

**WARD
DEVELOPMENT
PLAN**

2001/2002

LADYWOOD

LADYWOOD WARD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

Birmingham City Council is the largest single-tier local authority within the United Kingdom, covering an area of 26,785 hectares with a population of around 1 million. It has almost 730,000 local government electors divided into 39 separate wards, an average of over 18,000 electors per ward. Its annual gross revenue expenditure totals some £2 billion with an additional £120 million spent each year on capital projects.

It is against this backdrop that the City Council's decentralisation and devolution initiatives must be viewed. A new partnership between the City Council and residents was needed to identify opportunities at the local area level and to plan action for improvement, regeneration and renewal. Implicit within this concept is the devolution of the budget process guaranteeing that the expenditure of the City Council more closely matches the aspirations and priorities of local people.

In the Ladywood Ward, the first stage of the Council's decentralisation and devolution initiative was to establish a Ward Advisory Board comprising a representative range of local community/residents groups. Since then the boards representation has been strengthened to include members of other agencies, including the Health Authority, West Midlands Police, Employment Agencies and the recently reformed Housing Liaison Board. Appendix 1 lists the current membership of the Ladywood Ward Advisory Board.

In 1998 each Ward in the City was allocated £50,000 to be distributed to local projects/organisations by their Ward Advisory Board. In order to guide its deliberations, the Ladywood Ward Advisory Board drew up a list of issues it considered to be of major concern to the people of Ladywood. These issues were grouped as follows:

- ? Action to improve the physical infrastructure of the ward with particular emphasis on transport and housing.
- ? Action to improve the quality of educational provision and attainment within the ward.
- ? Action on the specific needs of young/older people.
- ? Action on crime reduction and community safety.
- ? Action to improve the quality of life and environment.
- ? Action to improve the leisure and cultural life of the ward.
- ? Action to improve the training and job opportunities for local people.
- ? Action to improve local retail, commercial and associated businesses.

The Ladywood Ward Advisory Board throughout its lifetime, has actively supported a radical devolution model and will continue to forcibly argue for an acceleration of the decentralisation of both budgets and decision making in future discussions.

Although over the past two years, since the first Ladywood Ward Development Plan was written, much has been achieved and substantial inroads have been made to address the above issues, they all still remain the focus for achieving the physical, social and economic community regeneration of the Ward. In order to achieve sustainable regeneration the Board established an overriding need to ensure regular community involvement in the furtherance of the decentralisation initiative. To help satisfy that need a fourth Neighbourhood Forum was formed by the residents from the Northwest Edgbaston area of the ward. Joining the existing three Forums - Central Ladywood, Lee Bank & Southacre and Summerfield & Rotton Park. This meant that local consultation could take place throughout the ward with recognised representative community bodies.

Following the allocation of the £50,000 Community Grants budget and writing of the ward development plan a second tranche of £30,000 was allocated to each ward to further support the devolution process. Again in pursuance of the objectives laid out in the first ward development plan this money was allocated to local voluntary and community organisations.

The aim of this revised Ward Development Plan remains the same as its original version - the Ladywood Ward Advisory Board want it be an evolving document that articulates the needs, aspirations and priorities of the many communities that make up Ladywood Ward. It is a document that will be referred to by City Council departments and other agencies to target their resources, it will be used to help identify initiatives and other service improvement programmes that can be implemented as a consequence of European, National and Local Authority originated funding opportunities. It wants every individual and organisation associated with Ladywood to understand and appreciate the key issues facing the ward and to use whatever means they have at their disposal to work in partnership to make Ladywood a better, more lively and interesting place to live and work. In essence, everyone can play a part, however small, in working towards a set of common objectives.

The Ward Advisory Board following widespread consultation during December 2000 and January 2001 has drawn up this second Ward Development Plan. To ensure that residents were given every opportunity to attend, raise issues and voice their concerns the Advisory Board staged four neighbourhood conferences in each of the Neighbourhood Forum areas, attended by residents, officers from key departments of the City Council, local community organisations and representatives from the Health Service and West Midlands Police. The conferences were held as follows:

December 12 th 2000	Central Ladywood
December 14 th 2000	Lee Bank & Southacre
January 16 th 2001	Summerfield & Rotton Park
January 30 th 2001	North West Edgbaston

Over 130 local people attended the events and many of the issues raised at the conferences have been incorporated into the Plan, which will be considered by the Ladywood Ward Committee for final approval in 2001.

Remember this Ward Development Plan is an evolving document - it is a means of informing the Council of key local issues. The list of issues and concerns highlighted

in the Plan should not be seen as the end of the process. It is the view of the Ward Advisory Board that the Ward Development Plan will have a far reaching and long-term impact on local issues since it will become the mechanism through which Ladywood - its residents and representatives - will shape and influence the way that the City Council and other key statutory and voluntary agencies construct their strategic policies and plans and how they deliver key services.

