

2nd Draft Sustainable Community Strategy

CREATING THE CITY OF OPPORTUNITIES –

A sustainable community strategy for the City of Brighton & Hove

Priority Areas

Promoting enterprise and learning.....	page 6
Reducing crime and improving safety.....	page 21
Improving health and well-being.....	page 27
Strengthening communities and involving people.....	page 43
Improving housing and affordability.....	page 49
Living within environmental limits & enhancing the environment.....	page 55
Promoting sustainable transport.....	page 68
Providing quality advice & information services.....	page 74
Membership of the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership.....	page 78
Members of the family of partnerships.....	page 80

CHAIR'S FOREWORD

Welcome to the 3rd edition of Brighton and Hove's Sustainable Community Strategy.

If you'll forgive the analogy, it is rather like we're on a journey with no ultimate destination. We keep moving along and adapting to the changing scenery to ensure we can deliver the opportunities for all who live, work and visit our City as well as allowing everyone to achieve their full potential in life.

This updated Strategy sets out the refreshed vision for Brighton and Hove over the next two decades. It's been compiled following public consultation and extensive input from the agencies, organisations and communities who work together in the Brighton and Hove Strategic Partnership as well as the wider family of partnerships covering everything from crime reduction to sustainability, housing and health.

Partnership working has now become embedded in Brighton and Hove as a way of life for those charged to deliver our shared vision. Whether it be promoting enterprise and learning, encouraging sustainable transport, enhancing the environment or improving safety, health, well-being and housing as well as strengthening communities and involving people, none of these objectives can be achieved by working in isolation. We need to pool our skills, resources and commitment for the benefit of all. The whole is definitely more than the sum of the parts.

The 2009 Comprehensive Area Assessment described relationships between partners as "mature and leadership is strong" which reflects well on the public, private and community and voluntary sectors who each have their vital role to play in delivering our objectives.

Much has been achieved since our first Community Strategy work published in 2003. As we enter the second decade of the 21st Century our overriding aim must be to address the pressing issue of climate change so we can ensure the Brighton and Hove we all enjoy today is also a great city for future generations too.

Roger French OBE DL, Chair, Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership, Chair, Brighton and Hove Economic Partnership

INTRODUCING THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

This is the newly refreshed edition of the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy; '*Creating the City of Opportunities*'. This strategy explains how Brighton & Hove's Strategic Partnership will work together to improve, in a sustainable way, quality of life in Brighton & Hove

Brighton & Hove's Strategic Partnership is responsible for the strategy's development and implementation.

The strategy has been produced during a time of unprecedented economic challenge and focuses on both shielding the city from the impacts of the recession and ensuring Brighton & Hove is best placed to make the most of opportunities during and after the down turn.

The 2007/09 Strategy

The previous Community Strategy saw the delivery of real improvements for people living and working in Brighton & Hove. Progress in delivering against our outcomes is covered in detail through our Local Area Agreement reporting which is available on the Partnership's website.

Highlights of our achievements include the implementation of recession support programmes for small businesses, the adoption of a city wide Community Engagement Framework, the development of the Falmer Academy and Stadium, sustained interest in development including the Brighton Centre and increases in the numbers of homes meeting the decent homes standard.

Other successes include achieving Beacon Status for managing the night time economy, the development of a City Inclusion Partnership to support services to become fairer, easier to access and more responsive to people's needs and the establishment of the Local Employment Partnership to support people back into work. The city's schools have seen significant reductions in bullying and all are now designated Healthy Schools. Work on protecting our local environment and contributing to wider global efforts has also been successful including a new 'Harvest' programme that supports local food initiatives and 'Climate Connections' an education and support programme helping residents reduce their carbon footprint.

The Vision for the City

That Brighton & Hove is a City of Opportunity. It is a city where opportunities are provided for our residents to improve their lives, for our children to excel and a place for business to thrive. It is a place that provides these opportunities in a sustainable and inclusive way that reduces inequality and protects the environment.

A Sustainable Community

Creating a sustainable community is at the heart of our strategy. The Partnership believes that sustainable communities provide a better quality of life for everyone; making effective use of natural resources, enhancing the environment, promoting social cohesion and strengthening economic prosperity.

We have called our strategy '*Creating the City of Opportunities*' because we want to provide opportunities for everyone to contribute to the creation of a more sustainable and successful Brighton & Hove.

By reducing inequality the strategy aims to reduce disadvantage and improve quality of life for all our residents.

Priority Themes

The Strategy is divided into eight priority themes and under each priority we set out how we intend to build communities where everyone is included and has the opportunity to reach their potential.

The themes of the strategy are derived from the original '*Creating the City of Opportunities*' and were identified in consultation with a wide range of citizens, organisations and interest groups in the city.

We have simplified and re-named the themes to better reflect their concerns, but this aside, each chapter develops the initial intention of the original edition and builds on the achievements so far.

Under each theme, we summarise the issues of concern, what has happened over the last three years, the current position and the plans for the future.

A range of other strategies complement and support this work and we have developed a comprehensive variety of targets which, taken together, enable us to demonstrate where things are improving and where further work is required.

Strong Foundations

We've also agreed that the four foundations of the original edition of the strategy should also continue to form the basis of this one. We will use these as our building blocks for the creation of a sustainable and cohesive community and ensure that all residents can take advantage of the opportunities available. The foundations on which the strategy rests are:

Community Involvement: our vision is to develop more choice and opportunity for our citizens. We want you to feel that Brighton & Hove is your city and that you have a say in the way it's run.

Equality and Social Justice: we will identify and remove the barriers that some people face in Brighton & Hove.

Rights and Responsibilities: Citizens have a right to expect improved local services and a better quality of life for themselves and generations to come – but we all need to be responsible and work together. Everyone has a part to play;

Sustainable Future: A sustainable future for the city means protecting and enhancing the environment, meeting social needs and promoting economic success.

Equalities and Inclusion

To achieve all that we are aiming for in this strategy we must work fairly and openly and ensure that everyone in the city's diverse communities can benefit from the opportunities being created. The Local Strategic Partnership and all its members are committed to promoting equality and cohesion, supporting social inclusion and preventing discrimination.

To do this we must understand and respond to our local context. This means that we must fully understand the City and the needs of all its different communities. What we do to achieve the goals of this strategy must be based on what we find out about our communities, and respond appropriately to these needs, whether city-wide or focused on a particular group or area. The way that we deliver services to different communities must be fair and be seen to be fair. We have a role in encouraging strong and positive relationships between people of different backgrounds. We must ensure that every person within our communities is given the opportunity to improve their quality of life as the City grows in prosperity.

The City Inclusion Partnership (CIP) and the Stronger Communities Partnership are two key partners in this work in the 'family of partnerships'. The CIP exists to lead, develop and support equalities and cohesion approaches in policy and practice across the city. Members of this group work together to improve how local services recognise, understand and respond to the experiences and needs of the entire city's diverse population, to reduce inequalities in Brighton and Hove.

The Stronger Communities Partnership (SCP) takes the lead in encouraging and enabling active community engagement in strategic planning and decision-making processes. Within this partnership community and voluntary sector groups have joined together to form the Equality Coalition. This is a sub-group of the SCP seeking to lead, develop and support an active, independent network of local community and voluntary sector organisations that have a focus on human rights, equality and diversity issues.

Together these two groups will support the aims of the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership to remove barriers that prevent people taking part in the life of the City, contributing to it and benefiting from everything it has to offer. Equality, inclusion and fairness are vital to creating a better Brighton and Hove, with a better quality of life for everyone.

PROMOTING ENTERPRISE AND LEARNING

Chapter Contributors:

Arts Commission
Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership
Brighton & Hove Learning Partnership
Children & Young Peoples Trusts
City Sustainability Partnership
Brighton & Hove City Council (Tourism, Major Projects, Planning, Libraries & Museums, Culture & Economy)
Learning & Skills Council
City Employment & Skills Steering Group

Our aim

A vibrant, socially and culturally diverse place with a wide range of job opportunities supported by accessible child care. A city that supports businesses to grow, encourages investment, innovation and a healthy and sustainable economy, and actively promotes learning and training opportunities for people of all ages.

Employment and Economic Development

Issues of concern

Over 20% of the city's 16-74 year olds are economically inactive. While this is partly due to our many students, about 10,700 people are without work and want to work.

17% of households have incomes below £10,000 per year and 20% of dependent children live in households with no working adults.

Average (and median) earnings in the city are below national levels, and this is mainly due to comparatively low earnings at the higher end of the labour market, rather than particularly low earnings in lower paid occupations.

Despite the recent reductions in property prices and rents, the city's housing is still largely unaffordable for the majority of residents. A shortage of affordable housing can increase the difficulty of attracting and retaining businesses.

The Employment Land Study has identified a need for an additional 20,000 square metres of office accommodation after 2016 and a need to upgrade the quality of existing stock. The study suggests that much of the city's available office stock is of 'relatively poor quality' and subject to 'continuing pressure from competing uses'.

What has happened over the last three years

The city council has launched a major 'Be Local, Buy Local' campaign to support local jobs and the environment, in line with its first priority to "protect the environment while growing the economy".

In addition, the 'Business Lifebelt' package, developed by a partnership between the council, Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce and Business Link Sussex, aims to provide recession relief to small and medium sized businesses in the city.

A Social Enterprise Strategy has been developed by the Business Community Partnership in partnership with the city council. This aims to improve the social, economic and environmental impact of social enterprises, by creating a cross-sector network of support to promote a citywide culture supporting their growth – better for people, planet & profit.

Our economy has performed strongly recently with falls in unemployment (from 7.5% in February 2000 to 5.8% in December 2008) and rises in earnings (average full-time pay increasing from £410.50 per week in 2002 to £480.00 per week in 2008).

A Business Improvement District has been established which will bring over £1m of private sector investment into the city centre and there are plans to expand it to more of the city centre in 2011.

A new economic strategy has been published covering the period 2008 – 2016.

Gross Value Added (GVA) per head has risen to £19,477, just above the national average (£19,430) but still below the regional average (£20,152).

During January - December 2009 the VisitBrighton Convention (the council's Tourism unit) has secured £34m in economic benefit to the city via conferences committing to use Brighton & Hove as the destination for their forthcoming conferences and events. This follows on from the £52m that was secured for 2008, £35m for 2007 and £65m for 2006.

Current position

In 2008, the local economy was estimated to be worth £4.2 billion.

Unemployment is about 7%, comparable to the national rate although higher than the regional rate of 5%.

19% of people are self-employed, 7% more than the national average.

Earnings of people who work in the city are 0.2% above the national average. On average, residents who commute to work (especially to London) earn more than those who work in the city. The growth in Brighton & Hove's working age population has resulted in it being a net exporter of labour if London is included.

Brighton & Hove benefits from its south coast location and its vibrant, cosmopolitan character and is very much an international city. The city council, the two universities and local schools and colleges have a strong track record of engaging in international activity, such as participating in international partnerships and accessing European funding.

The city council is now a member of the Eurocities network of major European cities.

There is a unique opportunity for Brighton & Hove to pioneer the development of a Low Carbon Economy, which is essential if it is to achieve the medium and long term CO₂ cuts it is committed to. This can be achieved through exploiting our established strengths in decarbonised industries (such as supporting development of secondary food processing businesses within the city in order to reduce food miles), exploiting the growth potential of

sustainable/environmental industries in the city ensuring sustainable resource management by Brighton & Hove businesses, and by building on widespread interest and commitment in business and wider communities.

What we plan to do

Through partners such as the Business Community Partnership, we aim to help entrepreneurial activity, encourage business and social enterprise start-ups to survive and grow through business support. The establishment of the 'More than Profit' network will increase support for social enterprises across the city and increase the amount of volunteering opportunities.

Promote the city's businesses and strengths in supporting a low carbon economy for the UK, Europe and the world, and explore the potential of sustainable/environmental industries in the city as a key growth sector.

Substantially increase the environmental / sustainability auditing and practical advice services to businesses across the city to enable widespread environmental management.

Support the growth of the creative industries sector to become globally competitive with particular reference to digital media and gaming.

Examine site options for a business centre to house digital media companies.

Extend the city's Business Improvement District (BID).

Extend opportunities for people over 50 who want to learn, work or volunteer through initiatives such as the forthcoming Volunteering Strategy.

Through the exchange of ideas and learning with Eurocities we can improve policy development and service delivery for the benefit of local residents, businesses and visitors, while raising the profile of the city at international level.

The New England Quarter will be identified and promoted in the Core Strategy as the area to accommodate the additional 20,000sqm of office space required by 2026.

Mixed use development will be allowed at the Preston Road office sites to secure good quality modern offices alongside housing development.

Encourage bigger employers to develop workplace learning plans and encourage all employers, in particular those in the public sector, to include apprenticeship opportunities within their workforce, in line with the city's Apprenticeship Strategy.

To increase the economic benefit figure for 2010, a significant amount of focus by the Convention Bureau will be placed on researching new clients and organisations.

To also aid growth to the economic benefit total, a bespoke PR and Marketing campaign is in place raise awareness of Brighton & Hove being a ideal place to hold business events. The 'See Brighton & Hove through business eyes' message is to shift people's perception of Brighton & Hove to realising that what makes the city such an exceptional leisure destination is also what makes it such an exceptional business tourism destination.

Citywide Projects

Issues of concern

It is essential to maximise the value of our key assets and ensure that developments at a number of key sites around Brighton & Hove provide jobs during this economic downturn and have a positive impact on the environment wherever this can be achieved.

What has happened over the last three years

Agreement has been reached with the owner of Churchill Square (Standard Life Investments) to explore with a selected architect the opportunities for extending the shopping centre, providing a brand new conference centre for the city and a headquarters hotel.

American Express has worked with the council to finalise plans to continue their longstanding relationship with the city and build a new headquarters at Edward Street. This will protect 3,000 jobs and further wholesale redevelopment of the rest of the site could bring additional employment opportunities in the future.

The new stadium at Falmer is now underway and due for completion in summer 2011. This will not only deliver a 22,500 seater stadium but also provide jobs and training via the contractor and City College.

Plans to redevelop the Open Market at London Road are nearing finalisation. A brand new covered market with 44 permanent stalls and a central square is planned for completion in 2012, with the addition of approximately 87 affordable homes provided by Hyde Housing Association.

The aspiration remains to achieve a development at the Black Rock site, based upon the current plans for a multipurpose venue to deliver a public ice skating rink, provision for ice dance and ice shows and be used as an entertainment venue. A funder has now been found to replace Erinaceous.

Having been reconsidered by the council's Cabinet in March 2009, the Preston Barracks redevelopment has entered a new phase, with an agreement to work with interested parties to fully explore development options. A new process of consultation is getting underway and the aspiration remains to deliver a high quality mixed-use scheme that will benefit the surrounding communities, contribute to the wider regeneration of Lewes Road, and accommodate local resident and student demands.

Work is nearing completion on the regeneration of the Brighton Station site / New England quarter, our biggest brown-field site. Working with the developers has led to agreement on sustainable practices such as:

- 40% carbon emission savings
- 30% of homes to be affordable
- a "greenway" and funding to maintain it
- provision of a new community facility
- landscaping
- a strategy to improve local people's skills and employability

Current position

Commercial partners are being sought to redevelop the Brighton Centre and regenerate the surrounding areas. Invitations to tender for the design element of the scheme have now been published.

Plans are at various stages of development for sites around the city, including:

- making further progress with eventual replacement of the Brighton Centre – the next stage will be putting together a team who will construct a feasibility study of the whole site to examine what can be delivered prior to submitting a planning application
- continuing to seek a final funding solution to deliver the new arena at Black Rock
- regeneration of the Circus Street, Edward Street, Lewes Road and London Road areas
- a new community stadium at Falmer to include a base for the award winning 'Albion in the Community' together with accommodation for courses delivered by City College and other education providers
- completion of the i360 project at the West Pier
- exploring options for the redeveloping the King Alfred site and retaining the present centre until that point
- Shoreham Harbour regeneration

What we plan to do

Secure the city's conference economy by redeveloping the Brighton Centre as a successful, high profile, sustainable conference centre and examine opportunities for new leisure, retail, and hotel development on the site.

Keep Brighton & Hove a vibrant place to live with exciting and sustainable development of sites to their full potential. Sites will be identified in the Local Development Framework development policies, Site Allocations Plan (due to start September 2010), Joint Area Action Plans for Shoreham Harbour and supplementary planning documents where appropriate.

Promote and require sustainable practices, such as:

- reaching very good or excellent in the BREEAM or EcoHome standard (thus minimising ongoing CO₂ emissions)
- using the construction phase to develop local skills and businesses
- incorporating a high proportion of affordable housing
- ensuring housing is accessible

Protect and enhance the natural beauty of the South Downs National Park while maximising access to and enjoyment of the area.

Learning and Education

Issues of concern

The number of 'Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET) is still high.

There is a large variation of attainment rates at 16 between the city's schools.

Brighton & Hove continues to have an unusual qualifications profile. Of the city's working age population 9% have no formal qualifications and 38% are qualified to degree level or above.

Employers report that some young people are not ready for employment when they complete formal education.

What has happened over the last three years

A strong 14-19 Partnership, containing headteacher or principal representation from all secondary and special schools and colleges in the city, has been formed and a citywide 14-19 Strategy has been agreed and published.

A comprehensive City Employment and Skills Plan (CESP) has been published to provide a coherent and coordinated approach to employment and skills which will benefit the residents of Brighton & Hove and strengthen the city's economy.

Agreement has been reached to build the Falmer Academy, which will open in 2010/11.

The Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme started in 2008/9 to work with disengaged young people at risk of becoming not in employment, education or training (NEET).

