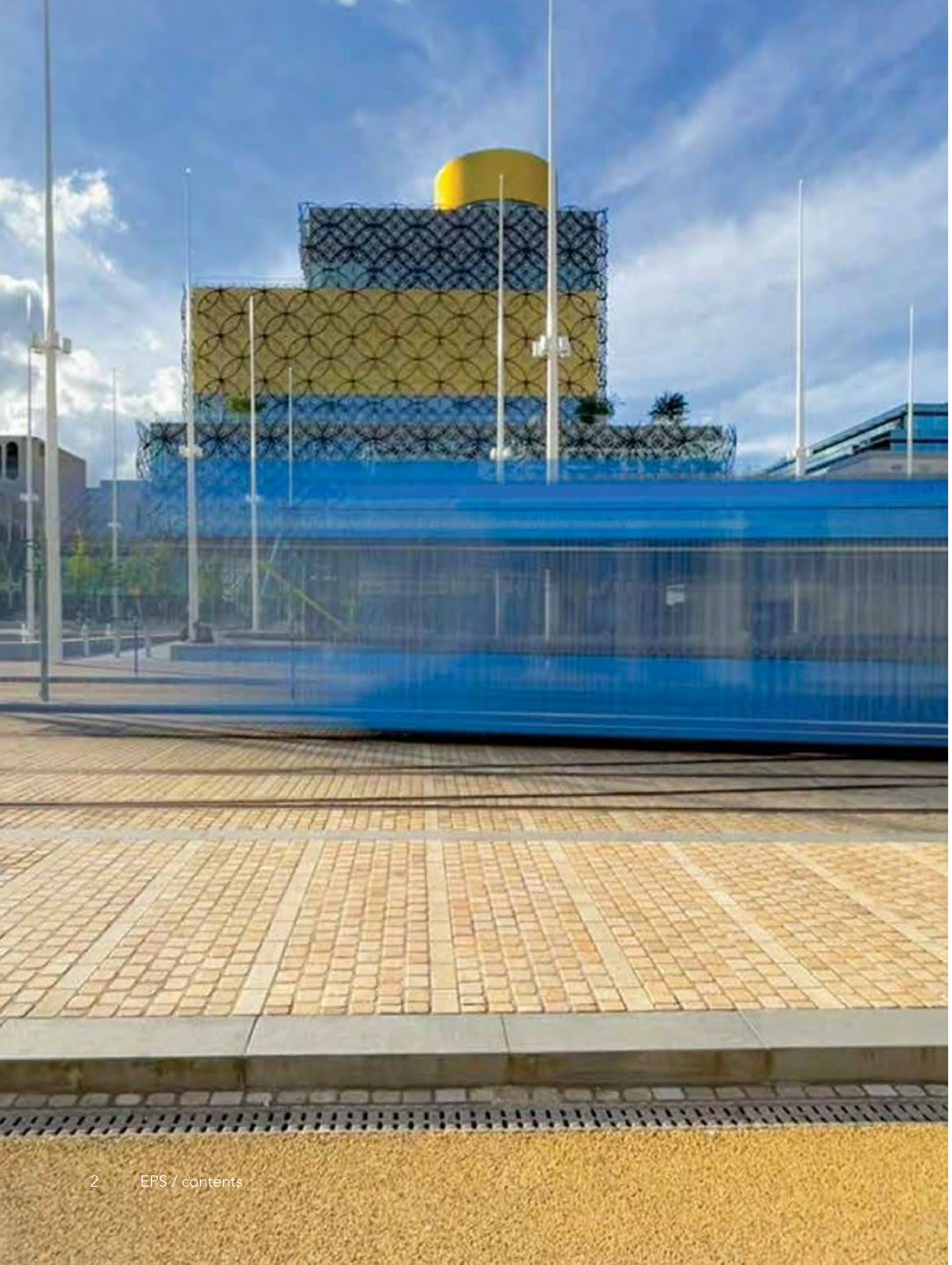
Economy and Place Strategy

October 2025

Our Future City

Birmingham City Council



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FOREWORD

Councillor Sharon Thompson
Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills
Birmingham City Council

Birmingham is a city with a mission - a mission to achieve its huge potential. The city is already the economic engine of the West Midlands but there is much more to be unlocked - a £6bn bigger economy if we match the productivity of equivalent European cities. It means an important role in the government's growth mission. Higher growth means more jobs, higher wages, opportunities for local business, investment in local services and transformations of local places including new homes. This is the prize that Birmingham's Economy and Place Strategy (EPS) seeks to unlock.

Birmingham has strong foundations for growth with a large, diversified economy, and as the UK's 'second city'. Our city has a track record of inward investment. Our city is second in the country for new start-ups. We have a proud history and heritage of making and selling products to the world. We have five universities with 80,000 students and 20,000 graduates a year. We are at the centre of the country's transport connections. Our city is a centre of innovation and research and is a diverse, global city with a growing young population. And we have a creative and cultural reach hosting one of the country's most buzzing districts, Digbeth.

This Economy and Place Strategy shows how our city centre will expand including through the Smithfield development and a new park, offices and commercial space to build on our successes in finance and business services, and the expansion of the Creative Quarter in Digbeth including through flagship film studios. There is a growth corridor complete with special economic zones from the city centre through East Birmingham to next door Solihull, set to be the country's largest regeneration area. Within the area is the emerging Birmingham Knowledge Quarter: an innovation cluster focused on med-tech and creating the devices and technologies for our future healthcare. Adding to the wealth of potential a new Sports Quarter is to take shape in Bordesley Park with a new Blues stadium, and a Green Energy Innovation District in Tyseley shows the way to power our future.

"Birmingham is not standing still. It is a place of opportunity that is growing, evolving, and taking shape."

The strategy not only aims to make these ambitions a reality but critically to ensure that the benefits reach all our citizens. We want growth to be inclusive, which means our residents securing new jobs and skills for the future, being able to set up a business on the back of these opportunities or expanding a business into new markets. And while Birmingham is one of the most investable cities and has some of the biggest opportunities in the country, it also has some of the biggest challenges.

Creating more jobs and enabling residents to get them can help bring unemployment down, which is far too high. Birmingham - just one city - is 5% of the total unemployment in England. The 20 wards in East Birmingham are 1.8% alone. So, our strategy is focused on making the employment and skills system work much better. It means our young people move from education into employment. Those who face barriers to work such as health conditions get support, advice, training, and access to jobs. It means planning for careers in our growth areas and working with colleges and businesses so that residents have the skills for the opportunities.

"We want growth to be inclusive, which means our residents securing the new jobs."

The strategy is also about investing in local centres which support the 'everyday economy' including the shops and services on our high streets. It is about making fantastic liveable neighbourhoods, with new homes to support our growing population, great parks and green spaces, a culturally rich city, upgrading homes through retrofit works, energy networks so energy is cheaper and cleaner, good digital connections integral to a modern city, and critically improving transport. While we are at the centre of the country's transport networks, travel can be difficult across the city and region.

So, we need a transport system like London's and other European cities. It is great news that the government has brought forward funding to expand the Metro to the Sports Quarter and we now need to work towards this going all the way across East Birmingham and to Arden Cross as well as improving bus services and trains and enabling more active travel such as cycling.

We cannot do everything at once but what this strategy outlines are the initial priorities and opportunities we need to advance. It highlights how we can harness the investment coming to the city including through the integrated settlement, the funding that has been devolved to the West Midlands Combined Authority and then on to local councils such as Birmingham and longer-term funding commencing from 2026.

The strategy is not just about what the council does but our partners too, such as universities who are involved in many of the programmes outlined. It is the investors, developers, West Midlands Mayor and WMCA, the government, voluntary organisations, colleges and NHS, and our residents and businesses who we are working with, to take forward the enhancements to their city and deliver the City Vision, part of Shaping Birmingham's Future Together, drawn up together. Growth is key to this vision.

"Birmingham has strong foundations for growth."

Finally, the strategy is an evolving one. Since it was agreed many national funding and policy developments have taken place. This version of the strategy is updated to reflect these, and it shapes how we describe the opportunities. East Birmingham has been a priority focus for the council given its growth opportunities and very significant socio-economic challenges. Three years ago, we teamed up with Solihull Council and brought forward the East Birmingham North Solihull plan, which secured from the last government the ability to use the business rate to invest in developments in the area. This government has seen the opportunity too by providing funding for the Metro extension which supports the 'Birmingham and North Solihull Gateway. The strategy seeks to reflect this changing landscape. The lesson perhaps is that Birmingham is not standing still. It is a place of opportunity that is growing, evolving, and taking shape. And so, it is time for everyone who wants to Shape Birmingham's Future to get on board.

To keep up to date with Birmingham's growth programme, see www.growth.Birmingham.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BIRMINGHAM'S GROWTH POTENTIAL AND OFFER

Birmingham is one of the 20 largest European cities and the UK's second city. It has an output of £38.9bn, 1.4% of the UK's economy, and grew by £1bn (2.7%) from 2022 to 2023, underpinned by a good record of foreign direct investment over many years. The city is the largest part of the West Midlands Combined Authority area economy (42%) and has an important role in the government's growth mission with a £6bn untapped potential if it met the productivity of similar European cities. Birmingham is a diverse, youthful, growing city, which is one of the UK's most connected. It hosts five higher educational institutions, an expanding innovation eco-system, is a cultural powerhouse, and has major development opportunities - all foundations for strong growth ahead.

Birmingham's Economy and Place Strategy (EPS)

Birmingham's Economy and Place Strategy (EPS) sets out the city's growth ambition and how it can realise its potential. The EPS outlines initial spatial and sectoral opportunities that are strategic and deliverable, and with an integrated, place approach to support inclusive economic growth. It sets out investment priorities including use of the WMCA integrated settlement.

This is a designed version of the strategy agreed in June 2025. It has also been updated in places to reflect changes in government and regional policy. It also harnesses refreshed data where relevant. The EPS is an evolving strategy. The aim is to fully review it during the first year and regularly thereafter.

Sources of jobs and sector growth

Birmingham's priority growth area, the Birmingham to North Solihull Gateway, is from the city centre through East Birmingham to neighbouring Solihull. It includes the Our Future City Central Area Framework area (which seeks to connect the city centre to the surrounding inner city) and the East Birmingham North Solihull inclusive growth area. The gateway growth area has three economic zones which have the ability to retain business rate for local investment. The zones are:

1. East Birmingham North Solihull (EBNS) growth area with Growth Zone sites: Bordesley Park (Sports Quarter), Tyseley and Washwood Heath & Saltley Business Park

2. Birmingham Knowledge Quarter (BKQ): part of the West Midlands Investment Zone

3. Enterprise Zone (EZ): including Curzon, Digbeth and Smithfield

When the business rate sites designated in EBNS were agreed in the Trailblazer Deeper Devolution Deal the government called these 'growth zones'. These are different from the 'growth zones' outlined within the Birmingham Local Plan, which are areas across the city identified to support development.

The East Birmingham Growth Zones sites, BKQ and the Enterprise Zone have the opportunity to create more than 100,000 jobs. The zones support high value sectors in medtech, energy systems, and creative industries and put Birmingham on a path to a higher productivity future, by expanding the city centre to create new business districts for knowledge-intensive services with high value-added employment. The zones are next to the construction of HS2 and Curzon station which enables maximisation of the investment in the high-speed rail programme.

Housing delivery

The EPS highlights three key housing priority schemes which deliver 21,000 homes within a wider housing pipeline of further delivery of homes:

1. Ladywood - delivering 12,000 homes
2. Druids Heath - delivering 3,500 homes
3. Langley - delivering 5,500 homes

Local centres and neighbourhoods

Further priority areas for local investment include local neighbourhoods (part of the 'everyday economy'), transport connectivity, cultural activities, retrofitting homes, and energy and heat networks, to ensure growth reaches all parts of the city and to support thriving, liveable places.

Challenges

The EPS identifies barriers to growth such as the city's very high unemployment and its transport needs. Addressing these and connecting residents to growth opportunities and jobs helps support inclusive growth and increase household incomes.

Aims

The EPS underpins key parts of the delivery of Birmingham's City Vision 2035 including to support 'a city that has a thriving economy, tackles inequality, where all communities can enjoy greater opportunities and the wellbeing that it brings' and with the EPS seeking to drive:

1. Inclusive Economic Growth - advancing economic growth through key development areas, attracting investment, businesses and jobs, driving innovation and increased productivity, and investing in skills and employment pathways to support residents into the opportunities

2. Sustainable and Connected Communities - investing in cheaper, sustainable energy systems such as heat networks, improving the energy efficiency of homes and making jobs and amenities more accessible through sustainable transport and digital connectivity.

3. High-Quality, Liveable Neighbourhoods - supporting good access to quality and affordable homes, public transport and active travel, green spaces, healthcare, social, leisure and cultural facilities, and attracting, retaining and supporting a skilled population to help business prosper

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BIRMINGHAM'S GROWTH POTENTIAL AND OFFER

Investment including integrated settlement and private sector and addressing barriers to growth

Growth drivers

Sources of significant growth	Local investment priorities
ENBS Growth Zone	Housing Action & Accelerator Areas
Enterprise Zone	Transport and connectivity
BKQ (Investment Zone)	Local centres and neighbourhoods
	Retrofit and heat network areas
	Growth support such as skills and business support

Goals

Birmingham City Vision 2035 outputs
A city that has a thriving economy, tackles inequality, where all communities can enjoy greater opportunities and the wellbeing that it brings

Economy and Place Strategy
- Inclusive economic growth
- Sustainable & connected communities
- High quality, liveable neighbourhoods

Key EPS outputs

- Economic output: Realising untapped £6bn output
- Jobs: Over 100,000 jobs through three economic zones
- Homes: 21,000 homes via three priority schemes and thousands more in the housing pipeline
- Work: Higher employment and lower unemployment
- Incomes: Higher household incomes and reduced deprivation levels
- Connections: Improved links across the city and connecting 300,000 more people to its economy
- Regeneration: Advancing an inclusive growth corridor from the city centre into East Birmingham and onto North Solihull, set to be the UK's largest regeneration programme
- Local centres: Additional community collaborations to support thriving neighbourhoods

COMPONENTS

EVIDENCE BASE AND CASE FOR ECONOMIC CHANGE

GROWTH POTENTIAL AND OFFER

A VISION FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN THE CITY AND THRIVING PLACES

ADDRESSING BARRIERS AND REALISING OPPORTUNITIES

INITIAL INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

A NEW INTEGRATED APPOROACH AND OUTCOMES

WHAT IS NEEDED TO DELIVER

EPS EVIDENCE AND LOGIC
CITY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Birmingham: city profile

Birmingham is a city of scale and size, and home to a growing population of 1,165,400 million citizens. It is the UK's second city and the financial, commercial and cultural hub of the region. Once known as a 'city of 1,000 trades', Birmingham is harnessing its history and heritage to forge a future that is rooted in its significance economic potential and as a diverse, entrepreneurial innovative, creative and global city. Birmingham has an importance role in shaping the future of the West Midlands and the UK.

Over many years, Birmingham has experienced record levels of investment which has increased the size of the city centre and with new areas created for key developments and regeneration.

The city has a range of cultural and place assets including premier league football, the Edgbaston Stadium, a refurbished Alexander Stadium, Birmingham Hippodrome (the UK's busiest single theatre), Digbeth film studios, a renowned culinary scene, more than 600 parks and green spaces and Europe's largest canal network. In 2022, as hosts of the hugely successful Commonwealth Games, Birmingham broadcasted its potential globally and its key areas of opportunity.

However, the city has significant economic barriers too, including some of the country's highest levels of deprivation, poverty and concentrations of people out of work. To realise Birmingham's potential and contribution to national growth requires a concerted focus and programme to address the barriers and unlock the significant economic opportunities.

Demographics

Birmingham has a growing, superdiverse, youthful population, with roots in countries from around the world and which underpin the city's global links. More than half of the population (51.4%) identify as Black, Asian or minority ethnic, much higher than the national figure of 18.9%, and 31% are Asian/Asian British, 11% are Black/African/Caribbean/Black British, 4.8% are mixed and 4.5% are other ethnic designation. The school age population is even more diverse with 66% of Birmingham's population identifying as Black, Asian and minority ethnic.

The city is also one of the youngest local authorities in England, with just over a fifth (21.2%) of the population under 16 and an average resident age of 34 years compared to 40.4 years nationally. The population is projected to continue growing to 1,195,000 (up 2.5%) by 2030, with an increase of 16.4% in the number of people aged 65+ years and a slight decrease in people aged under 15 (-3.1%). However, there is still projected to be more people under the age of 15 (236,000) than 65+ (180,300).

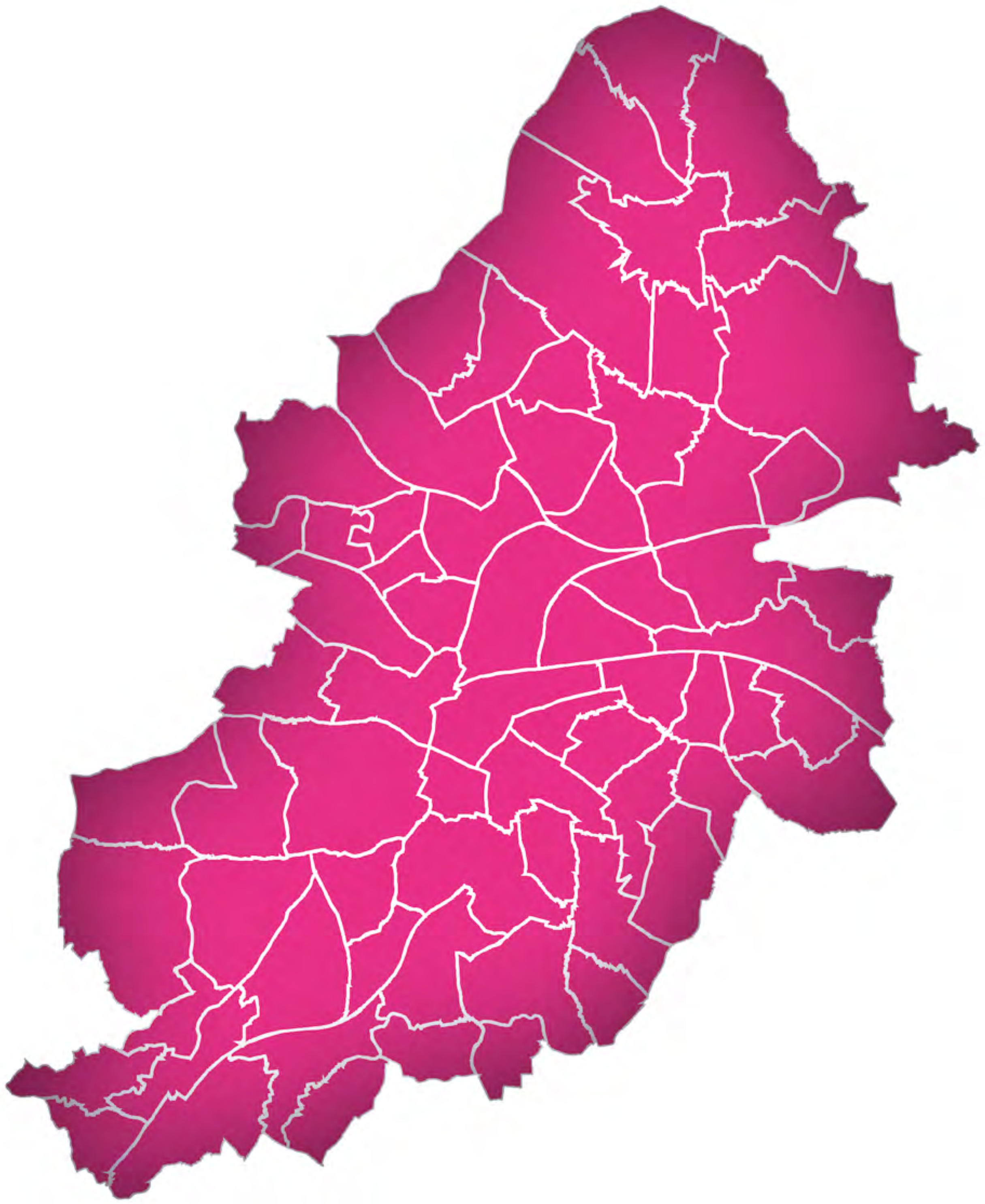


FIG 1. BIRMINGHAM WARDS

EPS EVIDENCE AND LOGIC

OVERVIEW OF OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Key Challenges

Economy and local growth
- Diversifying the economy
- Infrastructure for local growth
- New business survivability and business productivity
- Spreading economic growth benefits across the city

Focus: the global impacts
Global factors can shape the economic outlook, and the West Midlands has been estimated to be the most affected region from GDP, GVA and job losses due to the initial announcement of US tariffs.

