

the **Birmingham** plan
birmingham's local development framework

Core strategy
Issues and Options consultation
Summary of responses

May 2009

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Introduction and Background

The Public Consultation on the Birmingham Core Strategy Issues and Options was the first formal consultation on the City's emerging Core Strategy. The consultation was undertaken between 15th September and 24th October 2008. A total of 225 respondents made 1,548 individual comments.

The consultation included:

- Publicity at Libraries and Neighbourhood Offices.
- On street advertising with posters displayed at various locations throughout the city.
- Mail shots to statutory and non-statutory consultees.
- City Council's web site including a home page banner.
- Presentations to public Constituency Meetings and the Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- A Core Strategy themed Sustainability Forum evening.
- Stakeholder events at the Burlington Hotel
- Manned exhibitions in the City Centre, Sutton Coldfield, Stetchford and Northfield

This document provides a summary of the responses received. Respondents were asked to provide their comments by completing a questionnaire, and the first section of this report therefore summarises the response to each question asked in the questionnaire. Summaries are then provided of the output from the two consultation events at the Burlington Hotel and the Sustainability Forum. Finally the minutes of the Constituency and Regeneration and Overview Scrutiny Committees are provided.

The outcome of this consultation process will now be used to help inform the preparation of a Preferred Option which we hope to publish in Autumn 2009.

For further information on the Core Strategy, including a copy of the Issues and Options consultation document, visit: www.birmingham.gov.uk/corestrategy

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Main Messages

The Vision proposed in the Issues and Options document was widely supported. However there was a strong minority view that the Vision should not be based on growth but sustainability principles.

The eight objectives proposed in the consultation document received widespread support. There were suggestions for additional objectives in relation to promoting public transport, the arts, biodiversity, older people and the historic environment.

Options 1 and 2 both received significant support. There was little support for option 3 apart from development interests. It appears that the most popular option would be a combination of options 1 and 2. No fundamentally different options were suggested.

There was a strong view that there should be no further development in the Green Belt. However some housebuilders took the view that urban extensions are the only way that the RSS housing targets for Birmingham can be met. Against this, the validity of these targets and the desirability of promoting population growth was questioned in some responses.

There was also a strong view that the character of the city's mature suburbs should be protected. There were also concerns over the need to protect urban open space and employment land from housing development.

There were concerns that new housing should meet actual housing needs. In this respect there was support for more affordable housing, more family housing and more housing to meet the needs of the elderly, but concerns over the possibility of more apartment schemes.

The idea of 'Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods' was mostly welcomed, although there was some uncertainty over what it would mean in practice. There was also broad support for the concept of promoting major redevelopment and renewal in the 'Eastern Corridor'.

Climate change was an issue for a number of respondents. There was a view that this should have a higher priority in the strategy. The expansion of Birmingham International Airport was opposed by some on climate change grounds – but supported by others for economic reasons.

There were concerns over the adequacy of the city's transport infrastructure. A wide range of improvements were suggested, including investment in Metro, re-opening heavy rail lines and more emphasis on cycling.

The continued development of the city centre was generally supported – although there were concerns over the need for a proper balance between the priority given to the city centre and to the suburbs.

The 'three centres' concept was also generally supported, although there were some different views over which centres it should apply to.

Question 1 (a & b)

Do you agree with the Birmingham Vision and how can it be improved?

Number of Responses: 75

Overview

The Issues and Options consultation proposed a 'spatial vision' for Birmingham. This can be found in section 7 of the Issues and Options document (pages 21 and 22).

75 responses were received to this question. Almost half of these supported the vision either in its entirety or with only minor changes. The majority of the remainder supported the overall direction of the vision, but suggested more significant changes. A small number of responses were opposed to the vision, or suggested radical changes.

Main Points in Support

Several respondents supported the vision in its entirety, but many felt that particular issues should be emphasised or added. Some of those who indicated opposition were also only concerned with particular points which they felt should be added or removed.

The most frequently mentioned issue here was the need for a more rounded approach to housing, going beyond the 'numbers' question, and addressing qualitative issues such as the type of housing which is required, the need for affordable housing and the need to create an environment which will encourage people to want to live in Birmingham.

There was support for the protection of environmental assets, such as canals and open space, and a view that more emphasis should be placed on encouraging greater biodiversity and a greater recognition of the city's historic environment. There was also support for giving more emphasis to the Arts and to the city's leisure and cultural assets.

Support for more employment provision was also highlighted in several responses, alongside a concern that the modernisation of the manufacturing sector should continue to be supported.

A wide range of other issues was also raised:

- Support for more investment in transport and other infrastructure
- More emphasis on delivering an integrated transport system to encourage a shift away from car use
- Support for measures to address climate change and flood-risk, encourage renewable energy, and reduce the city's carbon footprint
- Support for local distinctiveness
- Support for measures to encourage walking and cycling
- Support for stronger reference to higher education and the Universities
- Support for the redevelopment of New St station and for the airport expansion (this was also the subject of a number of objections)

Main Points Against

Those who criticised the vision fell into two main groups.

The first group felt that the vision should not be based on growth. They considered this to be in conflict with commitments to address climate change and they advocated an approach

which would place sustainable development rather than growth at the heart of the vision. Several respondents specifically opposed the proposed expansion of the airport because they felt it to be incompatible with any strategy to address climate change.

The second group felt that the vision was too vague and not sufficiently precise in spatial terms. They supported a shorter, less wordy vision with more emphasis on delivery.

Other issues raised were:

- Too much emphasis on change
- Opposition to the concept of Birmingham as a global city – more emphasis on self sufficiency and greater attention to the suburbs rather than the city centre
- Need for more 'joined-up' thinking with adjoining areas
- Opposition to trams
- Need for more clarity on the 'vibrant urban villages' concept

Other Comments.

Two respondents supported Green Belt housing development and one opposed this.

Question 2

What other objectives would you suggest?

Number of Responses: 27

Overview

Building on the vision, eight key objectives for the Core Strategy were proposed. These can be found in section 8 of the Issues and Options document (pages 23 to 28). Views were requested on whether any other objectives should be included.

Other Objectives Suggested

A range of alternative objectives were suggested to question 2.

Several comments focused on the need for improved public transport services and further encouragement for walking and cycling. Comments referred to the need for facilities to be within easy reach by frequent public transport reducing the need to travel by car.

Other respondents suggested that there was a need for more galleries and the arts generally which attract people to live and visit the City.

A biodiversity objective was also suggested to demonstrate the commitment of the City Council to the Nottingham Declaration. It was suggested that there is a need for an overarching policy which addresses environmental considerations and adapting to the effects of climate change. The objective on sustainable growth is not separate from other objectives on economic activity.

An objective on adequate provision for the City's older citizens was suggested including the need for shops which the elderly want. Other comments referred to the need to create a safe City and improve the life of those at the greatest risk of exclusion.

The need to preserve Birmingham's historic environment was also suggested as a specific objective or at least a complement to objective 3 rather than objective 8.

Other Comments

Other comments focused on the need to encourage people to live and work in Birmingham. Birmingham should be a place where the existing population wish to move to and invest in. There is a need to focus on the distinctiveness of the City. Flagship policies should be aimed at retaining the best of Birmingham's heritage such as mature suburbs and open space. Others commented that there was a need to focus on enhancement rather than growth.

Question 3, Objective 1

To promote Birmingham's national and international role as a global city

Number of Responses: 96

Overview

This objective can be found on page 23 of the Issues and Options document.

The vast majority of responses were in support of the objective. There was only one specific expression of objection.

Main Points in support

A number of the responses which supported this objective also highlighted or emphasised particular issues.

Many respondents were concerned about transportation, accessibility and connections. Many felt that the redevelopment of New Street Station was essential although others felt that there was too much emphasis on New St and the West coast mainline, with the Chiltern line and connections via Moor Street and Snow Hill being forgotten. Rail routes to the city were thought to create a poor first impression.

Some respondents saw the proposed runway extension at Birmingham International Airport as critical while others argued that the City Council should not support the extension. It was felt that better connections from the Airport to the City Centre are required

Several responses also made the point that there is a need to make sure that visitors are not only impressed with the city's attractions but also with the transport links that get them to those attractions. Improvements to public transport are needed and pedestrian access around parts of the city needs improving. Also better public transport and connections to and from the city's venues is required. It was suggested that the city's transport systems are difficult for foreigners to understand / navigate and better signage is required.

Some respondents argued that the objective should be achieved in a sustainable way and the city should be promoted as a leading sustainable city. A Green Infrastructure Plan should be prepared.

In relation to shopping, it was suggested that the Council should encourage small independent retailers to the city to build on the success of the recent larger retail developments. This could be helped by further major retail development, but empty shop units create a bad impression.

Finally, some respondents felt that the City needs to find an international identity. This could possibly make better use of the city's global brands (such as Cadburys) or could promote Birmingham as a child friendly city. It was thought that greater commitment needs to be given to promoting the city and its image needs to be improved within the UK.

Main Points Against

The main point was that this objective should not be pursued at the expense of residents' quality of life. It was suggested that first and foremost the Council's responsibility is to its own citizens and it should provide a clean safe enjoyable place to live. The strategy's first concern should be the city's residents and then promote the international / global role where this is

compatible. In this respect, investment should be made throughout the city, not just in the city centre – there is too much emphasis on the city centre at expense of the suburbs.

Other Comments

A number of specific facilities / actions were put forward:

- Provide more public toilets
- Provide a 50m swimming pool
- Designate Sutton Park as a national nature reserve
- Provide more and better maintained public art and public squares, more museums and an improved cultural offer
- The city should promote and celebrate its heritage and it needs to find a defining character to make it different
- The quality of the environment needs improving and the potential of the canal network needs to be maximised
- There is insufficient reference to tourism
- Sufficient provision for employment land must be made, with a focus on Research and Information Technology
- Employment generating uses will be essential and there should be additional mixed-use development providing employment/housing in the city centre quarters
- The objective will be essential if Birmingham is to have an economic advantage

Question 3, Objective 2

To create a more sustainable city that minimises its carbon footprint and waste while allowing the city to grow.

Number of Responses: 102

Overview

This objective can be found on pages 23 – 24 of the Issues and Options document.

The broad consensus of views showed that the creation of a sustainable city was well supported by the majority of respondents. The principal of the city's growth also saw some support as did lowering the city's carbon footprint.

Main Points in Support

Respondents generally supported objective 2 and the need to create a more sustainable city, which would reduce its Co2 emissions and reduce the city's carbon footprint. Some were of the view that reducing Co2 footprint required the highest priority. There were a number of respondents in favour of promoting sustainable design and construction of new schools, shops, housing and buildings used for employment.

