

Chief Executive

CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK



ROLE OF Departments

Social Services - is responsible for assessing needs, arranging and providing many forms of care to citizens both young and old, in fact a cradle to grave service. It also inspects standards in residential care homes and works closely with the health authority and the voluntary sector. Its extensive network of residential homes and other centres all help to complete the picture of care for the people in Birmingham.

Education - the department has just been the subject of a very favourable OFSTED review, praising the department as well run and effective. Performance in functions was described as good or very good and at least satisfactory in all except two. The department was notable for its lack of complacency and its commitment to ensuring continuous improvement.

The department offers all kinds of learning opportunities for local people. It looks after Birmingham's nursery, primary, secondary and special education and support for children facing disadvantage and barriers to their learning, together with the Social Services Department and the Health Authorities. Other services include youth, student support, school meals and cleaning, planning of school places, admissions and support for governors.

Leisure and Culture - manages all sport and leisure facilities provided by the City Council and hosts major sports events, such as the World Indoor Athletics 2003. It is the Lead Department for the City Council in supporting the European Capital of Culture 2008 bid team, has responsibility for the Library and Information Service, and the Museums and Art Gallery, including the new Waterhall Gallery of Modern Art.

“Meaningful engagement with all sections of Birmingham’s rich, talented and diverse community is an essential challenge for this council and for its new Chief Executive. The process has started - we are looking for someone with real courage and determination to help make it succeed.”

Inderjit Dehal
Birmingham Race Action Partnership

The department is the link to Thinktank, the Millennium museum project on science and technology, and organises a wide range of major events, and community based celebrations ranging from Diwali, Vaisakhi and Eid Mela, to major events such as Fireworks Fantasia and Gardeners’ Weekend.

Corporate & Democratic Services - The Directorate provides a range of support services including Central Personnel, Central IT and Central Equalities departments. The Legal Department forms part of this Directorate as does the Democratic Services Department. The Register Office and Elections Office also report to the Director of Corporate and Democratic Services.

Finance and Performance Review - The Finance Department co-ordinates the budgeting, accounting and financial planning processes of the City Council, plus developing and managing corporate financial strategies for the City Council and giving overall financial advice and expertise, particularly on major development projects. It also manages the billing and collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debts.

In addition to the Finance functions described above, the Directorate is also responsible for:

- ▶ Developing and managing strategies for the Council’s land and buildings;
- ▶ Managing the City Council’s Communications and Customer Relations including media relations;
- ▶ Developing and overseeing the City Council’s European and international strategy;
- ▶ Developing a corporate framework for performance management and Best Value;
- ▶ Specialist support to the City Council and other public organisations in relation to the purchase of goods and services;
- ▶ Delivering information, advice and welfare benefits to the citizens of Birmingham through its Neighbourhood Advice and Benefit Service.



Today

A great city in which to live and work

Birmingham is a city full of surprises.

A vibrant, constantly changing city yet a relaxing place to live with plentiful green, open spaces and first rate sporting facilities. A city with excellent local schools and housing and a dynamic cultural and artistic life. A city to feel at home in, yet one with a real cosmopolitan feel.

Joseph Chamberlain would not recognise Birmingham today. But he would recognise the work he started.

In the 1870s 'Radical Joe' transformed Birmingham, building a new city centre, bringing clean water and gas lighting to the people and creating a model of municipal government envied and copied by other cities. Great entrepreneurs like Richard and George Cadbury built businesses that still flourish today.

In the 1970s and 80s the City Council once again set about rebuilding the city, lifting the local economy out of the doldrums of a major recession. It built the National Exhibition Centre followed by the International Convention Centre and the National Indoor Arena.

The work continues. In recent times, the city centre has been transformed. Main streets have been pedestrianised, old buildings restored and magnificent new squares created.

Today, Birmingham can be proud of its progressive attitudes and achievements. A renaissance city, home to the world famous City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Birmingham Royal Ballet. It also has four first class theatres and a range of fascinating heritage buildings, museums and art galleries.

Sports lovers can enjoy premier league soccer at Villa Park, Test Match cricket at Edgbaston and Ryder Cup golf at the Belfry.