Skills and employment
- Unemployment including youth unemployment
- Economic inactivity rate and employment rate
- Level of no or low formal qualifications
- Graduate retention rate and level of population with a degree-level qualification
- Digital skills

Focus: Skills and employment
The city's high unemployment negatively impacts on citizens and is an economic cost - the city is 5% of England's total unemployment, 31% of the Core Cities and 54% of the WMCA area, while the 20 wards of East Birmingham are 18.5% of the WMCA's unemployment and 1.8% of England's.

Housing and retrofit
- Affordability
- Affordable (social rent) supply and delivery funding
- Overcrowding and housing quality
- Homelessness and temporary accommodation levels
- Exempt housing and house of multi-occupation levels
- Number of energy inefficient social and private homes
- Volume of retrofit measures to meet demand
- Pressures on retrofit supply chain and skills shortages

Focus: Housing and retrofit
The city has the highest overcrowding, the house price to earnings ratio has nearly doubled in two decades, rents have risen by half in a decade, and the supply of affordable homes is half that required.

Transport and connectivity
- Congestion and connectivity across city and region
- Cost of capital needs for improvements
- Carbon emissions and air quality
- Equity in mobility and accessibility
- Traffic harm

Focus: Transport and connectivity
The National Infrastructure Commission's infrastructure assessment said the city's future transport capacity gap is the highest of the 15 largest English cities and is a priority for investment with growth constrained without it.

Socio-economic
- High poverty levels
- High deprivation levels

Focus: Socio-economic
The authority is the 7th most deprived authority in England.

Key Opportunities

Economy and local growth
- UK's third largest city economy
- Consistent high levels of inward investment
- Significant development sites and economic zones
- HS2 construction and major growth in vicinity
- Strengths in high value sectors
- Development of key cultural and sporting assets

Output: growth
£6bn untapped potential, the UK's largest regeneration area, and more community partnerships for place renewal.

Skills and employment
- Jobs in growth clusters and development pipeline
- Five higher education institutions and large undergraduate and graduate population
- High engagement in adult education
- Anchor network, corporate social value partners and voluntary, community, social enterprise & faith sector and health partnerships for pathways into jobs
- Good school attainment

Output: Jobs
Three economic zones can create more than100,000 jobs.

Housing and retrofit
- Scale of land, key sites and housing pipeline
- Upgrading homes and delivering liveable neighbourhoods in high deprivation areas
- Reducing carbon emissions
- Successful retrofit programme to build on

Output: Housing and retrofit
21,000 homes in three priority schemes and more homes via the housing pipeline.

Transport and connectivity
- Reallocation of road space on key corridors
- Connecting central Birmingham and local centres via active travel and public transport
- Reducing traffic speed and volume for liveable places
- Connections to HS2 programme
- Region has best 5G connectivity of all the regions

Output: Transport and connectivity
Connecting 300,000 more people to the city economy.

Socio-economic
- Young and diverse population

Output: Socio-economic
Lower deprivation and higher household incomes.

EPS EVIDENCE AND LOGIC

ECONOMIC PROFILE

Economic profile

Birmingham is the UK's third largest city economy with a GDP of £38.9bn (2023, latest figures). It is 1.4% of the UK economy and 42% of the WMCA economy, with considerably the largest part of all seven WMCA constituent authorities. Birmingham's economy grew by £1bn (2.7%) in real terms from 2022 to 2023 and higher than the UK at 0.4%. Over recent years the city has had record investment levels, much of it in central Birmingham.

GVA per hour worked in 2023 in Birmingham was £35.14, slightly lower than the WMCA (£35.72) and lower than England (£42.39). Birmingham's 1.6% rise from 2022 to 2023 mirrored the WMCA (1.5%) but was lower than England (2.1%). GDP per head for Birmingham was £33,362 in 2023 and higher than the WMCA and lower than England. For Birmingham it rose 1.7% from 2022 but it fell in England and WMCA. GDP per worker was £69,159 in Birmingham in 2023, higher than the WMCA and lower than the UK. It also rose 1.4% from 2022 but fell in the WMCA and England.

Global factors can have a role in shaping the economic outlook. An estimate of the GDP and job losses from the initial USA tariff announcement was that the West Midlands was estimated to be the most affected region. However, the subsequent deal that the UK agreed with the USA lessened the impact.

Business base and sectors

The main contributions to the economic output of the Birmingham economy are business, financial, & professional services (£12.4bn GVA), public services (£10.3bn) and retail (£3bn) - see table right. The business, professional and financial services sector has dropped in terms of the number of businesses in the sector.

Regarding the location quotient - the concentration of the sectors in relation to employment relative to England - a rating of 1 shows the same concentration to England, with below one less concentration, and more than one a higher concentration. Both finance and public services have a slightly higher concentration than England.

For the government's Industrial Strategy sectors of life sciences, professional & business services, creative and digital and clean energy, Birmingham is estimated to have over £2bn of growth by 2030 in these sectors (these sectors in some cases are a correlation to the main sectors such as finance services, and in some cases are sub-sectors or elements of main sectors and not show in the table right).

While the city has this huge growth potential, a significant part of the economy is the 'everyday economy' - labour-intensive, non-tradable activities mostly serving local needs and markets.

The city has 37,245 businesses (2024), an increase of 200 businesses (0.5%) since 2023 and an increase of 500 business (1.4%), since 2019. Birmingham is a dynamic economy and is the second in the UK for new business start-ups.

Public R&D investment in the West Midlands region is around £150 per capita, the lowest of any English region. However, private investment is over £600 per capita. This is a 5:1 ratio of private to public funding, which is the second highest private/public ratio in the UK regions and nations.

More detailed economic analysis is being developed by the WMCA for the West Midlands Growth Plan delivery and by the council for the delivery of the Birmingham EPS and its review.

Sectors of the Birmingham economy covering output, employment, businesses and concentration

Sector	GVA £bn	GVA %	GVA change 2022 to 2023 £m	Employment 2023	Employment %
Manufacturing	2.4	7%	86	31,000	6%
Construction	2.1	6%	157	20,000	4%
Retail	3.3	9%	9	72,000	13%
Financial Services	4.2	12%	310	24,000	4%
Real Estate	3.4	10%	104	10,000	2%
Professional & Technical	3.3	9%	150	67,000	12%
Admin & Support Services	1.5	4%	43	51,000	9%
ICT	1.8	5%	116	22,000	4%
Health & Care	4.3	12%	72	90,000	16%
Education	3.5	10%	243	55,000	10%
Public Administration	2.5	7%	45	35,000	6%
Other	3	8%	4	85,000	15%
Aggregated sectors					
Business, Professional & Financial Services +	**12.4**	**35%**	**607**	**152,000**	**27.0%**
Public Services ++	**10.3**	**29%**	**360**	**180,000**	**32%**
Birmingham Total	**35.4**	**100%**	**1,320**	**562,500**	**100%**

Sector	LQ of employment (with England)	Business numbers 2024	Share %	Businesses annual change 2023 to 2024		Businesses 5 year change 2019 to 2024	
Manufacturing	0.8	1,995	5%	-55	-2.7%	-160	-7.4%
Construction	0.7	3,680	10%	-165	-4.3%	440	13.6%
Retail	0.9	7,670	21%	90	1.2%	480	6.7%
Financial Services	1.3	585	2%	-40	-6.4%	-105	-15.2%
Real Estate	0.9	1,880	5%	100	5.6%	445	31.0%
Professional & Technical	1.2	4,935	13%	15	0.3%	-495	-9.1%
Admin & Support Services	1.0	3,760	10%	220	6.2%	-1,440	-27.7%
ICT	0.8	1,965	5%	-5	-0.3%	-365	-15.7%
Health & Care	1.2	825	2%	20	2.5%	105	14.6%
Education	1.2	15	0%	5	50.0%	5	50.0%
Public Administration	1.5	2,655	7%	190	7.7%	510	23.8%
Other	N/A	7,280	20%	-120	-1.9%	1,115	18.1%
Aggregated sectors							
Business, Professional & Financial Services +	**1.1**	**11,160**	**30%**	**295**	**2.7%**	**1,595**	**-21.0%**
Public Services ++	**1.2**	**3,495**	**9%**	**215**	**6.6%**	**620**	**21.6%**
Birmingham Total	**-**	**37,245**	**100%**	**200**	**0.5%**	**500**	**1.4%**

Not all percentages sum due to rounding
+ Business, professional & financial services is made up in the table of financial services, real estate, professional & technical and admin & support services
++ Public services is made up in the table of health & care, education and public administration

EPS EVIDENCE AND LOGIC

KEY GROWTH SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES

The city has growth opportunities in key sectors in relation to the industrial strategy:

Industrial Strategy sector	Growth potential	Key market strengths, assets and investment opportunities	Key barriers

Life sciences (medtech health and medical devices, diagnostics and associated digital healthcare)
 	
Advanced manufacturing
	• Significant output growth and large jobs growth across scientific and technical suppliers
	• Additional growth opportunity includes increasing output to £430m and over 5,000 jobs by 2030 by matching the growth trajectory of the leading UK region for similar clusters where Birmingham offers complementary capabilities. In GVA and jobs growth Birmingham could contribute around 85% of the estimated WMCA growth
	• Important spillovers to associated industries (e.g. automotive, medtech)
		• Strong and deep market presence: Birmingham and the region has the UK's largest network of medical technology service and supply companies - 1,200 businesses, healthcare providers, and academic institutions, including global scale such as Thermo Fisher's biggest UK investment at The Binding Site diagnostics firm
		• MedTech has increased by 3.2% p.a. over five years, with a GVA growth rate of 6.9% and Birmingham has a 42% higher concentration of employment and businesses in MedTech than the national average
		• Strong supply-side and research offer with R&D and commercial translational centres:
		  ◦ Birmingham Health Innovation Campus (BHIC) and flexible lab spaces for businesses
		  ◦ Birmingham Knowledge Quarter, part of the West Midlands Investment Zone research and innovation cluster co-locating industry, business, start-ups and academia, to drive advanced manufacturing aligned to life sciences and medtech with Aston University, Birmingham City University, Woodbourne, Bruntwood
		  ◦ Arden Cross (in Solihull), site of HS2 station at Birmingham Interchange
		• Multi-university West Midlands Health-Tech Innovation Accelerator
		• Edgbaston life sciences/med-tech cluster (Queen Elizabeth Hospital/ University of Birmingham) with the UK's largest integrated single-site health & life sciences campus (annual turnover circa £5bn) and University Hospitals Birmingham in top three NHS trusts in the country by turnover
			• NHS procurement can mean firms first seek regulatory approval in the US and Europe
			• A need to hold more clinical trials in the region
			• Improve balance of UK R&D funding to region including from the National Institute of Nursing Research and approach to health diagnostics across Catapults as universities, healthcare sector and NHS face challenges and competition for funding

Professional and business services **Financial services**	• One of the largest financial sectors outside London and with strong growth potential particularly in sub-sectors. New tech including AI does pose challenges but also opportunities for jobs growth and more productivity potential. • The GVA and jobs growth is estimated to be around 70% of the WMCA area's growth	• Expanded city centre with quality commercial space and further expansion planned. City centre provides locations for HSBC, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, Gowling, etc. including national HQ functions • Disruptor companies and networks with pathways to export via regional international programmes • Longer term, HS2 services could enable more (re)locations of office support from London given quality space and connections but lower rent levels and land prices	• Higher level digital skills • Need for integration of digital skills programmes

EPS EVIDENCE AND LOGIC

KEY GROWTH SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES

Continued: growth opportunities in industrial strategy sectors

Industrial Strategy sector	Growth potential	Key market strengths, assets and investment opportunities	Key barriers
Clean energy industries (emerging clean technologies and smart energy systems)	• Commercial opportunity from establishing tradable products and services, with strong output and forecast growth, with commensurate professional, scientific and technical roles alongside decarbonisation and energy security externalities. The mix of jobs is likely to shift slightly to high-skilled and technical roles with fewer operative roles. • A deep scope in smart energy systems with competitive advantage based on R&D asset base and number of large businesses. A broad scope comes from close connections to technologies and clusters such as new sustainable advanced materials (e.g. biochar), additive manufacturing and sustainable construction and brownfield remediation.	• The West Midlands is among the most energy-intensive regional economies with little possibility to generate energy at scale, but there is an opportunity to be a demonstrator to instigate tradable new products and services such as smart meters, smart grids, micro-grids, heat pumps, sensors, sustainable construction and rare mineral recycling, digital twins and energy monitoring for national and international decarbonisation • Engagement convened by Energy Capital with the established business base, start-ups and research institutions, shows it is a sector where public intervention will benefit. • Tyseley Energy Park is an existing industrial area and leading centre for hydrogen and other low carbon generation and storage in transition to a Green Energy Innovation District focused on low and zero carbon energy and recycling, through a collaboration of the city council, business, University of Birmingham and Crown Estate. It builds on strengths of clean energy, recycling and manufacturing and seeks to establish a role in housing retrofit, green growth and business incubation. Tyseley is also home to the development of the National Centre of Decarbonisation of Heat. • The region is a location for national utilities like Cadent, National Grid, EON, Hitachi Energy, Energy Systems Catapult and research institutes, including digital twins.	• Ongoing access to R&D needed, including to Horizon and R&D budgets for relevant technologies over the long-term • Capital funding to enable the business base to fully embrace the opportunity for a green transition. • Size of SME base
Creative industries (and culture) **Digital and technologies**	• Strong growth potential - BBC's commitment to the West Midlands will bring an additional £282m in GVA to the region in the decade to 2031, a 44% increase and estimated 900+ full-time equivalent jobs. • Digital's importance stems from its size, trend growth rate and spillovers to other sectors.	• Significant investments such as the BBC's new regional headquarters, which will host shows like MasterChef and Silent Witness, and memorandum of understanding with major content creators. • £18m Creative Content Hub at The Bond, Digbeth and Steven Knight's Digbeth Loc. Studios • Birmingham's has received World Craft City status for the Jewellery Quarter • Strengths of creative content, production and gaming cluster including film, television, games, animation, high-end TV, branded content, vlogger/influencer content, VFX, immersive technology, and other creative content businesses. • Development of the Sports Quarter, a new 60,000-seater Birmingham City Football Club stadium with training and mixed-use areas, commercial, retail, office, business incubation and new homes • Strong private sector drive via Tech WM for cross-sector applications of digital.	• Transport provision for the Sports Quarter • Higher level digital skills

EPS EVIDENCE AND LOGIC
EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

Opportunities: Birmingham has a significant jobs growth opportunity through the city's major developments. This in turn includes demand for skills including not exhaustively digital, creative, hospitality and construction sectors. A strong voluntary and community sector is a strength and which helps provide support to people to enable pathways into work. The city's university population is an asset at around 80,000 students and 20,000 graduates a year.

Unemployment: Birmingham has the highest unemployment count is the country with circa 5% of England's total unemployment, 54% of the WMCA unemployment and 31% of the unemployment in the Core Cities. The city is a national unemployment epicentre which impacts on citizen outcomes, household incomes and poverty levels and is a significant economic drag on growth. The concentration of unemployment is in the east and west of the city, particularly among residents with ethnic minority backgrounds. The 20 wards of East Birmingham are 18.5% of the WMCA's unemployment and 1.8% of England's.

Youth unemployment: Youth unemployment is high. Although there is good school attainment at Key Stage 4, there is a drop off of young people not entering employment post schooling. Apprenticeship starts and completion rates are also low.

Worklessness and job access: There are high rates of worklessness including from ill-heath and low employment rates. The economic inactivity rate is high and more than the WMCA and UK average. While there is a higher increase of job creation than the WMCA or UK there is a lower rate of residents getting the jobs.

Wage rates: Average wages lag the WMCA and UK, and there is a higher gender pay gap.

Skills: The city has high rates of no skills with lower-than-average literacy and numeracy and a higher-than-average proportion of residents not proficient in English. The city skills profile is not meeting employer demand impacting business productivity and competitiveness. There is a lower level of the population with a degree than the UK average. The Resolution Foundation found the graduate share of employment in the 'Birmingham urban area' (WMCA area minus Coventry plus Tamworth and Cannock Chase) is 9% lower than Greater Manchester and Coventry.

System challenges: The skills and employment system is not working as it needs to. A reformed 'work service' system could align support and services, foster a cradle to career and lifelong learning approach with multi-disciplinary employment support such as for health conditions, transition for young people into employment, apprenticeships reform to increase take up and connecting people to growth opportunities.

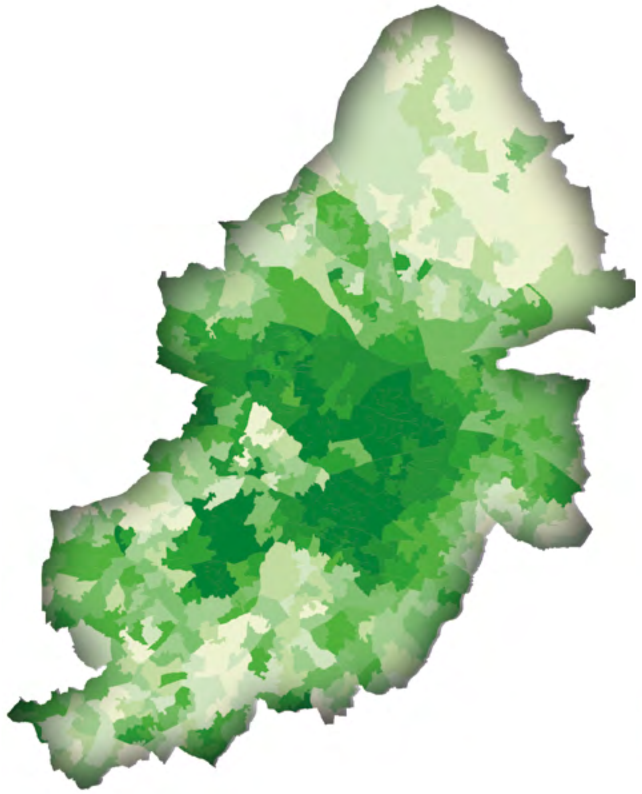


FIG 2. ECONOMIC INACTIVITY RATE

Higher

Lower

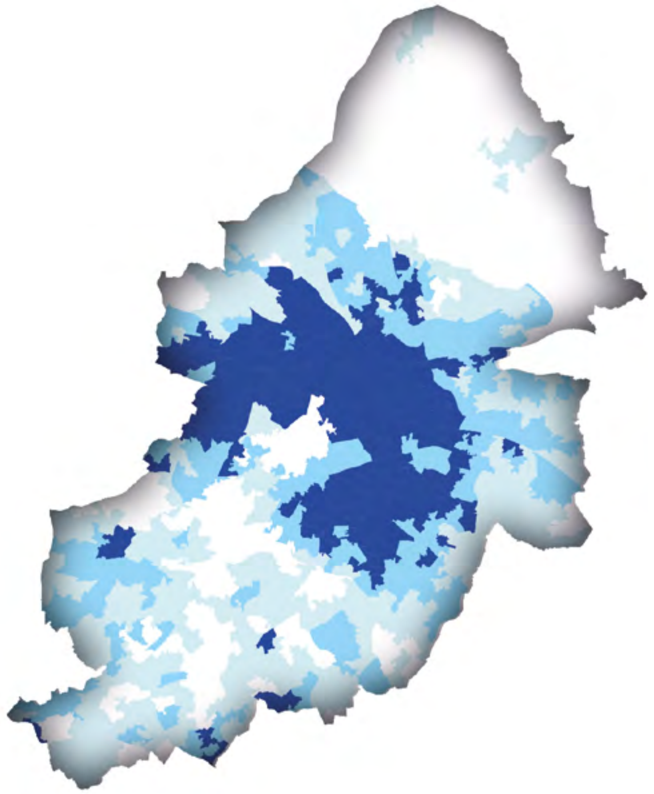


FIG 3. UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMANT COUNT

Higher

Lower

Key challenges

- Unemployment including youth unemployment
- Economic inactivity rate and employment rate
- Level of no or low formal qualifications
- Graduate retention rate and level of population with a degree-level qualification
- Digital skills

Key opportunities

- Jobs in growth clusters and development pipeline
- Five higher education institutions and large undergraduate and graduate population
- High engagement in adult education
- Anchor network, corporate social value partners, voluntary, community, social enterprise & faith sector, and health partnerships for pathways into jobs
- Good school attainment

EPS EVIDENCE AND LOGIC
HOUSING

Opportunities: The scale of key sites and housing pipeline means significant scope for housing delivery. Upgrading homes will have positive impacts on citizen outcomes and liveable neighbourhoods.