There was also support for improved waste collection. Most respondents would have liked doorstep collection services to be expanded to include a greater variety of items. Support was also shown for citywide improvement to existing household recycling as well as the need for less waste going to landfill. Respondents stated that recycling a wide variety of items should become easier with improved collection services. Respondents also felt recycling bins should be provided in public areas, particularly at city centre locations. Other technologies such as bio digesters were also suggested, as a way of dealing with areas within the city with high levels of food waste. Some felt the city should be leading the way regarding waste recycling and provide more new local recycling facilities.

Respondents were strongly in favour of renewable energy and felt that renewable energy sources such as from solar or wind should be encouraged. Improvement to the energy efficiency / sustainability of the existing housing stock was raised and the suggestion that certain energy inefficient housing could be replaced with energy efficient homes. Creating low energy, efficient buildings were well supported by the vast majority of respondents. Schemes that allow energy generation were also said to be needed, along with a greater use of existing brownfield sites. Respondents also felt disused buildings should be brought back into use.

The vast majority of the respondents were also strongly in favour of improving public transport services throughout the city, particularly train and bus services and their links throughout the city. Many respondents recognised the need to tackle the issues of car dependency, traffic congestion and the need to encourage other modes of sustainable transport such as cycling and walking. Respondents felt that providing sustainable transport was key to creating a healthier, sustainable city whilst reducing the city's Co2 emissions. It was also felt that in order to break the reliance upon car use improvements in public transport were essential. Using the canal network for cycling, transporting recyclable materials was suggested as a sustainable alternative resource.

Respondents strongly supported the retention and enhancement of the character of mature suburbs and public open space. Some respondents also stated that account should also be taken of emerging RSS Policy SR2 on Sustainable Communities. It was also suggested that

the historic environment must also be included as part of sustainable development as it is a finite resource.

It was also felt that employing measures to tackle existing climate change, such as Sustainable Drainage Systems and the provision of green space networks for species was needed

Main Points Against

A minority of respondents felt that the city's growth was not a suitable objective and vision for the future of the city. Some respondents indicated that minimising carbon footprint was less important locally.

A small number of respondents indicated that minimising harmful environmental impacts was of more importance than the city's growth. Some respondents also stated that the city's growth was unsustainable.

A respondent questioned the city's intention to limit waste to land fill given that Birmingham sends the majority of its waste to the Energy from Waste incineration plant at Tyseley. Some respondents also objected to any future expansion of incineration at Tyseley but welcomed the energy created from its operation. There was some opposition to the collection of garden waste. Some were of the view that this was not sustainable practice and should take place within private gardens.

A small number of respondents questioned the sustainability of airport expansion and its carbon footprint. A small number also felt that any proposals to build within the greenbelt was unsustainable.

Other Comments

A number of respondents felt that the city and companies should do more to reduce the waste and packaging they produce.

It was also suggested that an assessment of the energy consumption of existing housing stock should be made and inefficient properties cleared or made more energy efficient.

Respondents also wanted to see greater community involvement in waste recycling and reducing the city's carbon footprint.

Respondents also called for the provision of affordable, sustainable, energy efficient homes on non-greenbelt land.

Question 3, Objective 3

To develop Birmingham as a city of vibrant urban villages, a safer diverse and inclusive city with quality local environments

Number of Responses: 92

Overview

This objective can be found on page 24 of the Issues and Options document.

Just over half of respondents supported this objective. Some of these responses were brief others identified sustainable communities based on local centres and the role these could play in regeneration. Nearly a quarter of consultees did not directly state their support for the objective but inferred it by specifying particular things that needed to be done in centres; either additional facilities, shops, schools, environmental quality etc or emphasised the importance of protecting and enhancing mature suburbs.

Main Points in Support

Several common themes ran through the comments made either directly or indirectly supporting the objective.

A number of consultees linked mature suburbs with urban villages and emphasised the positive role these could play in meeting this objective and sought their retention. It was suggested that retaining village identities gives people a sense of local community.

There was support for mixed uses within local centres with an emphasis on more facilities such as libraries, small scale sports and leisure and more shops. It was also suggested that there is a need for small businesses, local shops/ facilities and services such as doctors surgeries in centres with an emphasis on good sustainable transport. It was thought to be possible to reduce carbon footprints by providing more local facilities in centres reducing need to travel.

However, it was felt that supermarkets can have adverse effects upon centres. Some respondents also thought that protecting individual character and historic grain need to be borne in mind when considering enhancement of local centres.

Some responses drew attention to the need to improve environmental quality – physical fabric; pavements. It was also suggested that more resources are needed to tackle crime and anti social behaviour. Some places are not policed at certain times of day or the year.

If there is to be more housing in mature suburbs then it was felt that there needs to be more local infrastructure. Retaining green space/open space and improving local environments would be important. There would also need to be a good quality and range of housing catering for all sectors of the community. The quality of the housing stock would also be important with a need to regenerate the poorer stock. Some felt that there should be fewer apartments. However, there was concern over loss of character and homogenisation of communities if option 2 is followed.

Other more detailed points included:

- Support for the objective but consider that there could be some intensification of development in mature suburbs if carried out in a balanced way
- Area specific comments include reference to Selly Oak and another for Northfield where the consultees wanted specific facilities; library and sports and leisure facilities in Northfield, more restaurants in Selly Oak
- Attention needs to be paid to types of business – discourage ‘sleaze’
- Vibrant urban villages in sustainable locations supported
- More urban villages but no more tower blocks
- Local shops should be encouraged providing local produce
- Support urban villages provided not at the expense of the City Centre
- Partnership working with community and voluntary sector should be encouraged. Use the Development Trust approach used in Moseley
- Improving quality of life based on local centres will help to retain high earners and retain investment in the City
- The rail industry in partnership with other organisations like Marketing Birmingham is important in developing leisure, tourism, sport, conference, retail and cultural visits for local regional national and overseas visitors.
- Support providing retaining the existing character is balance against and does not compromise the delivery of economic growth
- More cycling and walking routes
- Need to support active communities

Main Points Against

No consultees’ disagreed with the objective. One however, did not like the term used but supported the basic tenets of the objective.

One other consultee queried whether there was sufficient evidence to turn the rhetoric into reality.

Other Comments

A wide range of other comments were made linked to but not directly related to this objective.

It was suggested that a new local centre is needed in the eastern part of the City based on the main line railway. However, it was also suggested that new centres are not needed, and the outer suburbs could take more dense development which would help economic sustainability of local centres. Other specific comments were that Moseley had been overlooked as a centre, while central Ladywood has no centre, no school and the local swimming pool has not been replaced. Opportunities to address this exist at Icknield Port.

It was argued that the city is not inclusive. There should be more integration – diversity should not necessarily be encouraged. There should be no ‘no-go’ areas.

There was concern that some areas are not disadvantaged enough to be supported and that needs to be more done to support neighbourhoods consistently and transparently.

The role of canals was highlighted as opportunities to create high quality environments which can benefit local communities needs to be emphasised.

It was argued that there should be a new urban extension in Sutton Coldfield to develop Sutton’s urban village between Slade Road and Weeford Road. However there was also opposition to building on the Green Belt.

More resources should be provided for tackling crime and anti social behaviour on public transport and there should be better lighting and better control of litter dropping. New developments should contribute to policing costs.

It was suggested that more facilities are needed for young people, that there should be incentives for businesses to take over vacant shops and that existing and vacant housing needs revitalising.

It was argued that providing homes and families in the City Core would enable links between centre and suburbs.

Finally, it was suggested that the Council needs to provide money for schemes e.g. new community building in New Hall.

Question 3, Objective 4

To meet the emerging RSS requirements for new housing as a minimum, and to secure a significant increase in the city's population, towards 1.1 million.

Number of Responses: 99

Overview

This objective can be found on page 25 of the Issues and Options document.

A large proportion of the comments supported this objective (around 50) however it is important to note that a lot of this is based on their support for one of the options. Objections (over 20) that have been raised were mainly either to population / housing growth or to development in the Green Belt.

Main Points in Support

There was support for the redevelopment of existing and poor quality urban neighbourhoods to make more sustainable attractive neighbourhoods. There were also comments in favour of promoting urban villages.

The need for more affordable housing was noted – but there were also comments that there should be a good balance between social and private housing. The need for new housing to meet a range of different needs was mentioned, with particular reference to providing housing for the elderly.

There were several comments in relation to meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers. One suggested that three or four sites should be provided for travelling communities. It was also suggested that ex-industrial land on the edge of the city has potential for development of new accommodation for gypsy and traveller groups offering as it does both a reasonably pleasant environment and limited impact on existing residents. However, the use of the existing site at Castle Bromwich was questioned and there was a view that to provide a fixed area itself is a negation of the concept of roaming free.

There was some support for the 'Growth Agenda' and for the need to meet the RSS new housing targets. However a number of responses only supported this if it could be achieved without Green Belt development.

Some comments emphasised the need for new homes to be matched by new employment opportunities, and the need for good quality public transport infrastructure and services was also mentioned.

Main Points Against

Some respondents thought that the aim of increasing the city's population should not be pursued. The RSS housing targets were also questioned. There was a view that the city is overcrowded as it is, with insufficient jobs for the current population. Growth should be capped to prevent the city from strangling itself. In addition it was thought that the city's infrastructure (schools, hospitals etc) cannot cope with the current population. There was also a comment that high-density housing is in danger of becoming tomorrow's undesirable areas.

A considerable number of respondents thought that there should be no Green Belt development. Rather than build on the Green Belt, we should concentrate on using brownfield sites and on refurbishment and bringing disused and abandoned properties back into use. In this respect attention was drawn to the existence of unoccupied apartments in the city.

There was a concern that in seeking to adopt a higher population level we will have reduced the attractiveness of Birmingham as a place to live. There could be a devastating and damaging ecological and environmental effect. We need to preserve Birmingham as a 'green city' at all costs.

Other Comments

A number of potential brownfield locations for additional housing were mentioned. Harbourne Road was thought to have massive scope for redevelopment of land currently derelict. Handsworth, Acocks Green and Aston need investment to make them into desirable areas to live. It was also suggested that there are areas of the City Centre that have ample space for housing, which isn't being utilised.

The need for local safe places to play was highlighted.

It was also argued that there is a need to put in more into the Core Strategy relating to our evidence base regarding Gypsies and Travellers.

Question 3, Objective 5

To create a prosperous, successful economy, with benefits felt by all.

Number of Responses: 95

Overview

This objective can be found on pages 25 and 26 of the Issues and Options document.

