





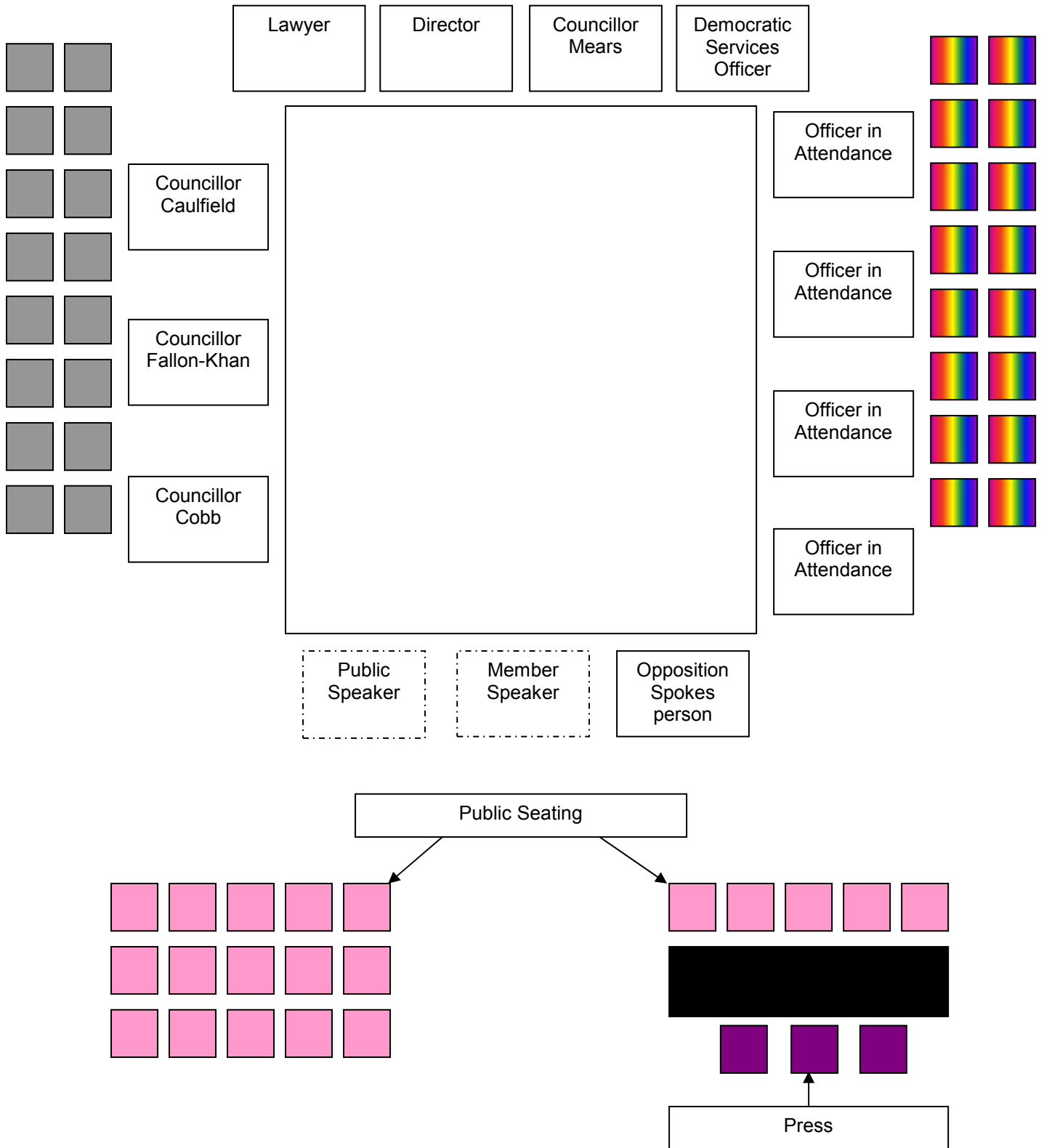
Brighton & Hove
City Council

Cabinet Committee

Title:	Sustainability Cabinet Committee
Date:	16 March 2009
Time:	3.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: Mears (Chairman), Caulfield and Fallon-Khan Lead Councillor for Sustainability: Councillor Mrs Denise Cobb
Contact:	Tanya Massey Democratic Services Officer 01273 291227 tanya.massey@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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Democratic Services: Meeting Layout



AGENDA

29. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) Declarations of Interest by all Members present of any personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- (b) Exclusion of Press and Public - To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

30. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 6

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2009 (copy attached).

31. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS

32. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Items reserved by the Chairman
- (b) Items reserved by the Opposition Spokesperson
- (c) Items reserved by Members, with the agreement of the Chairman.

NOTE: Public Questions, Written Questions from Councillors, Petitions, Deputations, Letters from Councillors and Notices of Motion will be reserved automatically.

33. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(The closing date for receipt of public questions is 12 noon on 9 March 2009)

No public questions have been received by date of publication.

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

- 34. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS** **7 - 8**
- (i) **Sustainable procurement.** Question from Councillor Steedman (copy attached).
- (ii) **Peak oil production.** Question from Councillor Steedman (copy attached).
- 35. DEPUTATIONS**
- (The closing date for receipt of deputations is 12 noon on 9 March 2009)
- No deputations have been received by date of publication.
- 36. PETITIONS**
- No petitions have been received by date of publication.
- 37. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS** **9 - 10**
- (i) **Working with the Council's suppliers to help them reduce the ecological or carbon footprint of the Council's supply chain.** Letter from Councillor Steedman (copy attached).
- 38. NOTICES OF MOTION**
- No Notices of Motion have been received by date of publication.
- 39. INTRODUCING AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM** **11 - 28**
- Report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance (copy attached).
- Contact Officer: Mita Patel Tel: 29-3332*
- Ward Affected: All Wards*
- 40. SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE THEME 2009/10** **29 - 36**
- Report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance (copy attached).
- Contact Officer: Thurstan Crockett Tel: 29-2503*
- Ward Affected: All Wards*
- 41. ECO SCHOOLS PROGRAMME UPDATE** **37 - 50**
- Report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance (copy attached).
- Contact Officer: Sarah Costelloe Tel: 29-3331*
- Ward Affected: All Wards*
- 42. REPORT OF THE CITY SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP** **51 - 56**
- To note the minutes of the City Sustainability Partnership (copy attached).
- Contact Officer: Thurstan Crockett Tel: 29-2503*
- Ward Affected: All Wards*

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

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Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Tanya Massey, (01273 291227, email tanya.massey@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Friday, 6 March 2009

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE
3.00PM 19 JANUARY 2009
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mears (Chairman), Caulfield and Fallon-Khan

Also in attendance: Councillor Denise Cobb (Lead Councillor for Sustainability)

Other Members present: Councillors Steedman and Wakefield-Jarrett

PART ONE

15. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

15A Declarations of Interest

15a.1 There were none.

15B Exclusion of Press and Public

15b.1 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Sustainability Cabinet Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press or public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100I(1) of the Act).

15b.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

16. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

16.1 The Chairman stated that she was delighted to see more people in attendance. She added that the Administration took sustainability issues seriously and welcomed the opportunity for debate.

17. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

17.1 **RESOLVED** – The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2008 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

18. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

18.1 **RESOLVED** – That all items be reserved for discussion.

19. PETITIONS

19.1 There were none.

20. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

20.1 There were none.

21. DEPUTATIONS

21.1 There were none.

22. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

22.1 There were none.

23. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

23.1 There were none.

24. NOTICES OF MOTION

24.1 There were none.

25. PROCUREMENT CODE OF PRACTICE - SUSTAINABILITY

25.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Finance & Resources concerning the council's revised Procurement Code of Practice for Sustainability (for copy see minute book).

25.2 The Lead Councillor for Sustainability explained that, as a big purchaser of goods and services, the Code of Practice demonstrated the council's commitment to protecting the environment while growing the economy, with particular emphasis on local procurement to support local jobs.

25.3 The Cabinet Member for Central Services added that the Code of Practice would also contribute to the council's corporate priority of making better use of public money.

25.4 The Cabinet Member for Housing commented that the Code of Practice would be used when tendering and letting the 10-year contract for repairs to and maintenance of the council's housing stock.

25.5 Councillor Steedman welcomed the report and requested that minimum specification standards, such as those identified by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), be incorporated into the Code of Practice alongside the general

principles. He also suggested that specific targets be set for the future. Alternatively, he requested that officers monitor procurement and report back to the Cabinet Committee on the actual standards reached in relation to sustainability.

25.6 The Contract Management Advisor explained that officers were encouraged to thoroughly explore the market place to identify best practice and that by setting minimum standards the council may inadvertently limit its achievements with regard to sustainable procurement.

25.7 The Chairman commented that it was important that the council led by example and should push for best practice rather than minimum expectations. She confirmed that monitoring would be carried out and that Members would be kept up to date with performance.

25.8 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Committee accepted the following recommendations:

(1) That the principles within the revised Code of Practice outlined in Appendix 1 be noted.

(2) That the revised Code of Practice be endorsed and approved.

26. URBAN BIOSPHERE CITY STATUS

26.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance concerning proposals for Brighton and Hove to achieve the status of Urban Biosphere City (for copy see minute book).

26.2 The Lead Councillor for Sustainability explained that the Urban Biosphere concept had real potential for improving the look and feel of the city in many ways. She added that the proposed timescale was appropriate and that it would be important to communicate the concept to the public clearly. She requested that officers consider an alternative working name to 'Urban Biosphere' when the proposal goes public, to ensure its meaning is understood.

26.3 The Cabinet Member for Housing added that the council had already begun to show its commitment to this concept through the work carried out at Wild Park in Moulsecoomb, and that this had also benefited the community in a number of ways.

26.4 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Committee accepted the following recommendations:

(1) That the council's commitment to work towards designation of Brighton & Hove as an Urban Biosphere be affirmed.

(2) That the integration of the Urban Biosphere target into the work programmes of the City Sustainability Partnership and 2020 Community Partnership be sought.

- (3) That, working with the 2020 Community Partnership, an agreed strategy and costed action plan to set out the steps required to achieve Urban Biosphere status be published.

27. SUSTAINABLE CITIES INDEX

- 27.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance concerning Brighton and Hove's ranking in the 2008 national Sustainable Cities Index (for copy see minute book).
- 27.2 The Lead Councillor for Sustainability explained that the Index showed Brighton & Hove to be very near the top of the sustainability league in the UK.
- 27.3 The Chairman added that while the city had dropped on place in the ranking, this did not detract from the achievements made.
- 27.4 In response to concerns from Councillor Steedman the Cabinet Member for Central Services confirmed that the council was working to improve the city's ecological footprint.
- 27.5 The Cabinet Member for Housing added that both council and private sector housing had a role to play in this and that these issues were at the forefront of recent and forthcoming measures.
- 27.6 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Committee accepted the following recommendations:
 - (1) That the content of the report be noted and that the Cabinet Committee considers what might be done to improve performance across all indicators.

28. DRAFT ONE PLANET LIVING PLAN FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE

- 28.1 The Cabinet Committee received a verbal update concerning the Draft One Planet Living Plan.
- 28.2 The Head of Sustainability and Environmental Policy explained that the Draft One Planet Living Plan had been issued partly to address the city's ecological footprint and had come about through the consideration of the 10 principles of One Planet Living by One Brighton. The ideas contained in the Draft Plan were very complex and the next step would be for officers and Members to give it careful consideration before taking any further action.
- 28.3 Councillor Steedman supported the concept and hoped that the council would take it forward once work had been completed.
- 28.4 The Chairman confirmed that officers and Members would be considering the Draft Plan and ensuring that it could be delivered in the city.
- 28.5 **RESOLVED** – That the information be noted.

The meeting concluded at 3.36pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this day of

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answer detailed below. The Councillor asking the question may then ask one relevant supplementary question which shall be put and answered without discussion. A second supplementary question may be asked by any other Member of the Council which shall also be put and answered without discussion:

(i) Councillor Steedman

“At the previous Sustainability Cabinet Committee, members discussed the new ‘Procurement Code of Practice – Sustainability’ and rejected proposals for minimum sustainability standards for purchases made by the authority.

Could Cllr Mears please let me know the following information:

- The number of refrigerators, freezers and fridge-freezer combinations; washing machines; electric tumble dryers; combined washer-dryers; dishwashers; lamps; electric ovens; and air conditioners purchased by the Council in the last year and the A++ - G rating given to each product on its mandatory Energy Label?
- The number of cars and vans purchased or leased by the authority during the last year and the A-G carbon emissions rating given to each?
- The amount of a) chicken and b) eggs purchased by the authority/supplied through the Council’s catering contracts in the last year and the proportion of this which was free-range?
- The amount of fish and fish products purchased by the authority/supplied through the Council’s catering contracts in the last year and the proportion which were either Marine Stewardship Council-certified or appeared on the Marine Conservation Society’s ‘Fish to Eat’ list?
- The amount of wooden office furniture purchased by the authority in the last year and the proportion of this which was a) Forest Stewardship Council-certified; b) covered by another sustainability certification scheme?”

Reply will be from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Sustainability Cabinet Committee.

(ii) Councillor Steedman

“There are also very real fears in 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. Peak oil production is the point at which existing oil reserves can no longer be replaced by new ones. Conventional wisdom has been that the peak is many years in the future, but the International Energy Agency has warned of an oil crunch by 2013. Other authoritative voices warn of severe problems sooner than this.”

So says the draft text of the City Sustainability Partnership’s input to the consultation draft of the Local Strategic Partnership’s refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Could Cllr Mears tell me what preparations her administration has made to protect the residents of the city from the consequences of peak oil, especially, but not exclusively, in regard to:

- the local economy;
- transport;
- energy use and bills for the Council and for local residents;
- planning and the built environment;
- food;
- emergency planning?”

Reply will be from from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Sustainability Cabinet Committee.