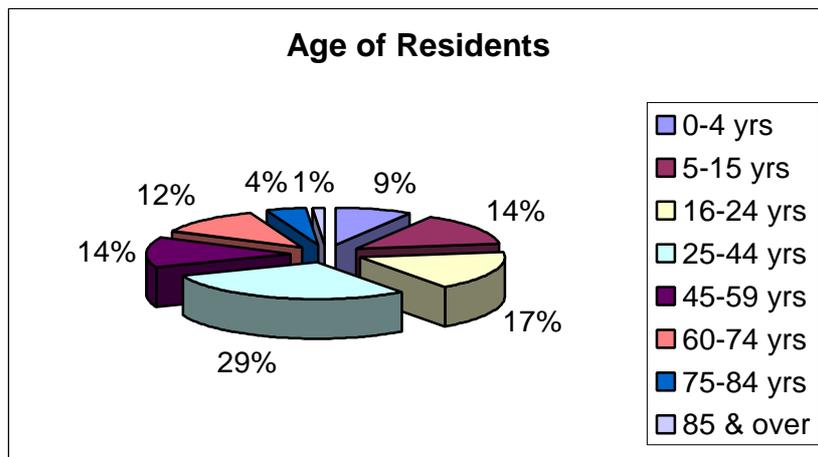
2. Ward Profile

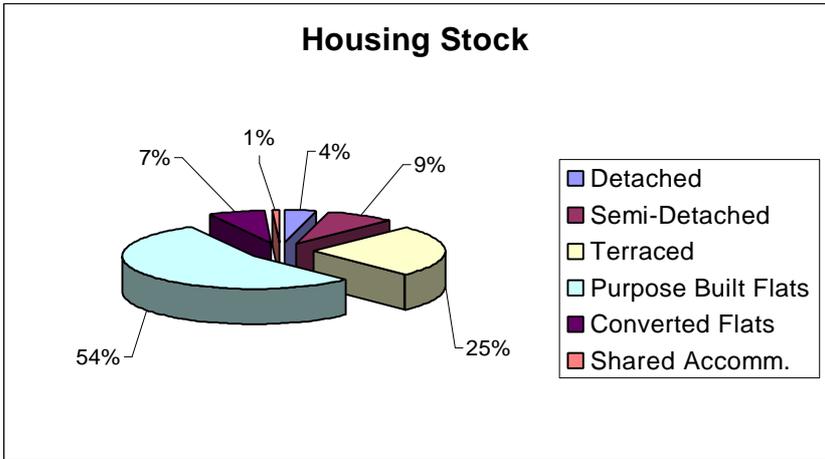
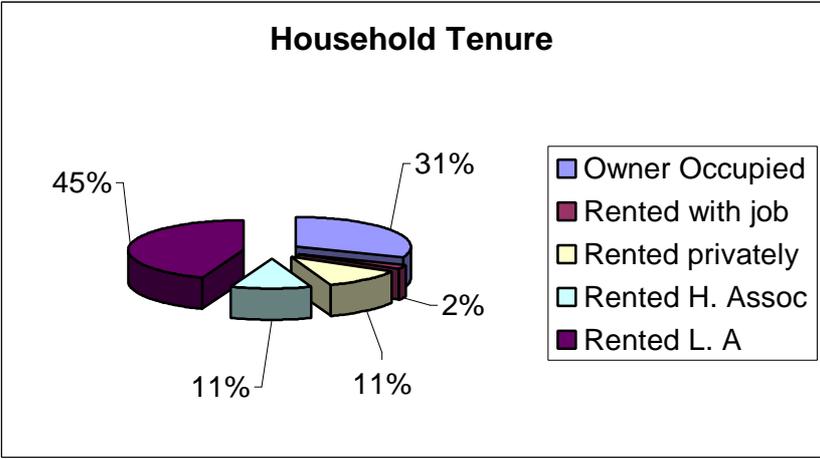
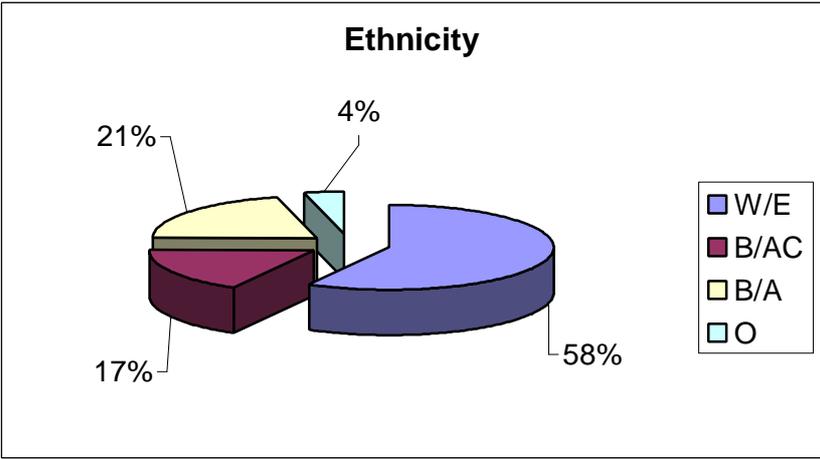
Ladywood ward extends from the City boundary with Sandwell to the West through to the city centre in the east. The ward is complex and diverse, containing large areas of commercial properties and a variety of housing. It is made up of many different areas and communities but in broad terms it can be divided into four distinct areas:

- ? **North West Edgbaston**
- ? **Summerfield and Rotton Park**
- ? **Central Ladywood**
- ? **Lee Bank/Southacre & City Centre**

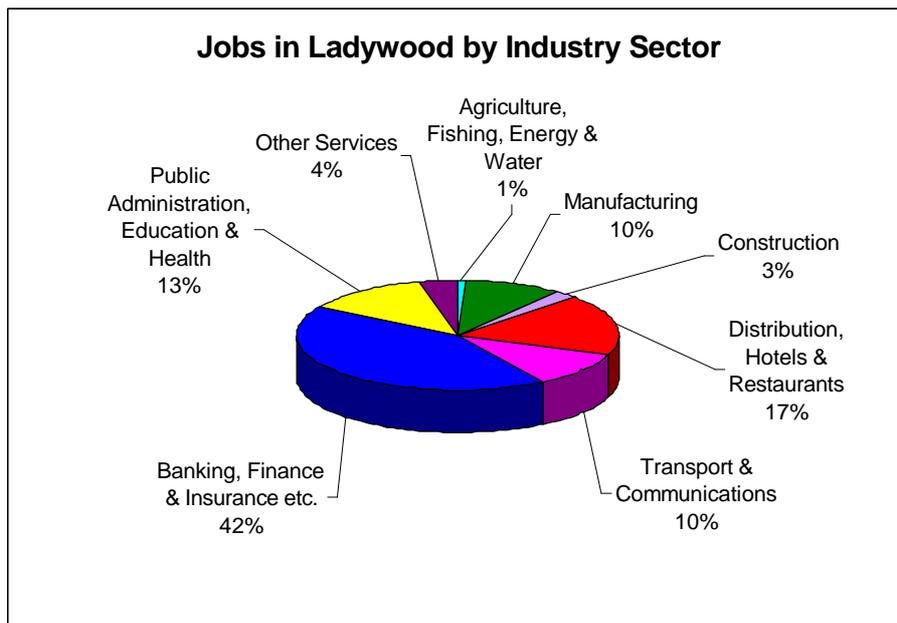
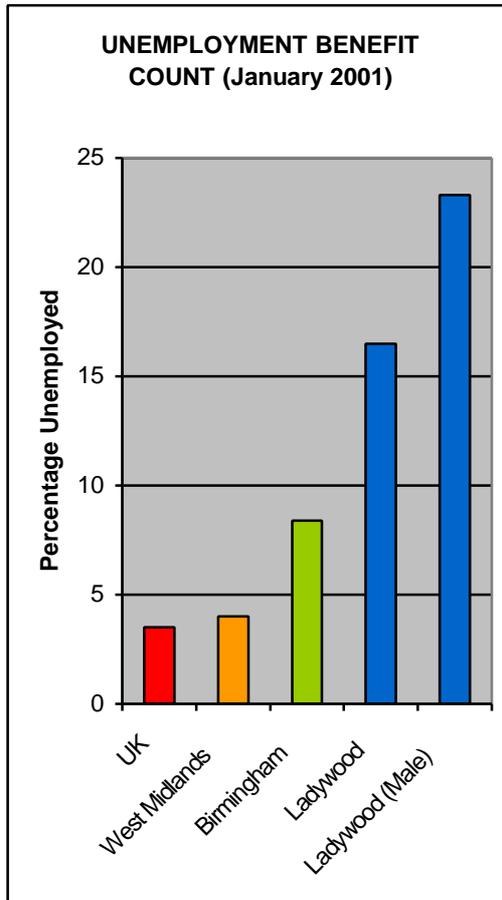
WARD STATISTICS (1991 CENSUS)