There were 95 responses on this objective. The vast majority of these supported the objective and in many cases these drew attention to issues which were considered to be of particular significance in achieving it. Only a small number of responses were opposed to this objective.

Main Points in Support

Several respondents emphasised the need to support local trades, such as the Jewellery Industry, and the manufacturing sector more generally, including protecting small businesses and existing employment areas from pressures for redevelopment to housing. The need for more science, medical and technology parks was also highlighted. However, some responses also argued that there was a continuing need to move away from manufacturing towards the service industries.

There was support for the idea of promoting smaller-scale office developments in local centres such as Northfield linked to business-support programmes. There was also some support for more office development in Sutton Coldfield Town Centre and for the new employment proposals at Longbridge. A number of responses supported the continued employment role of the city centre, including a possible 'creative sector' in Digbeth (this idea was also mentioned in relation to Moseley).

Some responses pointed to the need for diversity in employment provision, and drew attention to the potential contribution of social enterprises. The potential of locally distributed and renewable energy was also noted.

The importance of education, training and apprenticeships was emphasised in several responses.

A very wide range of other points were made:

- Mixed use developments should be encouraged, including housing close to employment (although the need to keep these separate was also mentioned)
- The growth of the airport should be encouraged
- New business development was required in less well-off areas
- Need for jobs for people with low skills
- Office developments should be in locations accessible by public transport
- Existing businesses should be supported
- Importance of public transport investment and accessibility by all transport modes
- Catalytic effect of environmental improvements on economic investment
- Need to re-use brownfield sites for employment
- Importance of design, including features such as green roofs and potential to create features of biodiversity interest
- The need for local employment opportunities to be provided
- The need for employment investment to balance investment in housing
- Support for the A38 corridor
- Support for the Hub

- Potential of the retail sector

Main Points Against

The main point raised against this objective, by several respondents, was that instead of promoting growth we should be seeking to create an economy which would enable us to live within our own resources and make less use of non-renewable sources of energy.

There were also concerns that there was already an over-provision of offices and no justification for further investment in this sector.

Other points against this objective were:

- Concerns that the recession/market factors make it unachievable
- The impact of new development on existing jobs (e.g. new retail development)
- There was insufficient evidence to justify it
- Traffic impacts
- Environmental impacts (e.g. offices on the historic environment)

Other Comments

Several respondents sought to promote the development of particular sites for employment purposes, including sites within the Green Belt on the edge of Sutton Coldfield.

Question 3, Objective 6

To provide high quality transportation links throughout the city and with other places and encourage increased use of public transport.

Number of Responses: 95

Overview

This objective can be found on pages 26 – 27 of the Issues and Options document.

The majority of respondents expressed support for the general objective of providing high quality public transport links and increasing the use of public transport. There was support for a variety of different potential improvements to the public transport system.

Main Points in Support

A number of respondents expressed general support for this objective without giving detailed comments.

There was significant support for the expansion of the Metro system to other parts of the City. In particular there was support for Metro expansion into East Birmingham providing a linkage with Birmingham International Airport. There was also support for the expansion of light rail/Metro in the City Centre. Other possible light rail routes included a full 'health loop' service between Selly Oak rail station, the hospitals and Northfield Station.

Expansion of the heavy rail network also received support with a number of possible extensions mentioned including new stations at Fort Dunlop and City Hospital, re-opening of the Camp Hill, Sutton Park, Kings Heath and Five Ways heavy rail lines for passengers, and protecting the rail link to Frankley.

There was support for greater investment in park and ride and the provision of new facilities.

More provision for cyclists received strong support. Several respondents recognised that current provision for cyclists in Birmingham is poor and the needs of cyclists should be better catered for, particularly along the main highway routes towards the City Centre. The provision of safe cycling routes could encourage school children to cycle to school reducing the number of car journeys. Efforts to increase walking also received support.

A number of respondents also commented on the need to improve bus services particularly during the evening. Several respondents had concern over the safety of bus services and the need to improve security and cleanliness. Better waiting facilities for bus users are needed. It is also very difficult to work out where to catch a bus in Birmingham.

The expansion of Birmingham International Airport including proposals for an extended runway received some support.

Restricting car parking provision was supported by some respondents who felt that it should be a core part of the objective and will bear directly on developments such as rail and bus linked park and ride. Higher car parking prices have worked well in places like Oxford and should be encouraged in Birmingham.

There was some support for red routes as a way of easing traffic flows.

Measures such as demand management (for example a London style system of cars having to pay to access the City Centre) received some support and it was recognised that demand management can benefit public transport.

Main Points Against

The needs of road users and the private car should be recognised by this objective. Several respondents commented that the road infrastructure must not be neglected. It was also suggested that it is pointless introducing schemes such as bus lanes as all this does is increase congestion. Red routes also seem to be unacceptable in many areas.

More fundamentally there was a concern that the objective assumes that an increase in journeys is welcome. This reference should be replaced with environmentally benign journeys.

It was noted that the movement of freight and the Regional Transport policy appear to have been overlooked. Road haulage does the greatest damage to the environment. The canals and rail network can contribute greatly as alternatives.

There was a comment that the Metro extensions do not offer value for money with comparable investment in rail and bus infrastructure having greater benefits. Another respondent suggested that the Broad Street Metro extension should be dropped in favour of developing road, rail and canals in an integrated manner.

Other Comments

It was suggested that the use of the canal system as an existing form of infrastructure which could also accommodate public transport should be mentioned. Developer contributions from waterside developments can be secured to improve canal corridors increase walking and cycling opportunities within the canal network by towpath improvements and transport initiatives and create a vital link between urban areas with the countryside.

It was noted that integration of the planning of heavy rail, Metro and bus services and major developments within the City Centre is not mentioned. The purpose of the 3 key railway stations New Street, Moor Street and Snow Hill need to be fully understood as they provide current levels of accessibility to retail, employment, residential and leisure locations and if and how they can meet current demands.

There was a comment that the plans for New Street Station should be dropped and a more efficient new central station built at Eastside. There is a need to improve disabled access to public transport and new technology such as Oyster Cards should be considered. The introduction of trams and an underground system were mentioned as possible alternatives to improve public transport. The Core Strategy must refer to Centro's 20-year public transport strategy (2003) and draft regional rail strategy (2007). The City should develop an ambitious programme to showcase new technologies such as alternative fuelling mechanisms for public transport to reduce carbon emissions.

Question 3, Objective 7

To make Birmingham a learning city with quality educational institutions

Number of Responses: 83

Overview

This objective can be found on page 27 of the Issues and Options document.

There were 15 specific statements of support for the objective. 8 respondents specified 'no comment'. There were no specific expressions of objection.

Main Points in Support

Many of those supporting this objective identified specific issues which they felt should be emphasised.

Respondents felt that links between educational establishments such as schools and universities needed to be strengthened, as did the links between the universities and the business sector. The city's strengths (such as the high tech corridor and science parks) need to be better exploited.

More should be done to retain graduates in the city. Birmingham has a lack of 'glamour industries' such as the media and a creative sector, which could be addressed through the creation of a creative quarter in the city centre. There is insufficient affordable housing available to graduates and local companies often don't do enough to attract graduates.

With regard to student accommodation the respondents generally felt that it should be located close to the universities, should have good pedestrian access, be close to public transport and have safe and secure routes to and from public transport. Purpose built accommodation is preferable to the use of existing housing on the private rented market. Large concentrations of students renting traditional housing can have a negative impact on an area and cause problems for residents.

It was also thought that student accommodation should be provided as part of mixed-use developments and campuses must have sufficient room to expand. Consideration should be given to establishing an international school and to having 'university zone of influence' policies covering major campuses. Flexible planning policies will be required so that education and employment proposals can be brought forward together.

Main Points Against

Some respondents felt that there was too much emphasis on the universities and that the role of early years learning, pre school education, quality of schools, other further education institutions, adult education and lifelong learning are underplayed.

Similarly, the emphasis is on academic qualifications but it is also important to consider craft skills and skilled manual vocations, apprenticeships etc.

Other Comments

Other respondents felt that there is confusion over the identity and portfolios of the City's universities, they questioned the relevance of the courses offered and they questioned whether the courses offered matched the skills required. One respondent suggested that the objective should be for 'high quality educational institutions' not just 'quality educational institutions'.

Standards in schools need to improve, results must be earned, not engineered, and aspirations need to be driven up, particularly in disadvantaged areas.

Some felt that much has already been achieved and successes should be publicised better, it was questioned whether Planning is the appropriate tool for delivering this objective and the absence of evidence to show that the objective is achievable was raised.

Question 3, Objective 8

To encourage better health and well being through the provision of new and existing sports, leisure and heritage assets throughout the city.

Number of Responses: 94

Overview

This objective can be found on page 28 of the Issues and Options document.

The majority of responses supported better health and leisure facilities as well as the protection of heritage assets.

Main Points in Support

Most respondents stated that existing parks and leisure facilities are enjoyed and well used by local people. Respondents were generally in favour of expanding on and improving the city's swimming baths and their facilities. Respondents commented that there was a need to improve and maintain existing swimming baths as a priority. Some respondents were also supportive of the provision of a 50m swimming pool. Many thought the provision of new swimming facilities was vital to the city.

The majority of respondents were in favour of improvements to the quality of existing open space which was thought to be variable. A majority of respondents believed that greater protection to open spaces and heritage sites is central to the creation of environments where communities want to live and people want to visit. There was also support for the better management of open space, supported by the community and voluntary sector groups.

Respondents were also in support of providing localised health care facilities that are accessible to people via short walking distances. Improvement to existing public transport was considered a key element to making leisure and health facilities accessible.

The provision of more leisure centres and leisure facilities close to where people live to enable journey times to these facilities to be shortened was roundly supported. Respondents stated that if leisure facilities are close by, people would be more likely to use these facilities.

Improved access to a range of affordable leisure facilities was seen as important for health and community well being. Most respondents thought that accessible parks, gyms and other leisure facilities are essential for use by children, adults and families.

Respondents also felt that the city lacks facilities that support a range of sports such as for mountain biking and indoor cycling events. It was also suggested that more cycle ways in and out of the city could encourage healthier life styles.

It was felt new and existing parks and leisure facilities should be linked to one another by cycling, walking routes and other means of sustainable transport. New residential areas should also include community leisure facilities as part of these schemes.

Some respondents also supported the value of maintaining and protecting the natural environment as a leisure and educational resource and to ensure a balanced sustainable city.