Entry to Employment (e2e) places have grown to provide 16-19 NEET young people with a wider range of learning opportunities.

Responsibility for commissioning 16-18 learning will transfer from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to the council from April 2010.

Funding for 19+ learning and skills, including apprenticeships, will transfer from the LSC to the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) from April 2010.

Current position

In the period November 2008 to January 2009, 7.78% of people age 16-18 were considered to fall within the NEET category.

The 2007-08 school attendance rate was 94.7% for primary schools (compared with 94.7% nationally) and 91.5% for secondary schools (compared with 92.2% nationally).

In 2008, 57.5% of pupils at local authority schools gained five or more GCSEs at A*-C, 2.3% points more than in 2007, compared to the national average for 2008 of 59.8%. The rate at individual schools varied from 19% to 75%.

Success rates in the city's colleges are consistently above or very close to national benchmarks for sixth form colleges and general further education colleges.

What we plan to do

Work with the Sussex Learning & Skills Council in its preparation of their commissioning plan for the citywide 16-19 offer for 2010/11 in anticipation of this responsibility passing to the local authority for 2011/12 and beyond.

Build effective partnership arrangements with the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to ensure appropriate adult learning and skills opportunities are available to meet the requirements of residents and employers.

Ensure that effective links exist with the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) which provide the broad range of apprenticeship placements proposed in the citywide Apprenticeship Strategy are made available to residents.

Supported by the Education Business Partnership, introduce 17 new Diploma qualifications for 14-19 year olds in the city to provide a strong applied pathway.

Introduce a citywide collaborative offer under the Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) for 14-19 year olds and adults studying at below Level 2.

Ensure that there are sufficient quality learning opportunities to increase participation from 16 to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015.

Apply for Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Capital funding to redevelop the secondary school estate and support the city's colleges in exploring ways of securing capital funding to regenerate the further education estate, as part of an integrated citywide capital investment strategy for education and training.

Work with City College to further develop its City College East site at Wilson Avenue as a further education and skills training centre.

Refresh the Adult Learning Strategy to target public funding towards adults who have benefited least from the education system and recognise the role that non-accredited learning opportunities have within the health, citizenship, employment and skills agendas.

Encourage Learning providers, employers and other organisations to sign the 'Learning Revolution' pledge that recognises the value and importance of informal adult learning.

Link adult education non-accredited learning opportunities more closely to accredited progression routes.

Increase the number of adults achieving nationally recognised literacy, numeracy and English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) qualifications.

Through the Education Business Partnership, increase awareness of the world of work in 14 – 19 year olds to make them 'employment ready', via engagement with secondary head teachers and building closer links between schools, including the new Falmer Academy, and businesses.

Develop bespoke apprenticeship, internships, volunteer and work placement schemes for key sectors of the Brighton & Hove economy in partnership with employers.

Increase the coordination and impact of employability related volunteering via the actions contained in the Volunteering Strategy.

Promote the 'Skills Pledge' that commits employers to train staff to a full Level 2 qualification (five GCSEs at A* - C grade or equivalent) and promote 'Train to Gain' and 'Skills Accounts' to local employers.

Increase the employment rate from 75.6% to 76.6%.

Increase achievement of five or more A* - C GCSE grades or equivalent including English and Maths by the age of 19 to 82% (Local Area Agreement Target).

Secure section 106 planning agreements to increase the number of apprenticeship and local employment opportunities on the major capital developments planned.

Increase the proportion of men aged 19-64 and women aged between 19-59 qualified to at least level 2 or higher to 79% (LAA Target).

Research the digital exclusion impact of the growth in use of new media to communicate with residents and, in response, develop more Skills For Life and ICT training, particularly in deprived areas.

Become a UN Centre of Excellence in Education for Sustainable Development, developing leadership awareness and ensuring every community, business, organisation and individual understands the principles and responsibilities of sustainable development.

Pilot a UniverCities approach to sustainable urban design through partnership working with academics, planners, city leaders and communities.

Work towards every school being signed up to the Eco Schools programme, with progression for schools up the scale of environmental achievement.

Children's Services

The Children & Young People's Trust (CYPT) aims for Brighton & Hove to be the best place in the country for children and young people to grow up. We want to ensure all our children and young people have the best possible start in life, so that everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential, whatever that might be.

Issues of concern

The 2009-12 Children and Young People's Plan aims to:

- strengthen safeguarding and child protection, early intervention and prevention
- reduce child poverty and health inequality
- promote health and well being, inclusion and achievement
- develop the CYPT partnership and drive integration and value for money

What has happened over the last three years

Continued to develop and improve our approach to commissioning and providing integrated front line services for children and young people and their families.

Worked across the local health economy and with our schools, colleges and 14-19 Partnership to improve health, well being and educational achievement, especially for the most vulnerable groups.

Supported the Local Safeguarding Children Board to ensure a coordinated response to the significant increase in the need for safeguarding and child protection services across the city.

Worked closely with the Safe in the City Partnership to tackle anti-social behaviour and prevent and deter young people from criminal behaviour.

Current position

Most of the parents and young people consulted when writing the Children and Young People's Plan consider Brighton & Hove to be a good place to live, to bring up their children and enjoy their childhood and teenage years. The city's Place Survey (2009) found 86% of residents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live, compared to a national average of 80%.

Information from the 2008 TellUs3 survey, which children and young people in primary and secondary schools took part in, shows that their satisfaction with local parks and play areas is above the national average, and more felt safe in their local areas, on public transport and going to school, and more enjoyed school most of the time.

A large proportion of the student population stays on in the city, attracted by the sea and countryside, the urban environment, the cultural offer and leisure opportunities.

The city has excellent early years education and child care provision, good and often outstanding schools and colleges and well regarded health services.

There is a range of specialist social care, education and health provision for children, young people and their families who are vulnerable and likely to need additional services and support.

What we plan to do

Physical and mental health and emotional well being

- all children to have the best start in life and to have access to high quality healthcare from the womb, through their early years and into adulthood
- promote healthy weight and healthy lives for all children in Brighton & Hove
- equip young people to make positive choices about their sexual health, their lives and minimise risk-taking behaviours especially alcohol use and substance misuse
- ensure children and young people who suffer from poor mental, physical or emotional health have access to high quality healthcare that is local and responsive to their needs
- promote the health and well-being of the most vulnerable children and young people through timely, appropriate and specialist services including for children in care, children with disability, special educational needs and/or complex health needs

Protection from harm and neglect

- build community resilience and professional capacity to work together to protect and safeguard vulnerable children and young people so that all of our children are kept safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation
- protect children and young people who are at risk of maltreatment, harm, neglect and/or sexual exploitation through early identification, intervention and prevention
- ensure vulnerable children and young people particularly those looked after by the local authority to have stability, security and are well cared for
- work in partnership with parents and carers so they are supported to raise their children positively, confidently and safely
- help children and young people to achieve their full potential by offering a wide range of high quality learning and leisure opportunities in their schools, families and communities, where they are safe and free from discrimination and harm

Education, training and recreation

- children and young people to enjoy a transformed, rich and diverse curriculum that offers personalised learning and meets the interests of all young people, while focusing on closing the gap in achievement across the city
- children and young people including those who are vulnerable and those with special educational needs, to have access to the highest quality educational and social opportunities within the mainstream system, alongside the most appropriate specialist provision
- children and young people to learn and develop skills in high quality buildings with exciting and stimulating learning environments that support learning, are fit for the 21st century and are at the heart of the community they serve
- develop the highest quality teaching and learning in our schools and colleges with an exceptional workforce committed to excellence in leadership, management and teaching and supporting children's learning
- facilitate robust transformational partnerships across the city that support formal and informal learning and offer all our children and young people opportunities to enjoy their childhood and achieve their full potential

Contribution made by children and young people to society

- increase the numbers of young people on the paths to success in Brighton & Hove, narrowing the gap between young people who are underachieving and their peers
- ensure that children and young people feel they have a real influence and say in their communities, the CYPT and how services are developed, designed and delivered to meet their needs
- encourage active citizenship among all our young people enabling and enhancing their ability to play positive roles in their communities
- develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate
- Engage with parents, carers and foster carers to be actively engaged with the CYPT to increase the numbers of young people on the paths to success
- children and young people from 0-19, from all cultural backgrounds, to be able to engage with, to enjoy, and to be inspired by the highest quality sports, arts and cultural activity that the city can offer

Social and economic well being

- provide high quality education and training to all young people aged 14-19 (both residents and those who choose to study in Brighton & Hove) that enables them to achieve their potential and as young adults take their full place in society as contributing, confident citizens
- increase the overall number of young people entering into sustainable employment, education and training at 16, 17 and 18 in particular those who are vulnerable or from marginalized groups
- reduce the numbers of children living in poverty and mitigate the impact of poverty on their life chances, with regard to the new local duties to be brought about by the Child Poverty Bill

- engage hard-to-reach parents in developing services and overcoming barriers to engagement
- ensure young people to have access to a wide range of high quality vocational, applied and academic opportunities that help them achieve their full potential and increase their life chances
- ensure children and young people leave full-time education with the skills, qualifications and knowledge to secure suitable employment, apprenticeship or to progress in their education

Culture and Tourism

The cultural and tourism offer in Brighton & Hove is crucial to the ongoing economic success of the city; it brings both money and jobs. This range of work also provides solutions to some of the problems of inequality in the city.

The city's cultural offer already engages with a high number of its residents. According to the most recent National Indicator surveys undertaken at the end of 2008, well over half the population engage with the arts and just over half with our museum and library services. The footfall figures for our main central Jubilee Library run into the millions over the course of a year. The Brighton Dome programme reaches one in six households currently and around 70% of the Brighton Festival audience each year is from local BN postcodes. However, there is much more that can be done, there are challenges and a need to create further targeted activity to stretch this success.

This sector also faces challenges from the recession at the point of refreshing this strategy and needs to be forward looking in order to position itself to help the city weather and recover from the economic downturn.

Tourism

Issues of concern

Brighton & Hove faces increasing competition from home and abroad as a tourist destination both in the leisure and business tourism markets. The current economic climate, changing patterns of consumer demand, and a need to invest in infrastructure to maintain a suitable quality are significant challenges.

What has happened over the last three years

A tourism strategy has been refreshed and is being implemented. We have established performance indicators, including within the LAA, and have achieved improvements against most indicators.

VisitBrighton, the City Council's tourism unit, has developed and implemented a full brand strategy and guidelines for the city's tourism offering. It has also introduced a completely new Destination Management System which enables 'real time' accommodation booking and also provided the platform for a completely refreshed tourism website, www.visitbrighton.com.

We have also developed our tourism marketing to attract visitors from both UK and overseas markets. This activity has included increased online activity, partnerships with UK national publishers (The Independent, The Guardian and Time Out) to deliver printed guides and

specific press & public relations activity in Germany who deliver the highest number of foreign visitors to the City.

The destination management function was set up in November 2008 and works to represent the visitor perspective with other teams within the council such as legibility, planning, major projects, public transport and sustainability therefore ensuring the views of the visitor are always represented. In addition to this, it enables effective communication between VisitBrighton and our partners. We have worked closely with our colleagues to see improvements for visitors in the city; the refurbishment of the Laines car park, the new pedestrian wayfinding system and new hotels.

2009 saw the launch of the VisitBrighton Greeter Scheme which is a voluntary scheme that welcomes visitors to the city by recruiting local residents who are passionate and knowledgeable about Brighton & Hove to conduct free tours. We are the first city in the UK to have such a scheme and are part of the Global Greeter Network along with other cities such as New York, Adelaide & Paris.

Brighton was identified as the most cultural City in the UK in terms of resident involvement by the Department of Culture Media & Sport.

The Visitor Information Centre (VIC) was relocated to the Royal Pavilion Shop in March 2007 in order to benefit from the higher visitor footfall within the Cultural Quarter. Footfall to the VIC has subsequently risen by nearly 70% with 339,000 visitors welcomed in 2009. The VIC won the regional "Tourist Information Centre of the Year" award in the Tourism South East ExSellen Awards in 2008.

In April 2009, the first official Visitor Information Point (VIP) was opened at the Brighton Toy & Model Museum in Trafalgar Street.

The Visitor Services team played a central role in the new on-street wayfinding strategy and its implementation, ensuring that the main attractions were highlighted on the new monolith and minilith wayfinding map-boards in the city centre.

Current position

15% to 20% of jobs are tourism-related. Eight million visitors bring £400 million into the local economy with the 18% who stay one or more nights accounting for 57% of that.

Whilst competition is fierce, the city is currently well regarded by both visitors and media and is recognised as "The friendliest city in the UK" (Sunday Times Travel Magazine Awards 2009), one of the 'Top 10 City Beach Destinations in the world' (Skyscanner.net), "Best all-round seaside holiday destination in the UK" (Coast Magazine) and "Best Destination for Young People" (British Education Travel Association).

What we plan to do

Improve facilities and cultural opportunities for visitors, maintain and enhance the environment, including the magnificent South Downs, recently designated as a National Park, ensure the safety of visitors, improve transport and better market Brighton & Hove. The Strategy also highlights the need to develop an approach towards sustainable and responsible tourism practice and to strengthen partnership with local business.

We will continue to deliver marketing activity to reach our target markets. Focus will remain on press & PR both in the UK and near Europe (we will be extending our specific PR activity into Switzerland & Austria in 2010); continued development of our website and social media

activities to offer greater 'ease of booking' for visitors, and delivery of partnership activities with commercial companies (eg transport operators) and regional & national agencies to maximise our marketing spend and effectiveness.

Introduce more Visitor Information Points at strategic locations across the city, eg Brighton Marina, central Hove, in order to provide help and information to more visitors.

Support phase two of the Wayfinding project, enabling the system to be rolled out over a wider area (subject to funding).

Arts

Issues of concern

Maintaining our reputation as a leading cultural city for both residents and visitors.

Ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to engage and participate in the city's cultural offer.

The effect of the wider economic downturn on our arts and cultural businesses including the reduction in national and regional funding streams, reduced sponsorship and potential ticket income.

What has happened over the last three years

Working with the Arts Commission and partners across the city, we have established White Night, a new cultural festival for the city. White Night attracted an audience of 15,000 in its first year in 2008 and a further two annual White Nights are planned.

We established a new and successful Children's Festival for the city aimed at Key Stage 1 & 2, providing free events and activities and workshops across the city.

Brighton & Hove has taken a leading role in the national consortium the Cultural Cities Network.

The city's cultural offer has grown through new festivals, venues and organisations developing in or moving to the city.

We developed and delivered 30 public art projects in the last three years ranging from permanent pieces to participatory projects.

Current position

The city has the highest level of current arts engagement outside London and the seventh highest out of 150 in the country at 61.2%. Brighton & Hove is known for its colourful and interesting arts and creative industries which attract tourism and new businesses. About one in five businesses and 10% of jobs are in the arts or creative industries.

The city currently hosts around 60 festivals each year including the largest arts festival in England, the Brighton Festival and its Fringe, which contributes annually £20million to our economy.

The city is recognised as a regional cultural centre, hosting a number of regional arts development agencies and significant organisations including the Arts Council England regional base, South East Dance and Photoworks.

The city is the first pilot project in SEEDA's Festival Clusters initiative, investing in our festivals and positioning the region's Festival Offer as central to the South East's 2012 strategy.

Our Arts Partnership scheme levers between £15 and £20 for every £1 the city council spends and supports a wide range of cultural activities.

What we plan to do

Work with our cultural partners inside and outside the city to maintain Brighton & Hove's position as a significant cultural leader regionally and nationally.

Work with our cultural partners to increase engagement in the arts in the city, including targeted work at those currently not engaged. The target is to increase by 3% by 2010.

Work with partners to develop targeted arts projects and events that meet other wider priorities: For example, managing the night time economy, crime reduction and healthy communities.

Continue to develop, with partners in education and the youth sector, arts projects and initiatives aimed at meeting the needs of children and young people, particularly those most at risk of exclusion.

Make the most of the opportunities of the Cultural Olympiad and the Festivals Cluster to support and bolster our reputation for hosting significant festivals of all types.

Encourage people to value and engage with their surroundings through public art projects.

Continue to support communities and communities of interest to celebrate their cultures through festivals and projects including support through the council's grants schemes.

Libraries and Museums

Issues of concern

The two issues most often raised by library users are the need for more books and other library materials, and longer opening hours.

What has happened over the last three years

Jubilee Library has become the fifth most successful public library in the country with nearly one million visits per year.

Our children's services have achieved a 92% satisfaction level, the second highest rates nationally.

We have increased the opening hours in Jubilee Library to offer a seven days a week service, and are about to open Hove Library extra hours to open six days a week.

A new Library in Coldean opened in June 2008, and a Children's Gateway Centre was added to Portslade Library in April 2008.

We have increased the buying power of the bookfund by negotiating better discounts and lower fees.

The Royal Pavilion & Museums is recognised as having a regional significance receiving funding direct from MLA as one of the regional hub museums for the South East through the DCMS Renaissance in the Regions programme.

Brighton & Hove Museums and Art Galleries have been redeveloped to improve access and enhance educational and community work with 100% increase in attendance at Brighton.

Current position

Our library services currently issue over 1.3 million items, receive over 1.7 million visits in person, and over two million website hits every year, have over 500,000 items in stock, and buy around 45,000 new items every year.

Our museums have collections of national and international significance including the iconic Royal Pavilion. The Royal Pavilion & Museums receive approximately 630,000 visitors per annum and approximately three million web visits.

Brighton & Hove's museums offer positive cultural and learning activities for participation, in particular for young people and has also been active in providing opportunities for volunteering and work placements.