Population	24712
Area (hectares)	714
Unemployment Rate	23.8%
Single Parent Families	10.4%





EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS



Source: Annual Employment Survey 1998

1998 WARD STATISTICS

Population:

The resident population of Ladywood in mid 1998 was 27100, 3% of the population of Birmingham local authority. 19% of Ladywood's population in mid 1998 were aged under 16, 67% were aged between 16 and 59 and 14% were aged 60 and over. This compares with 23, 58 and 19% respectively for Birmingham as a whole.

Employee Jobs:

There were 105000 employee jobs in Ladywood at September 1998, 23% of the Birmingham total. However, Ladywood still has one of the highest unemployment rates in the city at well over 20% for adult males.

Income Support:

In August 1998 there were 3730 Income Support claimants in Ladywood. This represents 17% of the resident population aged 16 or over. For Birmingham the proportion was 13% compared with an average of 8% for Great Britain overall.

Indices of Deprivation.

The Indices of Deprivation 2000 (with rank 1 being the most deprived ward in England) gave Ladywood the rank of 346 out of a total of 8414 English wards.

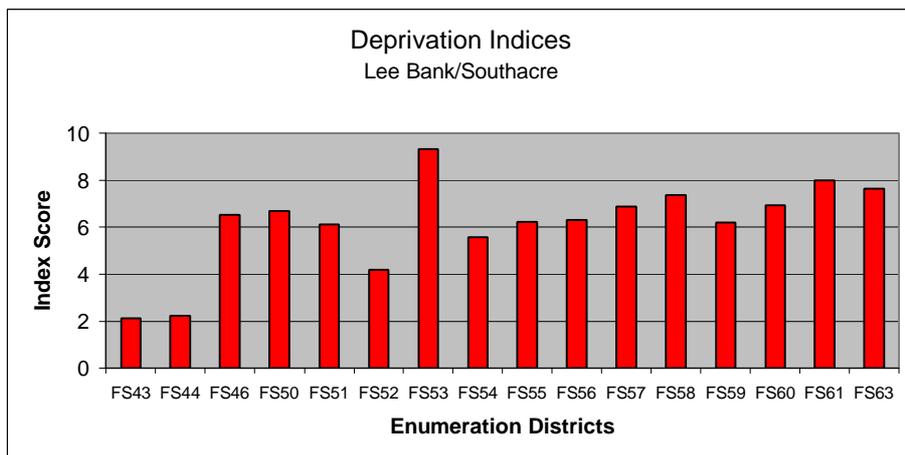
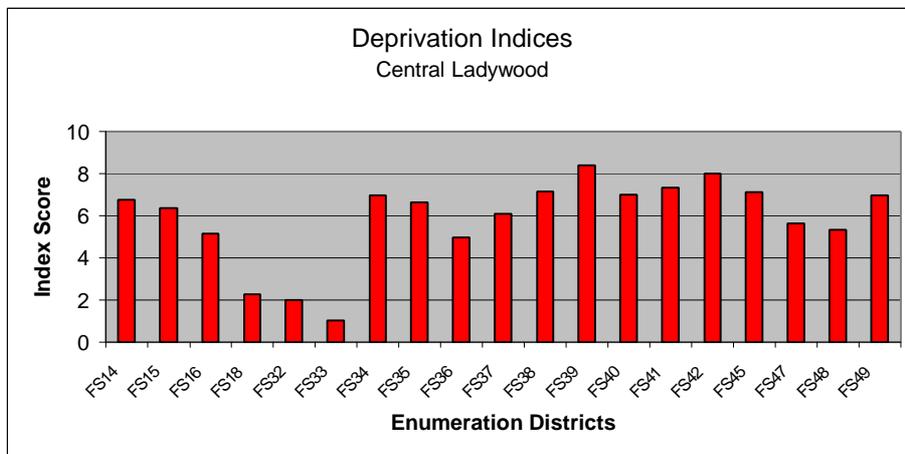
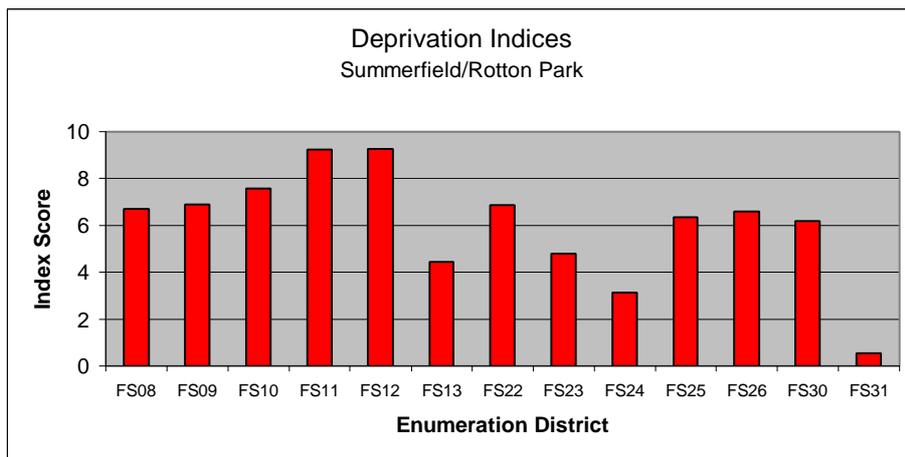
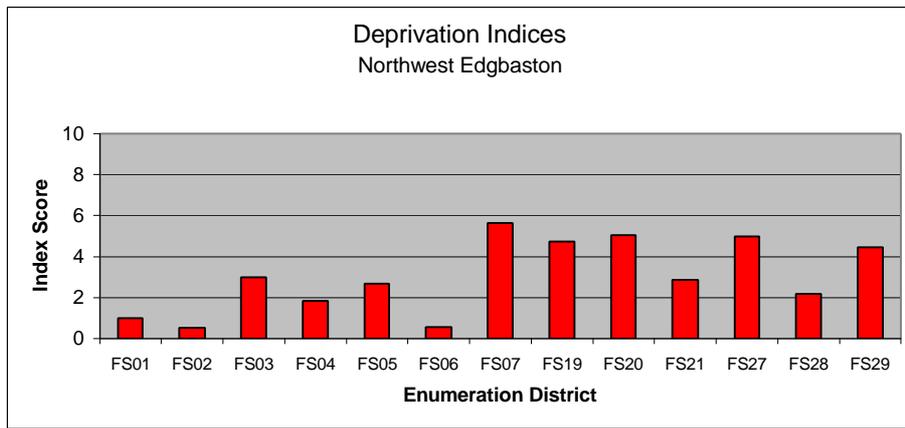
1998 Index of Local Deprivation