Some respondents felt that heritage was also a valuable leisure and educational resource. A number of comments received called for improved physical enhancements and better access to the existing network of canal footpaths. Improvements made to Birmingham's canal basin

were shown as an example where heritage can provide leisure opportunities. Respondents also stated that assets such as Sutton Park should be promoted more as a leisure source for communities and visitors to the city and its facilities upgraded.

There were also calls from respondents for better links between family healthcare, health centres, existing leisure facilities and schools. There was also some support for a city centre park. It was also stated that more emphasis could be placed upon the importance of local allotments for promoting leisure, healthy eating and exercise.

Main Points Against

Only a very small number of respondents felt that sports and leisure facilities should not be improved. Concerns were also raised about the insufficient levels of funding for leisure facilities. Respondents felt the principals of this objective could not be achieved with the continued budget cuts to leisure and parks services.

Concern was also raised by some respondents about the lack of emphasis in this objective on the value heritage plays in sports and leisure recreation.

Some respondents also commented that leisure facilities are not always well distributed across the city, which can leave some communities with poor access to leisure services. Some respondents stated that some areas in the city such as Walmley lack youth and community leisure facilities.

There were some concerns that this objective was rhetoric and was not likely to be turned into reality. It was also stated that there are concerns that there is a failure to involve and tap into the large numbers of students concerning leisure issues.

There was also concern that this objective appeared to over look the value that biodiversity plays for health, leisure and well being.

Other Comments

Some respondents stated that where schools sports facilities are not made routinely available to public, access to indoor sports facilities are often limited especially if there is not an easily accessible bus route close by.

Comments were also received from respondents that there should be better advertising of the city's existing leisure services and facilities. It was also suggested that the multi functional potential of green spaces should be explored in order to contribute to reducing the city's carbon footprint.

Encouraging exercise facilities within the workplace was also suggested as a means of improving health and well being. There were also respondents who felt that healthy eating should also be promoted throughout the city.

Question 4, Option 1

What is due to happen if we use our existing plans

Number of Responses: 160

Overview

Three options for future change within the city were suggested as part of the consultation. Option 1 (described on pages 32 to 34 of the Issues and Options document) looked at continuing the approach set out in existing plans.

160 comments were received of which about half supported this option. Almost a quarter were against this option. The balance of the comments were general.

Main Points in Support

Several common themes ran through the comments made either directly or indirectly supporting the objective:

The most frequently mentioned reason for supporting this option was the fact that it retains the Green Belt in its current form and extent. It was also supported because at the same time it retains and protects Birmingham's mature suburbs and it also protects open space within the urban area. In this sense option 1 was seen as the 'least damaging' option. However some respondents did question whether more housing was needed at all and it was suggested that there should be no more high-density apartment developments.

The brownfield emphasis of the option was supported and it was felt that brownfield sites should be developed before any greenfield options are considered. There was also support for this option's continued emphasis on regeneration. There were some suggestions that the regeneration of the Eastern Corridor should be included as part of this option. The potential for canals to act as a focus for regeneration was mentioned.

It was also suggested that new housing should enable the character of the overall housing stock to be improved.

In terms of transportation, there was support for the redevelopment of Birmingham New St station (although some respondents also opposed this) and for the re-opening of the Camp Hill railway line. It was felt that the potential for re-opening other former passenger rail-lines should also be considered.

The Central Technology Belt concept was supported. There was also a suggestion that more provision should be made for industrial development.

Main Points Against

The main objection to this option was that it lacks ambition. In particular it was felt that it would not provide sufficient new housing, and in particular would fail to meet the RSS targets. The option was considered to be restrictive and not capable of providing for enough growth. However it was also suggested that there may be a need to rethink the household growth projections.

Some comments advocated that Green Belt land and land at the edge of the city should be released for development.

Some comments specifically opposed the proposed expansion of Birmingham International Airport. There was also concern that the transport options put forward were weak and that the option was weak in addressing the issue of city centre car parking. It should not be assumed that the redevelopment of New St station would meet all transport growth needs.

Some responses suggested that more family housing was needed in the city centre, and some opposed any further development of flats and apartments.

Other Comments

There were some suggestions for additions to this option:

It was suggested that there is a need for improvements to the facilities at Birmingham International Airport

It was argued that there should be more explicit recognition of the value of Birmingham's historic environment and the need to protect and promote it. This comment applies to all three options

There was support for the development of a new main railway station in Eastside

Lack of City Centre facilities

It was suggested that there should be a more even spread of allotments across the city

Question 4, Option 2

Enabling more housing growth without building in the Green Belt

Number of Responses: 152

Overview

This option (described in more detail on pages 38 to 40 of the Issues and Options document) seeks to deliver higher levels of housing growth than option 1 without any expansion of the built-up area of the city.

Over 60 responses support this option. However, quite a few of these were dependent on the option not involving loss of mature suburbs, Green Belt or parks. About 30 respondents directly objected to the option, mainly due to loss of mature suburbs. However, quite a number of responses did not state a strong opinion in relation to the option.

Main points in Support

There was support for the fact that this option protects the Green Belt, but a number of other features of the option were also welcomed.

It was thought that the urban Eco-town concept could be an example to set to other UK cities.

There was support for the principle of promoting regeneration in areas with a poor living environment. On this basis the identification of the Eastern Corridor as a location for housing renewal and growth was supported, although the need for improved public transport in the area was highlighted. In this respect particular attention was drawn to the potential for four tracking the Coventry mainline from Proof House junction to Birmingham International which was thought to be both achievable and necessary. There was also support for development in the Western Corridor, and in particular Icknield Port.

The 'three centres' concept was supported. Specifically development at Selly Oak was welcomed so that it compares to other University centres in the UK and there was also support for further investment and enhancement at Perry Barr. Alternative locations for the centres were suggested – Northfield rather than Selly Oak (considered unsuitable as it has a high transitory population) and Stechford rather than Meadway. It was also suggested that Moseley village could act as a 'hub' with a potential role as a creative industries cluster.

Generally respondents were in favour of development in locations which are close to existing facilities and public transport links. There was support for providing more family housing and more affordable housing, but also for the provision of additional employment opportunities. In this respect the continued focus on the Central Technology Belt was welcomed as a method of supporting the economy.

There was a view that this option provides a sensible balance, which will help to encourage local workers to live and work within the city boundary rather than migrating out of the city

Main Points Against

The main objections to this option related to its potential impact on mature suburbs and the risk that open space would be lost to development. It was thought that the release of mature suburbs and open space will reduce the city's attractiveness and could endanger the regional aspirations for Birmingham to become a global city. In particular it was felt that there was no need for more high density housing.

Against this there was also a concern that there would not be enough housing to meet required needs.

There was a more specific concern at the potential loss of employment and educational sites and historic buildings in and around the Eastern Corridor. It was suggested that the 'eco-towns' concept was no more than a buzzword.

Some respondents thought that this option would be too damaging to the environment. The need to give careful consideration to Birmingham's heritage was also highlighted.

It was suggested that better use should be made of brownfield sites and empty homes.

In relation to transport, it was considered that reliance on failed 'metro' type transport solutions was inadequate. There was also inadequate provision for walking as a transport mode.

Finally, it was considered that this option would not reduce Birmingham's carbon footprint and would use up too much of the earth's resources.

Other Comments

As in the case of option 1 the need to have policies that will protect the natural and historic environment was noted.

There was also a concern that neighbourhoods should be well resourced and have access to strong infrastructure.

Question 4, Option 3

Enabling more housing growth by expanding the built up area

Number of Responses: 173

Overview

This option (described in more detail on pages 44 to 46 of the Issues and Options document) seeks to deliver higher levels of growth, but this would be partly through urban extensions into areas which are currently Green Belt.

The majority of responses opposed this option because of its impact on the Green Belt. The relatively few supporters of the option tended to be housebuilders, developers or landowners who felt that urban extensions were the only way that the RSS housing requirements could be met.

Main Points in Support

A small minority of respondents felt that option 3 was the most suitable way forward considering the level of potential housing growth requirements as outlined in the RSS and the need for affordable dwellings. This minority also felt that option 3 would facilitate the provision of a wider range of housing types, sizes and tenures. Certain respondents felt that the use of the greenbelt was appropriate for lower numbers of new homes. Some respondents stated they would have welcomed an option, which would have exceeded the 65,000 dwellings.

Some respondents were of the opinion that options 1 and 2 would not meet identified housing needs and that option 3 offered the widest choice of housing sites. It was also felt the city was unlikely to meet its RSS housing target without extensions into the Green Belt. Some respondents supporting this option felt strongly that a review of the Green Belt was needed in order to establish whether all this land meets the purposes for inclusion as Green Belt. This option was also supported, in order to promote Birmingham as a world-class city.

Some respondents under this option would welcome expansion into Bromsgrove District, in the form of carefully planned urban extensions to help meet Birmingham and Bromsgrove's housing needs.

There was also support for balanced communities with local facilities on Green Belt land whilst at the same time, inner city open spaces and mature suburbs are protected. It was felt; increasing housing supply by releasing Green Belt would enable the protection of existing open spaces, mature suburbs and could reduce the need to develop employment sites.

It was felt that this option could bring about the growth and variety of locations required to provide the range of housing types needed to meet the city's aims. Using the Green Belt should not be totally discarded provided traffic bottlenecks as a result of commuting are avoided. There was some support for this option combined with the growth of Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods through the eco-towns concept within the Eastern Corridor. It was felt that this option could create local employment opportunities if coupled with improved transportation links.

Main Points Against

The broad consensus of views was against any release of Green Belt land for development. Most respondents believed this option would irreparably damage the environment and lead to loss of valuable agricultural land. The loss of open space, mature suburbs and Green Belt

land should not be a consideration. There was particular opposition to potential greenfield development near Sutton Coldfield, where it was felt that too much Green Belt had already been lost and further development would damage the character of the area.

The majority believed that there are sufficient brownfield and other sites available (including vacant property) without the need to develop within the Green Belt and that there was further scope for urban development before this option should be considered. Some respondents felt that allowing development within the Green Belt would threaten redevelopment and regeneration opportunities within the city. It was felt that given the choice, developers would opt to develop on greenfield sites rather than redevelop and reuse existing vacant brownfield sites. It was also stated that Green Belt development could significantly damage the character of the city's mature suburbs.

Some respondents also felt that this option could lead to the out flow of population to rural areas. Achieving the higher target of up to 60,000 new homes within the city should be possible without building within the Green Belt which could impact upon communities outside Birmingham (e.g. within Lichfield District) contrary to the principles of PPG2. It was argued that neither the current RSS nor the submitted Phase 2 revision provides a remit in policy terms and so this would not be in conformity with the emerging RSS.

