

Final Evaluation of Birmingham City Council's Local Innovation Fund  
Final Report, May 2011



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## #ection (\$Bac)ground and Conte\*t

; "e esta\$!is"ment o LIF , as a' ' ro&ed \$0 Birming"am Cit0 Council!s Loca!

reduced reliance on Birmingham City Council services<sup>8</sup>. It, as instigated to represent a key role, ideology of opportunity to mobilise the voluntary and community sector and deliver an alternative based model or the delivery of development in areas based funding, it is the era of the City Council cultural change programme<sup>9</sup>.

As, it is mainly local authorities Birmingham City Council recent to "as" add to operate, it is resources on its budgets + it is in this context noted, funding streams such as LIFs are uncommon and an extension of LIF, as referred to the unlikely, it is out accessing external funding sources. It is part of the reason that the sustainable and transformational aspects of LIF, were included.

; the City Council's policy or ongoing work in neighbouring areas as evidenced by the report on Birmingham City Council's #eig\$our"oods<sup>3</sup> + "ite Pa'er; "is + "ite Pa'er, as a role and \$0 the Cabinet on the City Council on the 22nd January 2016. It contains the future approach including the desire or neighbouring areas based, work to continue playing a key role in creating a modern efficient city council that is focused more than ever on the needs of Birmingham's people and "el"ing you to achieve our goals<sup>10</sup>; "is + "ite Pa'er also recognises that a variety of models exist or delivering neighbouring areas based and community work, "ic" need to be identified on the needs and capacity of local areas<sup>11</sup>; these models are summarised as a Frame, work or Relations" is covering increasing in developing the approach.

Along, it is aligning, it is local, and priorities LIF's roles are expected to meet



## Local Innovation Fund – Guidance on Good Practice examples for spend

### **GOOD INNOVATION – WHAT WORKS AND WILL BE SUPPORTED**

*The LIF is about partnership working – encouraging groups to come together to test out new ways of doing things, It is about moving away from dependency and having less reliance on the City Council. It is about action.*

- Developments of local community planning (community audits, surveys, appraisals to provide outcomes and actions), support and co-operation and coordination
- Investment in community infrastructure, community hubs and community networks, local

## #ection (\$LIF %rolect -ssessment

A re&ie, o "ard co' 0 ' ro' osa!s re&ea!ed t"at t"e ' ur' orted ocus o t"e majorit0 o LIF ' rojects centres around Acti&e Citi=ens"i' and Communities (te' ' ing )' .36@/ and Citi=ens>Inde' endence and +e!! Being .39@/8B0 contrast one i t" concerned c!eaner streets .29@/8In terms o Cit0 ' riorities1 ' ro' osa!s , ere most o ten a!igned , it" 7ea!t" .39@/:

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A cohort of 24 projects were selected or an indicative analysis, which included 1:1 consultations, individual project leads as well as relevant submission and outcome evidence. Examples from the wider project survey are also drawn upon, where appropriate. The returns provided great detail as to the LIF experience and achievements; the projects in the list were selected to contain a wide range of geographical areas and reflect a range of organisational types:

LIF &+2	3ard	%rolect
1	Outreach & Engagement Project: Creation of a tailor-made programme to engage individuals in a non-traditional, amateur way	Outreach & Engagement Project: Creation of a tailor-made programme to engage individuals in a non-traditional, amateur way
4	Gardening for All; a community hub in Cheadle Hulme aimed at linking local organisations together and linked to developments at the Botanic Gardens	Gardening for All; a community hub in Cheadle Hulme aimed at linking local organisations together and linked to developments at the Botanic Gardens
5	Raising Awareness in Gardening: raising awareness in social enterprises to gain skills and locations in horticultural services used to offer a free gardening service for older people and vulnerable residents	Raising Awareness in Gardening: raising awareness in social enterprises to gain skills and locations in horticultural services used to offer a free gardening service for older people and vulnerable residents
6	Well-being and Health Advocacy: A "well-being" programme supporting older people and vulnerable residents aimed at reducing the impact of statutory health organisations	Well-being and Health Advocacy: A "well-being" programme supporting older people and vulnerable residents aimed at reducing the impact of statutory health organisations
12	Community Engagement and Planning: Cesta!is"ing Boldmere Futures as a community asset £24,700	Community Engagement and Planning: Cesta!is"ing Boldmere Futures as a community asset £24,700



