

Public Report

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

13th November 2018



Subject: PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT BIRMINGHAM URBAN CENTRES FRAMEWORK FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Report of: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, ECONOMY

Relevant Cabinet Member: Councillor Ian Ward, Leader

Relevant O &S Chair(s): Councillor Tahir Ali, Economy and Skills

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Are specific wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, name(s) of ward(s): All Wards		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 004111/2017		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :		

1 Executive Summary

1.1 To seek authority to undertake public consultation on the draft Birmingham Urban Centres Framework for Inclusive Growth, attached in Appendix 1.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Approves the draft Birmingham Urban Centres Framework for Inclusive Growth (Appendix 1) for public consultation for a period of 12 weeks commencing 26th November 2018, until 18th February 2019.

2.2 Notes that following the public consultation and any subsequent revision of the Framework, approval will be sought from Cabinet for the Birmingham Urban Centres Framework for Inclusive Growth (the Framework) to be adopted as the City Council's vision to guide investment and development decisions in Urban Centres and parades.

3 Background

3.1 Urban Centres and parades are a focal point for communities. They form vital hubs for local activity as places to shop, meet and for employment. Birmingham has a network of over 70 Urban Centres and more than 100 parades. They range in size from the City Centre, which attracts millions of visitors and is home to major economic assets; to Sutton Coldfield as the second largest centre in the city with shops, restaurants and offices; to smaller clusters in centres like Kings Norton, Balsall Heath and Cotteridge.

3.2 Urban Centres and parades have a central role to play in delivering the city's agenda for inclusive economic growth. Over the next 15 years the city is set to see significant growth with 51,100 new homes, over a million square metres of new floorspace for commercial uses and billions of pounds of investment in infrastructure. This growth is driven by an increase in Birmingham's population from 1.1 million to 1.25 million; the continued success of the city as the key centre for investment and the arrival of High Speed rail.

3.3 As the city seeks to deliver new development, its Urban Centres will need to evolve to offer a diverse range of uses, activities, spaces and environments. They will need to feel safe, be accessible by a range of modes of transport and have good connections to their local communities and the wider city. Many of Birmingham's Urban Centres and parades offer elements of this, however as demands and patterns of activity change, this network will need to evolve further.

3.4 This Framework has been produced to support this evolution, setting out the strategic principles that all Urban Centres and parades can utilise to become successful multifunctional places. These principles focus on securing diversity of activity, excellent connectivity and high quality design that celebrates local identity to create places that stand the test of time. The approach adapts the success achieved in the City Centre through the Big City Plan of setting clear strategic direction and identifying opportunities for change and investment. A Toolkit will sit alongside the Framework to support all stakeholders who are looking to deliver improvements in their Urban Centre or parade.

3.5 Within the Framework, 10 Centres for Transformation are identified for directing investment decisions and targeting actions as places that can evolve to meet the city's growth agenda. These centres were identified from:

- Evidence collected on the current health of all centres in the network
- The opportunities for investment and development linked to the growth potential set out in the Birmingham Development Plan;

- Key public transport corridors presenting opportunities for investment and development, and enabling local communities to better connect with economic growth;
- Their potential to adapt to meet the needs of their communities and businesses to remain relevant and resilient for the future.

3.6 In delivering the actions required to create thriving Urban Centres and parades, it is recognised that communities, businesses, local groups, landowners, the public and private sector will have a key role to play. The use of the Council's property assets in the Urban Centres and parades will be informed by the City Council's Property Strategy. Links will also be made to the localisation agenda that the City Council is bringing forward.

3.7 The Framework will be consulted on publically through a range of activities commencing 26th November 2018. Following the consultation and any subsequent revision of the Framework it will be adopted as the City Council's vision to guide investment and development decisions in the Urban Centres and parades. The adoption is scheduled for mid-2019. Following the Government announcement in the Budget 2018, the City Council will look into the Future High Streets Fund to see how this can be used to support the Framework.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

4.1 Option 1 – Do nothing. Should the Council decide not to publish the draft and consult on the Framework it will result in a lack of strategic direction and vision for the city's Urban Centres and parades, which will impact on their ability to respond to the challenges they are facing, capitalise on potential investment and move towards delivering the growth agenda.