Deprivation indicators have been calculated for the enumeration districts in Birmingham. This enables service departments to identify specific neighbourhoods in the ward that are in most need of improved services and therefore target resources accordingly. However over 56% of the ward has districts which are in the worst 7% in England (i.e. those with an overall index score of over 6.2554) implying that whatever resources become available to the ward will be very stretched if need is to be satisfied.

Local Statistics:

Based on the geographical boundaries of the Neighbourhood Forums the average index score for each Neighbourhood Forum area is:

Northwest Edgbaston	3.0487
Summerfield/Rotton Park	6.0430
Central Ladywood	5.8597
Lee Bank/Southacre	6.1491



3. General Issues

Community conferences took place in each of the four distinct parts of Ladywood Ward hosted by the Neighbourhood Forums. The themes adopted for consultation by the forums were: Community Safety; Education & Childcare; Housing; Employment & Training; Transportation; Planning & Environment; Youth Services; Health & Social Services and Leisure. What follows is a summary of the main issues affecting the ward generally. Whilst these are not exhaustive lists of the needs of the four areas, the issues suggested are the basis for the Ward Development Plan to be submitted to the Ward Committee.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

Community Safety Priorities: Incorporating parts of the CSB Policing Plan

- ? Improve partnerships between local agencies and community groups to address community safety issues in the ward.
- ? Improve police response to crime, particularly drug dealing, known criminals/houses not being targeted. More foot patrols required.
- ? Pursue outcomes and recommendations of the citywide policy development panel to initiate a long-term strategy for tackling prostitution.
- ? Target the causes of crime and anti social behaviour to reduce the demand for response policing.
- ? Work together with other agencies to develop partnership initiatives and resolve community safety problems.
- ? Actively seek & encourage intelligence gathering through partnership agencies.
- ? Identify vulnerable victims including those subject to racial, homophobic and domestic violence and work together with partnership agencies to protect & support those most vulnerable.
- ? Proactively identify, consult and build links with those hard to reach groups within the community.
- ? Work together to provide long-term strategies to reduce crime and disorder.
- ? Work in partnership with other agencies in pursuance of Anti Social Behaviour Orders.
- ? Pursue a compulsory drug referral programme for offenders.
- ? Consider installation of CCTV or other suitable technology in areas most vulnerable to street crime.

ACCESS TO LEARNING

Education & Childcare Priorities

- ? Provide a City Centre Secondary School of Excellence as a means of overcoming the haemorrhaging of inner city pupils to the outer ring areas.
- ? Reinforce links between Junior and Secondary schools.
- ? Regularly review anti-racism and anti-bullying policies.
- ? Services for pupils with English as a second language should be monitored.

- ? Address the academic underachievement of local children, not being able to reach true potential at school.
- ? A new, well-resourced school would become a positive part of the community, better sports facilities, less travelling, after school clubs, dual education /community use.
- ? Lack of affordable childcare a major barrier to jobs, particularly for women.

CLEANER & GREENER NEIGHBOURHOODS & HOUSING

Environmental & Planning Priorities

- ? Problems associated with Care in the Community – over concentration of hostels, Houses in Multiple Occupation in certain parts of the Ward.
- ? Rubbish and fly tipping, overgrown trees and shrubs leading fear of crime are creating a general air of neglect.
- ? Rubbish on estates undermines efforts to improve housing stock.
- ? More leisure facilities required alongside major developments.
- ? More enforcement against those who litter, advance refuse and landlords who fail to comply with regulations.
- ? Provide regular updates about street cleaning and better promotion of the services provided by the Environmental & Consumer Services Department.
- ? Provide more beat sweepers required in areas where mechanised sweeping prevented by on street parking.
- ? Involvement of local communities in a “Tidy Birmingham Week”
- ? Establish better networking between departments to report areas of neglect.

Housing Priorities

- ? Regeneration proposals need to be comprehensive, not just housing based.
- ? Improve the speed and quality of repairs, for both the local authority and housing associations.
- ? Too many tower blocks – need for proper mix of housing stock to cater for needs of everyone in the community.
- ? More accountability of staff in housing to needs of tenants, through monitoring of outputs/targets etc.
- ? Urban Renewal schemes need to be revamped – block schemes rather than individual grants.
- ? Consideration be given to dedicated housing vice teams to work in partnership with local police to evict tenants contravening tenancy agreements.
- ? Carry out proper consultation with tenants regarding stock transfer and options.
- ? Establish better liaison between Housing Department and Environmental Health regarding clauses in tenancy conditions.

LOCAL STREETS

Transportation Priorities

- ? Ladywood is at the heart of Birmingham City Centre and measures must be introduced to protect local people from the increasing use of cars. Residents parking schemes should be viewed as a top priority.
- ? More bus lanes are needed and enforced by the police, traffic wardens.
- ? Review of pedestrian crossing facilities in the ward, particularly outside schools, hospitals etc.
- ? Establish more cycle paths in the ward.
- ? Traffic calming measures would be supported for most of the ward, with the enforcement of speed restrictions a top priority.
- ? Road safety issues – too many rat-runs, lack of off street parking, and establishment of self enforcing speed restrictions required.
- ? Carry out full consultation with residents prior to the introduction of traffic calming and experimental road closures.

EMPLOYMENT ROUTES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

Employment & Training Priorities

- ? Co-ordinate the work of the Employment Resource Centres operating within the ward - Summerfield Foundation at City Road, Genesis in Central Ladywood and Lee Bank - and other agencies such as the Ladywood Project operating at Ladywood Health and Community Centre.
- ? Establish skills training programmes to enable local residents to access job opportunities to help combat high levels of unemployment within the ward.
- ? Carry out an audit of commercial and industrial firms operating within and around the periphery of the ward to direct the training programmes and activities of the Employment Resource Centres, etc.
- ? Enhance the role of community Credit Unions (Rotton Park & Winson Green, Ladywood and Lee Bank) operating within the ward in dealing with poverty and deprivation issues.
- ? There is a need for all ERCs to cater for the needs of all sections of the community, including those who have traditionally been excluded by disability, gender, race or ethnicity. Local services should reflect the ethnic diversity of the Ward, particularly with regard to Asian language facilities.
- ? Local people must be supported to access the local jobs being created in the ward and on its periphery.

LOCAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

Health & Social Care Priorities

- ? There is an urgent need to audit the growing inequality in access to health provision and address issues with targets set by the Health Authority.

- ? Improve the general state of health of Ladywood residents. Key issues within the ward are: Sickle cell, Diabetes, Strokes and Coronary Heart Disease.
- ? Better access to primary health care and better health services for young people.
- ? Better co-ordination between the local authority, health authority, GP's and the voluntary sector to address local issues and needs.
- ? Existing funding should be used to lever in additional resources.
- ? Carry out a review of the charging policy for Home Care.
- ? More appropriate service delivery required from Social Services.
- ? Create better places for people to live, better environment, better diet, better employment prospects.
- ? Better use of local practices for treatment.
- ? Implementation of national development strategy
- ? Continued partnership working to combine the local priorities identified in the Health Improvement Programme with issues identified in the Ward development Plan.
- ? Establish effective services for treatment & prevention of asthma & make more available in primary care.
- ? Health providers need to invite/include local people.
- ? Reduce high death rate of children close to birth age.

YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES

- ? Co-ordinate youth work across the ward, incorporating both centre-based activity and outreach projects.
- ? Designated youth centres providing specific youth projects required in all parts of the ward, particularly central Ladywood and Rotton Park.
- ? Need for audit of youth facilities/expenditure in the ward, survey of young people, how many, what age groups/ gender profile/ ethnic breakdown/ needs and aspirations?
- ? More funding required specifically for young people.
- ? Provision of well resourced indoor and outdoor play facilities for children.
- ? Establish greater involvement of young people on the Ward Advisory Board
- ? Ladywood is close to the City Centre and leisure facilities could be built to serve the local community and the many office/retail workers/visitors, thereby requiring less public subsidy.
- ? New swimming facility incorporating a fun element is a top priority.
- ? Football pitches are extensively used but need to be marked out properly and well maintained with adequate changing facilities.
- ? Ladywood should have more social events for all age groups.
- ? More information is required on the leisure opportunities in and around Ladywood, with local transport clearly highlighted.
- ? More sports facilities, football/cricket pitches in parks, swimming pool, and better access to NIA Community Hall.
- ? Ensure that work specifications carried out by parks contractors are adhered to.
- ? Improve small areas of vacant plots of land considered to be eyesores.

4. Local Issues

? Summerfield and Rotton Park

During the years 1984 to 1990, Urban Renewal enveloping or block refurbishment schemes have been undertaken in the Southfield and Ashbourne Housing Action Areas. A total of 415 homes have been refurbished at a cost of £5 million.

Since the 1989 Housing Act, enveloping schemes have been replaced with individual mandatory grants resulting in a pepper pot approach to the regeneration of the area. In the fifteen years spanning 1984 to 1998, a total of 1,548 grants totalling £8,017,949 have been awarded in the area, an average grant per house of £5,179.

The failure to complete the urban renewal programme has prompted residents' view that this part of Ladywood Ward has not been given a "fair share" of the available resources. This perception is understandable given that, generally, the area continues to suffer from poor housing, inadequate shop provision, an unacceptable street environment and major community safety problems.

Safer Neighbourhoods

- ? Establish community safety measures, including improved street lighting, tree lopping, CCTV/OCTV and appropriate traffic management to deal with problems arising from prostitution within the Rotton Park residential area of both Ladywood and Edgbaston Wards.
- ? Provide more police coverage of Dudley Road area to combat open drug dealing.
- ? Query location of telephone boxes used by street prostitutes.

Access to Learning

- ? Environmental upgrading of the playground at City Road Junior & infant school and greater use of the school buildings for "supplementary activities".
- ? Homework clubs and better nursery provision linked to local schools should be considered.
- ? Establish a forum to identify resources matched to the needs of young people in the area.

Cleaner & Greener Neighbourhoods & Housing

- ? Co-ordinate refuse collection services to meet needs of local residents, including response to call lines.
- ? Consider the provision of a local recycling site.
- ? Acquire isolated plots of land behind residential streets, e.g. Brixham Road/Paignton Road and remove fly tipping, with the long-term objective to provide extended gardens for residents.
- ? Enforce UDP to prevent further proliferation of Houses in Multiple Occupation in the Summerfield & Rotton Park area, through the local Planning Department.
- ? Establish a regeneration plan for the derelict areas adjacent to St.Patrick's Church/Junior & Infant School extending along Dudley Road/Spring Hill to Stour Street, to include extended play space for the school.
- ? Provide support from the City Council for an improved mosque and madrasah at 341 Dudley Road (in Soho Ward).

- ? Regenerate industrial area off Icknield Port Road, alongside Edgbaston Reservoir to provide employment opportunities for local people.
- ? Establish better links between residents and SRB6 Management Board to ensure that locally identified regeneration schemes are recognised.
- ? Need to review the urban renewal strategy for the area – block schemes in addition to individual grants.
- ? Work in partnership with local police to address anti social behaviour issues in Flint Tower
- ? Housing Dept to work in close liaison with other partners to identify all housing associations operating in the area with the view of creating better communication and working practices.

Local Streets

- ? Carry out an assessment of the impact of experimental road closures on other roads in the area culminating in the production of a strategic plan of traffic movement.
- ? Improve street lighting at junctions on Gillott Rd., Selwyn Rd., Cavendish Rd., Algernon Rd., & Rotton Pk. Rd.

Employment Routes for Local People

- ? Increase employment and training opportunities for residents from the Asian sub continent.
- ? Promote local food co-ops to support needs of Asian and other communities.

Health Improvement & Social Care

- ? Improve community support for people with mental health difficulties through integrated care via Health and Social Services professionals.
- ? Local health care is fragmented – need for a Health Centre similar to those in Lee Bank and central Ladywood.
- ? Consider the establishment of an exercise on prescription scheme for the elderly.
- ? Provide a new primary medical service around City Road.