What we plan to do

Developing libraries as community hubs, beginning a phased programme to regenerate community libraries, reviewing opening hours and making adjustments to meet local needs.

Encourage and support reading through the implementation of a city-wide reading strategy.

Support early years learning and deliver a range of positive activities for young people.

Modernise our library services increasing public access to excellent online information and learning.

Work more effectively with partners in delivering information, advice and guidance.

Improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of our services, especially to the housebound, people with disabilities and special needs.

REDUCING CRIME AND IMPROVING SAFETY

Chapter Contributors:

Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership
East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Sussex Police
Brighton & Hove City Council (Public Safety, Performance)

Our aim

A place in which children, young people and adults can be and feel safe by the fair enforcement of the law and preventing and reducing crime and fear of crime.

Crime and Fear of Crime

Issues of concern

In the Place Survey carried out in the autumn of 2008, the residents of Brighton & Hove were asked to pick five aspects of a local area that make it a good place to live. Out of 20 choices, 55% of respondents ranked the level of crime in their top five aspects which made somewhere a good place to live. So, crime levels were the most frequently flagged issue of importance (as it was in 2003 and in 2006).

In terms of what aspects are 'most in need of improvement', crime ranked eighth out of the twenty choices with other services such as activities for teenagers and traffic congestion ranking higher. In 2003, crime as 'most in need of improvement' had ranked second and then ranked fifth in 2006. So, the CDRP has an improved position in terms of the need to improve its services.

What has happened over the last three years

The level of recorded crimes (around 24,500 each year) has remained stable since 2005 and is the lowest it has been for 10 years.

We have achieved Beacon Status for our work in increasing safety in the night time economy and achieved a Green Flag in the Comprehensive Area Assessment for the strength of the partnership around this and reducing youth crime and disorder. Injury by violent crime is down by 7.8% and at its lowest level for five years.

A new Community, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy for 2008-2011 has been published which includes our action plans to deal with 10 priority crime areas

Exceeded challenging targets set within the LPSA programme for reducing offending by priority and prolific offenders.

Current position

During the first six months of 2007/08, there was a 10% reduction in crime overall compared with the same period of 2006/07. That reduction is also now being sustained with 8.8% fewer crimes recorded overall in 2008/09 compared with 2007/08. Within our 'family' of 15 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, we are assessed as "better than our peers" in most of the priority crime areas.

What we plan to do

The Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 -2011 sets out our crime and safety priorities. The delivery of the detailed action plans against National and other Indicators, will achieve the overall reduction in crime and improvement of quality of life which we are seeking in the City.

The priorities are:

- to reduce violent crime in a public place and reduce alcohol related disorder.
- to improve the physical environment, infrastructure and quality of life of residents.
- to increase the safety of children and young people and reduce first time entrants into the justice system.
- to reduce drug related offending and the harm which comes from drug misuse.
- to reduce acquisitive crime (burglary, vehicle crime and shoplifting).
- reduce offending by priority and prolific offenders.
- to reduce crimes and incidents which are motivated by racist and religious prejudice and hatred and those motivated by prejudice to those with disabilities.
- to reduce domestic and sexual violence, including rape and assaults within relationships as well as stranger assaults, honour based violence, forced marriage and trafficking.
- to reduce anti-social behaviour in the street, public places and between households.
- to increase the safety of all in the city through supporting faith communities and building resilience of those most vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism.
- address the root causes of crime, particularly drug-related crimes through police enforcement operations, educational work, street outreach work and improvements in treatment and supported accommodation
- to reduce crimes and incidents motivated by homophobia and increase reporting.

Adoption of the Core Strategy will help to deliver public safety and community safety improvements in development areas, central Brighton and in neighbourhoods. Securing developer contributions towards reducing crime in central Brighton and other 'hotspots' in the city will help ensure new developments are 'secure by design'.

Alcohol

Issues of concern

Pubs and clubs play an important role in our city's culture and economy but alcohol is a factor in at least 40% of violent crime.

What has happened over the last three years

Following development work with the Primary Care Trust and Sussex Partnership Trust and building on new investment by the PCT in alcohol treatment services, we have gained agreement for those new services to be initially targeted towards those whose offending

behaviour is linked to alcohol misuse. The top priorities are perpetrators of domestic violence, prolific offending and violent crime. We are now developing care pathways for those and other priority groups in order that criminal justice and other CDRP services can successfully refer and help sustain people to engage and change their lives.

Current position

Central Brighton and particularly the West Street area has always been identified as a violent crime hotspot. Through effective coordination of relevant strategies and policy areas (eg licensing, policing and public safety) the council will seek to improve safety by encouraging a more balanced range of complementary evening and night-time economy uses which appeal to a wide range of age and social groups and managing existing late night uses within identified parts of central Brighton. Local work to reduce violent crime is coordinated through the Local Public Service Agreement / Violent Crime Action Plan. In addition, a 'Cumulative Impact Zone' within central Brighton has been adopted by the council's Licensing Committee and grants greater powers to control the number of licensed premises in the city centre.

What we plan to do

Continue to use planning policy to prevent over-concentration of superpubs and to encourage a diversification of the night time economy.

Children and Young People

Issues of concern

Too many young people in Brighton & Hove suffer from accidents, abuse, crime and bullying (including homophobic bullying).

What has happened over the last three years

Developed our services within the Anti-Social Behaviour Team to greater protect children and young people through co-located services within a new Targeted Youth Support Service and increased police and street outreach and youth disorder operations on a Friday and Saturday night. These achievements have brought in new funding to the city (from the DCSF) enabling new initiatives such as 'Challenge and Support' (youth crime prevention), Operation Park (disrupting youth disorder) and a safe space for young people to be cared for if picked up at night on the streets. Focusing attention towards the parents of those young people identified as in trouble and working to address young peoples excessive drinking is bringing excellent results in reducing risks and escalation into more serious anti-social behaviour.

Achieved a 47% reduction in the number of first time entrants (ages 10 – 17) to the Youth Justice system due in part to the new services described above, but also to the introduction of new schemes of restorative justice and reparation. Where young people are drawn into fire setting, initiatives such as the LIFE (local intervention fire education) project are run by East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and delivered from within their own community fire station areas to address the problems of young people who deliberately set fires, and therefore any associated antisocial behaviour. The programme is targeted particularly at young people, aged between 14 and 19, who have offended, are at risk of offending, or those that may have been the victims of crime.

Sustained the Family Intervention Project, which works holistically with families most at risk. We have brought in new funding to extend the work to those families where crime prevention work with young children (5-10 years of age) is necessary and co-located the project with the new Family Pathfinder programme. That programme is targeting the 50 most high risk families and

working with their lead professionals to achieve change in the delivery of children's, family and adult social care services to those families.

Current position

2,076 children under five visited A&E after an accident in the home in 2008/9.

280 children are on the Child Protection Register.

What we plan to do

Continue to protect children and young people from risk and harm within the home, school and in the community and public places.

Reduce the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system and repeat offending.

Local Issues

Issues of concern

Surveys about perceptions of crime tell us that the CDRP needs to improve communications about the improved position. A survey in 2006/07 revealed half of respondents felt that crime levels had got worse over the last three years with only 7% of the view that crime levels had improved.

What has happened over the last three years

Achieved accreditation from the Ministry of Justice for all twelve criminal justice and community safety and support services within our comprehensive domestic violence programme for the city and increased the number of successful prosecutions.

Sustained and developed the joint police and street outreach patrols which target the street population, coupling enforcement with accessing people into treatment and support services. This service has won Trailblazer status as well as reducing the number of street drinkers and beggars.

Achieved Beacon Council status for the wide range of enforcement and creative activities which manage a safe and successful night time economy. This award recognises the strength of partnership working between the police and council services together with local licensees and businesses and which extend beyond good practice management of licenses premises and police street operations into encouraging safe drinking levels. Achieving culture change is part of the package of interventions and the 'White Night' activities are one example of the alternative approaches which helped bring the award to the city.

Sustained our neighbourhood focus and targeted work in the areas most at risk from harm relating to drugs activity in a neighbourhood and where the degeneration of the physical environment can be a factor in attracting increased street crime and 'turning off' spaces for public use. Our Communities Against Drugs and Environment Improvement Teams are constantly active in those neighbourhoods which need their attention. House to house audits are regularly carried out to find out peoples concerns and check if the action taken is bringing improvements for those individual households. Similarly environmental audits identify necessary improvements which can make a big difference to how safe people feel and are.

We have mainstreamed the award winning Operation Reduction which combines police enforcement for drug dealers with assisting criminally active drug users into treatment. This has reduced offending by the targeted individuals by 63%.

Current position

Integrated Offender Management is the overarching framework that brings together statutory and third sector agencies involved with adult crime reduction in Brighton and Hove, to prioritise intervention with offenders who cause crime in their locality. It builds on and expands our current offender focused programmes, such as prolific and priority offenders, the multi-agency public protection arrangements and drug intervention programmes.

What we plan to do

We plan to reduce fear of crime and improve perceptions and understanding of levels of crime through high profile communications explaining how we make up the multi-disciplinary teams for whom 'Reducing Crime is our job' and all the work that is behind the 'Safe In the City' brand for the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The publicity will be targeted towards:

- The City Centre – during the day and at night.
- Communities and Neighbourhoods.
- Parks and Open Spaces.
- In the Home and in Relationships.

As well as visible and high profile work and the CDRP's delivery of priority crime action plans, the CDRP will continue its 'behind the scenes' work to ensure that we accurately target the areas and individuals most at risk and that our interventions are bringing good results. Annual refreshes of the strategic assessment, crime analysis and monitoring of performance is routine and constantly informs delivery.

Information, intelligence and feedback from local people are critical to success in increasing safety and reducing crime. A network of 35 Local Action Teams is being supported to enable local residents and traders to talk about what is of most concern to them and to provide the opportunity for neighbourhood police officers and staff from the Partnership Community Team, Communities Against Drugs and Environment Improvement Team to respond and identify solutions. Where solutions need further consideration or resources to be successful, the structure of the Joint Action Groups and the Operational CDRP are well established to enable senior officer attention to the more serious matters. These arrangements work well with neighbourhood policing and the police 'pledges' which set out what can and will be delivered for local people.

The Local Action Teams, together with many other third sector organisations and communities of interest are co-optees to the councillor led Community Safety Forum and therefore the link with the democratic processes; scrutiny arrangements and the new Crime and Disorder Committees is well advanced.

Other services within Public Safety and the council overall will continue to significantly contribute to the fair enforcement of the law. Environment, Health and Licensing and Trading Standards enforce the law within the nighttime economy and sale of alcohol in the city. Close working with the Children & Young People's Trust, Adult Social Care and the Local Children

Safeguarding Board and Adult Safeguarding Board improve the protection of the most vulnerable people in the City.

Finally, we will remain alert to respond to new priorities or safety issues that are of concern. We are expecting in 2009 to be required to extend our workplans on tackling domestic and sexual violence to address Violence Against Women and Girls generally and to link that work with the Council's new Gender Equality duties. Guidance on these new requirements is awaited.

DRAFT

IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Chapter Contributors:

Healthy City Partnership
Brighton & Hove City Council (Sports Development)
Healthy Living Centre

Our aim

A place where there is a shared vision to improve health, care and well-being for everyone living and working in the city and for generations to come, by improving the conditions which influence our health, and by promoting healthy lifestyles, treating illnesses, providing care and support and reducing inequalities in health.

Many factors combine to affect the health and well-being of individuals and communities. Whether people are healthy or not is determined by their circumstances and environment. Factors such as where we live, the state of our environment, genetics, our income and education level, and our relationships with friends and family all have considerable impacts on health and well-being. However, when people think about health, they tend to think about illness and access to specific NHS facilities, such as the local doctor's surgery or the nearest hospital. While these services are important, they are just a part of the range of things that influence health. Improving health and well-being requires action to address the wider determinants of health, 'lifestyle factors', such as diet, exercise, smoking, and misusing alcohol and drugs as well as access to health and social care services.

Health Inequalities

Health inequalities occur when health varies between social groups – eg by gender, ethnicity, occupational classification or neighbourhood deprivation category so that different groups within the population experience worse health than other groups. For example, people who experience material disadvantage, lower educational attainment or insecure employment are likely to suffer poorer health outcomes and die earlier compared with the rest of the population.

The objective of action to reduce health inequalities is to reduce the gap between life expectancy and infant mortality for deprived people compared to life expectancy for affluent people. Tackling the wider determinants of health is vital in reducing health inequalities, so it is crucial to address this agenda in partnership across the city. In addition, the broader equalities and diversity agenda needs to be considered, as different groups may face particular barriers to accessing services or may be disproportionately affected by certain diseases or conditions.

A particular challenge in reducing health inequalities in Brighton & Hove is that, while the mortality rate for all groups in the city is expected to improve, it is improving faster in more affluent areas, so local inequalities are expected to increase without targeted interventions.

A Healthy City

Great strides have been made in making the city a healthier place to be. This is being achieved by improving and developing services that:

- genuinely focus on prevention and promoting health and well-being
- deliver care in more local settings
- are flexible, integrated and responsive to people's needs and wishes
- provide high quality treatment and standards of care.

Work with local people is helping to design better services, ensuring greater choice and enabling them to live healthy, independent lives.

Brighton & Hove has been designated as a 'Healthy City' by the World Health Organisation, acknowledging the city's strong political and partnership commitment to reduce health inequalities and improve health for everyone.

Achieving health for all is not just about healthcare, and agencies across the city recognise that health depends upon a range of wider factors, including employment, housing, transport, crime, education, poverty and access to healthcare. Work with local people and partners across all sectors is improving the conditions that enable everyone to live healthier lives, such as a smoke-free city and a built environment which supports active living.

Over the next three years there will be a focus on developing the evidence base of effective national and local actions to ensure that our policies, strategies and actions target health inequalities and improve health outcomes for all across the city.

Issues of concern

Despite the improvements made, health inequalities in the city continue to grow.

The main health issues for the city include inequalities, mental health and suicide, alcohol and substance misuse, sexual health, and cancer.

Air pollution limits are predicted to be exceeded in various locations across the city.

What has happened over the last three years

Brighton & Hove's designation as a World Health Organisation Healthy City recognises progress in the city in:

- partnership working between health trusts, the council and others.
- giving people information and support to make choices about their health.
- tailoring health services to meet people's individual needs.

Within the WHO, Brighton & Hove is now recognised as a lead city in areas such as healthy urban planning and health impact assessment.

A Health Inequalities Strategy has been developed and a range of projects undertaken to address issues identified.

A Reducing Inequalities Review was undertaken which identified that 60% of deprived families live outside the deprived areas of the city.

The Healthy Living Centre (HLC) has developed strong and successful partnerships with more than 40 statutory and voluntary agencies including South Downs NHS Trust and Brighton & Hove City Primary Care Trust. The HLC works towards reducing health inequalities by offering an open and friendly service to help local residents access a range of over 30 health-related

programmes, activities and initiatives in East Brighton. Services include support around the following areas: mental health, substance misuse, sexual health and teenage pregnancy, carers advice and support, weight management, physical activity, cookery and healthy eating. The projects worked with over 4,000 residents in an 18 month period, and has recently been audited by the PCT and will continue to be funded through Choosing Health until March 2011.

Healthy Urban Planning approaches have been integrated within city planning processes and policies.

A range of Health Impact Assessments have been undertaken.

In 2008 the Air Quality Management Area was expanded to cover areas likely to exceed air pollution targets as well as any potential future sites where air pollution is expected to exceed targets within the city.

Current position

Those born in Brighton & Hove today can expect to live on average four years longer than someone born here 20 years ago but a range of different problems still need to be overcome, and inequalities exist and are growing between different communities.

Life expectancy in Queens Park (74.7 years), a deprived ward, is eight years less than in Brunswick & Adelaide ward (82.7 years) one of the more affluent wards (ONS Death Date 2003-5).

The City Health Development Plan and Action Plan target cross-sector action on the wider determinants of health.

Brighton & Hove is a national exemplar cycling town with substantial funding from Cycling England.

Although still in the consultation stages, air quality has become a key leading theme in many of the documents required under the LDF, ranging from the Core Strategy and Supplementary Planning Documents for Urban Realm Design, through to Planning Advice Notes for domestic micro power generation.

The city council is working in partnership with the NHS to address climate change as a health issue – the NHS carbon reduction strategy was released in January 2009. Reducing per capita CO₂ in the city is one of the targets of the Local Area Agreements (LAA).

What we plan to do

Take forward the WHO Healthy City Phase 5 goal of Striving for Health and Health Equity in all Local Policies through joint working across the statutory, business and third sectors, increasing the engagement of residents and improving communication across the city.

Refresh the Health Inequalities Strategy to take into account findings of the inequalities review, public health intelligence, the work of the National Support Team for Health Inequalities and evidence of effective national and local interventions in order to better target support across the city, engage communities and people, prevent illness and address the causes of ill health.

Promote physical and emotional health at schools through the Healthy Schools Programme.

Explore innovative ways to improve health, for instance through the arts and urban environment, such as green gyms, creating greenways to improve access to green spaces, providing safe routes for cycling and walking and working with local employers to improve workforce health.

Target screening programmes for cancer and cardiovascular disease at priority groups and geographical areas.

Implement a targeted health promotion programme for cancer to improve awareness of symptoms and early diagnosis.

Through the Local Development Framework apply the principles and approaches of healthy urban planning to Brighton & Hove.

Build on current work to reduce traffic movements in the Air Quality Management Area using a range of strategies as set out in 'Promoting Sustainable Transport'.

