

SPARKBROOK DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN

*Serving the wards of Acocks
Green, Springfield and
Sparkbrook*

**Building on Capacity – Building
on Strength**

2005 – 2006

Sparkbrook District Community Plan 2005 – 2006

<u>Table of Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Chairman’s Foreword	3
Executive Summary	4

SECTION ONE –

Sparkbrook District Profile & General Information

The Context for Delivery Structure & Partnership

Devolution & Localisation

The District Strategic Partnership

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

Ward Spends against NRF Floor Targets

Sparkbrook Ward achievements

Acocks Green Ward Achievements

Springfield Ward Achievements

SECTION TWO – Future Challenges

Priority One Keeping Sparkbrook Clean & Safe

Priority Two Making Sparkbrook A Prosperous District

Priority Three Making Sparkbrook a District where all Our Children
have opportunities Achievements in Learning & Leisure

Priority Four Making Sparkbrook A Healthy District

Priority Five A Housing Strategy

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I wish to commend to you the first Sparkbrook District Community Plan for the Sparkbrook District which serves the wards of Acocks Green Springfield and Sparkbrook. This Sparkbrook District Community Plan is the vehicle for securing commitment and galvanising activity around a shared vision and a common set of objectives to make dramatic improvements to the quality of life for our district and its residents.

We have a vision of a district where no-one is disadvantaged by where they live and no-one suffers services that are failing. We are confident that our vision and objectives are genuinely shared because they have been shaped by the views of organisations and individuals with a commitment to and concern for the district and its future. To help us produce our Sparkbrook District Community Plan, over 500 residents and members of organisations gave their views about what should be done to make Sparkbrook District better. We want a safer, cleaner, healthy and thriving district, where poverty and deprivation no longer exist; and a caring district that invests in young people and provides opportunities for all. Moreover, despite the disadvantage that many of us experience, we want to be treated with respect and be renowned for our skills and our talents which is why this plan is about building on our capacity and building on our strengths.

The Sparkbrook District Community Plan provides the basis for taking forward that commitment and delivering these objectives. It includes contributions from key public partners in the city and takes account of national policy drivers, e.g. The White paper - Choosing Health, The National Policing Plan and National Government guidance on building Safer Stronger Communities. In this document, we put forward our priorities for the district and the actions that will be taken in the following year. Much of the work proposed around the Plan is already being progressed by thematic partnership groups, which support the District Strategic Partnership. These are working groups where statutory agencies work alongside resident and community representatives to achieve real and lasting improvements to the quality of life in our neighbourhoods. This approach has been made possible through the City Councils' strategy of localisation and devolution. We believe that the creation of the District Strategic Partnership, devolution of power to the District Committees, the District Strategic Partnerships and the local management of services is central to achieving our goals. We have a challenging year ahead of us.

The District Strategic Partnership has a crucial role to play in creating a safe and prosperous community. In order to set the foundations for the future, fulfilling our role of leading the local community and managing the changes we want to see; over the next year we have to consolidate our partnership framework, strengthen our performance management arrangements and maximise our resources. This will set the foundations for the 2006/10 plan, which will set out the vision and direction for the decade ahead and specify our more detailed plans for the next four years. Reflecting and responding to the competing needs and priorities of local people is no easy task. Difficult choices will have to be made. That includes choices to be taken by our major public institutions, voluntary, community and faith sector organisations and businesses too. Nevertheless we hope that you join us to face the challenges ahead and work alongside us to achieve our shared ambition of providing high quality public services that people value and making Acocks Green, Sparkbrook and Springfield, places where people are proud to live.

Councillor Jerry Evans

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BUILDING ON CAPACITY – BUILDING ON STRENGTHS

Sparkbrook District is one of the most diverse and vibrant districts in the city. Although much is documented on the levels of poverty and deprivation that many of our residents experience this plan signals a new approach – ***building on capacity and building on strength***. This means that we believe that in order for regeneration and renewal to be sustained, we have to build upon the talents, knowledge and capacity within our communities and neighbourhoods to our mutual benefit.

In the past we have brought in capacity, but as a result communities have felt ‘done unto’ and when initiatives have come to an end those who brought their skills and capacities have moved on. For long term sustainability to be achieved, local people have to take strategic objectives and translate them into local action. The added value of this starting point (the firm belief that ultimately people have to do this for themselves) recognises that civic renewal and neighbourhood renewal are inextricably linked.

This executive summary sets out our vision for Sparkbrook and key milestones in our strategy for civic and neighbourhood renewal. It also sets out our approach to engaging communities through local action planning, gearing up for delivery through the local strategic partnership and improving the integrity of local governance through active citizenship.

LOCAL ACTION PLANNING

Local action planning is a way to ensure that communities participate in shaping policy and local services. This means working together with members of the community to produce a plan, which sets out the vision and objectives for their neighbourhoods or communities. We have sought to lead by example in producing this, the first Sparkbrook District Community Plan. The process has by no means been perfect but in producing this plan we have involved hundreds of people; local children, community activists, local business and local citizens. We have received written feedback from many key voluntary organisations and public agencies. As a result of what people have said we have adopted changes to the analysis and to the actions that flow from it. Through the theme groups, members of the DSP have reshaped the draft plan to better reflect the things that matter most and the priorities for action in the short to medium term.

Though this is a new plan, the product of a new partnership, it cannot be said that it is developed from a blank sheet of paper. The district already has a long and rich history of renewal and regeneration.

- ✚ Neighbourhood forums have long been involved in initiating, planning and managing regeneration schemes, as well as in playing to each others strengths, not competing but cooperating.
- ✚ The District has extensive experience of managing SRB schemes and attracting additional investment through European funds, lottery funds etc.
- ✚ The District’s democratic processes – the Ward Advisory Boards, Ward Committees and latterly the District Committee are arenas for robust and serious debate.

- ✚ The Ward Development Plans have provided the rationale for Ward Based Initiatives 2003 – 4.
- ✚ The Constituency Convention in June 2002, the Ward plans and service reviews and a variety of consultation events have engaged many sectors of the community in setting the vision for the district.
- ✚ This has been supported by both hard factual statistics and (equally important) tacit information derived from experience over time. This creates the collective intelligence that has been used to inform the direction of this plan.
- ✚ More recently we have been listening to the hopes and fears of a wide range of people, seeking their views on what would improve the quality of life. In particular we are beginning to engage with some of the new communities who now live with us in the district.

Through our local planning approach, engaging a wide range of stakeholders, we have produced a plan which truly reflects the needs and aspirations of the community and sets out a series of commitments which aim to make immediate but lasting interventions to tackle the problems that matter most to people.

BUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE DISTRICT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The history of renewal set out above shows that the starting point for putting in place the infrastructure for capacity building, service planning and local delivery is to build on what already exists. Therefore the second key tenet to our approach has been to build the infrastructure of the District Strategic Partnership to enable its members to make the fullest contribution to the governance of the district. Wherever appropriate we will adopt existing city wide partnership structures to avoid duplication of effort and strengthen our capacity to influence the corporate agenda.

Devolution

In developing Birmingham as a city of clean, safe and flourishing neighbourhoods on 1 April 2003, the City Council approved a plan for the transfer of some of their executive powers to newly created District Committees – this forms the **devolution** element of the Council's plans for 'Going Local', which went live on 5 April 2004. **The Sparkbrook District Committee**, made up of 9 locally elected representatives, will be the decision making body of the district.

Localisation

In order to pursue the continuing service improvements agenda the City Council also approved the creation of new District Management Teams led by the District Director – this became the **localisation** element of 'Going Local'. The District Committee now directly manages Libraries, Neighbourhood Offices, Leisure Centres and Community & Play at a local level. It also holds the budget and manages service level agreements for refuse collection, street cleansing, highways, grounds maintenance and pest control.

The District Strategic Partnership

The **District Strategic Partnership is the owner and the main driver of the Community Plan**. It includes the following partners: West Midlands Police, Birmingham & Solihull Learning & Skills Council, Connexions, Neighbourhood Forums, Jobcentre Plus, B:CEN, VOICE, West Midlands Fire Service, SureStart, Birmingham City Council, Heart of Birmingham Primary Care Trust.

With a membership of over 50 individuals and organisations, it represents a solid and diverse foundation of self-help, capacity building and service delivery across the public, private and not for profit sector. Its purpose is to bring together at a local level, key public agencies with representatives of business, community and voluntary sectors to achieve more effective joined up action, particularly in relation to tackling deprivation.

The key responsibilities of the partnership are to:

- ✚ Prepare and implement Sparkbrook's District Community Plan – setting out the overall vision for the district and to draw up an action plan to deliver on the vision, monitor its progress and report back regularly to local communities on that progress.
- ✚ Bring together all other local plans and initiatives to ensure that organisations work together effectively to meet the district plan's priorities.
- ✚ Ensure that inequalities are addressed.
- ✚ Secure full involvement and participation of all sections of the community in the planning of and delivery of local services.

The Theme Groups

The partnership is supported by **six theme groups**, each taking responsibility for driving forward the priorities of **clean and safe, employment and enterprise, opportunity for achievement, health, housing and civic renewal**. Each theme group is chaired by a community representative, supported by a vice chair representing one of the key partner agencies. The commitment of the key partner agencies is essential to ensuring accountability for achieving key performance targets. Each priority is also 'championed' by a locally elected Councillor.

The Local Delivery Group

The chair, vice chair and elected councilor of each theme group together with the chair and vice chair of the DSP, come together to form the **local delivery group**. The local delivery group will be the main engine of the DSP and take lead responsibility for ensuring that we deliver against the targets set out in the action plans supporting each theme. This year the LDG will focus on two themes, 'Keeping Sparkbrook District Clean and Safe' and 'Making Sparkbrook a Prosperous District'.

Partnership Support

The partnership cannot function effectively without a dedicated delivery team. Therefore a Partnership coordinator has been appointed. Their principal responsibility is to ensure that through effective communications and timely policy advice the DSP functions efficiently. The theme groups will be supported by the existing ward support officers whose roles have been reshaped to take lead responsibility for supporting the development of the action plans and achieving outcomes.

IMPROVING THE INTEGRITY OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The local planning approach ensures that this plan is not simply a re-codification of action points already set out in existing city council and partnership plans. The process has enabled local citizens to work alongside elected members to determine priorities, thereby improving the quality, integrity and maturity of local governance and decision-making in the district. Its added value is that it seeks to bring focus on these priorities – it does not pretend that it can be all things to all people. It enables both politicians and communities to

acknowledge that hard decisions must be made – to accept that we don't have unlimited resources and so be clear about what we can do now and what will have to wait. That's why in some (but not all themes) we have identified priority neighbourhoods and will focus our attentions there. So in trying to 'keep it real' we have produced a plan that we are confident we can deliver.

OUR PLEDGE TO MAKE BETTER USE OF RESOURCES.

Over the years the district has attracted additional regeneration and renewal funding to tackle poverty where it has become entrenched and intractable. The neighbourhood renewal fund is the most significant of these and is an additional grant to tackle poverty in the 88 most deprived districts in the country. As a result of this funding there have been some extremely valuable and innovative projects that have helped many people to turn their lives around. Some of these projects are set out below. But it is still the case that there are too many different funding streams supporting a range of different projects that remain uncoordinated at a local level. Part of the problem has been that the NRF and other funding streams have often been seen as a 'windfall'; used to either pilot new projects or plug gaps in mainstream resources. Performance management arrangements have often been weak and key indicators have not always been monitored effectively.

The District Strategic Partnership is committed to making better use of all resources including mainstream ones that flow down to the District. The City Council, who are the accountable body for NRF, has made new arrangements to ensure more effective management at a local level. The Cabinet has agreed the process for allocating NRF in 2005/6 which directs that:

- ✚ NRF resources be allocated to those super output areas in the worst 25% in England on the basis of their IMD 2004 score weighted by the proportion of city residents living in that area.
- ✚ Wards and Districts target their available resources on the most deprived super output areas and activities which meet the Floor Target priorities in their District.

In the light of the Cabinet decision, each ward has adopted a new process for allocating NRF this year. Although there are some differences to reflect local circumstances, the new process allows a more transparent and fair allocation of resources, creates the opportunity for Members to evaluate the performance of NRF funded projects and develop a commissioning strategy to address priorities.

The Governments' commitment to create **local area agreements** gives us further opportunity to make better use of resources.

It is proposed that central government funding streams be combined into single pots for:

- ✚ **Safer Stronger Communities - 2005/6**
- ✚ **Children and Young People - 2006/7**
- ✚ **Healthier Communities and Older People - 2006/7.**

In order to make the best of this opportunity we shall create a performance management framework for all central government streams of funding that might flow to the District. Contract management, performance and financial management and quality assurance systems will ensure that our citizens get the quality of services they should expect in relation to the level of investment.

Finally the District Management Team is also committed to making best and where appropriate, new use of mainstream resources. So where projects have been proven to work more effectively than traditional modes of delivery, we will shift budgets and resources so that public money is spent on those services that deliver the best outcomes for our community.

OUR VISION FOR SPARKBROOK DISTRICT

This plan signals that we have embarked upon a mission to realise the government's long-term vision for neighbourhood renewal.

***“Everyone should have a decent home and live in a safe, secure and healthy environment.
Within 10 –20 years, no-one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live.
People on low incomes should not have to suffer conditions and services that are failing,
and so different from what the rest of the population receives.”***

This single objective is the fundamental driving force behind this plan. It sets out what we believe to be the important issues and how these will be tackled. We are committed to working in partnership, pooling resources and joining our efforts around the common goal of a brighter future for our children, more jobs, better health, low crime, good housing and a cleaner, greener district where it is a pleasure to be.

To achieve this vision The District Strategic Partnership has agreed 6 strategic priorities. Actions in support of these priorities are summarised below:-

+ Priority One - Keeping Sparkbrook Clean & Safe

This year we will combine all our forces to make dramatic improvements to the Stratford Road. It will be cleaner, greener and safer. In the long term we will develop a strategy to tackle drugs, guns and gangs thereby protecting the reputation of our community and ensuring that we reduce the levels of crime and the fear of crime

+ Priority Two - Making Sparkbrook A Prosperous District

This year we will work in partnership supporting Job Centre plus and the Learning and skills council to identify those communities with the highest level of worklessness to ensure that they get access to the new jobs in the city. (Bullring, Eastside, Touchwood Centre and the Super Hospital). In the long term we will champion the development of our local centres, in particular the Balti Triangle, as key cultural tourist attractions to the district and the city.

+ Priority Three - Making Sparkbrook A District Where Our Children Have Opportunities For Achievements in Learning & Leisure

In 2005/6 we will increase the use of school buildings and sites as resources for the whole community. This will be achieved by working in partnership with both voluntary and statutory sector providers. This year we will ensure that at least one local school is used for a new extended range of activities.

Over the longer term we will support the upward trend in measured achievement in primary and secondary education (SAT's, GCSE's and other accreditation). We will work with libraries, schools, play, sports and youth services to enhance formal education and provide more out of school opportunities.

✚ Priority Four - Making Sparkbrook A Healthy District

This year, to improve life expectancy to tackle health inequality we will refocus the district sport and leisure facilities to target those residents at high risk of stroke, CHD and other life limiting illness. In order to address infant mortality rates we will support the PCT to ensure that every expectant mother has one personal midwife throughout the term of her pregnancy. In the long term we will work with the PCT to reduce levels of smoking and obesity so that our residents can live long and healthy lives.

✚ Priority Five - A Housing Strategy

This year we will support local tenants to appraise the options for the future management of their housing stock and champion local neighbourhood management. In the long term we will identify derelict sites for compulsory purchase and other sites for capital investment in new housing and retail outlets in conjunction with the Housing market renewal initiative.