4.2 Option 2 – Rely on policies in the Birmingham Development Plan. It is not intended that the Framework becomes a statutory planning tool, however once it is endorsed it will provide a greater level of direction to support action and investment that the Birmingham Development Plan cannot provide.

4.3 Recommended Proposal – Prepare the Birmingham Urban Centres Framework

5 Consultation

5.1 The Leader and Cabinet Members for Clean Streets, Waste and Recycling; Finance and Resources; Transport and Environment; Education, Skills and Culture; Homes and Neighbourhoods; Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equality; Health and Social Care, and; Children's Wellbeing have been briefed on the Framework, with their views to be sought during the consultation process. Officers from Birmingham Property Services, Highways, Transportation and Place Directorate have been involved in the Framework's development. Ward Members have been briefed on the Framework, with their views to be sought during the consultation process.

5.2 The launch of the Framework and public consultation will be the start of external consultation. This will enable ideas on how Urban Centres and parades can evolve and thrive into the future to deliver sustainable and inclusive growth. This will feed into any subsequent revision of the Framework which, following its adoption, will be used to guide investment and development decisions in Urban Centres and parades. The purpose of this report is to authorise public consultation over a 12 week period.

6 Risk Management

6.1 The programme for the adoption of the Framework allows flexibility to account for potential issues. This allows time for areas of disagreement from stakeholders to be discussed and addressed, and for large numbers of comments to be processed. As the consultation period will be over Christmas, it has been extended to a 12 week period to ensure that people and organisations have the opportunity to comment.

6.2 Other risks are addressed elsewhere in this report, including section 4 on the risks of not having the Framework, and section 7.3 on the financial implications.

7 Compliance Issues:

7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

7.1.1 The Framework will contribute towards the vision contained in the City Council's Plan 2018-2022 outcomes, specifically: Outcome 1 'Birmingham is an entrepreneurial city to learn, work and invest in' and Outcome 4 'Birmingham is a great city to live in'. It has been prepared in the context of the policies of the adopted Birmingham Development Plan (2017), including policies TP21 'The network and hierarchy of centres' and TP24 'Promotion of diversity of uses within centres'.

7.2 Legal Implications

7.2.1 The Council has general power of Competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 and it is using this to undertake the production of the Framework. Whilst not a statutory planning document, the Framework will provide guidance to support the Birmingham Development Plan, and the consultation will follow the principles set out in the Birmingham Statement of Community Involvement (2008).

7.3 Financial Implications

7.3.1 The Framework is being prepared using existing Planning and Development staff resources. The total cost of the public consultation exercise is estimated to be a maximum of £5,000. This will cover the costs of producing and printing the Framework, the production of publicity materials, and other consultation costs (e.g. hire of venues). This will be funded through the existing Planning and Development revenue budgets. Beyond the

consultation, the Framework does not entail any specific financial commitments for the Council at this stage, and includes reference to initiatives which are already approved and in progress.

7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)

7.4.1 No implications

7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)

7.5.1 No implications

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

7.6.1 An Equality Analysis screening has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix 2. The initial assessment has not identified any specific impacts the Framework will have on the protected characteristics. The growth of the Urban Centres and parades will lead to improvements for the local population including new homes, job opportunities and infrastructure delivery. The approach to public consultation on the Framework will be informed by the community profiles for the identified areas and relevant organisations with an interest in equalities issues will be consulted. The Equality Analysis will be updated following a review of the consultation feedback and will inform the preparation of the final Framework.

8 Background Documents

8.1 Birmingham Development Plan 2031 (January 2017)

8.2 List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):

- 1. Draft Urban Centres Framework for Inclusive Growth
- 2. Equality Analysis