There was also the view held that extending built up areas would involve more traffic congestion as there is insufficient public transport infrastructure. Again it was suggested that this would be in conflict with the RSS. The view was also held that Green Belt encroachment would not deliver, sustainable development with good density or affordability and would not encourage higher quality development.

A respondent also thought this option-lacked merit, as there are too few core employment areas and Sutton Coldfield also has poor transport infrastructure facilities. Respondents also stated that there was no market demand, which would support development within the Green Belt.

It was felt that the level of development within option 3 would put a huge strain on the city's infrastructure (schools, local shops etc which were already inadequate) and existing, already congested transport system. Communities in the north of the city have been badly damaged by over development and would be destroyed by thousands of new homes. The need for these homes was also questioned. The projections of housing growth for the city were opposed by some respondents, who also claimed that increased high density living would result in increased tensions if the population increased by the size of a small town.

Some respondents were of the view that development on greenfield sites could have major implications for the loss of natural, historic and archaeological interests and it was argued that the option would require assessment for archaeological remains in order to assess the impact on the historic environment. The option potentially provides opportunity to enhance the green space network but could have implications for biodiversity in general for areas such as Cannock Chase to Sutton Park.

There was also concern amongst some respondents that allowing Green Belt development would deny people easy access to the countryside, which would in turn encourage further car use. It could damage tourism to the area and possibly affect the local economy as it could change the character of smaller towns around Birmingham. The Green Belt is needed to relieve tensions, keep people active, as a leisure resource and to help the atmosphere ecologically. Development within it must therefore be a last resort.

Finally there was a concern that there is too much emphasis in option 2 and 3 on the city's growth and profile rather than important issues such as improving quality of life. We could explore options 1 and 2 before seeing if there is a need and demand for developing green field land.

Other Comments

A number of potential locations for urban extensions were proposed by those who supported this option. These included:

- Walmley
- Land south of Slade Rd and east of Weeford Rd
- Land north of Mere Green

It was suggested that this option should also express the city's aspirations to be an international city through support for airport expansion.

In terms of transport there was a view that public transport should be improved and rail lines such as Kings Heath should be reopened to passenger rail services.

There was concern in conservation terms over the effects of options 2 and 3 and the preservation of the character of mature suburbs. It was felt there is a need for more open spaces to develop the urban village concept, but there should be no expansion onto Green Belt land which would seriously undermine future attempts to protect the Green Belt from development.

It was also thought to be important that development under this option is not undermined by loss of employment sites within the city.

Question 5

Are there any alternative options which you think we should consider?

Number of Responses: 74

Overview

This question provided an opportunity for respondents to suggest other options. In the event the majority of responses repeated points which had already been made in relation to other questions.

Other Options Suggested

The focus should be on the redevelopment of brownfield, inner city areas, council estates, available industrial sites and vacant land.

Housing density should be increased, empty buildings/housing reused and the existing stock improved. Affordable housing should be provided and, building heights should be 3-4 storey.

Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods should be developed in poor quality areas i.e. Perry Barr.

Smaller villages should be created on the outer limits of the Green Belt, creating traditional settlements.

There should be coordination with neighbouring areas, to accommodate more housing i.e. Sandwell.

The Green Belt should be maintained with new development beyond, where good rail links exist.

Development should be directed towards the South East and where employment and high technology distribution centres are wanted.

Sutton Coldfield could be redeveloped with an urban extension to the South East.

Medium centres e.g. Acocks Green could be redeveloped.

Sites adjacent to canal corridors have regeneration, housing and economic development potential. New infrastructure should include waterways.

New housing should be developed where jobs are located. Low quality employment land should be designated for housing

There should be smaller, more even growth across the city.

Open space should be provided within new development.

Better transport links should be provided, for example reopening Kings Heath railway loop, more railway stations (e.g. Castle Vale and Saltley), Metro and major development of cycle ways.

A major road or metro/rail should be built from the city centre to Shirley to regenerate the south of the city and create jobs in Hall Green

Other Comments

Regeneration should be the first priority, not growth. The Government's housing figures should be challenged.

There is too much economic focus on growth and the global city idea. Local communities should come first.

A fuller analysis of trends and the implications of growth is needed.

There is a need to co-ordinate with Black Country strategy.

Family housing is needed, not expensive flats.

There is a need to attract high skilled workers back to live in the City.

There should be maximum space per person requirements to reduce large housing.

Question 6a

Option 3 includes possible development in the Green Belt to accommodate a greater percentage of growth within or close to the city. Several broad locations for development are identified. If this option were favoured which location would you prefer?

Number of Responses: 79

Overview

33 respondents took the opportunity to state that there should be no development in the Green belt. 10 respondents had no comment. Few respondents suggested a preferred location. 4 stated that they had no preference with regard to the suggested locations.

Main Comments

There was significant objection to development in the Green Belt. Almost half of respondents stated that there should be no development in the Green Belt and did not put forward a preferred location.

Others objected to development in the Green Belt but caveated their response to say that if there had to be Green Belt development they would prefer it be in a specific area – with the north of the city and the south of the city being suggested in equal numbers.

Other Comments

Where preferred locations were expressed these were: East of Walmley Way (4), North of Falcon Lodge (2), North of Hill Hook (1), North of Mere Green (1), South of Maypole (1), East of Weeford Rd (1). Most of these respondents were landowners or developers and had agent representation.

Question 6b

Are there any other locations that you would wish to suggest?

Number of Responses: 52

Overview

Few locations were suggested. 23 respondents replied 'No' or took the opportunity to re-emphasise their objection to development in the Green Belt. A further 7 specified no comment.

Main Comments

No specific Green Belt location was suggested more than once. A number of respondents suggested brownfield locations – the City Centre, the inner city, East of Perry Barr and Minworth sewage works.

Other Comments

Green Belt locations suggested were – Fox Hill Farm, Worcester Lane Sutton and South of Walkers Heath. More general suggestions were elsewhere in the region and within the M42/M5/M6 and on Ministry of Defence land. Where specific sites were suggested these are shown on the map at Appendix 2.

Sustainability Forum

Birmingham Town Hall, 13th October 2008

Birmingham's Core Strategy formed the focus for the Sustainability Forum's meeting, held at the Town Hall on the 13th October 2008. There was a presentation followed by a question and answer session. After this attendees were divided into five discussion groups focussing on topics stemming from 'Cutting CO2 for a Smarter Birmingham Strategic Framework'. The topics were:

- Smart Business Opportunities
- Smart Buildings and Homes
- Smart Transport and Infrastructure
- Low Carbon Energy
- Smart Waste and Materials

Participants were encouraged to raise other issues not just those relating to their topic.

The groups were asked to identify three key priorities and report these back to the other participants. Participants then ranked the priorities put forward. A summary table shows the priorities.

Summary of Responses

Issue	Most Important	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice
Smart Business Opportunities	Solving the challenge from within B'ham's own population e.g. Grow your own, local employment (5)	Universities and colleges must use training partnerships and procurement. Local employment (1)	Bream Code Standards Homes for Life or local 'hubs' CO2 cut driver = new success criteria (3)
Smart Buildings and Homes	Affordable housing Integrated (11)	Standards, quality and sustainable (2)	Infrastructure and attraction (4)
Smart Transport and Infrastructure	No airport expansion (8)	Essential that there is more Park and Ride; free rides for park and ride users (11)	More transport choice e.g. Bikes, competition from bus companies, conductors, heavy light rail improvements (9)
Low Carbon Energy	A sustainable energy strategy to support the Core Strategy (12)	Planning B grants (11)	Maximising built stock (4)
Smart Waste and Materials	Sufficient space for recycling containers to be stored. Access for recycling lorries. Use of bio digester for apartment/ flats	Pubs, clubs, restaurants and conference facilities should have waste management plan for all food and drink packaging.	More education about reduction and recycling of waste.

Stakeholder Event

The Burlington Hotel, Birmingham

29th September 2008

On 29 September 2008 the Council held a public consultation event at the Burlington Hotel. Two duplicate sessions were held in the morning and the afternoon. Attendees were asked their opinions on the 8 key objectives within the Issues and Options paper and were asked to consider how the 3 Options related to these objectives.

The following tables summarise the key points to emerge from the group discussions.

Objective 1: Promote Birmingham's national/international role as a global city	Morning discussion session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a balance of housing and employment – and a balance between financial and manufacturing sectors. • This objective was supported. However it was felt that the reasons why we want to do this need to be set out. • Need to make city more attractive to secure growth. • City Centre has improved, but need to do the same for the suburbs.
	Afternoon discussion session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birmingham needs the infrastructure improvements to allow people to move around the City • Need better promotion of Birmingham as a multi-cultural, multi-lingual place. • Potential for better links with South Asian economies should be explored. • Improvement is required to rail and other transport • As a city we should learn from other European examples
Objective 2: To create a more sustainable city that minimises its carbon-footprint and waste while allowing the city to grow	Morning discussion session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some concern expressed that there seemed to be a contradiction between recycling, eco dwellings and building on Greenfield sites notably the green belt. • Need to build in reference to sustainability • Should set recycling targets and address water/gas/electricity • New housing should be environmentally friendly
	PM discussion session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city needs sustainable transport – household waste recycling • Reuse of buildings should be encouraged, as should the reuse of demolition material. The city needs to retain the character of its better buildings and recycle on site. • Higher densities should be encouraged around rail stations. • Need to look at options for encouraging use of renewable energy.
Objective 3: To develop Birmingham as a city of vibrant urban villages, a safer, diverse and inclusive city with quality environments.	Morning discussion session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questioned whether it is possible to create new centres when in the past they have just evolved • Birmingham's suburbs are a unique feature of the city which should be nurtured • Centres are important – no more Retail Parks • There should be more local autonomy.