Youth & Community Services

- ? Enhance the community provision for the area, at present inadequately served by the Summerfield Community Centre (in Soho Ward), particularly for young people and the Asian elderly.
- ? Upgrade Summerfield Park to provide better facilities for children together with more activity based facilities suitable for young & old.
- ? Appoint a Park Attendant to improve community safety for users of the park.
- ? Implement the Development plan for Edgbaston Reservoir, linked to a canal enhancement programme, to provide a more attractive resource for both local residents and for Birmingham.
- ? Consider lockable gates (locked at dusk) on pedestrian entrances to Reservoir.
- ? Need for more community events at Edgbaston Reservoir.

? **Central Ladywood**

Over the last ten years there has been a £48.4m investment in the local authority housing stock of Central Ladywood. In addition there has been significant investment in associated community facilities, in particular the expansion and refurbishment of Ladywood Community Centre into a combined Health/Community Centre; the provision of three new children's play areas; and refurbishment of Ladywood Shopping Centre.

A comprehensive review is required of community safety issues and traffic management concerns to establish appropriate action plans for the whole of the Central Ladywood area. In particular a Residents Parking Scheme needs to be introduced at the earliest possible opportunity but with minimal cost to local people.

A review of community facilities and services needs to be undertaken with particular emphasis on the role of Ladywood Health and Community Centre with a view to enhanced provision across the area and to meet the specific needs of young people. Included in this review should be the potential use of vacant shop units in the St Vincent Street West shopping centre and the opportunities for use of the Methodist Church hall and St. John's J & I school. A new secondary school is essential for the inner city and it should be located in Ladywood - the heart of the City. A new swimming facility serving the needs of both the local community and City Centre workers/visitors urgently required.

Safer Neighbourhoods

- ? Community safety issues around Beale, Balfour and Clayton blocks need to be addressed, particularly drug use and prostitution.
- ? Address the proliferation of anti social behaviour, crime & disorder in the area around Monument Road.
- ? Establish Traders Association for shopkeepers of Monument Road & part of Hagley Road and work in close consultation with local police.
- ? Establish resident's advice bureau to enable access to information sharing for local people.
- ? Reduce the size of bushes to remove hiding opportunities.

Access to Learning

- ? Examine the potential opportunities for using school facilities outside school hours.
- ? Lack of secondary school in the area.
- ? Better provision of local affordable childcare.
- ? Create an enterprise to take on childcare issues

Cleaner & Greener Neighbourhoods & Housing

- ? Identify regeneration opportunities of the small industrial area between Sandpits and King Edwards Road and the area bounded by Spring Hill, Stour Street and the railway line/canal.
- ? Safeguard the shopping facilities in St Vincent Street West.
- ? Revitalise canal basin and adjoining derelict land to enable commercial/leisure activity.

- ? Carry out a land use audit of Ledsam Street/Great Tindal Street, alongside the canal, to identify regeneration opportunities but retaining some existing buildings particularly for loft-style housing development.
- ? Completion of development within Paradise Circus to utilise space under the Central Library and the adjoining vacant land.
- ? Reconsider the development frameworks for the Markets/Chinese Quarter areas that could accelerate the gain for Birmingham of possible relocation of the wholesale market.
- ? Carry out more consultation with developers to ensure provision of community benefits through Section 106 agreements.
- ? Consider future use of vacant land after demolition of Blakemere House and Kenchester House
- ? Upgrade heating systems for warden-controlled properties in Sadlers Walk.
- ? Provide and review door entry systems including intercom on tower blocks.
- ? Consider repainting council owned residential property including fencing.
- ? Further investment needed at Civic Close tower blocks.

Local Streets

- ? Removal of underpass under Ladywood Middleway connecting Middleway View estate with St Mark's estate and replacement with surface crossing.
- ? Carry out effective policing of on-street car parking around the NIA/ICC.
- ? Establish a non-residential location to be found for a designated coach park to relieve Ladywood of on street coach parking arising from events at NIA/ICC.
- ? Early introduction of Residents Parking Scheme linked to closer liaison with major employers along Hagley Road, e.g. DSS, to limit the impact of daytime congestion and parking in the area.
- ? Improve pedestrian links to Central Ladywood and the core city centre area, particularly along Spring Hill and Great Charles Street.
- ? Establish better enforcement of parking restrictions.
- ? Carry out full consultation with local residents on the affects of redevelopment on transportation issues.

Employment Routes for Local People

- ? Consider alternative use for former Doctor's Surgery on Plough & Harrow Road.
- ? Analyse employment opportunities emerging from within the Jewellery Quarter, to enable Employment Resource Centres and other employment/training initiatives within the ward to match local people to local jobs.
- ? Establish closer links between Community Credit Unions and local Employment Resource Centres and other community projects.
- ? Carry out an audit of local firms to establish employment opportunities.
- ? Provide Asian language support in Employment Resource Centres

Health Improvement & Social Care

- ? Establish a Healthy Living Centre utilising Ladywood Health and Community Centre considered being a high priority to serve the needs of the whole ward.
- ? Carry out a strategic review of role of Ladywood Health and Community Centre.
- ? Identify the access needs of disabled people in liaison with other departments.
- ? Address the needs of existing Social Services clients and identify replacement facilities prior to closure of facilities.

Youth & Community Services

- ? Consider use of empty shops in St Vincent Street West as a drop in centre for young people.
- ? More access to the National Indoor Arena for local young people.
- ? Consider the provision of outdoor facilities for the 14 to 18 age group.
- ? Create opportunities for young people to access coach education programmes
- ? Can the NIA Community Hall become a local sporting academy?
- ? Re-establish the provision of a play area and sports pitch on land adjacent Nelson J & I School, serving as a dual community/school resource.
- ? Release the disused play area at the bottom of King Edward Road should be released for development with the capital receipt from this site being used to provide these dual use facilities.
- ? Mark out and maintain a football pitch in the playing field area adjacent to St John's Junior & Infant School.
- ? Provision of a locally accessible multi sports area and play area.
- ? Promotion of a city centre location for a swimming pool which would be equally attractive to people working in the city centre and to those living in adjoining residential areas.
- ? No play area in Broadfield Walk.
- ? Purpose built play building located in St John's park
- ? Improve the maintenance of Chamberlain Park, including trees, paths and lighting.
- ? Urgent attention needs to be given to reinstating the Harborne Line Walkway as a safe local community resource.
- ? Provision of a City Centre park together with an audit and assessment of public open space.
- ? City Centre gardens (adjacent to Civic Close) not adequately maintained.

? **Lee Bank & Southacre**

The Lee Bank/Southacre part of the ward has seen several initiatives in recent years designed to inject substantial investment into the local authority housing stock. Southacre estate (to the rear of Bristol Street) benefited from £5.1 million of funding under phase I of the St Luke's Estate Action scheme leading to a comprehensive refurbishment of the whole estate.