Lifestyle factors

A person's lifestyle or health related habits can have a major effect on their health and well-being. These factors include behavioral factors such as drinking and smoking, drugs, diet and exercise and material factors such as the environment and living standards and psychosocial factors such as stress and risk taking.

Brighton & Hove already has a wide range of actions in place to address those issues identified as important for promoting healthy living.

Smoking

Issues of concern

Smoking is the main cause of premature illness and preventable death and in some parts of the city as many as 50% of people smoke.

What has happened over the last three years

Smoking cessation programmes have targeted manual groups, pregnant women and new mothers in deprived areas.

In 2008/9 we were one of the highest performing LA/PCT areas in terms of smoking cessation despite having a much higher proportional target than many other South East Coast PCTs, meeting our target of 2,010 x four week quitters.

Current position

20% of residents smoke, compared to 27% 10 years ago and 22% nationally (2004 figures).

What we plan to do

Reduce the number of people who smoke, with a focus on areas where smoking rates are highest.

Obesity

Issues of concern

Poor diet and physical inactivity lead to an increased risk of coronary heart disease, certain cancers and diabetes and poor attention in children.

Regular walking reduces the risk of heart attacks and diabetes and promotes longevity and a healthy diet in children leads to better educational outcomes.

A healthy diet in children leads to better educational outcomes. Residents want wholesome food to be widely available and affordable.

Currently 20.2% of adults in Brighton & Hove are obese (Health Survey for England). In 2007, 8.2% of children in reception year were found to be obese and provisional local figures for 2008/9 show that 16.4% of year 6 pupils are at risk of obesity.

The annual cost of physical inactivity to NHS Brighton & Hove has been estimated at over £3m.

Secure future funding for the Active for Life programme (funding until March 2010), and TAKEPART – the Brighton & Hove Festival of Sport.

What has happened over the last three years

Weight management and exercise referral programmes have been introduced for adults.

A new joint childhood obesity strategy is being implemented to 'promote the healthy weight and healthy lives of children' which includes weight management programmes and extended physical activity initiatives to tackle childhood obesity.

Various programmes are underway to improve access to cookery skills and community cooking facilities.

The Healthy Choice Award has been designed to increase the provision of healthy menu options in cafes and restaurants.

A new healthy school meals menu has been introduced.

Produced a Sports and Active Living Strategy with the 'more people, more active' message.

A City Sports Forum was established bringing together voluntary, private and public providers to champion sport in the city.

The City Sports Awards were established to recognise the important role of coaches, volunteers and clubs.

Sport Grants and TAKEPART community grants were rolled out.

In partnership with NHS Brighton & Hove and the School Sports Partnership, the Councils Sports Development team organised a Brighton & Hove Sports Festival called TAKEPART. A three week programme was delivered in schools and across the city and the launch event took place at Preston Park with free taster sessions all day, including a mass participation skipping event.

With external funding being sourced free sports facilities have been developed and improved, including a multi play area in East Brighton.

Free swimming opportunities were offered to people under 16 and over 60 years of age.

A new skate park was developed on the seafront with partnership funding sourced.

The Active for Life programme was delivered in identified neighbourhood renewal areas and more than 3,000 residents took part in local sports and physical activity opportunities.

The Healthwalks scheme celebrated their five year anniversary. There are now thirteen weekly led walks being delivered by over fifty active volunteer walk leaders.

In partnership with NHS Brighton & Hove and the Food Partnership, weight management programmes were delivered across the city.

Wellbeing officers and a Workplace Health Officer have been employed to promote and develop active workplaces.

Provided support for the Exercise Referral programme and Health trainer programme.

Promoted sports and physical activity opportunities through a range of formats, including the Active for Life Directory and website and events.

Hosted sports events, including Sports Relief, International Volleyball Championships, Race For Life.

Current position

Only 45% of residents eat the recommended five portions of fruit or vegetables per day. It is estimated that 7% of the population is obese, with a further 3% grossly obese.

Only 15% of adult residents take the recommended amount of exercise of 30 minutes per day, five days per week.

The actions within Spade to Spoon, the cities Food Strategy are currently being reviewed.

What we plan to do

The Playbuilder Programme funding of over £1 million will allow the building or renewal of 22 playgrounds across Brighton & Hove over the next two years. This will make playgrounds accessible for children with disabilities and provide innovative, stimulating equipment and landscaping whilst delivering physically active play opportunities which are attractive to all children, including 8-13 year olds.

Improve diet and nutrition by raising awareness, educating children about healthy food, improving access to healthy food and promoting and supporting locally produced, organic or fair trade food (eg in school and hospital meals).

Develop a weight management strategy for the city focusing on prevention of over/underweight, weight maintenance and treatment.

Organise two City Sports Forums a year to share information and good practice with sports providers in the city.

Increase the nomination categories' at The City Sports Awards to recognise the important role of clubs, partners and individuals.

With partnership funding continue to offer free swimming opportunities for people under 16 and over 60 years of age.

Work with local sports providers to further develop and deliver annual Brighton & Hove Sports Festival – TAKEPART.

Through the Active for Life programme and in consultation with local residents develop community sports provision targeting areas of in equality.

Source external funding to develop sports clubs and facilities within Brighton & Hove, including funding for the development of a skate park at the level.

Re -develop the Active for Life website and produce the annual Active for Life Directory. (a–z of sports & physical activity opportunities).

Work with the city's 2012 Co-ordinator to promote the 2012 Olympics and create legacy events.

In partnership with NHS Brighton & Hove and the Food Partnership further develop weight management / healthy weight programmes across the City.

Support the pathways into community sport and physical activity from the health trainers, healthy weight programmes and the Exercise Referral scheme.

Support the Wellbeing officers and a Workplace Health Officer to develop active workplaces.

Host the first Brighton & Hove Marathon in 2010.

Promote walking and cycling as healthy transport options and improve access to green spaces.

Alcohol

Issues of concern

Brighton & Hove has significant alcohol 'challenges' given our population and the city's reputation as a 'party town', particularly in the face of 24 hour licensing and the night time economy.

Brighton & Hove PCT ranks in the highest 5% of PCTs for alcohol specific mortality in males at 23.2 per 100,000 – more than double the regional average. Mortality from chronic liver disease in Brighton & Hove is 21.1 per 100,000, nearly twice the regional average.

Brighton & Hove has the second highest rate of alcohol specific deaths in men in England and Wales over 2,000 people are admitted to hospital each year with alcohol-related conditions, which is a higher rate than the average for both the region and England as a whole.

Brighton & Hove is the sixth worst PCT in the country for hazardous drinking (22-50 units per week for men, 15-35 units per week for women).

Alcohol related reported crime and violent crime are worse locally than nationally, with the city among the worst performing 10% of PCTs for alcohol related violent crime.

What has happened over the last three years

Training for professionals about safe drinking took place in the community and in A & E.

Improved signposting of young people to appropriate services.

Increased alcohol counselling services are in place.

New easily accessible websites have been developed for professionals (sussedprofessionals.net) and the public (including young people) – sussedaboutdrink.net; sussedaboutdrugs.net

Campaigns run to raise awareness about safe and sensible drinking

New schemes for community based brief interventions in relation to alcohol are now in place.

Targeted social marketing is being used to reduce harm caused by alcohol.

Current position

Brighton & Hove scores significantly worse than the England average for a range of indicators that profile alcohol related harm.

For males, alcohol specific mortality, mortality from chronic liver disease, alcohol specific hospital admissions and alcohol attributable hospital admissions are all significantly worse locally than the picture seen nationally.

For women, alcohol specific and alcohol attributable hospital admissions are worse locally than the picture seen nationally.

What we plan to do

One of the priorities of the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 -2011 is to reduce alcohol related disorder (see chapter 2).

Further educate residents, especially children and young people, about sensible drinking.

Develop an Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.

Increase the availability of drug and alcohol treatment, partly through establishing a treatment centre targeting parents and carers and recognising many people have joint alcohol and drug misuse issues.

Offer a brief intervention service to patients drinking at harmful/hazardous levels.

Employ community outreach workers for the LGBT community to improve access to alcohol and health promotion services.

Implement a social marketing campaign targeting older people and young adults aged 25-35years.

Drugs

Issues of concern

People using crack cocaine or heroin are described as Problematic Drug Users (PDUs). There were an estimated 2,600 PDUs in Brighton & Hove in 2008 (of which 800 are estimated to be injectors), giving a prevalence of 14.7 per 1,000 population aged 15 – 64 years old, which is slightly lower than previously estimated. In Brighton & Hove in March 2009 there were 1,243 PDUs in treatment, and 1,493 drug users aged over 18 engaged in treatment programmes, so around half of those who could benefit from treatment are engaged in treatment programmes.

The needle exchange scheme saw around 300 contacts each month, which suggests many injectors are not in contact with needle exchange schemes.

There were 41 drug related deaths in 2007, and Brighton & Hove is commonly the local authority with the highest rate of drug related deaths in England & Wales.

What has happened over the last three years

The annual treatment planning process continues, with treatment being commissioned on the basis of a needs assessment.

Drug related deaths continue to be audited, and prevention measures are put in place, based on the evidence of what works, addressing the factors associated with deaths locally.

A Take Home Naloxone pilot scheme for service users has been implemented to reduce the rate of fatal opiate overdose, since an estimated 10% of these deaths are preventable through witness intervention.

Current position

The percentage of all drug users engaged in effective treatment was higher locally than the national and regional averages – 84% of drug users locally were either retained in effective treatment for 12 weeks or more or successfully completed treatment within 12 weeks, compared with 79% regionally and 83% nationally.

In Brighton & Hove, HIV infection is estimated at 2% of injectors; Hepatitis B infection is estimated to be 33% of injectors; Hepatitis C infection is estimated at 55%. Infection rates for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are considerably higher than prevalence nationally.

What we plan to do

Improve support to families and carers to help them cope with the impact of living with substance misuse.

Increase access to and uptake of pharmacy based supervised consumption and increase the proportion of people receiving treatment within primary care, especially in outlying areas of the city.

Reduce the volume of benzodiazepines available within the city.

Review how residential treatment and rehabilitation are commissioned and provided, focusing on access, outcomes, re-integration and value for money.

Improve access, engagement and planned discharges for BME, LGBT, dual diagnosis clients and substance misusing parents.

Improve planned discharge rates for all clients, concentrating particularly on social integration and the wider determinants of health (ie employment, housing, training and education).

Mental Health

Issues of concern

The national target is to reduce mortality from suicide and injury of undetermined intent by 2009/10/11 by 20% from a baseline set in 1995/6/7. In Brighton & Hove, this would mean that the mortality rate would be no more than 12.9 per 100,000 population in 2009/10/11.

The latest published mortality rate for Brighton & Hove was 11.8/100,000 population in 2007, and in 2007, there were 31 deaths, which is the lowest reported since 1995/6/7, when the target was set. Using pooled average data for 2005/6/7 gives a mortality rate of 13.8/100,000 population, which is encouraging progress towards the target.

What has happened over the last three years

New services are improving access to psychological therapies across the city.

A new model of service has been introduced for young people aged between 14-25 years.

A Workplace Health Adviser is taking forward programmes addressing mental and physical health of people in the workplace.

A Suicide Prevention Strategy is being implemented to reduce risks for high risk groups through targeted interventions, improved risk assessment, identifying hotspots of public locations and auditing self-harm attendances to the Emergency Department at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

Current position

In Brighton & Hove, at any one time:-

- one in four adults is mentally unwell to some degree.
- around one in seven adults are anxious or depressed.

Almost one third of GP consultations concern mental health issues and stress is the most common reason for being off work.

A new mental health strategy 'Transforming Mental Health 2010-2013' will set out how we should commission services to:

- help people stay mentally healthy.
- make it easier and quicker to get treatment and care.
- improve services for people with complex needs.
- help people to keep living at home.

What we plan to do

Ensure that a range of services are available that provide:

- support for people at risk of suicide.
- accommodation for people with serious mental health problems.
- crisis and home treatment services.
- early intervention schemes for psychosis.
- follow up on discharge from hospital.
- access to psychological therapies.
- in-patient beds.

Improve information, promote good mental health, self awareness and self care.

Promote mental health for all and campaign to change attitudes towards mental health and increase understanding.

Reduce suicide by targeting high-risk groups and promoting research, prevention efforts and public awareness.

Develop an older people's mental health strategy.

Continue to fund a Mental Health Worker targeting the LGBT community.

Implement a range of employment / training schemes to assist adults with mental health issues into employment and help employers to better support staff when they have mental health problems.

Meet needs earlier through locating more adult mental health services in the community.

Provide good quality and accessible services for people with serious mental health problems through improved in-patient bed services and improved case management and long term care.

Improve day, vocational and leisure opportunities.

Accessing vital nutrients through a diet of fresh food has been shown to improve concentration, enhance learning capacity, reduce depression and other mental health and behavioural issues, all of which affect a person's ability to interact well in society. Therefore integrating food and wellbeing training into programmes working with clients suffering from mental health conditions is a vital step in any recovery programme.

Sexual Health

Issues of concern

Sexually transmitted infection rates continue to rise – Chlamydia now affects as many as one in 10 young people.

HIV transmission is high and increasing, particularly among men who have sex with men, but the largest rate in increase in new transmissions is being seen in African communities.

What has happened over the last three years

A new HIV and Sexual Health strategy is being put in place to tackle sexually transmitted infections and improve sexual health.

A Chlamydia screening programme has been introduced for under 25s.

New local enhanced services for HIV and sexual health have been introduced through general practice.

Developing Level 2 sexual health services in primary care and community settings.

Improving screening and treatment for HIV, including introducing opt out HIV testing in a variety of settings including registration at Primary Care, termination of pregnancy and substance misuse services to reduce late diagnosis.

Current position

Incidence of diagnosed HIV increases by approximately 10% a year.

Nationally it is estimated that 10% of 15-24yr olds have Chlamydia.

What we plan to do

Use clinical, social care and health promotion services to reduce transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

Increase the proportion of people under 25 accepting Chlamydia screening.

Teenage Pregnancy

Issues of concern

The Teenage Pregnancy rate is high, but is decreasing slowly, although more slowly than the national reduction.

Local data confirms that teenage parents and their children are at risk of increased poverty and are exposed to a number of other poor health outcomes, including increased risk of poor mental health for the young mother, relationship breakdown, domestic violence within relationships (linked to 50% of our young mothers) and less than a quarter of young mothers are in education, employment or training after leaving school. Their children run a much greater risk of poor health, and have a much higher chance of becoming teenage mothers themselves.

Alongside this, 63% of our young women under 18 who conceive have a termination, of which 15% are repeat terminations.

What has happened over the last three years

A new local strategy has been put in place which describes a variety of actions for all stakeholders to reduce teenage conception and improve health and social economic outcomes for teenage parents, including targeted prevention, assertive outreach and risk identification for teenage pregnancies.

Availability of long acting reversible contraception (LARC) has widened with a focus on areas with high rates of teenage conception.

Drop in service set up for young people at GP surgeries for confidential sexual health and contraception advice.

A Health Trainer programme has been set up to help people to change unhealthy behaviours.

A number of GP practices have taken up a scheme promoting healthy lifestyles with their patients.

Current position

Brighton & Hove has the sixth highest teenage pregnancy rate (out of 12 local authorities) in the South East at 43.2 per 1000 15-17 year olds, compared to 32.8 in the South East and 41.7 for England, with teenage conception rates 50% higher in the East Brighton ward than the city average.

In 2007, the under 18 conception rate in Brighton & Hove reduced from the 1998 baseline rate by 10.1% compared to 13.3% nationally and 10.7% in the south east. From 1998 to 2007, birth rates reduced by 29.2% while termination rates increased by 6.7%.

Local data shows that just 25% of teenage mothers were in education, training or employment at the end of 2008.

What we plan to do

Provide post-termination support and contraception assessments for all BPAS teenage clients and follow-up to prevent teenage conception.

Continue to provide focused behaviour change interventions to young women identified as being at risk of teenage pregnancy and poor sexual health to prevent early conception in the East, West and Central areas and with at risk groups.

Provide and publicise key messages which challenge local cultural norms of sexual activity among young people and equip them more effectively in their relationship choices.

Ensure that staff working with young people at risk of early conception are equipped with appropriate skills and competencies to address the universal, enhanced and specialist level of interventions required to reduce unplanned pregnancy.

Screen all young women in CYPT intensive and targeted services for vulnerability to early conception and provide appropriate intervention or referral.

Increase the availability of all forms of contraception by improving access and completing a service improvement process with the local the Contraception and Sexual Health Services.

Provide all young parents with post natal contraception assessment within one month of delivery.

Provide an intensive health visiting service for young parents and families with assessments for contraception and sexual health, to reduce the vulnerability of repeat conception and signpost siblings into targeted services where risk of pregnancy in younger female siblings is identified.

Healthy Ageing

Issues of concern

Older and disabled people would like more independence and to be involved in decisions about their care.

People are living longer. The challenge is to ensure older people live healthily and independently with appropriate support from health and social care services.

Too many older people on limited incomes don't access all the public benefits they are entitled to.

Falls, infections, respiratory problems and heart failure are major causes of disability and death in people aged over 75.

Carers play a vital role in looking after ill, frail or disabled family, partners or friends. This can have an adverse impact on their own health and limit their opportunities.

Residents want a more rounded, holistic assessment of their needs.

What has happened over the last three years

Initiatives such as Direct Payments (where people organise their own care and support, paid for by public funds) and Extra Care Housing has given people greater choice to people.

Significant increase in the number of people receiving Direct Payments (over 350 as at March 2009) and a Self Directed Support Strategy at the heart of Personalisation Programme in Adult Social Care. Target set in LAA that 30% of all people receiving community based services will do this via SDS by 2011.

