

# Birchfield Big Local Plan – Years 4 and 5



**Big Local**  
*Birchfield*

# Introduction

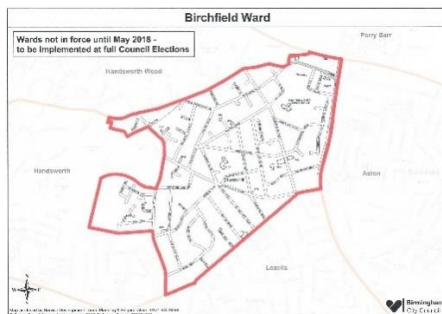
## Birchfield profile

The main change in the area since the first plan was written in 2014 is the completion of a major housing development on Birchfield Road. Funded by the Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust, this development has added a further 111 properties to the area, some for sale and some for rent. Most of the properties are now occupied.

The picture of the community based on the available data has not changed significantly, except that, thanks to the Local Trust, we now have more precise data – see table opposite.

## Changes in Ward Boundaries

A key change that will happen in 2018 is the change in Ward boundaries and the associated reduction in elected members. Birchfield is to become a separate Ward and will be represented by one elected member. The Birchfield Big Local area will comprise at least half of the new Ward.



*New Birchfield Ward - 2018*

## Community Profile – 2011 Census

<b>Population</b>	7227 people live in the Birchfield Big Local area. There are a slightly higher proportion of men (52%) to women (48%)
<b>Age profile</b>	Birchfield has a young age profile with 45% of the population age 24 and below. 9% of the population is 65 and over.
<b>Ethnic and religious diversity</b>	The area is ethnically diverse with 54% Asian, 26% Black and 8% White British and 5% Other white. By faith 45% are Muslim, 30% Christian and 11% Other
<b>Housing</b>	There are 2287 households of which 40% are owner occupied, 35% social rented housing and 21% privately rented
<b>Employment</b>	67% of residents are of working age (16 – 74) and of these 21% are working full time; 12% part time; 7% are self employed; 10% are unemployed; 8% are full time students and 9% are not looking for work because they are looking after home or family
<b>Qualifications and Language</b>	Of the residents over 16 in age, 30% have no qualifications; 13% have 5 GCSEs or equivalent (Level 2). Of the residents aged 3 and over, 68% speak English as their main language; 5% speak other European languages; 23% Asian languages and the remaining 5% African, Turkish and other languages
<b>Health</b>	79% of residents say their health is good or very good; 14% say their health is fair; and 7% say their health is bad or very bad

*Source: Local Trust Area Profile based on the 2011 Census*

# Partnership

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There are currently 14 partnership members, 9 of which are local residents (64%). Two new members have joined the partnership this year and efforts are being made to recruit further new members through the website, newsletter and word of mouth. The Local Trusted Organisation, Birmingham Voluntary Services Council, is represented on the partnership by the Finance Director. The partnership meets every 6 weeks and in addition task or subgroups have been set up to look at the community hub and also the process of setting up a constituted organisation.

## Partnership Away-Day

Each year the partnership holds an away-day to review the year and begin planning for the next. The away-day was on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at the Senator Suite, Great Barr Hotel. This year we were joined by Angus McCabe from the Our Bigger Story evaluation team who interviewed the partnership members. This provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved so far and how we are progressing with the four Big Local outcomes. The partnership also looked at how we can engage more effectively with young people, and what Big Local can do to help stimulate the local economy.

The partnership also discussed setting up a constituted organisation to enable Birchfield Big Local to purchase or lease its own community facilities; employ staff; and raise additional

funds to support activities in the local area. It was agreed to hold a workshop to consider this in more detail.

## Setting up a constituted organization

A workshop for partnership members was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November at Grosvenor Road Studios. The workshop was led by Margaret Jackson and covered the benefits of establishing a new organization, and why the partnership might want to do so, as well as the options in terms of governance structures. At this stage Birchfield Big Local is not thinking of becoming its own LTO. The main reasons for considering setting up a constituted organization are to help deliver the Birchfield Big Local vision, own and manage a community hub, raise additional funds and create a lasting legacy.



*Partnership members and guests at the away-day*

# Vision

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We have a dream

Birchfield will become ....

A neighbourhood where the diverse community feels empowered, engaged and enabled to address issues such as health, education, inequality, unemployment and environment, so creating a happy, safe, clean, prosperous and regenerated area in which to live and work.

