

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 19 APRIL 2023 AT 14:00 HOURS
IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA
SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite ([please click this link](#)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.

If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If other registerable interests are declared a Member may speak on the matter only if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', Members do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest.

Information on the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct is set out via <http://bit.ly/3WtGQnN>. This includes, at Appendix 1, an interests flowchart which provides a simple guide to declaring interests at meetings.

3 - 10

4 **ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER**

To agree the Action Notes of the meeting held on 15th March.
To note the actions as listed on the Action Tracker. The action notes of the meetings held on 8th and 15th February were previously agreed.

11 - 62

5 **CITY OF NATURE 25 YEAR PLAN UPDATE**

Simon Needle, Strategic Lead Urban Forestry and Nature

63 - 80

6 **REFRESH OF THE ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY FOR BIRMINGHAM**

Martin Rowe, Transport Planning Manager

81 - 94

7 **WORK PROGRAMME**

That the Committee considers its work programme, attached at Appendix 1, and agrees any amendments required.

8 **REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)**

To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).

9 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.

10 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

Chair to move:-

'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE

1400 hours on 15th March, Committee Room 6, Council House

Present:

Councillor Chaman Lal (Chair)

Councillors, David Barker, Martin Brooks, Colin Green and Timothy Huxtable

Also Present:

Councillor Liz Clements

Philip Edwards, Assistant Director, Transport & Connectivity

Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director, Highways & Infrastructure

Domenic De Bechi, PFI Contract Manager

Mel Jones, Head of Transport Planning & Network Strategy (online)

Hannah Hogan, Flood Risk Manager

Amelia Wiltshire, Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Baseema Begum, Scrutiny Officer (online)

The meeting started at 14:03 hours

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised those present that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's Youtube site and that Members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Councillors Saima Ahmed, Alex Aitken and Richard Parkin.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE ACTION NOTES

The action notes of the meeting held on 15th February were approved and the action tracker noted. The action notes from the meeting held on 18th January were previously agreed.

Cllr Huxtable raised the issue of the Waste Disposal Procurement report to be presented to Cabinet in the near future and requested if the Cabinet Member, Cllr Mahmood could be invited to discuss this at the April meeting.

The Chair re-arranged the order of the agenda to bring forward Item 9 - Councillor Call for Action (CCFA). A request for a CCFA was submitted by Cllr Huxtable however further to information received by Cllr Huxtable prior to the meeting the request was formally withdrawn.

5. CABINET MEMBER ANNUAL REPORT

(See Item No.5)

Cllr Clements spoke to the presentation circulated and during a discussion with Members the following were amongst the points made: -

- The recent announcement of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal was welcomed. There was much for the city and wider region to consider as part of the implications for transport growth including securing the future of the metro extension to Brierly Hill.
- It was acknowledged that reconfiguration work needs to take place at Kings Norton station as part of the work on the Camp Hill rail line and Midlands Rail Hub. Due to its strategic importance to the region, it is a priority for the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and the Department for Transport who are progressing this.
- The work of West Midlands Trains as part of the Community Rail Partnership scheme is highly commendable as it involves the local community in making enhancements to the local area and rail stations. The City Council should take the opportunity to work with the Partnership to deliver its priorities relating to transport, sustainability, and environmental issues.
- Due consideration is given to preserving green areas and trees in the area that will cover the route along the Alcester Road South that the Cross City Bus will take.
- There is a funding package for the SPRINT bus priority corridor along the A34 South. Careful consideration needs to be given to the reallocation of road space along the route as well as the need for some significant investment in those areas with narrower space.
- Any increase in the installation of further average speed enforcement cameras in the city would need funding for the operation and ongoing maintenance costs. Previous agreements for average speed enforcement in the region have now ended as in the case of Birmingham and Solihull. It is worth noting that cameras are placed by the Police in those hotspots where they are more likely

to be activated. Further dialogue is ongoing with the Police on future proposals and the Council has made provision for capital investment as part of any future scheme(s) to tackle moving traffic contraventions within its capital funding programme.

- The Committee will be receiving a briefing on the proposed refresh to the Road Safety Strategy in April. This would be a good opportunity to pick up issues relating to parking, 20mph zones and Controlled Parking Zones where further detail can be discussed.
- The annual Highways PFI programme of works begins in July however the new Highways PFI contract starting later in the year will not be affected by this. Ongoing investment in the public highway continues and all works started will be finished and there will be no impact to residents on the changeover of contractor.
- There are currently a high number of schemes being delivered to improve the public highway. Unfortunately, communication does at times fall down where residents receive leaflets before the local ward councillors are aware of the works.
- Any petitions received by the Highways service for local investment are considered as part of the quarterly revenue programme. Where other funding schemes are available these scheme requests are considered to undertake any additional work wherever possible.
- Although the current E-Scooter pilot contract ended in February it is anticipated that there will be future provision available in the city. The WMCA are responsible for the procurement of any future contract.
- A bid has been submitted for Active Travel 4 funding as the city has a high level of ambition to increase opportunities for walking and cycling. There is a need to secure longer term investments to allow for planning and the Council is working with the West Midlands Cycling and Walking Commissioner to deliver this.
- Dangerous and illegal parking especially around high streets is a serious concern however where vehicles are parking for a short period such as 5-10 minutes it becomes quite difficult to take enforcement action (through issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice) as Enforcement Officers must be present and record the incident. It should be noted that acting on short term parking offences with the current resources and powers is very difficult and can only be carried out by Enforcement officers at the time.
- The Council does however work with the Police on specific campaigns where there are problem areas in relation to illegal parking. The Police have more powers in relation to this than the local authority. The matter is different for roads with Red Routes as camera cars record any stoppages, and the offence is recorded instantly. There are also specific enforcement powers to ensure that no stopping takes place.
- Concerns were raised about the delay in the procurement of SPRINT vehicles, as bus priority on the A45 is due to be extended. It was highlighted that Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) are responsible for the procurement of the buses however there are complexities within the procurement process and

further information can be shared with the Committee separately due to commercial sensitivity.

- The Council's target for reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030 was raised as an area that needs further investigation by the Committee. It was acknowledged that several Council service areas need to make progress in this area since the target was set in 2019. Full Council receives an annual report on efforts to reach this target. It was added that waste procurement is a key area that is within the Council's control and contributes heavily to meeting this target.
- The WMCA is looking to undertake some work to ensure that there is more joint-up working between key areas such as bus, rail and cycling where these are being delivered on key projects. It was noted that the Council's contribution to funding towards the redevelopment of University station was to ensure that it was delivered however it was acknowledged that more cycling provision is needed than is currently available. This was a particular concern as more commuters are being encouraged to use active ways to travel and this priority is highlighted within the Council's Birmingham Transport Plan.
- It was recognised that any delays to the delivery of HS2 would have a knock-on effect on the development of local rail provision especially those lines affected by the HS2 corridor. Furthermore, the impact would also be felt more widely in the region's economic growth and on priorities with the Council's Transport Plan.

RESOLVED: -

1. The report was noted.
2. A list to be provided giving the latest information on the number of Air Quality Monitors in each ward.
3. Cllr Green to be provided with further details pertaining to the A45 Segregated Cycle Route in relation to its length and the timescale involved.
4. Further information was requested on the Council's target to lower emissions from cars by achieving a 95% reduction in vehicle mileage specifically which type of vehicles were mapped as part of this exercise.
5. Phil Edwards to request a briefing note from TfWM in relation to the procurement of SPRINT vehicles.

6. ANNUAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

(See Item No. 6)

Hannah Hogan shared a presentation and outlined the key points. During discussion with Members the following points were made: -

- The River Rea has benefitted from major investment through the Environment Agency (EA) for schemes in Selly Park North and Selly Park South and this investment has been based on the high number of properties at risk of flooding. The EA looks at flood risk from main rivers or water courses as part of its assessment.

- Properties in Sparkhill are also at risk of flooding from the River Cole but the main risk lies in surface water in this area as past small rainstorm events have shown. A bid was put in last year to the EA for property flood risk resilience for the terraced properties at risk as people in the area do not have the financial means to be more resilient.
- A sum of £35,000 has been secured for the 2023-24 financial year for feasibility works to assess how much a property flood resilience scheme would cost in the worse affected areas in Sparkhill. Plans by the EA for a flood alleviation scheme for the River Cole is anticipated to take place in 2027 due to its complexity.
- Trapping water to alleviate flooding from the River Cole by using Council land or in agreement by using land of neighbouring authorities could be a solution if there is sufficient land to accommodate the amount of water along the course. Discernible benefits would need to be demonstrated however it has been noted that this is a complex scheme.
- There are planned works on the Hockey Brook to restabilise brickwork and to help secure the access ladders.
- Cllr Lal offered his thanks to Kevin Hicks for his support and work on the Committee due to his imminent departure.

RESOLVED: -

1. The report was noted.
2. Hannah Hogan to share her presentation.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

(See Item No. 7)

The items for the next meeting were outlined and the request for an update on the Waste Disposal Procurement process and report to Cabinet was noted as part of this.

RESOLVED: -

1. The report was noted.
2. The Cabinet Member for Environment's office to be contacted to request an update on the Waste Disposal Procurement (and report to Cabinet) to be scheduled prior to the report being presented to Cabinet.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Noted.

9. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

A CCFA was submitted by Cllr Huxtable and further to receiving additional information Cllr Huxtable confirmed that the CCFA had been withdrawn. He would be taking matters up with officers following the update received from Kevin Hicks.

RESOLVED: -

1. Formal withdrawal of the CCFA was noted.

10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

11. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

RESOLVED: -

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 15:59 hours.

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2022-23

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
19 th October	Cabinet Member for Environment – Portfolio Overview	A private member briefing on the Waste Disposal Procurement contract to be arranged to include how it fits into the Council’s commitment on the Route to Zero plan and Net Zero strategy and other relevant legislative changes that the Council will need to put in line with the Environment Act.	Cabinet report seeking to approve the 10-year waste disposal contract will be presented to Cabinet in April. It is envisaged that a draft report will be discussed with this Committee prior to this. Scrutiny officers are liaising with the Cabinet Member’s office to arrange.
19 th October	Cabinet Member for Environment – Portfolio Overview	WiSH24 guidance (working on and around highways) to be shared with committee.	Awaiting information from Darren Share.
18 th January	Footway Crossings Policy	Details on the number of cases that have been enforced since 2012 in respect of overriding of footway crossings in the city.	Kamyar Tavassoli, Highway Services Manager to provide
15 th February	Bus Services in Birmingham	Mark Heffernan, National Express to provide Cllr Green with data on A45 Coventry Road Bus journey times.	Information sent to Cllr Green by Mark Heffernan on 15 th March.
15 th February	The Development of Railway Stations within the City	A summary of the minimum standards of materials that must be used in the building/refurbishment of railway stations including the approximate lifespan and if they are environmentally friendly.	Liam Brooker, WMRE to provide
15 th March	Cabinet Member Annual Report	Clean Air Monitors – An updated spreadsheet with latest information to be provided.	Information circulated to Committee on 17 th March.
15 th March	Cabinet Member Annual Report	A45 Segregated Cycle Route further details to be provided on the length and timescale involved.	Phil Edwards to provide Cllr Green with written update.
15 th March	Cabinet Member Annual Report	Further information was requested on the Council’s target to lower emissions from cars by achieving a 95% reduction in vehicle mileage specifically which type of vehicles were mapped as part of this exercise by Cllr Green.	A written response to be provided by Mel Jones.

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2022-23

15 th March	Cabinet Member Annual Report	Phil Edwards to request a briefing note from Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) in relation to the procurement of SPRINT vehicles.	TfWM briefing note to be shared with Committee.
15 th March	Annual Flood Risk Management	Presentation by Hannah Hogan at the meeting to be shared with Members and added to CMIS	Circulated to Committee on 15 th March and added to CMIS.

Birmingham City Council

Sustainability & Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19th April 2023



Subject: City of Nature 25 Year Plan Update

Report of: Simon Needle – Strategic lead urban Forestry and Nature

Report author: Simon Needle – Strategic lead Urban Forestry and Nature

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an overview on the progress of the Future Parks Accelerator work to deliver the City of Nature 25 Year Plan; and outline the challenges and next steps being undertaken to implement this through the programme of work being delivered under the Urban Nature Development Programme and Urban Forest Accelerator.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note for information.

3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 The programmes are funded through secured external grants (revenue), CIL and CWG legacy funds (Capital)

4 Any Legal Implications

- 4.1 None outside of existing grant conditions

5 Any Equalities Implications

- 5.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- 5.1.1 eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - 5.1.2 advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - 5.1.3 foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 5.2 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering: How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.
- 5.3 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

6 Appendices

- 6.1 CoN O&S slide deck - to be presented at meeting
- 6.2 CoN Commonwealth Games Legacy project progress report (for info)
- 6.3 Link to City of Nature 25 Year Plan – (for info)
<https://naturallybirmingham.org/birmingham-city-of-nature-delivery-framework/>
- 6.4 Link to Birmingham Urban Forest Master Plan – (for info)
<http://birminghamtreepeople.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/BUFMPExecReport-Final-Nov-2021-v1.pdf>



Sustainability & Transport O&S Committee



Wednesday 19th April 2023

Introduction

Simon Needle – Urban Forestry and Nature Lead Officer

An overview of the progress of the original Future Parks Project and City of Nature Plan (Our Future Nature City Plan) the challenges and the steps being undertaken to address them.

The City of Nature Plan:

On 8th February 2022 Cabinet approved the 25-year City of Nature Plan which brings together all the work of the Naturally Birmingham FPA Project including the learning gained from partner organisations and communities and builds on the fantastic work happening in the city. Now we have a plan that we can work together to deliver. We know that allowing nature to recover in the city will benefit us all.

The City of Nature Programme:

This is how we will deliver the City of Nature plan, although much has already been achieved through the work of the Future Parks Accelerator Project, there is a lot of work to do to ensure the structures, both operational and governance, are in place to ensure 25 years of delivery.