	<p>Afternoon discussion session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The retention of the mature suburbs policy important if these vibrant urban villages are to work. • Objective supported. Concern that implementation of this objective through the planning process is the difficulty. • The character of the mature suburbs needs to be protected. • Empty properties should be brought back into active use. • Concerns over loss of employment around centres – helps to support their vitality on weekdays.
<p>Objective 4:</p> <p>To meet the emerging RSS requirements for new housing as a minimum and to secure a significant increase in the City's population.</p>	<p>Morning discussion session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns over what is driving population growth • Concerns over impact on quality of environment/life • Also concern over loss of industrial land <p>Afternoon discussion session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure required to support new homes. • Vacant industrial land needs to be re used. • More family housing is needed. • Retaining population is important. • Green Belt should be sacrosanct, but it's also important to protect mature suburbs.
<p>Objective 5:</p> <p>To create a prosperous, successful economy, with benefits felt by all.</p>	<p>Morning discussion session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need sites that will be attractive to employers. • Important to provide jobs for young people. • Good public transport is essential. • Educational opportunities to enable Birmingham residents to compete within the job market. <p>Afternoon discussion session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that a prosperous, successful economy benefiting all should be created. • Need better links between business and Universities – high-end knowledge economy will be important • Need to target growth sectors • Large-scale manufacturing (such as motor industry) has gone. Should concentrate on small-scale industry.
<p>Objective 6:</p> <p>To provide high quality transportation links throughout the City and with other places and encourage the increased use of public transport.</p>	<p>Morning discussion session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All agreed with this objective • More people in Birmingham means greater need for improved public transport. • Potential to reopen unused rail lines should be taken. • Road –pricing only acceptable if accompanied by good quality public transport. • Need more trams – not just in city centre <p>Afternoon discussion session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation, funding and timing the key factors to ensure that infrastructure in place before development starts. • Congestion a serious problem – need more park and ride and encourage walking. • Monorails and other innovative, modern solutions should be considered as well as more cross-city services. • There are more cyclists on the road – but they get a bad deal – need better facilities for them • No enthusiasm for road pricing

<p>Objective 7:</p> <p>To make Birmingham a learning city with quality educational institutions.</p>	<p>Morning discussion session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable there to be a broader economic base people must have the chance to participate and take up full range of job opportunities. This can only be achieved if the City has quality educational institutions. The city needs high levels of educational attainment. Local colleges important – concern that these are closing and provision is being centralised.
	<p>Afternoon discussion session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birmingham is already a high quality-learning city with many quality institutions – but some need to raise their game still further. Quality school provision also important. Dispersal of universities rather than concentrated facilities is required. Need to look at other cities such as Manchester, York, Newcastle and Nottingham. Concern that ‘studentification’ taking place which changes the character of an area and can have adverse effects through intensification of this type of accommodation.

<p>Objective 8:</p> <p>To encourage better health and well being through the provision of new and existing sports, leisure and heritage assets throughout the City.</p>	<p>Morning discussion session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage barely mentioned. There needs to be a target set for character appraisals. No mention of arts and culture – this is important. Broad St is a success Quality of parks and open space in the city is not good. Mixed use development is important – multi-service centres are needed.
	<p>Afternoon discussion session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a real need for community facilities; Section 106’s should be a key funding tool. There is a lack of leisure facilities/swimming pools throughout the city. The city has lots of parks – but better use could be made of them for example by providing more facilities. There is a need for a new sports stadium in the city. Good quality, accessible green space is required with a particular emphasis on the network of open space.

<p>Option 1: How well does it meet the objectives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This option was viewed by many to be least damaging, but it was felt in order to gain more benefits further investment was required Discussion group members also were of the opinion that improved infrastructure was important It was also felt that Option 1 did not conflict with the objectives
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<p>Option 2: How well does it meet the objectives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 2 however had conflict potentially as relaxing protection on open space and mature suburbs conflict with objective 8’s, sports and leisure focus. The importance of infrastructure was also stressed for Option 2.
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Option 3: How well does it meet the objectives?

- Option 3 had conflict with objective 2's sustainability focus. New housing needs to be supported by close by new employment to reduce trips. Discussion groups felt a lot of the core employment is distant from the potential green belt release of sites in Sutton.
- The importance of infrastructure was also stressed for Option 3
- Is the impact of this option worth the benefits?
- The hardest Option

Erdington Constituency Committee
15th September 2008
Minutes of the Meeting

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: CORE STRATEGY – ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

The following report of the Assistant Director (Development Strategy) was submitted:
(See document No. 6)

The report was introduced by Rod Chapman, Principal Planning Officer – Open Space.

The Chairman noted that Erdington town centre was not mentioned in the documentation although Sutton Coldfield was referred to in a number of contexts.

Councillor Alden commented that there was no detail on how services and infrastructure were expected to cope with the extra housing which would be built under the options presented. Similarly, there was little or nothing in the documentation about environmental protection. On the contrary, one of the options would encroach on the green belt while others threatened the already restricted amount of open space, which was a particular issue in the Erdington Constituency. Once those areas were lost, they could never be brought back. An increased population also needed more jobs, yet there were no specific proposals as to how this would be achieved. Erdington also contained a considerable amount of older housing and the proposals could seriously impact on the historical nature of the area.

Councillor Kane said that his major criticism was that there was nothing to support the problems of the Erdington Constituency, for example in terms of investment. The concentration on Sutton Coldfield in the plans was baffling as that part of the city basically had zero unemployment and a shopping area to which many other local centres could only aspire. As far as Kingstanding was concerned, there was effectively nothing in these plans at all.

Councillor Hopkins agreed that there was no focus on Erdington in the plans, while the options presented also gave rise to a number of concerns. Amongst these were an apparent lack of understanding as to how different parts of Birmingham fitted together, particularly in respect of transport infrastructure. There was a concentration on travel arrangements into the city centre rather than movement around the conurbation as a whole.

Councillor Compton believed that the proposals presented in the report were little more than a bureaucratic fantasy based on outdated or irrelevant concepts, such as continued large-scale immigration and unlimited economic growth.

The Chairman advised that the Committee's views would be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for consideration.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the Issues and Options paper produced as a basis for the first consultation stage in preparing the Council's Local Development Core Strategy be received;

- (H) That this Committee's observations as set out above be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration for consideration.

Edgbaston Constituency Committee

16th September 2008

Minutes of the Meeting

BIRMINGHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION

Paul Williams, Principal Planning Officer, presented the following report and advised that it sought the views of the Committee on the Local Development Framework.

(See document No. 4)

Paul Williams stated that the Core Strategy was a document that sets out the City's plans for developing Birmingham and that it would be used to guide the future growth of the whole City until 2026. He advised that the document was to be used to approve or reject Planning Applications presented to the Planning Section, and reiterated that the Issues and Options Paper set out the Core Strategies.

He highlighted that the minimum number of dwellings to be built in Birmingham would be determined by the Government and that there was some uncertainty as to how many additional dwellings would be needed in the City. He advised that the three options presented, included the continued Housing Renewal in Pathfinder Areas of the City and a metro expansion of the City Centre. Paul Williams stated that under Option 1 green spaces would be protected and that Option 2 provided for further housing provision whilst protecting the green belt but that Option 3 would enable more housing growth by expanding the built-up area, and that the Icknield Port loop had been considered as one potential location. He further advised that the urban area would possibly be extended into the greenbelt to provide 65,000 dwellings and, that this, would also cross local authority boundaries.

After some discussion, the Leader Councillor Mike Whitby clarified that the Cabinet had given its views that Option 3 should have a caveat, as part of the consultation process. (Please refer to Minute No. 400 also). The caveat provided by the Cabinet to Option 3 was that *"The report was agreed at Cabinet subject to an amendment to paragraph 4.3 emphasising the Council's continued commitment to the protection of the Green Belt"*. He further advised that as a City, the Council wanted to positively address the population growth agenda by considering realistic housing growth options.

Councillor John Lines felt that the requirements for the Core Strategy was something instigated by the Government and that, he was not in agreement with the Government dictating how the City Council should undertake issues relating to the Core Strategy, particularly on housing growth. Councillor John Alden commented that quality houses were needed for quality life. Councillor Peter Hollingworth commented that he had read the report with interest, but that no mention was made on where the money would come from. Councillor Jane James made reference to properties that had been demolished in order for back gardens to be built, advised that she was not in agreement with Option 3. Councillor Bruce Lines stated that the report was supposed to be consistent with the policy of the City Council and that the Constituency should be consulted.

A member of the public stated that he had spent a long time discussing Option 3 only to be advised that it had been rejected and that residents should not be placed in a position to make decisions to have their back gardens built on. He added that the summary presented was vague and that a number of questions had to be answered.

RESOLVED:- That the Planning Directorate liaise with the Leader of the City Council regarding Option 3 of the report.

Hall Green Constituency Committee
23 September 2008
Minutes of the Meeting

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

The following Report of the Assistant Director of Development Strategy was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

Rod Chapman, Principal Planning Officer, presented the Report and highlighted that there were three options for consideration which would form the core strategy of the City in relation to Transport, Retail, Employment and Environmental Planning Issues up to 2026.

He stated that the following three options for growth formed the basis of Core Strategy and the consultation paper:-

“Option 1 – 50,000 dwellings. This involves a continuation of existing policy approaches.

Option 2 – 55 – 60,000 dwellings. This would involve more radical change in certain areas, in particular the ‘Eastern Corridor’, and a more relaxed approach to existing policies for the protection of employment land, open space and mature suburbs. It would also involve the development of three new suburban centres as a focus for shops, employment and local services.

Option 3 – up to 65,000 dwellings. This would involve an extension or extensions of the urban area into areas currently designated as Green Belt, possibly including areas within Worcestershire and Staffordshire.”

He stated that it was important to recognise that the Issues and Options paper was to encourage debate on the range of realistic directions of change within the City over the plan period and that the responses to the consultation exercise would be used to inform the development of a Preferred Option, which would be subject to further consultation next year.

Councillor Salma Yaqoob noted the various Options but asked what the implications were for Hall Green Constituency. She stated that in relation to Sparkbrook Ward, she would be keen to see where housing would be built. Rod Chapman stated that there large interventions planned for the A34 corridor to close the gaps and plans around transport had been in-built into the Options.

Councillor Ernie Hendricks suggested that the prospective housing build was not near target and that he felt Option 1 would be the route to take, as the City was losing green space rapidly. Rod Chapman stated that within the Options the provision of green space was about providing quality spaces and he acknowledged that the housing figures were optimistic, given the current climate, and my need to be reviewed. Councillor Ernie Hendricks commented that the City required more houses to be built rather than flats.

Councillor Martin Mullaney stated that he would favour Option 1, as Options 2 and 3 would increase pressures on the remaining green spaces. Rod Chapman highlighted that Option 3 did retain the City’s “Mature Suburbs” and Councillor Martin Mullaney noted that this meant Option 2 would impact on the Mature Suburbs.

Councillor Paula Smith stated that she was aware the Government set quotas for building homes and expected us to reach these quotas and thus would the City be meeting these

quotas under the three options. Rod Chapman advised that Option 1 would meet the minimum Government target.

Councillor Paula Smith concurred with earlier views and stated that Option 1 would be her favoured option and would have the least impact.