✚ Priority Six - A Strategy for Participative Democracy & Civic Renewal

This year we will strengthen our District Strategic Partnership. We will review the use of community buildings/assets with a view to maximising opportunities to invest in and develop the capacity of the voluntary and community sector, both in terms of community development and service delivery.

In the long term we will develop and refocus our community development resources to enabling local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making, the delivery of services and the management of life in their neighbourhood.

The detailed plans of action we have set out in support of each priority aims to dramatically improve standards of education housing and health, to tackle crime and to create opportunities for prosperity. They follow wide and extensive consultation and places local democracy, community engagement and civic renewal as the key driver for the renewal process.

We believe that if we can focus on our priorities then together we can and will deliver the best for our neighbourhoods. No doubt we have a long way to travel. Creating new ways of delivering services means creating new ways of thinking and this in itself will be both a significant challenge and an exciting opportunity for all of us involved. The District Strategic Partnership is determined to start now, to make a real difference to people's quality of life and the quality of services they receive.

SPARKBROOK DISTRICT PROFILE

GENERAL FACTS, FIGURES & KEY STATISTICS

The district of Sparkbrook is an inner-city area that runs into the South Eastern part of Birmingham, from the city to Hall Green and Moseley, with Edgbaston to the west of the District and Solihull Metropolitan Borough forming the eastern boundary. It comprises the three wards of Acocks Green, Sparkbrook and Springfield. With a total land area of 1,285 hectares, it is the smallest district in Birmingham but with a population density of 68 people per hectare it is also the most densely populated district of the city.

The district has a strong, vibrant and culturally diverse community with Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) groups comprising of more than half (57%) of the total population and is the second highest concentration of BME groups within the city. This compares to a city average of 30%.

People

- + Approximately 87,544 people live in Sparkbrook District.
 - o Acocks Green (26,398); Sparkbrook (31,948) and Springfield (29,198)
- + Area Hectares 1,285 & population density 68.1
- + 29.8% of the district's population is born outside of the UK.
- + 32.5% of the district's population are below 17 years of age
- + 3.6% of the district's population are of a white Irish origin

Population 87, 544	Aged 0-17	32.5%	Born in UK	70.2%
Males 43, 108	Aged 18-74	62.6%	Born outside of UK	29.8%
Females 44, 436	Aged 75 & over	5%		

Fig.1 Population total

Source: Population Census 2001(Birmingham City Council Planning Information Group)

Household Income Distribution

Fig.2 below illustrates that close to one half (45 per cent) of the households in Sparkbrook District have an income of less than £15,000, demonstrating the scale of low income levels in the district. Over four fifths (85 per cent) of households are in the income category of less than £35,000 implying that less than one fifth (15 per cent) fall in the high income category.

District	Average Income	Modal Income	% of Households with Income		
	£ '000	£ '000	<£15,000	<£35,000	>£35,000
Sparkbrook	£20,900	£10-15,000	45%	85%	15%
Birmingham	£25,300	£10-15,000	38%	79%	21%

Fig 2. Household Incomes in Sparkbrook District

Source: CACI LTD and BEI

Household Income by Ward

Sparkbrook District's average income of £20,900 is lower than the Birmingham average of £25,300 but there are differences in the ward compositions. For instance:

- ✚ The £15,000 - £20,000 average household income band followed by the £20,000 - £25,000 band dominates Sparkbrook ward.
- ✚ Acocks Green ward is dominated by the £20,000 - £25,000 average household income band, but there also significantly sized pockets of all the other income bands.
- ✚ In Springfield ward, households with higher average incomes are located in the southern section of the ward, while those with lower average incomes are in the northern section of the ward.

Housing

According Population Census 2001, terraced houses represented the largest stock type in the district at 47.6%, and 24.9% are semi-detached houses. At the other end of the scale purpose built flats, maisonettes and detached properties represented 13.1% and 7.5% of the stock respectively. These figures are however to be viewed with caution as some census respondents may have wrongly classed their accommodation types.

- ✚ The District has a total housing stock of 30,958
- ✚ The majority of homes in the district are owner occupied (55.2%) and another 11.3% are privately rented.
- ✚ 29.3% of affordable homes are either rented from the council (19.1%) or housing associations (10.2%)
- ✚ 25.8% households are headed up by lone parent households.

DID YOU KNOW? - House prices for first time buyers, whilst not the highest in the city, are still out of reach for many households in housing need. An average three bed mid terrace (one reception room) house in the district generally start at around £110-115,000 and slightly more if the property has two reception rooms or in excellent condition. Three bedroom semi detached properties in the Sparkbrook & Springfield Wards from £120 - £130,000 upwards; Similar properties in the Moseley area and the Acocks Green ward would start from £130,000 and could also sell for up to £170,000 if in peak condition.

Health

There are high numbers of residents whose health is affected by either long-term illnesses and/or whose general health according the latest population census information is quoted as being 'not good'. The key issues for the District is to improve on the Life Expectancy, Infant Mortality, Coronary Heart Disease, Diabetes, Mental Health, Teenage pregnancy and cervical cancer rates.

- ✚ **Chronic Heart Disease (CHD)**
The district has the highest CHD in the city, is predominantly male at a ratio of 60/40 and represents 524 deaths per 100,000.
- ✚ **Teenage Pregnancy**
Whilst not the highest rate in the city, the Acock's Green ward has the highest rate in the district, showing levels that are also higher than the national average (60.26 conceptions per 1000 women in comparison with 43.9 for the national average in the year 2000).
- ✚ **Infant Mortality**
Since 1998 there has been a steady rise in the Springfield Ward in infant deaths, the table below shows that in 2002 for every 1000 babies born, 19 died before the end of their first year of life. This is almost double the Birmingham average.

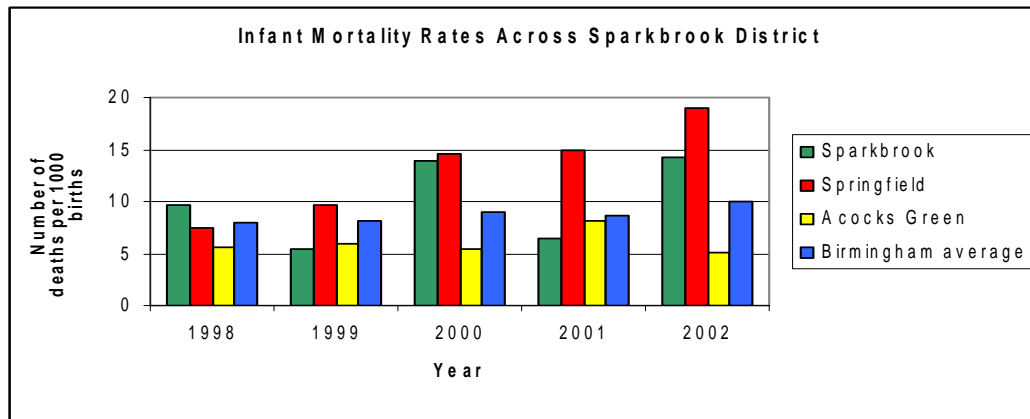


Fig 3. Infant Mortality Rates across the Sparkbrook District (source hob (t) pct)

DID YOU KNOW? In England and Wales babies of mothers born in Pakistan has a death rate of more than double the overall infant mortality rate. (Source: DOH Choosing Health Summary 2004).

Education for Work

There are 49% of people in the District aged 16-74 with no formal qualifications compared to 37% in the City and 29% (2001 Population Census).

✚ There are 36.2% of people aged 16-74 with NVQ levels 1-3 (a lower level qualification) and 13.9% with NVQ levels 4-5

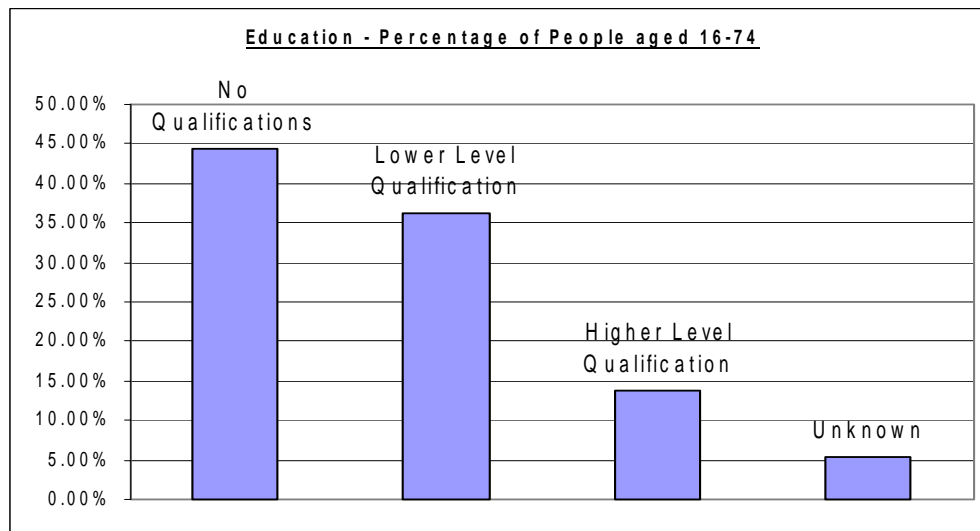


Fig 4. Education (Source: Population Census 2001)

Employment

- + 24,600 of district's residents are in full time employment
- + Unemployment rates across the District stand at 11.2%, which is above the Birmingham average of 7.6%
 - o Sparkbrook has the highest levels of unemployment of all the Wards in the District at 18.1%.

There is a strong correlation between some BME communities and high levels of deprivation. Those wards with the highest and persistent levels of *worklessness* are also the wards with the highest proportion of BME residents such as Sparkbrook and Sparkhill, with some groups experiencing greater levels of deprivation, for example only 31.4% of Pakistani and Bangladeshi residents, aged 16-64, were in employment compared to 64.1% of white residents.

DID YOU KNOW? - Only 31.4% of Pakistani and Bangladeshi residents, aged 16-64, were in employment compared to 64.1% of white residents.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGY (NRS), THE FLOOR TARGETS & NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND (NRF)

The Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy aims to reverse the decline in the most disadvantaged areas of the country.

The strategy has two long-term aims:

- + To promote employment, better health, better skills, better housing, improve the physical environment and lessen crime in all the poorest neighbourhoods;
- + To narrow the gap on these measures between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country.

In the 88 most deprived areas in the country the government had allocated Neighbourhood Renewal Fund to the LSPs to tackle deprivation related issues in their poorest neighbourhoods. In 2003/4 Birmingham City Council received £22m of which Sparkbrook District received £2,015,432 (pre-ward boundary change). The purpose of the NRF is to encourage local service providers, as members of the LSP, to use their own mainstream resources in a more innovative and joined up way to address key national floor targets and locally identified priorities such as those set out in this plan. This section sets out how Sparkbrook District measures up against the floor targets and outlines some of the outcomes achieved through the NRF allocation.

Fig 5 Sparkbrook District & Ward Performances against the Floor Targets 2004/-5

	City	Sparkbrook District	Acocks Green Ward	Sparkbrook Ward	Springfield Ward	
Crime						
domestic burglary per 1,000 households	30	27	34.4	26.2	19.1	GREEN
robberies per 1,000 population	6.2	4.5	2.7	5.8	4.7	GREEN
vehicle crimes per 1,000 population	26.4	18.9	20.3	23.2	12.8	GREEN
recorded cases of domestic violence	11.9	10.4	12.6	10	8.8	GREEN

Education						
% of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE grades A* - C	50%	49%	57%	43%	51%	AMBER
% of pupils achieving Level 5 at Key Stage 3 - English	61%	56%	61%	51%	59%	AMBER
% of pupils achieving Level 5 at Key Stage 3 - Maths	62%	56%	60%	49%	61%	AMBER
% of pupils achieving Level 4 at Key Stage 2 - English	69%	66%	68%	63%	68%	AMBER
% of pupils achieving Level 4 at Key Stage 2 - Maths	67%	64%	63%	61%	68%	AMBER
Health						
male life expectancy at birth	74.6	73.7	73.1	71.7	77.9	AMBER
female life expectancy at birth	80.4	79.3	78.8	78.4	82.1	AMBER
under 18 conceptions per 1000*	54	44.8	60.3	57.2	Not available	AMBER
Economy						
long term unemployment rate (longer than a year)*	1.7%	3.1%	1.7%	5.2%	Not available	RED
Housing						
% of Council housing falling below decent standard	67.6%	72.2%	80.7%	67.5%	77.5%	RED

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL SPENDING OUTCOMES 2003 - 2004

Through the development of Ward Plans each ward has identified the key issues and concerns of the local communities, prioritising medium to long-term solutions to impact on the floor targets. Following a recent review, any outstanding objectives that have not been addressed in 2003 – 2004, have been rolled forward and form the basis for local action in 2004 – 2005:

SPARKBROOK WARD - NRF SPEND 2003 – 2004

The total allocation of NRF to Sparkbrook Ward in 2003/4 was £857,448

Housing & Environment

- ✚ Way We Live Campaign – projects around Home maintenance general advice targeting older people
- ✚ Home Safety Programme – reducing risks in the home i.e. Providing Smoke & carbon monoxide alarms, home security
- ✚ Improving Sparkbrook's Image - Supported Grants for some improvements to Community Buildings
- ✚ Developing Local Themes - Signposting into neighbourhoods, including gateways and welcomes to the Forum areas.
- ✚ Review Environmental Services Delivery – public awareness campaigns over rubbish disposal/litter; prompt removal of abandoned cars.

Community Safety & Crime

- ✚ Safety By Design – provision of CCTV surveillance
- ✚ Local Area Safety Awareness Campaign - Neighbourhood Watch/ other crime reduction initiatives, including Police working with local residents, thereby better Support for Victims and Vulnerable People

Health

- ✚ Fit For Life Awareness Campaign – Promoting Healthy lifestyles, smoking cessation, coronary diseases, diet, substance abuses, rehabilitation, support and counselling related to drug misuse

Children & Young People

- ✚ Sure Start Project for Balsall Heath and Sparkbrook Central – the development of two home start schemes, seven parent clubs & child minder centres to be run by parents for parents.
- ✚ Youth & Sport Initiative - Aimed at improving facilities for sport and recreation for young people

Women

- ✚ Women Only Training programmes - Multi-language, computer literacy, cookery and household management.

Road Safety

- ✚ Sparkling Corners – traffic calming and improved road safety.

Parks & Open Spaces

- ✚ capital spending works on Pickwick Pk/Calthorpe Pk and Larches Green area
- ✚ Provision of a Park Warden for parks in Balsall Heath.

Developing Our Communities & Involving Local People

- ✚ Supporting Balsall Heath and Sparkbrook Neighbourhood Forum's capacity building and staff to develop individual neighbourhoods.