Supply: Housing supply is higher than the requirement (see fig 6) but not for affordable homes, which is lower. The 2022 Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment set a need for 5,295 affordable homes annually, but supply is half this. The number of council homes has been reducing annually via right-to-buy with replacements lower than new supply.

Affordability: The house price to earnings ratio nearly doubled over two decades and rents increased by half over a decade. Factors including housing costs and the lack of affordable options contributed to a rise of thousands of households with children in temporary accommodation - nearly a fivefold increase over a decade. This impacts on citizens and increases public purse costs.

Overcrowding: The city has the high overcrowding due to high average family size, limited social housing particularly family sized, a lack of supply, a loss of council social rent homes via right-to-buy, and a loss of family sized homes due to conversion to exempt housing by private landlords. The 9.4% of households with fewer bedrooms than required is the highest of English Core Cites and more than the WMCA at 6.7% and UK at 4.3%. Over 20,000 applicants are on the council housing waiting list, with more wanting to join. Most require two to three bedrooms for their family needs. In the the 12 months to the 31 January 2025 there were 12,458 applications for two and three bed council homes outstripping the 1,443 let.

Quality: The council housing is old with 78% 50+ years and 19% 85+ years. Significant investment is required to meet the Decent Homes Standard and energy efficiency. The authority has the most tower blocks of any English authority, which means higher costs from post-Grenfell remediations. There has been a significant increase in private sector rented housing including houses-of-multiple occupation (HMOs) and exempt supported accommodation for vulnerable people, both of which can have issues of poor quality.

System challenges: The housing challenges mean that there are trade-offs between addressing housing quality, affordability and supply. Systemic issues hold back supply such as viability challenges for developments which reduces delivery of affordable units.

Key challenges

- Affordability
- Affordable (social rent) supply and delivery funding
- Overcrowding and housing quality
- Homelessness and temporary accomodation levels
- Exempt housing and mutlt-occupation levels
- Number of energy inefficient social and private homes

Key opportunities

- Scale of land, key sites, and housing pipeline
- Upgrading homes and delivering liveable neighbourhoods in high deprivation areas
- Reducing carbon emissions

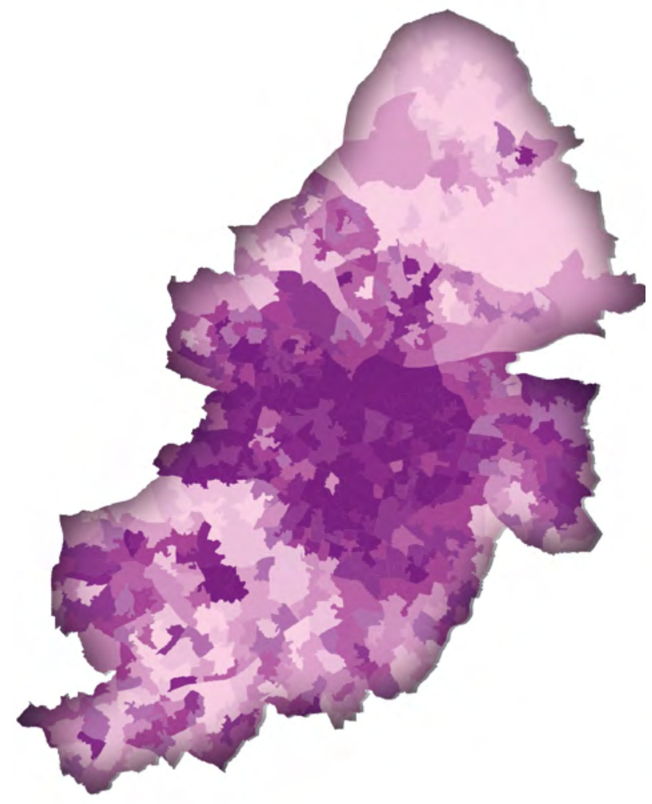


FIG 4. OVERCROWDING

Higher
Lower

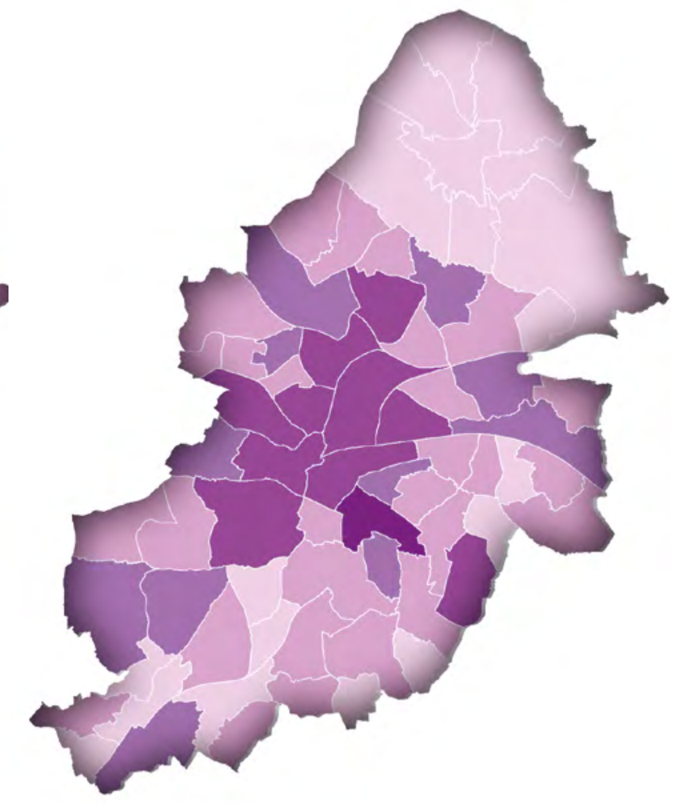


FIG 5. HOUSING REGISTER NEED BY WARD

Higher
Lower

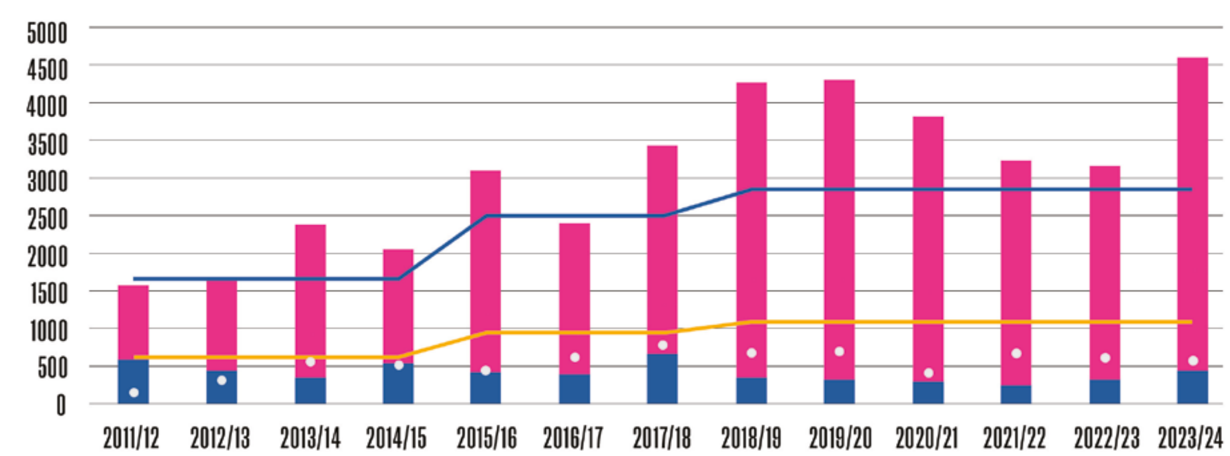


FIG 6. HOUSING COMPLETIONS AGAINST ANNUAL HOUSING REQUIREMENT AND RIGHT TO BUY SALES

Housing Completions (Gross) without affordable housing
Affordable Housing Completions
Affordable Housing Requirement (38% of overall requirement)
Total Annual Requirement
Annual Right to Buy Sales

EPS EVIDENCE AND LOGIC

TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY

Opportunities: Birmingham is at the centre of the national transport network, with good rail and road links and a major international airport. HS2 is under construction which will further improve connections to Birmingham, and the project is a significant economic programme which unlocks growth in the city and region of around £10bn over the next ten years. Birmingham also has more high speed broadband capability than the national average.

Congestion and transport network: Across the city and wider travel to work area, the level of transport provision and high levels of congestion create barriers to accessing employment and learning. Out of 112 urban areas Birmingham ranks sixth in terms of congestion. The National Infrastructure Commission (now part of the National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority) has previously said that the future transport capacity gap in the city due to future demand from city centre growth, will be the highest of the 15 largest English cities, and identifies Birmingham as a priority for investment and growth constrained without it. Public transport and active travel are required to address transport needs rather than more road provision which is already extensive, and additional roads would not be feasible. This underlines the importance of the East Birmingham Metro to increase travel options including to the city centre across a poorly served part of the city and to unlock major growth areas.

Road dominance: The predominance of road vehicles and road infrastructure results in disconnected places, poor public realm, unhealthy living conditions and road harm. As much of the transport favours the private car, it places the third of households with no vehicle at a disadvantage. This inequity is further compounded as communities least likely to have a car often experience more of the negative impacts of car use.

Road harm: Each year on Birmingham's roads, on average 20 people are killed and 400 people suffer serious injuries. The Road Harm Reduction Strategy recognises that no death or serious injury is acceptable and that a reduction in the speed and volume of vehicles will create a much safer environment for all citizens.

Emissions: In 2022 transport contributed 31% of Birmingham's territorial greenhouse gas emissions. Reaching net zero will need a reduction in vehicle distances travelled and most journeys to be undertaken by active modes (walking and cycling) and public transport. It will also help improve air quality.

System challenges: The city lacks an integrated transport network. The most used form of public transport, buses, has seen a decline in services and patronage. There is a need to align funding, develop new funding opportunities and increase transport infrastructure to enable an integrated network. If Birmingham has better provision, it could connect an extra 300,000 people into the city and economic growth areas.

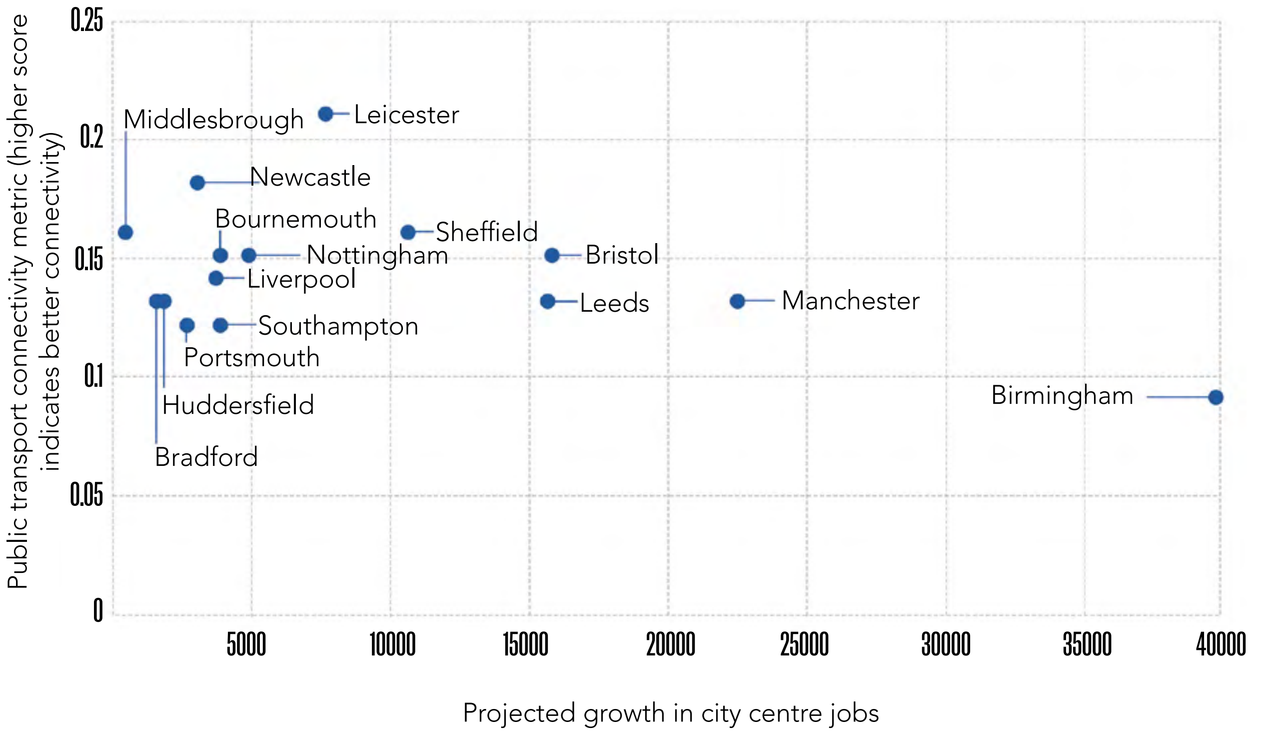


FIG 7. FUTURE PUBLIC TRANSPORT CAPACITY DEMAND ARISING FROM PROJECTED GROWTH IN THE CITY CENTRE IS THE HIGHEST IN BIRMINGHAM COMPARED TO THE 15 LARGEST ENGLISH CITIES

National Infrastructure Commission Second National Infrastructure Assessment 2023. Source: Steer (2023), Urban Transport Capacity, Demand and Cost: Research Methodology; Prospective (2022), Transport Connectivity Methodology Report

Key challenges

- Congestion and connectivity across city and region
- Cost of capital for required improvements
- Carbon emissions and air quality
- Equity in mobility and accessibility
- Traffic harm

Key opportunities

- Reallocation of road space on key corridors
- Connecting central Birmingham and local centres via active travel and public transport
- Reducing traffic speed and volume for liveable places
- Connections to HS2 programme

EPS EVIDENCE AND LOGIC

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RETROFIT

Opportunities: Birmingham Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 recognising the need for coordinated action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience in the built and natural environment. Housing retrofit programmes are reducing emissions from homes and are a basis on which to build and develop a significant retrofit supply chain.

Energy: There is a current reliance on fossil fuel for heating and the city's urban geography and location away from renewable energy production, presents challenges. Energy system transition can help decarbonise heating and cooling for homes and public buildings. Working with government, an advanced zoning programme has identified where heat networks would be most cost-effective to decarbonise heat and could cover 20% of the city's heat demand.

Climate vulnerability: Birmingham Councill and the University of Birmingham have developed a climate vulnerability and risk assessment for the city which includes deficits in tree cover and green space and heat impacts. The most deprived areas have the highest climate vulnerability. The development of nature recovery network areas highlights corridors for enhancements to biodiversity and nature.

Fuel poverty and domestic buildings: Fuel poverty is high at 19.3% of households and housing is the largest source of emissions. Around 60% of homes do not meet energy performance certificate (EPC) level C (with level A being the highest and G lowest).

System challenges: Short-term funding has been a barrier to an investable pipeline and developing training for retrofit jobs. The WMCA integrated settlement is more holistic and longer term funding which gives more investment certainty.

Key challenges

- High climate vulnerability in areas of high deprivation
- Number of energy inefficient social and private homes
- Volume of retrofit measures to meet demand
- Pressures on retrofit supply chain and skills shortages
- Fossil fuel reliance for heating and nature of the urban geography

Key opportunities

- Reducing carbon emissions
- Upgrading homes and delivering liveable neighbourhoods in high deprivation areas with a successful retrofit programme to build on
- Heat network zoning to decarbonise heat demand
- Harnessing the climate vulnerability assessment to improve neighbourhood resilience and address inequalities

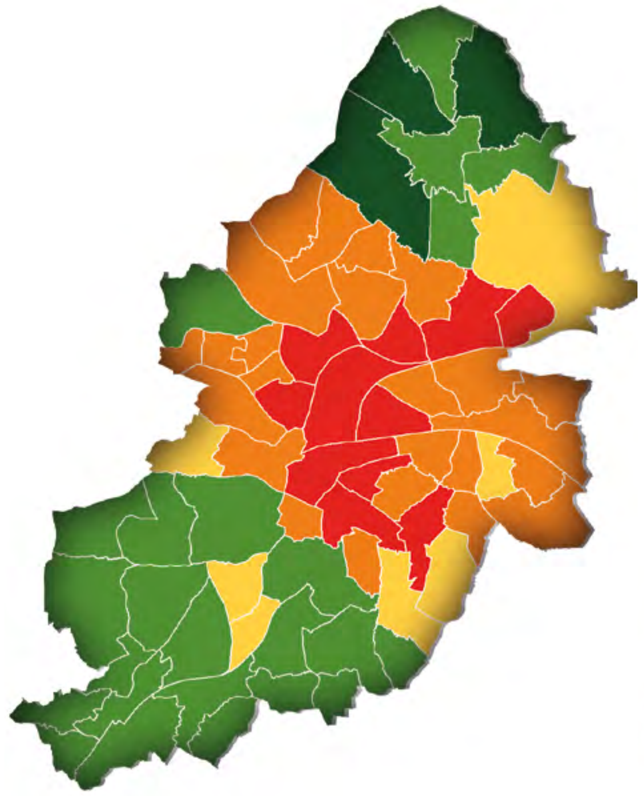


FIG 8. CLIMATE RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Higher
Lower

FIG 9. FUEL POVERTY

Higher
Lower

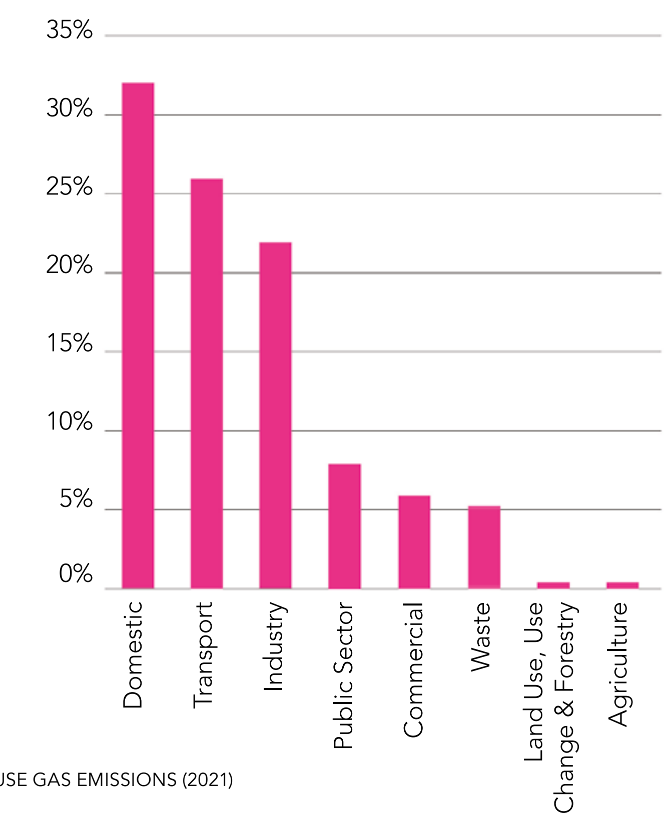


FIG 10. CITY'S SECTOR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (2021)

EPS EVIDENCE AND LOGIC
SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Deprivation and poverty: Birmingham has high levels of social economic need. The city has 43% of its population living in the 10% most deprived wards in England making it ranked the 7th most deprived local authority in England. Nearly half of the city's children are living in poverty, which can be life altering and have long term impacts on an individual's well being, prospects and outcomes. In the most deprived neighbourhoods, three out of four children are affected, leading to shorter life expectancies and increased mortality rates. While there are pockets of deprivation in all parts of Birmingham, deprivation is most heavily clustered in inner city areas.