The Urban Nature Development Project and the Urban Forest Accelerator (Birmingham Pilot) Project:

The first two projects in this programme are The Urban Nature Development Project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Urban Forest Accelerator (Birmingham Pilot) Project funded by the Governments Trees Call for Action Fund and both projects are supported by the National Trust.

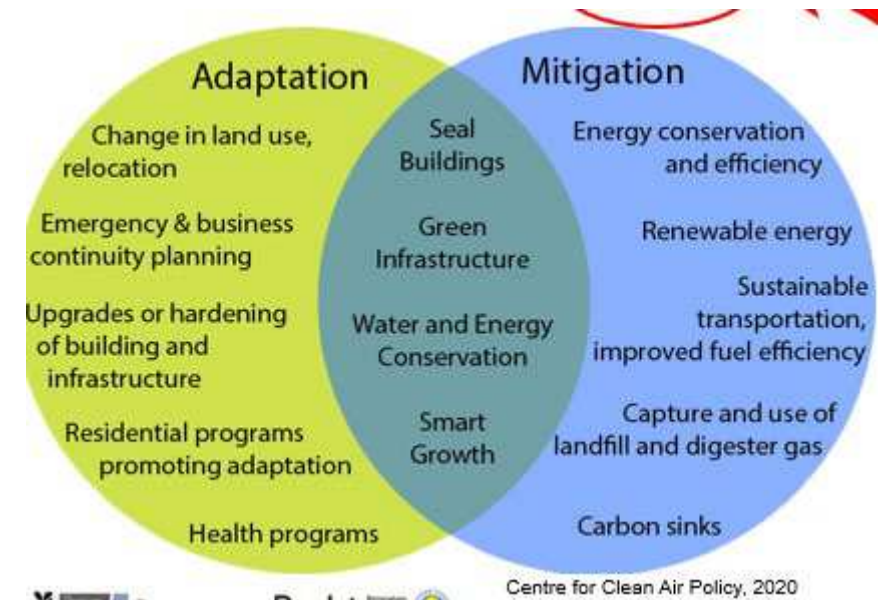
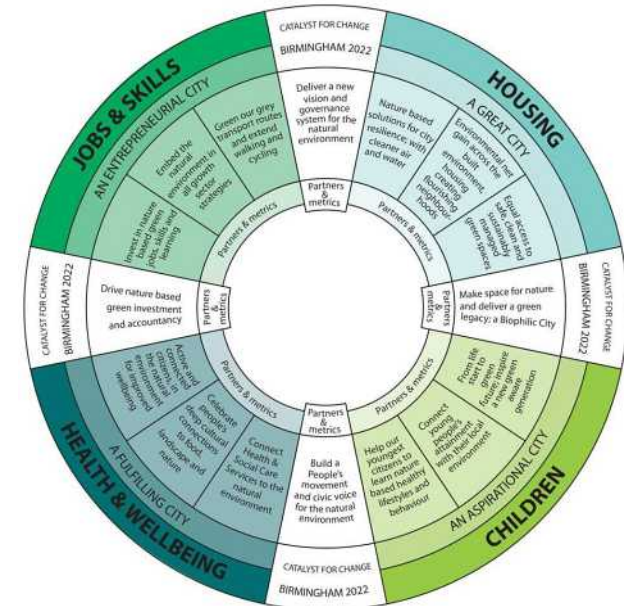
City of Nature Alliance and Delivery Partners:

The City of Nature Alliance of organisations will continue to play a major role in the delivery of these projects, with the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country and Birmingham Tree People delivering significant sections of the work. Birmingham Open Spaces Forum will continue delivering a Community Facilitation function and BCC's Landscape Practice Group will host a new Landscape Architect Post for the project.



Developing a City of Nature The Challenges

- STRATEGIC OUTCOMES
- CLIMATE CRISIS
- HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY
- ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE
- ECOLOGICAL CRISIS
- SKILLS GAP
- FUNDING GAP



What did we need to work through?

What we did.

- Decisions about development, especially housing
- Decisions about finance – is the system going to support nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure to help us continue adaptation to climate change?
- Are we doing enough to allow ALL our residents to engage with the green space and climate change agenda – whatever their resources and/ or the scale they want to work at?
- Are we going to hold other parts of the Council to account to ensure they fulfil their role in supporting green spaces and green infrastructure?
- Planning Policy review
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Future Parks Standard - Bordesley and Highgate Pilot
- Governance Model

A 25 year Plan for a City of Nature

Thirty years ago, at the Rio Summit in 1992, the world formally recognised how important the environment, biodiversity and sustainability were as a new framework for 21st century living.

Over the same intervening 30 years Birmingham has undergone a significant transformation rebuilding its city centre and a vibrant economy.

Over the next 30 years Birmingham sees its future as a Bolder Greener City responding directly to the climate change challenge. This green vision also embraces the inequalities in this city exposed through the Covid-19 pandemic and the children and young people struggling to have a fair start in life.

Our Future City Plan (OFCP) 2040 'Shaping this City Together' has introduced a new approach to strategy and plan making in the city based on a shared and inclusive vision.

OFCP also introduced a vision for Birmingham becoming a city of nature; the **City of Nature Plan** shows how this can be done.

The Plan looks at the next 25 years to ensure that this current young generation inherit a much improved, fairer, and greener city.

A city that puts nature, people, and the planet at the heart of its decision-making and inclusive growth agenda.



Bordesley and Highgate Pilot

Developing the Future Park Standard and the City of Nature Alliance

To develop a green infrastructure management system and capacity building programme for people in most need to benefit from the enjoyment of the natural world by becoming involved with their green spaces.

Funded through the Commonwealth Game Legacy fund and in collaboration we:

- Established the City of Nature Alliance partnership to enhance working with communities
- Activated 5 parks in the ward using the Birmingham “Fair” Park Standard (**Now Future Park Standard**) method
- Installed 34 new bins across the 5 parks.
- Trialled Green Champions training sessions. Example of Tree Warden Training: <https://youtu.be/xAIW2yQbbHI>
- Developed a programme of outdoor / nature-based health interventions: Walks and Sports sessions delivered in all parks over 6 months.
- Young Green Champions education programme delivered.
- Trialled a Community Impact Assessment app to capture community consultation feedback and Earth Stories.
- Identified key sources of park related income for future projects.



What Next?

Helping to deliver City Council Plan

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

Outcome	Why is this important?
Birmingham is an entrepreneurial city to learn, work and invest in	We want a city that invests in its people, so that everyone can have opportunities to realise their potential through lifelong learning, skills and good jobs. We want to invest in the buildings and transport connections of our city to provide better places to live and work, and to enable businesses to prosper. HS2 will be a key milestone in the city's development and we must make the most of this opportunity to boost our economy and key growth sectors, and enable our citizens to access employment.
Birmingham is an aspirational city to grow up in	We want to respond to our unique profile as one of the youngest cities in Europe to give all children from every background and community the best start in life, with clear pathways to achieve success and realise their full potential.
Birmingham is a fulfilling city to age well in	We want citizens to live more active, longer, healthier and independent lives. We want to reduce social isolation so that people can make positive choices and take control of their wellbeing.
Birmingham is a great, clean and green city to live in	We want Birmingham to be a sustainable city of vibrant culture and flourishing neighbourhoods, with good quality housing. A city with clean air, safe and clean streets, and green spaces. We want to be a city where our citizens have pride in where they live, have a strong sense of belonging, and a voice in how Birmingham is run.
Birmingham residents gain the maximum benefit from hosting the 2022 Commonwealth Games	Hosting the Commonwealth Games gives us a global stage to use the transformational power of sport and culture to project a positive image of our city, promote growth, and provide a long-lasting legacy to the citizens of our city.
Birmingham is a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change	Climate change is an urgent issue with a global reach that directly impacts upon Birmingham residents. We will work with our partners to tackle this issue to make Birmingham a city in which all of our residents, including those from our most deprived communities, can lead healthy, safe, fulfilling lives.

What will be delivered through the City of Nature Programme 2023 /2024

- Deliver Green Champions Programme, showcase green jobs and skills and involve people in nature recovery and green space management by working with partners to provide better places to live and work.
- Work with partners in education at all ages to provide opportunities for children and young people to connect with nature.
- In partnership with the City of Nature Alliance deliver a programme of nature based health activities for all ages
- Deliver the Future Park Standard at site level in five more “red” wards and Green Infrastructure Master planning in East Birmingham.
- Continue to deliver the legacy created through the City of Nature pilot project across five more wards in 2022/2024
- Work closely with the Route to Zero Team and report to the newly established Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero Board



Urban Nature Development and Urban Forest Accelerator Projects

This City of Nature Programme is how we will deliver the City of Nature plan, although much has already been achieved through the work of the Future Parks Accelerator Project, there is a lot of work to do to ensure the structures, both operational and governance, are in place to ensure 25 years of delivery.

The first two projects in this programme are:

- The Urban Nature Development Project funded by the Heritage Fund and
- The Urban Forest Accelerator (Birmingham Pilot) Project funded by Heritage Fund using the Governments “Trees Call for Action Fund”

Both projects are supported by the National Trust.



Master Planning a Nature Recovery

Produce a high level biophilic green infrastructure (GI) masterplan with a pipeline of projects for the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth geography.

We will:

- Develop a GI master plan that will identify improvement options for all existing green space.
- Through the GI master plan identify all future opportunity sites & linkages across East Birmingham.
- Develop costed investment proposals for nominated sites, across a typology, that follow the 4 tiers within the Green Prospectus, with recommended financial resources.
- Inform the City's local development plan, wider GI master planning and sustainable investment strategies and the delivery of the City of Nature framework



Biodiversity Net Gain

Create a Birmingham City Council Schedule of Sites that could successfully benefit from future Biodiversity Net Gain credits and embedded maintenance payments,

We will:

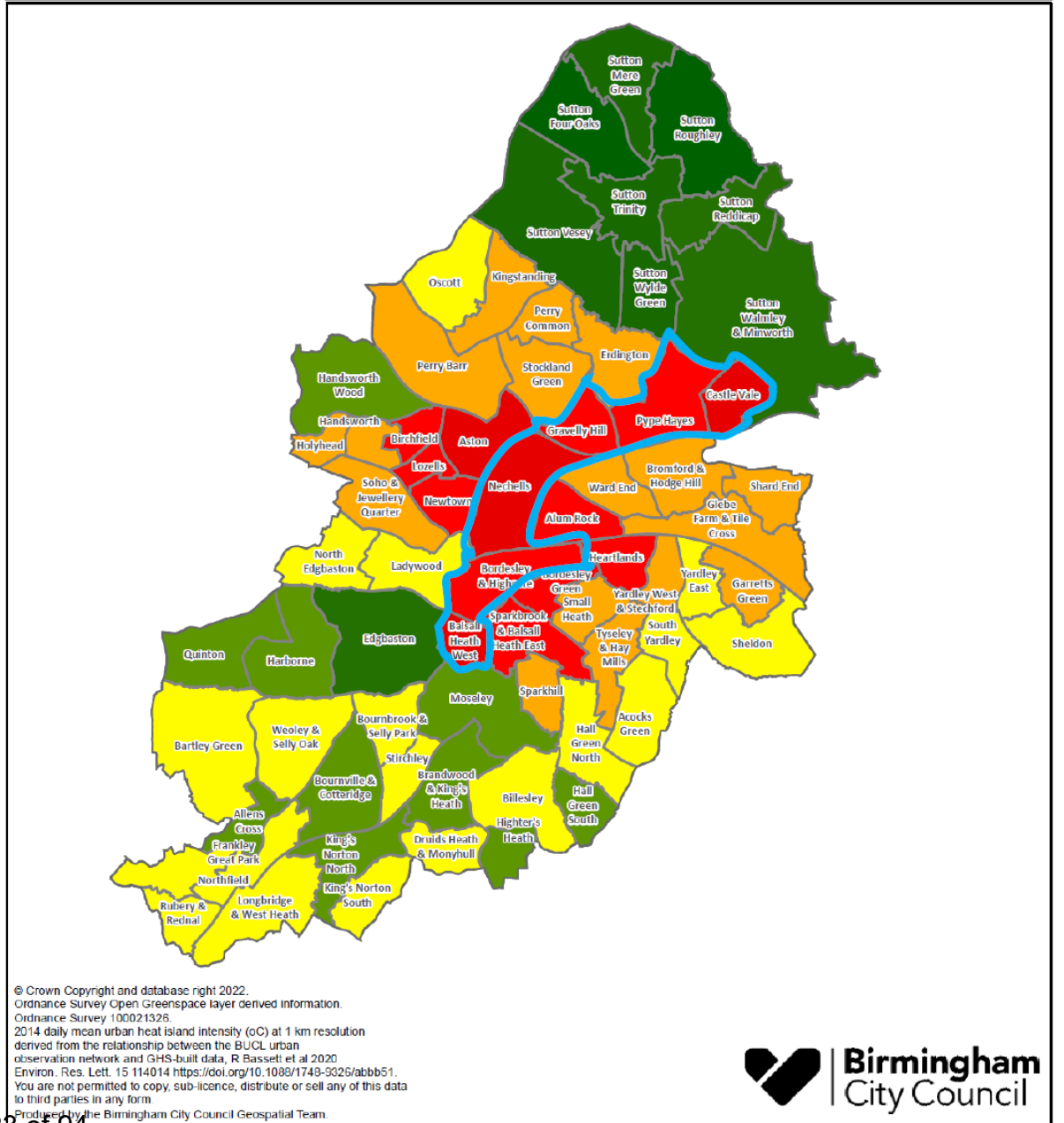
- Identify BCC owned sites against the 25-year Nature Recovery Vision Map
- Assess the habitat across prioritised city owned green space identifying:
- habitat types and quality
- key protection and buffer sites
- areas for enhancement or creation potential
- critical gaps in the Nature Recovery Network, regardless of ownership



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAP OF BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham's priority wards:

- Bordesley and Highgate (in progress)
- Castle Vale
- Nechells
- Balsall Heath West
- Pype Hays
- Gravelly Hill



Future Parks Standard

Focusing on Nature on Your Doorstep / Nature Connection for Health

Establish a capacity building mechanism for people in most need to benefit from the enjoyment of the natural world by becoming involved with their green spaces and nature on their doorstep:

We will:

- cultivate the City of Nature Operations Group and the City of Nature Alliance partnership to enhance working with communities
- activating three 'red' wards from the Environmental Justice mapping using the "Birmingham Fair Park Standard" method
- develop a Green Champions model
- identify and test a programme of nature-based health interventions and grow a range of online information and opportunities to involve new audiences
- trial a Community Impact Assessment app to monitor and report on this work.
- identify key sources of park related income



Birmingham's Urban Forest

The UFA project contributes to the vision of the England Trees Action Plan (ETAP) and will deliver against multiple objectives from the ETAP.