SPARKBROOK WARD – NRF Focus for 2004 – 2005

- ✚ Open Spaces - cleaning & maintenance of all parks and upgrading of park facilities, provision of park wardens and play leaders
- ✚ Developing our Communities & Involving Local People - Communities in Co-operation strategy, working better together
- ✚ Neighbourhood Centre for Lifelong Learning – providing a range of training, employment and learning opportunities
- ✚ Capacity Building at neighbourhood level – office space and basic administrative skills through training
- ✚ Access to Employment - Local Work Information Network, to map training provision and market requirements to ensure that training meets requirements of local residents and potential employers.
- ✚ To bring together a range of services styled on Employment Resource Centres

ACOCKS GREEN WARD - NRF SPEND 2003 – 2004

The total NRF ward allocation for Acocks Green for year 2003/4 was £544, 358

- ✚ Making the ward a safer place –
 - Ward Crime Reduction Panel set up – to improve co-ordination between agencies
 - Supported crime reduction initiatives i.e. Property marking, improved lighting, closing of some rear access-ways
 - Anti social behaviour – targeting of hot-spots parks and play areas, joint action on truancy issues, drugs awareness
- ✚ Improvements to local infrastructure and promotion of inward investment
 - Improve pedestrian safety on Fox Hollies Rd; improved street lighting, introduce traffic calming on residential roads
- ✚ Improvement to local environment
 - Planned bulk collections across ward, provisions to assist infirm residents maintain tidy gardens
 - Boost local awareness to reporting of illegal rubbish dumping
- ✚ Improvements to local facilities and services for young people

- Conduct needs surveys with young people & encouraged greater involvement in the local democratic process
- More holiday provisions, and targeted youth activities throughout ward with relevant agencies
- Provision of Youth POD – meeting point for youths
- + Regeneration of shopping areas and improvement of employment opportunities
 - Tidied up frontage of Acocks Green Library and war Memorial Areas
 - Production of directory of services provided for local residents
 - Support for festive lights in Acocks Green Village
- + Improving health in the community
 - Provided support to local voluntary organisations
 - Provided up-to-date local information on services available
 - Promote sex education to reduce teenage pregnancy levels
 - Invitations extended to health care professionals (Primary Care Trusts) to Ward Advisory Boards

ACOCKS GREEN WARD – NRF Focus for 2004 – 2005

- + Making the Ward A Safer place
 - Matching of agency boundaries
 - Supporting more initiatives for crime reduction
 - Continue to reduce incidence of anti social behaviour better joint action between agencies
 - Work to improve police response times to reported crimes activities
- + Improvements to local infrastructure and promotion of inward investment
 - Install pedestrian crossing at key crucial points in the Ward i.e. Around schools
 - Investigate possibility of front garden conversions for car parking (drop kerb)
 - Develop parking strategy
 - Production of a database of trusted ‘local’ trades people to deliver quality repairs – cutting out cowboys!
 - More enforcement action (through tenancy conditions) against tenants who fly tip/dump rubbish
 - Work towards setting up a Ward Strategic Partnership
- + Improvements to local environment
 - Targeted actions to turn around voids/empty properties quicker
 - Removal of blight from Spring Road
- + Improvements to facilities and services for young people
 - Establish a Youth Forum
 - Develop Sports facilities for the Yarnfield, Gospel Estate and Fox Hollies park areas
 - Provision of a skateboard park and boxing/fitness center – both to be up and running in 2005
- + Regeneration of shopping areas and improvement of employment opportunities
 - Develop co-ordinated action plan for Acocks Green Village and Fox Hollies Shopping areas
- + Improving Health in the Community
 - Develop a database of volunteer drivers to drive elderly people
 - Deal with under-age sales of drinks for prosecution

SPRINGFIELD WARD – NRF SPEND 2003 – 2004

The total NRF Ward allocation for Springfield for year 2003/4 was £646,481

- + Traffic Management – traffic calming measures has been installed
- + Environmental Improvements – secured funding for 4 Environmental Wardens with enforcement powers, 4 now in place. Improvements to Sparkhill Park and new Park provided – Percy Road Park.
- + Better access training – Access to Employment Groups have been developed to provide a more focussed training programme.
- + Part funded the Mirpuri Community Development Trust – Sparkhill Aiming High
- + More child care support – part funded provisions for new play group in ward and new crèche facility at Sparkhill Centre

SPRINGFIELD WARD – NRF Focus for 2004 – 2005

- + To improve on the level of access to services
- + Improve access for women on health care issues
- + Traffic Management – safer roads, safer routes to school, improved off road parking provision, pursue resident parking scheme provisions
- + Reduce unemployment – target training needs and develop personal skills levels
- + Refuse collection – improve level of service in order to reduce rubbish dumping
- + Co-ordination of opportunities
 - o Increase access to employment/training
 - o Attract people from outside area to use local services

Floor Targets	Sparkbrook	Springfield	Acocks Green
Employment	20%	14%	15%
Education	30%	9%	12%
Health	5%	16%	12%
Community Safety	20%	17%	40%
Housing	5%	16%	6%
Environmental	20%	28%	15%

Fig 6. NRF Percentage Ward spend against 2004/5 NR Floor Targets

The above table shows how the 2004/5 NRF resources for each ward was allocated against each of the key national floor targets, the higher the percentage indicates the importance of activity required around each theme. The Community Safety Floor Target featured as a key priority area for action across the three wards in the district, followed closely by spends on the Environment and Employment as also reflected in the ward development plans.

TACKLING THE FLOOR TARGETS: FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Refocussing mainstream services

There is no doubt that the district has derived substantial benefit from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. However the litmus test is the impact this expenditure has made towards targeting mainstream services to have optimum impact on the floor target trends and ultimately, on the closing gap between the lowest and the minimum standard in each of the key areas. As yet, across the city there is little evidence to show that this has been achieved and Sparkbrook District is no exception. Part of the problem has been that the NRF has been perceived as a discretionary fund, alternatively filling gaps in mainstream services or piloting projects. Performance management arrangements have been weak and impact on the floor targets has not always been monitored effectively. Whilst they are of immense value to their service users at the time, often these projects have no exit or sustainability strategy beyond the life of the NRF funding. That said, the complexity of poverty and deprivation is such that simplistic cause and effect relationships cannot easily be proven. So in this context, decision makers have, quite rightly, sought to meet the immediate needs of their communities as a matter of priority.

One of the future challenges for the partnership is to refocus our mainstream budgets and to devise processes for monitoring impact on individuals and communities over time, in ways that take account of the complexity of the challenges we face. The focus on super output areas is welcomed and the District Strategic Partnership is determined to take a new approach; we believe we will achieve our objectives by concentrating better targeting of the whole public sector budget as well as the NRF. If there is commitment to working in this way, then we have the opportunity to make some real progress over the life of this plan.

Service improvement through local management

We know that no matter how well intentioned or how well led; large organisations are seldom able to make the changes that are necessary to deal with the challenges of our time. The 11 districts are flat organisations; the district committee and the management team are closer to the people they serve and therefore have the capacity to be more responsive to customer needs. They can act with more agility to help resolve local issues and within a timeframe that matters to people.

The District Committee has the opportunity to make real change in the way that services are delivered, however to do this, we have to acknowledge that some service provision is outdated and declare some of our products 'discontinued lines.' So as creators of public services, through the strategic partnership, we can start to use our raw materials; people systems and processes collectively, to create new service products that are better designed to meet demand. In this context, the NRF can quite rightly be used for pump priming, experimentation and action research in pursuit of finding out what works best.

The challenge is one of managing change - to discontinue outmoded services that have continued to fail our people and to reinvest significant mainstream budgets in new ways for more effective service delivery. The reality is we either change the way we deliver services or we fail to meet the needs of our communities, and failure is not an option, because our single shared belief, the driving force behind this plan, is that no-one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live and no-one should have to suffer conditions and services that are failing.

PRIORITY ONE - KEEPING SPARKBROOK CLEAN AND SAFE

Community Safety & Environment

Key National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets – to reduce *Crime* by 15%, and further in high crime areas, by 2007-8
By 2008, make measurable improvements in providing cleaner, safer and greener public spaces and in the quality of the built environment

Community Safety – ‘Keeping Sparkbrook Clean and Safe’ is first in the hierarchy of priorities for the district. Crime and grime can stigmatise whole communities, damage the reputation of local areas and limit the potential to attract inward investment. Tackling these issues is a priority for all of us in building and maintaining stronger and safer communities. Since 1998 Local authorities have a legal responsibility and duty under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act (1998) to reduce crime and disorder in partnership with the police and other agencies. The Birmingham Community Safety Partnership has already had a positive impact in reducing crime and the fear of crime across the city. However the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (BCSP) Assessment produced for Sparkbrook District in June 2004 shows that although there are areas where we are meeting the floor

targets in relation to some crimes, there is still a steady rise in residential burglaries, vehicle crimes, violence against the person and robberies. The BCSP assessment clearly identifies clusters of streets where the crime levels are disturbingly high, i.e. on some bus routes and around bus stops in key hotspot areas. In Acocks Green and the Sparkbrook Wards for instance, there has been a noticeable rise in residential burglaries in comparison with previous years by 29.6%, with a clear upward trend showing from around October 2003 (see diagram below) Acocks Green (385), Springfield (185) and Sparkbrook (266). Through our consultation with local communities anti-social behaviour, diversionary activities for young people, drugs, domestic violence and rats and rubbish emerged as key issues for immediate action.

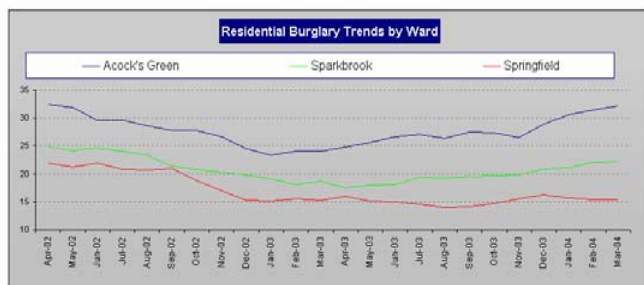
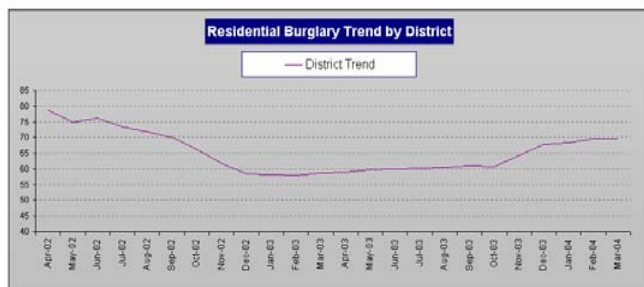
Youth

Considerable research has been undertaken into Youth Engagement Schemes, which operate successfully in other parts of the country and offer safe space youth centres as an alternative to traditional youth clubs and actively encourages young people to join in the range of activities on offer. The first youth shelter - Acocks Green Youth POD is an example of innovative practice that we will evaluate this year.

Residential Burglary in Sparkbrook and Small Heath District

Residential Burglary	Wards			District Total	Birmingham Total
	Acock's Green	Sparkbrook	Springfield		
April 03 to March 04	385	266	185	836	12068
Rate per 1000 Households	34.9	28.2	19.8	28.0	30.9
Change vs Previous Year	88	42	2	132	354
% Change vs Previous Year	29.6%	19%	1.1%	16.4%	3.0%

Rank	Ward	Count
1	ERDINGTON	473
2	SELLY OAK	462
3	LONGBRIDGE	457
4	LOZELLS AND EAST HANDSWORTH	447
5	STOCKLAND GREEN	419
6	MOSELEY AND KING'S HEATH	389
7	ACOCKS GREEN	385
8	EDGBASTON	384
9	TYBURN	373
10	SOHO	367
11	KINGSTANDING	360
12	BARTLEY GREEN	353
13	KING'S NORTON	347
14	HARBORNE	341
15	SUTTON NEW HALL	337
16	QUINTON	333
17	BOURNVILLE	326
18	BILLESLEY	323
19	SHARD END	320
20	YARDLEY	302
21	BRANDWOOD	285
22	NORTHFIELD	272
23	NECHELLS	268
24	SPARKBROOK	266
25	SUTTON VESEY	260
26	HANDSWORTH WOOD AND WEST HANDSWORTH	259
27	STECHFORD	254
28	HODGE HILL	253
29	HALL GREEN	249
30	SUTTON TRINITY	245
31	LADYWOOD	242
32	WEOLLEY	236
33	WASHWOOD HEATH	206
34	ASTON	203
35	PERRY DARR	203
36	SPRINGFIELD	185
37	SUTTON FOUR OAKS	182
38	OScott	170
39	SHELDON	169
40	BORDESLEY GREEN	164



Domestic Violence

There are a number of agencies working within the district who are defining the women's agenda and who have identified the high levels of domestic violence for immediate action. Women tend to tolerate domestic violence for some time before going to the police, therefore reducing domestic violence means enabling and encouraging victims to come forward. CASA, 'Including Women' and other not for profit agencies in the district will work to raise awareness of domestic violence among communities, increase reporting and recording of incidents, provide general advice, give information and signpost to agencies that provide expert support. We will be supporting the recruitment of a Domestic Violence Worker to work across the District, developing policies and raising awareness.

Environment

There are some areas, that despite all our efforts, residents see as major concerns. According to the MORI Survey Sparkbrook district resident's listed 'crime levels and cleaner streets' as areas most in need of improving. Traffic congestion, car parking and poor air quality also presents problems across the district that puts lives at risk and damages people's health. We have improved lighting across the district, deployed more Pest Control Officers and appointed 8 environmental street wardens who will enforce action against perpetrators of environmental crime in order to create and maintain a safe and attractive environment for the community. The plan below reflects our commitment to tackling all the above issues and gives a detailed account of the action we intend to take.

The Safer Stronger Communities Fund

As part of the move towards more locally driven decision making, the government is introducing a new scheme across all English local authorities, the Stronger and Safer Communities Fund. This will come into effect in April 2005 and cover the period 2005/08. The Safer Stronger Communities Fund brings together a number of Home office and ODPM funding streams which are designed to reduce crime, tackle anti social behaviour, improve public spaces, making public services more responsive to local needs and empowering local communities to influence these. These funding streams will be used to develop a set of local outcomes addressing these issues. SSCF outcomes will be captured in an agreement known as a mini local area agreement. The progress of the DSP so far; the setting of priorities, the new approach to allocating Neighbourhood renewal fund, the creation of the LDG and the development of a detailed delivery plan places us in a strong position in relation to this most recent policy development. With the mapping capabilities of the BCSP, the IMD scores and the super output areas, we are in a strong position to (nominally at least) disaggregate the proportion of the funding streams which would be allocated to the district so that it can be set against the actions in the delivery plan. If local area agreements are to be truly local in their nature then they must be negotiated at a district level. We will lobby hard to achieve this on behalf of our local communities.¹

¹ Local Area Agreements themselves are being piloted in 21 local authorities and are more ambitious in scope. They cover three separate funding blocks, *Children and young people, Healthier Communities and Older People and Safer Stronger Communities*, with larger funding streams. In the LAA pilots the SSCF will be part of the wider LAA rather than there being a separate mini LAA

Priority One: Clean and Safe

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
To reduce levels of visible waste, trade and domestic, around the Stratford Rd. area (specific area tbc) and to lower the rat population and target enforcement and educational activity	Formulate a District Environmental Committee and task the group with delivery of the action plans	Group creation with appropriate personnel Formulation of action plans	To deliver, monitor plans. To report to the LDG regularly on progress Identify successes and blockages	Unlimited at present. To be reviewed on an annual basis.	TBC	A significant improvement upon visual impact of the activity area and subsequent feelings of safety, reassurance and cleanliness. A measurable impact in the rat population. An enhanced usage of legislation and increase in local knowledge regarding reporting, behaviour and responsibility

Priority One: Clean and Safe Cont'd

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
To increase enforcement of environmental legislation relating to shops and businesses in the Stratford Rd. area	Task Regulatory Wardens to target specific known 'offenders' and blighted area Further recruit wardens	Agreement of boundary of target area Training of staff where necessary	To issue 100 fixed penalty notices To issue educational information to all businesses on waste management	6 months from point of commencement	Environmental Comm. City's Environmental Crime Unit	Measurable impact on litter and waste management Increased knowledge within business community Enhanced reassurance of public regarding business area
To ensure that every business within the target area has an adequate trade waste contract						An effective trade waste disposal system that impacts upon the visual quality and health of the target areas
Improve the visual impact of the Stratford Rd. area	Co-ordinate the implementation of a Sparkbrook in Bloom campaign			September 2005		Enhanced quality of environment and heightened civic pride
Employ dedicated Pest Control Officers to be tasked to priority areas	Initiate recruitment procedures in line with city protocols for such	Enviro. Comm. Take responsibility for full task	Officers in post and delivering services	April 2005 recruitment complete. Training and tasking commenced as soon as possible	Enviro. Comm. Supported by the relevant district department City's Enviro. Crime Unit	Effectively targeted local resource A significant impact upon the pest population