A place where every citizen has a collective sense of ownership; belonging; pride; respect; creativity; and an equal voice. A place where individual talent and skills are nurtured and people want to come and stay.

In this way we will provide a lasting legacy to all people by giving them a new direction that helps break the cycle of poverty through creating a well-served and connected community.





# Community views

## Community Assets Study

In 2015 Gavin Orton (Gavin Orton Architects) and Santosh Rai (Wellside Business Ltd) were commissioned to carry out a study of land and properties available for use in the Birchfield area. The survey was completed in March 2016 and Gavin and Santosh gave a presentation about the results of the survey and recommendations to the BBL partnership.

As part of the study Gavin and Santosh undertook a survey of local residents via the newsletter and online to find out local views about key factors to be considered in developing a community hub. The survey included questions about accessibility and location; space and service requirements. Although the number of respondents was small (51) the responses gave a useful snapshot of the views of Birchfield residents with regards the factors that might influence the use of a community hub and the services that it might provide.

## Fuel Poverty Questionnaire

The Birchfield Big Local partnership commissioned Phil Beardmore (Calendula Consulting) to conduct a feasibility study looking at what Big Local might do to tackle fuel poverty in the Birchfield area. As part of the study a questionnaire was circulated to every household in the Big Local area about household fuel bills and people's ability to adequately heat their homes. Residents were also invited to fill in the questionnaire at the Family Fun Day and at the Women's Group. The results of the survey were included in the report published in June 2016 and helped to inform the recommendations made.

## Survey of Priorities for Years 4 and 5

Local residents were invited to respond to a list of proposed activities for the Birchfield Big Local area. The survey was distributed with the newsletter to every household in the Birchfield Big Local area and also made available online. The survey was also promoted via the website, Facebook page and on Twitter. A total of 55 people responded.

Residents were asked to rank the proposed activities from 0 (not a priority) to 5 (high priority). All of the fifteen activities listed received significant support. The difference between the highest and lowest was little more than one point – on average 4.5 for the highest and 3.4 for the lowest.

### Birchfield Priorities – Survey Results

Proposed activity	Total score	Rank
Support activities to promote people's physical health and well-being	203	1
Encourage more pride in the environment; reduce waste and fly-tipping, and increase re-use and recycling	200	2
Increase access to outdoor play and quality play spaces for children	188	3
Enhance services for families with disabled children	187	4
Support activities for older residents and vulnerable adults	185	5=
Invest in a community centre building for Birchfield	185	5=
Provide more support for local people who want to volunteer on projects in the community	185	5=
Run more events to bring people together and celebrate culture and heritage	182	8

Develop a 'Job Club' that will support local people into employment	180	9
Provide small grants to encourage local people to start projects that benefit the local community	178	10=
Employ a part-time youth worker to promote youth activities in the area	178	10=
Help people reduce fuel bills and tackle health issues caused by poorly heating homes	176	12
Run more courses for adults such as Basic IT and English Conversation Classes	175	13
Provide advice and guidance on issues such as benefits and housing	171	14
Support social enterprise and business start-ups	155	15

Top of the list was promoting health and wellbeing. Birchfield Big Local has made a start with this issue and recently gave a presentation at a Big Local Learning Event on some of projects that have been supported and initiatives engaged in. BBL has discussed taking a more strategic approach to health and wellbeing; pulling together the different strands and promoting them in a more coherent way. Perry Barr District has recently set up a Health and Well Being Board and BBL will be represented on this.

Environment has consistently been raised as a priority, so it is no surprise that this is ranked number two. Some progress has been made through the Bloom in Birchfield campaign and the setting up of the Birchfield Environment Group in partnership with BRAG, Birmingham City Council, Midland Heart and others. This has become a key issue across inner city areas of Birmingham and nationally.

The provision of better outdoor play facilities for children has also been high on the agenda for Birchfield residents for some time.

Previous attempts to find a suitable location failed. The refurbishment of the Secret Garden will help meet this need and the Community Assets survey has also helped to identify other potential sites in the area which will be pursued in the coming months. Local schools are also critical in this regards and efforts will continue to be made to work with schools to unlock the full potential of school sites and buildings for wider community use.

Enhancing services for families with disabled children received a similar level of support.