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## Section -: Additional Issues

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; "e arguments or \$ot" mode!s , ere also discussed in t"at interim re' ort and can \$e ound in t"e a' ' endix to t"is&

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%e&el0' ing t"is !atter 'oint1 and as discussed ear!ier1&er0 e, LIF ' rojects , ere de&el0' ed and im' !emented across , ard \$oundaries&A range o reasons , ere out!ined or t"is in t"e interim re' ort including t"e re<uirement or ' otential ' rojects to \$e scrutinised and agreed \$0 , ard counci!!ors&(ince t"ere are no current e ecti&e cross: , ard committees t"is ' rocess , as ' ro\$!ematic or man08(ome ' artici' ants re' orted t"at t"is , as a s"ame as t"e same needs ' resented t"emse!&es in more t"an one area \$ut also t"at natura! communit0 areas do not a!, a0s it , it" administrati&e \$oundaries&

; "is situation is o interest in t"e uture , it" t"e desire rom t"e +orking ; oget"er in Birming"am&s #eig"\$our"oods + "ite Pa' er to ocus localised , orking u' on Aneig"\$our"ood \$oundaries P de ined \$0 t"eir residents and communities and not \$0 t"e Cit0 Counci!&19 I t"is !exi\$il!it0 is to \$e real!ised t"en t"e management ' rocesses o an0 uture simi!ar initiati&es needs to re !ect t"is real!it08

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It is o note t"at se&era! ' rojects stated t"e0 made extensi&e use o socia! media and t"e internet and t"at t"is aided t"e success o t"eir , ork&; "e ' ur' oses o t"is usage , ere , ide:ranging includung ' romotion o t"e ' roject1seeking good ' ractice1t"e take:u' o s'eci ic ser&ices1net, orking and seeking additional! unding&In itsel! t"is can \$e seen as inno&ati&e ' ractice and an area o , ork t"at can \$e ex' anded u' on urt"er in t"e uture& (ome exam' !es o t"is usage are ' ro&ided \$elo, rom Project Leads&

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## Section 7: Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the evidence presented earlier in this report and to an extent the interim report, it appears that a range of conclusions and recommendations have been designed to reflect the emerging themes from LIF and also what can be used in shaping future work, including the role of the Birmingham Mayor's Office.

### Conclusions

\*)

; "e LIF ' programme and \$road successes o\$ser&a\$!e c!ear!0 demonstrate t"e im' ortance o neig"\$our"ood:\$ased grant unding .&is:W:&is a commissioning mode!8 In areas , "ere C!ected 5em\$ers "a&e tru!0 em\$raced t"eir loca! leaders"i' ro!e and democratic accounta\$!lit0 as ' art o localisation1some tru!0 inno&ati&e ' rojects t"at "a&e re&am' ed t"e uture o neig"\$our"oods and ser&ice deli&er0 "a&e emerged across t"e cit08

As , as outlined earlier and as extensively covered in the interim report much attention "as seen" placed upon judging the extent to which LIF projects were delivered and implemented from the bottom up.<sup>8</sup>



!imited acti&ties to, ards an outcome ocussed regime1 including an e!ement o ' a0ment \$0 resu!ts .rat"er t"an just demonstrating s' end/ and a more "ands:on re!ations"i' t"roug" t"e #%(()8Furt"er , ork is required in educating ' rojects and o icers as to t"e ' ur' ose and sco' e o outcomes &is:W:&is out' uts1\$ut t"is culture c"ange can \$e \$ui!t on in uture neig"\$our"ood , ork8

; "e decision to reduce t"e num\$er o Counci!!ors and make c"anges in , ard num\$ers and \$oundaries "ad an im' act u' on t"e !ink \$et, een LIF ' rojects and !oca! mem\$ers8 ; "ese issues1as out!ined ear!ier1inc!uded ' rojects \$eing a' ' ro&ed \$0 Counci!!ors ot"er t"an t"e current ones and &ice &ersa or Counci!!ors inc!uding1in some cases1t"e ' roject no, \$eing in a di erent , ard t"an ' re&ious!08