Drugs

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
Formulate a Drugs Strategy Group	To deliver upon action plans and local priorities	DSP, DAT commissioning activity and allocating funding	<p>To enhance opportunities for accessing drug treatment at a local level.</p> <p>To impact upon drug usage and associated crime</p> <p>Deliver and monitor plans, report to the LDG regularly and identify successes and blockages</p>	March 2005	As before	A local agency group representative of local needs able to deliver a coherent set of action plans
Establish a series of culturally sensitive treatment and rehabilitation facilities	To negotiate with PCT	DSP DAT			Drugs strategy group	
Formulate a time limited action group to deliver against targeted reductions in priority crimes in priority neighbourhoods	On a quarterly or six month basis task and coordinate a series of local projects and interventions aimed at reducing burglary, vehicle crime and robbery	<p>DSP, commissioning</p> <p>Funding</p>	To reduce specific crimes	3-6 mth. cycle	<p>Police</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>YOT</p>	A significant drop in specific crime types

Anti Social Behaviour

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
<p>To increase where appropriate reporting of incidents of ASB through effective targeting of activity in priority neighbourhoods.</p> <p>To respond to incidents of ASB by effective enforcement</p>	<p>Formulate an ASB taskforce for the district under the Safer Estates framework</p>	<p>Commissioning of group through the LDG</p>	<p>To deliver action plans</p> <p>To report to the LDG regularly on progress</p> <p>Identify successes and blockages</p>	<p>March 2005</p>	<p>District Strategic Partnership</p>	<p>A significant impact on ASB reporting</p> <p>A significant impact upon ASB</p>
<p>Identify priority neighbourhoods through shared partner information In which work should focus</p>	<p>Formulate a action orientated partnership framework through which current legislation may be delivered; In direct partnership with BASBU</p>	<p>The signing up to a formal Safer Estates Agreement and performance management framework</p>	<p>To enforce current appropriate legislation where and when required inc. dispersal orders, ASBO's, ABCs, Injunctions etc.</p>	<p>March 2005</p>	<p>DSP</p>	<p>A clear and agreed activity and delivery framework and a mechanism by which present targets and those yet to be set locally may be met</p>

Anti Social Behaviour – continued

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
To enhance witness and victim support	Create a locally appropriate support programme which enhances witness and victim confidence in reporting ASB	Utilisation of best practice and development of innovative solutions that are 'user lead'	To increase numbers of reported incidents	July 2005 To be monitored and evaluated at 12 mths.	BASBU Housing Police Enviro. Unit	An increase in confidence in reporting structures and increase in ASB reporting
Utilising existing local structures and practice; Offer engagement and diversionary activity for all young people aged 8-13 and 13-17 in the district prioritised in certain neighbourhoods that are culturally sensitive	Commission a time limited action group to function at specific times throughout the next 12 mths. To organise, find funds and deliver the programme.	DSP & LDG commissioning Funding Information sharing to identify best practice and geographical locations	To reduce youth crime and ASB	Initial group activity should focus for 12 mths. With particular focus upon holiday periods And the DSP should monitor and evaluate results and impacts both 'soft and hard'	DSP & LDG YOT Youth Service Safer N/Hood Project Ward Support Officers	A significant drop in youth crime and ASB across the district

Domestic Violence						
Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
To build the capacity of the District, including its voluntary agencies, to respond strategically to domestic violence.	<p>Connecting East Domestic Violence Forum/Including Women with the DSP/LDG.</p> <p>Build on local DV campaign (ending March 2005)</p> <p>Enable service targeting through data collection</p>	<p>Form a Domestic Violence Strategy Group</p> <p>Funding towards p/t DV project worker post March 2005</p> <p>Pilot data gathering from multi-agencies on District (supported by BCSP)</p>	<p>To formulate and deliver action plans</p> <p>To report regularly to DSP/LDG on progress</p> <p>Anonymised statistical data available (through a Day To Count)</p> <p>To establish District DV Priorities [between eg. criminal justice; housing; children; prevention and schools work; outreach and take up]</p>	<p>Establish group March 2005</p> <p>Data gathering June 2005</p> <p>Revised action plan & commissioning Sept05</p>	DSP & LDG, Including Women, East DV Forum	<p>District DV infrastructure established.²</p> <p>Coherent action plans, based on locally retrieved evidential base and local community involvement, developed.</p> <p>Capacity to deliver enhanced.</p> <p>Commissioning framework established.</p> <p>Forthcoming BVPIs met³</p> <p>Outcomes from local campaign sustained.</p>

² It has been argued that DV activity has centred around Sparkbrook – need to involve whole of the District

³ The ODPM is currently piloting a series of Best Value Performance Indicators on Domestic Violence which are planned to be introduced in April 2005. These include co-ordination, forum involvement, training, information and housing options. Further details to follow once released.

Domestic Violence - continued

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
To improve mainstream service responses to domestic violence	<p>Training- awareness raising & organisational development around DV Standards⁴</p> <p>District based information & referrals</p>	Commission BCSP Training & Development Project for 6 weeks ⁵	<p>Front-line staff trained</p> <p>A District directory of DV service providers & referral arrangements/ protocols</p>	TBA	Domestic Violence Strategy Group	<p>Survivors receive safe, reliable and informed service wherever they seek support, services or intervention within the District.</p> <p>Workers make appropriate and increased referrals to local sources of support.</p> <p>Take-up of services increased.</p> <p>Mapping undertaken.</p> <p>Gaps in services identified to feed into District strategy</p> <p>Forthcoming BVPIs met.</p>

⁴ Birmingham Inter-Agency Domestic Violence Forum's 'Domestic Violence Principles, Standards & Good Practice'(2004) are endorsed by Birmingham Community Safety Partnership

⁵ BCSP is part-funding a multi-agency training programme to be made available to Districts who wish to participate

PRIORITY TWO - MAKING SPARKBROOK A PROSPEROUS DISTRICT

Tackling Unemployment & Economic and Cultural Regeneration

Key National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Target – As part of the wider objective of full employment in every region, over the 3 years to Spring 2008 and taking into account the economic cycle:

- Demonstrate progress on increasing the employment rate
- Increase the employment rate of disadvantaged groups (lone parents, ethnic minorities, people aged 50 and over, those with the lowest qualifications, and those living in the local authority wards with the worst initial labour market position); and
- Significantly reduce the difference between the employment rates of the disadvantaged groups and the overall rate.

Tackling Unemployment

Birmingham is rightly proud of its fantastic new city centre. The planned developments at eastside, the new super hospital at the QE site and the A38 technology corridor will strengthen the cities position as the regional capital. Massive regeneration of the city centre and city fringes has brought opportunities for real economic growth and prosperity but many of these opportunities have still not spread sufficiently to local people. Sparkbrook District remains one of the most deprived areas in the city. Unemployment in the district stands at 11.2%, which is significantly above the city unemployment rate of 7.6% as at July 2004. Sparkbrook Ward represents the area with the highest unemployment rate of 18.1%, almost three times higher than the city average. The unemployment rate for young males is currently 19% and showing an upward trend and although unemployment in Acocks Green is below the city average there are estates and neighbourhoods within the ward where unemployment levels are equally high and pose a significant threat to the stability of the community.

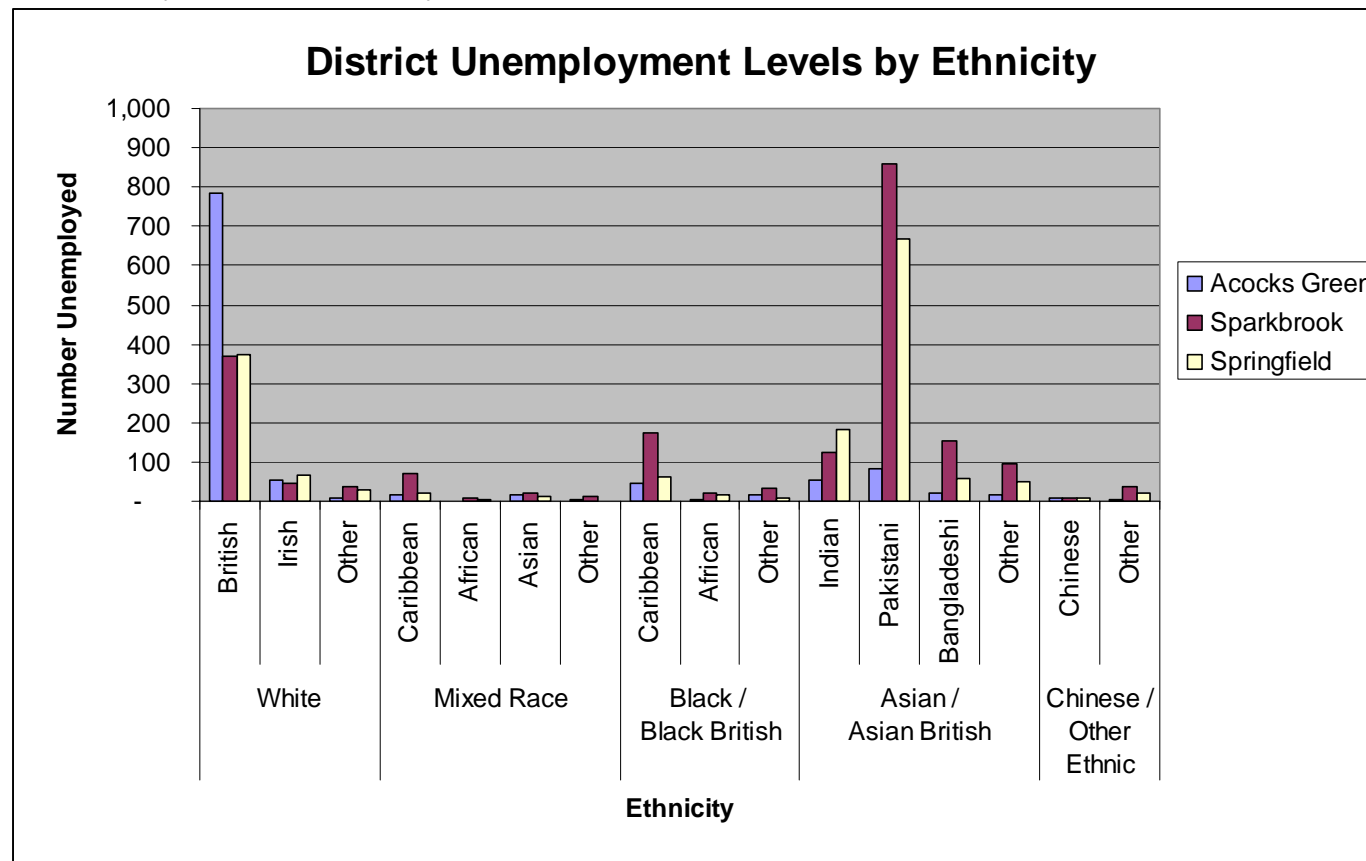
The statistical data and anecdotal evidence suggests that there are still major challenges for ethnic minority communities. These must be overcome if overall levels of unemployment are to improve and the gap between employment, skills and learning attainment for ethnic minorities and the rest of the population is to be reduced. Racism and Islamophobia in the job market is a reality and this in turn may lead to unemployed BME groups choosing not to compete in the wider job market in favour of seeking opportunities for self employment.

The City Economic Strategy sets out a framework for securing Birmingham's continued renaissance and creating vibrant and flourishing neighbourhoods. Its overall aim is to close the gaps between the most deprived communities and the city averages. We will be working to ensure that the residents of Sparkbrook District actually benefit from the economic prosperity of the city by

- ✚ Delivering on local regeneration
- ✚ Attracting and retaining investment
- ✚ Increasing the numbers of the districts residents into work & ensuring resources are effectively targeted.

	% latest unemployment estimates	% Birmingham
Male unemployment	14.3	10.5
Female unemployment	6.4	4.0
Total unemployed	11.2	7.6
Unemployment by ward (%)		
<i>Acocks Green</i>	6.6	
<i>Sparkbrook</i>	18.1	
<i>Springfield</i>	10.3	

Source: BEIC Unemployment Briefing – August 2004, ONS
 Fig 7 latest Unemployment rates by wards and Ethnicity



'ENTERPRISING COMMUNITIES - REGENERATION BY UNLOCKING POTENTIAL'

A major regeneration project was launched in October 2004 – the Enterprising Communities Programme. Covering the Springfield and Sparkbrook wards and worth £21.7 million over the next four years, it is designed to improve unemployment levels through skills development and the promotion of enterprise and business investment. Enterprising Communities is a community led regeneration programme. It is led by two regeneration boards which cover the enterprising communities area. The Sparkbrook, Springfield and Tyseley area regeneration board (SSTARI) which covers the Wards of Sparkbrook and Springfield is the key decision making body in respect of the deployment of the fund in this area. The approach to the regeneration agenda taken by *'Enterprising Communities - regeneration by unlocking potential'* is consistent with the approach to the localisation agenda taken by Sparkbrook District, *'Building on Capacity - Building on Strength'*. The starting point for both initiatives is that communities through their people, community agencies, social and private enterprises have the capacity themselves to address local need, determine the shape of service delivery, deliver quality services themselves, and to call the public sector to account for the quality of service in their locality. The Economic Review 2003/4 estimates that there should be a net increase of between 50 – 80,000 new jobs over the next 10 years. *'Making Sparkbrook a Prosperous District'* is joint first in the order of priorities for 2005/6. Our strategic objective will be to establish a partnership and delivery structure for the Enterprising Communities programme, which is complemented by a regeneration strategy for Acocks Green. Our local people must gain more from the regeneration that is taking place and we therefore need to ensure that:

- + local people have the skills and confidence required to access those new jobs.
- + New businesses re-locate to the area and stay here.
- + The training agencies in the district provide better training for local people to get jobs in the district, the city and further a field.
- + the local workforce that genuinely reflects the diversity of local communities
- + reliable and affordable childcare provision is made so that more parents and carers can take advantage of job opportunities

Furthermore we are mindful of the needs of people with disabilities and the challenges they face in getting employment. In Sparkbrook District around a fifth of the working population have a disability. Given the need for local employment and the growth in the hotel and catering sector our first objective will be to work with the Enterprising Communities Programme to ensure that people with disabilities have access to jobs in this field.

That is not to say that we are limiting our aspirations, we will also be working to ensure that disabled people have access to jobs in all sectors of the economy.

To achieve this, the District Strategic Partnership has adopted the Access to Employment Group and the AEG Plan as the local partnership vehicle for tackling unemployment. There are 9 AEGs city wide that link into the Birmingham Strategic Partnership. The Access to Employment Group (AEGs) includes a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector providers and agencies providing services for individuals seeking access to training, learning and employment. The agencies who will work with us through the AEG include the Learning & Skills Council, Jobcentreplus, Connexions, Business Link, Advantage West Midlands and the East Birmingham and North Solihull Regeneration Zone. The chair of the SSTARI board is also a member of the DSP local delivery group.