COUNCILLOR PAUL STEEDMAN
Brighton & Hove City Council
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS

Alex Bailey
Acting Chief Executive
Brighton & Hove City Council
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS

Date: 25 February 2009

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Dear Alex – and members of the Sustainability Cabinet Committee

Working with the Council's suppliers to help them reduce the ecological or carbon footprint of the Council's supply chain

I would be grateful if you could place this letter on the agenda of the Sustainability Cabinet Committee for 16 March 2009.

Through its Carbon Management Programme the Council seeks to reduce the direct carbon emissions of the authority's operations. This is very welcome. Yet the carbon emissions – and other damaging environmental impacts – of the Council's supply chain are likely to be much greater. The ecological and carbon footprints of the goods and services procured by the Council are currently unknown. This makes it difficult for the Council to monitor and reduce these footprints through its procurement policy; it makes it difficult to identify the priority 'hotspots' in the supply chain; and it makes it difficult for the Council to work in partnership with its suppliers to improve their environmental performance.

The London Borough of Lewisham recently undertook an analysis of the carbon footprint of their supply chain. They found that their supply chain was responsible for 89,000 tonnes of CO₂, equivalent to the emissions created by 10,000 households in the UK each year. In comparison, Lewisham Council itself produces 33,000 tonnes of CO₂.

This analysis has helped Lewisham to:

- Explain the outcome of the project to suppliers, encouraging those not disclosing their carbon emissions to do so
- Hold a seminar for suppliers demonstrating the benefits of cutting CO₂ emissions and sharing practical information about the actions they can take
- Work closely with local voluntary and community sector organisations to provide additional help for those keen to do more to understand and act on their CO₂ emissions

Tel: (01273) 296443

Email: paul.steedman@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Green Member for QUEEN'S PARK Ward

- Revise Council procurement policies to ensure greater transparency on the environmental impact of goods and services

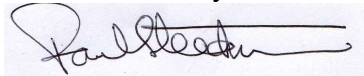
This supply chain approach fits directly with the latest industry thinking on sustainability and with the principles underpinning the city's draft One Planet Living Plan.

The most recent City Sustainability Partnership also discussed the need for better support for businesses in the city, especially SMEs, to get to grips with sustainability, including public sector organisations helping to create 'space' for sustainability thinking and providing easy to use tools for smaller businesses.

I would like to request that the Sustainability Cabinet Committee receive a report into working with its suppliers to help them reduce their ecological footprint. As a first step I would request that the Council considers undertaking an analysis of both the carbon and the ecological footprints of the Council's supply chain. Committee members might like to consider whether it would be appropriate to work with other public sector partners to create a citywide, sector-wide analysis.

I hope that this is something that members will feel able to support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Steedman', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Councillor Paul Steedman

Subject: Introducing an Environmental Management System
Date of Meeting: 16 March 2009
Report of: Acting Director of Strategy & Governance
Contact Officer: Name: Mita Patel Tel: 29-3332
E-mail: mita.patel@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: No Forward Plan No. N/A
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report outlines the rationale and detail of proposals to introduce an accredited environmental management system (EMS) to allow the council to effectively gauge its environmental impacts and to measure and report success or improvements needed.
- 1.2 The implementation of an EMS would provide information required for the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), and provide data needed for producing the councils Environmental Footprint as required through the Annual Report and Summary of Accounts. In so doing, it will serve to support the councils value for money objectives and help to achieve the ambitions for 'performing well' by 2011 in the Audit Commissions Use of Resources assessment, as stated in the Corporate Plan. Furthermore, it will aid delivery and performance management of the Council's existing Climate Change Action Plan, Carbon Management Programme and proposed Climate Change Strategy for the city. It will also provide a framework for structuring a more formal programme for staff awareness, engagement and training on sustainability.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 (1) That the Sustainability Cabinet Committee approves:
 - (a) Development of an Environmental Management Policy
 - (b) Pilot implementation of an environmental management system accredited to the BS EN ISO 14001:2004 standard
 - (c) Consideration then of progression to the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

Environmental Footprinting

- 3.1 Since 2008 the Annual Report and Summary of Accounts assessment has introduced the need for reporting on the council's environmental footprint. Currently, information available for contributing to analysis of the council's environmental footprint is poor and inconsistent. For instance, although there is comprehensive data on carbon emissions, there is little or no information available on actual tonnages of various waste streams. This is also the case for water use where currently there is no regular council wide meter reading programme in place to monitor water use and to identify possible water leaks.

The Corporate Plan and Value for Money

- 3.2 In line with its prioritisation on achieving efficiency and Value for Money, in last years Annual Report, and in the Corporate Plan 2008-2011, the council highlighted its objective for achieving a status of 'performing well' in the Audit Commission's Use of Resources assessment, by 2011. However, in order for the council to confidently achieve this status, a more comprehensive environmental footprint profile will be needed for the Annual Report than is currently provided.

CAA and Use of Resources assessment

- 3.3 The CAA process through its Use of Resources (UoR) 2009 assessment (see Appendix 1) sets new, stringent requirements for the council on its environmental management. In order to achieve a status of 'performing well' the council would ultimately need to have a robust performance management strategy based on a good understanding of its use of natural resources. Furthermore, the council needs to have systems and processes in place across its operations including:

- Proof that it has a strategic and managed approach to reducing the use of natural resources and its impact on the environment;
- Delivery plans to support this strategy, for example to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, achieve energy and water efficiency, and optimise the use of renewable resources;
- Other corporate plans within the council, such as financial or HR plans to support the delivery of this strategy;
- Proof that it is working effectively with partners in developing, implementing and monitoring plans;
- Evidence to illustrate which of its operations produce most carbon and is targeting these areas as a priority.

- 3.4 The council will also need to identify how it is delivering against its strategy to manage the environmental risks it faces or might face in the future, and how effectively it works with partners to do this. This includes how it is adapting its work to deal with changes in climate and weather patterns i.e. damage to property and infrastructure from flooding and excessive heat. To 'perform well' the council will need to have:

- Reliability of information which it uses to monitor its performance and manage progress in achieving its strategy.
- A strong communications and engagement protocol with the public, stakeholders and staff.
- The environmental impact of its suppliers of goods and services within its commissioning and procurement decisions and how the council is working with them to achieve improvements.
- How the council is using its partnerships to help it to reduce its own impacts on the environment and preparing for climate change for example, using shared buildings.

Ultimately, there will need to be evidence to demonstrate progress is being made in delivering against its strategy, plans and targets and that this progress is spread across the organisation.

3.5 The council will also be assessed upon how well it governs itself and commissions services that provide value for money and deliver better outcomes for local people. This includes:

- Ensuring that all commissioning and procurement activity targets quality services and supplies, is tailored to local needs, and delivers both sustainable outcomes and value for money;
- Production of relevant and reliable data and information to support decision making and manage performance. This also includes ensuring that data is compliant with relevant statutory requirements.

Sources of evidence

3.6 The following list provides some examples of potential sources of evidence to support the assessment:

- Sustainable development policy and objectives.
- Environmental policy and objectives.
- Sustainability impact appraisals
- Planning and monitoring information on environmental impact.
- Performance indicators (including National Indicators).
- Reports to the cabinet covering procurement decisions and investment appraisals.
- A verified environmental management system such as [EMAS](#) (EU Environmental Management and Audit Scheme) or [ISO 14001](#) (Environmental Management System).

