

Our Future City Plan: Central Birmingham 2040 'Shaping Our City Together'

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

21 January 2021

What is Our Future City Plan (OFCP): Central Birmingham 2040?

OFCP will provide a new vision and strategy for development that will stimulate green, inclusive growth that meets our diverse needs, and maximises the potential of all of Birmingham's communities. The plan will provide a new focus on creating a green, fair and inclusive city to tackle the current and future economic, social and environmental challenges.

A major impetus for OFCP is the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in June 2019. The urgent need to act to tackle climate change has been set out through the City Council's ambitious commitment to eliminate carbon emissions through the Route to Zero initiative. OFCP will help support this initiative by enacting the necessary steps for our transition to a greener, healthier environment; become a global leader in tackling climate change meeting the challenges head-on and grasping the opportunities of being at the forefront of a green revolution.

To begin, we are looking at transforming the Central Birmingham area. We want to strengthen the links with the city centre and the integration with the surrounding inner-city areas. A key objective of will be to spread the benefits of developments, such as jobs, housing and public realm improvements into all areas, as well creating a sustainable environment and supporting the continued success of our commercial areas.

Once adopted, OFCP: Central Birmingham 2040 will replace the Big City Plan, and the outcomes will provide a basis for the future review of the Birmingham Development Plan where any necessary land allocations and statutory planning policy will be set.

What is the "Shaping our City Together" document?

To ensure we are creating a shared vision for the future, we have produced the Shaping our City Together document which is the first stage of a continuous process of engagement through which Birmingham's communities will be empowered to shape and influence OFCP: Central Birmingham 2040.

The document proposes a vision for the future, a set of principles and 6 strategic themes for action. The ideas within this document are the start of the conversation on our future and we invite you to feedback on this. All ideas, proposals, comments and views received will help to form a more detailed Draft OFCP: Central Birmingham 2040 to be launched for more discussion later in the year.

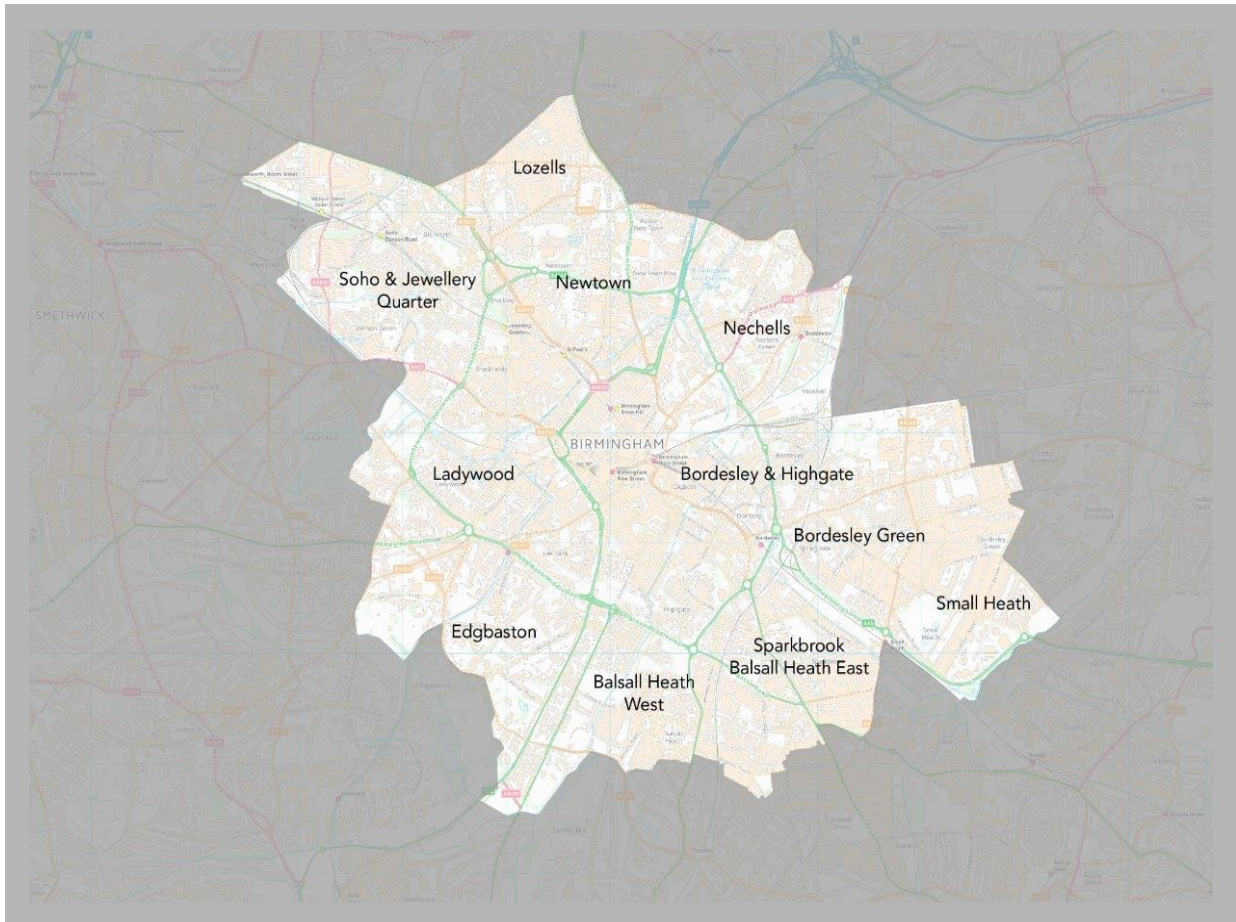
Shaping Our City Together has been prepared by Birmingham City Council and is now open to a period of consultation to hear your views.