Life expectancy: Life expectancy at birth in Birmingham is 81.3 years for females and 76.6 years for males, lower than the national average of 83.2 for females and 79.3 years for males and lower the WMCA of 81.9 years for females and 77.6 years for males. Within the city there is also wide variation with a ten-year gap in life expectancy between some of the deprived inner-city areas compared to the more affluent outer city areas.

Health outcomes: Birmingham has worse outcomes across many health indicators than England. Health outcomes have strong links to high levels of poverty.

Food insecurity: Over half (55.3%) of Birmingham's population live in areas at highest risk of food insecurity, the fourth highest in WMCA and highest among English Core Cities.

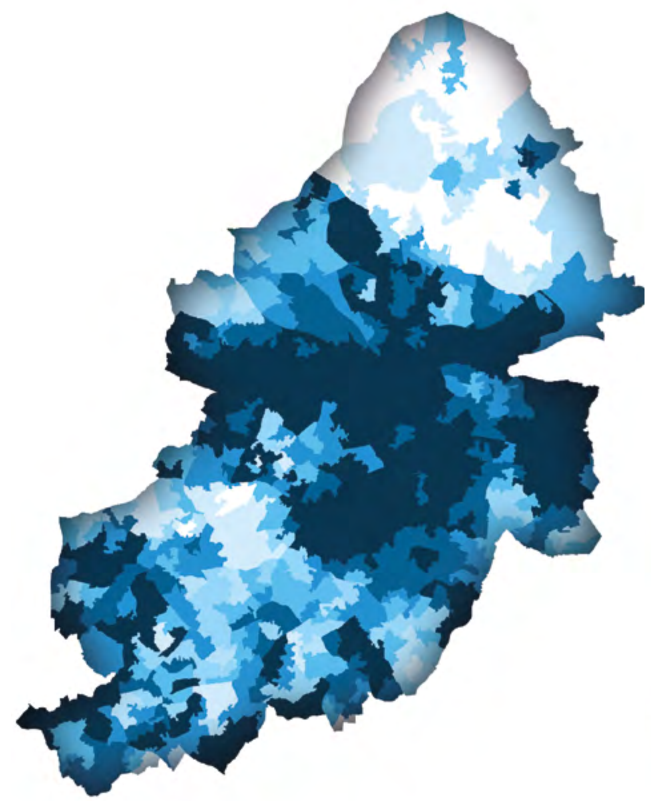


FIG 11. INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION 2019

Most deprived
Least deprived

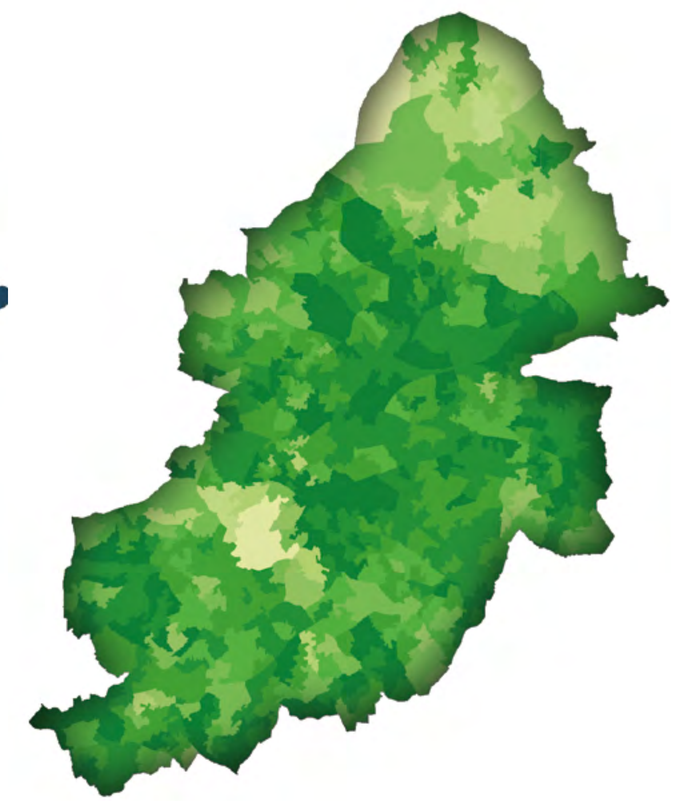


FIG 12. HEALTH DEPRIVATION (IMD 2019 DECILE)

Most health deprived
Least health deprived

Key challenges

- High level of deprivation
- High levels of poverty including child poverty
- Lower life expectancy than England average or WMCA
- Worse health outcomes than England average
- Food insecurity

Key opportunities

- Youthful population
- Diverse population

EPS EVIDENCE AND LOGIC

BUILDING ON SUCCESSES AND ALIGNMENT TO EXISTING STRATEGIES

The priorities and interventions in the EPS align with and draw on existing and emerging strategies, initiatives and investments within Birmingham. There is a record of delivery of successful programmes including developments in the city centre such as the Paradise programme which has transformed public squares and the public realm, and with new buildings and employment spaces constructed. Large housing and regeneration schemes have moved forward such as Port Loop and Longbridge. A sample of plans, strategies and programmes linked to the EPS and the scope of the 2025/26 integrated settlement include:

Strategic

- Birmingham Vision 2035
- Corporate Plan 2025-2028

Local growth and place

- Birmingham Development Plan and Birmingham Local Plan
- Our Future City Central Area Framework
- East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy
- Projects funded by Levelling Up Funds including development of the National Centre for the Decarbonisation of Heat at Tyseley
- UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) to 2024/25 (from 2025/26 part of the integrated settlement)
- Communities - Urban Centres Framework
- Culture and heritage - Creatively Birmingham Strategy
- Digital connectivity - Birmingham Digital Futures Roadmap
- Business productivity - regional and local programmes

Housing

- Housing Strategy 2023-2028
- Housing action areas to support delivery of circa 40,000 new homes over the next 5-20 years
- Housing pipeline and existing housing schemes such as Port Loop and Longbridge
- Temporary Accommodation Strategy

Retrofit

- Route to Zero Action Plan and City of Nature Strategy
- A completed retrofit programme of more than 2,000 council homes via the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund
- A retrofit pipeline developed through a need-based and deliverability prioritisation
- Working with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to identify locations where heat networks present the most cost-effective method of decarbonising heat
- Energy Company Obligations (ECO) programme

Transport

- Birmingham Transport Plan 2031 and delivery plan
- Road Harm Reduction Strategy
- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for the WMCA for transport infrastructure 2022-27 with additional CRSTS announced in 2024 for 2025
- Active Travel Fund - since 2020 for the WMCA over five tranches, funding cycling and walking schemes across Birmingham, and regional initiatives to support and encourage an increase in active travel, particularly cycling, across different groups
- A457 Dudley Road, partly funded through the Levelling Up Fund programme
- Local bus services: Sprint and cross city routes
- Rail: Three new Camp Hill Line stations
- Metro: Birmingham Eastside Metro extension and further extension to the Sports Quarter
- HS2: Ongoing delivery of the HS2 line and Curzon Station and integration with other modes of transport around the line and station
- Electric vehicles - installing 828 EVCP (including 199 rapid charging points)

Skills and employment

- Existing skills and employment programmes such as Pure, Workwell, I-Can, adult education service, UKSPF skills funding (now within the integrated settlement), and early intervention hubs at libraries
- The West Midlands Youth trailblazer
- A review into the skills and employment system in East Birmingham and North Solihull
- WMCA skills and employment strategy
- Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) and Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) Stage 2
- Birmingham skills and employment strategy (under development)

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

SPATIAL FOCUS AREAS

The spatial areas of focus in the EPS have been drawn together and prioritised using the evidence base within this strategy, more detailed work developed in the preparation of it, a consideration of the investment available including through the integrated settlement, the city's pipeline of projects, and the objectives of the EPS including advancing long-term inclusive economic growth in the city. These main areas of spatial focus are central to Birmingham's growth and place offer.

Key areas of growth

The initial growth focus priority is three spatial economic zones - the Enterprise Zone (EZ), EBNS Growth Zone sites and the Birmingham Knowledge Quarter (BKQ), part of the West Midlands Investment Zone. These economic zones form part of a growth arc from the city centre through to East Birmingham. It includes the Our Future City Central Area Framework, which seeks to connect the city centre into the inner city and the East Birmingham North Solihull inclusive growth area. These zones provide a major opportunity for transformational place-making and inclusive economic growth, building on existing initiatives, industrial strategy cluster strengths, transport networks including HS2 investment, infrastructure assets and the investment pipeline. The zones have a high need of transformation due to socio-economic disparities and can help the path to a higher productivity future, by expanding the city centre to create new districts for knowledge-intensive services, tradable services and high value-added employment.

Enabling and existing investments

These areas can capitalise on and amplify the impact of high-profile schemes underway, such as BBC's Tea Factory at Typhoo Wharf and Steven Knight's Digbeth Loc Studios. Attracting knowledge-intensive service firms to these areas requires good transport to connect skilled labour, a business ecosystem that supports the development of high-value clusters and collaboration between businesses, academia and communities. More homes support the growth and key housing priority areas have been highlighted to help address housing needs.

Neighbourhood investments

Connecting people and places to the benefits of growth and opportunities helps deliver the City Vision 2035 and EPS objectives. Targeting investment in local urban centres supports strong communities, liveable neighbourhoods, community wealth building and the 'everyday economy'. Growth and liveable places are enhanced via good digital connections, nature-based solutions and culture and heritage. Proactive labour market support and transport improvements help address deprivation through increasing economic participation. An area-based approach underpins the retrofit of homes with a focus on deprivation, emission reductions, deliverability, existing momentum and community support. Further ahead, energy and heat-efficient networks can reduce emissions and provide sustainable and affordable energy to neighbourhoods.

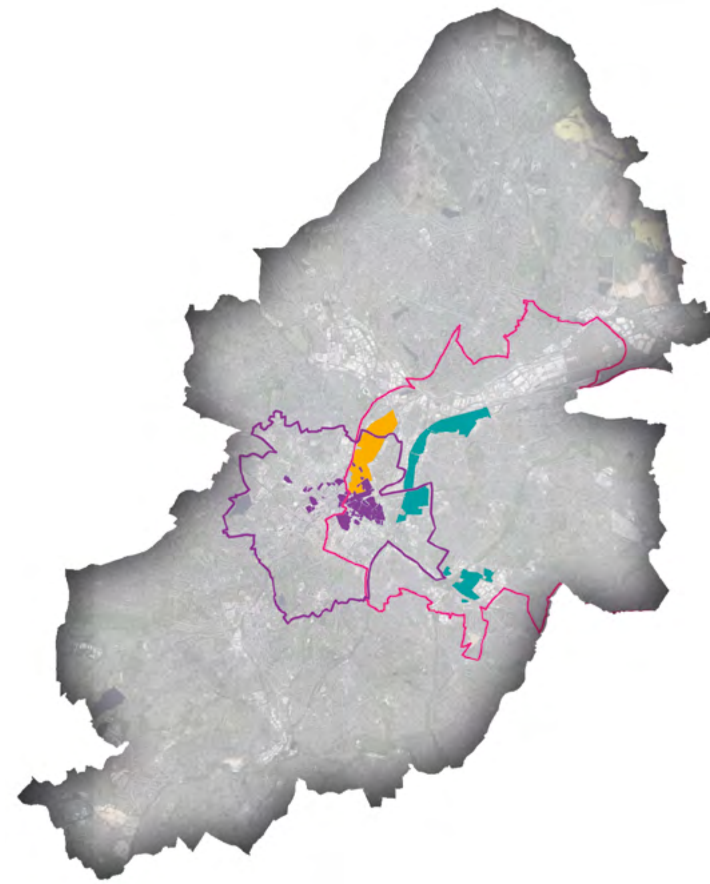


FIG 13. KEY AREAS OF GROWTH

- Enterprise Zone sites
- EBNS Growth Zone sites
- Birmingham Knowledge Quarter
- Our Future City: Central Birmingham Framework 2045
- East Birmingham North Solihul (EBNS) Inclusive Growth Area

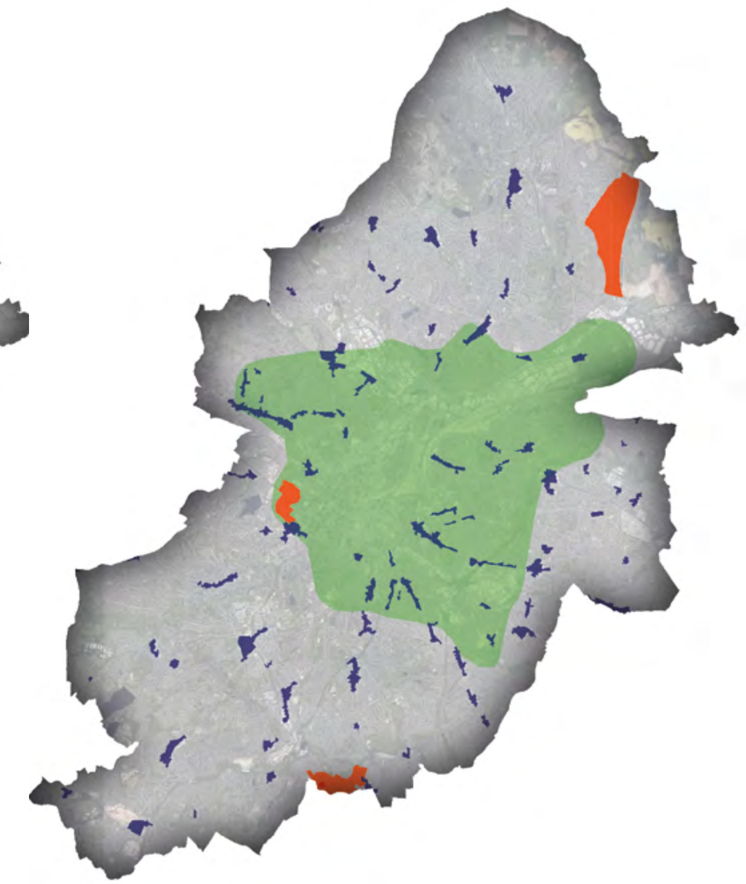


FIG 14. NEIGHBOURHOOD INVESTMENTS

- Major priority housing schemes
- Local Centres
- Retrofit priority area

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

ECONOMIC ZONES AND SECTORS

The three economic zones have recourse to business rate retention to support investment and growth. The zones also link through to the government's Industrial Strategy and enabling growth of the Industrial Strategy key sectors.

East Birmingham North Solihull (EBNS) Inclusive Growth Area

East Birmingham and North Solihull (EBNS) is a functional economic area and priority for Birmingham and Solihull councils. It covers Growth Zones sites, the BKQ (IZ) and most of the Enterprise Zone (EZ).

EBNS Growth Zone sites

The councils worked with the WMCA to secure government support and Growth Zone sites in the devolution deal, with business rate retention for 25 years, worth £460m. The Growth Zones sites are:

In Birmingham:

- Bordesley Park (the Sports Quarter)
- Washwood Heath & Saltley
- Tyseley

In Solihull:

- UK2 (phase 2 and 3)
- Arden Cross (BCC has a land interest).

BCC Growth Zone sites were selected to meet government requirements and:

- Significant potential for business rate uplift and site underutilisation
- Alignment with planning policy designations
- Existing activity
- Transport improvement requirement

Birmingham Knowledge Quarter (BKQ)

The Birmingham Knowledge Quarter, part of the West Midlands Investment Zone, is within the EBNS and has also business rate retention for 25 years. The BKQ Investment Zone (IZ) site met other policy tests including:

- Alignment with the WMCA IZ sector of advanced manufacturing (a priority sector was a requirement)
- Presence of a triple helix' public, private, academic partnership
- Significant private investment and interest
- Underdevelopment

Enterprise Zone (EZ)

The Enterprise Zone in the city centre has business rate retention and plays a key role in city centre transformation. Key sites include Curzon Gateway, Smithfield, Digbeth and Paradise.

Industrial strategy clusters

The sites are a focus for investment, growth, jobs and industrial strategy sectors (see right) and a catalyst for regeneration including housing and local centre renewal. Key enabling interventions, such as the EBNS Metro and Sprint routes, support advancing these sites and their long-term success. Aston University, Birmingham City University and the University of Birmingham are centres of innovation and are linked to the growth schemes and the expansion of the industrial strategy sectors.

FIG 15. ECONOMIC ZONES AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY SECTOR FOCUS

- Enterprise Zone sites
- EBNS Growth Zone sites
- Birmingham Knowledge Quarter
- Our Future City: Central Birmingham Framework 2045
- East Birmingham North Solihul (EBNS) Inclusive Growth Area

Industrial strategy clusters

1 **Advanced manufacturing | Life sciences**
A strong research and supply -side offer, covering health, medical devices, diagnostics and digital healthcare and with R&D and commercial translational centres e.g. BHIC and BKQ with a growing medtech sector propelled by universities

2 **Financial services | professional and business services**
A growing cluster of business, finance and professional services e.g. the EZ and catalysing further diversification of capabilities (FinTech, LegalTech, PropTech, InsurTech)

3 **Creative industries | digital technologies**
Digbeth, an area for creative content growth e.g. Digbeth Loc Studios, BBC HQ and Masterchef and demand for adjacent cluster of business, finance and professional services; and a new Sports Quarter planned at Bordesley Park

4 **Clean energy industries**
Tyseley Energy Park, a centre for hydrogen and low carbon generation and storage, development of smart energy systems and clean tech, and the National Centre for the Decarbonisation of Heat.

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

BIRMINGHAM TO NORTH SOLIHULL GATEWAY - OFC CENTRAL BIRMINGHAM FRAMEWORK AREA AND EBNS INCLUSIVE GROWTH AREA

There is a priority growth area from the city centre through East Birmingham to Solihull - the Birmingham to North Solihull Gateway. This includes the Our Future City Central Birmingham Framework area which seeks to expand the success of the city centre into the surrounding inner city. It also encompasses the East Birmingham North Solihull (EBNS) inclusive growth area.

Scale: The gateway area is the largest growth area in the country. It contains major economic and housing sites and schemes. In Birmingham these include: Birmingham Knowledge Quarter, the Sports Quarter, Digbeth and the Creative Quarter, Smithfield, Park Birmingham, Paradise, Snow Hill, Curzon and HS2, Washwood Heath and Saltley Business Park, Tyseley Green Energy Innovation District and the Ladywood housing scheme. These represent billions of pounds of investment and create thousands of jobs.