Objectives of the ETAP are:

- Connecting people with trees and woodlands
- Trees and woodlands as part of the green economy
- Protecting and improving our trees and woodlands
- Expanding and connecting our trees and woodlands

As a local authority we have stated a clear commitment to Net Zero and as part of that commitment future tree planting. But, we have yet to identify where and how this will happen. We will work with our partners to recruit staff to work with The BCoN Alliance and other environmental charities, community groups and landowners.



Birmingham's Urban Forest

We will:

- identify and survey appropriate sites
- co-create future planting programmes
- build local capacity to fundraise, create and manage future trees and woodlands
- Explore entry level skills training for new workers in the sector (particularly people aged 16–24)
- explore on-the-job or in-house training opportunities.
- Deliver volunteer Tree Warden training linking with the Green Champions.
- Improve access to and engagement with trees and woodlands for under-served groups. For example, ethnically diverse communities, people from economically disadvantaged areas, disabled people, children and young people and older people.
- bolster physical and mental health and wellbeing through engagement with woodland
- connect people from urban areas with trees and woodland
- create and improve nature-rich and active travel corridors, trails, signage, and accessible paths in woodland locations
- employ wardens, educators, and other similar positions (Through Birmingham Tree People)
- increase volunteering in trees and woodland (including increasing volunteer recruitment from under-served groups)
- Deliver community engagement and citizen science for environmental conservation and future woodland improvement or maintenance.



City of Nature Pilot Delivery Operating Model

This diagram shows the City of Nature Alliance members actively engaged in delivery in Bordesley and Highgate ward Future Park Standard Pilot.

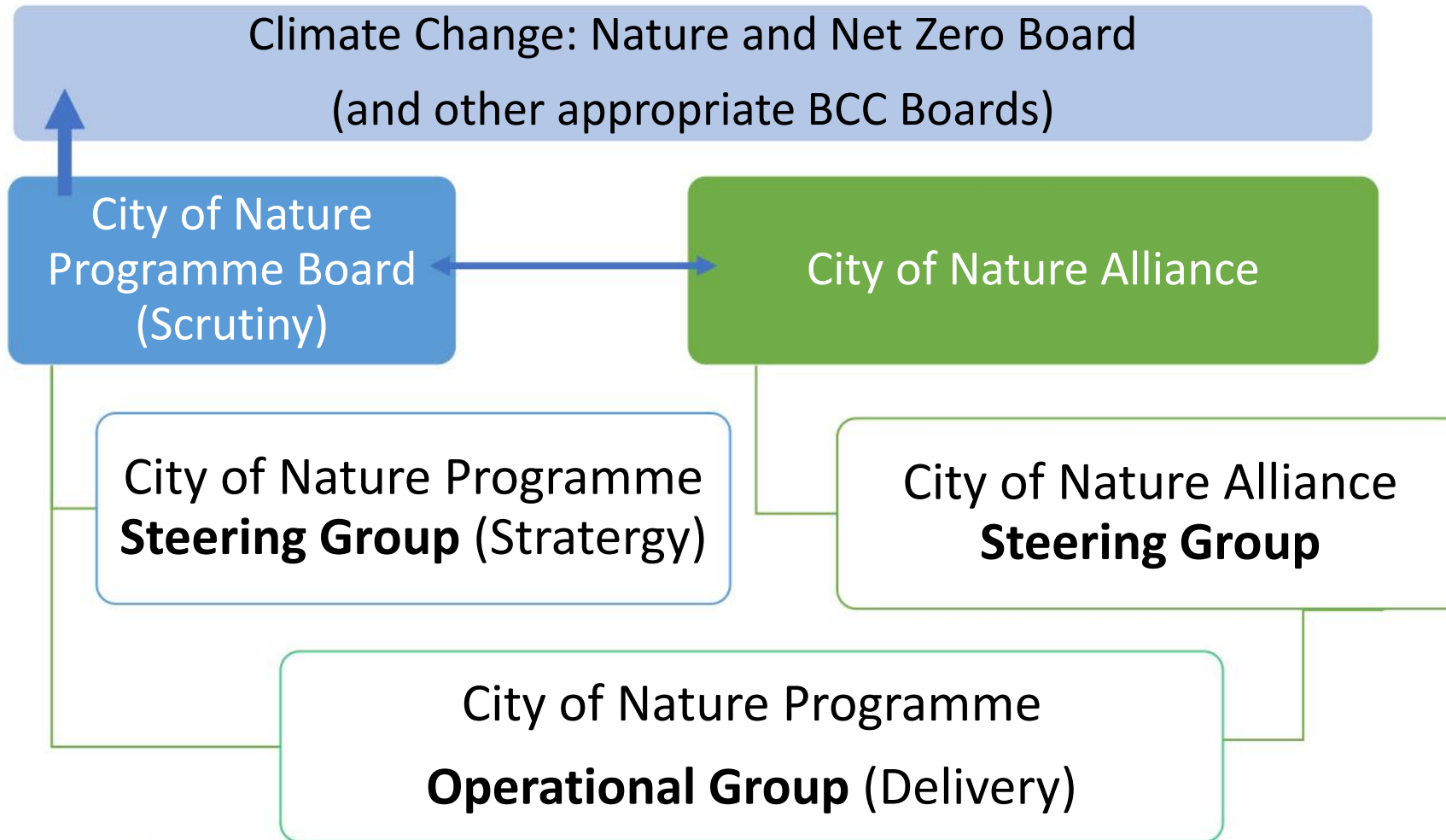
These “operational” members may change from ward to ward.

City Council departments may be more or less involved depending on the needs of the ward.

The wider City of Nature Alliance that helps to shape and steer the delivery of the City Nature Plan is growing all the time.



Governance for a City of Nature



What do we still need to work through?

- Building a workforce and volunteer model that can deliver green infrastructure management that includes Climate Change Adaptation and Nature Recovery across the city.
- Recruiting a project based Change Manager to help achieve this.
- Ensuring other parts of the council can fulfil their role in supporting opportunities delivered through green spaces and green infrastructure management through good communication and coordination.
- Ensuring the City of Nature Alliance has a sustainable operating model for the life of the City of Nature Plan.
- Building stronger connections between planning and operations to ensure the City of Nature Plan is delivered at all levels.



BIRMINGHAM CITY OF NATURE (BCON) PILOT

COMMONWEALTH GAMES COMMUNITY FUND PROJECT REPORT

CONTENTS

Background to City of Nature pilot project	3
Where the project was delivered	5
Delivering the Objectives.....	6
1. Putting Birmingham on the map – A valued city	6
2. Helping Birmingham grow and succeed – A fair city	6
3. Bringing people together – An involved city	7
4. Improving health and wellbeing – A healthy city	7
5. Being a catalyst for change – A green city.....	8
Matching the commonwealth games community fund objectives	9
Support and engage Birmingham citizens to feel part of the games	9
Make sure that the opportunity is spread across the city.....	9
Make sure that the projects delivered through the fund support and showcase our diverse communities	10
Make sure the projects delivered celebrate Birmingham	10
Deliver benefits and legacy for the city that aligns with city priorities	11
.....	11
Deliver an element of funding at local level through the city's ward structures	11
Be spent on local and community projects as opposed to big capital builds	11
Create feelings of connectivity and positivity and enabling mass participation	12
What was delivered	12
Raising the standard – improving the quality of 5 community parks	18
Number of people joining in with one off / adhoc events.....	20
Baseline use of parks	20
Birmingham Open Spaces Forum	20
Birmingham Tree People	20
Legacy WM	20

Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust.....	21
Number of people signing up to a programme of events	21
The production of the City of Nature natural curriculum offer	21
Trialing a social impact App	22
The development of Action Groups / Friends Groups / Volunteer Groups	22
Support provided to community groups around fundraising	22
Delivery of healthy outdoor activities connecting people to nature	22
Development of Green Champions	23
What have we learnt	23
What next?	26
Green Champions Programme and database.....	26
signing up, communicating with and training green champions	26
Sustainable finance plan for the City of Nature Alliance	26
Helping to ensure the Alliance can engage and involve communities across the red wards.	27
Action plans for red wards.....	27
Working up the site action plans for five more red wards.	27
Report for alliance member BOSF	28
project type	28
report for alliance member – Learning Journey	31
project type	31

BACKGROUND TO CITY OF NATURE PILOT PROJECT

Birmingham City Council's legacy plan for the Commonwealth games has 5 pillars:

- Help the region to grow and succeed
- Improve health and wellbeing.
- Be a catalyst for change.
- Bring people together.
- Put the region on the map.

The City of Nature Plan developed through the Future Parks Accelerator Project also has five themes that the city's green infrastructure can help create:

- A Fair City – Helping the city to grow and succeed.
- A Health City – Improving Health and Wellbeing.
- A Green City – Be a catalyst for change.
- An Involved City – Bring People together.
- A Valued City - Put the region on the map.

Therefore there was a natural fit with the legacy plan for the Commonwealth Games and delivering the aims of the City of Nature plan.

The City of Nature Plan is now recognised as Birmingham's national award-winning Green Infrastructure Strategy for the whole city to be delivered over the 25 years. But before the City of Nature Plan was approved in February 2022, we needed to create a delivery model that was effective, inclusive, and sustainable.

The development of this model was led by Birmingham's Future Parks Team who were working in partnership with the National Trust and were funded by HLF FPA funding. The FPA project was from the start a collaborative and needs driven process. The consultation for the approval of the City of Nature plan and early conversations about delivery gave clear messages that would guide the work going forward:

- Don't reinvent the wheel.
- Don't be a talking shop – act!
- Learn from past projects.
- Ask communities what they want.
- Involve local people in the delivery.

This feedback gave us the foundation for the approach to creating and trailing the delivery model. We were already working with third sector organizations to develop the City of Nature plan, so we knew the great work they were already doing. While developing the model we knew we also had to deliver change on the ground within the term of the project, making an immediate difference. We knew that the Council had to show communities that things were going to happen by taking action to improve the maintenance of green spaces immediately by carrying out repairs, reducing litter etc. We needed to start consulting with the community as widely as possible as quickly as possible and we would then involve local people in the delivery of the actions.

To kick start the pilot project there was a team funded by the FPA - The Project Director a Public Health Consultant, a Community Facilitator provided through Birmingham Open Spaces Forum, A Children's Mentor provided by The Birmingham Children's Trust and later a City of Nature Officer based in BCC Parks Services. There was also in-kind support of other council officer's including Rangers and the City Ecologists.

The project started in July 2021 and is due to complete by March 2023.

The project was awarded £150,000 and the money was divided equally between, physical changes to infrastructure, consultation, engagement and involvement of people, and development of the delivery model to be rolled out to a further five wards over the next five years and then across the whole city.

The team and early consultees wanted to be able to pilot the BCoN model on the ground so that at least one ward in the city would immediately benefit from the project at a hyperlocal level. The FPA team also wanted to develop a programme of capacity building through a network of trained volunteers to accelerate and amplify the work being piloted, known as Green Champions.

Project objective:

Birmingham City Council aims to develop and pilot a City of Nature delivery model including the establishment and coordination of an alliance of existing organisations to help deliver actions on the ground in parks and green spaces. This will become a citywide whole estate approach to achieving environmental justice across Birmingham.

Through working with communities, the Alliance will test and establish a model whereby communities are:

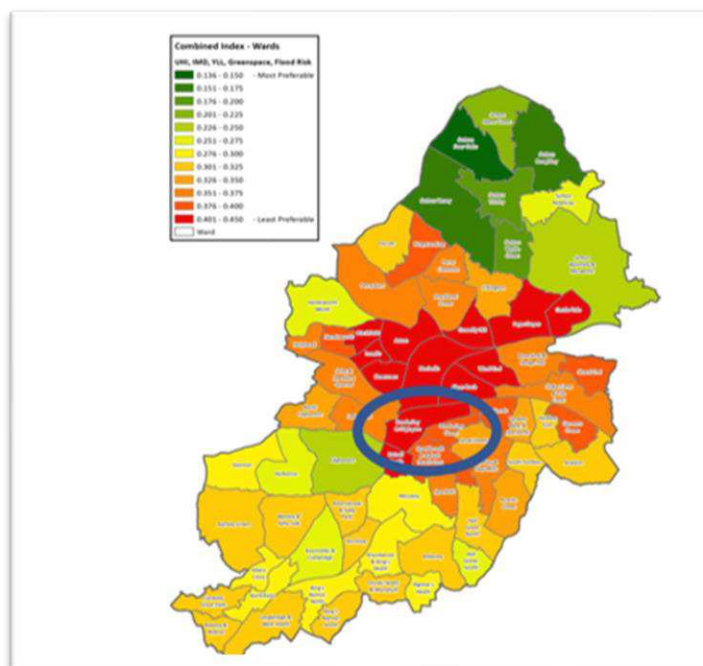
- Able to come together to agree on the actions that they will support and help deliver.
- Empowered to make decisions on what services or changes are required to create an even better standard of green space going forward.
- Supported to hold discussions with key services and decision makers so that the voice of the community is at the heart of decision making which affects the community.
- Able to benefit from improved green spaces seen an increase in the Future Park Standard score.

This will require a focus on building the networks within communities and the skills and confidence of those with influence within their community who can then represent the community voice with other organisations.

WHERE THE PROJECT WAS DELIVERED

The Environmental Justice Map (Appendix 1) had been created that highlights inequalities across the city at a ward level, ranging from “red” wards to “green” wards.