Birmingham is also a place of green open spaces, with 13.5 square miles of parkland, including Sutton Park, the largest urban park in Europe and recently designated as a National Nature Reserve. It has a variety of good housing on offer - from stuccoed Regency and elegant Victorian terraces to brand new luxury homes. It also has a wide range of schools with good academic standards - plus three universities. And if you live in the city, some of the most beautiful countryside in England - the Cotswolds, the Malverns, the Severn Valley and Cannock Chase - are right on the doorstep.

Tomorrow

Birmingham needs clear leadership and a strong and compelling vision if it is to take full advantage of the challenges ahead. At its heart, our view of the future involves creating a Better Birmingham - a city with a higher quality of life and a premier location in which to live, work and invest. A city which will compare with the best in the world.

We have already made great strides in some of these areas, key amongst them the creation of a more inclusive city, challenging the inequalities and divisions that limit our success. With our clear commitment to address this issue, we have made significant progress in responding to the needs and aspirations of a diverse, multi-racial community. Now we intend to refocus our energies and increase opportunities for our most deprived areas and communities, building on the tremendous advantages provided by the city's diversity and its increasingly cosmopolitan culture.

In other ways too we're making advances. Through 'Local Involvement, Local Action' we engage more closely with local communities, devolving decision-making to empower our people and harness their talent for the good of all. Likewise, we're determined to make Birmingham a Learning City. Not just a city with excellent schools and fine universities for our young people, but one where Lifelong Learning makes education and training accessible to everyone.

'Joined up' working is equally vital to Birmingham's future. We intend to build stronger partnerships with local communities, businesses and other agencies, work across boundaries to create a culture that celebrates ideas, commitment and risk taking - in short, a 'can do Council'.

Birmingham's City Strategic Partnership is made up of senior figures from public agencies, voluntary organisations and the business sector. The partnership will be supporting the City to shape its future, outline critical success factors and encourage the joining up of resources and expertise for the benefit of its 1 million citizens and diverse communities.

The partnership has recently produced the first Community Strategy for Birmingham setting out the vision and main priorities for the city. It will be overseeing the implementation of this strategy through a network of partnership activity across Birmingham including new local strategic partnerships based in each of the city's 11 Parliamentary constituencies.

For Birmingham City Council the way forward is to develop a closer symmetry between political and management objectives, ensuring the best of our ideas are successfully achieved. Tighter co-ordination, closer partnerships and strong leadership will enable us to achieve our objectives.

Our aim is set on continuing Birmingham's renaissance, establishing ourselves as a major player on the world stage. We recognise that, even within this regenerated, exciting and enterprising city, there remains much to achieve, and we are setting about creating a purposeful decision-making framework with a coherent strategy and strong senior management to help us achieve it.



CITY OF Surprises



- ▶ The population of Birmingham is approximately 1 million; 6 million people live within 50 miles of the City.
- ▶ They say Birmingham has more canals than Venice! Over recent years, our canals have been regenerated, locks have been restored and canal navigation improved. The Waterside development, next to the International Convention Centre, is a thriving area full of pubs, restaurants and shops. President Bill Clinton once enjoyed a pint there whilst taking in the atmosphere.
- ▶ We have more parks than any other European City - a record breaking 14 consecutive gold medals from the Chelsea Flower Show and National Britain in Bloom awards.
- ▶ Birmingham has received funding from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to produce the most comprehensive set of noise maps in Europe. These will be used to assist in planning the redevelopment of our City in the most sustainable way in future.
- ▶ Council street cleaners regularly sweep 1,300 miles of road and empty 4,000 litter bins - helping to make Birmingham officially the UK's cleanest large city.
- ▶ Birmingham is home to Cadbury's Chocolate, located in the leafy suburb of Bournville - noted for the bells of its Carillon.
- ▶ Victoria Square, in the City Centre, features one of the largest fountains in Europe, with a flow of 3,000 gallons per minute.
- ▶ Centenary Square, in Broad Street, is paved with more than half a million individual bricks - all hand laid.
- ▶ Birmingham is known for its 1960s Rotunda building - earmarked for demolition but saved for posterity by popular acclaim. It dominates the Bull Ring - site of a historic market for more than 800 years - where the five retail markets, attracting around 20 million visitors a year, are currently being redeveloped.
- ▶ The International Convention Centre stages conferences, exhibitions and conventions held by organisations from all over the world, and has been the location of a Summit Meeting of the world's leaders. Within the ICC is the highly acclaimed Symphony Hall, home of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The complex was built on the site of Bingley Hall, the world's first exhibition hall, which opened in 1850.

