

Birmingham: Total Place Pilot

Capita Symonds researched and developed the Community Asset Strategy for Birmingham's Total Place Pilot which formed part of the HM Treasury Report. The Community Asset Strategy focused on the opportunities for the public sector asset portfolio to contribute to the overarching objectives and outcomes of Total Place.

Location:

Birmingham

Client:

Birmingham City Council &
Service Birmingham

Start / completion dates:

December 2009 to February 2010

Services provided:

Programme Management
Strategic Estates Consultancy
Data Research and Data Analysts
Mapping Services

“Total place looks at how a whole area approach to public services can lead to better services at less cost. It seeks to identify and avoid overlap and duplication between organisations – delivering a step change in both service improvement and efficiency”

Sir Michael Bichard



The Strategic Property & Workplace Consultancy team within Capita Symonds were appointed by Birmingham City Council to support them in the development of the Total Place (Community Asset Strategy) review as part of their overall Pilot, one of 13 pilots being developed across the country on behalf of the HM Treasury.

Capita Symonds were selected to support the council on this project as a direct result of our involvement in the development of a cross agency shared service strategy, as part of the ongoing Business Transformation programme

The clients brief was challenging and demanded that our team work very closely with a range of public sector organisations from across Birmingham to identify the scale of the public sector operational and investment portfolio within the east of the city. This included the collation of information on over 750 assets from 15 different organisations.

Further to the collection and analysis of the portfolio data, we presented a series of high level strategic options along with potential benefits and outcomes related to the rationalisation of the portfolio, through greater collaboration in addition to the asset management strategy.

This information was presented to the Council and included within the City's response to Treasury in early February 2010.

The work undertaken by Capita Symonds identified for the first time a holistic picture of the service portfolio across the many public sector agencies in the east of the City.

It offered the opportunity for strategic property and financial professionals to consider the wider opportunity with visible data and metrics all in one place.

The engagement with key stakeholders on a 1:1 and group basis explored the scale of the opportunity in terms of estate efficiency and importantly financial benefits to all agencies and started to challenge some of the governance procedures in place that were considered to be 'blockers'.

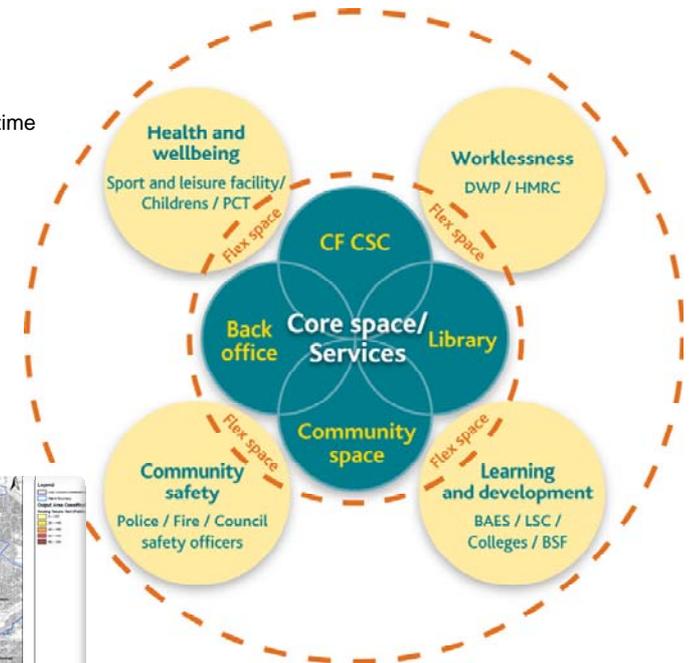
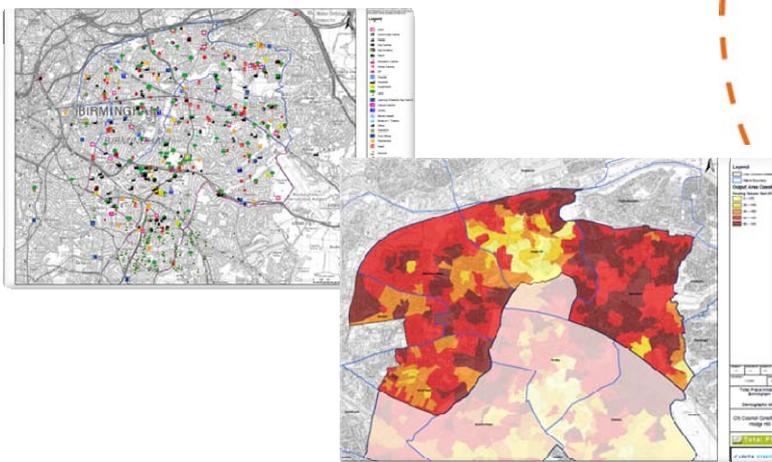
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The outcome to date has been a much greater level of collaboration with the public sector agencies regarding the strategic management and decision making activities around the asset portfolio with, in a number of cases, actual projects being developed to trial some of the initial ideas and opportunities identified.

Key Immediate Outcomes

1. Visible portfolio and financial data from across agencies for the first time
2. Possible savings communicated across agencies
3. Strategic asset planning now in place across agencies
4. Early opportunities being explored and developed



What our Clients think.

"Total Place is perhaps the most significant initiative for local areas and local government for some time. It gives public agencies in one place the opportunity to grasp the agenda, to design services that better meet the needs of local citizens, to cut through artificial organisational boundaries, to slash waste and inefficiency and be better placed to meet the inevitable future pressures on public spending. It's a chance we must not let slip."

Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council, Stephen Hughes

"Capita Symonds were appointed via the Councils JV (Service Birmingham) to provide consultancy services to assist with the development of Birmingham's Total Place Pilot review and the preparation of the Pilot Report to HM Treasury."

Capita Symonds added significant value to the Council, providing the necessary strategic consultancy support and direction throughout their appointment. The key strengths of the team were their robust management, rigour, innovation, research and intelligence gathering, communications and importantly their enthusiasm and passion for delivering the best result for the City."

Richard Kenny, Head of Strategic Development, Birmingham City Council

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