The pilot project will focus on 6 of these red wards – Bordesley and Highgate, Nechells, Balsall Heath West, Gravelly Hill, Pye Hayes and Castle Vale



The first Ward in the programme will be Bordesley and Highgate ward, which is in Ladywood Constituency. (Appendix 2); where the following 5 public open spaces and parks would be improved: -



- Highgate Park
- Kingston Hill Park
- Garrison Lane Park
- Denbigh Street POS
- New Hope Community Park

Postcode: B12 0TT
 Postcode: B9 4NB
 Postcode: B9 4LJ
 Postcode: B9 4TA
 Postcode: B7 5NF

DELIVERING THE OBJECTIVES

1. PUTTING BIRMINGHAM ON THE MAP – A VALUED CITY

The Future Parks Accelerator was a national programme of projects across 8 regions of the UK. The Birmingham project was called “Naturally Birmingham”. The achievements of the BCoN Pilot Project were regularly fed back to the other 7 authorities and at National Conferences leading to the City of Nature Plan achieving national awards and recognition for Birmingham as leader in green infrastructure design, nature recovery and environmental justice. Without the BCoN Community Alliance Project proving the opportunity to pilot the delivery of the BCoN plan we would not have had the national impact that Birmingham has achieved: [Plan will put everyone in England within 15 minutes of green space – but what matters is justice not distance \(ampproject.org\)](#)

[Environmental Justice — Future Parks Accelerator](#)

One of the biggest achievements of the FPA Project was to create an Environmental Justice Map for Birmingham: [Environmental Justice – Naturally Birmingham Future Parks Project](#) This map showing the areas of greatest environmental need, referred to as the “Red Wards” helped us to decide in which ward we would pilot the delivery of the City of Nature Plan. The environmental justice map and the approach we developed through the pilot has become nationally recognised and we are now working with authorities across the UK to help other areas develop a similar approach.

2. HELPING BIRMINGHAM GROW AND SUCCEED – A FAIR CITY

The BCoN Pilot Project is not only about ensuring fair access to green infrastructure and the benefits it brings through parks and green spaces but also about creating fair opportunities to develop skills and gain experience and confidence through the Green Champions programme developed through the project. A series of training opportunities were trialled during the project including:

- Tree Warden Introduction to working with trees: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbveOD7SRUQ&t=0s>
- Nature Conservation: <https://youtu.be/JfRgyURuCtl>
- Therapeutic Horticulture and Community Growing: <https://youtu.be/UKp66nv0rvc>
- Leading Healthy Walks: Link to Legacy
- Starting a Friends Group: <https://bosf.org.uk/toolkit/howto/setting-up-a-friends-group/>

If we are going to use Birmingham’s green infrastructure to help the city grow and succeed, then in turn we will need people to help parks and green spaces grow and succeed. Green Champions are simply people who are **“Doing more than they have to – because they want to – in a cause they consider good for the environment”**. The Green Champion Programme is for all ages and learning about caring for our environment can start at any age. So through the project we have engaged with Early Years Practitioners and families, through the Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Children’s Trust, we are working with primary schools through the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and engaging with young girls at Bordesley Green Girls School (BGGs) via a small Birmingham organisation called Learning Journeys. Through these activities we are building a pathway to provide the skills and knowledge required to manage green spaces in the 21st Century.

3. BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER – AN INVOLVED CITY

When the Alliance started its stakeholder mapping and data gathering in Bordesley and Highgate it was obvious that there was a lack of the groups that can be found in other parts of the city. There were no Friends of Parks Groups or action groups such as Litter Picking Groups or residents groups. Obviously, communities can still be supportive and inclusive without forming structured groups, but although we encountered people who were very keen to do things and get involved, they felt there was a lack of opportunities to do so.

Bringing people together often needs to have certain elements; a reason to come together, a place to come together, communication channels, resources which may be tea and coffee or litter pickers, and some kind of coordination.

- Events that celebrated Birmingham it's history and people and the spirit of the Commonwealth Games (that led to conversations about the improvement of their local green spaces to get more use and benefits from them) were the "reason" the project offered to bring people together to start with.
- Arranging meetings and walks and talks and other events in parks or local centres, gave people a safe and welcoming place to come together to start conversations.
- Providing resources, tables, marquees, refreshments, litter pickers, gardening equipment and art equipment helped to give purpose to meetings and keep people coming back.
- Noticeboards (to be used by the community), posters in local shops, flyers for schools and housing blocks, and social media accounts provided communication channels.
- The Alliance and the Stanhope Centre helped to provide coordination of activities while the community was developing to take pressure off individuals until they were more confident to take over.

4. IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING – A HEALTHY CITY

We know that in the Red Wards life expectancy is reduced through multiple factors of deprivation and negative environmental impacts. Although access to quality green spaces doesn't provide the solution to all of the problems residents face they can help to increase health and wellbeing. Through the FPA we were introduced to work being carried out at [Nature Connectedness Research Group - Research centres and groups - University of Derby](#) and used this as the basis for part of the Future Parks Standard score for a Healthy Park. Although we also delivered more traditional healthy activities such as walking and ball games, we also encouraged park users to connect with nature to help both their mental and physical health. Rather than just walking, we made walks into sensory walks. Tried out Forest Bathing [Forest Bathing UK | The Japanese Art of Shinrin Yoku \(forestholidays.co.uk\)](#) as part of an activity (you don't need a whole forest) and used the National Trust and RSPB activities to help connect whole families to nature. Simply listening to bird song, can make a difference a [study commissioned by the National Trust](#) found that listening to birdsong, along with other woodland sounds such as crunching leaves, was 30% better at increasing feelings of relaxation than a voiced meditation app. In this study birdsong was by far the favourite of participants, reduced stress and anxiety by a quarter and a fifth, respectively.

Dr Eleanor Radcliffe, lecturer in environmental psychology at University of Surrey, led a three-year study into the impact of birdsong on mental wellbeing and concluded that most people associate birdsong with feeling happy, relaxed, and removed from everyday stresses. Knowing this we put up posters on the noticeboards

encouraging people to stop and actively listen out for birdsong as they walked around the park. People who joined the nature connection sessions run in the parks said that simply becoming aware, or noticing nature changed their mood and made them feel more relaxed. Children that joined the events especially benefited from these easy to repeat activities.

5. BEING A CATALYST FOR CHANGE – A GREEN CITY

The City of Nature Plan approved by cabinet in February 2022 state: A green city would be one where nature is recognised as integral to wider decision and plan making; and where green spaces, nature and the environment are protected, maintained, and sustainably managed. We will need to address one of the themes prioritised in the 25 Year Environment Plan: *“Support the delivery of the national Nature Recovery Network, with its focus on enhancing landscapes; improving connectivity between wildlife rich places; climate resilience; protection of existing natural environments and supporting access to nature for health and well-being.”*

First 12 months: 2022 -2023

We will trial this approach first in 5 open spaces in Bordesley and Highgate Ward to ensure it is working well before taking it elsewhere.

First five years: 2022 to 2027

We will use the findings from the Bordesley and Highgate pilot to bring together council departments and community organisations to focus upon the green spaces in another 5 wards:

- Balsall Heath West.
- Nechells.
- Gravelly Hill.
- Pye Hayes.
- Castle Vale.

To do this we need: • A complete change in how we build all our public realm, providing improved connectivity and supporting the restoration and viability of urban areas (G1). • Green corridors that are easier to find and use, helping citizens to use them for active travel and so improve air quality (G2). • An enhanced network of green space and green infrastructure that are safe, clean, sustainably managed and meet the Birmingham Fair Parks Standard (G3). • The restoration of green spaces, nature, and the environment (G4). • Greener development bringing natural landscapes or features into every place and neighbourhood (G5). • Opportunities to help citizens make better use of green space outside of their home for food growing or communal gardens (G6). • The Nature Recovery Network, stretching right across the city and linking with all our West Midlands neighbours, forming part of the West Midlands National Park (G7). • An increase to the tree canopy coverage across the city to 25%, through the Birmingham Urban Forest Master Plan (G8). • A change to the city’s governance structures that oversee the city’s natural environment across the full 25-year term (G9)

The implementation of these actions was going to require major changes across the whole council and we needed to be able to provide a catalyst for this change by showing the difference that can be achieved through increasing biodiversity and restoring nature and the natural environment in even the most grey urban spaces in the city. The Bordesley and Highgate Pilot brought the City of Nature to life by increasing tree canopy cover, rewilding areas in every park, encouraging community gardening and Modeshift in transport to walking and cycling.

The projects delivered through the pilot helped the City of Nature Plan win the West Midlands National Park award: [City of Nature, Birmingham – West Midlands National Park Lab \(wmnplab.org\)](https://www.wmnplab.org)

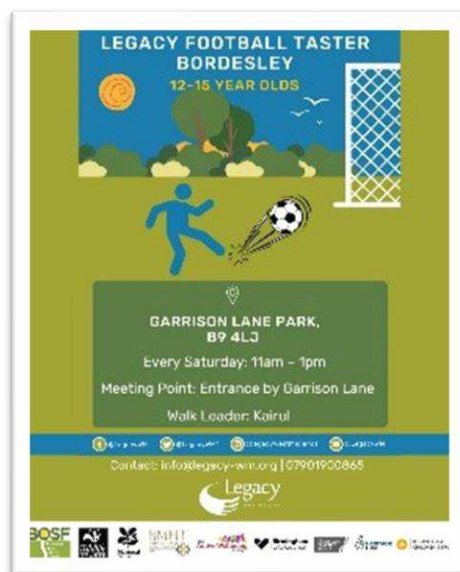
MATCHING THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES COMMUNITY FUND OBJECTIVES

At all times the project aimed to match the objectives of the Commonwealth Games Community fund. Although some parts of the project were more relevant to the objectives of the funding than others, we tied to make sure that as many of the objectives were delivered as possible.



SUPPORT AND ENGAGE BIRMINGHAM CITIZENS TO FEEL PART OF THE GAMES

During the period that the Commonwealth games were happening in Birmingham events being delivered in the project were related to the Commonwealth games, with sporting activities for young people taking place across the parks in Bordesley and Highgate and community clean ups of parks to make sure any visitors using the routes around the city centre or visiting the sites had a good impression of their visit. Walks around the parks included conversations around climate change and the impact this has across the other Commonwealth countries. Participants shared their experience of living in or visiting commonwealth countries.



MAKE SURE THAT THE OPPORTUNITY IS SPREAD ACROSS THE CITY

On the ground improvements were focussed in Bordesley and Highgate ward parks. But other elements of the project have been offered city wide including the Green Champion Training sessions delivered by the BCoN Community Alliance.

Participants from across the city joined the Tree Warden, Nature Conservation and Therapeutic Gardening training sessions.





MAKE SURE THAT THE PROJECTS DELIVERED THROUGH THE FUND SUPPORT AND SHOWCASE OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Bordesley & Highgate Ward is an inner-city ward located to the south of the city centre. It has a population of 13,242 making it the 34th most populous ward in the city. The ward has a younger age profile than the city as a whole and has a higher BAME population share. Bordesley & Highgate is amongst the more deprived wards in the city and has the 17th lowest average income. Resident employment rates in the ward are lower than the city average and claimant count unemployment proportions are well above the Birmingham average.

Bordesley & Highgate Ethnicity			Source: 2011 Census	
Ethnic Group	Bordesley & Highgate N°	Bordesley & Highgate %	Birmingham %	England %
White Total	3,344	25.3%	57.9%	85.4%
British	2,604	19.7%	53.1%	79.8%
Irish	236	1.8%	2.1%	1.0%
Other White	504	3.8%	2.7%	4.7%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnicity	892	6.7%	4.4%	2.3%
Asian Total	5,416	40.9%	26.6%	7.8%
Indian	538	4.1%	6.0%	2.6%
Pakistani	2,905	21.9%	13.5%	2.1%
Bangladeshi	794	6.0%	3.0%	0.8%
Chinese	653	4.9%	1.2%	0.7%
Other Asian	526	4.0%	2.9%	1.5%
Black Total	2,784	21.0%	9.0%	3.5%
Black African	1,128	8.5%	2.8%	1.8%
Black Caribbean	1,001	7.6%	4.4%	1.1%
Black Other	655	4.9%	1.7%	0.5%
Other Ethnic Group	806	6.1%	2.0%	1.0%

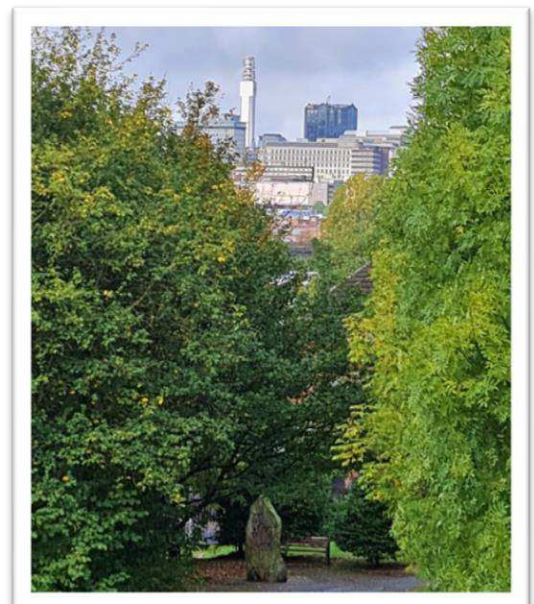
The wonderful mix of different cultures in Bordesley and Highgate has been celebrated in the events delivered during the project, particularly through the walks and talks where Earth Stories are shared that discuss the way different cultures connect with nature through activities that range from spiritual to culinary. Craft sessions also provided opportunities to share cultural styles and skills. Activities including consultation events have attracted participants very representative of the whole community in the ward.



MAKE SURE THE PROJECTS DELIVERED CELEBRATE BIRMINGHAM

The City of Nature plan in its self is a celebration of Birmingham and the activities delivered through the project were a reflection of this celebration.

The location of the parks in this project, close to the heart of the city, allows not only a celebration of the green infrastructure of these areas but also the history and more recent successes of the City Centre.