Regeneration through Arts Culture and Tourism

The Balti Triangle

The changes that have taken place in the city over the past 15 years have proven to be a catalyst for regeneration that shows no signs of abating. In 2003 Birmingham had 24 million visitors who spent 1.3 billion pounds. Over the next five years we could see eight new hotels opening in the city providing approximately 2000 additional bed spaces. And although weekend bed occupancy has traditionally been low, the success in business tourism is starting to be complemented by increasing demand for leisure tourism. According to Marketing Birmingham, weekend promotions focusing on Balti cooking, jewellery making and football are driving leisure tourists into the city.

Sparkbrook District is the home of the 'Balti Triangle' – one of the city's primary unique selling points, which is key to Birmingham's competitive edge. In order to take advantage of this projected growth in the leisure tourism market and bring prosperity to the district, we will develop a strategy for regeneration through arts, culture and tourism and the Balti Triangle will be at its leading edge. We will:

- + Support the local business infrastructure to develop and market the concept of the Balti experience.
- + Work with the creative industries team to develop the total offer to include the Asian arts, media and culture
- + Enhance the identity of the product and secure more sales by increasing the outlets that offer fair trade goods
- + Market the unique skills and talents of the Balti Triangle so that they influence the food offer within the future hotel developments in the city(e.g. through restaurant franchise arrangements)
- + Set targets in terms of increasing the income around the Balti trade and contributing towards the footfall

Many Balti restaurant owners originally started business as an alternative to unemployment and many of them had no previous history of entrepreneurship. Despite this many have made a great success of their businesses and it is estimated they have in total invested £10m+ in their properties and therefore helped upgrade the area. It is also estimated that their combined turnover is £7m+ and most of them insist on using local suppliers through both loyalty and flexibility of business practice. These statistics are included to highlight the importance of Balti economically to the area and it could be said that this has brought life and vibrancy to an area which, under normal circumstances, could have become a dingy urban backwater with high crime rates similar to some other inner areas of Birmingham.

However, since it reached its peak in the late 1980s/early 1990s, Balti has been threatened by the proliferation of "balti" restaurants across both Birmingham and the West Midlands, and nationally with the added threat of the burgeoning supermarket alternative. To compound these factors there has been the added factor that young people of all cultures and ages in the UK tend towards a fast food mentality.

Yet despite these pressures the Balti Triangle remains unique as a pioneer of an intrinsically Birmingham culinary "development". This continuing popularity has been illustrated by the success of joint marketing events with Marketing Birmingham which includes the highly successful Balti Weekends which have not just been about the restaurants but about encouraging visitors to enjoy the surrounding offer of textiles, grocery shops etc as part of the Balti Triangle cultural experience.

The Asian Balti Restaurant Association (ABRA) proposes to work with other organisations including the Birmingham Asian Business Association (BABA) to maximise resources to promote the Balti Experience through supporting and encouraging a vibrant local retail centre in a number of ways:-

Working to improve the environment

- + Encouraging and supporting restaurant and food outlet involvement in the 'In Bloom' initiative.
- + Improving car parking, street lighting and other measures to assist community safety.
- + Supporting measures to improve aesthetics in the area including tackling the predominance of solid steel shutters and poor quality urban realm.

Improving both the image and management of restaurants and food outlets in the area

- + Developing a Quality Mark which not only improves restaurant management and develops customer care but encourages upskilling of employees.
- + Improving health and hygiene practices including the training of staff.
- + Encouraging the introduction of good environmental practices including recycling and waste management.
- + Encouraging school and student involvement with the regeneration of the Balti Triangle area and in particular the restaurants.
- + Providing training in management practices for businesses.

Attracting more visitors to bolster the local economy

- + Encouraging and developing packages aimed at coach groups.
- + Campaigning for a coach parking facility to encourage the right sort of infrastructure for group visitors.
- + Working to maximise media coverage of the area to attract more visitors.
- + Developing the Spice Trail which will not only look to attract daytime visitors through Public Art but also involve the community in encapsulating the story of Balti for historic, cultural and tourism purposes.
- + Developing a customised Festival/Christmas/Eid lights.

PRIORITY TWO: MAKING SPARKBROOK A PROSPEROUS DISTRICT

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
<p>a) <u>Physical Regeneration</u></p> <p>2.1. To develop a regeneration strategy and master plan and for Acocks Green and identify priority neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Superoutput area data</p> <p>Population data</p>	<p>To have identified at least one priority neighbourhood in each ward as the focus for regeneration activity.</p>	<p>April 2005</p>	<p>District/AEG</p>	<p>Reduce the numbers of people in Acocks Green who are workless.</p> <p>To increase the numbers of households reaching the city average income</p>
<p>2.2 To co-ordinate the districts activities with Enterprising Communities to achieve the outputs of the programmes and to maximise effective regeneration within the Sparkbrook and Springfield wards</p>	<p>Enterprising Communities</p> <p>Theme Groups and Boards</p>	<p>To ensure alignment between district plan priorities and the EC delivery plan priorities</p> <p>To support the development of EC delivery team</p> <p>To contribute to the appraisal of projects in the SSTARI board area</p> <p>To contribute to the evaluation of project outcomes in the SSTARI board area</p>	<p>Jan 2005 ongoing</p>	<p>Sparkbrook District/EDD</p> <p>District/AEG</p> <p>District/AEG</p> <p>District/AEG</p>	
<p>2.3 To test the feasibility of the Stratford Road becoming a business improvement district (BID)</p>	<p>Business and Trade Organisations</p>		<p>June 2005</p>	<p>Development Directorate and Sparkbrook District</p>	

PRIORITY TWO: MAKING SPARKBROOK A PROSPEROUS DISTRICT – Continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
2.4. To develop a tourism and cultural strategy designed to develop the unique identity of the Balti Triangle increasing visitors and visitor expenditure. To this end the district will work with ABRA to improve the quality of local restaurants and support the strategy for competition on quality rather than price.	Business and Trade Organisations Birmingham Chamber of Commerce	To develop a long term vision for the Balti Triangle. To create a local business partnership To identify sources of investment	September 2005	Development Directorate and Sparkbrook District	
2.5. To ensure that the districts priorities are reflected in the review of the local centres strategy and programme	Prosperity theme group	To have completed a review of the District's local centres	December 2005	Development Directorate and Sparkbrook District	
2.6. To support the campaign for Birmingham as a Fair Trade city promoting Sparkbrook as a district with a strong global perspective and a commitment to Fair Trade	Fairtrade Organisations	To have reached a decision on the scope for a Fairtrade element to the cultural and tourism strategy	September 2005	District	

PRIORITY TWO: MAKING SPARKBROOK A PROSPEROUS DISTRICT – continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
<p>b) <u>Local Residents into Employment</u> 2.7. To work with the LSC to develop a culturally sensitive local inclusion plan to close the gap in skills and participation in learning and employment at a local level.</p>	<p>See Access to Employment Group Action Plan – Appendix 2</p>				
<p>2.8. To commission training and development programmes designed to support employers to address barriers to employment and to provide practical advice about dealing with race discrimination in the workplace.</p>					
<p>2.9. To work with our strategic partners to increase the number of people in the district becoming qualified and working within the local workforce and in particular focussing on areas of skill shortage .</p>					

PRIORITY TWO: MAKING SPARKBROOK A PROSPEROUS DISTRICT – continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
2.10. Work with our Strategic Partners to improve the effectiveness of business advice and to assist the development of social enterprise.	<p>See Access to Employment Group Action Plan – Appendix 2</p>				
2.11. To commission training and development programmes designed to support individuals to address barriers to employment e.g. self esteem and confidence, sense of safety and to provide practical advice about managing race discrimination in the workplace.					
2.12. To drill down to neighbourhoods, clusters of streets or tower blocks to more accurately identify need and to specifically identify workless individuals and households and ensure that those people are enabled to access the programmes that are the gateway to jobs and opportunities in the wider economy.					

PRIORITY TWO: MAKING SPARKBROOK A PROSPEROUS DISTRICT – continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
2.13. To support the Connexions Service who has a commitment to ensure that every fourteen to nineteen year old in priority neighbourhoods has a Connexions personal adviser and personal development plan.	<p>See Access to Employment Group Action Plan – Appendix 2</p>				
2.14. To support the Jobcentre Plus Service who have a commitment to ensure that every JSA/incapacity benefit claimant in priority neighbourhoods has a Job centre plus adviser and personal development plan.					
2.15. To contribute to the city co-financing plan to achieve the target of assisting 1,050 people from BME communities into work through 'co-financing'.					
2.16. To support the 'Workwise' project to increase the take up of CENTRO free travel initiatives to improve travel to work patterns so as to increase access to employment					

PRIORITY THREE – MAKING SPARKBROOK A DISTRICT WHERE ALL OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN LEARNING & LEISURE

Key National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Target – By 2008, ensure 50% of children reach a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage.

Reduce inequalities between children in the 20% most deprived areas and the rest of England in the level of development (Foundation Stage).

By 2006, 85% of 11 year olds to achieve level 4 or above in English and Maths with performance sustained to 2008

By 2008 reduce by 40% the proportion of schools in which fewer than 65% of pupils achieve level 4 or above in English and Maths.

By 2007, 85% of 14 year olds achieve level 5 or above in English, Maths, ICT, and 80% achieve level 5 or above in Science.

By 2008 at least 50% of pupils achieve level 5 or above in each of English, Maths and Science in all schools.

By 2008, 60% of pupils to obtain the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at A*-C by 2006, rising to 30% by 2008.

Reduce the proportion of young people not in Education, Employment or Training by 2% by 2010.





All the Neighbourhood Renewal Education indicators show that the children across the District are achieving at or below the city average in comparison to their peers in other districts. We are concerned that every child achieves their full potential and none is left behind, so this has become a priority focus area – because we want our children to succeed.

Furthermore we are extremely concerned about the numbers of children in the district who do not have a school place. This is a key concern of the Somali community who estimate that in January 2005 approximately 60 Somali children did not have a school place. Across the city approximately 600 children do not have a school place and this suggests that the Somali community may be disproportionately represented amongst this group.

Schools need to be more aware of the learning and cultural needs of the different communities and reflect this in their teaching staff. Through the recent consultations many parents and community leaders have voiced concerns about the prevailing belief that exists amongst some teaching staff (those children who do not have English as their first language will, in general, have problems in learning). Whilst the current statistics might bear this out, we do not want our children to get locked into a self perpetuating cycle of low expectation and low achievement.

If we allow this to continue it will have a detrimental effect on local communities and the local economy. Whole communities can get trapped in a 'low pay' 'low skills' equilibrium. They can only find work in industries producing low quality products which require low skills to produce. They receive low rates of pay as a result. The benefits to the local economy are marginal, just sufficient profits are made reducing the scope for increased production or reacting to competition. Such economies and the people who work in them are extremely vulnerable. This is not the future we want for our children and our communities. Improving educational achievement is the key to breaking the cycle of low expectation and low achievement and tackling poverty and deprivation in the long term.

The neighbourhood renewal strategic aims for improving educational achievement are shaped by existing objectives for Birmingham as a 'learning city'. A set of standards for being a learning city is being developed and there will be an annual statement of Birmingham's progress against these standards. For a neighbourhood to flourish, in relation to 'learning', its residents need to have access to:

-  High quality schools, colleges and other educational establishments
-  Diverse out-of-school opportunities for young people
-  Opportunities for families to learn together in a variety of ways
-  Learning through sport, art, languages and volunteering

Education does not fall within the remit of the District Committee. However we have a wealth of other services in the public and 'not for profit' sector that can contribute to the learning and leisure experience in the district. Through the libraries and community and play service we will ensure that our children have safe places to play and stimulating learning experiences, so that our young people have the confidence you would expect of young citizens of one of the most modern cities in Europe; well educated, fluent, skilled and talented; ready to make their contribution to the city.

Libraries play an important part in promoting learning in deprived neighbourhoods, through, for example, homework clubs, family learning centres and Internet services. Information relating to the usage of the district's library facilities is set out below:

- ✚ *Average opening hours* – Acocks Green (39) Sparkbrook (36) and Springfield (36)
- ✚ *Book Issues 2003 to 2004* – Acocks Green 128,978, Sparkbrook (56,832) and Springfield (84,308)
- ✚ *Visits from the public* – Acocks Green (116,972), Sparkbrook (57,304) and Springfield (68,640)
- ✚ *Enquiries* – Acocks Green (19,331) Sparkbrook (17,407) and Springfield (12,246)
- ✚ *Internet usage* – Acocks Green (19,459 sessions), Sparkbrook (25,100) and Springfield (36,509)

We aim to increase the percentage of children benefiting from our children's' library facilities and activities including Bookstart, homework clubs and the summer reading challenge.

We also aim to add to the richness of the experience of growing up in Birmingham by making full use of the informal learning opportunities through Community & Play. We want our children to have equal access to the arts and cultural heritage and so we will seek to increase both the number of visits to sites of interest offered through the community and play service and the number and quality of educational opportunities delivered by arts organisations museums and galleries to young people in the district. We believe that the fact that many of our children live in deprived areas means that it is particularly important to ensure that poverty does not prevent their access to the country's heritage and achievements and to show them that there is a world beyond their communities to which they can aspire. All this costs money so alternative models of service delivery will be explored to maximise our capacity for income generation. For example it due to a lottery grant from the heritage fund there are now no entrance fees to London's Museums and Galleries. Similar streams of funding should be sought to ensure that our children can afford to travel to London and other parts of the country to take advantage of the rich and diverse culture that this country has to offer.

In 2006/7 the government will require all local authorities through their strategic partnerships to create a local area agreement. Children and Young People will be one of the blocks of this agreement. The outcomes and indicators from the 'Every Child Matters: Changes for Children outcomes framework' will form the basis of this agreement. Through combining and coordinating a number of DfFES funding streams the local area agreement will be an integral part of the local areas approach to achieving positive outcomes for children and young people. We see the opportunity for the DSP to play a key role in the negotiation of this agreement at a local level bringing all sectors of the partnership together to achieve our goals. In the long term we want to:

- ✚ Achieve at least as well as or even better than the city average
- ✚ Provide an inclusive learning and social environment in which education is valued and all children and young people can flourish
- ✚ Be a technology rich learning environment (IT) providing world wide web links to encourage learning
- ✚ Develop performance indicators that reflect the high aspirations we hold for our children including numbers of student exchanges, university entrances, and young people entering professional employment

In all of this there will be moves to give additional support to those most in need of support around learning, and moves to ensure that 'learning gaps' in neighbourhoods are addressed. The neighbourhood renewal floor target relates directly to two of the city's Public Service Agreement targets (GCSE attainment) and a proportion of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund resources will be directly linked to progress against this floor target. Aspirational floor targets are also being developed for levels of adult literacy, language and numeracy and for the skills levels of children entering school. Again, proportional use of resources will be set against these targets.

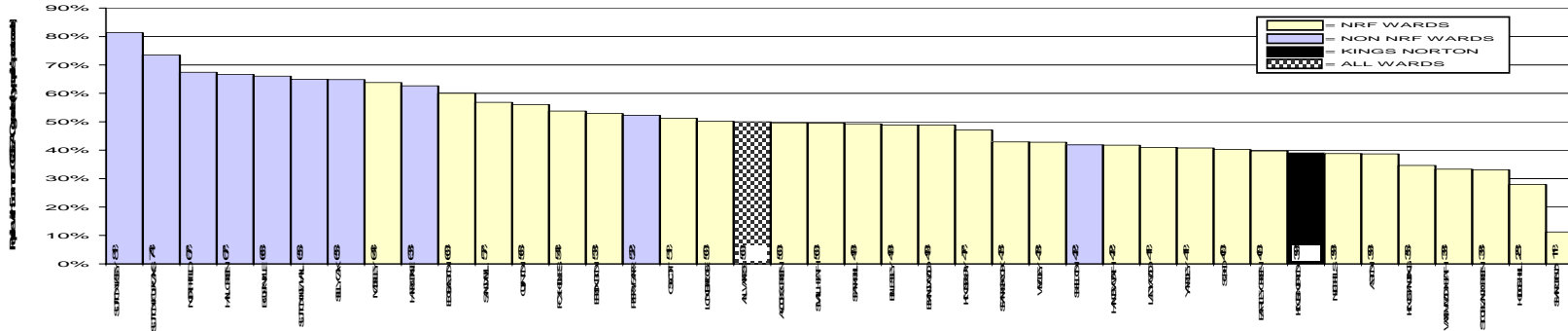


Fig 8 pupils with home postcodes in each ward not necessarily at schools within the ward.