Unfortunately, two subsequent Estate Action applications and a further bid to the Single Regeneration Budget to commence the investment in the Lee Bank estate failed to attract support from the then Central Government. Recently an Estate Renewal Challenge Fund (ERCF) grant of £46 million and around £30 million borrowing has been awarded to Lee Bank and the neighbouring estates of Benmore and Woodview in Edgbaston Ward. A majority of local tenants voted in December 1998 for a transfer of the estates to a recently established registered social landlord - the Optima Community Association. The transfer took place in June 1999.

The Ward Development Plan for Lee Bank will reflect the master plan framework and also the housing and socio-economic objectives of the Optima Community Association.

Birmingham City Centre falls within Ladywood Ward and consequently has a significant impact on surrounding residential areas. There has been massive public and private investment in the City Centre in recent years fuelled by the decision ten years ago to proceed with the building of the International Convention Centre on Broad Street. The ICC together with the neighbouring National Indoor Arena has pumped the private sector into investing heavily in the area with Brindley Place perhaps the best known example of mixed use urban planning and design in the UK. Further extensive private sector investment is planned for other parts of the City Centre with the Central TV site, Children's Hospital and Jewellery Quarter of particular significance.

A feature of recent initiatives has been the incorporation of residential housing at an early stage of the planning process. It is the City Council's stated objective to increase the number of residential properties in the heart of the City Centre in order to create a 24 hour-a-day living City environment. The Symphony Court and Jewellery Quarter residential developments have proved very popular. A further 2,000 homes are planned for the Jewellery Quarter Urban Village and there are additional large-scale residential proposals planned for the Central TV site and neighbouring Mailbox developments.

Safer Neighbourhoods

- ? Localised policing required with more beat patrols.
- ? Many areas require improved street lighting
- ? Prostitution is an issue but is largely unseen.

Access to Learning

- ? Create greater opportunities for local community use of the former St Thomas' Community High School.
- ? Develop an area around Matthew Boulton College to provide a campus identity for the college.
- ? Enhance the links between local colleges, other training providers and the Southacre/ERCF areas to sustain and develop community initiatives and provide an educational/skills training resource for local residents.
- ? Give consideration to the extreme concern expressed on the quality and viability of primary education in the Attwood Green area.
- ? Address the loss of faith in Education Department and Optima Community Association through lack of communication between them on matters affecting the community.
- ? Establish better support mechanisms for communities whose children get transferred to other schools.
- ? Give support to schools during the lean years of regeneration to prevent loss of school provision due to the decanting of tenants.
- ? Give consideration to the future use of Holloway Head playing fields together with an assessment of playing field provision.

Cleaner & Greener Neighbourhoods & Housing

- ? Deal more quickly with abandoned vehicles.
- ? Ensure clean, tidy and safe environment during the regeneration process.
- ? Ensure community involvement in translating the Lee Bank strategic plan into deliverable objectives.
- ? Incorporate the industrial/commercial areas around Holloway Circus/Bath Row/Queensway into the development framework for the Lee Bank area, to ensure that current and future developments provide employment and leisure opportunities for local residents.
- ? Ensure better area development management with clear lines of reporting.
- ? Establish residents steering group to maintain close consultation.
- ? Refuse chutes not capable of taking volume of rubbish and get blocked very quickly resulting in fire hazard.
- ? Establish better liaison between departments when emptying properties.

Local Streets

- ? Encourage local schools to get involved with the “safer routes to school scheme” to assist with traffic calming measures.

Employment Routes for Local People

- ? Carry out an analysis of employment opportunities emerging from major developments, to enable Employment Resource Centres and other employment/training initiatives within the Ward to ensure that local people benefit from local jobs.
- ? Provide training opportunities via Genesis ERC for prostitutes looking for exit routes.
- ? Carry out a ‘skills audit’ of local people.
- ? Consider support for Social Enterprises e.g. self-build initiatives.

Health Improvement & Social Care

- ? Health facilities required ensuring complete coverage of health opportunities.
- ? Give better support to community generated initiatives.
- ? Data on specific practices required to identify issues and needs.
- ? Give local people the opportunity to deliver local paid services.
- ? Better distribution of information on health groups active in the area.

Youth & Community Services

- ? Develop outreach youth services by building on existing provision at St. Martin’s Youth Centre.
- ? Involve young people in the provision and design of purpose built youth facilities.
- ? Better promotion of activities and programmes taking place at the Music Project based at St Thomas’s School required.
- ? Provide more access to swimming pool at St Thomas’s for young people.
- ? Ensure that there is adequate well-serviced appropriate leisure provision in the regeneration the Attwood Green area.

? **North West Edgbaston**

The North West Edgbaston area of the City represents the biggest challenge for the Ward Development Plan at the moment since there is no obvious source of funding to respond to the needs of local residents. It is therefore essential that existing mainstream funding from all appropriate organisations, but particularly the City Council are influenced to more accurately reflect local priorities. The recent establishment of a Neighbourhood Forum will greatly assist this process.

Safer Neighbourhoods

- ? Establish partnership working at a local level to facilitate problem-solving strategies.
- ? Take action to reduce street prostitution as a consequence of displacement.

Access to Learning

- ? Examine the potential for community use of local schools outside school hours.
- ? Develop homework clubs and other support mechanisms for under achieving pupils.
- ? Encourage local schools e.g. Cardinal Newman to make bids to the Safer Routes to Schools scheme.
- ? Provide information to residents on developments taking place at George Dixon School.

Cleaner & Greener Neighbourhoods & Housing

- ? Identify areas prone to fly tipping and take appropriate action.
- ? Improve access to re-cycling facilities for the elderly.
- ? Establish a planning brief for the long-term use of the Portland Centre and adjacent land.
- ? Use Compulsory Purchase Orders to bring derelict properties into proper commercial/residential use.
- ? Enforce the UDP to prevent further proliferation of Houses in Multiple Occupation in the North West Edgbaston area, through the local Planning Department.
- ? Control proliferation of guesthouses and properties of shared accommodation.
- ? Enforce action against those failing to comply with planning regulations.
- ? Carry out survey of residential properties to identify ownership.

Local Streets

- ? Establish better control of on street parking and enforcement of parking restrictions.
- ? Establish better maintenance of roads and footpaths.
- ? Carry out safety improvements at the junction of Barnsley Road and Hagley Road.
- ? Improve street lighting.

Employment Routes for Local People

- ? Develop personal action plans for individuals seeking employment.
- ? Extra resources required for working with young people

Health Improvement & Social Care

- ? Better control of residential care homes and their subsequent use as asylum seekers hostels needed.