The EBNS area alone covers 375,000 people, larger than most UK cities and towns. The HS2 stations at Curzon and Interchange bookend the EBNS area and the scheme is already helping attract investment.

Challenges: The Birmingham to North Solihull Gateway area has major opportunities but also significant challenges, particularly in East Birmingham. The East Birmingham area has a concentration of very high social economic challenges. The 20 East Birmingham wards are 18.5% of the WMCA area's unemployment and 1.8% of England's. Nearly 29% of adults have no qualifications and more than 27% have never worked (double the national average).

Deprivation levels are high with child poverty at almost 50%. Transport connectivity needs improvement.

Aims: A main goal is ensuring all the schemes drive inclusive economic growth within this area and across the city. This includes securing thousands of jobs and ensuring residents have access to them. Through reforming public services the goals are to increase:

- Inclusive growth, innovation, productivity, entrepreneurship and household incomes
- High quality housing across a range of tenures and typologies
- Healthy life expectancy and better health at all life stages
- Safe, affordable and accessible high-quality neighbourhoods
- Biodiversity and improve air quality with sustainable solutions

A key enabling intervention is the East Birmingham Metro and Sprint routes. which support multiple sites and growth including along the Metro corridor.

Governance: Delivery arrangements are being devised including seeking to move to establish A Mayoral Development Corporation and Mayoral Development Zone to hasten delivery and provide a focus that reflects the size and scale of this growth area.

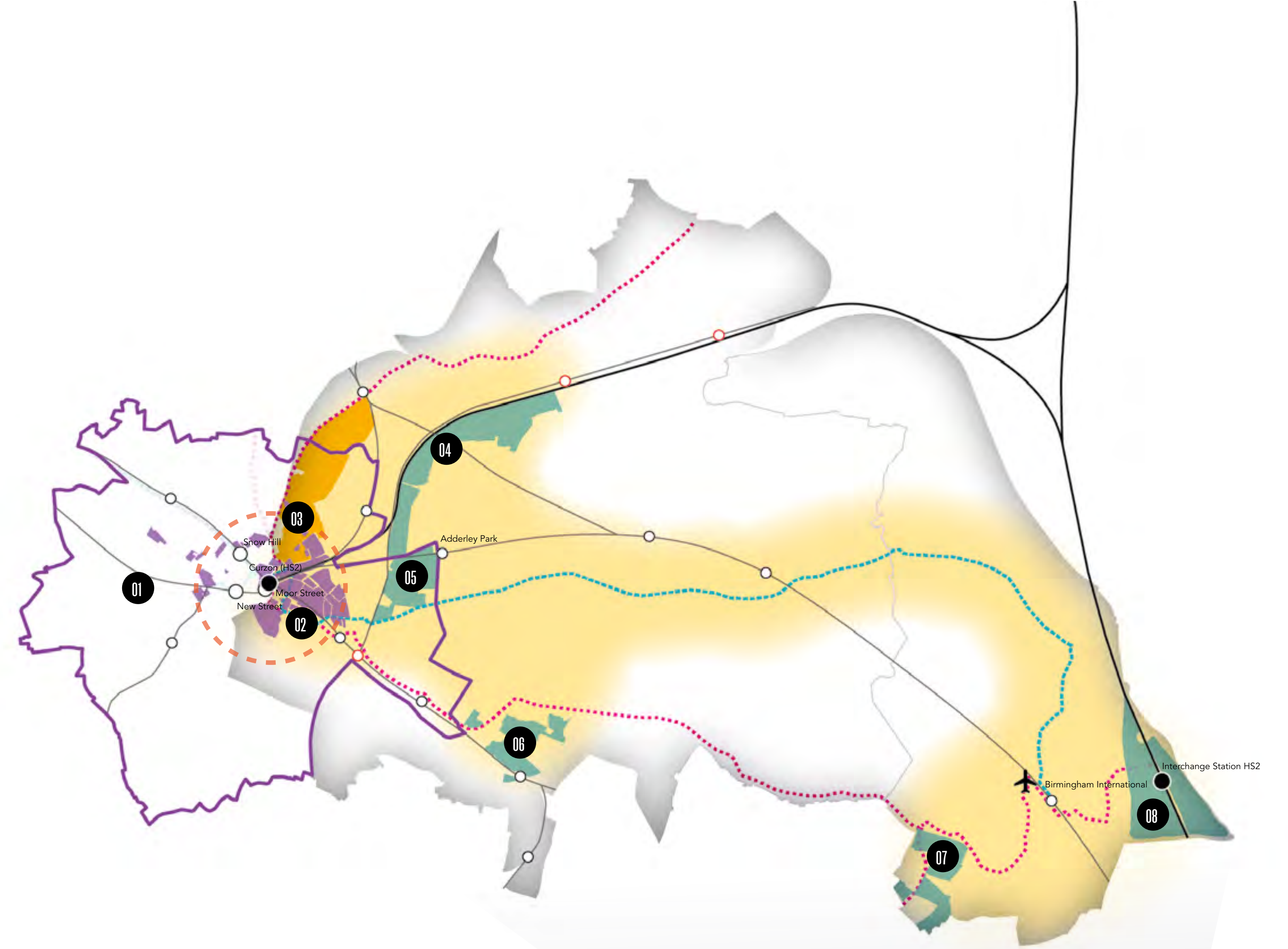


FIG 16. BIRMINGHAM TO NORTH SOLIHULL GATEWAY AREA

- Metro Growth Corridor
- BKQ (Investment Zone)
- EBNS Growth Zone Site
- Enterprise Zones within the EBNS
- Our Future City: Central Bimingham Framework 2045
- Sprint
- Proposed Metro Extension
- HS2 route
- Existing rail stations
- Proposed new rail stations
- HS2 stations
- Birmingham International Airport

Key locations

01 Ladywood
02 Digbeth, Smithfield, Paradise and Park Birmingham
03 Birmingham Knowledge Quarter
04 Washwood Heath & Saltley Business Park
05 Sports Quarter
06 Tyseley
07 UK2
08 Arden Cross

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

SNAPSHOT OF ECONOMIC ZONES

The economic zones bring forward development, support key sectors, increase employment land and help secure new jobs:

			Growth focus and outcomes	Area	Development area	Jobs	Homes	Inputs	Sectors	Timetable	Partners
East Birmingham North Solihull inclusive growth area	BKQ		Research and innovation cluster and ecosystem for medtech and life sciences	210 ha including 133 ha business rate retention and 5.5 ha tax site	582,000 sqm	Over 20,000	4,000	Remediation, connectivity, infrastructure	Health and med tech, digital, start-ups and scale ups	BKQ core underway and housing programme a longer-term proposition	WMCA, Bruntwood SciTech, Aston, Birmingham City University, Woodbourne Group
East Birmingham North Solihull inclusive growth area	East Birmingham Growth Zones	Bordesley Park	Sports Quarter - new stadium, new arena, training and mixed-use areas, industrial, commercial, retail, office, business incubation and residential	49 ha	400,452 sqm	16,400 jobs in construction and 14,000 once operational		Remediation, junction improvements, land acquisition, transport	Sports and leisure, hospitality, mixed use	Site remediation underway, full delivery to begin	Knighthead Capital Management
East Birmingham North Solihull inclusive growth area	East Birmingham Growth Zones	Washwood Heath	HS2 Rolling Stock Maintenance Depot and Network Integrated Control Centre, and commercial space opportunity	75.6 ha	242,000 sqm	4,550		Remediation, junction improvements, early release of HS2 land	General industrial, mixed-use interface to residential areas	AVIVA development on site to provide 175,000sqft (B8 use, storage and distribution). Depot and control centre from 2026, first employment phase 2032	HS2 in relation to HS2 land
East Birmingham North Solihull inclusive growth area	East Birmingham Growth Zones	Tyseley	Innovation cluster for clean energy, recycling and housing retrofit with business incubation and National Centre for Decarbonisation of Heat	59 ha	221,500 sqm	4,365		Remediation, land acquisition, junction improvements, business support, skills	Advanced manufacturing, low and zero-carbon energy.	Different programmes have different timescales and with the National Centre of Decarbonisation of Heat progressing in 25/26	Tyseley Alliance – University of Birmingham, Crown Estate, Tyseley Energy Park Ltd
Enterprise Zone (including Smithfield, Paradise, Curzon, Digbeth, Snow Hill and Park Birmingham)			Large rise in employment space and improved and expanded city centre with greater footfall for local businesses and greater connectivity between areas	113 ha	Varied depending on sites	71,000	11,500 on key sites	Varied depending on sites but includes public realm, site connections and active travel	Creative, culture, business, professional and financial services	Began in 2011 with some initial projects complete with plans projected to run until 2046	Multiple

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

BIRMINGHAM KNOWLEDGE QUARTER

Sites: BKQ is part of the West Midlands Investment Zone. The Investment Zone (IZ) status covers a 133ha business rate retention area and five small tax incentive sites. The wider 210-hectare growth area takes in the BKQ Core (Aston University, Birmingham City University campuses, Aston Science Park and Millenium Point) and a high deprivation and low-performing employment area to the north known as Heartlands.

Aims: BKQ aims to create a research and innovation cluster and ecosystem of international significance co-locating industry, business, start-ups and academia, to drive advanced manufacturing aligned to life sciences and medtech building on strengths in diagnostics, digital and data-driven healthcare. Aston University and Birmingham City University have globally recognised strengths in genomics, bioinformatics, photonics, artificial intelligence, and virtual and augmented reality in healthcare. Industry 4.0 is driving a transformation of the health sector and is central to BKQ's offer. The growth of BKQ Core, and the neighbouring Curzon area will create growth and momentum to unlock and enable the development of the Heartlands area including potentially a 4,000 home 'eco-town'. The aim is to attract investors, global firms and start-ups, drive local employment opportunities, retain graduates, and contribute to improved health outcomes for the region.

Interventions: Connectivity is to be enhanced to create a new district between the city centre and east Birmingham including crossings over James Watt Queensway, a detailed masterplan plus supporting strategies, enhanced digital infrastructure and a low carbon energy network.

Investment: Alongside the business rate retention, £9m flexible IZ funding supports connectivity between the city centre and BKQ and active travel within the BKQ. Tax incentives help the attraction of new investors and occupiers into five sites within the BKQ core area. Partner universities and development partners also support the programme.

Outcomes: Commercial and innovation space, potentially 4,000 homes (35% affordable), 1,500+ hotel rooms and student accommodation and more than 20,000 high value jobs in key sectors.

Growth and place offer - Birmingham Knowledge Quarter

Area	210ha (including 133ha BRR, 5.5ha tax site)
Development area	582,000 sqm
Jobs	20,000
Inputs	Remediation, connectivity, infrastructure
Sectors	Health and med tech, digital, start-ups and scale ups
Timetable	BKQ core is underway. Heartlands is longer-term
Partners	WMCA, Bruntwood SciTech, Aston, Birmingham City University, Woodbourne Group

FIG 17. BIRMINGHAM KNOWLEDGE QUARTER

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

ENTERPRISE ZONE AND THE CREATIVE QUARTER

Sites: The Enterprise Zone (EZ) was established in 2011 and later expanded to cover Curzon. The EZ covers 39 sites with 113 hectares of new and existing development space. The EZ includes seven city centre geographical clusters with significant development potential and growth: Snow Hill, Westside, Eastside, Southern Gateway, Digbeth, Birmingham Innovation Campus and the Jewellery Quarter, which has received World Craft City status. The EZ programme is ongoing to 2046

Aim: The EZ has been a key mechanism to accelerate development potential and maximise growth in the city centre, unlocking sites and attracting private sector investment. The EZ uses business rates income growth from the sites to invest in projects and initiatives to drive economic growth and improve quality of life. It focusses on key sectors including business, finance and professional services, and digital and creative industries. As well as increasing high skilled jobs, employment will be created in the supply chain. Greater footfall for local businesses will come through the expansion and perception of the city centre and greater connectivity between areas. Key developments in the EZ include:

- **Digbeth:** Is the cultural centre of Birmingham and a new prospectus outlines the opportunity of the cultural quarter. The ten sites have the potential for more than 6,000 homes and 300,000 sqm of commercial floorspace.
- **Smithfield:** A 17ha site, £1.9bn development with 3,400 new homes, commercial space, new retail markets, space for start-ups and small businesses, nearly 19,000 jobs (in operation and in construction), new cultural and leisure attractions, green infrastructure and public spaces. Phase 1 is due to start in 2026 and take a decade.
- **Curzon**: A £724m investment plan seeks to create new neighbourhoods across 150 ha and 36,000 jobs. It is supported by a masterplan and seeks to maximise the benefits from the HS2 station being built.
- **Paradise:** The £1.2bn scheme has seen a new piazza with the transformation and connection of Victoria, Chamberlain Centenary Squares, reallocation of space from roads and new restaurants, retail and commercial buildings. Phase 3 is due to complete in 2030.
- **Park Birmingham:** A 3-hectare mixed-use development delivering 2,100 homes, workspace, hotel, public realm, new public spaces including two public squares, and boulevard to the forthcoming HS2 Curzon station.

Investment: The EZ Investment Plan applies the business rate retention investment to a defined programme of projects for the period 2019-2028 which is combined with investment from partners, such as Smithfield programme.

Outcomes: 71,000 jobs created by 2045/46 with a £21bn increase in GVA across the former Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) area once all developments are fully complete and operational.

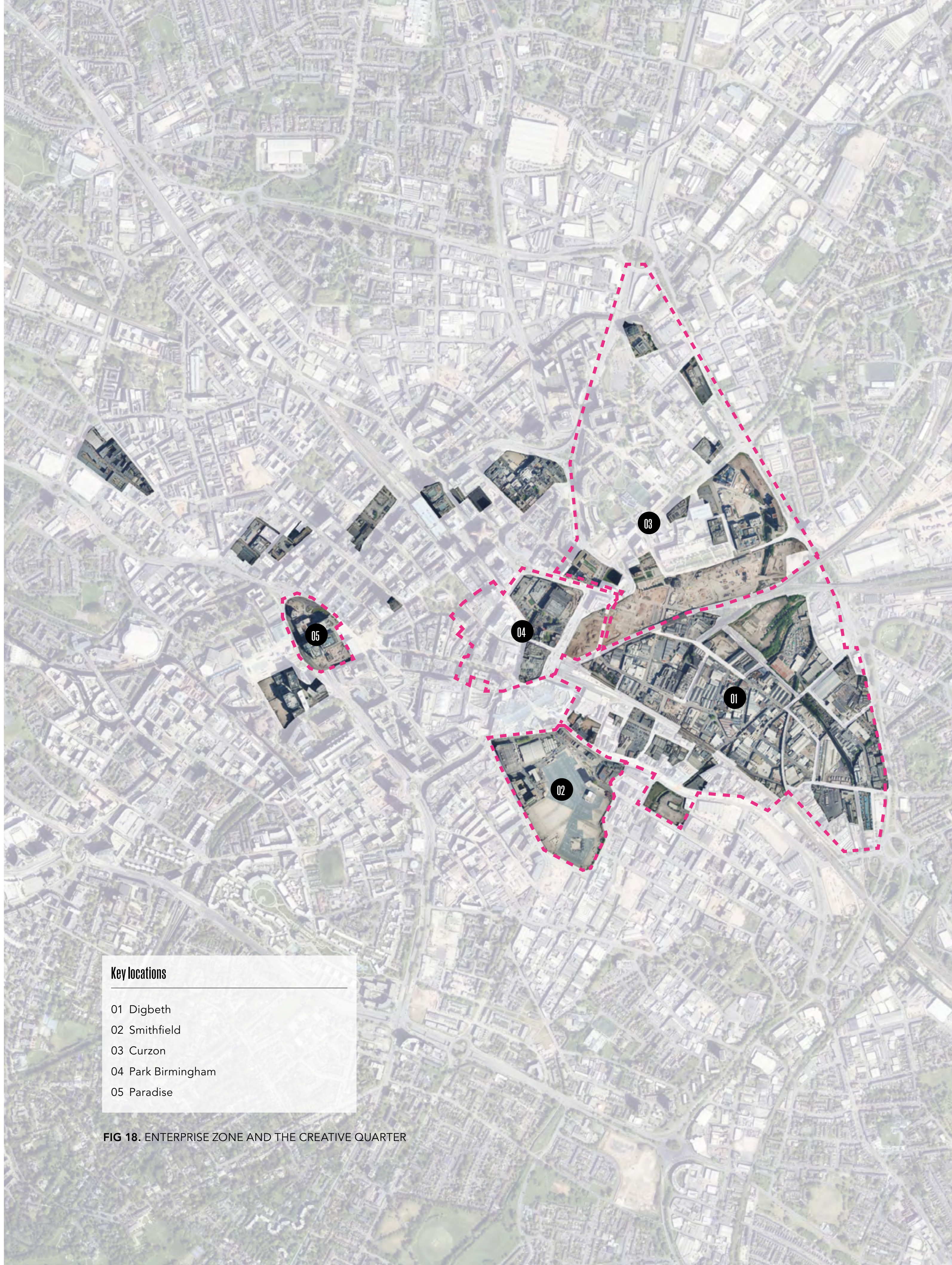


FIG 18. ENTERPRISE ZONE AND THE CREATIVE QUARTER

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

BORDESLEY PARK AND SPORTS QUARTER

Site: Bordesley Park is the site of the proposed new Sports Quarter and new stadium. It is a 49-hectare site centred on the former Birmingham Wheels site and takes in most of the Bordesley Park Area Action Plan. It is connected in the north to the Washwood Heath and Saltley business rate retention site and takes in the edge of Bordesley Green local centre in the south. Adderley Park Station is within the site, as is the route of the proposed EBNS Metro.

Aims: Although existing planning policy identifies the site for commercial and industrial development, following disposal to investors Knighthead Capital Management, the development planned is a 'sports quarter' including a new 60,000-seater stadium for Birmingham City Football Club, 15-20,000 seat arena and training and mixed-use areas. This encompasses an opportunity for industrial and commercial development including office and retail and business incubation including links to sports and leisure, and an element of residential.

Interventions and barriers: There is inadequate infrastructure and restricted access to parts of the site including a need for transport provision such as railway services and rapid transit alongside remediation for ground conditions.

Investment: Knighthead is set to invest nearly £3bn. The site has benefited from a CPO and Knighthead is conducting further land assembly. Business rate retention can underpin the programme and maximise impacts.