Extra Care Housing development opened at New Larchwood in 2008, Patching Lodge in 2009 and another is planned at Vernon Gardens 2010.

The LAA demonstrator sites in two neighbourhoods have evidenced positive outcomes for local people in relation to social inclusion, income maximisation, falls advice and neighbourhood care.

Three year (2005-8) commissioning strategy for Chronic Disease Management includes:

- self care for patients with chronic disease.
- case management focused on very high intensity users.
- a comprehensive managed care approach for patients with different levels of chronic disease progression.

A good partnership developed between the Carers Centre and the council's Adult Care service. Development of carers services in relation to emergency respite care, carers breaks, back care and direct payments. In 2009 there was significant improvement in the numbers of carers receiving assessments and services in their own right (18% as at March 2009).

Current position

Brighton & Hove has a significant ageing population (8.6% of residents are aged 75 or over, with 2.6% aged 85 or over) although, unlike other parts of the country, the overall population of people aged 50 and over reduced over the three year period (2005-8) with the exception of the 60-65 and 85+ age groups where there was an increase.

One in 10 households has a person with special needs.

Even though the population of older people has been decreasing, the number of hospital admissions has been increasing. In 2007/8, admissions for older people (aged 50 years and over) made up just under half (49%) of all recorded admissions in the city. The only exception was the 85+ age group which saw a decrease in emergency admissions between 2006/7 and 2007/8, which may be due to a high percentage of them being either in nursing homes or looked after at home.

An Older People Mental Health Commissioning strategy has been finalised which will improve services for people with dementia through establishment of a memory screening service.

Closer working between the council, health services and the community and private sectors continues to improve social care.

What we plan to do

Increase choice and independence for vulnerable adults by focusing on preventing ill-health and postponing dependency.

Introduce a Sure Start model of services to break down professional barriers and involve clients in decision-making.

Invest in services to help people leave hospital as soon as possible.

Reduce emergency admissions for older people (over 65years) by 5% per year for the local population and emergency bed days by 1% per year.

Update the Older People's Services Vision paper taking account of the healthy ageing approach and wider service issues relating to housing transport, crime etc.

Take forward the 'Connecting Green Spaces for Health & Well-being' proposed project to identify green spaces that actively promote mental and physical health and well-being and improve cognitive functioning through the use of 'memory boards'

Develop a peer support network structure which will support people with dementia, their carers and broader groups including wider family members and friends or 'supporters'. A particular focus of the project will be on exploring the most suitable methods to ensure 'hidden' or unreached people with dementia and their supporters can benefit from peer support networks. This will include people from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) communities, from black and minority ethnic, (BME) communities and those with young onset and other rarer forms of dementia.

Help eligible people take up benefit payments.

Make people aware of the risks of falls, infections, respiratory problems and heart failure and help them make changes to reduce the risk of these problems.

Develop a carers strategy for the city.

Work with carers to support their needs and the needs of the people they care for.

Improve awareness of carers' needs and provide good quality support services for carers.

Ensure carers get clear information about the financial benefits they could be entitled to.

Develop a local end of life strategy in order to increase the number of people dying in their preferred place of care.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES AND INVOLVING PEOPLE

Chapter Contributors

Stronger Communities Partnership
Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
City Inclusion Partnership
Brighton & Hove City Council Communities Team
Brighton & Hove City Council Equalities & Inclusion Team

Our aim

A place where communities are strong, inclusive and cohesive and have opportunities to get involved and influence decision making. A place where individuals are able to take advantage of opportunities to improve their quality of life. A place where the third sector is thriving to enable and support community engagement and provide services to diverse communities.

Introduction

Informing, consulting, involving, collaborating and empowering

It is increasingly recognised that engaging local people in making decisions about things which affect their lives will lead to positive outcomes. The duty to involve local people is a policy requirement, although this community engagement comes in many shapes and sizes. There have been significant achievements in Brighton & Hove in recent years around developing opportunities for community engagement and defining good practice.

Partners now need to focus their collective energies on ensuring opportunities to get involved are better promoted, that expectations around community influence are clear and that resources are better co-ordinated and used to maximum effect. With a new Community Engagement Framework in place to guide next steps, the Stronger Communities Partnership is leading on promoting newly agreed engagement standards and driving forward a cross sector community engagement action plan.

Community Cohesion

Cohesion is a theme that runs throughout the Sustainable Community Strategy. The local definition is 'communities having shared values and a strong sense of belonging to Brighton & Hove'. The objectives against which we will measure our success are:

- the council and its partners fully knowing and understanding the city's communities.
- institutions and communities appreciating and valuing the diversity of people's backgrounds and helping communities and institutions in being open and accepting of new communities.
- helping to ensure people have the opportunity for similar life chances and choices.
- supporting strong positive relationships between and within different communities – at school, in the work place and in the community.
- improving community trust and confidence in public institutions.
- ensuring people know both their rights and their shared responsibilities.

Thriving third sector

Brighton and Hove is fortunate in having a large, diverse and active third sector, developed over a number of years. The sector has a significant role to play locally, for example in facilitating community engagement and fostering active citizenship and many organisations are involved in providing high quality public services.

Changes in the external environment, particularly around commissioning structures, will present many significant challenges to groups in the near future. To ensure that the city's 1,600 groups can continue to thrive and provide unique services to local people, the sector requires ongoing support and must be proactive in adapting to change and in seeking to secure a sustainable future.

Partners involved in the ChangeUp Consortium have developed shared plans and are committed to strengthening the support services available to the third sector locally and to plugging into support that is available regionally and nationally. A key challenge is to ensure that the sector is supported to ride out the recession in the months ahead.

Partners and strategies involved

A wide range of strategies and partners are linked in with the strengthening communities agenda. This strategic overview pulls together commitments and activities from different partners and plans, including the Local Area Agreement Delivery Plan and Community Engagement Framework, and it embraces feedback from Community & Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) position statements.

The third sector plays a pivotal role in underpinning these strategies and services in the city through the delivery of activities and support that encourage well-being, empowerment and involvement. The value around delivery of both preventative and proactive activities exists, not only in helping to reduce demand on services such as health, mental health and community safety, but also in facilitating the empowerment of individuals to engage in statutory and strategic agendas.

Community engagement

What has happened over the past three years

A wide range of neighbourhood action plans and groups have been developed in partnership between local communities and service providers, defining and delivering on shared commitments to service improvements.

Access to legal and advice services that tackle social exclusion has improved, following strengthened partnership working in the Advice Service Network and Strategy Group.

Brighton & Hove City Council has undertaken a major review of its approach to equalities

A strong LGBT evidence base has been established from the Count Me In Too survey, which is being used to inform future action.

A strategic review of youth services has been completed and young people were involved in decisions about how to spend Youth Opportunities Funding in the city.

The new Youth Council has identified a number of issues which it will be campaigning on to improve the well being of children and young people in the city including:

- a three in one discount card for local shops, leisure and entertainment facilities and to use on public transport and in libraries
- provision of safer and cleaner public spaces

- raising awareness about housing and homelessness
- increasing awareness of different disabilities and illnesses, and the role of young carers
- highlighting diversity among young people

The Get Involved campaign was launched to make local people aware of the many ways they can get involved in their community for instance through taking part in local decision making, by voting or having your say in consultations. The campaign is held in partnership with Sussex Police, NHS Brighton & Hove, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and other local community and voluntary sector organisations. The campaign's website can be found at: <http://www.getinvolvedinthecity.org.uk/>

Through the provision of positive cultural opportunities including exhibitions, displays of collections and events, our museum service has been able to improve access to services and programmes for disadvantaged groups.

Current position

A range of participative activities, formal and informal events, structures and networks are supported at a range of levels (including in neighbourhoods, citywide and within communities of interest and identity) to help bring communities together to:

- celebrate shared identities and build positive understanding around differences between people from different backgrounds
- network and learn together
- develop work plans to influence local services

The local third sector is represented on a wide range of partnerships and groups where policy and plans are developed and strategic decisions made.

On the first of April 2009 a new Duty to Involve came into force for all Local Authorities. The new duty requires local councils to 'embed a culture of engagement and empowerment', ensuring that citizen involvement is no longer an expendable luxury but a requirement.

A new citywide cross-sector Community Engagement Framework is in place, providing a common understanding of and commitment to community engagement. This sets clear and specific standards that all LSP members are signed up to and identifies priority actions for improving engagement practices.

Partners are committed to finding out the views of residents using a range of consultative methodologies, including annual surveys and focus groups.

The Children & Young People's Trust and its partners are working together to provide a new Integrated Youth Support Service especially through new Connexions Hubs in local communities across the city.

Over 6,000 children and young people elected a second Youth Council to represent their views at key meetings including the Children & Young People's Trust Board.

What We Plan To Do

Strengthen existing engagement structures and activities and develop new strategies, to widen and deepen involvement of local communities, develop community cohesion and promote active citizenship.

Build understanding around community representation and influence, in order to define a shared policy around:

- community involvement in agenda setting and influencing strategy and resource allocations
- good practice in reward and recognition for community representation.

Develop a partnership funding strategy that recognises the long-term role of the third sector in enabling community engagement with diverse communities.

In line with the volunteering strategy, increase opportunities for people to get involved as community volunteers and develop volunteers' skills, knowledge, expertise and experience to build local social capital and transferable skills within the third sector.

Raise the profile of volunteering as a key activity that improves mental health, increases community engagement and provides pathways to work as well as increasing the capacity of the Third sector to deliver key services.

Develop cross-sector training and development around community engagement and a community workers' network to share information and learning.

Review and refresh strengthening communities activities, including the Community Development Strategy.

Support councillors to be community champions.

Disseminate information and communicate more clearly about how people can get involved in their local community or with public bodies in the city, including online searchable database of consultations and promotional campaign.

Ensure that equalities and contribution to community cohesion are assessment criteria used when procuring goods and services.

Promote business support for community based activities and encourage uptake of 'Community Mark' (national award recognising business support for a local community).

Establish a community engagement review and evaluation process that all partners are signed up to.

Implement the Third Sector Recovery Plan.

We want to ensure that all young people can participate effectively in decision-making processes and in growing their communities.

A thriving third sector

What has happened over the past three years

The past 10 years has seen significant growth of the local third sector, with groups seizing new opportunities and developing their services in response to need and changes in the city's population.

There is increased recognition locally and nationally that the sector is a key partner in helping delivery on the city's priorities, through its involvement in partnership structures, strategies and policies and as a service provider.

The sector includes a diverse range of organisations. This diversity, the sector's multiple voices and cultures and its capacity to reach under-represented groups in the community is an essential resource and needs to be understood to fully appreciate the sector's value in Brighton & Hove.

Current position

Taking Account: an economic and social audit of the third sector in 2008 reported:

There are approximately 1,600 third sector organisations in Brighton & Hove.

The sector contributes £96 million to the local economy each year.

The sector employs about 8,000 people and offers 19,200 volunteer positions giving 57,600 hours per week. If volunteers were paid the same rate as workers in the third sector their annual salary bill would be worth £24 million.

33% of organisations are involved in providing service contracts, 46% of which comes from outside the city.

50% of organisations stated that their number of users had increased in 2007/8.

The majority of organisations stated that their main activity results in empowering people to improve the quality of their life (34%) and bringing people together (20%).

Brighton & Hove City Council has committed almost £2 million to its third sector current programme for 2010-2013.

The compact was refreshed in 2009 and sets out expectations around partnership working between third and public sectors.

What we plan to do

Strengthen the support services available to the third sector organisations, delivering on the ChangeUp plans, enabling groups and organisations to meet new challenges and ensure future sustainability.

Increase the number of people, particularly those with greater support needs, in the city who are active in volunteering and improve the quality of those opportunities.

Better understand and develop local funding and commissioning programmes based on good practice, to ensure the potential of the local third sector is fully maximised. Where appropriate, this will lead to an increased role for the third sector in public service delivery, recognising the sector's expertise in providing holistic, preventative and user-focused services, often supporting people from under-represented groups with complex needs. At the same time, it is important to recognise differences within the sector, that organisations work at varying levels and will not all engage in public service delivery or strategic partnership working.

Continue to develop relationships and good practice in cross-sector partnership working, including providing training and development to build better mutual understanding.

Support the development of community buildings alongside strategies for the management, including transfer of assets to the third sector, where they will be long-term and of sustained benefit for the community.

DRAFT

IMPROVING HOUSING AND AFFORDABILITY

Chapter Contributors

Brighton & Hove Strategic Housing Partnership
Brighton & Hove City Council (Housing)

Our aim

Enabling healthy homes, healthy lives and a healthy city that reduces inequality and offers independence, choice and a high quality of life.

Improving Housing Supply

Issues of Concern

Despite the overall price reduction in the last 2 years, the city's housing is still largely unaffordable for the majority of residents. Households have to forgo a combination of housing space, quality and other forms of expenditure to ensure they can meet their housing costs. A one bed flat on the open market still costs five times median income and three bed houses more than nine times median household income

As a result of the decreases in prices, those who bought their home in 2007 or 2008 could possibly face negative equity if they bought with a small or no deposit. This could cause financial difficulties for them if they need to sell or renew their mortgage, particularly if a mortgage interest discount period is due to expire. In addition, the recession has impacted on jobs which have the potential to cause a rise in repossessions.

Research has shown that more than half of working households in Brighton & Hove are in the intermediate housing market – they can afford to pay more than social housing rent but cannot afford to buy the cheapest 10% of family sized two or three bed homes. Only 29% of working households were able to buy at lower quartile levels.

Over the last few years the city has been one of the largest providers of new housing in the region. Unfortunately the recent instability in the world's financial markets has limited the number of new developments. As a result, there may be a short term shortage of new homes which is likely to put an increased pressure on local people and our housing options services. However the city still aims to develop around 570 homes each year, 230 of which we expect to be affordable homes.

The city has one of the largest private rented sectors in the country comprised of 28,000 homes, almost a quarter of all the city's housing (23%). However, high rental costs, poorer than average housing quality and pockets of overcrowding (the highest outside London) result in additional housing challenges for the city.

The average monthly rent on a one bed flat in the city at the end of September 2009 was £674 with a three bed house costing £1,203. When comparing these payments to mortgage affordability we find that the rent payment on a one bed flat is similar to the payment of a mortgage of around £105,000 requiring an income of £32,000 to finance. For a three bed home, this is equivalent to a mortgage of around £187,000 requiring a household income of

£57,000 to finance. Half of all households in Brighton & Hove earn below £29,950 and are likely to face financial difficulty in renting the average one bed flat.

What has happened over the last three years

High housing costs in the private sector ensure that social housing remains very much in demand. At the beginning of April 2009, there were 10,609 households on the housing register, with more than 2,000 households in the highest categories of need. The most common reasons for being on the housing register were a medical priority, unsatisfactory housing and overcrowding.

An analysis of the waiting time for households who were able to access social housing during 2008/09 highlights the need for more family housing. The data shows that those moving into one bedroom flats waited an average of 11 months whilst those moving into three bed homes had to wait an average of 20 months and those moving into four bed homes had to wait an average of 29 months.

The University of Brighton has carried out extensive research into the impact student housing has on the city, local communities and students lives. The research has primarily focussed on the Bevendean, Moulsecoomb and Hanover areas, parts of the city favoured by students. Students themselves acknowledge these issues and are keen to help identify practical solutions, particularly with so many remaining after their studies to become long term residents. These issues are being addressed through a new Student Housing Strategy.

Current position

Property sale values are down at least 10% on 2007/8 figures although this has improved from a low of 20% below 2007/8 figures. Some rarer types of properties on the market have more or less maintained value such as central period 3/4 bedroom terraces with gardens / patios as there is a big demand and limited supply.

Rental values are down by 10% on 2009 figures as there is still a surplus of property caused by unwilling sellers going into the rental market.

In 2008/09 we helped deliver 232 new affordable homes ensuring adequate inward investment from the Homes & Communities Agency for a range of schemes. In 2009/10 we have 245 new affordable homes in development plus 74 funded through HomeBuy Direct, delivering open market housing with subsidy to reduce cost and help kickstart development sites that have stalled.

We recognise the need to develop more family housing and in 2008/09 we delivered 17 x 3 & 4 bed new affordable homes. We are working to ensure the Local Development Framework supports the need for more family homes and have a target for the mix of new affordable homes in terms of size recognised in the LDF of 30% one beds, 45% two beds and 25% three beds.

We work with Planners, the Homes & Communities Agency and our housing association partners in Brighton & Hove Housing Partnership to make sure that new affordable housing meets high standards of design and layout. All affordable homes must be built to Lifetime Homes standards in the Code for Sustainable Homes and comply with recommendations on avoiding additional CO₂ emissions using both low and zero carbon technologies.

Brighton & Hove City Council has appointed a dedicated Under-Occupation Officer to provide practical help and support and financial rewards to tenants wanting to downsize. In 2008/09 the

Under-Occupation Officer work has supported households wanting to downsize to release more than 80 family sized homes and have helped overcrowded tenants move to larger homes, provided new homes for homeless families and helped house families with disabled members.

Our Homemove magazine advertises council and housing association homes for rent and shared ownership. Homemove has now also incorporated a mobility rating that indicates whether an available property is suitable for a wheelchair user or someone with limited mobility and all new affordable housing that meets the wheelchair standard is advertised before it is built in order to ensure that the features installed are designed around the specific needs of the future occupants.