BBL has recently set up a Seniors Club in the area to help provide support and activities for older residents. We will also be applying to the Ageing Better Fund for additional resources in partnership with other interested parties, for example, some of the faith organisations in the area.

Investing in a community hub and supporting volunteering are likewise well supported

The activities further down the rankings still received significant support. Some target specific groups e.g. people looking for work or those seeking self-employment through social enterprise – and so are high priorities for some but less so for others. At 10% unemployment is high in Birchfield compared to Birmingham as a whole.

It is perhaps surprising that the proposed youth worker post didn't appear higher up the rankings given that there has been a demand for more youth activities in the area and youth services have been drastically cut over the past few years. However, the sample size was small and this proposal still received significant support.

Residents were also invited to add other activities to the list.

#### **Other ideas from the survey**

- Linking up current activities in the area more and assisting with publicity of these activities
- More activities for females only
- Elderly fitness classes
- Coach trips for residents
- Parking on pavements
- Indoor play activities for children
- Traffic calming measures – e.g. Hutton Road
- English classes for mums to help support their children
- Youth clubs
- Sports clubs for women
- Encourage a sewing class
- Making the pavements for people not cars
- Publish more newsletters and “What’s On”
- Support for people with drugs, alcohol and smoking problems
- Community policing
- Issues around street parking and fire risks due to scrap stored behind properties

Some of these ideas we are already doing or could easily accommodate within the current plans. For example, we have funded fitness classes and helped to secure funding from other sources (e.g. UnLtd) to set up such projects. We have also funded family coach trips through the BBL Small Grants Scheme. Communication is also a key issue here, as not everyone is aware of the existing activities being provided. Perhaps there is a role for Big

Local to help promote what’s going on in the community more generally and not just those activities we run or directly support.

Some activities are clearly outside the direct responsibility of Big Local, though we may be able to join with other groups to campaign for changes. For example, parking on pavements is a key issue as is road safety in general. Planning issues are also raised frequently at public meetings – especially the conversion of properties to HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupancy), and extensions to properties for housing and other activities without due planning permission.

#### **Five key questions**

- What are the things that only residents/citizens can do in response to this issue?
- What are the things that residents/citizens can lead on and achieve with the support of institutions (governmental, nongovernmental, for profit) in response to this issue?
- What are the things that only institutions can do for us?
- What are the things that institutions can stop doing which would create space for resident action?
- What can institutions start offering beyond the services that they currently offer to support resident/citizen action?

# Core

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## Staff

The partnership is proposing to employ a part time youth worker in addition to the Community Development Worker and part time Volunteer Coordinator. The role of the youth worker will be to develop youth activities, for example, a youth club and activities at the secret garden. The youth worker will focus on young people making the transition between Primary and Secondary School and train up volunteers to support youth activities in the Birchfield area. They will also play a role in helping to secure additional resources for youth activities. Birchfield has a young population, with 45% aged 24 or below. Although some excellent work has been done with younger children on outdoor play and after school activities, there has been less engagement with older young people. The employment of a youth worker should help address this.

## Accommodation

The plan is to continue to rent two rooms at Grosvenor Road Studios – a downstairs office adjacent to reception where the workers are based and an upstairs office that has been converted into a computer suite for use by volunteers, meetings, Job Club, IT and other classes. Investment has been made in the computer systems so there are now four desk top computers linked to a printer and an improved internet connection.

## Room hire

There will continue to be a need to rent additional space for meetings, classes and other events as required. This includes the

studio, training room and green room at GRS and facilities at the nearby United Reformed Church. In the medium to longer term, the aim is to acquire a building in the Birchfield Big Local area to create a community hub or Centre and so eliminate the need for renting office and other facilities. (See page 10 for further details).

## Communication and engagement

We plan to continue with the publication of a four-page quarterly newsletter to be distributed to all households in the Birchfield Big Local area. We will also continue to maintain and develop the website and use other social media such as Facebook and Twitter to promote activities and opportunities in the Big Local area. The content and design of the website is reviewed annually and refreshed in the light of feedback and statistics generated by users. The website had over 50,000 visits in 2016 and there are over 500 followers on Twitter and 62 Facebook friends. As part of the Our Bigger Story evaluation we are also adding material to the timeline on the Our Bigger Story website.

