presentation to the
Growing Health Advisory Group
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GROWING
Birmingham
our landscape
High plateau on the northern fringes of the ancient Forest of Arden
Poor agricultural land, so undeveloped until the Industrial Revolution

post-industrial legacy
Areas of derelict land and multiple deprivation in many wards
Friendly population well-used to welcoming people

and . . . it’s a city of trees . . . millions of them!

plus 571 parks . . . 250,000+ back gardens — & garden estates

and 7,500+ allotments
community growing activity
Lots of it going on!
Not just limited to food growing . . .
2009: the GEML project

but . . .
No overall strategy . . .
No overall picture . . .
Limited connections
. . . Clear need to “talk to each other”
April 2012: Website launched
September: Feeding the City event
November: First meeting (four since)

more than just a website . . .

a network for supporting urban (food) growing in Birmingham & its environs
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City Council run projects
Nechells Green Employment Preparation Team (about to close)
Four Seasons Garden Centre (about to become a social enterprise)
GEML (short-term project in Ladywood)

NHS decommissioned to voluntary sector
BSMHFT to BITA Pathways — Park Lane Garden Centre
Martineau Gardens Pottery Studio

Grants for therapeutic horticulture
BSMHFT (Charitable Funds) & BCC (Adults & Communities)

One-off grants
Making community facilities available
Public Health (NHS) to Martineau Gardens, Urban Veg (UoB) & Birmingham Botanical Gardens

health related funding of community gardening in Birmingham