What we plan to do

We need to make sure that the city has the right type of housing to meet the needs of current and future residents, whether it be owner occupation, private renting, or social rented housing. To do this we will:

- help households become homeowners
- provide opportunities for households to move to larger homes or downsize as their needs change
- identify opportunities to improve and develop deprived neighbourhoods
- make best use of the housing stock
- increase the supply of affordable rented housing

Improving Housing Quality

Issues of Concern

Just over a third of the city's housing does not meet the Decent Homes Standard, around 44,000 homes. Whilst more than half of all council housing does not meet the Standard, 83% of the city's non-decent housing is in the private sector, affecting vulnerable owner occupiers and renters. Additionally, empty homes in the city are a waste of valuable resources, and a blight in local communities, attracting crime and anti-social behaviour.

Many households in the city have difficulty in paying for fuel to keep warm during the winter months.

A substantial number of these households fall within the government's official definition of fuel poverty by having to spend more than 10% of their income on fuel to satisfactorily heat their homes. However, this definition takes no account of housing-related costs, and as such does not adequately encompass all households who have difficulty in achieving affordable warmth.

Fuel poverty has been shown to have significant adverse impacts. In particular, inadequately heated homes can lead to or worsen cardio-respiratory conditions resulting in increased winter deaths among older people. Cold homes have also been implicated in under-achievement by children. The energy efficiency of the city's housing is considered to be above average however fuel poverty is estimated to affect 5,100 (5%) households, with the highest proportion concentrated across Hollingbury & Bevendean (13.8%).

What has happened over the last three years

Since 2002 the council has worked with owners to bring more than 1,000 empty homes back into use and the council re-launched its Empty Property Strategy in 2006, and adopted a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Policy allowing the council to acquire property in approved cases and as a last resort when owners have repeatedly refused to engage with us.

Although there have been significant improvements in home energy efficiency, domestic energy prices have almost doubled over the last three years. This has led to a large increase in the numbers of households in fuel poverty.

Current Position

To improve the quality of the city's council housing, an Asset Management Plan has been developed which has seen the creation of a Local Delivery Vehicle (Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes Limited). Up to 499 homes could be leased to this organisation which could then use them as an asset to borrow funding to carry out necessary Decent Homes work. A Procurement Strategy has also been developed that has seen the council enter into a long term partnership arrangement for the maintenance and improvement of the housing stock, reducing overheads and direct costs. As a result, we believe that all of the council's social housing stock will meet the Decent Homes Standard in 2013.

The Brighton & Hove, East Sussex Together Partnership (BEST), led by Brighton & Hove City Council has been allocated £18.6 million over three years to improve the living conditions of vulnerable households in the private sector and will aim to improve the condition of housing to meet the decent homes standard, address more widespread regeneration needs, foster improvement in domestic energy efficiency to combat fuel poverty and reduce the region's carbon emissions.. Around 4,500 private sector homes have been improved since 2005 through out private sector renewal work and in 2009/10 a further 1,600 homes will be improved. A Community Finance Initiative has been developed with a private sector partner and other authorities to focus on equity release and low cost loans to unlock the capital in people's homes, reducing reliance on limited grants.

The Brighton & Hove Home Energy Group, comprising a range of organisations working with Brighton & Hove City Council, has established a comprehensive Affordable Warmth Action Plan and Warm-Homes fuel poverty initiative. Improvements include lowering the qualification of the 70+ Energy Innovation Grant scheme to 60 years and establishing a Family Insulation Grant for families with young children living in smaller properties. In the council housing sector, the council is implementing a programme to install cavity wall insulation and loft insulation to all relevant properties. In addition there are ongoing programmes for installing energy efficiency boilers and for roof and window replacements.

The Council spends more than £1m every year on adaptations to homes through loans, Disabled Facilities Grants and Minor Adaptations Grants and other works to help owners and tenants across all housing tenures. A Home Safety & Security Scheme is being established for the benefit of older householders and families with children. Additionally, Anchor Staying Put provides guidance and assistance to carry out whatever repairs, improvements or adaptations are necessary to help older and disabled homeowners to continue to live in their own home.

What we plan to do

We want to make sure that residents are able to live in decent quality homes suitable for their needs. To do this we will:

- work with home owners and landlords to maintain and improve the quality of their housing
- reduce fuel poverty and minimise CO₂ emissions
- develop the Brighton & Hove Standard for high quality and well maintained council housing and improve tenants' homes to ensure that they meet the standard
- work with owners to bring more of the city's long term empty homes back into use
- ensure new housing is developed to the latest standards

Improving Housing Support

Issues of Concern

Rough sleeping remains a visible presence, particularly in the city centre.

Over the last few years, the main cause of homelessness, resulting in almost 40% of all cases is as a result of eviction by parents, family or friends.

Historically, loss of private sector rented accommodation was the main cause of homelessness, responsible for almost half of all cases. However, the last few years have seen much better working between the council and landlords that has reduced homelessness from this sector to 32%.

Whilst a smaller proportion of our homelessness relate to people with children or who are pregnant than the national average, we have a much higher proportion of our homelessness comprised of those with mental health problems and physical disabilities but a smaller proportion of homelessness relating to people with children or who are pregnant.

What has happened over the last three years

Through our Homelessness Strategy we have changed the way we dealt with homelessness, moving from crisis intervention to a homelessness prevention service, helping households to find solutions to their housing needs before they lose their home. This approach has led to a halving of homelessness since 2004 and avoided significant upheaval and distress for those affected.

The number of households making homeless applications reduced by 53% from 2004/5 to 2007/8.

During 2008/09 our Housing Options teams saw 4,600 households requesting help in preventing them becoming homeless. We were successful in preventing homelessness in all but 393 of these cases. The keys to their success has been in setting up specialist teams able to focus on the particular needs of specific groups and being able to work with households as soon as their housing situation is at risk to give enough time to explore all possible solutions and prevent a crisis.

An emphasis on the vulnerable has also seen homelessness amongst young people reduced by 75% since 2005/06, a 57% reduction in homelessness amongst those with a physical disability and a 66% reduction in homelessness amongst those with a mental illness. However, we are very aware that despite this success, the reality is that a household still becomes homeless every day.

Our efforts to prevent homelessness have helped us to remain on track to halve the use of temporary accommodation by 2010. We have also ended the long term use of B&B for families with children and 16/17 year olds except in emergencies.

Current position

393 Households were accepted as homeless in 2008/9.

366 Households were living in temporary accommodation on 31st March 2009.

Since the development of our Single Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy in 2002, rough sleeping has been reduced from more than 40 people on any one night to around 10, although services see up to 500 people every year. We are developing services with our colleagues from other service providers to provide a range of housing and support in an Integrated Support Pathway to help household back to living independently. The Pathway provides a route from crisis into intensive support, with support reducing as people's health, skills and confidence improves by extending the housing options approach to address unemployment and provide a platform for economic and social inclusion.

Supporting People has been instrumental in enabling people to leave institutional type care, increasing the level of accommodation and providing support to teenage parents, contributing to the expansion of women's refuge services, and the first extra care housing in the city. The Supporting People programme costs around £11m each year and provides support to more than 5,000 people in the city to help them live independently, such as:

- young people who are homeless or young parents
- people with mental health problems
- people with substance misuse problems
- older people with support needs
- women and children fleeing domestic violence
- single homeless people
- people with learning disabilities
- ex-offenders re-integrating into the community

To tackle social exclusion in the city's deprived areas we are implementing a new "Turning the Tide" social inclusion pilot to tackle deprivation and anti-social behaviour balancing enforcement with support such as help to get back into work and learning. The outcomes of this pilot will be used to inform our Social Inclusion Strategy. This work is being carried out alongside other social inclusion projects aimed at Family Intervention and Teenage Parents.

In response to the recession all staff had refresher training on debt, benefit advice and preventing homelessness due to mortgage arrears. As a result homelessness prevention for mortgage arrears cases has increased by 140% and the number of households having to make homeless applications due to mortgage repossessions has decreased by 27%. We are providing a range of recession services in addition to promoting the Government's initiatives specifically aimed at helping local people such as increasing grant funding to debt advice agencies and operating our own local mortgage rescue scheme for households we believe we can help who fall outside of the governments criteria for assistance.

What we plan to do

Households have many different levels of need and there is no one solution that fits all housing need and so we seek to take advantage of every opportunity and provide a range of services to support households back to independence. To do this we will:

- support households to make informed choices about their housing options
- provide adaptations and support to households and their carers
- work to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping
- contribute to the wider city agendas of reducing worklessness, improving community cohesion, reducing anti-social behaviour and reducing inequality
- work to ensure student housing provides a positive contribution to students' lives and the city

LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS AND ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT

Chapter Contributors

City Sustainability Partnership
Brighton & Hove Food Partnership
Brighton & Hove City Council (Sustainability, City Services, Planning)

Our aim

We aspire to a healthy, just society, living within environmental limits by achieving a sustainable economy, promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly.

Cutting Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Issues of concern

There is overwhelming scientific evidence that climate change poses serious global risks; and consensus that we have as little as 10 years to start dramatically cutting greenhouse gas emissions or risk catastrophic climate change.

Preventing man-made climate change is challenging. A reduction of CO₂ emissions by up to 70% by 2030 and 90% by 2050 is required. It is essential that yearly targets for CO₂ reduction are set, monitored and acted upon.

Nationally, leaders are looking to cities like Brighton & Hove to lead the way on cutting emissions and pioneering the drive towards a low carbon economy. Yet our emissions are only starting to fall, and we have a long way to go before the dramatic reductions required can be achieved.

There are also fears in some parts of the energy industry and more widely that global oil supply will soon fail to meet demand, putting up prices of oil and gas (the price of which is pegged to oil's) and leading to potential security of supply problems.

While Brighton & Hove City Council has statutory requirements to plan for and deliver an average of 570 new homes per annum within the city plus up to 10,000 dwellings at Shoreham Harbour (jointly with Adur District Council), there is also a duty to deliver these sustainably and affordably, combined with the challenge of decreasing the city carbon footprint. This ultimately means that new development in general and new homes in particular should preferably emit no net annual CO₂ from energy use over the course of a year (ie be carbon neutral or preferable zero carbon). At the same time 50% of the city's carbon footprint comes from existing housing, so there is even greater pressure to reduce emissions in this stock.

What has happened over the last three years

The government has passed the Climate Change Act, committing the UK in law to an 80% reduction in CO₂ by 2050 and a 26% cut by 2020 (from 1990 levels). There are further targets

for a 20% reduction in UK energy use (through energy efficiency) by 2020 and for 20% of UK energy to come from renewable energy by 2020.

- business carbon reduction seminars have been organised and a Low Carbon Economy on-line guide for city businesses developed
- the council launched a £6 million energy efficiency grant scheme over three years to help householders cut costs and carbon emissions and developed a city grant scheme subsidising solar hot water heating
- planners have continued to raise the bar for development through: new standards which focus on energy performance and low carbon development including a carbon neutral standard for residential development, designing and implementing an award winning sustainability checklist for developers; and working with developers on all major projects to deliver the highest standards in low carbon design.
- showed thousands of local residents how to green their own homes through new “Eco Open Houses” weekends
- a number of large public services have developed successful Carbon Management Programmes, saving energy, fuel and public money
- the city has the highest proportion of “green tariff” renewable electricity purchasers in the UK, at 11%, as well as the highest proportion of vegetarians
- the city has raised its short-term target for annual CO₂ reductions from 3.5% to 4%
- the LSP prioritised climate change in 2008 and commissioned a city Climate Change Strategy

Current position

CO₂ emissions from burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, gas and petrol are the biggest contributory factor at 85% though there are other potent greenhouse gases especially connected with food growing, transportation, disposal and refrigeration/cooling.

About 1.3 million tonnes of CO₂ are emitted by Brighton & Hove annually (as measured by direct use of these fuels) – equivalent to about 5.3 tonnes per person.

Emissions per person fell by 2.89% between 2005-2007, compared to the BHCC target of 4% p/a (or 12% over 3 years). A more rounded recent analysis of the city’s carbon footprint by Bioregional with Stockholm Environmental Institute, looked at all products and services we consume and showed city per capita CO₂ emissions to be much higher, at 12.8 tonnes per person per year -16% higher than the average UK resident. If all greenhouse gases are counted – measured in CO₂ equivalent– we are producing 17.44 tonnes per person.

Analysis of these shows the following areas have most impact:

- domestic consumption of energy, both direct fuel and electricity for heating, hot water and appliances in existing housing
- use of cars - fuel consumption, vehicle purchase and maintenance (air travel is the other high impact area of transport)
- food, eaten in the home and provided at restaurants and other catering services
- consumption of consumer goods, in particular household appliances, jewellery, audio-visual equipment and other high embodied energy items

What we plan to do

Achieve, from a 2005 baseline of 5.53 tonnes per capita, a 12% reduction in City Co₂ ‘direct’ emissions by 2012/13, a 42% reduction by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050.

Support the 10:10 Campaign to urge city organisations, businesses and individuals to commit to cutting their carbon emissions by 10% in 2010.

Find more funding for domestic carbon reduction. Work to dramatically increase the installation of home energy efficiency measures across the city, especially in poorly insulated and low income homes. Expand and improve the Eco Open Houses events to support householders to reduce carbon emissions.

Develop consolidated action around the expansion of sustainable and renewable energy generation. Produce a ('big users') heat map of the city to promote district heating scheme plans, using new developments as a catalyst. Establish an energy service company (or companies) to support local sustainable and affordable energy delivery. Install, and support the widespread installation of new energy generating technologies including supporting plans for a large offshore windfarm off the coast of Sussex, and undertaking feasibility studies for marine (tidal, wave) and wind energy for the city.

Identify sites for larger scale sustainable energy facilities through Development Policies and the Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

Adopt the Core Strategy which will set out in policy *CP1 Sustainable Buildings* the approach to ensure all new developments delivers a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, particularly CO₂.

Implement an innovative carbon neutral policy for new housing, combining low carbon development and off site options such as carbon reduction in existing housing;

Fully support the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and Food Matters who are leading on a partnership project called Harvest Brighton & Hove. Work to increase the amount of food grown and consumed within the city and reduce food miles and emissions from production, transportation, packaging and disposal.

Increase the amount of land available within the city on which to grow food, extending allotments, growing in schools, around estates, and other available land within the city.

Introduce procurement policies within public institutions and local businesses which favour the use of locally produced, seasonal and healthy food which support environmental sustainability, animal welfare and fair trade.

Improve awareness and understanding of the embodied energy in products and services.

Share with other public services the city council's work with the Carbon Disclosure Project to monitor key suppliers' carbon emissions as a first step towards reduction plans and improved procurement policies.

Tackle environmental inequalities by analysing further how different city communities are affected by fuel poverty, pollution and degraded environments.

Living with Climate Change Locally

Issues of concern

Climate change is with us here and now and will get significantly worse before (if) it gets better due to the greenhouse gas emissions already in the atmosphere and their delayed impact.

The UK Climate Impacts Programme - which leads UK scientific consensus on impacts – says the South East of England will continue to be most affected in the UK.

UKCIP 09 projections show changes modelled by 2020 may well include include:

- average temperature increases of 1-1.5 degrees C
- 5-15% less rainfall, especially in summer months, increasing the likelihood of drought
- more extreme weather events such as very hot days, drought, storm surges, and heavy rainfall – increasing the likelihood of flooding

Latest sea level rise predictions for this century from the world's leading climate scientists suggest 1.1 or 1.2 metres is now probable due to polar ice melting rates, rather than the half a metre previously predicted. More frequent storms and sea surges make this an increasing issue for the city and its sea defences.

The summer heatwave of 2003 was responsible for tens of thousands of heat-related deaths across Europe, but by 2020 an average summer locally may well be as hot as this. High temperatures and still weather can also lead to a build up in air pollution, mainly from vehicles and this poses health risks to the very young, old and asthmatics.

The south east of England is in “water stress”, receiving only 690mm of rainfall per year compared to a national average of 897mm per year. Brighton & Hove has one of the highest domestic water consumption rates in the UK.

The pressures on water resources are set to increase through additional demands from population growth and new housing. Greater water efficiency, especially within existing housing stock, is essential for the sustainable management of water resources and the health of the environment.

Flooding through torrential rainfall had a serious impact on Sussex in 2000 and continues to be a major area of concern. Fears about flood and drought are not incompatible, as one feature of climate change is disruption to usual weather cycles, with more frequent extreme periods of weather events.

So we need a better and sophisticated shared understanding across the city of the risks (and some opportunities) of climate change to our infrastructure and economy, our communities and our wildlife and habitats.

What has happened over the last three years

Responding to climate change is a key consideration in preparing the Core Strategy (a key document within the Local Development Framework).

Serious flooding in England in the summer of 2007 has significantly raised the profile of this issue right across local government and emergency planning.

The Sussex Resilience Forum actively monitors climate change impact risks such as flooding and heatwave and manages the Community Risk Register for the whole of Sussex. In 2007/8 it organised a Sussex-wide conference in Brighton on flooding.

A city Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was produced in March 2008 in line with national policy on development and flood risk. This will be regularly reviewed to ensure it contains the latest data, planning policy and legislation.

A major incident emergency planning exercise was held in winter 2008/9 to test planning – in this case for a tidal wave hitting the coast.

Southern Water has invested £15 million over three years in replacing 35 miles of old Victorian water mains across the city with modern piping and the leakage rate is relatively low.

Following chalk cliff falls above the Marina, the University of Brighton has developed a cliff monitoring project and with the Coastal Engineer is developing trans-national project plans with similar areas on the French coast.

A tourism stakeholders' seminar for the sector's Brighton & Hove businesses explored the threats and opportunities posed by climate change and the issue is addressed in the city's revised Tourism Strategy.

Planning has introduced sustainable building standards which require minimum levels of water efficiency performance in new development.