▶ There are 3 Universities - Birmingham, Aston and the University of Central England - and over 450 schools in the City.

▶ Birmingham's Central Library is the City's busiest building and Europe's largest public library, lending 8 million books each year.

▶ Birmingham is home to many past and present rock bands, including Ocean Colour Scene, Duran Duran, ELO, Dodgy, UB40 and Black Sabbath. Soul singer Ruby Turner hails from the City and made her debut at the Crescent Theatre. The City boasts a vibrant nightlife, centred around the boulevard-style Broad Street.



▶ There are four first class theatres in the City, and innumerable cinemas. (Incidentally the first of the Odeon chain of cinemas opened in the City in 1930). Other attractions include the National Indoor Arena, a huge covered space where sporting events, massive theatrical productions, concerts and shows are held - and where TV's 'Gladiators' was filmed - and the National Sea Life Centre. It's difficult to get further away from the sea than Birmingham!

▶ The Art Gallery houses one of the finest collections of pre-Raphaelite paintings in the world. A few hundred yards away, the Ikon Gallery caters for more modern tastes in Art, whilst the Thinktank at the recently opened Millennium Point is a fascinating source of 'hands on' learning for young and old alike.

▶ Birmingham is a great place for sport - home to two famous football clubs (Aston Villa and Birmingham City), a top basketball team (the Bullets), a leading County Cricket side (Warwickshire, based at Edgbaston, where Test Matches are also held each summer) - and one of the most renowned and longest-established athletics clubs, Birchfield Harriers, where Olympic champion Denise Lewis is a member.

▶ Birmingham's International Partner Cities include Chicago (USA), Frankfurt (Germany), Johannesburg (South Africa), Leipzig (Germany), Lyon (France) and Milan (Italy).

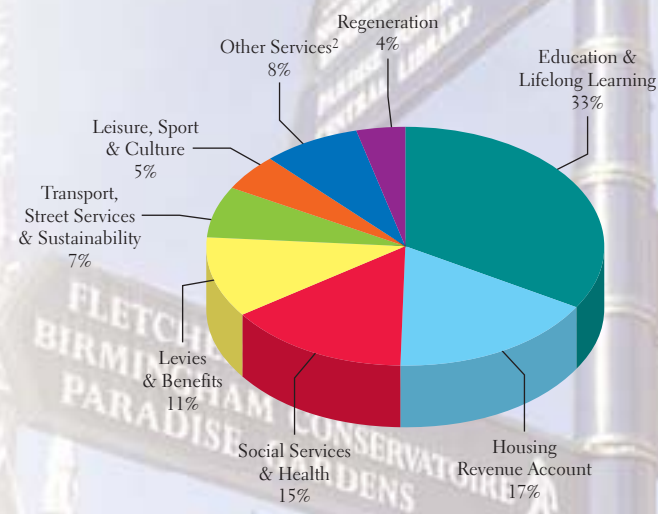
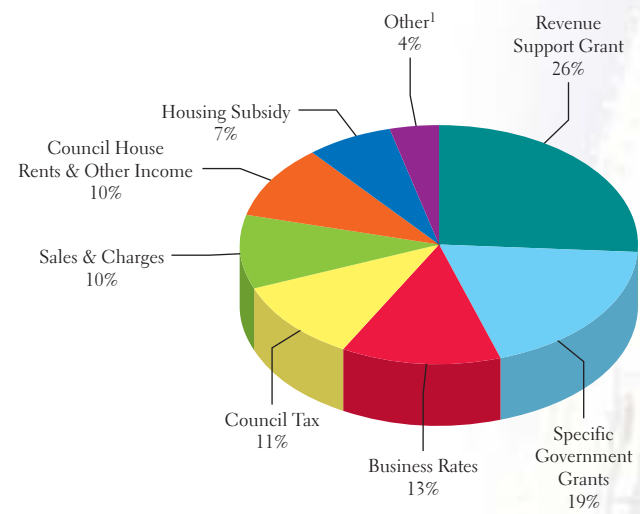
▶ There are 30 other Birminghams around the world and one crater on the moon called Birmingham. Our City was named before any of the others.