Outcomes: 16,400 jobs in construction and 14,000 once operational and a 60,000-seat stadium with a significant in increase in GVA**.**

Growth and place offer - Bordesley Park and the Sports Quarter

Area	49 Ha
Development area	400,452 sqm
Jobs	16,400 jobs in construction and 14,000 once operational
Sectors	Sports and leisure, hospitality, mixed use
Timetable	Site remediation underway full delivery over the next years
Partners	Knighthead

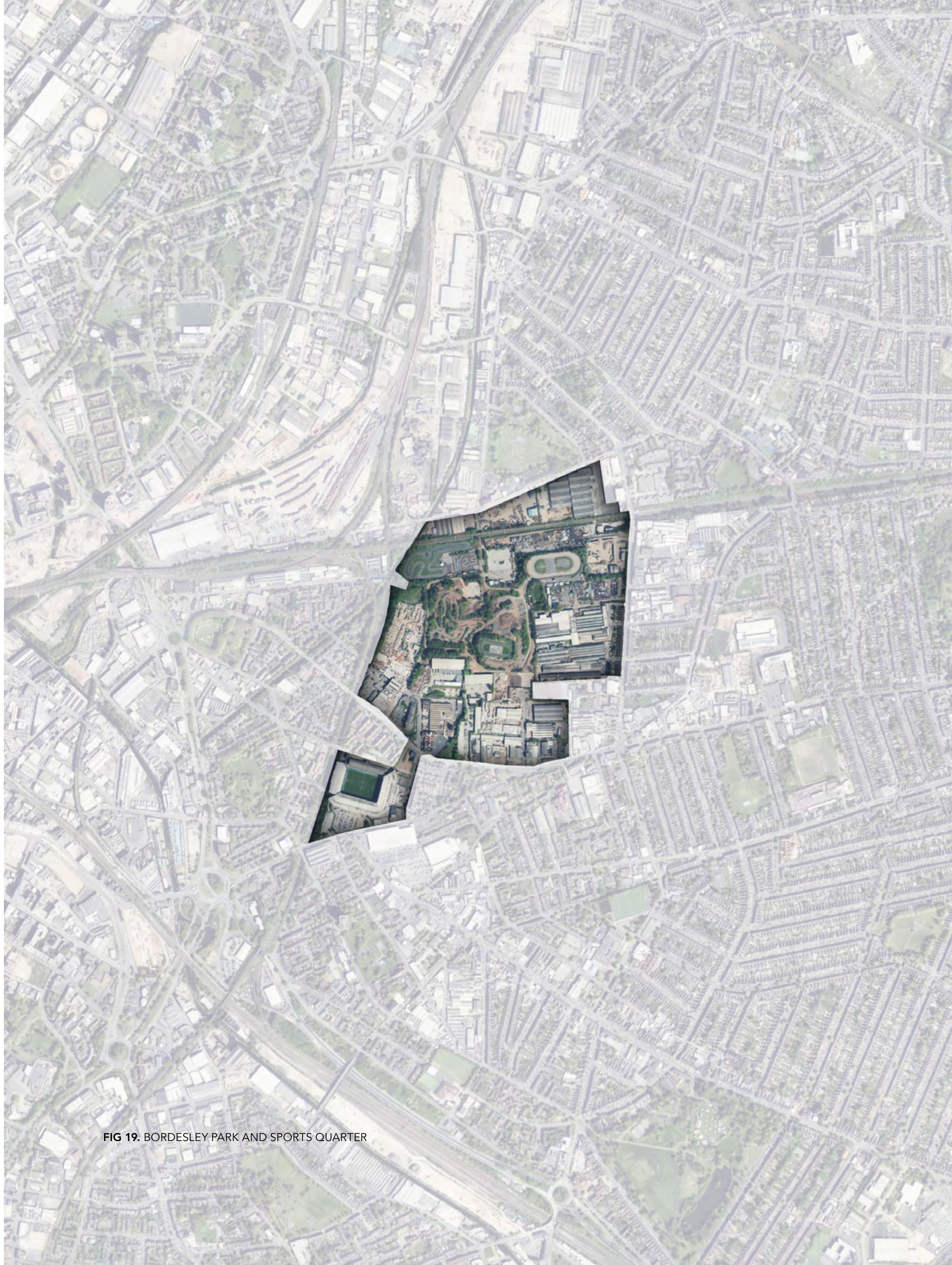


FIG 19. BORDESLEY PARK AND SPORTS QUARTER

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

TYSELEY AND THE GREEN ENERGY INNOVATION DISTRICT

Sites: Tyseley is an existing industrial area adjacent to River Cole and BCC's energy recovery facility (ERF). It includes Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District which is the location of the Birmingham Energy Innovation Centre and hydrogen refuelling pilot site.

Aim: The Tyseley Alliance of Birmingham City Council, University of Birmingham, Crown Estate, and Tyseley Energy Park Ltd are driving the Tyseley vision. The plan is to develop a 'Green Energy Innovation District' - an innovation cluster and research and skills campus for clean energy, materials recycling, industrial symbiosis, advanced manufacturing, and housing retrofit. It includes the construction of National Centre for Decarbonisation of Heat (NCDH) to accelerate the transition to net-zero heating with a living laboratory for testing new low carbon heating technologies and business models in a real-world setting, providing workforce training, and supporting SME innovators.

Interventions and barriers: Master-planning is required to establish development approach including development of large vacant sites (e.g. Hay Hall) and redevelopment of low-value commercial sites for uses associated with low and zero carbon tech. Placemaking and enabling infrastructure (particularly heat and energy) will enhance Tyseley as an innovation cluster. Land assembly may be required to address fragmented land ownership.

Investment: £20m from the former Levelling up Fund is enabling the construction of the NCDH. Investment opportunities also include business incubation and scale-up, real estate, and energy and waste solutions.

Outcomes: 4,365 jobs, 221,500sqm commercial space and creation of significant assets for decarbonisation, retrofit, and associated training and innovation.

Growth and place offer - Tyseley and the Green Energy Innovation District

Area	59 Ha
Development area	221,500 sqm
Jobs	4,365
Inputs	Remediation, junction improvements, land acquisition, business support, skills
Sectors	Advanced manufacturing, low and zero-carbon energy
Timetable	In 25/26 progression of the National Centre for the Decarbonisation of Heat
Partners	Tyseley Alliance, University of Birmingham, Crown Estate, Tyseley Energy Park Ltd

FIG 20. TYSELEY AND GREEN INNOVATION DISTRICT

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

WASHWOOD HEATH & SALTLEY

Sites: The site takes in the HS2 Rolling Stock Maintenance Depot (RSMD) and the Network Integrated Control Centre (NIC) and adjacent land along the HS2 corridor. Employment land is largely controlled by HS2 and is currently being used as a compound and access for HS2 construction, but early release will enable development and use of the commercial space. A BCC memorandum of understanding with HS2 includes an undertaking that the land will be made available as early as possible and the council will be working with HS2 to ensure this happens.

Aim: The aim is to collaborate with HS2 to bring forward comprehensive redevelopment of the employment land (once HS2 exits) to provide commercial space of varying scales creating circa 4,000 jobs in addition to the 550 created for the HS2 facilities.

Interventions and barriers: A masterplan for land adjacent to the RSMD and NIC site is in progress. A separate consent is in place for the element of site controlled by Aviva (4Ha). Early release of land by HS2 is needed and if this did not occur until the 2030s it would be a barrier to the growth opportunities

Investment: Early business rate growth will be delivered by the new HS2 RSMD and NIC, enabled by HS2 investment in land enablement and remediation. Business rate retention can help underpin the programme and maximise outcomes.

Outcomes: 4,550 jobs, 242,000 sqm commercial space, and an opportunity to speed delivery of the proposed Castle Bromwich and Fort stations, placemaking and job opportunities can help communities with some of the highest levels of deprivation and a potential to align development with growth sectors

Growth and place offer -Washwood Heath & Saltley

Area	75.6 Ha
Development area	242,000 sqm
Jobs	3,935 employment land plus 550 HS2
Inputs	Remediation, junction improvements, early release of land
Sectors	General industrial, mixed-use interface to residential areas
Timetable	AVIVA development on site to provide 175,000sqft (B8 use, storage and distribution). Civil works on site and well advanced with depot and control centre from 2026
Partners	HS2 in relation to HS2 land

FIG 21. WASHWOOD HEATH AND SALTLEY

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER
HOUSING

The city has three major housing schemes, with two being estate regenerations and one a National Housing Accelerator area. While phased over the long-term, the schemes are being actively progressed to deliver large numbers of homes to meet the housing demand in the Birmingham. The schemes are Ladywood, Druids Heath and Langley.

Ladywood

The £2.5bn programme taking over 20 years could deliver an estimated target of 12,000 homes, with a minimum 7,500. The actual number of homes will form part of the engagement with the community by the development partner, St Joseph, part of the Berkeley Group, and the council and through working up the detailed delivery programme. New homes will replace poor performing housing with a mix-tenure scheme of energy efficient housing to help tackle fuel poverty, housing deprivation, wealth inequalities and high maintenance costs. A minimum 20% will be affordable and 70% of the homes will be re-provided or refurbished. Active and sustainable travel will improve transport access to the city centre and education and employment opportunities. Local services, social infrastructure, and shops will improve outcomes of residents and liveability. Construction of the homes will create substantial employment with around 41,000 full-time jobs 1,000 apprenticeships and the establishment of a skills centre.

Druids Heath

Targeted regeneration in Druids Heath will replace 1,800 energy inefficient homes with 3,500 new energy efficient homes, of which 51% are planned to be affordable. It will kickstart inclusive economic growth in the area and provide transport connections to employment opportunities and public services. New affordable and social rent homes will enhance resident health and wellbeing, and wider regeneration will help to increase opportunity, tackle antisocial behaviour and crime, and reduce the the need to access statutory services.

Langley

The Langley Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) is set to deliver 5,500 homes. Integrated networks of green infrastructure, walking and cycling routes, public transport, and utilities will underpin the new communities within the development to create a cohesive, sustainable and healthy environment. The programme will deliver significant new investment into the area and improve opportunities for local people through access to more employment.

Housing pipeline

An extensive housing pipeline is also in place including developer led schemes, larger sites and BCC small site disposals enabling delivery of homes. Larger schemes include Smithfield with 3,400 homes, Digbeth with more than 6,000 homes across 10 sites, Park Birmingham with 2,100 homes, more than 2,200 homes at Perry Barr across phases 1, 2 and 2a and over 500 homes at Icknield Port Loop.

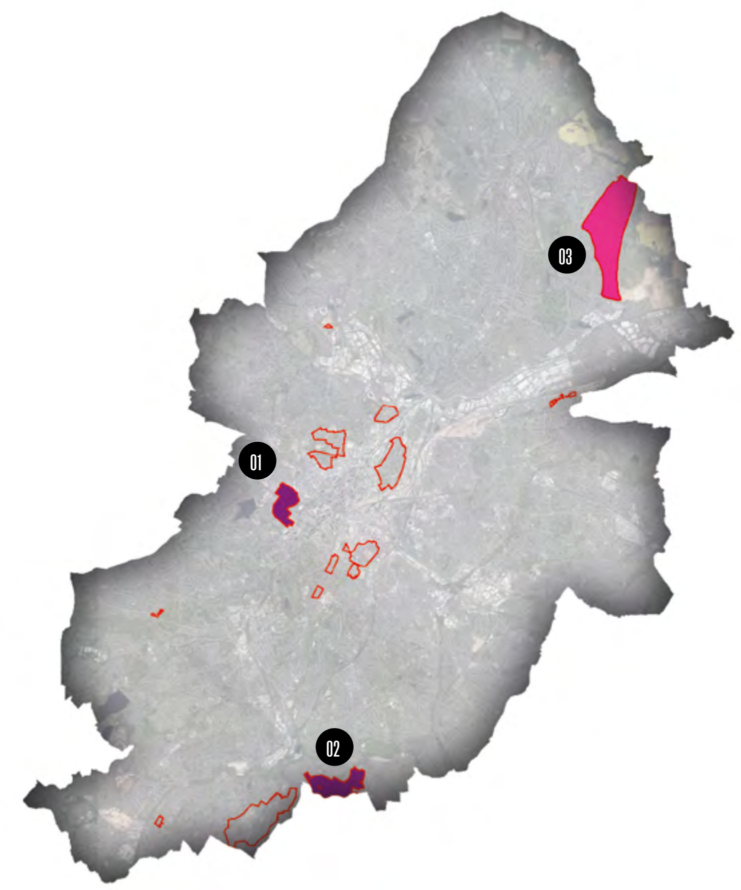


FIG 22. HOUSING PRIORITY AREAS

National Housing Accelerator Site
Priority Housing Action Area
Birmingham Local Plan - Housing Action Areas

Key locations

01 Ladywood
02 Druid's Heath
03 Langley

Housing Action Areas

There is a positive approach to affordable housing in the Birmingham Local Plan and Policy HN9 of the Preferred Options lists Housing Action Areas where housing growth is prioritised which could enable circa 40,000 new homes over the next 5 to 20 years. These areas are:

- Druids Heath
- Ladywood
- Bromford
- Kings Norton Three Estates
- Newtown South
- Highgate
- St. George's Bloomsbury
- Bloomsbury Estate and Duddeston
- Pershore Road
- Balsall Heath/ Sherbourne Road Estate
- Vicarage Road, Aston
- Perry Villas Estate
- Welsh House Farm
- Turves Green

Integrated settlement funding

Housing funding such as various brownfield housing funds held by the WMCA form part of the investment that can help advance the housing programme.

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

URBAN CENTRES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

Birmingham has 73 local centres (in planning terms) encompassing more than 7,100 business ratepayers and 11 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) covering more than 4,400 business ratepayers and generating circa £4m investment p.a. Local centres are a location for employment, small businesses and start-ups and underpin the 'everyday economy'.

The goal is to target investment across local centres, neighbourhoods, high streets and community spaces to support thriving and liveable places, attract and retain residents in the city, provide jobs, enhance growth and economic, social and cultural value, enable local wealth creation and expand supply chain opportunities to local businesses and social enterprises that invest in the local economy.

Local centre development programme

A key part of investment in neighbourhoods is through a local centre development programme to create and support sustainable partnerships such as BIDs, Community Investment Districts and Cultural Action Areas - and a Place Infrastructure Fund, to:

- Help provide focus to economic, environmental, social and cultural priorities
- Improve local facilities and public realm and run local services
- Increase sustainable economic growth, local wealth creation, jobs, and footfall and pride in local areas
- Promote liveable neighbourhoods with a mix of facilities, services and infrastructure
- Tackle disadvantage and wealth inequalities, through social, cultural and economic opportunities.

The local centre development programme also links to other community and neighbourhood support:

- **Vibrant & active city programme** to grow the visitor economy (major events, cultural festivals and participation) which is a major employer and driver of economic, cultural and social wealth
- **Talent, skills & industry development programme** to drive awareness and access to jobs in hospitality, visitor economy, music, film and TV production, and skills to get the opportunities
- **Investment in sports and participation** to match a Sport England Local Delivery Pilot capital fund for sport infrastructure, driving healthy and inclusive lifestyles
- **Ambition 2035** to 'think big' and fund major cultural and business assets to act as a further attraction
- **Business support and skills programmes** and wider housing regeneration

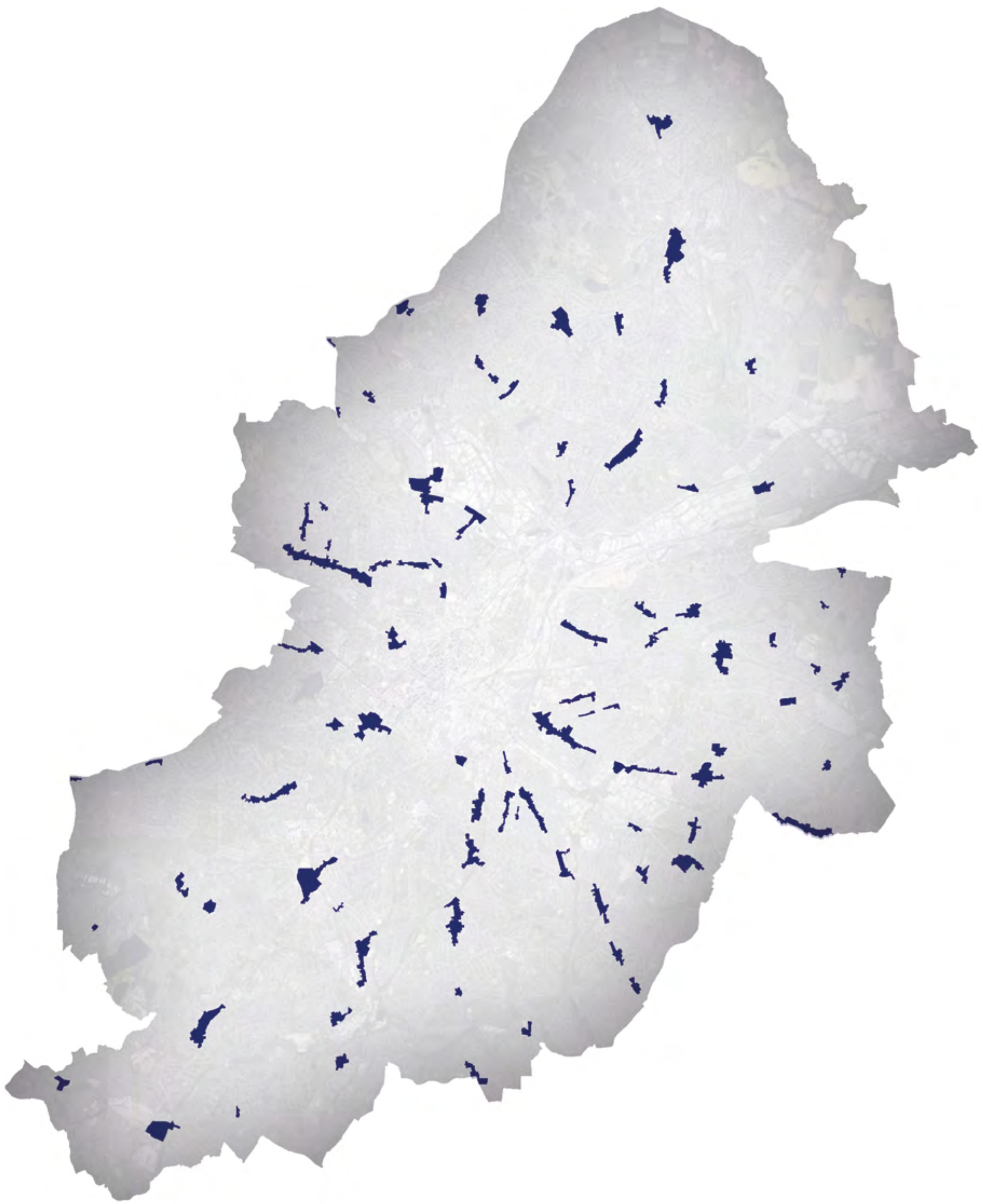


FIG 23. LOCAL CENTRES INCLUDING HIGH STREETS

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER
RETROFIT ENERGY AND HEAT

Retrofit

Birmingham Council is taking an area-based approach to deliver retrofit of homes and public buildings. For homes, the focus is on areas of deprivation, emission reductions, deliverability, existing momentum and community support. Existing activity has included:

- 2,076 council homes retrofitted, via £24.8m Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and £129m of council housing revenue account (HRA) funding.
- Energy Companies Obligation (ECO4) and Great British Insulation Scheme.
- Sustainable Warmth Competition: 1,500 energy efficiency measures for 650 homes.
- Collaboration of 26 organisations in Balsall Heath, winning the Accelerate to Net Zero 'Built Environment - Smarter Transformation' award.

Further retrofit will require blended private and public investment, including the integrated settlement. The three-year integrated settlement funding will enable the retrofit of more council homes and private homes and some public buildings.

Energy and heat

There is a need to deliver energy and heat-efficient networks to reduce emissions and provide sustainable and affordable energy to neighbourhoods. Government funding is developing a business case for the Birmingham District Energy Company Heat Network and heat network zones, and the council has been working with government via the Advanced Zoning Programme to identify locations where heat networks present the most cost-effective method of decarbonising heat. The Energy Act 2023 enables the designation of the zones and within these certain buildings will be required to connect. Heat networks help support growth and a just transition through affordable low carbon heat to homes and businesses, sustainable employment, supply chain growth, and attracting investment into low carbon energy infrastructure. Around 20% of Birmingham's heat demand could be supplied via heat networks.

Business and supply chain support

BCC is supporting net zero procurement to tackle its supply chain emissions and circular economy activity, and 'Fast Followers' helps business decarbonisation in East Birmingham.