A member of the public stated that building on open spaces would create further flooding and asked if this was taken into account with new housing developments. Rod Chapman stated that there was a Strategic Flood Assessment which would consider potential flood impact, but stated that some of the new build would be on brown field sites and, that in relation to green field sites, the City Council intended to retain quality provision. The member of the public commented that it was not the quality of open space land that was the issue in relation to flooding but the fact that such land acted as a “sponge” for precipitation.

A member of the public commented that more family housing should be built rather than flats. Rod Chapman stated that the City would continue to provide a range of housing to suit local needs.

Councillor Mohammed Fazal stated that there should be consideration within the options for parking, particularly in Springfield Ward and Rod Chapman advised that the Options paper did not, at present, go into that level of detail.

Following these comments, it was

RESOLVED:-

That the comments contained in the above preamble be submitted to the Assistant Director of Development Strategy.

Yardley Constituency Committee
25th September 2008
Minutes of the Meeting

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: CORE STRATEGY – ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

The following report from the Assistant Director (Development Strategy) was submitted: -
(See document No. 1)

The following documents were circulated at the meeting: Birmingham Plan Local Development Framework Issues and Options document, the Issues and Options summary document and the Issues and Options response form:-
(See document No 2)

With the aid of a power point presentation Dave Carter, Acting Head of Strategic Planning introduced the report. He advised that the issues and options consultation was the first stage of the process and its purpose was to seek views on the key issues and choices that needed to be faced in determining the direction of development in Birmingham over the next twenty years. The three spatial options, each considering alternative scenarios, were:

- Option 1 – What is due to happen if we use our existing plans
- Option 2 – Enabling more housing growth without building in the green belt
- Option 3 – Enabling more housing growth by expanding the built-up area.

The closing date for completed response forms was 24 October 2008. The following comments and questions were made (for ease of reference answers are given at the end of each question raised):-

- As the population is expanding is it not inevitable that Birmingham would have to implement option 3?
The growth of the population in Birmingham had moved to areas such as Tamworth. If Birmingham did not build the type of housing wanted in the City Centre then migration would continue to happen.
- Option 3 was considered to be the most realistic – over the last 50 years approximately 1% of the population of Birmingham had left the City. It was important to build housing that attracted/retained people in the City.
- It was important to build inspirational housing as well as maintain local shopping centres such as Acocks Green.
- Need to implement correct infrastructure such as Doctor's surgeries, Dentists, Schools, road networks/transportation links etc.
- Need family social housing with gardens.
Do not have to choose one option – can mix and match all 3 options.
- Need survey on empty shop and residential properties.
- Need to ensure local people access local jobs e.g. Airport expansion.
- The document did not address the A45 consultation exercise.

Dave Carter thanked members and members of the public for the comments made and stated that a further report together with the draft plan would be submitted to a future meeting.

Ladywood Constituency Committee

2nd October 2008

Minutes of the Meeting

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: CORE STRATEGY – ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director (Development Strategy). (See document No. 1)

Martin Eade, Planning Strategy, outlined the main points of the report and highlighted the three options to deal with future growth and the provision of new dwellings. The Core Strategy highlighted a number of issues for consideration over the next 20 years but housing was one of the key issues to be considered in the consultation process.

Councillor Ali referred to predicted increases in birth rates among ethnic minority populations and noted that the consultation exhibitions were not being held in areas where those communities lived, such as, Sparkbrook, Small Heath and Washwood Heath. He said that East Birmingham lacked a local centre and queried whether there were any plans in the strategy to rectify this and identify an area for a local centre in East Birmingham.

Councillor Lal commented that in order to sustain the growth of the City, unemployment needed to be tackled and proper jobs created. He referred to page number 13 of the report and reference to the extension of the Midland Metro. The City Council was not supportive of this and Councillor Lal sought an assurance that consultation between agencies was meaningful.

A member of the public said that local people could not afford to get onto the property ladder and sought an assurance that the proposed housing would be affordable. Councillor Islam said that consideration should be given to the need for housing provision to accommodate extended families and be of a size and type suitable for the area in which it was built.

The Chairman said that the inner city was already overcrowded, with poor amenities and there was an issue with affordability and the size and type of properties available. Building on the green belt was therefore an option that should be considered.

Mr Eade said that he was aware that the strategy should also centre around the quality of housing provision and not just numbers to be built. The affordability of properties could not be managed through planning policy but there was a need for a strategy to be in place to ensure the appropriate type and size of accommodation was provided in certain areas of the city.

Mr Eade said he had written to a significant number of bodies within the City, including some in east Birmingham and an exhibition would be held in Stechford, however the lack of venue in the east of the City highlighted the comments made by Councillor Ali. The need for jobs was equally important and the document suggested focuses for employment provision, transport and the infrastructure to support the housing. Mr Eade said that the consultation exercise was ongoing and the comments made are welcomed and would be fed into the process.

RESOLVED;- That the contents of the report be noted and the comments made forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

Hodge Hill Constituency Committee

16th October 2008

Minutes of the Meeting

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: CORE STRATEGY – ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

The following report of the Assistant Director (Development Strategy) was submitted:-

(See document No. 5)

Dave Carter, Acting Head of Strategy and Regional/Sub Regional, Development Directorate provided a verbal presentation as well as circulating an issues and options response form and a detailed document illustrating the issues and options of the Birmingham Core Strategy Plan 2026.

(See document Nos. 6 and 7)

He confirmed that the Issues and Options was the first stage of the consultation process and its purpose was to seek Members' views on the key issues and choices, which needed to be faced in determining the direction of development in Birmingham over the next twenty years. He referred to the three options that had been formed to consider alternative scenarios as a starting point. Each option took into account the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the West Midlands and it was the intention of the presented options to consider alternative profiles of growth and to stimulate feedback.

The first option would continue to promote growth at current levels and would meet the current minimum RSS housing targets. The second option concentrates upon significant housing redevelopment in the East and West of Birmingham in the form of 'sustainable urban neighbourhoods' and exceeds RSS minimum targets. The three local centres could be possibly located at Selly Oak, Perry Barr and the Meadway Centre in East Birmingham. A third option would be to extend outwards into green belt land in either the north/north east and/or south/south west of the city. This would create a wider choice and affordability of housing in the form of new sustainable settlements.

Councillor Anita Ward voiced concern with regard to the consultation period ending on 24 October 2008, which did not allow much time in forwarding comments. Mr Carter stated that the Department would accommodate any late comments after that date adding that it was only at a later stage when the process became more legalistic when time limits would need to be adhered to.

A discussion ensued and various comments were raised with regard to Option 2 being more ambitious with the development of the Meadway Centre. It was felt that consideration should be given to the improvement of the public transportation system in the area that could include the track expansion at Lea Hall Railway Station, and as a means of improving educational facilities and encouraging more people into the area, that a university be located in the area rather than in the city centre.

In response to Councillor Zaker Choudhry's question as to the amount of new housing that would be provided in Options 1 and 2, Mr Carter confirmed that 50,000 to 60,000 homes in Option 1 and 55,000 to 60,000 approximately in Option 2.

Councillor Zaker Choudhry emphasised that it was most important that when neighbourhoods were being developed that the local facilities reflected the needs of the local community.

Councillor Ian Ward stated that it was important that any new build in the east of Birmingham was a mix of both private and public housing.

Upon further consideration it was

RESOLVED:-

- (H) That the Constituency Committee noted the report; and
- (H) That the comments of the Constituency Committee be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

Nechells Ward Committee
17th December 2008
Minutes of the Meeting

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: CORE STRATEGY – ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

The following report of the Assistant Director (Development Strategy) was submitted:-

(See document No. 5)

Claire Hemus attended the meeting and outlined the main points of the report, adding that the deadline for consultation had been extended to mid January. The plan was a draft document considering options for housing development over the next 20 years and the preferred option of the three outlined in the report submitted would go out for consultation in May 2009.

With reference to the report submitted the Chairman said that having considered the statistics relating to population growth the largest growth would be among the Pakistani community and he queried whether an impact assessment had been undertaken as the community might find it difficult to move to areas such as Northfield or Sutton Coldfield.

The Chairman said that although there were three options mentioned in the report submitted and that three options had been consulted upon, when the report had been presented to Cabinet a motion had been moved to remove Option 3. Consultation had been undertaken around the City, however where the largest population growth was likely to occur in Nechells, Washwood Heath etc there had not been any public consultation exercises. In view of these issues the Chairman moved, and it was agreed that in noting the report the Committee also note that that the consultation process had been inadequate and that the options presented were flawed.

Councillor Mosquito referred to the growth of the elderly population and urged that provision be made to accommodate the elderly such as single storey housing and that the quality of buildings be improved. With regard to the monitoring information, Councillor Mosquito said that the Somalian community was growing but that was not reflected in the figures.

A member of the public said that new developments in the inner city area provided social housing etc but that young professional couples were moving out from those areas as there was no quality housing. Therefore people who were in higher paid jobs and acted as role models were moving away. Good quality mixed housing was needed to attract and keep all residents. Ms Hemus said that the issue of migration out of the inner city areas had been raised.

Councillor Mosquito said that population growth was more of an issue in the inner city areas than elsewhere and that the number of new communities moving into the area should be considered as this had an impact on services.

RESOLVED:-

That this Committee, whilst noting the contents of the report considered that the consultation process on the Issues and Options Paper had been inadequate and that options presented were flawed.

Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16th September 2008

Minutes of the Meeting

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: CORE STRATEGIC – ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

The following report of the Assistant Director, Development Strategy was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

(The Chairman declared an interest in the above report on the grounds that he was a member of Centro and the Passenger Transport Authority).

Dave Carter, Development Directorate, gave a PowerPoint presentation in connection with the report and also highlighted the core strategy issues and options summary document, which was made available to Members of the Committee.

During the course of ensuing discussion the following principal issues were raised:-

- (H) Councillor Randal Brew was concerned that the Government seemed to be intent on forcing Birmingham to increase its population by 2026. He questioned whether the Council would be in a position to respond to any reversal of national policies relating to housing growth provision and requested that officers provide him with details of sites in connection with the proposed future delivery of housing in Birmingham.

Dave Carter, Development Directorate, indicated that the figures relating to SHLAA Potential Capacity referred to in the powerpoint presentation had been based on information provided by the Office of National Statistics. He added that there was some suspicion that the figures provided by the aforementioned body might be too high as they were based on assumptions related to a buoyant economy.

(B) Councillor Philip Parkin pointed out that there was general opposition to the development of green belt land and that such development was contrary to the local Sutton Coldfield plan. He went on question the need for option 3 in the core strategy issues and options summary, which he felt would create a 'straight jacket' for the City. Dave Carter, Development Directorate, in referring to option 3 advised that the Government had insisted that the City Council test how it could accommodate the higher level housing need. He acknowledged the views expressed with regard to the protection of green belt land and pointed out that the Council was not wedded to any of the options set out in the summary document, however, should the authority want to resist future proposals it was necessary to undertake the process referred to in that document.