Relevant National Indicators (NIs) from the Local Area Agreement (LAA)

3.7 Relevant NIs that have been selected within Brighton & Hove's LAA that an EMS would support are:

- ✓ NI 185 - CO2 reduction from local authority (council) operations.

3.8 Under the CAA our performance will also be assessed on the

- ✓ NI 194 – Air Quality - % reduction in NOx & primary PM10 emissions through local authority's estate and operations.

- ✓ NI 197 – Improved local biodiversity – proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or being implemented.

Proposals for way forward

Introducing an Environmental Management System (EMS)

- 3.9 The requirements for managing and monitoring the council's environmental performance as set within the CAA, and as detailed above, provide clear evidence for the need for introducing an accredited EMS in the council. The EMS would provide the Council with a structured framework for identifying evaluating, managing and improving its environmental performance. The EMS would help to ensure that the Council's overall environmental aims, as set out in its environmental policy, are implemented throughout the organisation.
- 3.10 The EMS would also ensure employees, contractors and suppliers would also know their roles and responsibilities in helping the Council achieve these environmental aims. This would be achieved through staff awareness and training, allocation of responsibilities for compliance and ensuring that responsible people are trained and competent. Continual improvement of the EMS would also hinge upon top management commitment as well as proper, focused and effective employee training. Furthermore, this will support delivery of the council's Investor in People policy with its commitment to performance management.

Initial Environmental Review (IER)

- 3.11 Before seeking any type of formal accreditation, the council would need to ensure that a thorough assessment is undertaken to account for all existing work across the organisation. Undertaking an IER will identify which key environmental aspects and impacts will require management and control and will inform the development of the Environmental Policy and improvement plans etc...

ISO 14001

- 3.12 ISO 14001 is an international standard specification for an EMS. It allows an organisation to take a systematic approach to the evaluation of how its activities, products and services interact with the environment and to control those activities to ensure that established environmental objectives and target are met. If the council wants to move on to introducing Eco-Management and Audit System it is necessary first to implement an EMS that meets the requirements of ISO 14001.

Eco-Management & Audit System (EMAS)

- 3.13 The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is the EU's voluntary scheme designed for companies and other organisations committing themselves to evaluate, manage and improve their environmental performance.

3.14 EMAS is currently the most credible and robust environmental management system on the market, adding four pillars to the requirements of the international standard for environmental management systems ISO/ EN ISO 14001:

- Continual improvement of environmental performance;
- Compliance with environmental legislation ensured by government supervision;
- Public information through annual reporting;
- Employee involvement.

Next steps

3.15 The proposed next steps would be:

- To work with TMT to identify specific departments and/or service areas to pilot an EMS;
- Undertaking an Initial Environmental Review for the selected areas;
- Develop a business case, and identify financial & resources implications.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Consultation has taken place between the Council's Performance Improvement Team and the Sustainability Team.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 The report outlines the importance of environmental management within the UoR assessment. Implementation of an Environment Management System will require resources to be identified within existing budgets. An Initial Environment Review will need to be undertaken and it is estimated that one or two full time staff, plus associated costs, will be required to coordinate the system in the longer term.

Finance Officer Consulted: Peter Francis

Date: 12/02/09

Legal Implications:

5.2 Introducing an Environmental Management System (EMS) should strengthen the Council's position in relation to the Carbon Reduction Commitment, a scheme given effect by the Climate Change Act 2008. The timescale under this legislation provides that CO₂ allocations can be traded between organisations from April 2011. This will mean that if the Council emits less CO₂ than its allowance in any one trading year, it can sell the excess volume it has not produced. Conversely, if it exceeds its CO₂ emissions allowance, it will be obliged to buy surplus allocations from other trading organisations.

- 5.3 The EMS will be supported further by the revised Procurement Code of Practice on Sustainability which the Cabinet Committee approved and endorsed on 19 January 2009.

Lawyer Consulted:

Oliver Dixon

Date: 12/02/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.4 If formal EMS is introduced across the council this would address equalities issues in the following ways:
- Provide access to the public on the council environmental performance
 - Provide a framework for active involvement of all council staff from all areas of the council in working to improve the council's environmental performance
 - Provide an opportunity to engage with the public in open dialogue about the environmental performance of the council (if EMAS is introduced)
- 5.5 If adopted right across council services an Equalities Impact Assessment may well be required.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.6 A council-wide Environmental Management System would provide a comprehensive framework for achieving corporate sustainability objectives and targets in all operations throughout the organisation. It would provide accuracy of information and accountability towards sustainability and for managing and improving the council's environmental performance. Furthermore, it would support delivery of the councils Carbon Management Programme, Climate Change Action Plan, Sustainability Strategy, and Sustainable Procurement Code of Practise.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.7 None identified.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.8 A formal risk assessment will need to be undertaken to fully assess the key risks and opportunities involved for introducing an accredited EMS. One of the key reasons for having an EMS in place is to reduce significant financial, service and reputational risks associated with non compliance to key environmental regulations. The Corporate Risk Register already recognises Corporate Risk 17 "Investing in the City's Sustainable Future". The introduction of an EMS could contribute to progression of actions to address this Corporate Risk.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.9 Having an accredited Environmental Management System would demonstrate city council leadership and commitment towards sustainable development and in achieving improving environmental performance.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 An evaluation of all alternative options have been considered through advice sought from both good case study examples from other Local Authorities who have an accredited EMS in place and from impartial and accredited third party assessors. The alternative options include the following:

a) Continuation of an informal environmental management approach

Although some good work has and is currently being delivered to improve the council's environmental performance, with no formal system in place to drive this, there are still many key areas that are not being addressed and information for which is not known i.e. poor overall management of our water use.

b) Going for ISO 14001 accreditation only across the council

Although achieving this council-wide would provide a comprehensive framework for environmental management that is recognised at an international level, in contrast to EMAS it does have limitations and is much less stringent on its requirements including (amongst others):

- No commitment for continued improvement of environmental performance of the organisation
- No requirement for open dialogue with the public,
- No staff involvement.

c) Going for EMAS only

Introducing this without ISO 14001 would mean that our environmental performance would only be recognised formally at a European level and would not formally comply with ISO International Standards. More importantly, in order to comply with the requirements of EMAS, the ISO/EN ISO 14001 certificate must be issued under one of the accreditation procedures recognised by the European Commission. The organisation would need to have taken steps to ensure that the scope to be covered by the EMAS registration is covered by an ISO/EN ISO 14001 certificate (see Appendix 2).

d) Going for the ISO 14001 and EMAS accreditation only in some departments.

Although this is a recommended approach in the short term, longer term ambition should be to seek EMAS accreditation right across the council so that a comprehensive management of the council's overall environmental performance can be achieved. This will also contribute to more accurate understanding of the council's environmental footprint data needed for UoR assessment.