PRIORITY THREE: MAKING SPARKBROOK A DISTRICT WHERE ALL OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN LEARNING & LEISURE

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
<p>3.1 To explore the option of designating one of the districts libraries as a learning centre for children and young people</p>	<p>Consider existing consultation with local communities and service providers.</p> <p>Liaise with local schools.</p> <p>Establish a task group to consider the development of library services in the District.</p> <p>Consider the implications of Framework for the Future</p>	<p>Consultation with local children, young people and their parents.</p> <p>Ensure the involvement of schools Citizenship Forums, Parent Partnerships and SureStart.</p> <p>Map current provision and consider alternative options for service delivery/ outreach work.</p>	<p>End of March 2005</p>	<p>St. Paul's Trust and District Librarian.</p>	<p>District Action Plan for Libraries by June 2005.</p>
<p>3.2 To secure a capital allocation for its redesign and refurbishment; increasing book stock and IT to support the National Curriculum and Key Stage/GCSE revision</p>	<p>As above</p>		<p>End of March 2005</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>

PRIORITY THREE: MAKING SPARKBROOK A DISTRICT WHERE ALL OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN LEARNING & LEISURE – Continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
3.3 To examine re-arranging library opening hours so that maximal use of them can be made by young people out of school hours	As above Liaise with school library service Liaise with local schools	Consultation with local children and young people, and parents regarding library and ICT provisions, outreach services, holidays clubs and homework provisions, at various centres including schools and school libraries. Prepare plan by 31 March 2005.	End of March 2005	As above	District Action Plan for Libraries by June 2005.
3.4 To review spending priorities to see that the book purchasing budget for libraries rises over time, and does not fall.	Consider possible funding streams. Engage children and young people	Attract resources to supplement the book fund Encourage children and young people to participate in book selection.	End of March 2005	As above	District Action Plan for Libraries by June 2005.

PRIORITY THREE: MAKING SPARKBROOK A DISTRICT WHERE ALL OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN LEARNING & LEISURE – Continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
3.5 To explore ways in which the local schools can become a greater resource for the local community	<p>Develop a partnership with the Extended schools initiative</p> <p>Develop partnership working with local schools</p> <p>Consult with young people and their parents</p> <p>Strengthen relationship with Adult education and voluntary and community providers</p> <p>Consider Adult Education Strategy</p>	<p>Consult with local schools on current provision, what they would be willing to offer in the future in terms of play provision/sports facilities and use of library etc. Finally, what would they need to fulfill these requirements?</p> <p>Consult local children and young people and parents on what services they would want /use.</p> <p>Develop Family Learning Strategy in Partnership with Adult Education and voluntary and community groups</p>	June 2005	<p>Parent Partnership</p> <p>Adult Education</p> <p>Voluntary / community groups</p>	<p>Greater use to be made of school buildings during holidays and after school</p> <p>At least one extended school to be established</p>
3.6 To implement the District Library Priorities		Deferred			

PRIORITY THREE: MAKING SPARKBROOK A DISTRICT WHERE ALL OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN LEARNING & LEISURE – Continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
3.7 To sharpen the focus of play provisions (including the voluntary and community sector) towards enriching the life experience of children in the district through summer development programmes to include experiencing Birmingham, London and travel abroad through our city twinning arrangements.	Review City Play Strategy Map provisions Identify gaps Consultant children and young people. Liaise with local schools	Develop a Play Strategy for the District, plotting existing provision and examining gaps, and review the City Play Strategy. Develop a District Play Strategy Examine the roles of schools in the provision of play and sporting activities during the school holidays.	October 2005	Voluntary sector/District Play Service	District Play Strategy and Play Forum established
3.8 To work with the Leisure Service to improve Sport and Play equipment in our parks and POS	Consider funding streams Consult young people Map provision	Incorporate Sport and Play provision into the District Youth Strategy.	By end of June 2005	To be agreed	District Youth to be prepared by March 2006
3.9 To support the Business in Schools initiative by recruiting role models and mentors to encourage ambition amongst young people in the district.	Work closely with Connexions, Education Business Consortium, Business in the community & Local schools	Further clarification required regarding the role of 'Private Sector in Schools'.	By end of June 2005	To be agreed	Encouraging a sense of ambition and achievement for our children and young people

PRIORITY THREE: MAKING SPARKBROOK A DISTRICT WHERE ALL OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN LEARNING & LEISURE – Continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
3.10 To work to seek culturally sensitive mentoring support for young people at school and for mentoring and career support for young people at the start of their career ladder	<p>Work closely with Connexions</p> <p>Consider the City Mentoring Strategy</p>		By end of June 2005		Develop a mentoring programme and careers support as part of the District Youth Strategy
3.11 To develop a Youth Strategy for the district and press for the provision of Youth Services (including voluntary and community provisions) to be reorganised on the new ward and District boundaries	<p>Consult young people and providers from the voluntary, community and statutory sectors</p> <p>Map provision</p> <p>Identify gaps</p>	Develop a District Youth Strategy	By end of March 2006	District Youth Services and voluntary sector provisions.	Youth Strategy to be prepared by March 2006
3.12 To set up a District informal Youth and Sport Committee to look at youth and sport provision (including voluntary and community provisions) and pursue a coherent strategy for its improvement	Develop a partnership between voluntary and statutory providers, including the District Sports services and sports development.	Develop a District Youth Strategy	By end of June 2005	To be agreed	Establish a District informal Youth and Sports committee by June 2005

PRIORITY THREE: MAKING SPARKBROOK A DISTRICT WHERE ALL OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN LEARNING & LEISURE – Continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
3.13 To press the Youth Service to provide its workers with a realistic core activities budget		Develop a District Youth Strategy	By end of March 2006	To be agreed	District Youth Strategy
3.14 The community as a whole has made a large investment in school buildings, but these are often under-used out of hours. We will explore with local schools greater out of hours use of their facilities.	Liaise with local schools Strengthen links with local schools	Improve the use of schools in the provision of play/learning and sporting activities out of hours.	By end of June 2005	To be agreed	Wider use of schools out of hours and during school holidays
3.15 To work towards the replication of the successful Acocks Green Youth Pods scheme in other areas of the District	Consult with young people and communities Consider with local Police, reductions in crime rates	Examine the feasibility of developing youth pods in local neighbourhoods.	By end of January 2005	To be agreed	Incorporate diversionary activities into the District Youth Strategy.
3.16 To examine the City Academy scheme in Balsall Heath.	Develop partnership with St Paul's	Support the development of the City Academy in Balsall Heath.	By end of March 2005	St Paul's	

PRIORITY FOUR - MAKING SPARKBROOK A HEALTHY DISTRICT

Key National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Target: By 2010 reduce the gap in mortality rates between the fifth areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole by 40% for heart disease and stroke in people under 75.
By 2010 reduce the gap in mortality rates between the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole by 6% for cancer in people under 75.
Reduce health inequalities by 10% by 2010 as measured by infant mortality and life expectancy at birth.
Reduce the under 18 conception rates by 50% by 2010.
Reduce adult smoking rates to 21% or less by 2010, with a reduction among routine and manual groups to 26% or less.

Across the District life expectancy and infant mortality rates are poor. The Sparkbrook Ward has the highest death rate by Coronary Heart Disease in the city. There are a variety of reasons which account for poorer health in the district related to low income, worklessness, and other aspects of poverty and deprivation. However this is also compounded by inequality in access to health care provision. Fewer Sparkbrook district residents have access to high quality G.P services as many practices in the district are single handed GPs who cannot offer their patients the same facilities as health clinics and the larger health centres. We also have an increase in the numbers of people with mental illness and elderly people who need to be supported effectively in the community rather than in nursing or residential care. Services that are gender specific, (which is as relevant to the white population as it is to the ethnic minority population), and culturally sensitive services are not widely available.

This makes the challenge of improvement of life expectancy, particularly for those in the geographical areas of most significant concern such as ours, a complex one. And whilst the ward NRF Projects have developed a number of approaches which will help to ensure progress towards the floor targets real improvements will only be achieved through changes in mainstream service delivery at a local level.

Strategic Objective

Overall our strategic objective is to improve the health of the local population, increase life expectancy and to reduce health inequality. We believe that improvement in health outcomes can only be achieved by delivering services at a very personal level. We will provide gender specific and culturally sensitive services to ensure that we support the women in our community, as in the main they will be the key decision makers and role models in family units in terms of diet and exercise. We will refocus the district sport and leisure facilities to target those residents in high risk groups to improve life expectancy and tackle health inequality. The actions we have set out below provides us with a sound basis to contribute to and shape the forthcoming local area agreement for healthier communities and older people.

Theme 2. Health: Coronary Heart Disease Mortality 1998-2002

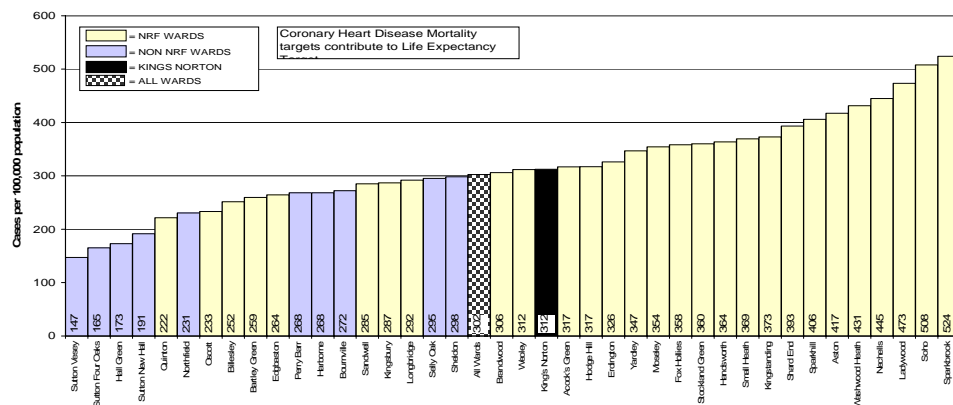


Fig. 9 Coronary Heart Disease Mortality 1998-2002

Over the next year we will work with the PCTs, across departments and local organisations to provide healthier communities for the people in Sparkbrook District by seeking to:

- Reduce the mortality rates from heart disease – through improved management of hypertension, high cholesterol and diabetes among those of high risk
- Reduce mortality rates from cancer – improve waiting times for diagnosis/treatment, reduction in smoking rates
- Reduce inequalities in health outcomes –
 - Life expectancy – target smoking reduction and cessation
 - Infant mortality – target smoking reduction, improving nutrition in women particularly those who are pregnant and/or breastfeeding, high quality midwifery, neo/antenatal services in a culturally sensitive way
 - Peri-natal mortality – Sparkbrook has one of the highest peri-mortality rates within Europe. The District will work with various agencies, such as PCT and community and voluntary organisations, to try and find the causes and reduce this figure.
 - Health inequalities – heart disease and cancer care focusing on the over 50's
 - Reduce adult smoking rates and tackle obesity – reducing obesity particularly in children under 11
- Reduce the levels of teenage pregnancies – reducing sexually transmitted infections rates and improved sexual health services provision
 - Acocks Green has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates of all wards in the city and has the highest ward rate in the District. Conception rates for under 18's in 2000 stood at 60.26 conceptions per 1000 young women, against the national average of 43.9 per 1000 young women.
- ✚ Provide a wide range of opportunities for local people to make healthier choices through ensuring accessible sport & leisure services, safer parks and open spaces
- ✚ Provide more information on healthy living

To support our aims, Sparkbrook District as a whole is already developing a number of projects to promote public health including:

- + Smoking cessation classes
- + Walk 2000 programmes
- + Review and improve the take up of the Exercise on prescription schemes
- + Provide lifestyle and diet coaching within council leisure and sport provision
 - o The Springfield healthy lifestyles project encourages women to exercise around walking and to grow their own fruit and vegetables at one of the local allotments.
- + Seeking to increase the take up of leisure cards by people from the BME Communities
- + Working closer with 'women' identifying and addressing their specific needs and encouraging them to take more responsibility for themselves and their families.
- + Teenage Pregnancies – In Acocks Green three local schools has embarked upon an ambitious programme using different curriculum approaches such as Theatre in Health Education, which involves working with a national theatre company delivering 75 *theatres in health educational sessions* on teenage pregnancy issues.
- + Childhood Obesity – we will work closer with schools to deliver the newly announced targets of 5 hours physical exercise per week for each school child by assisting with after school clubs and promoting the School Club Partnerships.
- + Springfield Health & Social Care to host a Job Fair in Sparkhill on 19 January 2005

A more detailed local delivery plan is set out below (left).

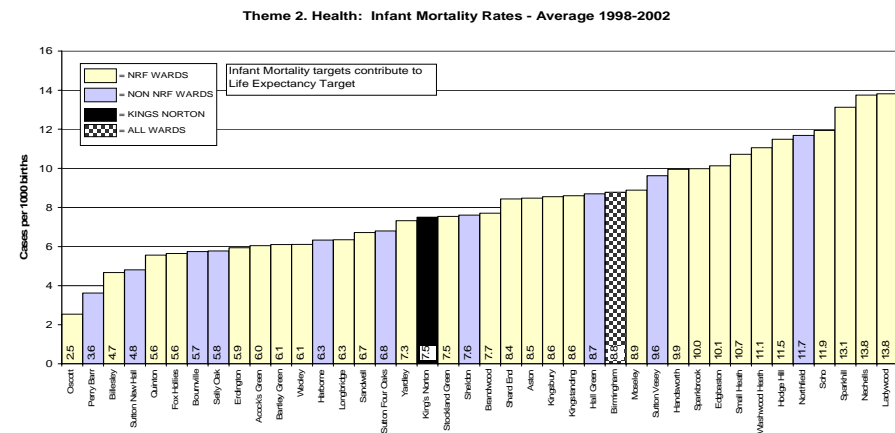
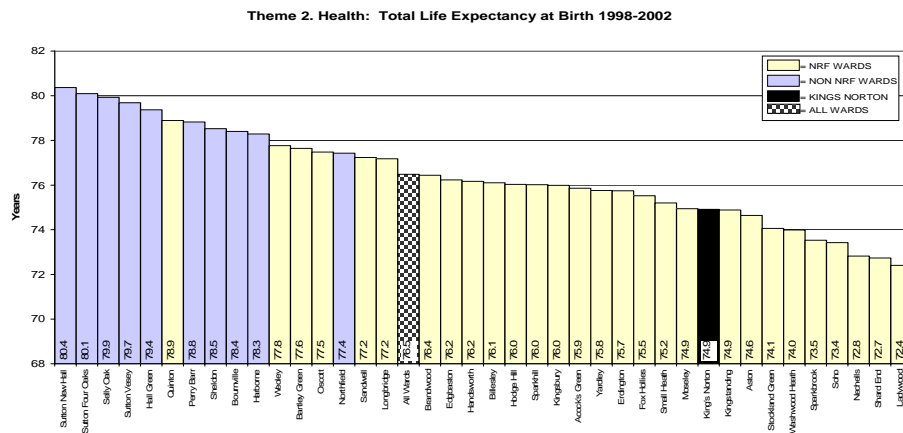