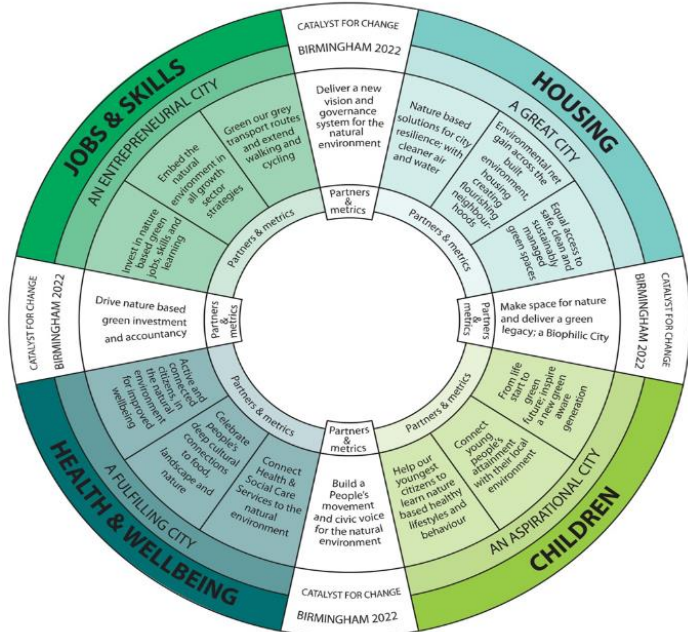




DELIVER BENEFITS AND LEGACY FOR THE CITY THAT ALIGNS WITH CITY PRIORITIES

Elements of the funding have supported:

- Engagement with children through education and play.
- Increasing skills and access to work.
- Delivering healthy activities in parks.
- Access to quality green spaces within walking distance of people's homes.



DELIVER AN ELEMENT OF FUNDING AT LOCAL LEVEL THROUGH THE CITY'S WARD STRUCTURES

Elements of the funding for the project has been spent at a local level not only involving local people in the planning of the activities but also by providing small grants to fund activities provided by people living in or close to the Red Wards.



BE SPENT ON LOCAL AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS AS OPPOSED TO BIG CAPITAL BUILDS

60% of the funding has been used to deliver local and community projects, including, bins, noticeboards, trees, bulbs, benches and healthy activities. No funding has gone to big capital builds.





CREATE FEELINGS OF CONNECTIVITY AND POSITIVITY AND ENABLING MASS PARTICIPATION

Through the project the City of Nature branding has been developed and flags were purchased to highlight to the wider community that activities are taking place under the City of Nature “banner”. Choosing to use the one word “welcome” on the flags sends a simple positive message and will encourage people to participate even if they are just passing by. We found that having branding that people recognise and trust has meant that people are more able to connect with each other through the project at first but that leads to connections continuing through simply learning about each other and finding out about other opportunities in the area.



WHAT WAS DELIVERED

CITY OF NATURE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Four online development workshops and one in person workshop were delivered during the project. Initially to bring 12 community organisations together with BCC Officers, Councillors and Cabinet Members, National Trust partners, and West Midlands Police.

The first online meeting took place via Teams on 6th July 2021

Community Groups:

- Birmingham Open Spaces Forum
- Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust
- Birmingham Trees for Life / Birmingham Tree People
- Witton Lodge Community Housing Association
- Saheli Hub
- Eco Birmingham
- Canal and Rivers Association
- Legacy West Midlands
- The Birmingham Children’s Trust
- The RSPB – Sandwell
- Thrive
- The Active Wellbeing Society

Three parts to the project were codesigned; The model for the Alliance, the projects that would be delivered, the sustainability of the projects through community development and Green Champion volunteers.

The in-person workshop took place on 21st June 2022 and was organised by BCC Parks City of Nature Officer and had 34 attendees. As well as all members of the City of Nature Alliance, members of the BCC Operational

group present with park rangers, early years colleagues, arboriculturists, planners, community partnerships, neighbourhoods, and housing officers to name but a few. As well as creating the opportunity for further and wider connections to be made we also shared learning from the Bordesley and Highgate pilot project as a midpoint review.

There have also been ongoing monthly online and onsite operational meetings of the Alliance delivery group - the members of the Alliance that are delivering actions in Bordesley and Highgate.

The ward chosen for local delivery of projects through the Future Park Standard was Bordesley and Highgate Ward. Five parks were chosen for immediate delivery of 10 projects delivered in each park.

Parks were, Highgate Park, Kingston Hill Park, Garrison Lane Park, New Hope Park and Denbigh Street POS

A total of 50 micro projects will have been delivered in total by March 2023 by the Alliance Members:

BOSF – Volunteer Development Officer

B&BC WT – Conservation Officer, Education Officer, and Trainer

Legacy WM – Green Mentor and 5 Sports Facilitators

Birmingham Tree People – Trainer and Community Engagement Officer

The Active Wellbeing Society – Social Prescribing Lead

Learning Journey – Educational Leader

ONSITE MICRO PROJECTS (PLACE)

Delivered in every park:

- Community consultation to create reports to help advise local project delivery.
- Installation of Community Notice Boards to allow communication with site users.
- Audit of each park against the Future Park Standard to provide a base line score for each park.
- Detailed action plans created for each park in collaboration with the Alliance partners and local community.
- Community engagement walks and talks in each park.
- Connecting with Nature event delivered in each park.
- Sports activities including football and netball to tie in with commonwealth games.
- Tree ident and Tree themed activities and tree planting
- Wildlife and Conservation activities in each park, including bulb planting and wildflower meadow creation.
- Walking for health walk leader training and healthy walking sessions.

34 new bins were installed across the 5 sites. Although the purchase of the bins was funded through CIL funding, the process to get them installed was possible because of the project and the consultation with park users.

5 silver birch trees were planting with the community in Highgate Park delivered through the BTFL project.

20 Native woodland whips planted in Garrison Lane Park delivered through Birmingham Tree People.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MICRO PROJECTS (PEOPLE)

- Stanhope Centre: Monthly meetings for Highgate community forming a new Friends of Parks Group.
- Celebration of Highgate Community funday event held in Highgate Park and New Hope Park.
- Programme of nature-based education sessions delivered at the local Secondary School - [Curriculum Outside The Classroom | Learning Journeys Consulting](#)
- Connections made with local primary schools to encourage nature-based activities, all primary schools have access to - [The 'Natural' Curriculum | Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust \(bbcwildlife.org.uk\)](#) through the project.
- Connections made with Early Years settings to encourage using the parks for nature-based activities delivered via a webinar- [Little Green Champions – Naturally Birmingham Future Parks Project](#)

Each of the five parks had a community noticeboard installed made by a small Birmingham business. Posters advertising events and activities are added to the boards by members of the Alliance and the local community.



Local school children and members of the community planted five multi stemmed trees in Highbury Park facilitated by the Birmingham Trees for Life project. The Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust arranged an after-school nature craft session in Garrison Lane Park and The Canal and River Trust arranged a litter pick.



BOSF's Helen Harvey is working as a Volunteer Development Officer funded through the project to support volunteer opportunities and help residents to form a Friends of Group for Highgate Park. Volunteers came together to organise an event in Highgate Park in September 2022 that had over 100 people come and join the fun.



In November 2022 there was a Birthday Party for New Hope Park, Alliance members came together with residents to have a party in the park with tea and cake, nature trails, bulb planting, craft activities, bird feeders, history walk and local litter pick, proving litter pickers for local residents.



A programme of nature and health walks have been delivered across all five parks throughout 2022. All the walks also provided opportunities for people to share their Earth Stories – memories of green spaces and hopes for the future of green spaces in their areas.

“Never been to this park, although I live close. Avenue (of trees) could do with a path to make it more of a feature. More benches, jet wash the mosaic. Bushes to block the traffic noise. A bandstand! – Phil”



A Therapeutic Horticulture training day was hosted by Thrive and 10 Green Champions attended from community gardeners to litter pickers. Feedback was very positive especially a planting activity that gave insight in to working with visually impaired gardeners.

The last events of 2022 were tree themed, arranged by Birmingham Tree People they culminated in a tree planting activity in Garrison Lane Park.



The health benefits that green spaces provide are now well documented: [Nature for health and wellbeing | The Wildlife Trusts](#) During the Covid pandemic in 2020 the nation's gardens, parks, woodlands and rivers played a huge part in helping us all through the lockdowns. [Public love for nature during Covid-19 highlighted by new survey - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) with almost 9 in 10 adults in England reporting that being in nature makes them very happy. Four in 10 adults reported spending more time in nature than before the coronavirus pandemic, with health and wellbeing being amongst the main reasons for getting outside. Birmingham's planning guidance suggests that every resident should have a green space with play facilities for children within 400m (5 to 10 minutes' walk) of where they live. There are areas of the city where this minimum is not provided. But more importantly than this is the finding from the FPA project that even where there was provision the quality of green spaces could be so poor that people will not use them. In the pilot project the Future Park Standard (originally the Fair Park Standard) process was used to audit parks and create action plans to raise the standard of the five green spaces in Bordesley and Highgate.

Green City Manager: Nick Grayson explains the Future Parks Standard <https://youtu.be/RaO9o1F2iOo>

Each park had elements assessed against a standard under the same 5 city wide City of Nature themes.

- Fair - is it welcoming, accessible, clean, and safe?
- Green - are there different trees and plants, are there habitats for wildlife, is it managed sustainably?
- Healthy - are there walking routes, quiet areas, activities, is the park used for social prescriptions; and play value?
- Involved - can you find out what's happening in your park, can you influence what is happening?
- Valued - do we know the worth of what the park provides, is that shared, are there ways to raise extra funds?

When a park is assessed, if it doesn't meet the Birmingham Future Parks Standard with a score above 4 across all criteria an action plan will be created to detail out what can be done to raise the scores to at least 5 across all criteria. This approach will set a new benchmark of quality for all Birmingham City Council parks. Over the course of the 25-year City of Nature Plan.

The start of a Future Parks Charter for BCC Parks include:

- To ensure that everybody has access to green and other open spaces of a fair standard, irrespective of where they live.
- To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve.
- To establish standards of good management, and to promote and share best practice amongst the green space community.
- To recognise and reward the work of managers, staff, and volunteers.

The Alliance was also able to consult with local communities including GP surgeries and schools to enrich the findings of the onsite audits originally carried out by the FPA Team. Many of the planned events and activities have been tested over the first 6 months of the project which has helped to shape what the Alliance will deliver and how the BCC Parks Service / Street Scene will manage the five sites going forward. We have listed to concerns around litter, overgrown shrubs and antisocial behaviour and are working closely with Parks Officers to make sites feel more welcoming and safer.

Example Action Plan

SUMMARIES and ACTION					
Park name	Domain	Existing Points	Add Points to achieve Fair score	Actions	Status
Denbigh St. POS This park scored below fair (4) on several elements across all domains.	Fair	15	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create pathway, or connection between MUGA and play area. Signpost other local greenspace near the site to encourage connections. 	
	Healthy	26	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a quieter contemplation area, with seating for adults. 	
	Green	34	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of contemplation area add planting and features Perennial wildflower areas 0.1ha* Add native trees/shrubs to screen wall 10no. trees and 20no. shrubs* Apply management regime like Highbury Park for wildflower/long grass areas 	
	Valued	16	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create landscape features to increase biodiverse/environmental value (see Green Domain actions) Connect school across the road, for events opportunities 	
	Engaged	13	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install community noticeboard. Engage and begin to develop friends group/volunteer groups. Connect with local school/s 	

NUMBER OF PEOPLE JOINING IN WITH ONE OFF / ADHOC EVENTS

BASELINE USE OF PARKS

At the start of the project members of the FPA team visited the five parks on several occasions between August 2021 and January 2022, and advertised a walk and talk in each park. The purpose of the visits was to get a baseline for the start of the project. During all the visits the number of park users observed over the course of two hours were non or in single figures, often just one person. No participants joined the first walk and talks in any of the parks. No “Use of Parks” applications had been made for these parks over the previous 12 months.

Local schools were not using the parks and no other groups were found to be using the parks at all for any organised activities.

BIRMINGHAM OPEN SPACES FORUM

Early in the project Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF) Volunteer Co-Ordinator started to engage communities around all five sites with a series of walks and talks. Most significantly the BOSF events that took place in all five parks led the way in telling communities what was planned in their parks by sharing the aspirational plans on the newly installed community notice boards.

They started face to face engagement with small scale open invitations to join walks in May 2022, two litter picks in July 2022, culminating with a well-attended Highgate Park event with over 100 attendees and the resultant coming together of a Friends of Highgate Green Spaces group. BOSF have since held a second, event in New Hope Park for the Parks 30th Birthday on the 26th of October 2022, this was also very well attended with around 70 residents, mostly families joining in the activities. Further events are being planned for spring 2023.

Please see the attached report from the BOSF Volunteer Development Officer – Page 28

BIRMINGHAM TREE PEOPLE

BTP hosted a tree warden training day in BHI on the 14th June with 11 attendees. and Birmingham Tree People (BTP) organised at Tree Champion session at a local venue provided by the Navy Reserve Unit HMS Forward.

A week of tree themed activities were delivered by BTP to coincide with National Tree Week in November 2022. Highgate Park on 26th Nov, Kingston Hill Park 29th Nov, New Hope Park 2nd Dec and Garrison Lane on 3rd Dec. Activities included tree counting, tree identification games, spotting and recognizing the tallest tree, spotting wildlife, forest bathing sessions, Bark rubbing, a mini park landscape photography workshop with a professional landscape photographer amongst others to bring in as wide an audience as possible.

A second event to encourage sign up of Tree Wardens for the Bordesley and Highgate area is planned for the end of March to be delivered in a local venue, mosque or health centre. A local school – The Ark Academy and a local Warm Space community centre have already planned tree events with BTP to help bring their small orchards back to life.

LEGACY WM

Legacy WM delivered walk leader training with 2 volunteers on 7th October 2022. Although just two volunteers joined the training session, these were local people and are now walk leaders, delivering regular outdoor exercise sessions in the parks.

BIRMINGHAM AND BLACK COUNTRY WILDLIFE TRUST

At the start of the project the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust (B&BC WT) delivered an after-school event for families in Garrison Lane Park to start engagement and gather feedback and since then have delivered community conservation events in all parks with residents joining activities.