Once this approach has been approved we will identify a department/s for undertaking pilot implementation.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 A drive for efficiency and Value for Money coupled with new environmental performance requirements in the UoR assessment mean that a more comprehensive and accountable environmental management approach is required.
- 7.2 Implementation of a formal EMS through the recommended approach specified in this paper will provide comprehensive knowledge, management and continued improvement of the council's environmental performance.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Managing Resources - How well does the organisation manage its natural resources, physical assets, and people to meet current and future needs and deliver value for money?, Key Lines of Enquiry 3.1, Use of Resources 2008/09 – Audit Commission
2. EMAS factsheet published by the European Commission 2008

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

Managing resources

How well does the organisation manage its natural resources, physical assets, and people to meet current and future needs and deliver value for money?

KLOE 3.1

Is the organisation making effective use of natural resources?

KLOE focus

The organisation:

- understands and can quantify its use of natural resources and can identify the main influencing factors;
- manages performance to reduce its impact on the environment; and
- manages the environmental risks it faces, working effectively with partners.

Why is this important?

By reducing its own consumption of natural resources, and by influencing others through the example it sets, the public sector can make a significant contribution to achieving sustainable development. *Securing the Future*, the UK sustainable development strategy, 2005, sets out key principles, the first being “living within environmental limits and ensuring that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations”.

In the context of this assessment by ‘natural resources’ we mean resources that occur naturally on the earth, which the organisation in the conduct of its own operations either consumes directly, or impacts upon:

- energy;
- clean water;
- clean air;
- land and soil; and
- materials including plant and animal products (such as wood and food) and minerals.

Using natural resources will have environmental impacts for example, reducing resources for future generations or by polluting land, air or water. Using fewer natural resources or using them more wisely will reduce those impacts. It is helpful to think about the impact of the goods and services used by the public sector across their whole lifecycles – what detrimental effect they could have on climate change, and what wastes they could produce.

Note: the focus of KLOE 3.1 is on the organisation's own impact on the environment, from the resources it consumes in the delivery of its services. It is not about how it acts to reduce the consumption of resources by others, such as businesses or the wider community. The area assessment under CAA will deal with environmental issues in the wider area.

Local government

Sector context

Local government is a major consumer of natural resources. In its role as community leader a council can set a good example to others: by putting its own house in order. In doing so, it will enhance its own credibility and be more likely to exert a positive influence on others.

Note: for 2008/09 this KLOE will only be applicable to single tier and county councils, and will not be assessed at district councils.

Energy

Councils will use energy for most activities they undertake in their day-to-day business – heating, air-conditioning, lighting, operating appliances, and transport. Fuel and electricity bills show how much energy the council is using and whether consumption is dropping as the result of energy saving measures adopted.

The main environmental impact of producing and using energy such as electricity, gas, fuel (unless it is from a renewable source) is the emission of carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is one of the main gases causing climate change.

Clean water

The Water Act 2003 places a duty on all public bodies to conserve water.

Councils will typically use water in their offices, in schools, in sports and leisure centres, parks, in public toilets, in libraries, museums, community centres and public halls, nursing homes, children's homes, council depots, for washing vehicles and so on.

Where water is metered water bills will reveal water use.

Pumping water to and from consumers and treating it at water treatment plants uses energy and thus contributes to climate change. For example according to [Waterwise](#) this accounts for 1% of the UK's total energy consumption. Climate change will also impact on the availability of fresh water.

Clean air

Government sets air quality objectives which councils are required to meet and these cover pollutants such as benzene, sulphur dioxide, lead, and particles (produced especially from diesel engines). It also produces guidance on [local air quality management](#).

The fuels that councils use, for example to run their vehicle fleets, will impact on local air quality, especially if they run on diesel.

Land and soil

Land provides the basic habitats for plants and animals, and is key to protecting and improving biodiversity.

Soil is an irreplaceable natural resource that provides the essential link between the components that make up our environment. Maintaining [soil quality](#) is of particular importance on land that councils manage: gardens and allotments, open spaces and parks, road verges, school playing fields and cemeteries. Urban development and construction of transport infrastructure are the main causes of almost irreversible net soil loss, where soil is covered by impervious materials.

Materials

- **Plant and animal products from forestry, agriculture, fishing** - a decent quality of life depends on goods made from natural products, in turn made from plants and animals. For example, councils use wood in buildings and in paper, and foodstuffs in canteens and care homes. Councils can reduce the quantities they require by actively managing use and identifying opportunities to reduce waste. They should ensure that they come from sustainable or local sources that reduce the impacts from transportation. For example, wood for buildings or furniture could be [Forest Stewardship Council certified](#), and foods provided by the council could be locally sourced and or organic.
- **Metals and minerals** - councils use minerals in various ways, such as in building or road construction, for salting roads in winter, and in products they buy. Councils can reduce the environmental impact of these activities by for example, using recycled aggregates in road building and ensuring it has appropriate winter maintenance plans that target road salting on a risk basis.
- **Waste** - councils need to deal with waste disposal and factor in the whole life costs for any goods they buy. For example, new computers may be more energy efficient but councils will have to decide how to dispose of their old stock. This maybe through re-sale, local community or international development re-use schemes, or disposal in as environmentally friendly way as possible.

What might you expect to see?

Understanding and quantifying the use of natural resources

What's this about?

This is about whether the council knows what natural resources it consumes in its own operations, and what strategic approach it has in place to reduce the use of those natural resources. It includes the:

- land and buildings it occupies (see also guidance for KLOE 3.2 for asset management);
- goods, services, works and utilities it procures;
- plant, equipment and vehicles it uses; and
- employment practices it adopts for its staff.

Getting the basics right - what might you expect to see?

The council is developing a strategy to reduce its own use of natural resources and its impact on the environment. The council is gathering information to set a base-line of the natural resources it uses and understands where it can most effectively intervene to reduce its use of natural resources.

The development of its strategy is based on a clear understanding of its own:

- carbon emissions;
- water use; and
- consumption of other resources.

The council shows evidence of working with others across its area in developing its strategy. It is also engaging with its staff and gaining their commitment to and ownership of the council's approach to reducing its impact on the environment.

It has identified some initiatives to support its strategy and reduce its impact on the environment. It is producing plans to deliver these initiatives.

Performs well – what you might expect to see?

The information that the council has on its impacts on the environment is being used to help reduce its use of natural resources. It knows which of its operations produce most carbon and is targeting these areas as a priority.

It has a strategy which shows how it will reduce its own use of natural resources and its impact on the environment. This strategy is supported by delivery plans, for example to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, achieve energy and water efficiency, and optimise the use of renewable resources. Other corporate plans within the council, such as financial or HR plans support the delivery of its strategy. It is working effectively with partners in developing, implementing and monitoring plans.

Managing performance to reduce impact on the environment and managing environmental risks

What's this about?

This is about how the council manages its performance to reduce its environmental impact. For example does it know where its big environmental impacts are; has it set targets to reduce the major impacts; is it meeting those targets and can it measure progress on the targets? Reducing environmental impact requires robust performance management based on a good understanding of the use of natural resources. The council needs to have systems and processes in place across its operations.