Current position

The government has developed new national indicators on preparedness/planning for flooding impacts and for climate change, under the Comprehensive Area Assessment. The performance of local authorities and their partners will be measured on these. Other areas like Kent and East Sussex are ahead of us on this and we can learn from them.

The indicator on Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management focuses on local authority progress in delivering agreed actions in existing Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMP) and Second Generation Shoreline Management Plans (SMP2).

The proportion of households with water meters in Brighton & Hove is relatively low and there are plans to change this rapidly. To all intents and purposes, non-household customers are all metered already.

Planning permission has been granted for wastewater treatment works at Peacehaven and construction has commenced.

Introduced sustainable building standards through planning which require minimum levels of water efficiency performance in new development through the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM.

Compulsory water metering is to be introduced - Southern Water's draft water resource management plan outlines plans to achieve water metering of 90% of all households by 2015.

What we plan to do

Complete and respond to a council scrutiny inquiry into the city's preparedness and planning for climate change to identify any areas of weakness and actions required.

Develop a Local Climate Impacts Profile to determine the impact on key services of recent major weather incidents. Use these with the UKCP 09 projections to develop a risk assessment and mitigation programme.

Seek through the planning system to deliver development adaptable to climate change; mitigating against urban heat island effect through green and biodiverse developments; delivering the highest standards in water efficiency and exploring feasibility of rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling; providing sustainable drainage systems; and maximising passive heating and cooling.

Include an Adapting to Climate Change section in the city's revised Climate Change Action Plan, drawing on the recommendations of the scrutiny inquiry and following the nationally agreed process.

Continue to work with Southern Water to ensure appropriate wastewater treatment

Develop a joint project on chalk cliff erosion with the University of Le Havre and the local council.

Waste, recycling and street cleanliness

Issues of concern

The local landfill site has now closed which has resulted in sites much further away being used. No new sites are planned in the area.

The European Landfill Directive requires us to reduce biodegradable waste going into landfill. Failure to do so will result in financial penalties for the council and council tax payers.

Waste in landfill can generate methane emissions which is a greenhouse gas. It also uses up valuable resources and can have negative environmental impacts.

The proportion of our waste recycled or composted must increase significantly and residents need to feel recycling and refuse collections are reliable.

What has happened over the last three years

In 2008 a new Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) was completed in Hollingdean. The facility will make it easier for people to recycle as only glass needs to be separated. It will also result in efficiency savings for the service.

In 2008 a new Waste Transfer Station (WTS) was opened in Hollingdean. Waste that cannot be recycled will be hauled in bulk to the Energy Recovery Facility in Newhaven when this becomes operational in 2011 or to other disposal sites.

These new facilities together with the introduction of communal bins will result in £1.6million revenue savings per year.

Recycling services have been extended and now cover 98% of the city, 121,276 households

Over 7000 compost bins have been sold which has helped divert over 2000 tonnes of garden waste from landfill.

To keep the city's streets clean, communal bins and a new beach and street litter recycling scheme has been implemented in the city centre.

The materials recovered at the HWRS have been increased to include MDF and non-glued wood, plasterboard and energy light bulbs and subsequently increased recycling rates.

The waste produced per person has dropped from 443KG in 2002/3 to 421KG in 2008/9.

A targeted plan, which includes working with partners such as the railways, has been effectively delivered significantly reducing graffiti in the city.

A supplementary planning document on construction and demolition waste helps deliver more sustainable management of that waste stream and to minimise the amount construction waste sent to landfill.

Work on preparing a Waste and Minerals Development Framework is underway jointly with East Sussex County Council. This will replace the East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Waste Local Plan, and the Minerals Local Plan in due course.

A Planning Advice Note was prepared to give design guidance to developers about making provision of the storage and collection of recyclable materials and waste.

Current position

Together with East Sussex County Council, the council has let a 30 year integrated waste management contract worth about £1 billion to develop new ways to manage our waste.

A new Energy Recovery Facility to process non-recycled waste and produce enough electricity to power 25,000 homes is being built in Newhaven.

In East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, construction and demolition waste accounts for over half of all waste produced.

About 29% of household waste in the city is currently recycled or composted. As an urban centre, our rate would always be expected to be lower than in neighbouring rural counties where larger gardens produce much more green waste.

98% of properties have a recycling service, either a kerbside collection or communal recycling bins for blocks of flats.

Following consultation on communal bins this service now covers properties in central parts of the city. It will result in cleaner streets.

What we plan to do

Achieve a 70% city-wide recycling / composting rate for domestic waste and an 80% rate for commercial waste by 2025.

Adopting the waste strategy for the management of household waste in the city will deliver a detailed action plan to improve service quality, reduce waste arising, increase recycling and home composting.

Specific elements of the strategy include:

- expanding recycling schemes to increase materials collected at flats, extend bring sites to include Tetrapaks and toys and trial communal recycling in the city centre to help increase recycling rates
- developing specific campaigns regarding food waste, recycling in the city centre and re-use
- a business waste forum will be set up with strategic partners and will be supported by trade waste composition analysis and an overarching trade waste strategy in partnership with East and West Sussex County Councils
- improving service quality and engagement with residents, businesses and communities.
- developing a community engagement framework raising the profile of reuse groups in the city through events and community. Furthermore, we plan to develop a re-use campaign to encourage residents to minimise waste

Require developers to reduce, reuse and recycle construction and demolition waste to minimise the amount sent to landfill and reduce the demand on primary raw materials.

Work with traders and trade waste contractors to reduce rubbish left on streets.

Improve the street cleanliness.

Implement communications campaign.

Ensure recycling services are accessible to all sections of the community.

Continue to offer composters, at reduced prices, and continue to promote home, school and community composting.

Require promoters of major public events to encourage and maximise recycling.

Adopt and implement the Waste and Minerals Core Strategy to provide a planning policy framework for the delivery of sustainable waste management facilities and locations to 2026.

Start work on the Waste Site Allocations Development Plan Document following adoption of the Waste Core Strategy.

Support the re-use and refurbishment of high impact products, such as household appliances and furniture, by supporting social enterprises and widespread purchasing. Promote reduced resource consumption.

Work with supermarkets to reduce excess packaging and waste.

Explore the potential for preparing a strategy to guide how commercial and industrial waste is managed in the city.

Built Environment

Issues of concern

Residents of Brighton & Hove enjoy living between the sea and the Downs but sites need to be used efficiently to reduce pressure on greenfield land. Our renowned cultural heritage in the built environment must be preserved and enhanced.

All new development needs to demonstrate a high standard of design, make a positive contribution to the built & natural environment and contribute to health in the city.

There is an under-supply of housing adaptable for the needs of disabled or ageing residents.

What has happened over the last three years

In 2007/08, 100% of residential developments and new employment floorspace were on brownfield sites and 79% of new residential developments had over 50 dwellings per hectare.

Recent high quality architecture and dynamic proposals for new major developments have led the city's aspirations for outstanding design.

New supplementary planning documents (SPDs) are being prepared on Architectural Features and on the London Road.

The Sustainable Building Design SPD was adopted in 2008 and raises the standards for sustainability in new developments and promotes sustainability measures in existing buildings.

Adoption of the Urban Characterisation Study.

Planning Advice Note on Lifetime Homes prepared.

Undertaken a Sustainability Appraisal and Health Impact Assessments on the Core Strategy.

Current position

Brighton & Hove must plan positively for jobs, homes, sports, leisure, community facilities, parks and green spaces, making the best use of sites which are or will become available. More than 30 conservation areas cover one fifth of the city and there are 3,360 listed buildings.

A new approach to planning – the Local Development Framework (LDF) – will involve greater community input. The main plan in the LDF, the Core Strategy, due to be adopted in January 2011 will help to deliver a number of priorities in the city around employment and training, retail, travel, housing, climate change, design, good public realm, open space and community safety.

The adopted Local Plan, still in place until the Core Strategy is adopted, sets high standards for design of all new developments.

The Local Plan requires accessible housing and 'lifetime homes' in new residential developments.

What we plan to do

Adopt and implement the Core Strategy.

Prepare an Urban Design Framework SPD for the city to help deliver high quality design in the city.

Identify affordable workspace for the creative industries through LDF documents.

Publish a Nature Conservation and Development SPD to ensure the natural environment is conserved and enhanced as a part of all new developments.

Continue to make the most efficient use of previously developed land (ie brownfield sites). Identify through an Urban Characterisation Study areas of the city where high density development can be accommodated.

Provide urban design advice on major new schemes in the city.

Plan positively for high quality and inclusive design in all developments (single buildings, public and private spaces and larger projects).

Encourage developers to undertake early consultation with local residents and community infrastructure (such as Neighbourhood Forums) on major planning applications.

Contribute to implementing the recommendations in the Public Place, Public Life Study and create a built environment accessible to all which promotes physical and social activity. All dwellings should meet the Lifetime Homes Standard with a good proportion of dwellings in major developments to be wheelchair accessible.

Biodiversity and the natural environment

Issues of concern

There is no clear picture of how biodiversity is changing locally but available evidence points to a continuing loss of species and habitats. People benefit from experiencing nature as a part of everyday life but increasing urbanisation and sedentary lifestyles mean that many are becoming more isolated from it in practice.

What has happened over the last three years

Local authorities have a new legal duty to further biodiversity, set out in Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

More new developments have incorporated biodiversity features and a new, linear 'eco park' has been created as part of the Brighton Station development.

A detailed audit of the habitats of importance in the urban and rural areas of Brighton & Hove has been carried out which for the first time provides a detailed baseline for the future monitoring of habitat change.

An international conference was held in the city in October 2008 to look at the opportunities created for people and the environment of designating Brighton & Hove as the first urban Biosphere Reserve in the UK.

A Green Network Study has been completed that defines a green network linking natural green space in the city with the sea and new National Park. The network identifies some sites for habitat expansion and improvement to help reverse previous declines in biodiversity and to improve opportunities for people to experience nature.

A School Grounds Biodiversity Action Plan has been implemented involving schools across Brighton & Hove, including the employment of a temporary project officer with partnership funding from Natural England and the Sussex Wildlife Trust. The project has included the Heritage and Environment Festival at Moulescoomb Primary School and the 'Big Biodiversity Butterfly Count' which are now both established, annual events.

The Countryside Team has been increased to include new Park Rangers with a remit to expand community involvement in green space across the city. The Team's remit includes developing new friends groups and leading on major events such as the annual 'Springwatch' festival, which attracted 15,000 people in 2008.

Current position

The city is home to a great variety of common and rare animal and plant species, including European Protected Species such as Dormouse, Great Crested Newt and several species of bat. It also supports 278 hectares of unimproved chalk grassland and just under a hectare of coastal vegetated shingle, which are both habitats of UK and European importance. In total, one-sixth of the city's area is covered by a nature conservation designation and 10% of its land surface is occupied by semi-natural habitat.

The city is home to the national elm collection. This is of international importance for preserving elms and also serves to protect the wildlife that depends upon it. Much of the collection are street trees serving the added benefit of being heat sinks and taking up pollutants.

Brighton & Hove's wildlife website CityWildlife.org.uk allows people to record their wildlife sightings on a public database. Over 280 people have signed up as CityWildlife 'naturewardens' and have submitted over 5,000 records.

The city has 24 active 'friends' groups working to conserve natural green spaces.

Urban vegetation lessens climate change effects by reducing a city's "heat island" effect and filtering UV rays.

Brighton & Hove currently has six 'green flag' parks (Easthill Park, St Ann's Well Gardens, Preston Park, Kipling Gardens, Stoneham Recreation Ground and Hove Park).

What we plan to do

From a starting point of no increase in 2012/13 on the 2006 per capita City Ecological Footprint baseline of 5.72 global hectares per person, achieve a reduction to 2.5gha per person by 2020 and 1.25gha reduction per person by 2050.

Publish a Biodiversity Action Plan setting out how the city will conserve and enhance important habitats and species in the city to halt biodiversity loss.

Cityparks have implemented a system of environmental review where both management plans for parks and major new projects are checked by staff with environmental backgrounds to ensure that we take all practical steps to protect and enhance the cities wildlife habitats. This has started to have an effect on how we manage our parks and open spaces with an increase in good wildlife habitat. The gardening staff have been given training on managing parks for wildlife and this has started to produce results such as the return of the Adonis Blue butterfly to a Brighton housing site.

Continue to work towards designation of the city as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Implement the green network and incorporate it into the Local Development Framework, to help climate-proof the biodiversity of Brighton & Hove, address habitat creation targets and to make it easier for people to experience nature as part of everyday life in the city. Integrate climate change adaptation planning into this work.

Publish a supplementary planning document on Nature Conservation and Development to promote the integration of biodiversity into development.

Improve CityWildlife.org.uk to make it easier for local people and children to record their wildlife sightings and to contribute to the monitoring of key wildlife sites.

Work with nature conservation partners to implement 'Big Nature' during 2010. 'Big Nature' will be a series of events designed to encourage people to be more involved in the natural environment, as a part of the International Year of Biodiversity.

Carry out a review of the city's Sites of Nature Conservation Importance to address new national monitoring requirements (NI 197) and to measure the quality of key habitats in the city.

Re-landscape an existing park to create a new 'natural park' for the city.

Reintroduce traditional sheep grazing across 200 hectares of key chalk grassland sites in the city to safeguard their nature conservation value. To date the scheme has gained local, national and international positive press coverage and has attracted external funding offers.

Update the Green Spaces Strategy incorporating the green infrastructure network, biodiversity strategy and taking in to consideration the findings of PPG 17. The strategy will be delivered through detailed action plans for the different types of open space.

Encourage wildlife gardening in private gardens and promote Brighton & Hove 'City in Bloom'.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Issues of concern

Many of our buildings, businesses and services need to be more energy efficient and make more use of renewable energy. Achieving sustainable development is a major objective of our planning system.

What has happened over the last three years

Since October 2003, all main council buildings use electricity from 100% renewable sources.

In 2008 a Sustainable Building Supplementary Planning Document was adopted which sets out a benchmark for renewable energy and energy in new buildings.

Current position

All planning applicants are expected to deliver low carbon design in advance of current national standards. As part of this they must demonstrate how energy efficiency has been maximised and low and zero carbon energy technologies have been incorporated into designs to deliver reduced carbon emissions and fossil fuel energy.

Brighton & Hove has a reputation nationally and amongst major house builders for attracting development with a higher standard of energy performance than elsewhere in the county. This is well demonstrated by the innovative major residential developments One Brighton (New England Quarter) and Sackville Place (Hove) both designed to be zero carbon.

What we plan to do

Work with developers to ensure best practice in energy efficiency, water efficiency, reduced waste production and the use of renewable energy. Promote and require sustainable practices such as:

- reducing carbon emissions
- implementation of passive design for low energy use
- incorporating renewable energy and low carbon energy technologies

Move towards carbon neutral developments and set challenging targets for the highest standards of energy performance. Encourage developers to mitigate against high energy use and carbon emissions through emissions reduction elsewhere in the city, either through retrofitting measures in existing housing, or extending energy infrastructure such as district heating to neighbouring development.

Adopt the Core Strategy (within the Local Development Framework) in which sustainability issues are central.

Encourage renewable energy use in existing buildings and operations across all sectors, including business, retail and householders.

Work with Carbon Trust to examine energy efficiency in sheltered housing schemes and council housing blocks to identify energy conservation measures and opportunities to move to combined heat and power or renewable energy.

Through the East Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership, support Business Excellence Through Resource Efficiency to help businesses reduce energy use and costs and also CO₂ emissions.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Chapter Contributors

Transport Partnership
Brighton & Hove City Council (Sustainable Transport)
City Sustainability Partnership

Our aim

‘An integrated and accessible transport system, that enables people to travel around and access services as safely and freely as possible while minimising damage to the environment and contributing to a safer, cleaner, quieter and healthier city.’

Issues of concern.

Nationally, there has been a trend towards increased car use although this has slowed in recent years. Unless a range of measures are introduced to address this there is likely to be worsening congestion and air quality by 2026, particularly when accompanied by anticipated future development in the city.

Carbon emissions, physical and mental well-being, community safety, air quality, noise, providing access to quality services and using resources more efficiently are all issues of concern which could be addressed by a sustainable and equitable transport system fully integrated with planning.

Promote low carbon transport choices

What has happened over the last three years.

- safer walking and cycling routes to schools have been developed
- introduced personal travel planning: working with residents to identify instances when they could walk, cycle, or use the bus as an alternative to their car for some journeys
- provided information to inform travel choices and promote changes in travel behaviour through a transport campaign and associated events, activities and initiatives

Current Position

- nearly 20% of Brighton & Hove's carbon emissions derive from road transport, so reducing traffic is key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- about 70 businesses have signed up to the newly established Brighton & Hove Business Travel Plan Partnership/Network
- the Brighton & Hove City Council Staff Travel Plan has provided improved alternative travel options for employees both during, and on the way to, work. It includes a bicycle allowance rate to encourage officers to cycle when on council business, and discounted bus tickets for work journeys

- encouraging more efficient use of private vehicles and fleets and work with business and schools to help them do the same
- Brighton & Hove has established itself as a Cycle Demonstration Town, which secured an additional £1.5 million over three years to encourage cycling, and has enabled the city to become a Cycling Town for a further three years
- introduced the first on-street electric vehicle charging points in the UK, outside London

What we plan to do.

- promote cycling & walking as efficient ways of moving around the city, with many benefits to health and well-being and provide appropriate infrastructure
- promote and facilitate the greater use of car clubs
- promote and provide more electric vehicle charging points
- expand the city's Workplace Travel Plan Partnership
- build on the success of the Personalised Travel Planning initiative to increase awareness of, and use of, sustainable transport options
- consider the development of cycle hire schemes

Planning for Sustainable Transport

What has happened over the last three years.

