Our vision for the future
WE ARE DELIVERING OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ESTATE BY:

- providing cutting edge research facilities
- developing state-of-the-art student facilities
- increasing our engagement with the local community
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Building on a heritage of success

Origins

Joseph Chamberlain, the Birmingham-born politician, first had the vision of establishing a civic university in the city. The University of Birmingham was founded in 1900, receiving its Royal Charter from Queen Victoria on 31 May.

Development of Chancellor’s Court

Following the gift of a 25-acre site in Edgbaston by Lord Calthorpe, and a large donation by American industrialist Andrew Carnegie, Chamberlain proceeded to appoint architects Sir Aston Webb and E Ingress Bell to design Chancellor’s Court. Webb was by all indications the most noteworthy architect of his time, and along with Bell completed numerous large public building projects, including the principal facade of Buckingham Palace, the Victoria and Albert Museum’s entrance facade, Admiralty Arch and the Victoria Law Courts in Birmingham.
Architectural style and design
Chancellor’s Court was designed and built in a manner that is reflective of contemporary architecture at the turn of the 20th century, which witnessed a revival of interest in Byzantine architecture.

Design for principal entrance to Aston Webb Building
Early designs of the University – note the original spire above the Great Hall
The original design of Chancellor’s Court
Webb and Bell’s masterplan for the University
Building on a heritage of success

Recent developments
The University has continued to improve its estate over the last century to ensure we remain as one of the world's top 100 universities.

Bramall Music Building
Completing the semi-circle of buildings born out of Chamberlain’s original plans for the Aston Webb Building, the Bramall Music Building is an ambitious £19 million development that will open in 2012.

The Building will provide a 450-seat auditorium for music, opera, drama and prestigious lectures as well as state-of-the-art rehearsal and practice rooms and recording facilities that will keep our Department of Music at the forefront of training future music professionals.
Muirhead Tower
The iconic Muirhead Tower has dominated the Birmingham skyline since its construction in the 1970s. The 16-storey building was an exceptional feat of design in its day, although time had not been kind.

Re-opened in September 2009, the refurbishment of the tower took two years to complete and cost over £40 million. The new look building, which provides modern teaching and research facilities for the College of Social Sciences and is home to the Cadbury Research Library, has been transformed into a modern education learning space, accommodating 150 academic offices, 230 postgraduate write up spaces, teaching rooms for up to 100 people and a 200-seat lecture theatre.

School of Metallurgy and Materials
Metallurgical studies at Birmingham dates back to 1881. To continue to provide a world-class teaching and research facility that was awarded top marks in the latest Research Assessment Exercise, the School is undergoing a substantial refurbishment of their laboratory facilities.
Our vision for the future

The proposed developments include:

- The expansion of the University’s ‘green heart’: open spaces that inspire and provide a contrast to the built environment
- New state-of-the-art sports facilities
- A 50m swimming pool – Birmingham’s first
- A new library and cultural hub designed for the 21st century
- Student services hub
- Purpose built on-campus student residences
- Enhanced transport and car parking arrangements
ESTATE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

How the proposed development could look
Our vision for the future

The planned developments will enable the University to continue to inspire highly skilled graduates, attract investment into the local economy and provide a skilled, professional workforce with an environment for groundbreaking research that benefits the wider community.

The proposals reflect the values of Joseph Chamberlain, our first Chancellor, who founded the University for the good of Birmingham.

In addition to supporting the University’s core mission, the planned facilities provide an opportunity to widen community access to the campus with a new cultural hub in the library together with increased community membership and club use of the new sports centre.

Some existing buildings could be demolished with the area re-landscaped to extend the ‘green heart’ of the campus. The construction of new buildings will be contained within the University’s grounds.

The total £175 million development is being funded by the University and alumni donations, and is subject to planning permission and consultation.

Your views will be welcomed.
Email: campusdevelopments@contacts.bham.ac.uk
The new **Main Library** and **Cultural Gateway** will support the constantly changing teaching, learning and research needs of the students and staff of the University. Greater use of new technologies within the space will allow Birmingham to showcase its vast collections, creative outputs and research to the wider public and academic community. The new facilities will enable the University to continue to play a leading role in research into cancer, physics, and sports performance.

The **Student Services Hub** will see part of the interior of the main Aston Webb Building remodelled to house a number of different services including employability, careers and a 400-seat lecture theatre. Alteration to the exterior of the building will be modest, but includes the re-instatement of a full-pitched roof.
Our vision for the future

The South Car Park will be decommissioned early in the project in order to accommodate the new sports centre.

A new architect designed car park is planned for the site of the current surface car park at the junction of Pritchatt’s Road and Vincent Drive. The car park will replace the lost spaces and extend parking provision to facilitate expansion of employment at the adjacent Birmingham Research Park.
The new sports centre, which builds on the University’s acclaimed sporting heritage, is planned for the site on the corner of Bristol Road and Edgbaston Park Road. It has been designed to provide higher capacity and excellent quality and choice of facilities for students, staff and the local community; and to achieve high standards of environmental sustainability and an ‘A’ rated Energy Performance Certificate.

The sports centre will be a large high-spec multi-sport facility that will include the city’s first 50-metre swimming pool. The facilities will provide a high quality performance environment for the University’s and the city’s talented sportsmen and women but are also designed to serve the wider sporting, health and fitness needs of the University community. This will also include an expansion of the Munrow Centre’s current 1,000 strong community membership and accommodating more partner community clubs.
Over a century of pioneering physical education

The University has been influential in pioneering and supporting physical education, health and recreation – and its success is attributable to the foresight and passion of committed individuals.

The vision of Sir Raymond Priestley, a celebrated Antarctic explorer/researcher was to bring physical education, recreation and health into the life of the student and staff community. He appointed the pioneer David Munrow as the first Director of Physical Education in 1939 and in 1947 Birmingham officially opened its Institute of Education, now the School of Education, specialising in teacher training.

Birmingham has a long heritage of pioneering developments in physical education, sport and related disciplines. In 1946 the University offered the country’s first degree in physical education, which has evolved over the last half century into a broad range of sport-related academic disciplines due to influences such as changes in government policy (across education, sport and health), the growth of sport as a huge global industry, and the emergence of lifestyle-based diseases such as obesity.

Birmingham’s 21st century developments in sport include world-leading academic activities in sport and exercise sciences, metallurgy and materials, sport pedagogy and the internationally acclaimed Applied Golf Management degree in partnership with the PGA.
Building the Olympians of tomorrow

The Jamaican Track and Field team – including Usain Bolt, the world’s fastest man – has chosen Birmingham’s campus and facilities for its pre-Games training base for London 2012.

They won’t be the first Olympians to have benefited from the excellent performance environment of the UK’s second ranked sporting University. Birmingham’s alumni have a proud record of achievement as Olympians across many previous Games, including three times Olympic cycling medallist, Paul Manning, Leamington Spa based archer Naomi Folkard, and Winter Olympian and current IOC member Adam Pengilly.

Among recent alumni heading for selection for London 2012 are Hannah England (1500m), Louise Hazel (heptathlon) and Susie Gilbert (hockey).