What area will Central Birmingham cover?

The proposed Central Birmingham area incorporates the entire Central Birmingham area from city core to inner city suburbs. To date, the city centre has been defined by the Middleway ring road, separating the city core and the surrounding inner city. Regeneration and growth have been focussed

within this core area. The ring road has also resulted in physical and perceived barriers between areas, with the city centre considered separate from the surrounding inner city. The proposed strategy seeks to change that. It goes beyond the ring-road to promote and link opportunities and investment that meets the growth needs of more communities.

Central Birmingham covers the following wards: Balsall Heath West, Bordesley & Highgate, Bordesley Green, Edgbaston, Ladywood, Lozells, Nechells, Newtown, Small Heath, Soho & Jewellery Quarter and Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East.



OFCP: Central Birmingham 'Area of Focus'

How will OFCP: Central Birmingham 2040 respond to Covid19 and support with recovery?

Covid-19 has resulted in significant economic impact on business and residents, with the retail, arts, culture, leisure and hospitality sectors hardest hit by the downturn. There are short-term impacts, and several business survival measures have been put in place to help to address these. Long-term trends in change to retail patterns have been accelerated, and trends in working from home will alter the patterns of working in the central area. Whilst the full extent of the changes is not yet known we need to ensure that the city is flexible and adaptable to future trends. We need to find new ways to keep our offer attractive, relevant, flexible and resilient.

All of us have been impacted directly or indirectly by the pandemic; however, it is beginning to become clear that lower income citizens have felt the worse of the virus through their health and wealth. This

has intensified existing inequalities in our society with The Shaping our City Together engagement document recognising this major challenge. The principles that frame the vision and strategy within this document seek to create a more inclusive economy that provides the jobs, homes and environment that benefits all.

We want to hear from all of our communities to understand how you would like there city to change in the future, whether that is the role of retail or how we distribute the benefits of development more fairly. This feedback will then support the development of a detailed framework later in the year.

Why are you consulting during a lockdown?

Whilst the pandemic will restrict our ability to engage with our communities across Central Birmingham 'face-to-face', we have put in place an engagement strategy that seeks to reach out and communicate with all our citizens. Our discussions will look to support communities in line with the Council Economic Recovery Plan.

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20164/economic_information/521/economic_information_and_statistics/7

Alongside numerous online events, media campaigns raising awareness and encouraging feedback, we are reaching out to local community groups within Central Birmingham to ensure that the voices within these areas are heard during this difficult time. This will be the start of broader engagement with local communities.