## Volunteers

There is a core group of regular volunteers recruited and managed by the volunteer coordinator. Volunteers are encouraged to take on a specific role or roles. Some of the existing roles are as follows:

- Stepping Forward
- Basic IT Classes
- English Conversation Classes
- Senior Citizens Club
- Book Club
- Secret Garden Volunteers – play, development and maintenance
- Website Volunteers



# Well-Run Birchfield

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## Community events

Birchfield Big Local now has a well-established programme of events which staff, partnership members and other volunteers help to organize. These include:

- Family Fun Day
- Volunteer Celebration event as part of Volunteers Week
- Christmas Choir event
- Christmas meal for seniors

In addition, staff, volunteers and partnership members support events organized by other organisations in the Birchfield Big Local area. For example:

- Spring and Autumn Fetes organized by BRAG
- Westminster School Fete

These events have proved popular and it is planned to continue with these for the foreseeable future though the timing or venue for the events may change.

One event we would like to hold but have yet to manage is a Birchfield's got talent event to celebrate the achievements of individuals and groups in the local area – especially individuals supported through the UnLtd Star People Award programme. We plan to hold this event in the coming year in partnership with UnLtd provided a suitable venue can be found and additional support secured either in-kind or through sponsorship.

## Our Bigger Story

As one of the 15 Big Local areas chosen to participate in this multi-media evaluation project, we will continue to contribute materials to the Our Bigger Story website – creating a timeline documenting the story of Birchfield Big Local – and meet with staff from the Third Sector Research Centre as required.

## Heritage Trail and Play Streets

We will repeat the Heritage trail to coincide with Birmingham Heritage Week in September and also the Play Streets event on Play Day in August.



*Family Fun Day at the Boat House Café, Handsworth Park*

# Well-Built Birchfield

## Community hub

Following the completion of a community assets survey in March 2016, the partnership is now looking in more detail at the buildings and sites considered most suitable for creating a community centre or hub. A buildings sub-group has been set up and enquiries are underway with owners and potential partners. In parallel with this it has been agreed with BVSC (Birchfield's LTO) to take legal advice in preparation for any future purchase of either land or buildings. This will help prepare the ground and ensure that any risks are minimized.

The most likely option at present is the former caretakers house adjacent to Westminster Primary School. The building has been vacant for the past three years and the school would like to see it developed as a resource for use by the school and local community, but they don't have the resources to do so. The school is willing to work in partnership with Birchfield Big Local to refurbish and extend the building as a community facility. A complicating factor is that the school is currently applying to become an Academy and are hoping to complete this by February 2017. The intention is for BBL to work in partnership with the new Academy trustees to take this project forward.

A key issue is around who will own the building. The preferred option for the BBL partnership is to own the building, but an alternative might be shared ownership with the new Academy or a long-term lease from the LEA who currently own the building. A sum of £20,000 has been allocated towards architects and other fees in

anticipation that work can begin in the coming year on plans for the refurbishment of the building.

## Bloom in Birchfield

We are now in the third year of Bloom in Birchfield and in 2016 achieved a Level 4: Thriving Award and a Special Merit Award. The RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Awards have helped to focus efforts on encouraging residents to take greater pride in the local environment, through for example a Front Garden Competition, which is to be featured in the RHS "Grassroots" magazine. This year In Bloom concentrated on a pilot area at the core of the Big Local area and the plan is to enlarge this area year by year.



*Collecting a Level 4: Thriving Award from Tracey Medlyn (RHS) at the It's Your Neighbourhood Awards*

## Environment Strategy and Action Plan

Birchfield Big Local has been working in partnership with BRAG, BCC, Midland Heart and other partners to develop an action plan to tackle environment issues in the local area. The environment has consistently rated very high on the list of priorities for residents, especially tackling fly tipping on streets and the dumping of fridges and old furniture in front gardens and outside properties. A pilot area has been defined in the Big Local area for more intensive action, with the plan to roll this out over a wider area based on lessons learned from this experience. An environment summit was organized in November and was well attended by both residents and representatives from BRAG, Birmingham City Council and Midland Heart. It is hoped that this will further strengthen the partnership and help with engaging even more residents and other interested parties such as local schools, faith organisations and businesses.