A City with a long history, a vibrant present - and an even more exciting future, as we strive to achieve sustainable economic growth, continue to improve the environment and work constantly to achieve an even better quality of life for our citizens.

THE CITY COUNCIL'S Finances

Revenue Expenditure

The graphs below show the sources of revenue funding for the Council and where the money is spent by major service area for 2002/03.



Where the Money Comes From

SOURCE	2002/03 £M
Revenue Support Grant	608
Specific Government Grants	441
Business Rates	300
Council Tax	259
Sales & Charges	250
Council House Rents & Other Income	228
Housing Subsidy	159
Other ¹	104
Total	2,349

¹ Other rents £46m; Other Grants & Contributions £51m; Balance/Reserve £7m

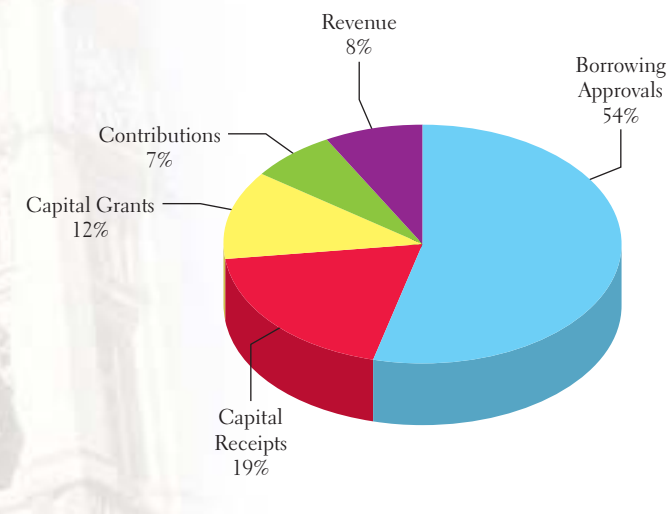
Where the Money is Spent

SERVICE AREA	2002/03 £M
Education & Lifelong Learning	780
Housing Revenue Account	387
Social Services & Health	363
Levies & Benefits	258
Transport, Street Services & Sustainability	156
Leisure, Sport & Culture	108
Regeneration	98
Other Services ²	199
Total	2,349

² Leader's (excl. levies) £151m; Deputy Leader's (excl. benefits) £57m; Housing General Fund £37m; Local Services & Community Safety £31m; Regulatory Committees £25m; Equalities & Human Resources £5m; Council Business Management £5m; Contingencies £9m; Capital Accounting Adjustment (£121m)

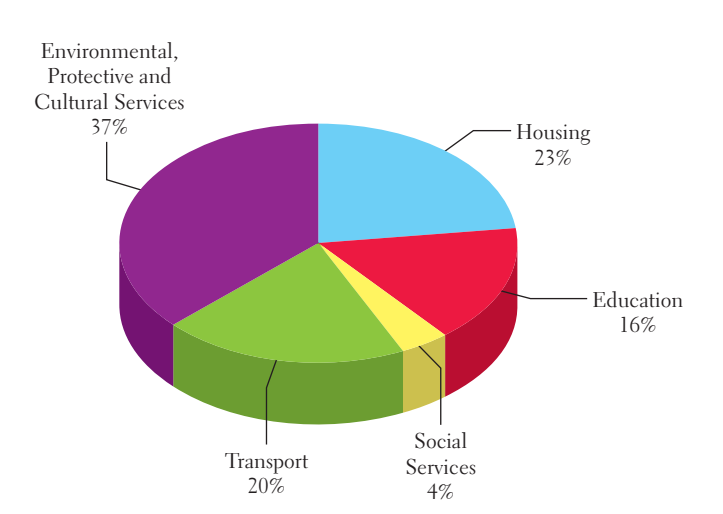
Capital Expenditure

The following charts show the sources of capital funding and the main spending areas for 2002/03.



Where the Money Comes From

SOURCE	2002/03 £M
Borrowing Approvals	76
Capital Receipts	27
Capital Grants	17
Contributions	10
Revenue	12
Total	142



Where the Money is Spent

SOURCE	2002/03 £M
Housing	32
Education	23
Social Services	6
Transport	29
Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services	52
Total	142

Further information about Birmingham City Council can be found at www.birmingham.gov.uk