- permission has been granted for a number of developments that have contributed towards delivering sustainable transport policy objectives
- ensured the planning strategy locates development that significantly increases movement close to existing transport corridors and/or nodes
- encouraged developers to bring forward transport innovation and creativity in proposals
- maximised the availability of affordable housing and jobs within the city to reduce the need for people to commute into or out of the city
- facilitated home working but also joint work offices for freelancers / homeworkers (such as The Werks in Hove)

Current Position

- investing greater levels of funding into maintenance of our roads, pavements and bridges than the government calculates is needed
- more funding is being invested into improving street lighting

What we plan to do.

- use the planning system to provide development that reduces the need to travel and prioritises sustainable transport options
- increase job opportunities to increase choice and enable local people to work within the city
- ensure provision and promotion of opportunities for home/local working, flexible planning, use of new technology etc to provide choice not to travel, eg online meeting spaces.
- require sustainable travel plans for all major developments
- implement measures to promote and change travel habits / decisions to transfer people and goods onto more sustainable transport
- prepare new guidance on parking and servicing requirements for new developments that will put a priority on minimising off-street parking provision where appropriate
- increase amount of secure cycle parking at key destinations
- create complete cycle networks and routes as part of Travel Plans

- manage public city centre parking in a way that complements, and is integrated with, other wider policy objectives

Health & Design

What has happened over the last three years.

- the Legibility or 'Public Space Public Life' Strategy was approved and will help guide new innovative schemes to enhance our streets and turn 'spaces' into 'places' where people can enjoy our city even more
- completed the award-winning urban real improvements in New Road as part of the development of the city's Cultural Quarter
- improved public spaces with better signposting and a more welcoming street scene for all road users
- the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership has worked on publicity, campaigns and camera locations to reduce road traffic collisions and make the city and surrounding area safer for road users
- delivered a targeted programme of road safety engineering measures to address the highest priority locations where significant numbers of collisions/casualties occur, to maximise reductions in the number and severity of people injured

Current Position

- substantially completed the North Street Mixed Priority Route scheme (combined road safety and street enhancement measures)
- there are now 23 km of cycle routes in Brighton & Hove
- some pollutant levels are still unacceptably high and traffic is the main source of poor air quality within parts of the city
- in 2009, 53% of children's journeys to local authority schools were by foot; 2% were by cycle; 18% were by public transport and 27% were by car
- continuing to promote walking & cycling as parts of a healthy lifestyle
- in 2008/09 the number of people killed or seriously injured (141) on our roads decreased compared to previous years
- a review of speed limits is being undertaken
- continued promotion of road safety campaigns and publicity, alongside Road Safety Education, with a particular focus on schools, including Bikeability Training and Child Pedestrian Training
- continued fair enforcement of road traffic law to ensure that all road users abide by regulations / legislation

What we plan to do.

- promote the health and well-being benefits of active travel e.g walking and cycling, through employers and schools to support the World Health Organisation's designation of Brighton & Hove as a healthy city.
- design streets that are safe, accessible and attractive to residents, visitors and businesses / investors, encourage greater use of public spaces and therefore contribute to boosting the local economy
- maintain and improve connections between the city centre, the urban fringe and the South Downs National Park
- overcome actual and perceived road safety and personal security dangers in order to encourage use and access to sustainable transport
- develop green infrastructure, in conjunction with Urban Biosphere Bid and the new South Downs National Park

- encourage all schools across the city to develop, review and implement travel plans, with a strong focus on active, healthy travel

Air and Noise Pollution

What has happened over the last three years.

- carried out a detailed review and assessment of air quality in 2007
- in 2008 the original Air Quality Management Area that was declared for Brighton & Hove was revised and expanded to encompass the south-west corner of the city, central area and eastern section of the seafront
- overall levels of Nitrogen Dioxide have been decreasing since 2003/04
- financial contributions have been secured from development for air quality monitoring
- the council's Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee has considered a report on air quality issues

Current Position

- the Council's Air Quality Action Plan helps to identify where air quality targets are unlikely to be met without additional actions
- the major bus company in the city continues to invest in low-emission technology for its bus fleet and over 955 now have Euro2 (or above) rated engines
- East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service has been the first authority in the United Kingdom to roll-out five Euro 5 compliant appliances, which reduce harmful emissions by 80%.

What we plan to do.

- ensure all transport plans and programmes are working towards delivering reductions in air / noise pollution and contribute towards the council's Air Quality Action Plan by reducing traffic and encouraging people to walk, cycle or use public transport
- reduce driver speeds across the city and investigate the feasibility of larger 20mph zones (which could reduce noise pollution), with possible exceptions for designated main roads, and lower speed limits on rural roads
- assist in the promotion of environmentally friendlier vehicles
- provide more street trees in appropriate locations to improve local environments

Congestion

What has happened over the last three years.

- in 2007, the Department for Transport reported that average traffic speeds in the city had increased slightly in peak hours, indicating that traffic is moving more freely
- increased the use of Intelligent Transport Systems such as variable message signs and cameras to manage traffic and movement more efficiently

Current Position

- continued to support and provide for car club operations in the city
- nearly all schools across the city have developed and / or implemented Travel Plans to minimise the impact of cars on children's journeys to schools

What we plan to do.

- have less traffic and congestion in the city through a year on year on reduction in car use of between 10-20% by 2026, which will be detailed in the Local Transport Plan
- reduce the impact of traffic in the city centre.
- introduce Park & Ride at key arterial routes into the city in association with a wider demand and parking management strategy for the city
- reduce impact of school run on congestion by encouraging walking and cycling as healthy alternatives
- improve traffic flow by removing unnecessary bottlenecks on key corridors and routes where possible, giving priority to sustainable transport
- develop an Urban Freight Management Plan to assist the movement of goods and to promote economic growth
- consult with relevant bodies at an early stage through the Transport Partnership when transport and parking schemes are being developed

Public transport

What has happened over the last three years.

- bus passenger numbers have steadily increased each year, well above the national average
- more real time bus information displays have been introduced in partnership with bus operators and developers, and the information is also available on the city council's 'journey on' website. A new mobile phone text system is proving very popular
- improved transport interchanges e.g. Brighton Station

Current Position

- Just over 40 million passenger journeys are made within the city on local buses every year.
- continue working in partnership with public transport operators to maintain the national, award-winning profile of the city

What we plan to do.

- improve access to and at public transport interchanges e.g. all rail stations, bus stops, taxi ranks, etc
- increase availability of public transport information, such as real-time information displays
- reduce journey times and improve punctuality and reliability of services across whole bus network - particularly on routes serving outlying communities
- explore opportunities to provide / improve bus services to the suburbs/outlying communities
- promote integrated ticketing/smart cards for local public transport, e.g including exploring possible use of the London Oyster card
- increase level of rail services at weekends to provide a 7-day / week railway and achieve better co-ordination of train engineering works to support the city as a tourist destination
- develop and provide a bus-based Coastal Transport System, linked with improved access to local railway stations where possible, to move people efficiently to and between major housing, leisure, retail, tourism and employment sites such as Shoreham Harbour
- review and update the council's Taxi and Private Hire Statement to assist in improving infrastructure and access and to reduce congestion

Equality and Accessibility

What has happened over the last three years.

- provided safer and better roads and transport routes by delivering the Local Transport Plan investment programme
- the council has been undertaking Equality Impact Assessments of transport policies and services

Current Position

- the council has submitted a Kickstart bid for late night extensions of core city bus routes, which will complement the council's Beacon Authority status for the city's night time economy in the city
- improved a number of car parks to provide better access, security, ticketing, signing and safer facilities for drivers
- supporting the expansion of car clubs across the city
- delivering the Rights of Way Improvement Plan

What we plan to do.

- increase the availability of accessible forms of transport
- improve equalities training for public transport employees
- assess equalities issues to identify which sectors of the community are most disadvantaged by noise and air pollution
- ensure that the design and maintenance of streets enables people to move more easily, safely and effectively around the city on foot, by bicycle or public transport, particularly catering for the needs of younger, older, disabled and vulnerable people
- reduce the number of vulnerable people injured (especially those killed or seriously injured) in road traffic collisions
- increase levels of access to local facilities / services without the need to travel
- ensure the cost and ease of using public transport takes into account equalities and exclusion issues, particularly for those without access to a car
- encourage more local employers to adopt positive initiatives and incentives such as the tax free Cycle to Work scheme and discounted public transport season tickets
- improve walking, cycling and public transport routes and facilities, including the public Rights of Way network to, and within, the South Downs National Park

PROVIDING QUALITY ADVICE & INFORMATION SERVICES

Chapter Contributors

Brighton & Hove Advice Services Strategy Group
Sussex Police
Learning & Skills Council
Brighton & Hove City Council libraries
NHS Brighton & Hove (Patient Advice Liaison Service)
Brighton & Hove City Council Adult Social Care
Learning Partnership
Brighton & Hove City Council Housing Strategy and Management
Healthy Living Centre

Our aim

A place where residents can readily access free advice and information that they can rely on in order to help them to deal with difficult situations, avoid dependency on services and achieve their aspirations.

Introduction

This new chapter in the Sustainable Community Strategy reflects our belief that coordinated advice and information services & resources make a real difference to resident's lives and the city as a whole.

These services are important because they help people deal with their issues relating to:

- employment & education
- money
- housing
- health and well being
- family and relationships

People often turn to these services for help when they are facing difficult times, for example when someone in the family has lost their job, when they are facing relationship breakdown, bereavement or perhaps when someone in the family has fallen ill.

Ensuring people have early access to the advice and information they need has huge benefits to the individual as it helps to stop problems from getting worse. This has wider benefits for the community and economy as it means individuals are less likely to need to depend on services further down the line and more likely to be able to make the most of the opportunities open to them.

Issues of concern

There are many different advice and information services meeting residents' advice and information needs in the city. It can be confusing for residents trying to identify the best place to go for help to solve their problem(s).

Frontline workers often identify advice needs that their service can't meet but find it difficult to ensure that the client gets the advice they need elsewhere.

The internet is increasingly becoming a key source of up to date information. However a significant proportion of residents do not have internet access. In addition many find it difficult to know what information is up to date and reliable.

There is a great deal of demand for Advice Services and it is a challenge to ensure that those most in need are assisted and encouraged to get the right advice at the right time. The demand for advice has increased during the recession and there is a shortage of generalist open door advice services that can be used by anyone. Access for working people is particularly difficult due to the lack of services provided outside normal office hours

Information, advice and guidance provision for young people, including careers advice, has been reconfigured to allow more access to support locally in community as well as school settings. As with any major change, this has taken time to embed itself and more needs to be done to raise awareness of this in the wider community

What has happened over the last three years

The Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership has successfully bid for £300,000 to support the development of independent legal advice services within the city partnership, which includes the Citizens Advice Bureau, Brighton Housing Trust Advice and Immigration Service, Age Concern, RISE, MACS, Hove YMCA and Fitzhugh Gates Solicitors. We have recently secured investment from the Big Lottery Fund that will ensure improved access for residents to quality advice services over the next three years.

Independent Legal advice providers including the Citizens Advice Bureau, BHT and MACS gave one to one advice to over 12,000 residents in 2008 -09, helping them to deal with their debts, maximise their incomes and stay in their homes during the difficult economic climate. Much of this work was and continues to be delivered and supported by highly skilled, trained and dedicated volunteers in the City.

Brighton & Hove City Council received funding during 2008-2010 from the Learning and Skills Council to develop a prototype for the new Adult Advancement and Careers Service (aacs). Aacs brings services together to ensure residents have access to the information, advice and guidance they need to overcome barriers to employment. The key focus is on education and employment support, but areas such as health, housing, money advice and childcare are also included. It is open to all adults, with enhanced support available for those who are unemployed and has access points in the city centre and in community venues in the east and west of the city. The Aacs prototype has also been proactive in developing innovative solutions to joining up services, for example scheduling networking events for frontline workers and developing a 'social networking' site to encourage advisors to share knowledge and skills and build professional relationships.

The PCT and Brighton & Hove City Council have come together to pilot the 'Information Prescriptions Initiative'. The pilot encourages GP's and other health professionals who identify patients with 'information' needs to complete 'information prescriptions'. Patients who receive these prescriptions are then supported to access the information via the projects website which can be accessed for free in local libraries if people don't have internet access at home.

The Children & Young People's Trust has reconfigured how information, advice and guidance services are provided for young people as part of an Integrated Youth Support Service. A universal advice service for 13-19 year olds (13-25 for young people with LDD), covering careers guidance and other issues relevant to young people, is provided by Connexions Plus (<http://www.connexionsplus.co.uk/>). Every mainstream and special school / college has a link Connexions Personal Adviser who visits the institution on a regular basis to provide a universal service. Universal support is provided to young people who are not in education via seven community based Connexions Plus Centres. A universal drop-in service is available from 10am until 7pm Monday-Friday and runs in a different area of the city each day to facilitate access for young people. Young people can also book a careers guidance appointment at their local Connexions Plus Centre. The service was re-configured into this format to provide local access to advice services rather than young people having to travel to the city centre.

The Healthy Living Centre runs a Healthy Living Prescription, which is a toolkit for GPs and other health professionals to refer clients for additional support from its services. These services offer one to one support, advice and information in the following areas: Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Sexual Health / Teenage Pregnancy, Carers Support, Weight Management, Physical Activity, Cookery and Healthy Eating. The scheme received 490 referrals over an 18 month period up to September 2009. The HLC services work together to promote health awareness in the community and to provide support, information and guidance. By making sure resources reach the areas they are most needed, local residents are encouraged to take ownership of their own health and make positive lifestyle changes.

Libraries Services received over 1.7 million visits in person and over 2 million online visits a year from residents. They provide access to information and resources to support people seeking advice on key life issues, through a network of 16 libraries across the city. No resident need travel more than 2 miles to access a local public library that will provide free information, including books, to help them with the issues they face. Libraries are a key source of help information with almost 50% of users using them for this. Research has shown that library users trust their local library above everyone but GPs for information about health. All Libraries provide free internet access and signpost key online sources of information through the Libraries website, including a job seeker's page and access to online subscription information on careers, business information and grants. They currently hold advice surgeries delivered by councillors and services such as Pensions and the Police and Library staff are skilled at signposting residents to the specialist information advice and guidance they need.

What we plan to do

Advice and information providers will work together to ensure their services are accessible to the residents that need them, when they need them.

Providers of advice and information in Brighton and Hove have a strong history of working in partnership together through, for example, the Advice Services Network and more recently the Adult Advancement and Careers Service Prototype. They will build on this to ensure that advice services across a range of areas including social welfare, adult advancement and health will work together to ensure there is 'no wrong door' for residents in the city looking for help. They will do this by:

- building effective relationships between frontline advisors across the city
- improving the knowledge and skills base of frontline workers including local authority, health providers and the Police across the city to better advise and signpost services
- working together to develop user friendly, up to date directories of resources and services available across the city, building upon existing effective practice
- developing online access to good quality information and advice using models such as the Health Information's Prescriptions website.
- improving and better coordinating the training offered to advice and frontline workers

- providing opportunities each year for Information Advice and Guidance and frontline workers in the city to network and share skills and information.

Providers of independent legal advice will work together to increase access to their services by 25% by 2012 with the not for profit agencies developing their volunteer base to ensure an additional 3000 residents a year are assisted.

We will ensure the future of the Information Prescriptions initiative, building on the portal and the use of information prescribing, and encouraging the wide use of the website to improve the information provided by Information Advice Guidance and other frontline workers in the city.

People often seek independent advice when they are unhappy with, or feel let down by, public services. Advice providers will therefore work in partnership with public sector providers to identify patterns in the problems people experience and contribute positively and productively to the way public services are designed and delivered.

We will contribute to a real reduction in the numbers of children and young people living in poverty through the targeting of advice provision for families vulnerable to Social Exclusion.

Providers of advice and information will work together to encourage and assist residents, to make effective use of national and local online self help resources. Residents without internet access or IT skills will be encouraged and supported to make use of the free access available in local libraries and community centres.

Libraries will be developed as community hubs, which will allow residents to access a range of services for related to health, education and employment. This will focus delivery of outreach information and advice services in neighbourhood locations, and to encourage the use of self help resources. Libraries, will work in partnership with specialist services to help ensure that residents are directed to the help they need.

The Brighton & Hove Local Strategic Partnership

Business Sector

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Trevor Freeman, Economic Partnership

Roger French, Economic Partnership, Chair of the Brighton & Hove Local Strategic Partnership

Tony Mernagh, Economic Partnership

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Councillor Gill Mitchell

Councillor Dee Simson, Vice-Chair of the Brighton & Hove Local Strategic Partnership

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Richard Tuset (Head of Policy)

Community & Voluntary Sector Forum

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Vanessa Brown, Children & Young Peoples Trust

Stuart Laing - City Sustainability Partnership

Phil Frier – City Employment & Skills Steering Group

Leighe Rogers - Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership

One vacant position - Learning Partnership

One vacant position - Healthy City Partnership

One vacant position – Transport Partnership

One vacant position – City Inclusion Partnership

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MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF PARTNERSHIPS

Brighton & Hove Learning Partnership
Healthy City Partnership
Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership
Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership
Brighton & Hove Strategic Housing Partnership
City Sustainability Partnership
City Inclusion Partnership
Arts Commission
Stronger Communities Partnership
Advice Services Strategy Group
Children & Young People Trust Partnership
City Employment & Skills Steering Group
Transport Partnership
Public Service Board

Sub-Groups of the Brighton & Hove Local Strategic Partnership

Local Development Framework Sub-Group

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