Youth & Community Services

- ? More facilities for young people needed.
- ? Examine the opportunities for community access to & use of playing fields along City Road, particularly for local Junior & Infant schools currently without such facilities.
- ? Review tree maintenance programme to identify areas where overgrown trees are contributing to community safety issues.
- ? Carry out mapping exercise to identify leisure provision.
- ? Work in partnership to promote routes to employment in sport.
- ? Work with local schools to identify potential for establishing sports programmes.
- ? Identify and pursue funding opportunities to enhance the provision of sports facilities in the area.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Consideration of the list of issues and concerns arising from the consultation process led to a number of conclusions.

- ? The Summerfield & Rotton park area of the City represents the biggest challenge for the Ward Development Plan at the moment. It is essential that the recently awarded SRB6 regeneration budget & Neighbourhood Renewal Fund reaches those communities in greatest need by developing programmes and schemes to alleviate some of the worst conditions of social and economic deprivation in the ward. Resources need to be targeted towards maximising employment opportunities for local people and reducing financial exclusion.
- ? In Central Ladywood there is a clear need to build upon the success of large-scale investment in the local housing stock with a comprehensive regeneration plan for the area including the introduction of an appropriate public open space strategy taking into account local needs and current developments. There is important environmental work needed to sustain the future of the area There is also a clear need to focus on efforts to access jobs for local residents arising from development and regeneration schemes and to promote the economic well being of the area.
- ? In Lee Bank/Attwood Green, the ERCF regeneration programme remains the most important issue for this community. The effects of the lean years of investment are wide reaching and touch even the most basic of local services. The area is facing severe challenges to the strength of community partnerships and support must be maintained during this process. The social and economic strategies must be delivered in close partnership with local residents and other key agencies operating in the area if the long held aspirations of the community are to be realised. Investment in the City Centre area of the ward will largely come from the private sector and as such, there is a clear need to maximise the extent to which local people benefit from any economic and social regeneration. Planning briefs for redevelopment proposals should require an element of sustainable local investment that directly benefits local residents as well as the Birmingham community as a whole.
- ? The North West Edgbaston area of the ward is the latest to develop a Neighbourhood Forum. The establishment of such community lead organisations is hugely important if effective local consultation is going to take place. This will need to be supported through local capacity building activities. The residents in this area of the Ward are faced with a number of concerns that this Ward Development Plan will hope to address. Immediate responses to transportation and environmental issues are needed whilst consideration needs to be given in response to the proliferation of houses of multi occupation, shared accommodation, hostels and guesthouses.

Appendix I

FURTHER ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Since the last ward development plan was written the Advisory Board now includes the following representatives:

Vera Hanna	Ladywood Housing Liaison Board
Ros Hamburger	B'ham Health Authority
Kath Hartley	North West Edgbaston Neighbourhood Forum
TBC	Genesis Employment Resource Centre
Mick Wyeth	North West Edgbaston Neighbourhood Forum

The Ladywood Ward Advisory Board is supported by the following officers of Birmingham City Council:

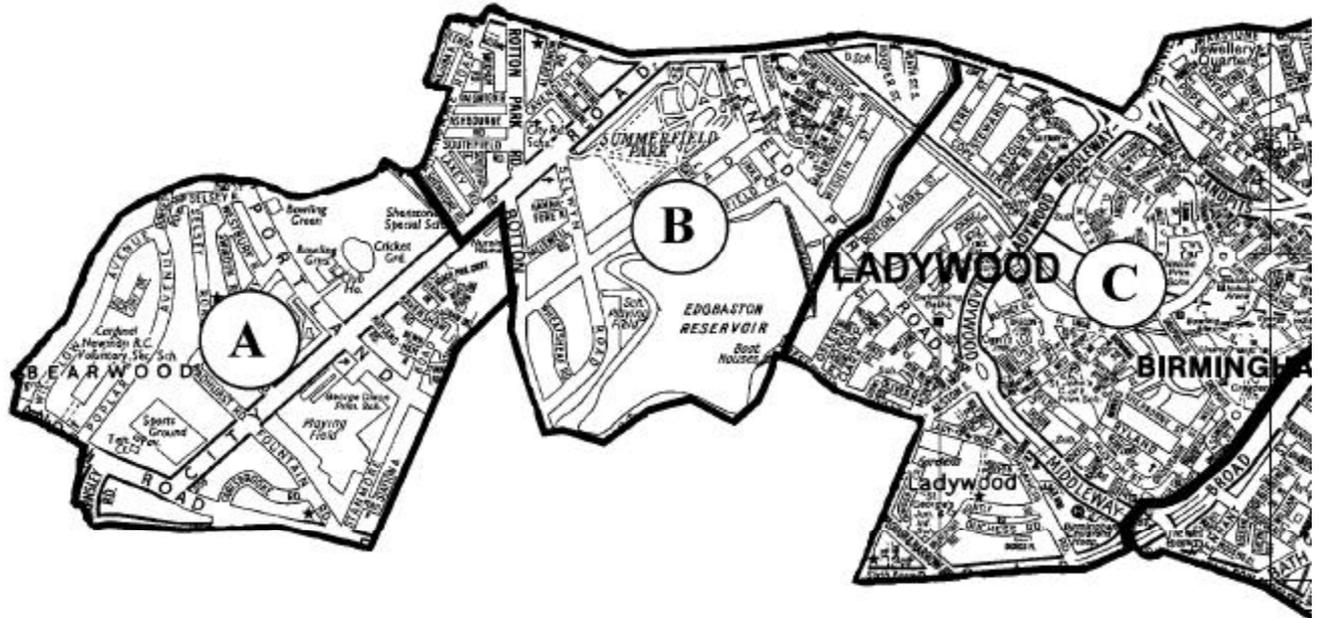
Tony Glew	Ward Lead Officer
TBC	Ward Back-up Officer
Jon Lawton	Ward Support Officer

Departmental Contact Officers

Chris Brockie	Economic Development Department
Nigel Sandland	Education Department
David Lowe	Environmental & Consumer Services
Carol Dawson	Housing Department
Robert Phelps	Leisure & Culture Department
Tavinder Chana	Neighbourhood Advice & Benefits Department
Ghaz Hussain	Planning & Architecture Department
Mick Bryan	Social Services Department
Conrad Treanor	Transportation Department

Appendix II

MAP ILLUSTRATING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AREAS OF THE LA



Key:

- A: North West Edgbaston
- B: Summerfield/Rotton Park
- C: Central Ladywood
- D: Lee Bank/Southacre