It is also about how the council is delivering against its strategy to manage the environmental risks it faces or might face in the future, and how effectively it works with partners to do this. For example how is it planning to adapt its work to deal with changes in climate and weather patterns (for example, damage to property and infrastructure from flooding and excessive heat).

Getting the basics right - what might you expect to see?

The council is establishing systems and processes to manage its own performance to:

- reduce its use of energy, fuel, water and raw materials through reducing demand and using more efficient approaches or products;
- reduce the waste it produces, and reusing and recycling resources wherever possible; and
- manage habitats to increase biodiversity.

The council is incorporating targets into its arrangements and establishing the systems it needs to monitor progress in achieving these targets.

Performs well – what else might you expect to see?

The council has reliable information (this links with KLOE 2.2) which it uses to monitor its performance and manage progress in achieving its strategy. It is communicating performance against its strategy to the public, stakeholders and staff and engaging effectively with them.

It is making progress in delivering against its strategy, plans and targets. It is reducing its environmental impacts and consumption of natural resources from its operations in line with the targets it has set itself. This progress is spread across the organisation. It has identified the significant environmental risks that could impact on the delivery of its operations.

Sustainability impact appraisals are undertaken for all major projects and programmes. Where assessments show potential negative impacts, the council can demonstrate how it has responded for example, by either changing its policy, mitigating risks or having a plan to manage the effects.

The council considers the environmental impact of its suppliers of goods and services within its commissioning and procurement decisions and is working with them to achieve improvements.

The council is using its partnerships to help it to reduce its own impacts on the environment and preparing for climate change for example, using shared buildings.

Sources of evidence

The following list provides examples of potential sources of evidence. The list is not exhaustive and auditors may draw on other sources of evidence, reflecting local circumstances, to support their judgements on this KLOE.

- Sustainable development policy and objectives.
- Environmental policy and objectives.
- Sustainability impact appraisals
- Planning and monitoring information on environmental impact.
- Performance indicators (including National Indicators).
- Reports to the cabinet covering procurement decisions and investment appraisals.
- A verified environmental management system such as [EMAS](#) (EU Environmental Management and Audit Scheme) or [ISO 14001](#) (Environmental Management System).

Relevant National Indicators

- NI 185 - CO2 reduction from local authority (council) operations.
- NI 188 - Adapting to climate change.
- NI 189 - Flood and coastal erosion risk management.
- NI 194 - Level of air quality – reduction in NOX and primary PM10 emissions through local authority's (council's) estate and operations.
- NI 197 - Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites.

Please refer to the [CLG Handbook of definitions](#) for definitions and further information.

Reference material and further information

Background to sustainable development and living within environmental limits

[Securing the Future – UK National Sustainable Development Strategy.](#)

Defra sets out its position on the use of natural resources to deliver [Public Service Agreement 28: 'Secure a healthy natural environment for today and the future'](#) and also has a [natural environment policy](#).

[LGA and DEFRA Joint Environmental Prospectus](#) – a shared commitment to work together to instil a strategic approach to the environment.

[Your sustainability questions answered.](#)

[Local decision-making and sustainable development](#), published by the Sustainable Development Commission.

Climate Change references

Background information and guidance on [improving surface water drainage](#) produced by DEFRA.

[Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change](#) on mitigating and adapting to climate change, focused on councils.

[Carbon Trust information for the public sector](#) on reducing energy consumption, including its [guide to carbon footprinting](#).

The [Energy Savings Trust](#) offers advice, support and services designed to encourage organisations to meet the challenge of reducing CO2 emissions.

The [UK Climate Impacts Programme \(UKCIP\)](#) provides [tools, methods and guidance](#), including the [local impacts profile tool](#).

CIPFA

[CIPFA has an area of its website on sustainability](#) and has produced a free discussion paper [Advancing Sustainability Accounting and Reporting: an agenda for public service organisations](#).

Case Studies

The [Knowledge Gateway](#) contains notable practice from our work and is updated regularly.

EMAS - Factsheet



What is EMAS?

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is the EU's voluntary scheme designed for companies and other organisations committing themselves to evaluate, manage and improve their environmental performance.

EMAS is currently the most credible and robust environmental management system on the market, adding four pillars to the requirements of the international standard for environmental management systems ISO/EN ISO 14001:

- continual improvement of environmental performance;
- compliance with environmental legislation ensured by government supervision;
- public information through annual reporting;
- employee involvement.

Who can participate in EMAS?

EMAS is open to all types of organisations in the public and private sector which want to improve their environmental performance. It applies to all 27 Member States of the European Union, to the European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and to the Candidate Countries for EU membership (Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey).

EMAS can be introduced easily in small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), even with few financial and human resources, or limited in-house expertise. Large and multi-site organisations can benefit from the standardisation of EMAS in all sectors EU-wide. For local authorities, EMAS can help to streamline environmental activities and requirements e.g. in administration, construction, health and education.

Compatibility of EMAS with international standards

EMAS and ISO/EN ISO 14001 share the same objective: to provide good environmental management. Yet, they are too often seen as competitors. Back in 1996, the Commission recognised that ISO/EN ISO 14001 could become a steppingstone for EMAS. In such a way, the adoption of ISO/EN ISO 14001 as the management system element of EMAS allows your organisation to easily progress from ISO/EN ISO 14001 to EMAS without duplicating efforts.

What is the difference between ISO/EN ISO 14001 and EMAS?

While EMAS and ISO/EN ISO 14001 share the same objective, they are different in a number of ways. These differences are illustrated below showing in particular where EMAS goes beyond the ISO/EN ISO 14001 requirements.

	EMAS	ISO/EN ISO 14001
Status	Under legal bases (EU Member States and EEA countries). Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council under public law	Under no legal bases. (International: world wide) ISO standard under private law
Organisation	The entity to be registered shall not exceed the boundaries of the Member State, and it is intended to go towards entities and sites	Does not go towards entities or sites
Environmental policy	Included commitment to continual improvement of environmental performance of the organisation	Does not include a commitment to the continual improvement of environmental performance but of the performance of the system
Initial environmental review	Obligatory preliminary review, when is the first time that the organisation sets its environmental status	Initial review is recommended, but not required
Environmental aspects	Identification and evaluation of the environmental aspects (direct and indirect). Establishment of criteria for assessing the significance of the environmental aspects	Required only a procedure able to identify environmental aspects
Legal compliance	Obligatory to demonstrate it. Required full legal compliance. There is a compliance-audit	Only commitment to comply with applicable legal requirements. There is no compliance-audit
External communication	Open dialogue with the public. Public Environmental Statement (validated for verifiers)	Not open dialogue with the public. Only is required to respond to relevant communication from external interested parts. Control by public is not possible
Continual improvement	Required annual improvement	Required periodically improvement without a defined frequency
Management review	Is wider and requires an evaluation of the environmental performance of the organization, based in a performance-audit	Required an environmental performance in the management, but not through a performance audit
Contractors and suppliers	Required influence over contractors and suppliers	Relevant procedures are communicated to contractors and suppliers
Employees involvement	Active involvement of employees and their representatives	No
Internal environmental auditing	Includes: system-audit, a performance-audit (= evaluation of environmental performance) and an environmental compliance-audit (= determination of legal compliance)	Included only system audit against the requirements of the standard
Auditor	Required the independence of the auditor	Advised the independence of the auditor

	EMAS	ISO/EN ISO 14001
Audits	Check for improvement of environmental performance. Frequency required: 3 year cycle during which all areas are verified at least once	Check environmental system performance. No frequency required
External verification	Accredited environmental verifiers	No
Verification/Certification Scope	Verifiers accredited according to NACE codes	Certifiers accredited according to EAC code
Authorities are informed	Obligation by Validation of Environmental Statement	No obligation
Logo	Yes	No

The emergence of ISO/EN ISO 14001 has helped EMAS in terms of raising general awareness of environmental management schemes. The two systems are complementary but EMAS is more rigorous in some areas. EMAS continues to be seen as more prestigious than ISO/EN ISO 14001 in many Member States.