Fig 10. Life expectancy and Fig 11. mortality (right) indicators: position across wards (2003)

PRIORITY FOUR: MAKING SPARKBROOK A HEALTHY DISTRICT

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
4.1 To provide 'quit smoking' support, personal lifestyle and diet coaching within council leisure and sports, and encourage community and voluntary sector, and Neighbourhood Forum provision of lifestyle and diet coaching.	Establish baseline Map/list of health service provision across district Establish minimum quality standard for service Produce resource plan for 2006 -10	Increase number of projects supported to deliver/ Promote 'Healthy Lifestyles' in the ward.	March 2005 May 2005 June 2005	Leisure service/PCT/Vol Sector	To improve life expectancy in the district by 10% years by 2010.
4.2 To Increase take up of the exercise on prescription scheme	Establish baseline for the present take up of scheme from individual GP's.	Increase GP referral by 10% each year.	April 2005	PCT	

PRIORITY FOUR: MAKING SPARKBROOK A HEALTHY DISTRICT – continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
4.3 To increase level of physical activity and use of sports facilities amongst target groups	<p>Conduct scrutiny review of the exercise on prescription scheme</p> <p>Establish baseline.</p> <p>Establish scope for targeting existing or planned promotion campaigns.</p> <p>Produce resource and action plan for exercise on prescription promotion campaign</p>	<p>Improve relevance of the service design to the target group To achieve a 5% yearly increase (subject to review) in take up of exercise</p> <p>Increase by 10% the number of outlets where scheme and health benefits of simple exercise (i.e. walking) is advertised/promoted to reach target groups. To include community facilities, mosques, health centres, neighbourhood offices etc</p>	<p>May 2005</p> <p>April 2005</p> <p>April 2005</p> <p>June 2005</p>	Leisure Services	

PRIORITY FOUR: MAKING SPARKBROOK A HEALTHY DISTRICT – continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
<p>4.4 To promote exercise for all and improved 'women only' provision and to identify and address gaps in women only health and leisure provision</p>	<p>Establish baselines</p> <p>Identify areas where immediate improvements can be made within existing resources</p> <p>Produce a resource plan to provide improved sessions and increase the number of sessions for both men and women throughout District at all leisure and community facilities</p>	<p>To increase the overall number of women only sessions across the district</p> <p>To increase the overall number of women only bookings</p> <p>To provide men only health and fitness sessions at the Sparkhill baths</p>	<p>March 2005</p> <p>April 2005</p> <p>September 2005</p>	<p>Leisure Services/VOL sector</p> <p>Leisure Services/Vol sector</p> <p>Leisure services/PCT</p>	

PRIORITY FOUR: MAKING SPARKBROOK A HEALTHY DISTRICT – continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
4.5 To increase the take up of leisure cards by people from BME communities	<p>Establish baselines for district</p> <p>Determine most cost effective way to deliver information/training</p> <p>Produce a resource plan which details how lost income will be recovered</p>	<p>To achieve a 5% increase in take up (present City figure is 25% BME take up of 296,901 card issued).</p> <p>Increase the number of outlets providing information and application forms</p> <p>Increase number of staff trained in the process and benefits of registration</p> <p>Pilot two free weeks in 2005 at all leisure centres in the district where customers are required to register to use facilities without charge.</p>	<p>Jan 2005</p> <p>March 2005</p> <p>May 2005</p>	Leisure Services	
4.6 To explore free admission to Sports & Leisure facilities in the district for local Residents.	<p>Policy, IT and Financial advice from lead agencies.</p> <p>Review best practice and research that would inform a policy of free provision</p>	To have produced a feasibility study and cost benefit analysis of free and subsidised admission to sport and leisure facilities in the district	<p>June 2005</p> <p>September 2005</p>	Leisure Services/PCT	

PRIORITY FOUR: MAKING SPARKBROOK A HEALTHY DISTRICT – continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
4.7 To co-ordinate services from a range of potential providers including the voluntary sector to deliver interventions in conjunction with health designed to tackle self-esteem, sexual health and contraception and parenting skills for young people.	<p>Establish baseline of current service provision.</p> <p>Consultation with young people regarding service design and access</p> <p>Examples of best practice identified</p>	<p>Identify and catalogue providers and interventions which could be coordinated to provide a coherent package of service provision.</p> <p>To identify/design access points for self referral and a mechanism for agency referral to the proposed service</p> <p>To produce a resource plan which details how service could be provided and specifies any additional resource requirements for 2006-10 plan.</p>	<p>April 2005</p> <p>August 2005</p> <p>September 2005</p>	DSP Health theme group	
4.8 To ensure that the district is represented on the newly established teenage pregnancy strategy group		Elect a representative from the LSP theme group for Health to attend the teenage pregnancy group	January 2005	DSP Health theme group	
4.9 To monitor progress on the trial parent training programme at Golden Hillock school with a view to learning from current practice		Meet with and request information relating to the project and it's achievements with a view to implementing a similar programme within District	February 2005	DSP Health theme group	

PRIORITY FOUR: MAKING SPARKBROOK A HEALTHY DISTRICT – continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
4.10 To explore the extent to which district services can contribute towards promoting positive mental health	Conduct mapping exercise to identify depth of problem with low level mental health (stress) within District.			PCT	
4.11 To ensure that residents are aware of those services that they can access outside of the district when required, for reasons relating to sensitivity and confidentiality	Conduct mapping exercise through Social Services/Local GPs and other community and voluntary agencies	To compile list of available services or agencies that will provide a signpost to other services outside of the district (e.g. Drugs projects, teenage pregnancy issues, safe houses). Promote the findings of exercise within community.	September 2005	DSP Health theme group.	
4.12 To press for the funding of Social Services placements at the Apna Gar centre to be fully funded at cost in line with its funding policy towards other centres. To press the PCT to provide an Asian elder day centre in Springfield, and to review provision across the District.	Conduct mapping exercise for demand for elderly recreation services across the district	Increase in provision of low level care and support to older people in the district Map the need for elderly service demand on other parts of the District.	September 2005	DSP Health Theme Group	

PRIORITY FOUR: MAKING SPARKBROOK A HEALTHY DISTRICT – continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
4.13 Support the PCT to make services more culturally sensitive, and for service to be available on demand and to bring an end to waiting lists for drug treatment		Drug related strategy to be referred back to Community Safety theme group who are developing Drug Strategy Group. Linked to 1.17 & 1.18		DSP Health theme group	
4.14 Request that the PCT to consider Maintenance prescription combined in Intensive social support to enable hard Drug users to stabilise chaotic lives.					
4.15 To hold an annual health action and awareness day, involving all services, agencies, community and voluntary organisations who offer health advice/support.		Target up to 50 people per ward	March 2005	DSP Health theme group	

PRIORITY FOUR: MAKING SPARKBROOK A HEALTHY DISTRICT – continued

Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
<p>4.16 PCT to undertake health impact assessments where necessary.</p> <p>Utilise information collate from health Impact assessments following any major changes within service provisions across District. (e.g. Moseley Road Baths, BSC)</p>	<p>PCT to provide a provisional impact assessment for potential loss of BSC.</p>	<p>To ensure that all major proposals for service changes in the district receive a health impact assessment</p>	<p>March 2005</p>	<p>PCT</p> <p>District</p>	
<p>4.17 Ascertain the causes and impact on the high Infant Mortality rates in the wards affected</p>	<p>Undertake desk review of current relevant research</p>		<p>May 2005</p>	<p>PCT</p>	
<p>4.18 Tackle childhood obesity working with schools to delivery on targets of 5 hours physical exercise per week</p>	<p>Establish baselines for target primary schools</p>	<p>Develop 2 School Club Partnerships. Increased usage of After School Clubs</p>	<p>May 2005</p>	<p>Leisure Services/PCT/ Vol Orgs, Learning & Culture (schools)</p>	

PRIORITY FIVE: A HOUSING STRATEGY

Key National Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Target – by 2010, bring all social housing into decent condition and increase the proportion of private housing in decent condition occupied by vulnerable groups, including families with children.

Whilst the District Committee does not have responsibility for housing, **The LSP theme group for Housing** would play a role in overseeing the management of the population of the district through encouraging initiatives to ensuring a mix of housing tenure. We must recognise that the housing supply & demand crisis has been further exacerbated over the years especially since the city council housing stock has fallen drastically from 136,000 to 72,000 properties over 5 years. We will work with the Housing Department to seek Government support for more new social housing, appropriate to the family sizes of those on the waiting list. The identification of priority neighbourhoods and the appointment of neighbourhood managers will provide the basis on which community based housing organisations (CBHO's) can be built.

Housing was a major issue which came out of the various consultation events held across the district, more the lack of reasonable housing for rent or to buy, the lack of appropriate in size to accommodate the larger families and general overcrowding. The District Committee will need to influence the Housing Management in the area in order to address housing need across the district.

The major land use in the District is residential and comprises of a wide range of housing types, however, Sparkbrook District has a high concentration of unsatisfactory housing both in the public and private sectors, which accommodates the majority of its BME community. Poor housing conditions are not the only issue, but the housing stock is predominantly pre-1919 terraces and there is a significant lack of housing to meet the needs of larger families. Major redevelopment in parts of the city has forced prices and rental costs up, making affordable homes hard to find. Much of the council's stock is in need of major repair and resources are stretched. Overall the stock is also reducing through the Right to Buy and there is a limited amount of land available for building. These facts illustrate the challenges that we are facing to provide a home for everyone who wants one. In spite of this, there is a great need for housing providers to consider all our needs and aspirations, including the BME groups. Communities are now looking for a wider range of tenure options, including new tenure forms. Housing is also required in areas of choice as opposed to accepting that in the past traditionally BMEs accepted less than satisfactory housing options.

There is evidence which indicates that there is a disparity in terms of access to housing. Overall, BME households across the city received over 700 lettings less than they would be expected to on the basis of their prevalence on the waiting list (1999 figures), this compares with a European household who is almost twice as likely to receive a letting as a BME household. The District is engaged in developing two sites for housing within the Sparkbrook ward covering an area of 15.5 acres. The type of properties that will be built on these sites will be directed by the Housing Strategy for the area, and meet the needs of the larger family types.

Challenges for Sparkbrook

More work is required to develop ideas for the effective marketing of social housing, including finding out why BME take up is low. The business community is also changing, with owners of successful businesses no longer tending to want to live in the immediate area, on top of these younger generations may not want to take over their parents' business, and carry on the trend. Access to outer city areas is also crucial and there needs to be recognition of the similarity of BME groups and non-BME groups in terms of their housing aspirations and requirements. The link between health and housing is well established for BME groups, who are disproportionately concentrated in poorer housing conditions with overcrowding, illness can be exacerbated.

The Owner Occupiers Sector represents well over half of the district's total housing stock of 30,958. Housing prices for first time buyers, whilst not the highest in the city, are still out of reach for many low-income households in Sparkbrook District in housing need. An average 3 bed roomed terraced/semi detached house in the Sparkbrook and Springfield wards would normally sell for around £110 - £120,000, this figure could rise to £150 - 160,000 if the property is in very good condition. By contrast there are areas of more prosperous housing in Moseley and in Acocks Green where the same type of property would sell for upwards of £130,000 to as high as £160 – 175,000. People on low incomes are effectively priced out of the housing market with the average household incomes being lower than the Birmingham average of £25,300. This also contributes towards overcrowding, as even highly qualified young people (graduates) cannot afford to move out of their parental home.

Progress towards achieving the Decent Homes Standard

The District Options Appraisal Programme and the profiling of the district's stock indicates that the process is due to conclude in June 2006, we will be commencing consultations in Sept 2005, and submit the preferred options to Government in May 2006.

Although the District has a total of 4,827 council properties at April 1004 there were only 38 long term high cost voids, which have been void from between 6 months to 5 years. These void properties have been issued to a specialist contractor to refurbish and should be completed in March 2006.

However, in the private rented sector you will note from the table below the total of voids properties levels stand at 1075. This represents over 322 properties that have been empty across the district for between 6 months to a year. Through the recruitment of a private sector Empty Properties Officer, the district intends to coordinate the bringing back into use of void properties. Figures 4 and 5 shows the differentials in allocation of council properties across the District broken by ethnicity.

Across the district there are 6626 vulnerable households, of this 3,189 households currently meet the Decent Homes standard representing 48.12%. Below the table indicates the number of local authority owned (high cost) long term voids in the district by type. These have been passed on to a specialist contractor to refurbish and return to the housing department for letting by April 2007.

Voids

	Bungalow	Flat	House	Total
6 months – 1 year		4	9	13
1-2 years		11	4	15
2-3 years			6	6
3-4 years	1		1	2
4-5 years		1		1
5 years +			1	1
Total	1	16	21	38

Fig 12. Period Void – by property type for (High cost) long-term void council properties as at April 2004

Local authority Properties in Sparkbrook District	4,827
Of that number – total houses	3,088
Long Term (High cost) Voids totals and by property type (as above)	38

	6 mths – 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5 years +	Grand total
Totals	322	308	152	72	57	164	1075

Fig 13. Period Void – for Private Rented Sector Properties

	Sparkbrook District	City Wide
Council Void Rate	0.85%	3.07%
Private Sector Void Rate	4.19%	4.30%

Fig14. Combined Void totals of both sectors

Property Category	Afro Caribbean	Asian	European	Not declared	Other Black	Grand Total
1 Bed Flat	36	63	179	31	31	340
1-2 Bed Bungalow	1	10	10			21
2 bed Flat	11	32	49	10	7	109
2 Bed House	11	81	63	5	10	170
2-3 Bed Maisonette	1	2	2		1	6
3 bed Flat	6	19	26	12	4	67
3 Bed House	12	116	51	4	17	200
4 Bed House	6	35	7	7	13	68
5 Bed House	1					1
Grand Total	85	358	387	69	83	982

Fig 15. Waiting Applicants who are 'not' housed by the local authority but wanting to move into the Sparkbrook District as at April 2004.

Property Category	Afro Caribbean	Asian	European	Not declared	Other Black	Grand Total
1 Bed Flat	20	12	143	12	12	199
1-2 Bed Bungalow	5	2	61		1	69
2 Bed Flat		2	26	2		30
2 Bed House	8	30	90	7	15	150
2-3 Bed Maisonette	1	1	5		1	8
3 Bed Flat	5	3	12	2		22
3 Bed House	10	45	151	10	11	227
4 Bed House	9	40	52	2	6	109
Grand Total	58	135	540	35	46	814

Fig 16. Transfer applications who are already housed by the local authority wanting to move into the Sparkbrook District as at April 2004

PRIORITY FIVE: A HOUSING STRATEGY

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
5.1. Identify derelict sites for compulsory purchase and other sites for capital investment in new housing and retail outlets in conjunction with the Housing market renewal initiative.	To produce and maintain an initial list of all sites from across the District for future new housing and other development opportunities.	Work mainly with: Joint Ventures Strategy & Stds Private Sector RSLs	Monitor progress at quarterly intervals		BCC – Hsg, Strategy & Stds	To have investigated the potential for all the identified sites for new housing and other developments, working in partnership with the private sector and RSL.
5.2. To work to see private rented properties are all fit, and to encourage their improvement	Define and produce a consolidated list of minimum standards of fitness levels for Private Rented Sector Properties, and produce a strategy for encouraging landlords to improve or maintain standards	Strategy & Stds Private Sector RSLs	Identify successes and blockages.	This will be an on-going process but will need to be monitored on a quarterly basis	BCC	Produce a final action plan specifying minimum standards of fitness levels for Private Sector Properties. Produce strategy for encouraging improvement of property to appropriate fitness standard.