(C) Councillor Iain Bowen commented on the options referred to in the summary document and drew attention to the principal features of the City of Hamburg which he noted had an attractive layout and accommodated both schools and parks within its Centre. He considered that, in order to develop a high quality Birmingham City Centre, it was necessary to cease the further development of 1 and 2 bedroomed flats within the central area of the City and address the needs of families through the appropriate development in housing and schools within that location. He also emphasised the need to have a focus on infrastructure and good quality social housing. He went on to comment on the options contained in the strategy document and Dave Carter, Development Directorate, referred to the general reduction in the City's population since the Second World War and the preference for movement outwards towards rural and shire towns. He added that the Big City Plan was focusing on how family city living could be achieved. Following a suggestion from Councillor Iain Bowen it was agreed that a copy of the PowerPoint presentation and the associated consultant's report should be submitted to all Members of the Committee in CD format.

(D) Councillor Peter Kane stressed that he was not in favour of any of the proposals set out in the summary document. He was particularly concerned that none of the options took into account the need to address industrial and employment opportunities within the Kingstanding area. He was also critical of the development of the City Centre and stressed that the demand for social housing would increase. He acknowledged the need to develop family accommodation in the City Centre and provide associated facilities to meet social requirements and referred to the development of Frankfurt, which he emphasised had quality open spaces. Whilst recognizing that areas such as Kingstanding were well served in terms of open space, he was critical of the quality of that space.

(E) Councillor Tahir Ali referred to the projected changes in the composition of black and minority ethnic groups within the City, stressing that it was important that consultation on the core strategy should be undertaken at appropriate venues. In that regard he suggested that an additional consultation meeting be undertaken within Small Heath. (Dave Carter, Development Directorate, undertook to consult with the Councillor with regard to the matter after the Committee's meeting).

(F) With regard to issues relating to the density of housing raised by Councillor Colin Hughes, Dave Carter, noted that there were existing policies in place to address the matter within the Unitary Development Plan and that it was expected that such policies would be reviewed. With regard to the consideration of transportation issues, the Chairman noted that the matter was to be discussed at a Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 November 2008.

(G) The Chairman referred to the current situation relating to void properties in areas such as Bournbrook and commented on the need to give consideration to restoration schemes to bring such properties back into use. Dave Carter, Development Directorate, acknowledged the need to minimise void housing in the City and advised that assumptions had been made that 2% of the private housing stock and 1.5% of the public sector housing stock was vacant within the City. In terms of the general situation relating to vacant properties in the City, he noted that particular areas had individual problems. He also noted that since 1991 there had been a general reduction in the number of vacant properties within the central area of the City. The Chairman questioned why it was necessary to build additional properties until such time that problems relating to vacant dwellings had been addressed.

(H) In referring to the general proposals for housing development, the Chairman made reference to flooding which had occurred within the City and it was noted that work was being undertaken on a strategic flood risk assessment.

RESOLVED:-

That the contents of the report be noted and the comments set out in the above preamble be referred to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

Appendices



the **Birmingham** plan
birmingham's local development framework

Core strategy

Issues and options
response form

September 2008



The Birmingham Plan

Issues and Options Response Form

We want to know what you think of the Issues and Options paper. This will enable us to take into account your views when shaping the future of Birmingham. In order to help us focus on the key issues we have set out a number of questions. We would find it helpful if you could use these questions as the basis for your response.

This form can be completed online at:
www.birmingham.gov.uk/corestrategy

Alternatively, send your response to:

FREEPOST RRYL-HXEZ-SGXS

Birmingham City Council
Planning Strategy
Alpha Tower
Suffolk Street Queensway
Birmingham
B1 1TT

The closing date for comments is **24 October 2008**

Name:

Address:

Organisation:

Your name and response will be publicly available

The Birmingham Vision

1a Section 7 of the Issue and Options paper proposes a spatial vision for Birmingham. Do you agree with the Birmingham vision?

YES

NO

1b Does it provide a clear spatial vision for the future of the city? If not, how could the vision be improved?

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The Objectives

2a Section 8 of the paper outlines a number of key objectives. Are these the right objectives for the Core Strategy?

YES

NO

2b If you answered no, what other objectives would you suggest?

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3 Under each objective a number of issues are highlighted. What are your views on these issues which could affect the delivery of the Core Strategy? Please comment under each objective listed below.

Objective 1 To promote Birmingham’s national and international role as a global city.

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Objective 2 To create a more sustainable city that minimises its carbon-footprint and waste while allowing the city to grow.

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Objective 3 To develop Birmingham as a city of vibrant urban villages, a safer, diverse and inclusive city with quality local environments.

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Objective 4 To meet the emerging RSS requirements for new housing as a minimum and to secure a significant increase in the city’s population towards 1.1 million.

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Objective 5 To create a prosperous, successful economy, with benefits felt by all.

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Objective 6 To provide high quality transportation links throughout the city and with other places and encourage the increased use of public transport.

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Objective 7 To make Birmingham a learning city with quality educational institutions.

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Objective 8 To encourage better health and well-being through the provision of new and existing sports, leisure and heritage assets throughout the city.

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The Spatial Options

4 Section 9 of the paper outlines 3 Spatial Options which would accommodate different levels of growth within Birmingham. Which aspects of each option do you support or have concerns over?

Option

1

What is due to happen if we use our existing plans

Option

2

Enabling more housing growth without building in the green belt

Option

3

Enabling more housing growth by expanding the built-up area

5 Are there alternative options which you think we should consider?

6

6a Option 3 includes possible development in the green belt to accommodate a greater percentage of growth within or close to the city. Several broad locations for development are identified. If this option were favoured which location would you prefer?

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6b Are there any other locations that you would wish to suggest?

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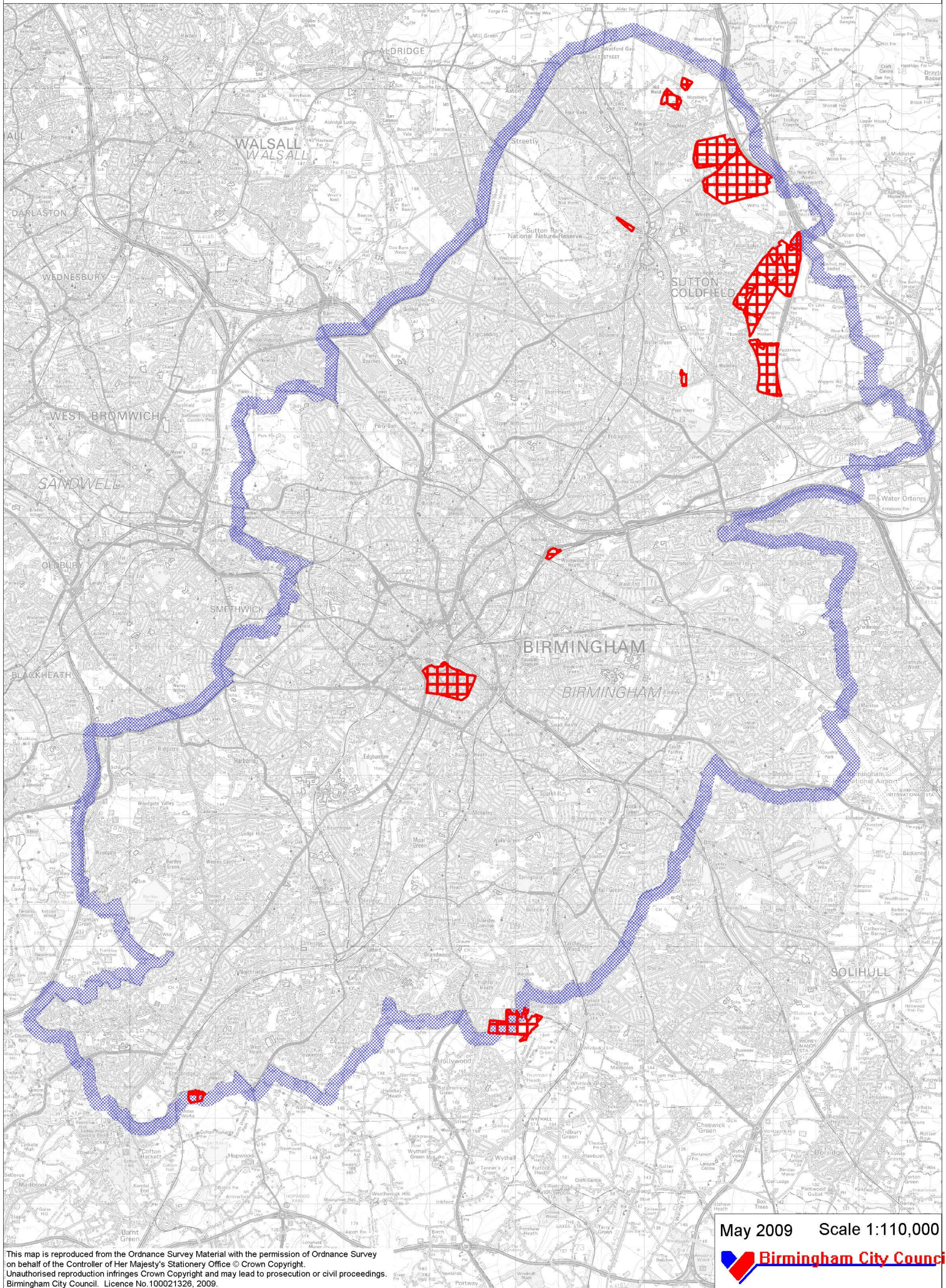
It would be helpful if you could also fill in the following form for monitoring purposes.

Age		Gender: Male <input type="checkbox"/>		Female <input type="checkbox"/>		Disability <input type="checkbox"/>	
Race							
White			Other Ethnic background			Asian or Asian British	
British	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vietnamese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>		
White Gypsy/Roma	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arab	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Eastern European	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kurdish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kashmiri	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Western European (Non UK)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yemeni	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)			
White Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>	Afghani	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>	Iranian	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other (please specify)		Other (please specify)					
Black or Black British			Mixed Heritage				
Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	White and Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	White and Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>		
African	<input type="checkbox"/>	White and Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black and Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Somali	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)					
Other (please specify)							
Religion or belief							
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Christian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Buddhist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sikh	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)					

Core strategy
Issues and options response form
september2008



Appendix 2. Sites put forward for development by Consultation Respondents



May 2009 Scale 1:110,000



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