



**DIGITAL BIRMINGHAM**  
**PRESS RELEASE: 01.05.09**

**DIGITAL WELCOME TO BIRMINGHAM**

---

Newcomers to Birmingham can find out all about life in the city and learn about their rights and duties thanks to an innovative new website, [www.welcometobirmingham.org](http://www.welcometobirmingham.org)

Launched by West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership and developed as a joint partnership project funded by Digital Birmingham and Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Partnership, the website is designed to provide information, support and services for people new to Birmingham and aid their settlement in the UK.

The website was created in recognition of the need to consolidate and develop existing information into an accessible and 'one stop' online hub. The site is targeted not only at new arrivals but also those working with them. All service providers, such as libraries, neighbourhood advice centres and education providers, are encouraged to make use of and promote the website.

Birmingham City Councillor Paul Tilsley, who heads up the Digital Birmingham partnership, believes the online service will transcend the barriers of language and nationality.

"The Internet is a global resource understood by people from around the world and so is the ideal way to get this important information across to people from many different cultures and countries," he said.

"As well as providing an extremely helpful service to newcomers to the city, 'Welcome To Birmingham' reinforces Birmingham's commitment to investing in digital technologies for the benefit of all our citizens, old and new."

[www.welcometobirmingham.org](http://www.welcometobirmingham.org) contains over 100 pages of information in plain English as well as welcome videos and scripts in 7 different languages. It can be navigated by migration status or by topic area. Whether refugee or economic migrant, the website steers the user through many procedures and services encompassing topics ranging from employment to safety and the law. In addition, it provides links to translated information and to other relevant websites.

ENDS (300 words)

For further information or to arrange a briefing please contact:

Clare Daley, Policy Officer at West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership on 0121 678 1078 or at [c.daley@wmlga.gov.uk](mailto:c.daley@wmlga.gov.uk)

Notes to editors:

The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership is a multi-agency partnership hosted by the West Midlands Local Government Association and recognized as the lead regional policy forum on asylum, refugee and migrant issues, see [www.wmlga.gov.uk](http://www.wmlga.gov.uk) under Migration for more information.

Digital Birmingham is a strategic partnership of private, voluntary and public organisations that aims to ensure that the benefits of digital technologies are available to all in the city. Initially set up by Birmingham City Council and BT, the partnership now comprises over 30 organisations that aim to establish Birmingham as a leading digital city by 2010 and maximize its competitive advantage. For more information visit: [www.digitalbirmingham.co.uk](http://www.digitalbirmingham.co.uk)