



**Our Future City Plan – Summary**

**CENTRAL BIRMINGHAM 2040**

**Shaping Our City Together**

**January 2021**

## **INTRODUCTION**

We are producing a document for central Birmingham that will provide the blueprint for its future and we need your help to shape this strategy.

We want to create a vibrant city with a mix of activities including retail, offices, leisure, education, tourism, civic and community functions. With equal opportunities for all including access to jobs and high-quality homes. We all need to work together on a shared vision and agreed set of actions to achieve this.

This is the start of a conversation about how we want our future city to look and work. It's important you give us your views so we can reflect the hopes of all our communities and shape our city together.

## **CENTRAL BIRMINGHAM**

For the last 30 years, the growth of the city centre has been focussed within the area defined by the Middleway Ring Road. This has often resulted in barriers between different parts of the city. We want to address these barriers by looking at the wider area, to ensure everyone has the same opportunities and the benefits from investment are felt by all.

## **QUESTIONS**

- Do you agree with the central quarters and the neighbourhoods identified?
- If not, what changes are needed to the area covered by Central Birmingham 2040?

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

As a city we face significant challenges that we must address to ensure we can build a fair, inclusive and green city for the future. These include the need to tackle climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic as well as economic challenges.

There are also huge opportunities to change our city together.

QUESTIONS:

- What are the main challenges your community faces?
- What are the main opportunities that we should priorities?

## VISION

We have produced a draft vision to start the conversation:

An innovative, global city where prosperity is shared by all – happy healthy and affordable.

Our connected, culturally distinct neighbourhoods showcase the best environment quality, resilience and adaptability.

A city proud of our unique identity and diversity that embraces technology and creativity, beauty and imagination.

QUESTION:

- Do you agree with this vision? If not, what is your vision for Central Birmingham 2040?

## PRINCIPLES

We propose to have four principles that will guide the actions and plans in the strategy for Central Birmingham 2040.

**Green city** - create a city environment that has a minimal impact on our planet and enables nature to be truly part of the city.

**Equitable city** - a city where all our communities have the same opportunities and no one is left behind.

**Liveable city** - a people-focussed city where citizens can create homes and communities.

**Distinctive city** - a city that takes pride in the individual identity of its communities.

QUESTIONS:

- Do you agree with the four guiding principles?
- Green, Equitable, Liveable and Distinctive are the four words we feel capture what our city should be in the future. What four words would you use to describe your hopes for Birmingham's future?

## **CITY THEMES**

Six 'City Themes' have been developed to deliver the vision. These will include goals and actions that we can all work towards together.

- City of centres
- City of growth for all
- City of nature
- City of layers
- City of connections
- City of knowledge and innovation

## **QUESTION**

- Do you support these City Themes?
- If not, what changes would you make to the City Themes?
- What actions do you feel are needed to deliver these City Themes?

## **City of Centres**

Birmingham is not just the city centre but a network of unique neighbourhoods each with their own centres at the heart of the community.

Our goals are to deliver:

- Neighbourhoods that meet the daily needs of our residents.
- Enough homes to make local services and public transport viable.
- Mixed-use developments providing employment, open spaces, leisure and social infrastructure that is accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.
- Communities that have the resources and skills to shape their own neighbourhoods.

## **City of Growth for All**

We need to provide opportunities for growth in our city and to ensure this investment allows all our citizens opportunities to grow.

Our goals are to deliver:

- Affordable homes, healthcare, jobs, skills and opportunities for all in our community.
- Development and growth that makes a positive difference for everyone.
- A globally-competitive city that attracts investment.
- Opportunities for a robust, flexible and diverse range of industries to thrive.
- Development that contributes to tackling climate change.
- Opportunities to maximise the benefits of our unique identity, heritage, leisure, arts and culture.

## **City of Nature**

Placing nature at the heart of our plan for the future of the city is key to tackling climate change, creating places that bring people together, and improving health and wellbeing.

Our goals are to deliver:

- A connected and diverse network of green and open spaces.
- Spaces that connect children and young people to nature and provide opportunities for all to be active.
- Nature-based solutions to improve our city.
- Environments that support nature and wildlife.
- Restored urban waterways that attract investment and are open to the community.

## **City of Layers**

Our buildings, places and spaces should reflect and celebrate the culture of our city and our communities.

Our goals are to deliver:

- Development that celebrates and protects the diversity of our built and social heritage, whilst being fit for the future.
- Opportunities for our rich arts, cultural and creative diversity and talent to be embedded into the life of the city.
- Development that tells the stories and shared memories that form distinct community identities and adds to the character of the city.
- A strong sporting and community legacy that maximises the opportunity of the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- World class culture that attracts visitors and is accessible to our communities.

## **City of Connections**

The most successful urban places are people-centred, so having a city that is well connected by walking, cycling and public transport is important and will allow everyone to access the city.

Our goals are to deliver:

- Excellent connectivity with walkable streets and high-quality public transport.
- Full integration of the entire Central Birmingham area with roads no longer creating barriers to people walking and cycling.
- Desirable sustainable transport choices in areas of high housing density to support a move away from private cars.
- Efficient access for goods and servicing to support economic activity.
- The provision of world-class digital infrastructure to homes, schools and businesses.

## **City of Knowledge and Innovation**

We must continue to invest in education and learning throughout our communities, and provide everyone with the opportunity to learn new skills and share each other's knowledge to create a unique and highly-skilled workforce.

Our goals are to deliver:

- Strong knowledge industries and links between universities and industry.
- Access to skills training for all across the city.
- World-class universities that continue to grow.
- Solutions for urban problems through the use of technology and data.
- Effective support for start-up businesses to grow and develop their ideas.
- Strong creative, arts and media industries.
- Community hubs across the city to encourage a future generation of innovators across all sectors.

## Next Steps

The Shaping our Future City document will be open for consultation until the 26th March 2021. Informal engagement will continue throughout the production of the strategy. Responses to this consultation and engagement with the community will help inform the draft Central Birmingham 2040 document, that will be consulted on during Autumn 2021.

How can you be part of this?

You can have your say by responding to this survey online at:

[www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/our-future-city-plan-shaping-our-city-together](http://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/people-1/our-future-city-plan-shaping-our-city-together)

You can also respond via email at:

[citycentreddevelopmentplanning@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:citycentreddevelopmentplanning@birmingham.gov.uk)

If you would like to know more, the full document and longer survey is available at:

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/ourfuturecityplan](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/ourfuturecityplan)

We want to involve all the community in Central Birmingham 2040 and would like to hear your suggestions for how we can engage communities on this strategy.

QUESTION:

- Do you have any ideas of how we should involve communities with Central Birmingham 2040?



**CONTACT - click the following link to get in touch about this document**

Email: [citycentredevelopmentplanning@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:citycentredevelopmentplanning@birmingham.gov.uk)