BBCWT have part-delivered one surveying course with 11 attendees, based at Eco Park and taking in the parks and green spaces of Bordesley and Highgate. Unfortunately, their Senior Training Officer suffered a bereavement the penultimate day and was unable to complete the course. A new course will be run allowing the previous participants to complete their assessments and giving more people the opportunity to attain their qualifications, the second course will be a Level 1 OCN certificated course in Tool Use held between 28th Nov – 2nd Dec.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE SIGNING UP TO A PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

A major achievement for this project was the changes made by BCC to the “Use of Parks” form that community groups have to complete. [Types of events and activities | Holding events in parks and open spaces | Birmingham City Council](#)

The text on the webpage was changed to encourage rather than discourage the use of and care of parks and the form was simplified. This has benefited groups who want to use green spaces across Birmingham and the feedback has been very positive.

Legacy WM delivered a six-week Children’s Football Programme on Saturday mornings at Garrison Lane with up to 6 young people attending sessions. Following feed back from these sessions five-a-side football goals are being installed by Legacy WM in the park to allow children to play whenever they want to. A Children’s Basketball taster session was delivered in the MUGAs at Highgate Park and Denbigh Street POS with 10 places for children offered at each session and full take up.

Legacy WM delivered walk leader training with 2 volunteers on 7th October 2022. These are local people that have become walk leaders, delivering regular outdoor exercise as part of Legacy’s daily mile programs on our behalf. 4 additional regular walkers are attending daily miles walks in Highgate Park.

There is now a walking group every Saturday morning at Garrison with 6 regular walkers.

Learning Journey Senior School Eco Garden Sessions and Welly Walks: 25 individuals over all with 147 attendances across all sessions. See report – Page 31

BOSF / Stanhope Gardening sessions – up to 6 individuals regularly attend sessions.

THE PRODUCTION OF THE CITY OF NATURE NATURAL CURRICULUM OFFER

The City of Nature offer for early years, primary schools and secondary schools known as Little and Young Green Champions is being developed by engaging schools in pre-existing programs to be delivered to three Bordesley and Highgate primary schools; Chandos, Calthorpe Academy and Harper Bell. Delivery of this project was delayed by the departure of the BBWCT’s Senior Education Officer at the start of September 2022. However, they have recruited a replacement and are currently planning for them to deliver the Natural

Curriculum work with schools during the 2023 spring term. A school grounds enhancement project will still be completed before the 2023 summer holidays.

TRIALING A SOCIAL IMPACT APP

At present we still have limited data from the social impact app developed by Podnosh. Originally training and rollout of the app occurred with 4 Alliance partners. We have since recorded 5 interactions with residents via the platform, 4 of which being positive about elements of the park and one being negative about the perceived safety of Highgate Park. We are as a matter of urgency organising further training session on the app to boost the number of operatives capable amongst each City of Nature Alliance members and encourage wider use.

Helen Harvey Volunteer Development Officer (BOSF) creates regular reports for her activities collecting numbers of participants and feedback.

Legacy WM has been using the app to collect data, so has the community engagement officer for Birmingham Tree People.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACTION GROUPS / FRIENDS GROUPS / VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Helen Harvey and Sarah Royal both from BOSF have carried out most of the groundwork for bringing together a “Friends of Bordesley Green Spaces” group. In her report on the Sept 11th event Helen notes “The Friends group are feeling very positive following the event and working on their constitution to formalise the group and determine what they want to work on, going forward.” After half a dozen meetings and an event, there are several interested parties wanting to form the committee, but she has not been able to get them all together at once to agree on the constitution at present. The plan, according to Helen is, following the New Hope session to invite people from the survey to a tea and cake session before Christmas to see who turns up and who is serious about wanting to get involved. Two people have agreed Chair and Secretary positions, the 3rd position: treasurer not yet appointed. We are hopeful for formalisation of the group before the end of March 2023.

SUPPORT PROVIDED TO COMMUNITY GROUPS AROUND FUNDRAISING

There are no community groups in Bordesley and Highgate as far as we have been able to establish. Until the establishment of a formal group with a constitution and bank account there is little to no scope to help groups directly fundraise. BOSF however have plenty of experience in this area and with additional support from the wider Alliance and City of Nature team raising funds on behalf of community groups will continue to be the way forward for now. Allowing communities to access funding while formal groups are still forming.

DELIVERY OF HEALTHY OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Weekly walks take place in Highgate Park, with 2 local volunteer walk leaders trained, the daily mile route has now been installed in Highgate Park by working in partnership with Public Health. This should attract

additional walkers and cement the routine of a regular walking group in the park for weeks, months and hopefully years to come.

Tree Week activities delivered by BTP attracted about 20 participants per session. Children especially found the activities offered fun and ran around the parks counting trees, collecting leaves and finding their favourite tree. Tree activity trails were left in each park so that any visitors to the park could use the self-guided trails to join in the fun.

DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN CHAMPIONS

We now have our Green Champion Co-ordinator in place and the programme is now quickly gaining pace.

Although this took much longer than we had wished, work on the development of the Green Champion Programme continued with Alliance members delivering Green Champion Training sessions delivered mostly on site in Bordesley and Highgate Parks to encourage residents to participate and the “How to Guide” first draft being written.

The Green Champion Programme is proving to be popular city wide the uptake from Bordesley and Highgate residents has been slower to develop. However, Legacy WM did train to local walk leaders and gardening sessions at the Stanhope Centre near Highgate Park are proving popular.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT

UNDERSTANDING THE LEVEL OF THE CHALLENGE

We knew from the outset that Bordesley and Highgate ward would provide a challenge for the delivery of the City of Nature Plan as not only was it one of the Red Wards scoring very high against the measures that contribute to environmental injustice, but also there was very little activity at all taking place in the ward and stakeholder analysis returned very few groups or networks in the ward. On the ground there were high levels of littering and fly tipping on the surrounding streets and often in the parks. All of the parks except Highgate Park were on the lowest level of maintenance and had not had any infrastructure improvement for at least five years.

The area is dissected by main roads and the canal that although provides a blue corridor with other areas, does restrict some movement within the ward. Along with areas of light industry that create large inaccessible areas within the ward this all makes connections both geographical and social harder than in some other Red Wards in the city.

The “park as a hub” for the neighbourhood approach we had started with encountered problems because the ward needed a whole infrastructure approach to overcome the lack of connectivity, and this will be addressed through the Urban Nature Development project and Master Planning work. However, connections between residents living close to the parks has started to develop.

CREATING AN ALLIANCE

The formation of an Alliance has been a great success however, bringing established organisations together to work to deliver one plan under one banner was not easy to achieve. Although the Council has used a delivery

partner model before, and has worked with most of the organisations on an individual basis, to our knowledge the Alliance approach was previously untested. We will be creating a separate “How to Guide” for creating an Alliance that covers subjects like MOUs, reporting, possible board structures, payments, team building and action planning, operational process (Health and Safety, Data Protection, etc) branding and marketing and PR. The guide should be completed by the end of March 2023.

DEVELOPING A FUTURE PARKS STANDARD

The first version of the Future Park Standard (originally called the Fair Park Standard) was developed through the FPA project and used to audit the five sites in Bordesley and Highgate to get a baseline score for the parks. After sharing the process with partners and reviewing the method the scoring method was adapted so that rather than a total score, each criterion is treated separately with a minimum score of 5 required for all criteria for the park to be considered as meeting a fair standard. Ultimately we are aiming to get all parks to a good standard but that can only be achieved through capacity building with the community.

Future Parks Standard audits prior to project commencement serve as the baseline against which much of the success of the project will be measured. Each park received a score and tailored program of suggested actions that would raise the Future Parks score of each park to an acceptable level, unlocking the health and wellbeing benefits of those green spaces for locals in line with our environmental justice goal. Below is the FPS baseline score for each of the 5 BHI parks in the first column and in the second column are the additional points needed to achieve the FPS.

Garrison Lane		New Hope St		Kingston Hill		Highgate		Denbigh St	
120	+47	117	+50	122	+50	135	+32	104	+63

FPS Baseline

Although a Follow up Future Parks Standard audits of the 5 BHI parks is not scheduled until completion of the project at the end of March 2023, there are concrete improvements we have already made to each parks score as we complete various actions raised by the initial audit. For instance, an action for each of the parks was to install a community noticeboard, allowing previously non-existent communication of parks events and community-initiated activities and organising etc. which is already being utilised to promote various CoNA events (Legacy WM Daily miles, BOSF family events etc).

An action plan was created for any criterion that scored four or below in the 5 Bordesley and Highgate Parks to ensure that when reaudited they would score at least 5. These are often relatively small and simple actions, but they can make a massive difference to the number of people using the site.



What follows is a breakdown of actions completed and Future Parks Standard points gained (*Action (points)*) to date across the project for each park, recording progress that has been made ahead of a full audit in March.

Garrison Lane	New Hope St	Kingston Hill	Highgate	Denbigh St
---------------	-------------	---------------	----------	------------

Community Noticeboard (+5)	Community Noticeboard (+5)	Community Noticeboard (+5)	Community Noticeboard (+5)	Community Noticeboard (+5)
Extensive Consultation (+3)	Extensive Consultation (+3)	Extensive Consultation (+3)	Extensive Consultation (+3)	Extensive Consultation (+3)
Biodiversity Assessment (+3)	Biodiversity Assessment (+3)	Biodiversity Assessment (+3)	Biodiversity Assessment (+3)	Biodiversity Assessment (+3)
Physical Health Benefit (6-week football course) (+2)			Physical Health Benefit (walking group & Daily Mile) (+1)	
New Bins (+2)	New Bins (+2)	New Bins (+2)	New Bins (+2)	New Bins (+2)

We will be completing a “How to Guide” for using the Future Parks Audit, this should be completed by the end of March 2023. The guide will include descriptions for scoring parks so that communities will be able to use the guide to audit their parks themselves in future.

WORKFORCE CHANGES, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND REVISED PROCESSES

Changing the way the council manages green infrastructure to deliver the changing needs of communities and the environment takes time and resource and this is an ongoing process. We have created a BCC Operations Group that functions in a similar way to the community Alliance. This allows collaboration and cross fertilization of ideas. But we encountered similar problems to bringing the Alliance together. Departments all work slightly differently and already have day to day work and other projects happening that need to be considered. Changing from siloed service delivery to coordination and collaboration requires different skills which all must be learnt and acclimatised to.

Process also needed to be changed, most obviously the “Use of Parks” process which communities found restrictive and in some cases stopped communities organising events on parks because they saw the process as too onerous. Through the project we changed the process for use of parks, and we are also working on health and safety process obstacles to try and make it easier for communities to work on green spaces and still stay safe.

FUND RAISING AND PAYMENTS

One of the biggest delays we encountered was the payments process for distributing grants to the Alliance members and community groups. Obviously all financial transactions need to meet council regulations so not having a central external organisation who can manage the finances for the Alliance and community groups has caused the delivery of some projects to be delayed.

Once we understood the process that we could use within the council systems things did improve, but it is something we are still looking at as we roll out the Future Park Standard to more wards.

Although the council encourages partnership working and less service delivery the process to accommodate this are still quite onerous and sometimes difficult to track down.

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

People said to us when we started “It’s not as simple as build it and they will come”. By that Field of Dreams reference they meant don’t think you can just make a nice park and people will automatically use it in the best

way that they can benefit from. They also meant that there is a simple formula that can just be followed in every area to make it work.

Although that belief, to a degree, is true. We also discovered that if you don't bring a park up to the Future Park Standard of what is generally expected to be provided, then people in the areas of most need in the city may never engage with that park and won't want to be involved in its improvement. In fact in some extreme examples from our feedback they would actually prefer the park wasn't there at all.

The council must show they care first before asking communities to get involved caring for their green spaces.

WHAT NEXT?

The Birmingham City of Nature (BCoN) Alliance of organisations that has been established through this project is now settling down into a well organised and well-connected team. We have a recognisable branding for communication going out to the public via onsite community boards, social media and other BCC channels including BCC Housing offers sharing information out to residents. This helps to engage the community across the five parks and all activities and helps building recognition of the Alliance and trust.

Using the Fair Park Standard process to provide the action plans the Alliance has been able to consult with local communities including GP surgeries and schools to produce a programme of activities and events over the next 6 months. Many of the planned events and activities have been tested over the first 6 months of the project which has helped to shape what the Alliance will deliver and how the BCC Parks Service / Street Scene will manage the five sites going forward. We have listed to concerns around litter, overgrown shrubs and antisocial behaviour and are working closely with Parks Officers to make sites feel more welcoming and safer.

We are now able to move to the final phase of the project which is about really building the legacy foundations for this project, to go beyond what has already been achieved to help deliver the City of Nature Plan over the next 25 years.

GREEN CHAMPIONS PROGRAMME AND DATABASE

SIGNING UP, COMMUNICATING WITH AND TRAINING GREEN CHAMPIONS

We have been able to appoint a new Green Champion Co-Ordinator who based in BCC Street Scene – Parks Department for 12 months. This role is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund – Urban Nature Development Project supported by the National Trust. But the case for this role was made through the findings of the Pilot project. To enable the GCC Officer to build the Green Champion Programme we need to have a digital process for potential Green Champions to be able to sign up and receive information about volunteering opportunities and training opportunities provided through the Green Champion Programme as trialled in the pilot project. These training opportunities won't only help to build a better network of Green Champions who are more able to support their communities to live sustainable – bolder greener – lives but will also provide the individual Green Champions with experience through volunteering and skills through training increasing their confidence and resilience as was fed back through training sessions delivered in the pilot.

We want to develop the Green Champion digital system which we would like to be an app eventually but may start as a web-based portal and some of the basic training around keeping safe and working with volunteers.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF NATURE ALLIANCE

HELPING TO ENSURE THE ALLIANCE CAN ENGAGE AND INVOLVE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE RED WARDS.

