

Annual Public Health Conference

Cllr Paulette Hamilton

Cabinet Health and Social Care

Chair Birmingham Health and Wellbeing

Vice-Chair, LGA Community Wellbeing Board



A year like no other.....

- A crisis that has left its mark in streets and communities right across our cities
 - Families have lost loved ones; businesses have suffered, and jobs have been lost. People have struggled – and continue to struggle - financially, mentally and in many other ways.
 - Growing health inequalities the poorer communities and our BAME communities disproportionately affected by Covid-19
 - Mental Wellbeing concerns have risen significantly
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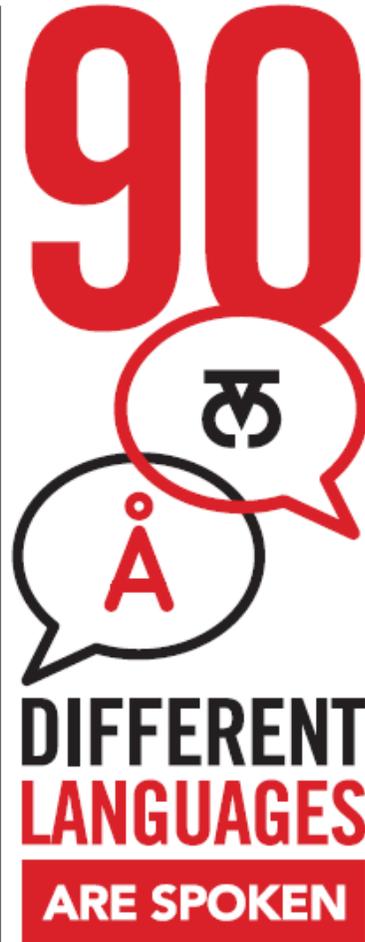
Birmingham

- Birmingham ranked the 7th most deprived local authority in England.
- Estimated population of 1.16 million and expected to increase to 1.25 million by 2032
- Birmingham is the most ethnically and culturally diverse city outside of London. 42% of our population are from black and minority ethnic
- Over **90 languages** spoken across the city - 22% of the population born outside the UK
- We are also a young city, with 46% of citizens under 30.
- 41% of children live in poverty with many families affected by welfare cuts and living with financial

A city of challenges and opportunities



Our population is expected to rise to 1.31 million by 2039 (15% rise from now) and 24% predicted rise in adults aged 85+ by 2028.



Birmingham has a young and richly-diverse population with 25% of the population under-18 and 42% from black and minority ethnic communities.



Unemployment is higher than the UK average – 6.4% in Birmingham compared to 2.6% in the UK.
 Unequal employment rates across Birmingham – e.g. Hodge Hill at 46% compared to 78% in Sutton Coldfield.
 Air pollution causes up to 900 premature deaths (before the age of 75) per year.



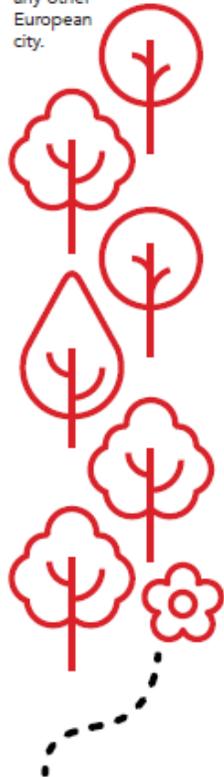
All data correct as at July 2018

A city of challenges and opportunities

571
PARKS

MORE THAN

any other
European
city.

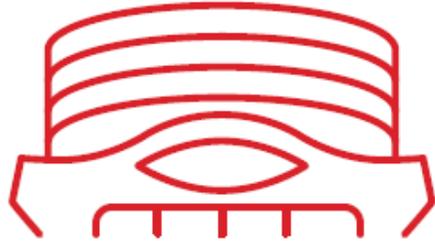


61,818
COUNCIL HOUSES

89,000 new homes are needed by 2023: street homelessness is on the rise and 1 in 88 people (12,785) is homeless.



