to adoption at full Council in December.
- 1.5 Please note that this document is draft and will go through a full design process, all graphics etc are for illustration purposes at the moment.

2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

- 2.1 Commissioners support the preparation of the City Vision document, designed as a statement that can be endorsed and contributed to by all the Council's strategic partners. The finalised document, together with the Improvement and Recovery Plan will need to form the key influences of the Council's Corporate Plan to be prepared to guide the Council's actions and activities. The Vision contains a number of goals and targets. Before the Council agrees the final version as recommended, it will be essential to document and report on, the baseline position so that progress can be monitored over the 10 years and that the various partners can be challenged on their contribution. The Council will not always be the lead partner in delivering on some of these areas so it will be important to identify where the lead responsibility lies without the Council relinquishing its role as place leader.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

It has been recommended that this draft is approved to enable it to be issued for a four-week period of engagement with strategic partners and then a final version of the City Vision will be produced, with a view to adoption at full Council in December

4 KEY INFORMATION

Context

- 4.1 This City Vision has been drafted in conjunction with Shaping Birmingham's Future Together, which has been chaired by the Leader of the Council and involves a wide range of city partners and sought broader citizen feedback. As such the Council's Public Participation Team conducted a 6-week citizen engagement exercise which included an online survey with 1,190 responses and over 350 responses from members of the public in face-to-face meetings. The City Vision also draws on extensive analysis and insight from the City Observatory, plus other Council and partner strategies.
- 4.2 The context of the City is set out in the document in section three. This highlights important opportunities including:
- 4.2.1 A city of warm and welcoming communities, and a City of Sanctuary
 - 4.2.2 One of the country's most diverse and youthful populations in Europe.
 - 4.2.3 A city with outstanding national and international transport connectivity.
 - 4.2.4 A wide range of parks, gardens and green spaces, many historic buildings and canals, and attractive, varied neighbourhoods.
 - 4.2.5 Strong educational Institutions including many world-class further and higher educational institutions.
 - 4.2.6 A regionally, nationally and globally important economy.
 - 4.2.7 Economic diversity and strengths in advanced manufacturing, financial services, and technology.
 - 4.2.8 A wide range of cultural and sporting assets.
- 4.3 It also highlights our challenges, including our key cross-cutting challenge: the unacceptable level of inequality across the city. The challenges identified in the City Vision include:
- 4.3.1 Exceptionally high rates of unemployment and low levels of employment.
 - 4.3.2 A higher share of the population with no formal qualifications and a lower share with a degree-level qualification than any other large UK city.
 - 4.3.3 An acute housing crisis, reflected in a lack of affordable homes, overcrowding and poor-quality housing stock.
 - 4.3.4 Across the city, health outcomes lag behind national averages and there are large inequalities between different groups.
 - 4.3.5 The current transport infrastructure within the city does not meet the needs of our citizens.
 - 4.3.6 A climate emergency and the highest level of fuel poverty in any core city.

- 4.3.7 This vision cannot be delivered by any one organisation alone, it will need to be delivered through a range of partnership structures and a new understanding of true partnership working.
- 4.3.8 The vision is a living document, it must reflect the fact that the challenges and opportunities we face will change over the next decade. Therefore, the relevance of the City Vision and the Missions will be regularly reviewed at the annual State of Brum Summit.
- 4.3.9 Birmingham City Council will use the Birmingham City Vision to frame and shape the content of our Corporate Plan and other plans and strategies. We will encourage other organisations across the city to do the same through the vision and set out how they will contribute to help achieving and delivering this vision.

Proposal and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.4 A Corporate Plan was last agreed in November 2022 to cover Birmingham City Council's priorities from 2022-2026. It is now out of date and does not adequately reflect the council's new situation and priorities. However, we have renewed the Corporate Performance framework, and our new indicator set focuses more effectively on the delivery of our core services.
- 4.5 The Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP) was agreed in April 2024 and has three aims: for BCC to become financially sustainable, well run, and deliver good services for citizens. The IRP focuses corporate attention and resources on a set of defined programmes. However, it does not cover all the activity of the council or provide overarching aims for the organisation.
- 4.6 Shaping Birmingham's Future Together (SBFT) was announced by the Leader in March 2024 to signal a change in how BCC works, with a commitment to a more collaborative approach with citizens and partners. Wide-ranging external engagement has been undertaken over the summer, both in-person and online, to understand their perspectives and priorities for the city and council.
- 4.7 In summary, we now need to create, renew and strengthen several key plans and strategies, establish an overall strategic framework so they fit together coherently. The 'Birmingham City Vision' would sit at the top of this hierarchy and provide the guide for all our strategic planning. It sets out the overall priorities, opportunities and challenges for the city, not just for the council.
- 4.8 The overarching Vision set out in the document is for:
 - 4.8.1 Our vision for Birmingham is a city that tackles inequality, has a thriving economy, where all communities can enjoy greater opportunities and the wellbeing that brings.
- 4.9 The key aims of the Vision are set out in section 5 of the document, where they are linked to both the key challenges of the city and to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to provide a robust external framework. The five strategic priorities are:

- 4.9.1.1. Growth and prosperity
- 4.9.1.2. Knowledge and opportunity
- 4.9.1.3. Safety and sustainability
- 4.9.1.4. Equity and inclusion
- 4.9.1.5. Connected Brum

4.9.2 Each of the aims has an associated set of proposed success measures. We will produce an annual State of the City Report to track progress.

4.9.3 The Vision also includes at section 6 a 'Birmingham Promise' that has been developed with our partners, to capture a new way of working across the partnership. We would sign up to this as the council and encourage others to do so.

4.9.4 The next steps in developing our strategic planning framework include refreshing the Corporate Plan, which will describe the council's external contribution to achieving the City Vision.

4.10 It has been recommended that this draft is approved to enable it to be issued for a four-week period of engagement with strategic partners. Once this engagement exercise has been completed by the Strategic Partnerships Team, all the feedback will be reviewed and where necessary amendments made in consultation with the Leader and the MD, and then a final version of the City Vision will be produced, with a view to adoption at full Council in December

5 Other Options Considered

5.1 No other options were considered.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 N/A

7 CONSULTATION

N/A

8 MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Ward Councillor(s)

8.1 N/A

Overview and Scrutiny

8.2 A session has been arranged with the Chair of the relevant overview & scrutiny committee, Cllr Albert Bore to take place on 3rd October, and the draft document has been sent to him.

9 IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Best Value

- 9.1 There are no direct finance implications. Financial decisions for the Council that flow from the City Vision will be governed by the usual processes of budgeting and spend control.

Legal

- 9.2 There are no legal implications.

Equalities

- 9.3 EIA is attached as an Appendix. At this stage no negative equality impacts are identifiable from this report.

Procurement

- 9.4 N/A

People Services

- 9.5 There are no staffing implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero

- 9.6 There are no negative climate change, nature and net zero carbon implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Corporate Parenting

- 9.7 There are no implications or opportunities in relation to the Corporate Parenting responsibility arising from the recommendations in this report.

Other

- 9.8 There are no other implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

10 APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix A – Draft City Vision.
10.2 Appendix B - Public Engagement on the Birmingham City Vision
10.3 Appendix C – City Vision Equalities Impact Assessment

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 There are no Background Papers.