The work of the Alliance in Bordesley and Highgate Ward is starting to show real benefits. It took time for the Alliance to establish and that was the purpose of the first phase of the project. Now we need to consider how we are going to find the revenue funding to move forward into the next five red wards to continue to be able to fund the services delivered by the Alliance. We have seen already within the project two examples of the successful use of training and support delivered by a fund-raising organisation such as Get Grants who is currently delivering some support to established Friends Groups.

We are looking to expand the skills of the Alliance to also include fund raising. We want to work with Get Grants to provide training, workshops, and support in bid writing to find the revenue funding to be able to action the next red ward site plans that will help raise these parks to the new **Future Parks Standard** that has been developed in the first phase of this project. Although we have been able to secure funding for infrastructure for parks such as bins and benches, the community engagement (including schools and health centres) and development of action groups that leads to capacity building needs to also be funded. We need a resource to help build the ability of the Alliance and community groups (other than Friends Groups) to be able to achieve this.

ACTION PLANS FOR RED WARDS

WORKING UP THE SITE ACTION PLANS FOR FIVE MORE RED WARDS.

We already have high level ideas for improvement for the next five red wards. However, through the work done in the project so far, we have realised that certain actions need extra resource to turn them from an improvement suggestion or “vision” into implementation on the ground. For example, we have an action plan for Kingston Hill Park to reach the Future Park Standard, but after consulting with the community to establish what further resource may be required to get the park to a good standard, they wanted a new or refurbished play area, but to take this action forward and find funding for the play area, we must first have funding for detailed action plans to be created which in turn will allow us to apply for further funding from other sources to contract the purchase and installation of new equipment.

We are aiming to have detailed action plans for as many projects as possible across the next five red wards with Kingston Hill play area and a new path network in Garrison Lane Park being the priorities.

BORDESLEY AND HIGHGATE PILOT PROJECT

REPORT

REPORT FOR ALLIANCE MEMBER BOSF

Birmingham Open Spaces Forum – Helen Harvey, Volunteer Development Officer

PROJECT TYPE

Community Involvement

Park Name	Date	Activity	Number of attendees
All 5 parks	Throughout the project	Attending the FPA / BCON Alliance meetings with other alliance members	1 - HH
All 5 parks	January 2022	Visiting the parks and understanding the layout / location. First posters to introduce the City of Nature project	1 - HH
All 5 parks	February 2022 onwards	Regularly putting up / changing posters in each park about: Corvids, Tree Buds, Birds, Leaf ID, Stanhope Community Lunch & Garden, Ashiana Ladies Walks, Highgate Park meetings, Litter Picks, Highgate event, New Hope Event, etc.	1 - HH
Denbigh Street	Feb 2022	Leafleting Denbigh Street across from the green space to discuss walk / activities.	3
Highgate area	February 2022	Meeting Highgate Ladies Group, through networking at Stanhope, St Albans and Highgate Community Support Ltd	1 - HH
St Albans Church	Regular Wednesdays Since March 2022 (except school hols and Ramadan)	Ladies group in the church – encouraging topics around wellbeing, linking to Ashiana (ACP) and Highgate Community Support Ltd, plus the community centre, parks, green space, positive thinking, English speaking, litter picking,	8 per session
Highgate area	22 Mar 2022 – 31 st Jan 2023	First of 7 meetings engaging 5 different community groups in the area, looking to engage local community towards a 'friends group'. Plus a zoom with Legacy WM on 31 Jan 2023	Varies attendance from 6-10 people each time.
Park Name	Date	Activity	Number of attendees

Stanhope Community Garden	Regular Thursdays since April 22	Working in the garden with members of the community and various students, plus Friction Arts. Encouraging the community to get involved. Often networking with TAWS, NAC, Friction Arts, St Albans, local collage, etc.	Between 1-6 people
Highgate & New Hope	10 th May 2022	Take to your Feet – Living Streets – Local walk	3 locals
Garrison Lane	17 th May 22	Take to your Feet – Living Streets – Local walk	5 local, 3 others
Kingston Hill	24 th May 22	Take to your Feet – Living Streets – Local walk	4 locals
Denbigh Street	31 st May 22	Take to your Feet – Living Streets – Local walk	4 locals, 2 others
New Hope Park and Highgate area	8 th June 22	Ladies litter pick	3 locals
All 5 parks	Early July 2022	Leafleting about Park Smart event – to tidy up the park ready for CWG visitors	1 - HH
Kingston Hill Park	13 th July 2022	Park Smart & Proud – walk, clean and litter pick around the park to tidy up ready for CWG visitors.	4 locals
Highgate Park	14 th July 22	Park Smart & Proud – walk, clean and litter pick around the park to tidy up ready for CWG visitors. CANCELLED	I was asked to cancel as too hot
Garrison Lane	19 th July 22	Park Smart & Proud – walk, clean and litter pick around the park to tidy up ready for CWG visitors. CANCELLED	I was asked to cancel as too hot
Denbigh Street	20 th July 22	Park Smart & Proud – walk, clean and litter pick around the park to tidy up ready for CWG visitors. CANCELLED	I was asked to cancel as too hot
New Hope	21 st July 22	Park Smart & Proud – walk, clean and litter pick around the park to tidy up ready for CWG visitors. CANCELLED	I was asked to cancel as too hot
Highgate Park	August 22	Event poster development and leafleting round the area of Highgate, New Hope and Moseley Road	4-5 generally
Highgate Park	August 22	Event coordinator role – liaison with BCC, Parks, community, Stanhope, etc. organising equipment from TAWS Share Shack	1 - HH
Highgate Park	11 th Sept 22	EVENT - Invitation to Highgate Park, fun afternoon with lots of local families and local community groups supporting. Small number of questionnaires carried out.	@100
New Hope	October 22	Event poster development and leafleting round the area of Highgate, New Hope and Moseley Road	1 or 2 interactions per area
Park Name	Date	Activity	Number of attendees
New Hope Community Park	26 th Oct 22	Happy 20 th Birthday New Hope Park event. Family fun with local children, parents and community group support.	@70

Highgate & New Hope	9 th Nov 22	Mindfulness Parks Walk (ladies only) around Highgate Park, New Hope and area, stopping to appreciate the green spaces.	7 ladies
Related to all 5 parks	15 th Nov 22	Bordesley & Highgate Ward Meeting – inputting / being positive to the green agenda	25 locals
Highgate	30 th Nov 22	Sharing Support Meeting – networking. Highgate Community Support, NAC, NNS, Community Network Officers, Early Help Team, Social Adult Team, B’ham Children’s Trust, Shaw Trust	6
Highgate area	15 th Dec 2022	Stanhope community lunch & garden Christmas meal. Approx 50 guests.	1-HH as volunteer
All 5 parks	Jan 2023	Posters in parks about Stanhope Community garden, Highgate Green Spaces meeting, ladies walk, nature	1 - HH
Highgate & New Hope	1 st Feb 2023	Mindfulness Parks Walk (ladies only). No one came as childcare issues last minute with the strike.	0 (teacher strike)
Highgate & New Hope	15 March 2023	Rescheduled Mindfulness Parks Walk and Talk (ladies only)	Planned

BORDESLEY AND HIGHGATE PILOT PROJECT

REPORT

REPORT FOR ALLIANCE MEMBER – LEARNING JOURNEY

Learning Journey Consulting – Outdoor Education Leader

PROJECT TYPE

Educational Engagement – Bordesley Green Girls School

Date	Number on session	location
20/09/2022	13	Park Welly Walk
18/10/2022	14	Park Welly Walk
01/11/2022	6	School garden
08/11/2022	13	School garden
15/11/2022	15	Local walk - Canals
29/11/2022	8	School garden
06/12/2022	7	School garden
13/12/2022	10	School garden
10/01/2023	4	School garden
17/01/2023	7	School garden
24/01/2023	13	School garden
31/01/2023	9	School garden
07/02/2023	15	School garden
14/02/2023	13	School garden

Birmingham City Council

Sustainability & Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19th April, 2023



Subject: Refresh of the Road Safety Strategy for Birmingham

Report of: Mel Jones, Transport Planning and Network Strategy Manager

Report author: Martin Rowe, Transport Planning Manager - Streetscape

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this presentation is to set out a proposed approach to refresh the Road Safety Strategy for Birmingham, to align with the adopted Birmingham Transport Plan, Healthy Streets quality auditing and Vision Zero.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To support the proposed approach to refresh the Road Safety Strategy for Birmingham.

3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 None

4 Any Legal Implications

- 4.1 None

5 Any Equalities Implications

- 5.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
 - 5.1.1 eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;

5.1.2 advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

5.1.3 foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.2 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering: How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

5.3 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

6 Appendices

6.1 A New Road Safety Strategy for Birmingham – OSC

Towards a New Road Safety Strategy for Birmingham

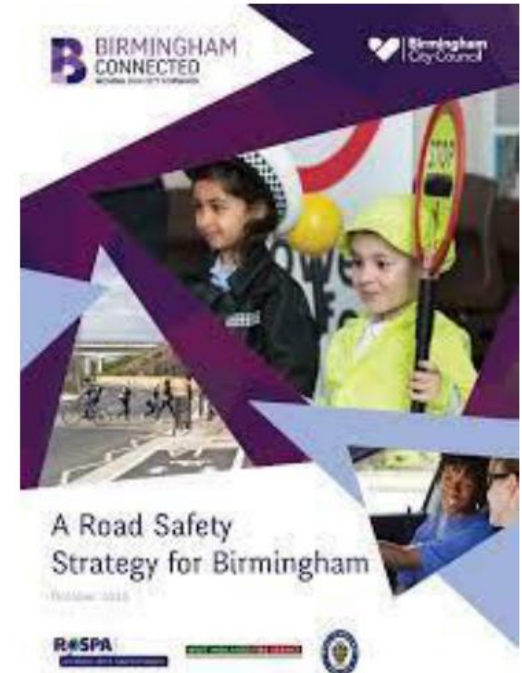
Martin Rowe

Transport Planning Manager - Streetscape



Background

- The current **Road Safety Strategy for Birmingham** was adopted in October 2016.
- At the time of writing, this aligned with all relevant policies, guidance and best practice.
- This established a **formal prioritisation approach** for the delivery of focussed Local Safety Schemes, to ensure that areas of greatest need were prioritised first for intervention.



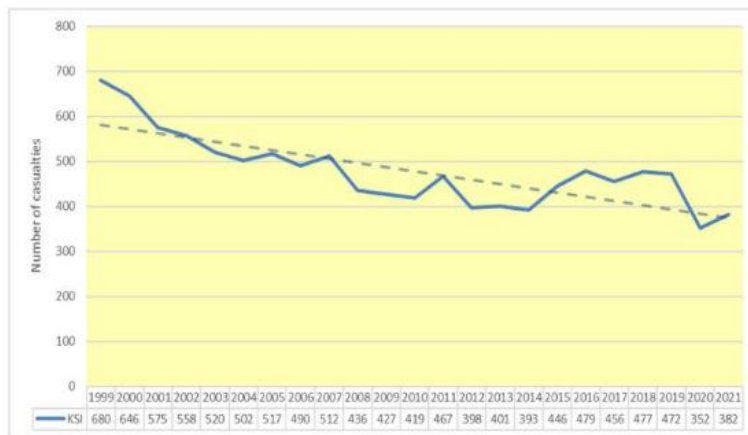
Why refresh the Road Safety Strategy?

- The Road Safety Strategy needs to be refreshed, to tackle a number of issues:
 - Progress in reducing Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) across the city has plateaued;
 - The pace of road safety scheme delivery is too slow and complex;
 - Allocated road safety funding is fragmented, and value for money achieved is not high enough;
 - Lack of alignment with the adopted Birmingham Transport Plan, Regional and National Road Safety policies and best practice.



Progress in reducing Road Traffic Collisions has plateaued

- The gradual decline reported in RTCs (Killed and/or Seriously Injured) in Birmingham relies on rapid reductions achieved between 1999 and 2012;
- From 2013 onwards, progress has been largely static (with the notable exception of the pandemic period, when RTCs dramatically, but temporarily declined);
- If we do not radically change our approach, every year we can expect approximately:
 - 25 people to die, and;
 - 400 people to suffer serious (probably life changing) injuries on our roads.
- **This is unacceptable and yet, avoidable in most cases.**



Pace of road safety scheme delivery is slow and complex

- The current Local Safety Scheme prioritisation criteria encourage focusing interventions on specific 'problem' locations;
- 'Traditional' road safety scheme delivery approach focuses on vehicles first (i.e. manage vehicle speeds, then cater for other modes as an afterthought) generally by implementing 'vertical deflection measures';
- This 'street-by-street, junction-by-junction' approach is not achieving results, because it does not deal with the problem (high and ever-growing volumes of vehicular traffic);
- It is also no longer affordable, and could take well over a **century** to treat all suitable roads in the city, assuming current resource availability is maintained.



Allocated funding is fragmented, and value for money is not high enough

- Birmingham City Council delivers a wide variety of different initiatives in local areas across the city, including:
 - Local Safety Schemes;
 - 20mph areas;
 - Local engineering interventions;
 - Modal improvement schemes;
 - School Streets;
 - Maintenance activities;
- The Local Safety Scheme budget set at approximately £500k per annum, yet infrastructure delivery costs have skyrocketed.
- The average Local Safety Scheme now costs over £800,000 to design and deliver – that's less than one scheme a year!



Where are Birmingham's most dangerous roads and neighbourhoods?

Ward	collisions per year (weighted)
Bordesley & Highgate	65.7
Nechells	38.3
Bordesley Green	37.7
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	31.7
Alum Rock	30.5
Ladywood	25.8
Tyseley & Hay Mills	25.3
Balsall Heath West	25.0
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	24.5
Garretts Green	20.0

- This data shows average number of road traffic collisions per year, during 2019-2021;
- Unclassified roads only (weighted according to size of ward)
- Densely populated, deprived areas in East Birmingham a particular focus for poor road safety.
- There is a clear correlation between density of busy A and B Class roads, and recorded RTCs.

What are the causes of the majority of Road Traffic Collisions in Birmingham?

