

Consultation on

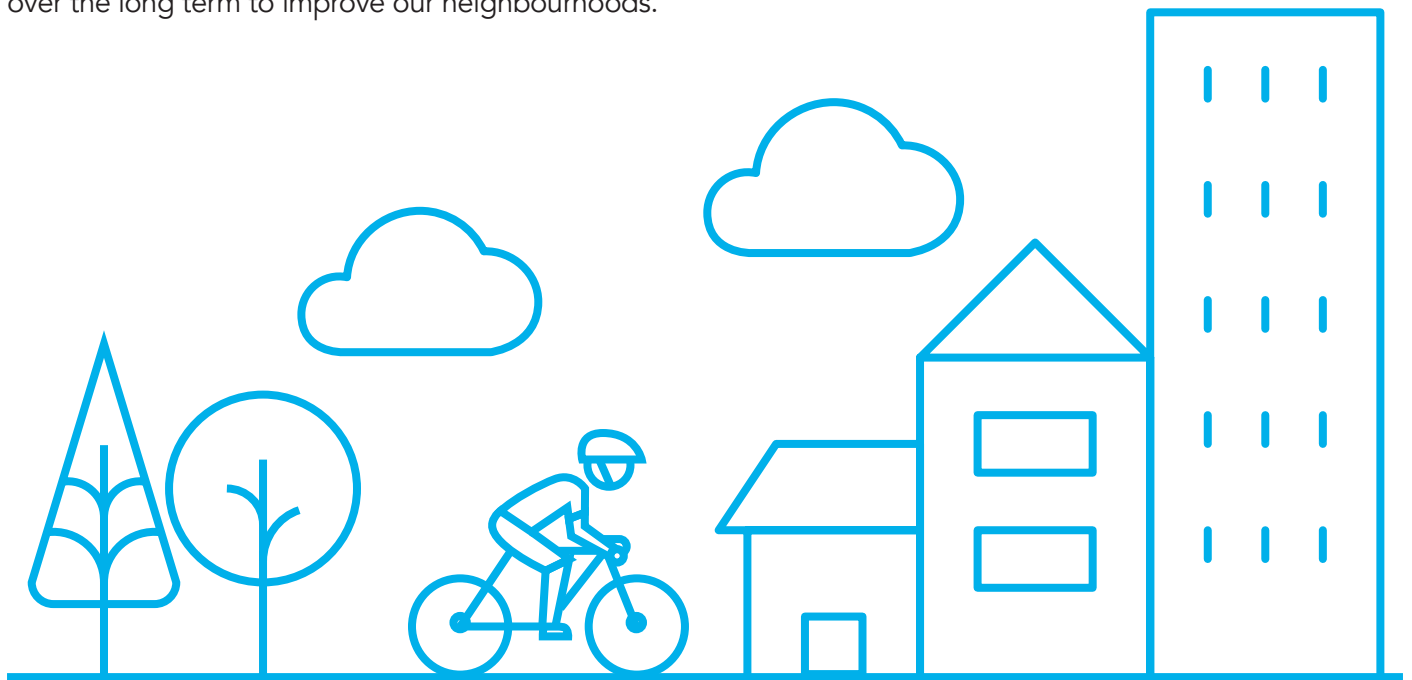
Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods

What is the consultation about?

Birmingham City Council would like to hear your views on how local residents, community organisations and public services can work better together in your local area, to improve your services and your neighbourhood.

We have published a detailed consultation paper which you can find on the council's website. In the autumn we will publish a policy statement based on the feedback we receive, but that will not be the end of the discussion. We want to work with residents over the long term to improve our neighbourhoods.

This is about all of the people and organisations that make decisions, deliver local services and improve our local neighbourhoods. That includes the elected councillors, the city council and other public agencies. It also includes the community organisations, neighbourhood forums, community development trusts, social enterprises that make a difference in local areas. We value all of these different types of organisation and we want to see more of them flourishing across the city and to improve the way we work with them.



Parish councils

One particular issue we want your views on is parish councils. These are elected local councils for smaller areas than the city council and they can provide a range of services under more local control. If they wish they can raise a “precept” or small addition to the Council Tax for local use.

These days they are not connected with the Church of England parishes and can also be called neighbourhood, community or town councils.

At the moment we have one very large town council for Sutton Coldfield and one smaller parish council at Frankley.

We want to know if you think more neighbourhood councils would be a good way to improve the way that local areas are run and if you are keen to have one in your neighbourhood.

We will be providing information about neighbourhood councils and their benefits and holding discussions about this in every part of the city. If there is interest in any local area we will start the process for creating a new council.

Working with local neighbourhoods

We want to improve the way we work with the existing parish councils and with organisations of all types across the city. To do this we will agree local Charter Agreements which will set out how to contact us, how we will respond to your enquiries and what support we will offer your organisation.

Local Devolution Deals

We recognise that some parish or town councils may want to go further and take over some local services or facilities currently provided by the City Council or create extra local services. We intend to offer them the option of having a “local devolution deal” – an agreement about which services and facilities will be transferred from the City Council to the parish council.

Responding to the consultation

You can respond to this consultation in a number of ways:

- By completing the questionnaire survey on the City Council’s BeHeard website at **BirminghamBeHeard.org.uk**
- By emailing us at: **CommunityGovernanceViews@birmingham.gov.uk**. Please indicate whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation. If you are representing a group please indicate the process by which your submission was discussed and agreed.
- By organising a special meeting of your own organisation, or adding this issue to the agenda of one of your regular meetings. Please send on your thoughts through the email address above.
- By attending a Ward Forum meeting in your ward. These meetings are being organised between now and the end of September and information will be provided when the meetings are arranged. Future Ward Forum meetings can be found here: **<https://birmingham.cmis.uk.com/birmingham/Committee/Wards.aspx>**
- By attending a number of other meetings, known as “Community Conversations” that we will be setting up across the city.