HOME TO
5
UNIVERSITIES
with 87,400 students (aged 16-64).



MOST RAPIDLY IMPROVING CITY

to live and work in with exciting new developments in Birmingham city centre, delivering almost 13,000 new homes, over 40,000 jobs and adding £2 billion to the local economy.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

will reposition Birmingham globally.

GENERATING

£526m

for the regional economy, creating 1,000 new homes.



Wide-ranging and lively cultural offer, including world-class theatres, Town Hall and Symphony Hall and a rich tapestry of festivals.

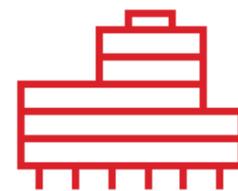
IN 2017, MORE THAN

12,000
NEW COMPANIES
OPENED THEIR DOORS
FOR NEW BUSINESS
IN BIRMINGHAM



CITIZENS' TOP PRIORITIES

- #1** Clean Streets (57%)
- #2** Refuse Collection (55%)
- #3** Child Protection and Safeguarding (37%)
- #4** Road and Pavement Repairs (37%)
- #5** Care and Support for Older and Disabled People (36%)



4 MILLION VISITORS TO
CITY'S 37
LIBRARIES
ANNUALLY



12,373
ADULTS (18+)
RECEIVING
LONG-TERM SUPPORT

35 MILES
OF WATERWAYS
MORE CANALS
THAN VENICE



How have we responded

- Supporting our hospitals and our care homes.
- Provided emergency food parcels – making sure our food banks could operate and had adequate resources
- Safe and wellbeing checks
- PPE saga – ensuring our frontline workers and care homes had adequate PPE
- Lobbying government –PPE, Health inequalities
- Special Health and Wellbeing Board 23rd April - to discuss fears within our BAME communities following media reports on deaths within the communities

Covid19 – Health Inequalities deepened

- Exposed the links between inequality experienced across race, class, gender, disability and age.
- It has highlighted existing inequalities in terms of low-income work, education, health, housing
- New divides – those able to work and learn from home, home learning many of the children within our city do not have laptops or access to adequate wifi.
- Access to green spaces and gardens to access for wellbeing
- Widened and highlighted the extent of digital and financial exclusion prevalent in the City

How are we responding

- Community Champions currently have 782
- Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review focusing on inequalities experienced by the Black African and Black Caribbean population
- Vaccine Hesitancy – cross party video’s recorded to share with communities promoting take up
- 4 city wide zoom meetings set up to discuss vaccine fears with panel to discuss issue and concerns.
- Targeted work with our faith groups throughout the pandemic
- Weekly briefings for all elected members

One of my key worries – Mental Health

- Impact of months of social distancing and isolation is having a profound impact on mental wellbeing on all our citizens,
- The impact on our young people – we have put in lots of online support through initiatives such as KOOTH but there **is much more needed.** A UK-wide survey carried out with 1535 young people (aged 14-25) by Beatfreaks found that
 - **65% of young people were worried about their mental health**
 - 16% of young people have entirely self-isolated and not left the house since the start of lockdown
 - **58% of respondents said that COVID-19 has left them unsure about their futures**

Mental Health Challenges

- Our key workers including those in the NHS and social care – our staff are tired and ensuring they are supported is key.
- Longer term impacts in terms of trauma, grief and distress may exacerbate the burden of mental ill-health in the community long after recovery.
- People have died and we have been unable to support one another
- Our older citizens have lost their independence over the last year -
- FEAR – and promoting resilience and courage is going to be key

Going Forward

- ***Post-Covid recovery must be greener to all , it must also be fairer and more inclusive.***
- ***Implement innovative approaches to reform our services, so that they recognise and respond to identified root causes of deprivation, poverty and inequality***
- ***Inclusion has to be key to everything we do***