## Tackling Fuel Poverty

Birchfield Big Local funded a feasibility study in 2016 to develop a community based approach to fuel poverty bringing together health and environmental benefits to residents on low incomes. The report was completed in June 2016 and the findings shared with partnership members. The report highlighted the high proportion of residents struggling to meet their fuel bills and heat their homes. Applications are now being made to several potential funding organisations to take this work further and employ a part time worker and target those households most at risk. Some modest matching funds may be required from BBL, but most the funds will we hope be secured from other sources.

## Secret Garden Project

A start has been made of refurbishing this former community garden and play area over the past year with support from The Conservation Volunteers and a grant from DCLG. Groundwork West Midlands also contributed funding to regular play sessions on the site; play training for residents; and play equipment which is stored in a secure play shed. Local volunteers are now running regular play sessions on the site.

The next phase of the project is to replace the existing tarmac ball park area with a more suitable surface and to construct a permanent shelter on site. There is also a focus on the regular use of the site for children's play and other events to further engage with residents and increase commitment with the aim setting up a group that will take on responsibility for managing the site in the longer term.



*Play session with Birmingham Play Care Network at the Secret Garden*



# Well-Served Birchfield

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A key idea with Well-Served Birchfield is encouraging the use of locally based services by residents and supporting new and innovative services delivered where possible by local people. In this regard the partnership will continue to support the three projects supported in the first three years, though the level of financial support from BBL is to reduce year on year. These projects have Service Level Agreements and produce mid-year and end of year reports with details of achievements.

A small grants scheme was set up in 2016 to encourage local people with ideas for projects that will benefit local people to implement them and this will continue in the next two years. The work on social enterprise with UnLtd has also helped identify the potential for local people to develop ventures that provide beneficial services to local people.

## Small grants scheme

This scheme was launched in 2016 and is intended to encourage individuals and groups to set up projects that will benefit other residents in the Birchfield area. A total of £15,000 was allocated to this in 2016 and five grants totaling £8720.58 were awarded. The first round of awards was based on an application form alone with the decision made by a panel of partnership members. In the second-round applicants were invited to make a presentation to the panel which enabled the panel members to ask more detailed questions. Four of the projects were documented on film recently and shared via You Tube, Facebook, Twitter and the Birchfield Big Local website.

We plan to continue the small grants scheme in 2017 and to allocate a total of £10,000, to be awarded in two rounds.



*Dorothy Dixon from School's Out Holiday Play Scheme*



*Yunus Memi describing the Masjid-e-Nimra Litter Pick Project*

## Enhancing services for families with disabled children

Led by ATHAC CIC this project provides support to families with disabled children living in the Birchfield area. This includes after school sessions for children and young people, weekend family trips and activities, and family engagement and outreach support. ATHAC Director, Carol Reid, also chairs the Jobs and Skills Disability Sub Group of the Perry Barr District Jobs and Skills Board.

## Health and well-being

Led by local medical practitioner, Dr Rhonda Lee, this project aims to improve the health and well-being of those residents living with long term conditions through providing access to a low-cost acupuncture clinic and other therapeutic treatments at local venues. A short film has been made with Dr Lee and patients for the Birchfield Big Local website.

## Livingstone Road Community Allotment Project

As well as coordinating Birchfield In Bloom, Birchfield Residents Action Group also run a community allotment project at Livingstone Road Allotments. Until May of this year they had a part-time Project Officer who supported both Bloom in Birchfield and work with vulnerable adults at the allotment site. BRAG has been without a Project Officer since May and so the project has relied entirely on the efforts of volunteers. BRAG intend to appoint a new Project Officer starting early in 2017.

## Community transport

As with previous years we have allocated a modest budget towards the cost of transport to help cover the costs of hiring minibuses and drivers to enable residents to access facilities or activities that are

not available in the Birchfield area. This budget has been used to enable parents and children with disabilities to access places such as Sandwell Valley and the Special Needs Adventure Playground in Cannock, and those participating in Bloom in Birchfield to attend the award ceremony held this year in Ludlow, Shropshire.



*Dr Rhonda Lee outside the Hope Acupuncture Centre*



*Family trip with ATHAC*



# Thriving Birchfield

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## Stepping Forward

Stepping Forward is for local people who want to take steps to improve their lives. Support is provided to enable people to access local employment, training, education and enterprise opportunities. Volunteers give one-to-one support with CV writing, and job search, and run sessions in basic IT and conversational English.