; "is situation created a !ack o continuit0 or \$ot" ' rojects and Counci!!ors , it" t"e need to \$u!d u' ne, re!ations"i' s and ' roject kno, !edge8 + "ere "istorica! issues , ere ' resent1suc" as \$arriers to im' !ementation , "ic" eit"er "ad \$een resol&ed or "ad !ed to t"e ' roject \$eing amended1t"ese , ou!d "a&e \$een unkno, n to t"e ne, Counci!!or8 + "ilst t"ese , ere o&ercome in man0 instances1at t"e &er0 !east t"ese c"anges caused some de!a0s in t"e im' !ementation ' rocess and a degree o du' !ication o tasks suc" as re:\$rie ing o t"e ' roject aims8

It cou!d \$e argued too t"at \$ased on t"e LIF ex' eri

It also s"ould \$e noted t"at , it"in t"e content o t"e +orking ; oget"er in  
#eig"\$our"oods + "ite Pa' er t"ere is muc" in ormation t"at out!ines \$ot" t"e range o  
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to Paris" Councils and the de&olution of local services; "the frame, work or relations" is

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-ppendi\*\$LIF %rocess -ssessment from Interim Report =2 !7>

; "e ana!0sis in t"is section is ocused u' on t"e administration and im' !lementation o t"e und8

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In re!lation to t"e #%(%)s role in administering LIF1Council!!ors , ere asked , it"in t"e sur&e0 consultation to rate t"e su' ' ort t"e0 , ere recei&ing rom t"e team8 ; "e results and associated comments are dis' !a0ed in t"e gra' "ic \$el0 , :

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A number of projects did occur, this is modelled Comments, were made from Councillors that at LIFs' own view seen as a, also to emphasise this is called a consultation and that it could be a model or the future sustainable development locally and services. In addition consultation set, seen services, as proposed as a potential, also to implement commissioning arrangements in the future making them more in tune, its local priorities. Indeed one Councillor stated that at the end, would like to see this is called being forced upon organisations in the future, while a further Councillor suggested that some officer resource could be dedicated to, areas dealing involving consultation and procedures.

; "the notion of a coalition government council's principles and standards of the Local Government Council, as seen as a further political decision in relation to the LIF process; "this notion is linked to the consultation principles and principles of the Local Government Council, as seen as being a key element to the most imaginative and innovative LIF proposals but also fitted in, it's the broader context of the City Council in terms of racing the European Union's to service design and delivery. It's the European Council, European Parliament and other cultural programme.

A particular aspect of consultation, "is the LIF process dealing, as the need or all three, and councillors to propose changes on projects; "is as such, as reported as being especially in areas, where councillors had mixed political allegiances; "is a procedure", as stated to:

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; "is a procedure", as reported differently to some previous local discretionary funds or example local funding, areas funding, "where the majority of councillors could decide

❖ ) &

; "where, as clearly a lack of urgency in some areas in coordinating events to identify local community needs and dealing with proposals. In October 2017 after a third of the total area was settled, "had not been allocated leading to a last minute rush" to submit

extent1\$0 C!ected 5em\$er se! :interest , it" regard to t"eir o, nE' et ' rojects>&is:W:&is organisations or indi&iduals t"e0 did not a' ' ro&e o :

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or understood \$0 a!! Council!!ors&; "is , as "ig"!ig"ted \$0 t"e o!!o, ing comments rom C!ected 5em\$ers:







organisations on the City Council's endorsement system; these points, were raised \$0 multi-line responses demonstrate:

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; "the #%( team themselves found the conditions of grant aid . "area under C2IA/ bureaucracy frustrating to administer and consideration could be given to reducing some of the burdens of due process in order to allow, closer production and true devolution to ouris"

It, as also suggested by Councilors and officers would be more inclined to visit projects and community groups' "specifically so that at the end had a better understanding of the intentions and understood better its own roles in real terms rather than, it's in abstract 'a' or. For example one project lead stated:

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; "is this as been taken on board the #%( team and projects are no, being routine! & visited in order to offer support and oversee progress to, cards outcomes"

It's noted that at a small number of projects leads consulted. It's suggested that the role of development stage, as committed to "rough" attempts to Clected 5embers to manage future roles in partnership of their own agendas. One reason identified A\$u!!iedB into, working, it's another organisation, "in" the end believed, would significantly dilute the impact of their role and actual! "under partners" in, it's other existing agencies; "endorsement" redrafted an alternative role and proceeded to "allow" tribute to the role of the #%( officer in demonstrating "of, a collaboratively approach could be, worked through" A further reason "highlighted their negative experience in the allow, in, a0:

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