Primary listed causation factor	Average collisions per year 2019 -2021 – All Roads
Failed to look properly (pedestrian)	638.0
Careless or Reckless or In a hurry	210.3
Poor turn or manoeuvre	162.3
Exceeding speed limit	126.7
Failed to judge other persons path or speed	118.7
Failed to look properly (driver)	108.7
Aggressive driving	106.0
Slippery road (due to weather)	88.3
Disobeyed Give Way or Stop sign or markings	87.7
Impaired by alcohol	72.3

- The majority of road traffic collisions are caused by bad and/or inattentive driving;
- It is now very rare for collisions to be caused by poor road design;
- Pedestrians and cyclists are often blamed for ‘not looking’, but this is primarily a **driver error**. The Highway Code makes clear that it is a driver’s responsibility to anticipate more vulnerable user behaviour, and drive to the conditions;
- Since our ability to influence driver behaviour is limited, decreasing and removing vehicular traffic from local areas is **necessary** to reduce the incidence and severity of road traffic collisions.

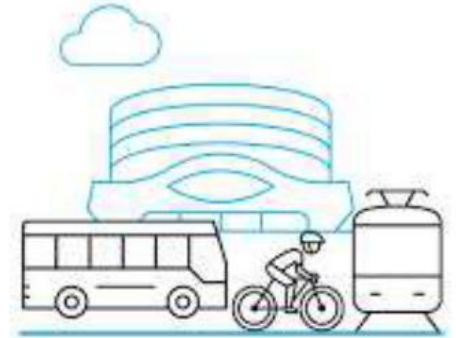
Policies, Guidance and Best Practice



Birmingham Transport Plan

- The Birmingham Transport Plan was adopted in 2021;
- It sets out a clear, evidenced approach to transform Birmingham's transport networks, to address the challenges posed by the need to:
 - Tackle Climate Change
 - Ensure Equity
 - Tackle poor Air Quality and Public Health Issues (including road safety)
 - Accommodate Future Growth

BIRMINGHAM TRANSPORT PLAN



Birmingham Transport Plan (Continued)

■ PRINCIPLES

- Reallocating road space
 - Transforming the city centre
 - Prioritising active travel in local neighbourhoods
 - Managing demand through parking measures
-
- The BTP commits BCC to significantly reduce vehicular traffic citywide.
 - This is necessary and unavoidable if we are to respond to the range of challenges Birmingham now faces.



Vision Zero

- The Vision Zero strategy emerged in the 1990s in Sweden, **and is referenced in the current Road Safety Strategy.**
- It aims to eliminate **all** traffic fatalities and severe injuries, whilst increasing safe, healthy and equitable mobility for all. Key principles:
 - **Safe speeds:** Encouraging speeds appropriate to the streets of a busy and populated city (20mph or less on most roads)
 - **Safe streets:** Designing an environment that is forgiving of mistakes, by removing vehicular traffic wherever possible and ensuring safety is embedded within all scheme designs
 - **Safe vehicles:** Reducing risk posed by the most dangerous vehicles (particularly larger and heavier)
 - **Safe behaviours:** Reducing the likelihood of road users making mistakes, or behaving in a way that is risky for themselves and other people through targeted interventions, enforcement, marketing campaigns, education programmes and safety training
 - **Post-collision response:** Developing systematic information sharing and learning, along with improving proportionate justice and care for the victims of road traffic collisions.



Best Practice: Healthy Streets Quality Auditing

- **Quality Audit** is a systematic review of proposed transport projects, based on Vitruvian Principles. It aims to ensure the delivery of high-quality places which are **functional, durable, attractive and safe**.
- Transport for London has championed this concept, developing it into the 'Healthy Streets' Toolkit which forms the basis of the Capital's approach to deliver Vision Zero.
- Healthy Streets quality auditing ensures street design is genuinely inclusive, considering the needs of **all** users, whilst delivering safer roads which put people before traffic.



A Refreshed Approach to Road Safety in Birmingham

To deliver Vision Zero, we need to take a bold, ambitious approach to reduce **vehicular traffic volumes**, particularly in local neighbourhoods.

To achieve this – and quickly - it is proposed to end the current Local Safety Scheme prioritisation process, and replace it with a bilateral approach to delivering improved road safety in Birmingham:

Arterial Routes (predominantly A-Class roads) treated separately, capitalising on strategic Government funding opportunities to enable delivery;

Neighbourhood Major Schemes to treat entire local networks of B, C and U Class Roads (bounded by A-Class roads) as a programme of major schemes, to achieve economies of scale and speed.





Sustainability & Transport O&S Committee: Work Programme 2022/23

Chair:	Cllr Chaman Lal
Deputy Chair:	Cllr David Barker
Committee Members:	Cllrs Saima Ahmed, Alex Aitken, David Barker, Martin Brooks, Colin Green, Timothy Huxtable and Richard Parkin
Officer Support:	Amelia Murray, Overview & Scrutiny Manager (07825 979253) Scrutiny Officer: Baseema Begum (303 1668) Committee Manager: Louisa Nisbett (303 9844)

1 Terms of Reference

- 1.1 As per City Council on 24th May 2022 the Committee's Terms of Reference is 'to fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities relating to sustainability; air pollution; transport strategy and highways. The Committee shall undertake the authority's statutory functions in relation to the scrutiny of flood risk management (Flood and Water Management Act 2010)'.
- 1.2 This report sets out the scrutiny work programme for 2022/23.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee reviews the work programme completed during 2022/23 and recommends any issues that should be carried over or new issues to be included in the Scrutiny work programme for 2023/24.

3 Background

- 3.1 *"Scrutiny is based on the principle that someone who makes a decision...should not be the only one to review or challenge it. Overview is founded on the belief that an open, inclusive, member-led approach to policy review...results in better policies in the long run."* (Jessica Crowe, former Executive Director, Centre for Governance and Scrutiny).
- 3.2 Developing an effective work programme is the bedrock of an effective scrutiny function. Done well, it can help lay the foundations for targeted, inclusive and timely work on issues of local importance, where scrutiny can add value. Done poorly, scrutiny can end up wasting time and resources on issues where the impact of any scrutiny work done is likely to be minimal.



- 3.3 As a result, the careful selection and prioritisation of work is essential if the scrutiny function is to be successful, add value and retain credibility.

4 Work Programme

- 4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the work programme for this Committee for 2022/23. This provides information on the aims and objectives, together with lead officers and witnesses, for each item. The attached work programme also includes items requested by the Committee which have not been able to be programmed in 2022/23.
- 4.2 There have been no outstanding recommendations to be tracked for previous inquiries in 2022/23 for this Committee.

5 Other Meetings

Call in Meetings

There are no Requests for Call-In scheduled for this Committee.

Petitions

None scheduled.

Councillor Call for Action requests

None scheduled.

It is suggested that the Committee approve Wednesday at 1400 hours as a suitable day and time each week for any additional meetings required to consider 'requests for call in' which may be lodged in respect of Executive decisions.

6 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

- 6.1 Since the implementation of the Local Government Act and the introduction of the Forward Plan, scrutiny members have found the Plan to be a useful tool in identifying potential agenda items.
- 6.2 The following decisions, extracted from the CMIS Forward Plan of Decisions, are likely to be relevant to the Sustainability and Transport O&S Committee's remit. The Panel may wish to



consider whether any of these issues require further investigation or monitoring via scrutiny. The Forward Plan can be viewed in full via Forward Plans (cmis.uk.com).

Reference	Title	Portfolio	Proposed Date of Decision
010906/2023	P0599: Tyseley Energy Recovery Facility, Waste Transfer Stations & Household Waste Recycling Centres – Operate, Maintain & Renewal	Leader	25 Apr 2023
011137/2023	City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Programme	Transport	16 May 2023
007349/2020	Waste Vehicle Replacement Programme	Environment	27 Jun 2023
010589/2022	Ladywood Estate Regeneration - Contract Award, FBC and Delivery	Leader	27 Jun 2023
010416/2022	NEC Masterplan	Leader	27 Jun 2023
010635/2023	Paradise Phase 3	Leader	27 Jun 2023
010756/2023	A45 Birmingham to Airport and Solihull Sprint Phase 2 – Full Business Case	Transport	27 Jun 2023
010763/2023	A34 Walsall to Birmingham Sprint Phase 2 – Full Business Case	Transport	27 Jun 2023
011139/2023	Highway Maintenance and Management PFI Contract – Commercial Arrangements	Transport	25 Jul 2023
007686/2020	Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document	Leader	05 Sep 2023
010173/2022	Our Future City Plan 2040 – Draft Central Birmingham Framework	Leader	17 Oct 2023

7 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

8 Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.



9 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 9.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 9.2 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering: How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.
- 9.3 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

10 Use of Appendices

- 10.1 Appendix 1 – Work Programme for 2022/2023

APPENDIX 1

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022-23 WORK PROGRAMME

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 27th July 2022

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Cabinet Member Portfolio Overview	Update Report	Provide a summary of Cabinet Member priorities for 2022-23, and identifying opportunities for O&S to add value	Rose Horsfall, Cabinet Support Officer	Cabinet Member for Transport	None Required	
Street Naming and Numbering Policy	Consultation	Updating members on the upcoming report to Cabinet on the revised policy	Phil Edwards, Assistant Director for Transport and Connectivity	Phil Edwards, Assistant Director for Transport and Connectivity	None Required	
Places for People in Birmingham	Update Report	Report outlining journey to date including feedback and how impact is being measured	Phil Edwards, Assistant Director for Transport and Connectivity	Mel Jones, Head of Transport Plan and Network Strategy	None Required	
Work Programme Development	Decision	Approve work programme for 2022-23 Further discussion with a particular focus on refining aims and objectives, and identify any additional topics to consider	Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager	None	None Required	

Final Deadline: Tuesday 18th July 2022

Publication: Wednesday 19th July 2022

Sustainability and Transport O&S Committee, April 2023 - Appendix 1

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 21st September 2022

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Clean Air Zone	Update Report	Report providing overview of scheme to date, information on payment scheme and activities the revenue from the scheme is supporting	Phil Edwards, Assistant Director for Transport and Connectivity	Steve Arnold, Head of Clean Air Zone	None Required	

Final Deadline: Monday 12th September 2022

Publication: Monday 12th September 2022

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 19th October 2022

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Cabinet Member Portfolio Overview	Update Report	Provide a summary of Cabinet Member priorities for 2022-23 and identifying opportunities for O&S to add value. This will include an update on the Waste Disposal Incinerator Procurement.	Jon Lawton, Cabinet Support Officer	Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Majid Mahmood Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene Ellie Horwitch-Smith, Assistant Director, Route to Zero Carbon Eleanor Crook, Principal Portfolio Officer		Specifically, in relation to the Waste Disposal Incinerator Procurement, the scope of this update may be limited due to commercial sensitivity.

Final Deadline: Monday 10th October 2022

Publication: Tuesday 11th October 2022

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 16th November 2022

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Street works Permit Scheme	Briefing	Provide an overview of proposed changes	Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director Highways and Infrastructure	None identified	None Required	
Re-procurement of Highways PFI Contract	Briefing	Provide a briefing on the current position and next steps	Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director Highways and Infrastructure	Domenic De Bechi, PFI Contract Manager	None Required	

Final Deadline: Monday 7th November 2022

Publication: Tuesday 8th November 2022

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 14th December 2022

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
University Station	Visit	Site visit to view the recent extension, which was partly funded through Clean Air Zone revenue, and to consider the development of train options within the city	Liam Brooker, West Midlands Rail Executive		University Station, Edgbaston	Arranged through the West Midlands Rail Executive

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 18th January 2023

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Civil Parking Enforcement Services	Briefing	Provide an overview of the current position and next steps of the tender strategy for the provision of parking/enforcement services	Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director Highways and Infrastructure	Stacey Ryans, Parking Services Manager	None	
Footway Crossings Policy	Briefing	Provide an overview of the policy due to be presented to Cabinet in December	Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director Highways and Infrastructure	Kamyar Tavassoli, Highways Services Manager	None	This was requested at the September Committee meeting

Final Deadline: Monday 9th January 2023

Publication: Tuesday 10th January 2023

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 15th February 2023

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Bus Services in Birmingham	Discussion	To understand current trends relating to use of buses, level of services including fares and reliability	This will be delivered by external organisations Pete Bond, Steve Hayes and Jon Hayes, Transport for West Midlands Mark Heffernan, National Express	None	None	
The development of railways stations within the city	Discussion	To provide clarity on issues raised during the visit to University Station in December. To understand how lessons learnt will be applied to the development of future rail stations opening in the city	This will be delivered by an external organisation Liam Brooker, West Midlands Rail Executive	None	University Station (14 Dec 2022)	This follows on from site visit to University Station on 14 December 2022.

Final Deadline: Monday 6th February 2023

Publication: Tuesday 7th February 2023

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 15th March 2023

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Cabinet Member Annual Report	Briefing	Provide an overview of progress towards portfolio priorities	Rose Horsfall, Cabinet Support Officer	Cllr Liz Clements, Cabinet Member Transportation	None	
Annual Flood Risk Management Report	Briefing	Outline current priorities, delivery towards achieving these priorities and future risks	Hannah Hogan, Flood Risk Manager	None	None	

Final Deadline: Monday 6th March 2023

Publication: Tuesday 7th March 2023

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 19th April 2023

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
City of Nature	Briefing	Provide an overview of the progress of the Our Future Nature City Plan Outline the challenges moving forward and the steps being undertaken to address them	Simon Needle, Strategic lead Urban Forestry and Nature	None	None	https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50273/our_future_city_plan/ofcp/2518/our_future_nature_city_plan
Development of a new Road Safety Strategy	Briefing	Inform the development of a new Road Strategy	Martin Rowe, Transport Planning Manager - Streetscape	None	None	

Final Deadline: Thursday 6th April 2023

Publication: Tuesday 11th April 2023

TO BE SCHEDULED:

The following items had been identified as topics for consideration to be included in the work programme and no dates have yet been set. The work programme is a live document, and additional items may be identified in future Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings.

1. **Active Travel including cycling and Safer Travel to Schools**
2. **Environmental, Public Open Space and Transport Issues within City Council Masterplans (i.e., Smithfield) and Urban Regeneration Frameworks**
3. **Waste Disposal Contract** (private briefing to be arranged)