FIG 24. RETROFIT PRIORITY AREA

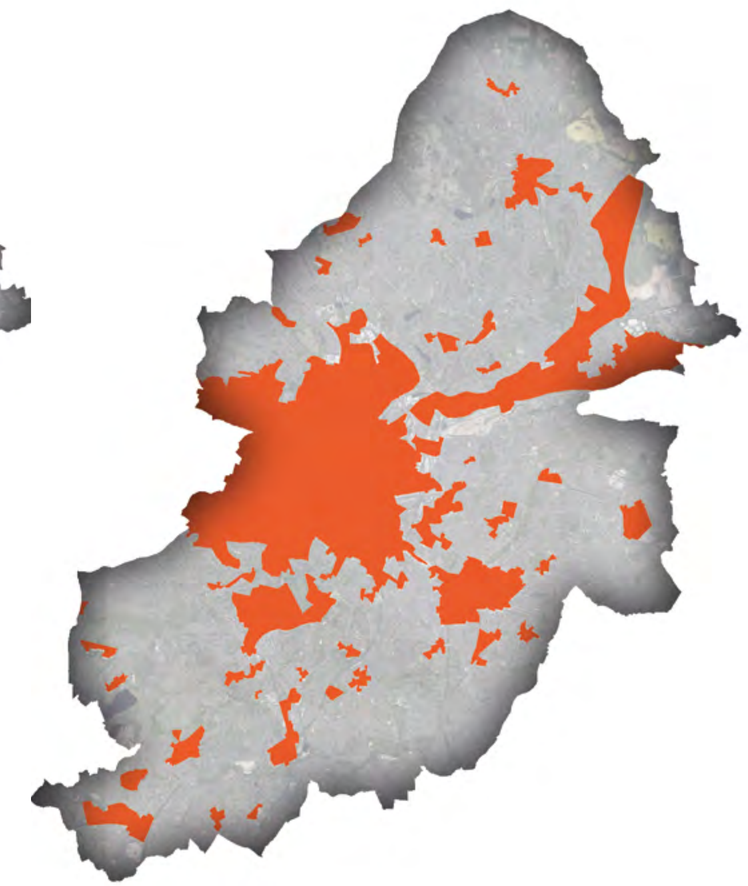


FIG 25. HEAT NETWORKS

Pipeline timings

Over 0-5 years progress involves:

- Increased pace and scale of housing energy efficiency investment targeting 3,000 homes p.a.
- A heat network zoning strategy in place defining locations, scale and pace of investment in heat decarbonisation with designation of at least one key strategic zone to kick start delivery and build supply-chain confidence
- Local area energy planning tools to identify place decarbonisation pathways and local energy system generation and storage

Over 5-10 years

- Every place has a clear pathway for decarbonisation, and investment at a national, regional, local or community level is coordinated in support.
- Housing energy efficiency programmes are scaled for all tenures, leveraging all funding with alternative finance to maximise investment and impact, and is anchored in communities
- Further heat network zones are designated, and use of local natural and waste heat assets are maximised

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

TRANSPORT

The Birmingham Transport Plan Delivery Plan (BTPDP) sets out a spatial framework to transform the city's transport through interventions on corridors, in neighbourhoods and local centres and in central Birmingham. It seeks to reallocate road space on key corridors, connect central Birmingham and local centres through active travel and public transport, and reduce traffic speed and volume in local neighbourhoods to create more liveable environments. Improved transport provision also supports the economic growth of the city, connects people to employment and learning opportunities and underpins the unlocking of key spatial development areas.

Birmingham is utilising existing funding to deliver schemes across the city to advance the BTPDP and EPS objectives and outcomes:

City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS)

For 2022/23 to 2026/27 the WMCA has received CRSTS funding to invest in transport infrastructure with some of this being used for infrastructure projects across Birmingham including the East Birmingham to Solihull corridor, A45 and A38 cycle routes, city centre active travel connections and cross-city bus routes and A34 and A45 Sprint routes, electric charging infrastructure, mobility hubs and e-bike trials and contactless ticketing. From April 2027 to March 2032, the £2.4bn Transport for City Regions (TCR) grant will support the continued delivery of CRSTS projects and new projects including the extension of the Metro to the Sports Quarter and improvement to Adderley Park Station.

Bus services

Buses are the most used form of public transport for Birmingham residents. The council continues to work with Transport for the West Midlands to deliver improvements to the bus infrastructure such as the completed A34 and A45 Phase 1 Sprint scheme. Government funding for 2025/26 will allow the continuation of capped ticketing prices. The WMCA is committed to bus franchising to stabilise and better integrate and run the region's bus network, with benefits for Birmingham.

Rail

Improvements to the rail network are taking place through the reopening of three stations on the Camp Hill line at Moseley, Kings Heath and Hazelwell. This project complements the recent rebuilding of University Station on the Cross City line which connects the University of Birmingham and Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham to the city centre and beyond. Construction of HS2 continues and the building of Curzon Station which will deliver increased connectivity to the city when it opens, and journey times to London cut to 49 minutes. BCC is working with HS2 and the WMCA to ensure integration with all other modes of transport in and around the line and station. Aligned to this is the Midlands Rail Hub project which will see improvements to Moor Street Station and its rail lines to increase capacity and open new routes.


Cyrille Regis MBE
West Midlands Metro

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

TRANSPORT

Future transport network and needs

Birmingham needs an efficient, integrated public transport network with mass transit solutions that meet growing social and economic demands and unlock growth plans. As the 2023 National Infrastructure Assessment outlines as undertaken by the National Infrastructure Commission (now the National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority), Birmingham has the highest need for public transport arising from its growth opportunities.

As part of an integrated network, improvement and expansion of the bus network (delivered through bus franchising) is fundamental. It will need to be supported by widespread infrastructure to support bus priority.

The Birmingham Eastside Extension Metro scheme will see the existing Metro line connected with Curzon Station, through Eastside, to Digbeth High Street. Funding has been secured to extend this to Bordesley Park and the Sports Quarter and a new 60,000 Birmingham City Football Club stadium. Further extension is needed through East Birmingham to Arden Cross to unlock the East Birmingham North Solihull growth area and its key sites. This will need a funding package to enable delivery.

Expansion of the rail network is underpinned by the delivery of Midlands Rail Hub, improving and upgrading existing lines, providing greater capacity and opening new routes. A solution for HS2 services north of Birmingham is needed. Given the congestion on the existing West Coast Mainline, HS2 services at a minimum, must be able to integrate with and run on the existing track to destinations north of Birmingham.

A review of the city's road network has identified the minimum viable classified network for the socio-economic success of the city while protecting residential areas from car dependency impacts. Locally, healthy streets are needed with walking and cycling prioritised, and active travel the natural choice for shorter trips.

Technologies and services

New technologies and services are being explored that can support the decarbonisation of transport such as shared mobility services, mobile applications and smart integrated ticketing. Autonomous vehicles, mobility credits schemes and mobility hubs are also being tested, and the council is exploring the potential for different models of car ownership and use, such as car clubs. Phase 1 of electric vehicle activity includes installing 828 electric vehicle charging points including 199 rapid charging points.

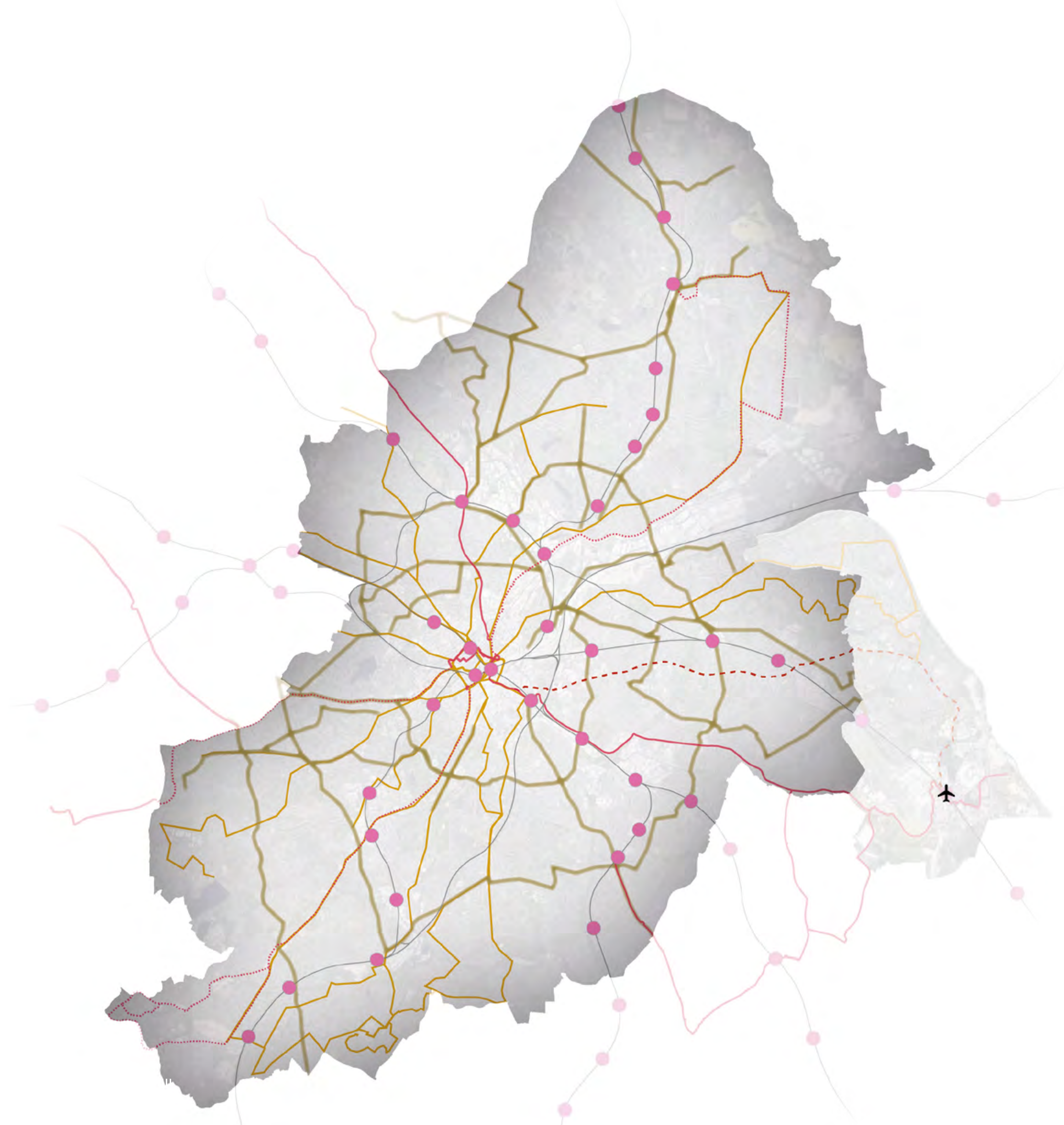


FIG 26. FUTURE TRANSPORT NETWORK

Metro and Sprint
East Birmingham Metro extension
Planned future Sprint network expansion
Principal bus routes
Sustainable Travel Corridors
Railway station
Birmingham International Airport

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

CREATIVITY AND CULTURE

Tourism and the creative and culture sector are an economic and social powerhouse in Birmingham and are integral to the vitality and liveability of local places. There are over 3,300 direct jobs in the cultural sector and 14,500 in the wider creative industries, generating over £200m in annual economic activity. The sector's economic impact on the city creates a multiplier effect, acting as a magnet for talent, students, business and investment. It also underpins the city's tourism offer - Birmingham was the 4th most visited city in 2022, with over 800,000 visits - and unlocks opportunities in the wider creative industries, as well as for restaurants, cafés and hotels. It's growing film and TV production cluster is also already emerging as a nationally significant centre of media operations in the region.

Programmes supporting creativity and culture include:

Digbeth

Digbeth is the cultural centre of Birmingham and one of the key growth areas for the creative sector. A new prospectus outlines key development opportunities. Alongside, the recent Digbeth Cultural Action Plan has been produced by the community to support the cultural life of Digbeth and plan for its future. Digbeth cultural infrastructure continues to grow with film and TV studios including the BBC's Tea Factory at Typhoo Wharf and Steven Knight's Digbeth Loc Studios, maker spaces, music recording, live music venues, visual and performing arts centres, independent cinemas, start-up hubs, community gardens, sports academies, and creative education spaces.

Creatively Birmingham Strategy

The Creatively Birmingham Strategy is a new plan to deliver clear career pathways and business opportunities for creativity, arts, and culture in Birmingham and to build collaborations and partnerships to realise the benefits of the creative, arts and culture sector to health, wellbeing, community cohesion and economic growth. This strategy will be a ten-year plan and will connect with the regional arts and cultural strategy and local delivery. The plan seeks to harness Birmingham as a cultural centre with local roots and international influence.

Investment supporting the strategy includes culture and tourism activities and programmes in the Enterprise Zone's Cultural Action Areas and funding through the integrated settlement. It builds on previous investment from the UKSPF culture & tourism strand, Commonwealth Games legacy funds and the WMCA culture, creative and heritage cultural infrastructure fund.

The Vibrant & Active City Programme

Over 47m people visited Birmingham in 2023 with the visitor economy worth £9.5bn and it supported 78,000 jobs. The Vibrant & Active City Programme builds on this and the city's connectivity, through a major sporting events programme, a major events programme, cultural festivals and participation, promotion and tourism programmes to develop and sustain a wide range of major sporting, cultural and tourism events. Alongside, the intention is a diverse cultural, sporting and physical activity offer providing participation and engagement at all levels, from local classes for children to a diverse food offer and world class cultural shows. The strategy seeks to promote sports and activity for all and promote economic development of clubs, social activity and improved health. It involves links with universities to guide courses in sport development, training, and facility management such as Birmingham City University and with the Alexander Stadium. The council is also exploring how physical sport and activity infrastructure, jobs, skills and training can be driven throughout the planning system.

Ambition 2035 Programme

The Commonwealth Games in 2022 put Birmingham on the world stage and generated £1.2bn for the UK economy with more than half in the West Midlands. The opportunity is for Birmingham to build on hosting the Commonwealth Games to leverage more inward investment from global firms and make the most of an already strong visitor economy. Birmingham needs to be 'thinking big' to ensure it is fully established as a world class city and destination of the future. This means investing in its diverse and world class cultural assets from food and theatre to sport, bringing new global events to the city, and helping drive the local economy and the desirability of Birmingham as a place to live, work, study and visit.

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT, BUSINESS PRODUCTIVITY AND DIGITAL

Skills and employment

Very high unemployment and worklessness is a major challenge with unemployment levels the highest in the country. The city is 5% of England's total unemployment, 31% the Core Cities and 54% of the WMCA area.The 20 wards in East Birmingham are 18.5% of the WMCA total and 1.8% of England's, and is a priority area of focus. Reducing unemployment is critical for future growth prospects and key to reducing poverty and increasing household incomes. If unemployment was reduced to UK levels it would bring thousands more people into the labour market.

Unemployment has remained at a consistently high level so there is an imperative to pursue a reformed approach that better connects employment and skills services to job seekers and serves the needs of employers. The goal is to develop an integrated 'work service'. This is about fostering a cradle to career approach, supporting lifelong learning and connecting to the growth opportunities in the city including the economic zones which is a source of new jobs. System reform is wider than the remit of the local authority and involves the other parts of the system such as health services, voluntary and community sectors, WMCA, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and education providers.

The reformed system seeks to bring together funding and services including not exhaustively: the new integrated settlement (including adult skills and Connect to Work), the careers service, support for young people not in education training or employment, Workwell, the Anchor Network and I-Can, the Youth Trailblazer, apprenticeships, Local Skills and Improvement Plan and Local Skills Improvement Funding, early intervention and prevention and library hubs, social value and procurement measures.

It will seek to address a range of barriers and improve gaps in the system including - transitions for young people leaving education into employment; integrating services for health conditions acting as long-term barrier to work; job vacancies not being filled by Birmingham residents; workforce planning and skills for the future; collaboration on data for targeting support; and building up long-term plans for community organisation roles.

An initial focus of a reformed approach is East Birmingham to address the very high unemployment in the area. This will also form part of the development of the Birmingham Skills and Employment Strategy aimed at increasing employment levels and reducing worklessness and unemployment.

Business productivity

UKPSF funding has previously supported business advice and support and the Birmingham & Solihull Growth Hub to:

- Improve small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) productivity and competitiveness across key sectors
- Support the capacity of SMEs to innovate and embrace new technologies
- Create and safeguard jobs and growing the size of the SME base
- Improve business skills across key sectors and access to advice, support and guidance
- Increase the number and value of SME's exporting particularly in priority markets and sectors
- Support the green transition and resilience for SMEs to adapt and pivot towards green technologies and sectors, digital transformation and resilience of supply chains

Funding through the integrated settlement continues to support the Growth Hub and business support and advice services for Birmingham SMEs and will be used to help key growth sectors in the city.

Digital

The harnessing of digital, data and AI technologies underpins future growth, and can help optimise services for residents and businesses. The more people can access fast, reliable and affordable connectivity, the more it can help increase employment, skills, and access to public services, and the delivery of net zero, housing and transport ambitions such as using data for energy, housing and transport systems.

The region has the best 5G connectivity in the UK with a £5bn digital sector that is the second largest outside of London and supported by specialist business-led bodies such as TechWM and Create Central. This is a strength. However, the good full fibre and 5G coverage it is not complete. A solution will be needed to address this. It also includes provision of data centres in key locations in the city and the driving of digital adoption of advanced connectivity and AI.

A further challenge is the 33% of households struggling to afford connectivity - while social connectivity tariffs can help some universal credit claimants, take-up remains low at 8% of eligible households. The West Midlands also has the highest proportion of non-internet users in the country. Essential 'digital skills for work' levels are lower in Birmingham (66%) than the UK (78%) and Birmingham has a lower rate of the 'workforce using digital tools/software for productivity (57%) than the UK (69%)' and West Midlands businesses report gaps in digital skills. Addressing the digital skills gap is part of the reformed skills and employment system.

GROWTH AND PLACE OFFER

LONG-TERM PIPELINE

The EPS brings together the foundations for a 20-year approach of improvement and growth of the city. The EPS will be further developed as programmes are delivered and new ones designed, and as economic opportunities and challenges present themselves. A pipeline of projects has been developed, which itself will evolve.

Priorities and pipelines for the programmes below have been identified and prioritised (as per the information presented before) and based on strategic need, deliverability, affordability, outcomes and where relevant planning policy. These include:

- Development (economic zones, wider EBNS inclusive growth area, Our Future City Central Area Framework, Birmingham Local Plan growth zones* and key sites pipeline)
- Housing (housing action areas, national housing accelerator site and housing pipeline)
- Retrofit (priority areas and delivery plan)
- Transport (programmes within the Birmingham Transport Delivery Plan)
- City of Nature (priority areas identified related to the level of environmental justice for citizens)

Future pipelines are being developed and as funding is available for:

- Digital connectivity
- Transport for future funding streams
- Liveable neighbourhoods
- Culture and heritage including priorities via the Creatively Birmingham's Strategy
- Heat networks and whole energy systems - areas identified and delivery plan to be developed
- Skills and employment support strategy to be developed linked to growth opportunities, employment and skills needs and employment hotspots

*Birmingham has identified 'growth zones' within the Birmingham Local Plan (BLP). When the business rate sites designated in EBNS were agreed in the Trailblazer Deeper Devolution Deal the government called these 'growth zones.' These are different from the BLP growth zones.