PRIORITY FIVE: A HOUSING STRATEGY – Continued

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
5.3. Implement the councils' strategy for decent homes. To work to get RSL's to meet similar standards in their properties.	Identify Housing Corporation's relevant Decent Homes Standard Policy/Strategy and work to formulate action plan to meet standards across the District.	Housing Dept RSLs Housing Corporation Customer Service Officers	District Stock Options Appraisal Programme to conclude June 2006.	Preferred Options Consultations to commence Sept 2005. Preferred Options Consultations process concluded by March 06	Housing	Submission of Preferred Options to Government Office by May 2006.
5.4. Consider employing/funding an empty properties officer for the district. Press Housing to better manage voids as most RSL's do.	Source Funding and identify viability for District Empty Properties Officer for the Private Rented Sector. Housing to continue to improve on targets turnaround for Voids across the district.	Work with Strategy & Standards	Identify funding mechanism by April 2005 Monitor voids performance on a quarterly basis.			Seek to have Private Sector Empty Properties Officer for the District by Dec 2005 Increased levels in voids turnaround times and the time it takes to let them.
5.5. Press Housing to provide Direct exchange estate Agent style boards in Neighbourhood Offices.	Provisions to be made within Neighbourhood Offices across the District to host Direct Exchange Boards in the reception areas.	Neighbourhood Offices/Housing	Direct Exchange Boards to be fully operational in all three wards by April 2005	Monitor the effectiveness and maintenance of the Direct Exchange Boards and report on at quarterly intervals.		Direct Exchange Boards in the three wards by April 2005

PRIORITY FIVE: A HOUSING STRATEGY – Continued

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
5.6. To produce a consolidated list of empty properties, council, housing association and privately owned.	To link objective to 6.4 and coordinate empty properties list for all sectors across the District. Devise action plan to systematically ascertain ownership and status of properties.	Housing Corporation Birmingham Social Housing P'Ship RSLs BCC - Housing	Monitor regularly on a quarterly basis	BCC - Housing		Produce quarterly Voids Monitoring Information of voids across all sectors
5.7. To encourage out-migration included choice-based lettings being developed by the city and to provide support for the out-migrant families to assist with integration.		Consult Housing Liaison Boards; Housing Theme Groups; Residents & Community Groups				Produce Strategy for Consultation with local communities to influence HMRA's

PRIORITY SIX – A STRATEGY FOR PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY & CIVIC RENEWAL

Faith, Citizenship & Social Cohesion

Birmingham is a City of global significance. Its industrial strength has attracted people from all over the world who have made Birmingham their home and as a consequence our civic leaders respond to and manage global tensions as they are reflected within the city. Sparkbrook District is one of the most diverse in the city and yet one of the most socially cohesive. In spite of past difficulties some areas in the district have been transformed and people are convinced that this diversity has been its strength. However we are mindful of the impact of global events on our local communities and we intend to ensure that we hold fast to the core values that have maintained this strength. To mark the new millennium a 'Shared Act of Reflection and Commitment' was held at the Houses of Parliament on 3 January 2000. This event celebrated a set of core values which unite all faith communities, and indeed included people of good will who do not hold any particular religious beliefs. These are:

- + Community
- + Personal Integrity
- + A sense of Right and Wrong
- + Learning Wisdom and Love of Truth
- + Care and Compassion
- + Justice and Peace
- + Respect for one another and for the earth and its creatures

These values were said to form the basis for all productive interfaith activity and for cooperation by all communities in addressing issues of social exclusion, civil renewal and community cohesion.

Within a global context, Birmingham is a City where areas of wealth and poverty can lay just streets away from each other. In a District like Sparkbrook where household incomes are well below average, not many people can be said to be wealthy and some suffer severe deprivation. This context, the combination of global politics and the tensions of local poverty brings issues of citizenship and social cohesion into sharp focus. The question of values in relation to faith, citizenship and social cohesion are yet to be explored and our intention to do so is reflected through this statement of commitment and intent.

The Sparkbrook District Strategic Partnership is committed to exploring the values set out above and to agree a vision and a set of core values for the District by December 2005. Where specific criteria are used to ensure the equitable distribution of public goods and services, we will be clear about who has the right to support from the welfare provided by each of the key agencies who form this partnership. Furthermore we will set out the responsibilities and obligations that are due in return. This relationship seeks to define the meaning of citizenship in our community. We are committed to promoting a better understanding of the differences and commonalities between communities to protect and enhance social cohesion and promote a fair and just society.

Rebuilding trust

In many areas of the City high levels of unemployment, education, under achievement, poor housing and poor health, have devastated community capacity. Crime and the fear of crime have had the effect of destroying the trust between neighbours and communities. Trust between ordinary people, democratic institutions and public services have also been seriously undermined and this in turn reduces the willingness for people and communities to

participate in civic life and reach their full potential. Devolution of power and responsibility and localisation of the control and accountability of public services is a crucial step forward in rebuilding that trust. Working together through the local strategic partnership we will improve the quality of life of people in the District by improving the quality of services that many rely upon for support.

Strengthening the LSP

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) embodies the new relationship between citizen and state. It is a partnership based on the principle that there is a crucial interdependency between those delivering services and those who use them. Its role is to enable and to empower people to engage in thinking through local solutions to local problems and to work collectively, sharing responsibility for the design and delivery of public services. In recognition of this the plan has set out a priority the increase in participative democracy and civic renewal: strengthening the capacity of the LSP is a key part of meeting this priority.

Celebrating local heroes

Sparkbrook District and its composite wards of Sparkbrook, Springfield and Acocks Green have significant numbers of highly committed individuals willing to be fully engaged in community affairs – they are exemplars of active citizens and many of them are active LSP members, active in their local communities and members of steering groups and management boards. Their time, energy and commitment are to be celebrated, our District would be poorer without them.

We intend to build on this strength and increase the numbers of people actively engaged in our democratic processes and public institutions, not just for the benefit to those institutions but because the proactive expression of shared values, building community networks and a sense of trust and belonging is crucial to individual health and happiness and to the strength and cohesiveness of local neighbourhoods in the district.

Promoting Active citizenship

Integral to this approach is the need to developing a sense of citizenship where individuals have a stake in their community. The concept of street champions seeks to build on the belief that it is vital to engender a sense of belonging and ownership – what better place to start than the street you live in. But it must not end there - people want to have a stake in their public space too. In the longer term, we want to increase the opportunities for voluntary action so people can take these opportunities to change the street they live in and ultimately change the world they live in.

PRIORITY SIX: A STRATEGY FOR PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY & CIVIL RENEWAL

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
6.1. To develop a strategy for participative democracy & civic renewal. Working across the three main sectors. There will be 2 elements to this:	Working with people at a neighbourhood & street level Recruiting Street Champions in those areas where this approach add value	Community Unity, Neighbourhood Forums BRAP BCEN BANF Work with voluntary organisations and community agencies		July 2005		Produce a Strategy or framework to create a mechanism to engage with people.
6.2. To review the use of community buildings/assets with a view to maximising opportunities to invest in and develop the capacity of the voluntary and community sector both in terms of community development and service delivery.	To maintain a district database of all community building/assets	Business sector and public sector agencies BCC – Planning, EDD & all departments Surplus Property Working Group	To be reviewed quarterly		EDD – Surplus Property Working Grp & Local Services	To produce a draft Asset Management Plan by Sept 2005

PRIORITY SIX: A STRATEGY FOR PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY & CIVIL RENEWAL – continued

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
6.3. Enabling local people to work together on issues of local concern – development of a community development approach.	<p>Devise a series of training workshops and programmes to enable full participation of the community</p> <p>Training for local people, support with funding applications, training in chairing meetings, keeping accounts, taking minutes, help with communication i.e. design and printing, use of photos videos and other media to get key messages across</p>	<p>Community Unity, Neighbourhood Forums BRAP BCEN BANF</p> <p>Work with voluntary organisations and community agencies</p> <p>Business sector and public sector agencies</p> <p>BCC – Planning, EDD & all departments Surplus Property Working Group</p>	<p>To engage with 10 organisations in the next 4-6 months to identify and in some cases use the mechanisms that already exist to identify how participations and democracy is actually conducted.</p> <p>4 – 6 months</p>	By July 2005	<p>Voice B.STRONG BCEN BANF Neighbourhood Forums Vol Orgs & Community Grps</p>	Engage with 10 organisations
6.4. To ensure that district and service managers are aware of this as a priority and ensure that consultation and engagement with local communities is reflected in staff personal development plans	PDRs to reflect priorities		To complete PDRs by March 2005	By March 2005	District Managers	

PRIORITY SIX: A STRATEGY FOR PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY & CIVIL RENEWAL – continued

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
6.5 Strengthening the District Strategic Partnership through resources made available by the CSP i.e. partnership fund and learning programme	Secure DSP Coordinator position to support DSP	Admin Resources		By March 2005	LSD	DSP Coordinator in post by March 2005
6.6 Supporting the capacity of the LSP to communicate with community organisations and forums through B:CEN's mapping exercise and network in the district and ensure that we are using all available mechanisms to engage the local community.	Identify actions using the various frameworks, mechanisms & systems already in place i.e. Consultation & Engagement Strategy Framework.		To have developed an improved process for engaging local communities	By January 2006	B:CEN	
6.7. To Organise a series of Faith Events.	To organise and produce a Calendar of Events for Faith Communities To formulate and deliver at least three faith events across the District			By June 2005		A Calendar of Events for Faith Events across the District by June 2005.

PRIORITY SIX: A STRATEGY FOR PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY & CIVIL RENEWAL – continued

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
6.8. To identify an EDO to focus on community cohesion and faith	To identify workers from within existing resources across the District.					To host a series of faith events across all Districts by March 2006
6.9. The Sparkbrook DSP is committed to exploring the values set out in this priority and to agree a vision and a set of core values for the District.	Work with Women's Groups and relevant Voluntary Organisations to identify training workshops and programmes that would support active and full participations and engagement.			By Dec 2005		To agree a vision and a set of core values for the District by Dec 2005
6.10. Work with Women's network, and other women's groups to encourage and enable more active contribution from women across the district, to the decision making process.	Provide of crèche facilities. Provide Calendar of Future Meetings with suitable times	VOICE BANF BCEN Neighbourhood Forums BStrong Voluntary Organisations Community Groups Faith Groups	To increase number of women attending decision making meetings Identify suitable crèche services providers Identify list of suitable venues for meetings	July 2005		Engage with several women's groups whether in Voluntary or Community Sector.

PRIORITY SIX: A STRATEGY FOR PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY & CIVIL RENEWAL – continued

Objectives	Actions	Inputs Required	Targets	Timescales	Lead Agencies/ Key Personnel	Expected Outcomes
6.13. To enable more women to attend and contribute to theme groups, conferences or committee meetings.	<p>Work with Women’s Groups and relevant Voluntary Organisations and statutory partners to identify training workshops and programmes that would support active and full participations and engagement.</p> <p>Provide of crèche facilities.</p> <p>Provide Calendar of Future Meetings with suitable times</p>			May 2005.		Increased participation from women
6.14 To enable more people with Disabilities to attend and contribute to theme groups, conferences or committee meetings.	<p>Work with Disability Groups and relevant Voluntary Organisations and statutory partners to identify training workshops and programmes that would support active and full participations and engagement.</p> <p>Provide Calendar of Future Meetings with suitable times</p>			May 2005		Increased numbers involved from people with disabilities

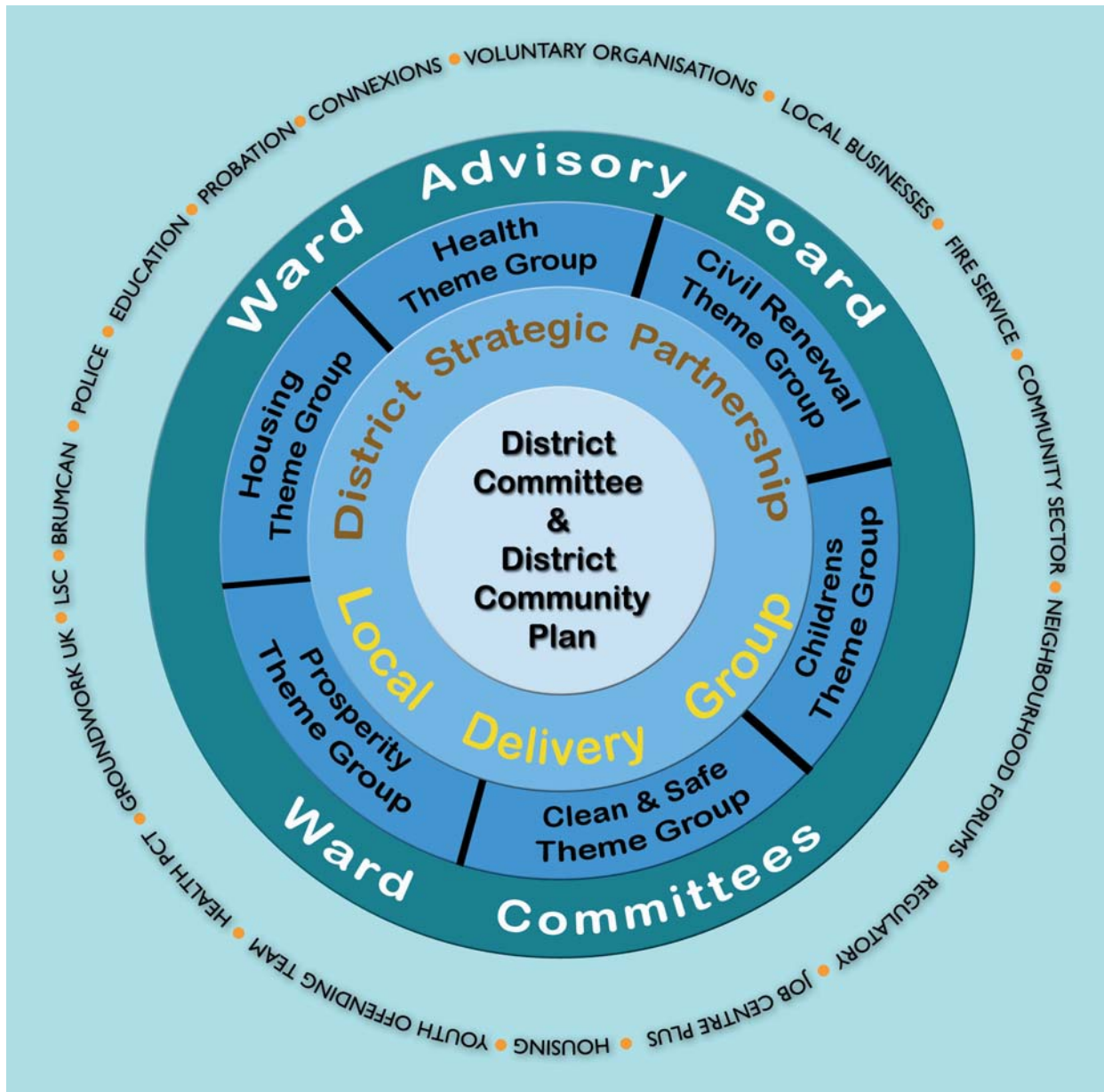


Fig 17 – Our Partners In Delivery

Appendices:

1. New Floor Targets from 2005
2. AEG Action Plan
3. Super Output Areas
4. Calendar of Meetings – District Strategic Partnership & District Committees (to follow)
5. Photo montage incorporating some of the Local Democracy Week information
6. Consultation & Engagement in Support of the Plan (to follow)
7. Source Documents/References