**History of Birmingham**

Started out as a village, remained small until the Industrial Revolution

Then it gained the reputation of being the ‘WOTW’ (Workshop of the World). Many war items were made in/around the area ships, planes, guns

Everything was going well until the post war industrial crash – suddenly Birmingham was awash with empty factories and mass unemployment ensured as a result

Post war transport planning influenced Birmingham’s development massively –road transport was heavily prioritised hence Birmingham’s extensive network of motorways and main roads. This worked well initially but by the 1980’s as the level of vehicular transport and car ownership had increased beyond expectations, the traffic began to ‘strangle’ the city, helped in turn by the concrete collar of the ring roads.

**Planning to address this issue**

**1980s – ‘make Birmingham a destination’ and modernise it**

Built the NIA and ICC

Removal of the concrete collar

**1990s – Birmingham Masterplan put together**

Where we are is known as the Eastlands Regeneration Area

Millenium Point replaced the Science Museum, it was one of many such flagship development projects. It is a multi use meeting point

Millenium Point Park was the first park in the city. The park and the station helped to encourage the University to locate and develop here.

Millenium Point is part of what is known as the Knowledge Quarter – ‘Education and Innovation’ area pulls in business as they want to be close to ‘skilled workforce from University’ – has become a growth area for technology and design eg **Faculty of computing, engineering and the built environment and the school of acting is located close by**. Being a multi use building is better because if one of the companies fails, the building keeps going.

BUT …. HS2 national government plan spoiled the B’ham Plan so B’ham decided to use HS2 to kick start some new development (see the Curzon HS2 Masterplan). Land costs are cheaper here and the reduced journey times to London and other key places makes it an attractive proposition for decentralisation from the capital.

2026 the trains will start running. The government are giving £1 billion to B’ham to develop

The Future – 2050 and beyond…. ? who knows – planners only look two generations forward but the plan is for a new cinema, more offices, hotels and student accommodation

**Why change is needed in B’ham?**

Unemployment rate is > NA; where possible they look to use local contractors and workers in development construction, assuming the skills are available.

Regeneration should bring maximum benefit for all in the community if it is to be judged as effective.

**How will the change be managed?**

The Govt, Advantage West Mids and Brum Council are working together

**How this makes Brum more sustainable ….**

Socially: uni - knowledge

Economic: brings employment; profits, taxes, reinvested

Environmental: green spaces for R&R; built on brownfield land.

**Who benefits?**

Quaternary jobs – boosts UK and Brum economy; 2500 local people work here currently; jobs for students @ uni; tourist visitors

**Who loses out?**

Is MP a good way to spend £114 million?

Local residents to HS2 compulsory purchase orders on homes; noise – home prices devalued.

**Putting B’ham on the map ….** HSBC is already located in B’ham

Steven Spielberg film made on location in the Jewellery Quarter