What are City Themes?

The document proposes six strategic themes which have been termed 'City Themes'. These have been developed to group together the potential actions that could deliver the vision of Our Future City Plan for Central Birmingham 2040. These include the following:

- City of Centres;
- City of Growth;
- City of Nature;
- City of Layers;
- City of Connections; and
- City of Knowledge and Innovation.

How will OFCP: Central Birmingham 2040 relate to the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP)?

Once adopted, the OFCP: Central Birmingham 2040 will be a non-statutory planning document. The vision and a set of strategic actions will guide the implementation of a delivery programme supporting policy and project development, including the BDP review.

How will the OFCP: Central Birmingham 2040 relate to the existing and emerging strategies and planning documents like the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy, Rea Valley SPD, ward plans etc.?

OFCP: Central Birmingham will recognise and support all existing plans and strategies currently in place within the Central Birmingham area, including those that are not planning based (such as ward plans). OFCP: Central Birmingham 2040 does not seek to undermine or supersede any actions or proposals contained within other plans or strategies.

How long does the consultation period run for?

The formal consultation on Shaping our City Together will run for at least 8 weeks from **Tuesday 26th of January 2021 until Friday 26th of March 2021.**

Why does my view matter?

The engagement is the first chance for you to tell us what you think about the vision and ideas for Central Birmingham. We are seeking to engage with as many key stakeholders, partners and communities at the start of the process to understand the key issues and focus on delivering long term solutions through the development and implementation of the OFCP. Your views are important if we are to shape our city together. They will help us ensure we have a shared vision and strategy when we start preparing the draft OFCP: Central Birmingham 2040 later in the year.

Please share this with as many interested parties as possible as we would particularly welcome suggestions and comments from residents and local businesses to help shape change in central Birmingham. Whilst this document is not a statutory planning document, we have followed the principles set out in our Statement of Community Involvement. All representations made during the consultation will be given full consideration.

How can I make my views known?

You can get involved in this public consultation through several ways including the following:

- Visiting <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/our-future-city-plan-shaping-our-city-together> where you can view the document, and submit your comments via the online survey.
- Attending one of the public webinars which will be conducted via-Microsoft Teams and these will be posted on our website during the consultation period. Please visit our website for further information.
- Email CityCentreDevelopmentPlanning@birmingham.gov.uk

The consultation runs for at least 8 weeks from Tuesday 26th of January 2021 until 5pm Friday 26th of March 2021.

Are the consultation materials available in any alternative formats?

If you require the consultation document in an alternative format, please contact us on the details above. Printed versions of the consultation document can be made available on request.

How will any personal data provided as part of a consultation be used?

All data will be stored and used in line with General Data Protection Regulations¹. All representations made in response to the consultation can be made public, but any personal data will be removed, including any inequalities data provided. If you respond to this stage of consultation, we will notify you of the next of formal consultation.

What happens next?

Once we have received your comments, we will summarise all the responses received, and this will form part of the consultation statement which will be published at the next stage of the consultation.

We will take on board all the comments received during this consultation and these will help inform the preparation of the **Draft OFCP: Central Birmingham 2040** to be launched in summer 2021.

The publication of this document is the beginning of a continuous process of engagement to ensure that all communities across Birmingham have an opportunity to shape and deliver our shared future.

After we produce the draft OFCP: Central Birmingham 2040 we will carry out another period of consultation to get feedback from you and comments received will help inform the adopted Framework.

When is the final document expected to be adopted?

It is anticipated that following consultation on the draft OFCP: Central Birmingham 2040 in summer 2021, we will adopt a final framework in winter 2021.

Contact us

Information on the OFCP can be found on our website

<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/ourfuturecityplan>

You can make comments through our Be Heard online survey. If you need assistance in submitting your comments please send us an email using this address -

CityCentreDevelopmentPlanning@birmingham.gov.uk

¹ For more information visit our website on https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20154/foi_and_data_protection/384/privacy_statement