## Women's Group

This meets once a month at Grosvenor Road Studios and provides an opportunity for local women to share their experiences, ideas and skills.

## Seniors Club

Starting September 2016 this group meets weekly at Grosvenor Road Studio for a meal and a range of social activities. Applications will be made to the Ageing Better Fund to help cover the costs of activities such as trips and events.

## Community Learning and Training

Training over the past year has benefited staff, partnership members and volunteers. It has included play training and training in pediatric first aid and safeguarding. The volunteer coordinator is currently completing a Level 5 course in Volunteer Management.

## Social Enterprise Support

Although the additional intensive support from UnLtd has come to an end, residents will continue to have access to the Star People Awards programme and Birchfield Big Local will continue to promote this locally and support would-be applicants. The tally of awards so far is 2 Try It, 8 Do It and 1 Build It Award.

## Benefits Advice

We will continue to explore with Nishkam Centre and other potential partners the setting up of regular advice sessions at Grosvenor Road Studios or other suitable venues in the area. We will also look for opportunities to recruit, train and mentor local volunteers interested in gaining experience in Information, Guidance and Advice work.



*Volunteers receiving their Pediatric First Aid certificates*

## Summary of proposed expenditure for Years 4 and 5

Theme	Project/Activity	Details	Budget - 2017	Budget - 2018	Lead/Delivered by
CORE	Community Development Worker	To support Birchfield Big Local Partnership, manage the delivery of the action plan, engage with local residents, groups and organisations.	23400	23400	Big Local Partnership/BVSC
	P/T Volunteer Coordinator	To identify volunteering opportunities in the Birchfield Big Local area and develop a programme for recruiting, training and retaining local volunteers.	10500	10500	Big Local Partnership/BVSC
	P/T Youth Worker	To develop youth activities, train and support volunteers, and help secure additional resources. The focus will be on young people making the transition from Primary to Secondary School.	10600	10500	Big Local Partnership/BVSC
	Office costs	Renting of two rooms at Grosvenor Road Studios and associated office costs. One room is used as an IT suite for IT classes and other activities.	7500	7500	Big Local Partnership with Grosvenor Road Studios
	Room hire	Renting additional rooms for BBL activities as and when required either at GRS or other local venues	2500	2500	Big Local Partnership
	Communications and engagement	Publication of quarterly newsletter, maintaining and developing the website and communications using other social media, leaflets etc	3500	3500	Big Local Partnership – Communications sub-group
	Volunteer expenses	Out of pocket expenses for volunteers assisting with BBL activities	1500	1500	Big Local Partnership
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>59,500</b>	<b>59,400</b>	
WELL-RUN	Community events	Will include the following events in 2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Family Fun day (May 2017)</li> <li>— Volunteers Week (June 2017)</li> <li>— Christmas choir event (December 2017)</li> <li>— Christmas meal for seniors (December 2017)</li> </ul>	6000	6000	Big Local Partnership and partners including BRAG, Boat House Café, local faith

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— “Birchfield’s got talent” event</li> </ul> Supporting events such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— BRAG Spring and Autumn Fetes</li> <li>— Westminster School Fete</li> </ul>			groups, schools etc
	Youth activities	Funding to enable the new part-time youth worker to cover the costs of venue hire, publicity, refreshments and materials. BBL will also be looking to supplement this with funding from other sources.	2500	2500	Birchfield Big Local
	Heritage Trail	The trail will take place as part of Birmingham Heritage Week in September 2017. Funding will cover refreshments and materials for participants	100	100	Birchfield Big Local Volunteers
	Play Streets event	This will take place on National Play Day in August 2017. Funding will cover volunteer costs, play equipment and arts and crafts materials.	500	500	Birchfield Big Local Volunteers and ATHAC CIC
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>9,100</b>	<b>9,100</b>	
WELL-BUILT	Community hub	The community assets survey was completed in March 2016 and the partnership is now looking at potential sites and buildings. Funding has been allocated to cover architect and other fees.	20000	20000	Birchfield Big Local Partnership, LTO and partners e.g. Westminster School
	Bloom in Birchfield	Following a successful campaign in 2016 which resulted in two awards, the plan is to continue this initiative with other partners in 2017 as part of the Birchfield Environment Action Plan.	6360	5088	BRAG working in partnership with Big Local, BCC, Midland Heart and residents
	Environment Strategy/Action Plan	Following the Birchfield Environment Summit in November 2016, the action plan is to be finalized and implemented. This will involve continuing work with partners such as Birmingham City Council, Midland Heart, BRAG, local schools and faith organizations.	1000	1000	Big Local working in partnership with BRAG, BCC, Midland Heart and residents
	Tackling Fuel Poverty	A feasibility study was completed in June 2016 by Phil Beardmore (Calendula Consulting). Applications are now being made to potential funders including Ebico Trust, Scottish Power, Smart Meters Community Fund and Western Power to take this project forward. Funds have been allocated	2500	2500	Big Local Partnership working with other partners