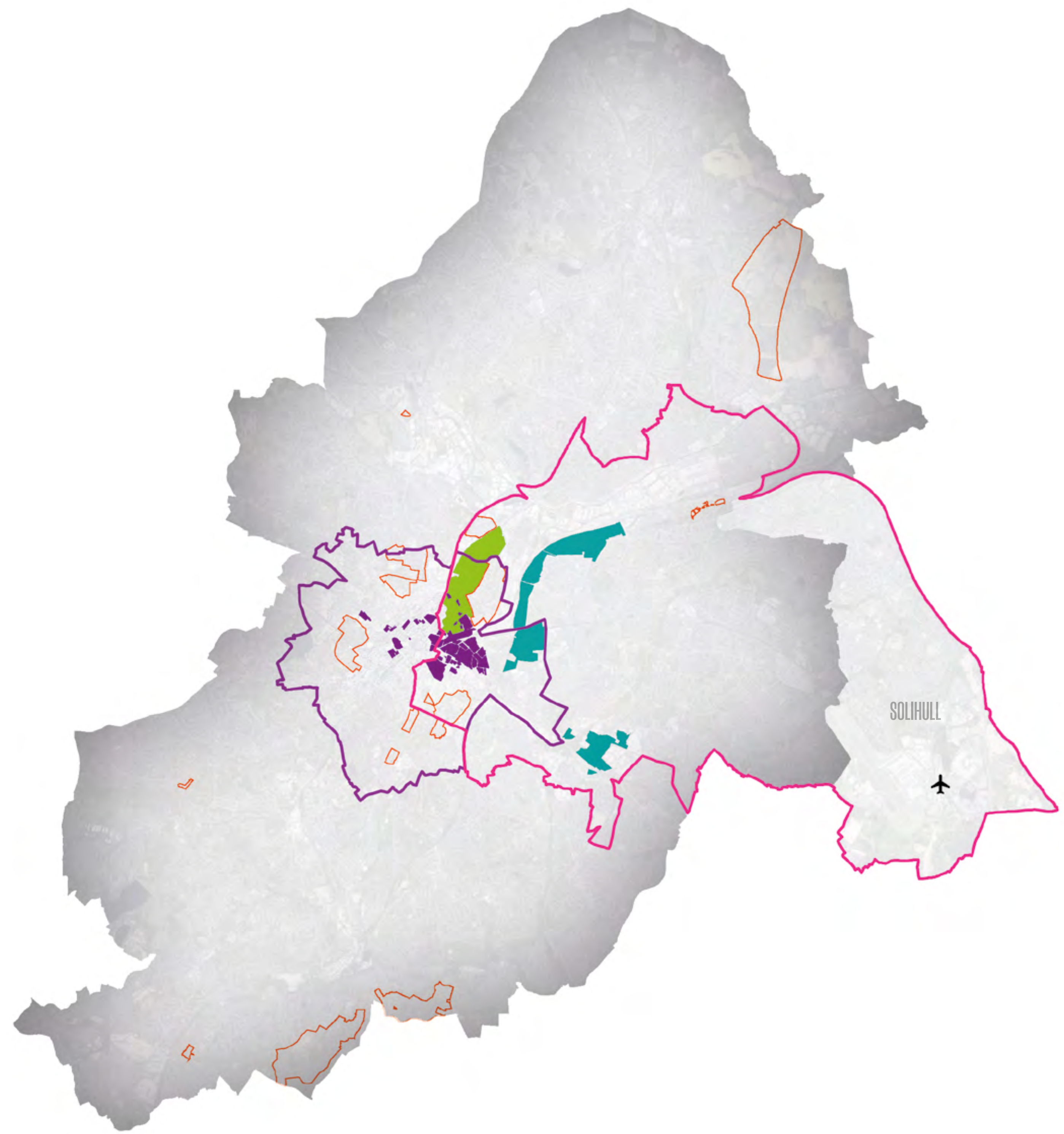


FIG 27. AREAS OF FOCUS

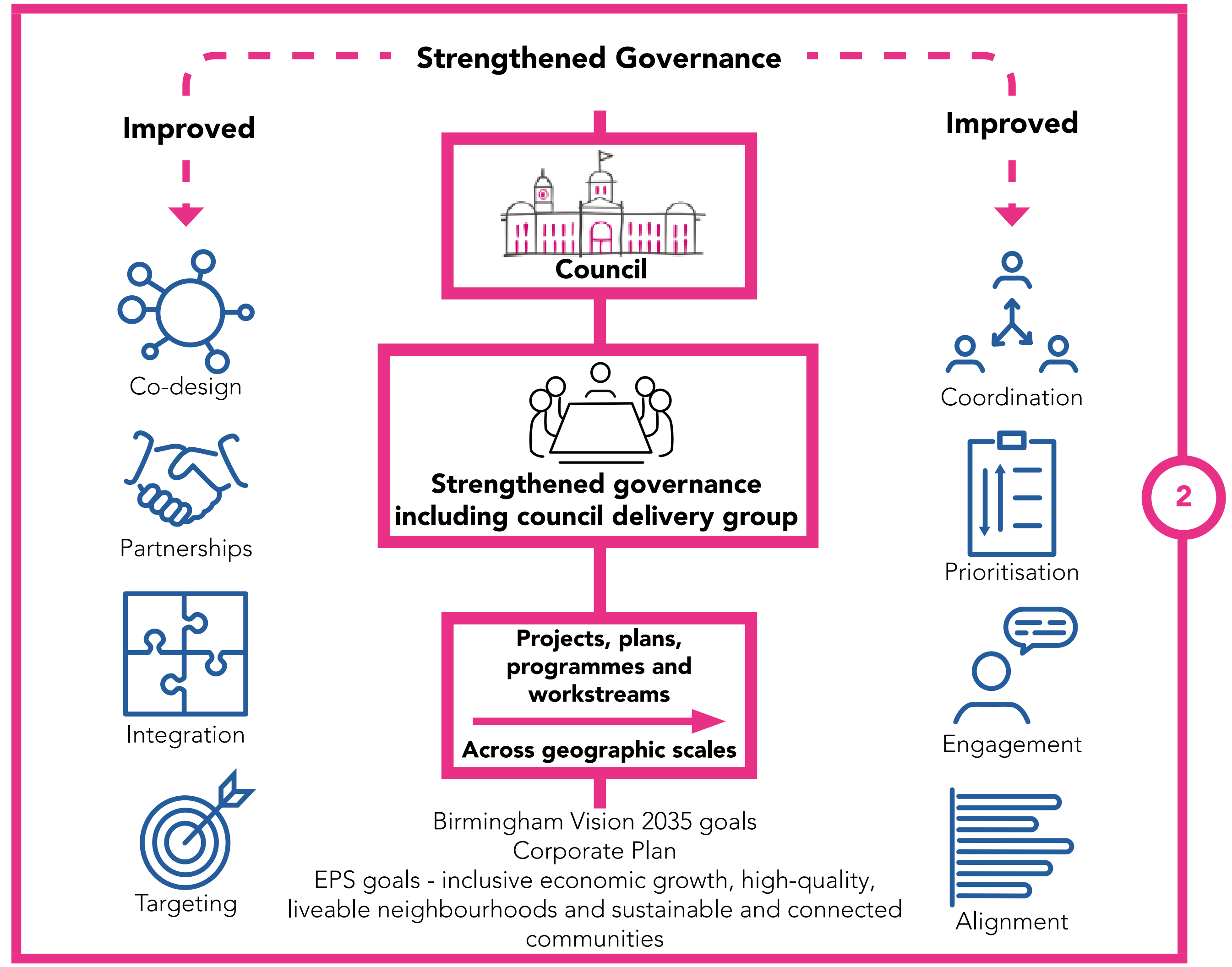
- EBNS Growth Area
- Our Future City Central Birmingham Framework Area
- Birmingham Local Plan Growth Zones
- Housing (Birmingham Local Plan Housing Action Areas and National Housing Accelerator Sites)
- EBNS Growth Zone Sites
- Enterprise Zone
- Birmingham Knowledge Quarter (Investment Zone)

A NEW INTEGRATED APPROACH TO INCLUSIVE GROWTH

STRENGTHENED GOVERNANCE

An enhanced delivery approach with strengthened governance is supporting taking forward the EPS and achieving inclusive economic growth.

An EPS delivery group brings together officers from across the council involved in economy and place strategy and service and programme delivery to enable a strategic approach and alignment of programmes, funding, and policies. This includes implementation of the integrated settlement and developing programmes with the WMCA. Strengthened partnership arrangements are being developed through existing arrangements including the City Partnership Board, which brings together partners and representative bodies across the city and helped draw up the Birmingham City Vision. Potential Mayoral development arrangements such as through a Mayoral Development Zone and Mayoral Development Corporation to support the main growth corridor and key sites would involve partners too. BCC is also exploring how a board could be developed to help promote the city and its opportunities and input into the updating and revising of the EPS. At the heart of the approach is enabling co-design of place-based solutions with local communities and partnerships as per the Birmingham Promise in the City Vision.



Inclusive Places

Liveable Neighbourhoods

Development of strategically aligned liveable neighbourhood model is under consideration

Prosperous, social inclusive, supportive, health, happy, green neighbourhoods with good access to quality:

Employment and training	**Affordable and market housing**
Local services and facilities	**Public transport, healthy streets and active travel**
Social and cultural infrastructure	**Exercise facilities and local healthcare**
Local healthy affordable food	**Nature and green environment**
Digital services	**Safe and inclusive environment**

3

INTEGRATED SETTLEMENT

EPS LINKAGE TO THE INTREGRATED SETTLEMENT

The integrated settlement is a new arrangement for the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) which devolves funding from government and gives more spending flexibility over some specific funds for skills, transport, housing, local growth and place and retrofit. Some of this investment is further devolved to local authorities. A multi-year integrated settlement will be in place from 2026/27. Based on the challenges, opportunities, strategies, initiatives and investments, the EPS draws together the priorities and interventions for the integrated settlement functions and with strategic alignment as much as possible.

Local Growth & Place

The EPS seeks to support **inclusive economic growth** by advancing the city's key **growth opportunities** in the growth corridor from the city centre into East Birmingham, secure more investment, increase jobs, expand industrial strategy sectors and increase productivity. It also supports local wealth and cultural value creation, the everyday economy and thriving places, so the city is a good choice for people live and work and businesses to locate.

Year one integrated settlement
Funding enables advancing the BKQ, part of the Investment Zone, and providing business and employment support to enhance the business environment, supporting young people into work and investing in community capacity in local centres.

Skills & Employment

The EPS seeks to address Birmingham's very **high levels of unemployment** (including youth unemployment) and worklessness and connect people to the opportunities in the city including jobs through the major growth sites. It includes **better integration of services and support for skills, careers, pre-employment, health, job pathways, business support, and entrepreneurship** to reflects the needs and diversity of citizens.

Year one integrated settlement
Funding is invested in skills, business support, communities and job readiness across this function and in the local growth & place function to target priority areas including areas of highest unemployment such as East Birmingham and linking to other funding and services in the skills and employment eco-system.

Housing & Regeneration

The EPS seeks to deliver **affordable homes** in places with the most need and potential for growth and with the priority of **social rent and family homes.** It supports a holistic approach to regeneration to provide significant socioeconomic benefits, public realm, amenity and community benefits, harnessing land value uplift, and increased access to employment opportunities.

Year one integrated settlement
BCC has developed a strategic pipeline of housing sites with the WMCA and Homes England. Key major housing sites are Ladywood, Druids Heath and Langley. The integrated settlement provides brownfield land funds which has potential use for the pipeline.

Net Zero & Retrofit

The EPS seeks to upgrade homes including making them **warmer and lower energy use to reduce the cost of living, improve the health of residents and cut carbon,** particularly in areas of greatest need for improved housing quality and energy performance. The EPS also seeks to prioritise the **development of greener energy systems** and area-based heat networks approach.

Year one integrated settlement
Retrofit funding for council homes and private homes will be prioritised for the areas of greatest need allied to deliverability, community support and integration with the existing council Decent Homes programme. There is also the potential for retrofit of some public buildings and schools.

Transport

The EPS seeks to deliver **schemes to contribute to advancing the Birmingham Transport Plan (BTP).** The BTP recognises the potential of transport to **foster inclusive economic growth** and **deliver a more equitable and sustainable network and to support active travel and reduce car need and use.** The BTP Delivery Plan sets out a spatial framework to enhance the city's transport, by delivering place-based interventions for transport corridors, local centres, neighbourhoods and central Birmingham.

Year one integrated settlement
Active travel and electric vehicle infrastructure funds can support the BTP aims of active travel and reducing carbon emissions. WMCA bus funding can be used to help maintain the bus network.

OUTCOMES

LINKAGE TO THE CORPORATE PLAN AND CITY VISION

City Vision Mission	Priorities for Birmingham City Council for 2025-28, working in partnership, to ensure:
1. Growth & Prosperity	**Birmingham is a vibrant and inclusive city**
	1. Investment and economic growth benefit all people and places in the city
	2. There is equal opportunity for people to get, and keep, good jobs
	3. Birmingham is promoted as a great place to live, visit and do business
	4. Businesses are supported to succeed; and illegal or unsafe business practices are addressed via effective regulation and enforcement
2. Knowledge & Opportunity	**Birmingham is a city where every person can learn and develop the skills they need to thrive**
	1. Children and young people have a good start in life and a great education
	2. Lifelong learning is accessible to all
	3. Skills shortages in key sectors are addressed
3. Safety & Sustainability	**Birmingham is a safe, clean and green place to live**
	1. More affordable homes are built
	2. Housing standards are improved, and homelessness prevented wherever possible
	3. People are safeguarded and protected from harm
	4.Street cleanliness and waste services are improved
	5. Everyone benefits from reduced carbon emissions, cleaner air, and a greener city prepared for climate change

Birmingham's City Vision 2035, is a ten-year vision for the city drawn up with partners. The Corporate Plan 2025-2028 is Birmingham City Council's response to delivering the vision. The EPS helps support the delivery of the City Vision and the Corporate Plan, with a particular contribution show in blue in the table.

City Vision Mission	Priorities for Birmingham City Council for 2025-28, working in partnership, to ensure:
4. Health, Equity & Inclusion	**Birmingham is a place where everyone can live, work, and age well**
	1. Children and young people have a healthy start in life
	2. People are empowered to make healthy choices to improve wellbeing
	3. Everyone can live and age well
	4. Council services are citizen-focussed and inclusive
	5. Everyone feels safe, heard and can grow
5. Connected Birmingham	**Birmingham is a well-connected city**
	1. A safe and sustainable transport network
	2. Good access to online services and support to develop digital skills

City Vision
A city that has a thriving economy, tackles inequality, where all communities can enjoy greater opportunities and the wellbeing that it brings

EPS contribution to Corporate Plan

OUTCOMES

LINKAGE TO THE CORPORATE PLAN AND CITY VISION

The EPS helps deliver the City Vision 2035 outcomes measures and drives a series of outputs related to economy and place.

City Vision Mission	City Vision outcome measures
1. Growth & Prosperity	Increase Gross Value Added per hour worked in Birmingham
	Increase the level and benefit from inward investment in the city
	Increase the amount of land delivering high levels of economic activity and diversifying the economy across the city
	Reduce the gap between the wages of those living in Birmingham and the wages of those working in the city
	Reduce inequalities in the income levels between places and groups in the city
	Reduce unemployment rates and increase employment rates in Birmingham relative to the national average
2. Knowledge & Opportunity	Increase educational attainment across Birmingham
	Reduce the number of people without qualifications
	Increase the graduate retention rate in the city
3. Safety & Sustainability	Increase the proportion of affordable new homes delivered in the city as a share of all new homes
	Reduce the house price affordability ratio
	Increase the liveability of neighbourhoods so citizens have more access to outdoor spaces and amenities
	Improve air quality across the city
	Reduce carbon emissions towards becoming a net zero city

City Vision Mission	City Vision outcome measures
4. Health, Equity & Inclusion	Increase life expectancy at birth and at 65, increase healthy life expectancy, and reduce gaps between the least and most deprived, and between different ethnic groups
	Reduce the overall poverty rate in Birmingham
	Reduce the number of homeless children living in temporary accommodation in Birmingham
5. Connected Birmingham	Increase the proportion of residents who have reasonable access to work, learning and key services by affordable and sustainable methods of transport
	Improve quality, safety, and reliability of public transport across the city, in particular making it easier for people to travel in and out of the city centre
	Reduce the number of people who are unable to access fast and affordable internet services across Birmingham and reduce gaps in access between different communities

Economy and Place Strategy key outputs

The EPS helps deliver the City Vision outcomes and measures from the Vision outlined left. There are also economic and place key outputs that the EPS will help achieve related to the integrated settlement. As a result of further economic analysis taking place in additional key outcomes may also be developed. Furthermore, an economic dashboard of key economic data points and metrics is being established.

- **Economic output:** realising untapped £6bn output
- **Jobs:** Over 100,000 jobs through three economic zones
- **Homes:** 21,000 homes through three priority schemes and more through the housing pipeline
- **Work:** Higher employment and lower unemployment
- **Incomes:** Higher household incomes and reduced deprivation levels
- **Connections:** Improved links across the city and connecting 300,000 more people to its economy
- **Regeneration:** Advancing an inclusive growth corridor from the city centre into East Birmingham and onto North Solihull, set to be the UK's largest regeneration programme
- **Local centres:** Additional community collaborations to support thriving neighbourhoods

SUPPORT

WHAT IS NEEDED TO DELIVER THE GROWTH AIMS

There is a role for city partners, investors and business, WMCA and regional bodies and government and public bodies in helping deliver the EPS and unlock the transformation of the city and its growth prospects. Government has been taking steps to provide additional resource and flexibilities through the Spending Review, Industrial Strategy and English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill. The following government support will assist with the delivery of the EPS and unlocking the city's potential:

Multi-year, multi-function capital and revenue funding:

- **Capital allocation** including via the National Wealth Fund
- **Place funding** to advance the substantial growth and housing sites with funding flexibilities including to enable genuinely affordable, social rent and family housing
- **Development capacity funding** given the pipeline scale such as for business cases, masterplanning, site assessments and development of delivery arrangements
- **Local investment levers** to support the pipeline, infrastructure and transport (as below)
- **A needs-based funding formula** to reflect demand with deprivation and population changes primary drivers
- **Greater flexibility** to enable pooling of resource to increase the value of investment and enable co-funding with the private sector and to leverage this investment
- **New burdens funding** for new statutory duties and additional responsibilities arising from the English Devolution White Paper including spatial planning and capacity funding for local authorities to contribute to regional energy strategic plans

Integrated transport network: Funding, investment mechanisms and reduced delivery barriers to develop an integrated public transport network for the region including:

- **Ensure mass transit in and around Birmingham**
- **East Birmingham to Solihull Metro mass transit solution** for improved connectivity and unlocking growth sites in East Birmingham
- **Funding investment levers and package** to support mass transit including the East Birmingham to Solihull Metro
- **HS2:** Providing a solution to HS2 services north of Birmingham, commercialisation potential around Curzon and early release of land such as Washwood Heath
- **Transport powers:** including enabling area-wide signage only 20mph areas, legislation to tackle pavement parking, increased charges for Penalty Charge Notices and Fixed Penalty Notices, local retention of speeding enforcement fines and legislation on the status of e-scooters

Work service system: Support an integrated 'work service' system, underpinned by public service reform, to enable a cradle to career approach and support lifelong learning and integrate funding and services and health services, voluntary and community sectors, WMCA, DWP, and education providers, and with specific measures:

- **Apprenticeship levy:** Flexibilities for localities on how to spend the Growth & Skills (Apprenticeship) Levy
- **16-19 technical education:** Devolving the 16-19 technical education to the region
- **Employment support:** Complete the regional devolution of employment support and widen flexibilities on skills and employment funding to prioritise local needs

Business productivity programmes devolved to the region, increase public investment in regional translational research for commercial use and provide regional business advisors with access to R&D tax credit data

Energy: Ability to set local or regional targets for demand reduction and energy efficiency via planning or local policy for social housing and private sector

Working with the WMCA

The council is working with the WMCA on the use of the integrated settlement and planning for the multi-year settlement in 2026 along with the policy changes and funding potential through government programmes. The council and WMCA are also working on stronger data systems to direct resources, services and prioritisation and on integrating and improving delivery structures.

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For more information and updates on Birmingham's growth and place programmes see:

growth.birmingham.gov.uk

Maps and diagrams:

Birmingham City Council

RESET RESHAPE RESTART