		to cover the costs of bid writing and an element of match funding.			
	Secret Garden Project	Successful applications to the DCLG Pocket Parks fund in partnership with The Conservation Volunteers have enabled good progress to be made on refurbishing this site. Further works include resurfacing the ball park area and constructing a shelter. Funding is also required for play sessions and community events on site. Funding will be sort from other sources to match the allocated budget.	3000	3000	Birchfield Big Local in partnership with residents, ATHAC CIC, The Conservation Volunteers, BCC and others
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>32,860</b>	<b>31,588</b>	
WELL-SERVED	Small grants scheme	This scheme was launched in 2016 to encourage local individuals or groups s to set up projects that would benefit local residents. The scheme will continue in 2017/18 but with two rounds of £5000 rather than three rounds. Projects are expected to meet one or more priorities in the Big Local plan.	10000	10000	Birchfield Big Local Partnership
	Crèche facilities	A modest amount of funding has been allocated to cover the costs of child care for parents wishing to participate in BBL activities or training events.	500	500	Birchfield Big Local
	Enhancing services for families with disabled children	This project provides a range of services to families with disabled children living in the Birchfield Big Local area. The service is delivered by ATHAC - a locally based Community Interest Company.	8000	6400	ATHAC CIC
	Health and well-being	This project aims to improve the health and well-being of those living with long-term conditions by providing low-cost acupuncture and other therapeutic treatments at venues accessible to Birchfield residents. It is delivered by a local medical practitioner, Dr Rhonda Lee.	5320	4256	Hope Acupuncture Centre (Integrated Health Clinic)
	Livingstone Road Community Allotment	This community allotment project based at Livingstone Road Allotments provides opportunities for residents to engage in food growing and other outdoor activities. Participants include adults with particular needs. Run by BRAG, the project aims to employ a new Project Worker to begin in early 2017.	5560	4448	Birchfield Residents Action Group
	Community transport	Funding available for groups that require transport to events and activities that will benefit Birchfield residents but are	1000	1000	Birchfield Big Local

		outside the immediate local area.			
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>30,380</b>	<b>26,604</b>	
THRIVING	Stepping Forward	Support is provided to enable people to access local employment, training, education and enterprise opportunities. It is delivered by volunteers who give one-to-one support with CV writing, Job search, basic IT and conversational English. Costs include room hire, refreshments and photocopying/printing.	2500	2500	Birchfield Big Local Volunteers
	Women's Group	Meets monthly to provide local women with the opportunity to share their experience, ideas and skills. Costs include food and refreshments and professional fees and materials.	1000	1000	Birchfield Big Local Volunteers
	Seniors Club	Meets weekly for older people to come together and engage in a range of social activities. Intend to apply for additional funds from Ageing Better to support activities such as trips out etc.	1000	1000	Birchfield Big Local Volunteers
	Staff and volunteer training	To fund training events for partnership members and other volunteers to help build skills and capacity in the local area. Includes costs of venue hire, trainer fees and refreshments.	3000	3000	Birchfield Big Local Partnership
	Social enterprise support	BBL will continue to promote and support social enterprise in the area through UnLtd and other mechanisms. We aim to bring together existing social enterprises to create a support network.	500	500	Birchfield Big Local with UnLtd and other partners
	Benefits advice	BBL will continue to explore with Nishkam Centre and other partners the setting up of regular advice sessions at Grosvenor Road Studios or other local venues. Funding will help with the training and mentoring of local volunteers interested in gaining experience in Information, Advice and Guidance work	1500	1500	Birchfield Big Local with Nishkam Centre and other partners
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>9,500</b>	<b>9,500</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>141,340</b>	<b>136,192</b>	