**Make a difference!
Join the EMAS club.**

EMAS and ISO/EN ISO 14001: differences and complementarities

How to implement EMAS if ISO/EN ISO 14001 already exists?

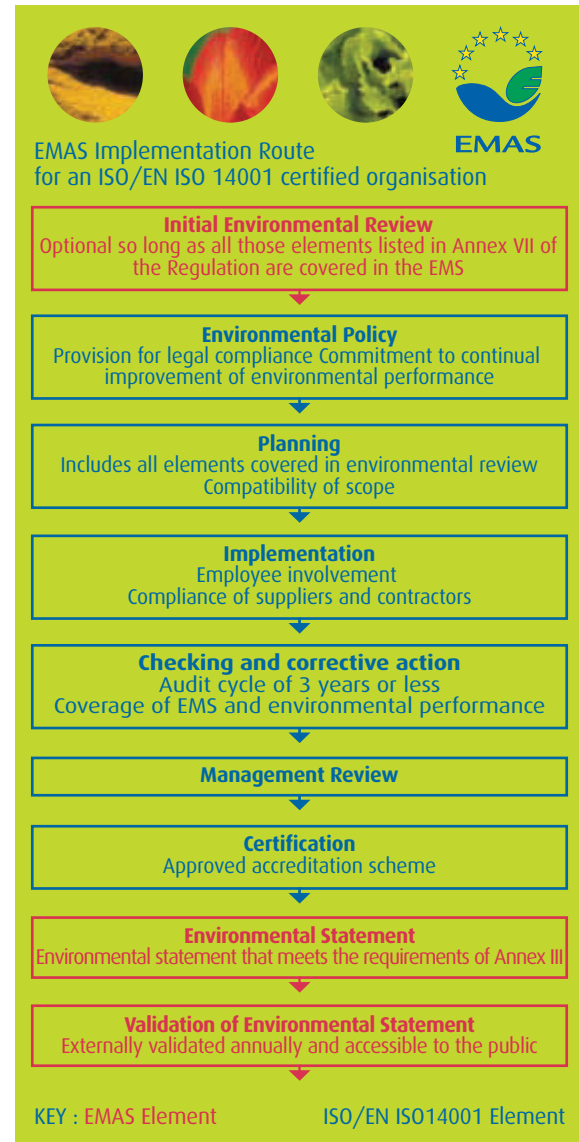
If your organisation is already ISO/EN ISO 14001 certified, the recent revisions have made it easier to register for EMAS. Minor modifications will need to be made to the core ISO/EN ISO 14001 elements as well as some additional steps specific to EMAS.

Additional steps for EMAS registration

- Initial Environmental Review** – EMAS requires an initial environmental review to identify an organisation's environmental aspects. Organisations ISO/EN ISO 14001 certified do not need to conduct a formal environmental review when implementing EMAS, as long as specific environmental aspects in Annex VI, are fully considered in the certified EMS.
- Environmental statement** – EMAS requires an environmental statement, based on the outcome of the EMS. The environmental statement has to fulfil the requirements of Annex III and examine all the data generated by the environmental management system to ensure it is represented in a fair and balanced way in the environmental statement.
- Validation of the environmental statement and environmental performance** – The Environmental Statement must be validated independently. This process will check that the statement meets the requirements of Annex III and is publicly available.

Modifications to ISO/EN ISO 14001 to meet EMAS requirements

- Environmental Policy** – Your organisation must strengthen its statement of commitment included in its environmental policy to make provision for regulatory compliance. If more than one site is registered under EMAS then continual improvement must be demonstrated on a site-by-site basis.
- Planning** – Your organisation should ensure that in identifying its environmental aspects in the planning stage of ISO/EN ISO 14001, it has addressed the items listed in Annex VI which is applicable. Your organisation should also ensure that all the elements of the initial environmental review, detailed in Annex VII, have been considered and incorporated where necessary in the ISO/EN ISO 14001 process. Your organisation should take steps to ensure that the scope to be covered by the EMAS registration is covered by the ISO/EN ISO 14001 certificate.
- Implementation** – One of the requirements of EMAS is the active participation of employees in the environmental improvement programme. This may be achieved in a variety of ways, like for example: an environmental committee; suggestion book or environmental representatives. Your organisation should also take steps to ensure that any suppliers and contractors used also comply with your organisation's environmental policy.
- Checking and corrective action** – It is necessary for your organisation to check that the frequency of the audit cycle is in compliance with Annex II of the EMAS Regulation and takes place at intervals of no longer than 3 years. In addition to the EMS being audited, your organisation's environmental performance must also be addressed annually to demonstrate continual improvement.
- Certification of ISO/EN ISO 14001** – In order to comply with the requirements of EMAS, the ISO/EN ISO 14001 certificate must be issued under one of the accreditation procedures recognised by the European Commission.



Essential items regarding the process and the principles of EMAS, which go beyond ISO/EN ISO 14001

- Continual annual improvement of the environmental performance of the organisation
- Initial environmental review required
- Legal compliance is required and checked through out the whole process before registration
- Identification of all environmental aspects for the determination of the significant ones
- Internal environmental auditing includes: environmental manage system-audit, an environmental performance audit and an environmental compliance-audit
- Environmental Statement required
- Full legal compliance required: commitment included in policy, identification of legal and other environmental requirements, periodic evaluation, awareness and training, operational controls and emergency preparedness, monitoring, audits and management review and delivery of improvements

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SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 40

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Sustainability Conference Theme 2009/10
Date of Meeting: 16 March 2009
Report of: Acting Director of Strategy & Governance
Contact Officer: Name: Thurstan Crockett Tel: 29-2503
E-mail: thurstan.crockett@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: No Forward Plan No. N/A
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The City Council has organised a Sustainability Conference annually for the past seven years and it has become a feature of the annual calendar.
- 1.2 The conference has steadily grown in stature in the city and is a highly visible demonstration of the city council's sustainability commitment.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 (1) That the Sustainability Cabinet Committee directs officers in the Sustainability Team to organise the next Sustainability conference on the theme of the sea.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The city council has organised an annual Sustainability Conference for a number of years now, covering the themes of biodiversity (Urban Biosphere), water shortage, climate change, making the Community Strategy sustainable, sustainable businesses, sustainable city (Strategy launch), and education for sustainable development.
- 3.2 In recent years the conferences have typically been attended by 100-150 people from across the city and have enhanced the reputation of the city council by exploring cutting edge issues and ideas and providing a platform for engagement.
- 3.3 In 2008 the conference grew further, to become a two-day conference attended by 240 delegates from a far wider pool. It gained national press coverage and international attention; and a wider audience still by launching an impressive bid to become the world's first Urban Biosphere – prioritising green spaces and wildlife in the city.
- 3.4 For a number of reasons, it feels time to consider a sea theme to the conference:

- A new Marine & Coastal Access Bill (See Appendix 1) has new implications for the city council and the sea locally, as well as for the shoreline.
 - The Clean City, Clean Sea plastic bag campaign is based strongly on scientific evidence of the damage plastic does to marine wildlife, and this is another opportunity to show council leadership.
 - A large new windfarm development is planned for the coast off Sussex and this could easily take a whole day of the conference alone.
- 3.5 A wide range of other issues and themes could be explored or touched on during the conference, including: other marine renewables (tidal, wave), sea level rise and storm surge - climate change risks and coastal protection, marine wildlife (e.g. beneath the West Pier), local seafood, the history of Brighton re its fishing origins and bathing; the work of the Seafront office and beach cleaning teams; swimming and sailing/leisure pursuits; beach wildlife tours; Ovingdean/Rottingdean rock pools etc. Even “Sink one for Seaford”, the idea of sinking a boat off the coast nearby to create a new mini reef for marine wildlife.
- 3.6 The credit crunch may mean sponsors are harder to secure this time, but possible sponsors / partners in the conference could include The Sea Life Centre, Southern Water, The Marine Conservation Society, RiverOcean, SeaRoc/Crown Estate and the winning company in the windfarm development competition, and possibly the Environment Agency again.
- 3.7 In 2008 the conference budget rose from about £5,000 to about £10,500 because it ran over two days, but officers also pulled in £3,700 in sponsorship. The balance was shared across two council directorates.
- 3.8 One lesson of the larger 2008 conference was that partnership working – last time with the University of Brighton – helps hugely and officers propose to adopt this approach again. Early planning is also essential, and due to workload pressures and resource constraints, officers would prefer to move the conference to later in the financial year.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Seafront, communications, ecology, leisure and economic development officers have been consulted.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The net cost of the conference will need to be met from the 2009/10 budget provision and is estimated to cost up to £10,000. There is a risk that sponsorship may not be attracted and this will need to be considered in planning for the conference in order that the budget is not exceeded.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 17/02/09

Legal Implications:

5.2 As indicated in 3.4 above, a Sustainability Conference in 2009/10 themed around the sea will dovetail with the Marine and Coastal Access Bill currently before Parliament and expected to receive royal assent later this year.

5.3 Given the length of coastline marking the southern edge of the city and the expanse of sea beyond, the Bill has real significance for the Council. A full exposition is given at Appendix 1 but the key provisions can be summarised as follows:

- A new system of marine management, covering a new planning system for setting out the Government's strategic objectives for the marine environment and developing marine plans for what should happen where in each area of the sea.
- Changes to the way licensing of activities in the marine environment are undertaken
- New marine conservation zones
- Changes to the way fisheries are managed
- Modification to the way licensing, conservation and fisheries rules are enforced.
- Creation of an Exclusive Economic Zone for the UK
- Amended system for managing migratory and freshwater fish
- Creation of recreational access to the English coast

The Council's lawyers can provide members with more detail on any of these proposals, if required.

Lawyer Consulted:

Oliver Dixon

Date: 26/02/09

Equalities Implications:

5.4 None anticipated.

Sustainability Implications:

5.5 As a coastal city, Brighton & Hove has a real impact on the local marine ecology and protecting the natural environment is a key component of sustainability.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.6 None anticipated.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.7 There are some risks attached to choosing a marine theme:

- Possible changes to the city's beaches' Blue Flag status – this is affected mainly by pollutant run off from city streets and the timing of bathing water sampling takes (e.g. after heavy rain).
- The Wastewater (sewage) Treatment plant being built at Peacehaven – although this is a positive step for the marine environment, it is very unpopular in that area.
- Marina and Shoreham Harbour developments – as developments right by the sea, these have numerous complications and vocal dissenters to both development and lack of development.
- The West Pier – calls in some quarters for demolition and re-development may conflict with the structure's importance for marine and bird life.

Corporate / Citywide Implications

5.8 Brighton & Hove is a significant UK city by the sea and the marine environment plays an important role in its life and appeal, especially for visitors.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 An alternative theme could be A Sustainable Economy. This could examine both the job creation potential of large scale energy efficiency and the future growth potential of environmental industries across the city – though this is already the subject of a Scrutiny Panel between March and May this year.

6.2 Another alternative could be related to Saving Money and Saving the Planet, in response to the credit crunch and continued interest in tackling climate change. This could explore how to expand energy efficiency programmes, smart metering and also the plans for water company programmes of water metering and retrofitting of water saving devices. But this also raises affordability issues re water metering for larger, low income families.

6.3 There is a realistic option to return to a single day conference if sponsorship and other resources (help in kind) cannot be secured to run a successful two-day event.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Deputy Leader with special responsibility for sustainability supports the sea theme proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Marine & Coastal Access Bill briefing note

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. Details of the 2008 Sustainability Conference on the Urban Biosphere theme and the papers and presentations are at:

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1196955

Marine and Coastal Access Bill

The Government has been working towards a marine bill for a number of years and the Marine and Coastal Access Bill (MACAB) was introduced in the House of Lords on 4 December 2008. It has reached the Lords' Committee stage during its passage through Parliament, and is likely to take a further 3-4 months before gaining royal assent. Based on that timescale, one or more elements of the Bill are likely to become law from October 2009.

In summary, MACAB:

- introduces a new system of marine management, covering new planning processes to implement the Government's strategic objectives for the marine environment
- changes the licensing of marine activities
- alters how marine fisheries are to be managed
- provides for the designation of marine conservation areas
- enables greater recreational access to the English and Welsh coasts

These provisions are described in more detail below.

1. Marine Management

MACAB proposes a new Marine Management Organisation as a centre of expertise and to provide a consistent and unified approach to all aspects of marine management. Its functions will include:

- making decisions according to the Marine Policy Statement on marine development. Decisions on electricity generation and renewable energy installations will come within its scope
- licensing fishing activity under the EU Common Fisheries policy
- licensing marine environmental activities
- operating the harbours regime
- undertaking nature and conservation activities

2. Marine Planning

Long-term objectives relating to the sustainable development of the marine area are to be set out in a Marine Policy Statement (MPS). A series of marine plans will then be produced, identifying how the policies and objectives in the MPS will apply at local level.

3. Marine Licensing

MACAB seeks to simplify the current system for licensing marine activities such as coastal engineering works, works to harbours, dredging and renewable electricity projects

4. Marine Nature Conservation

The Sec of State may designate a network of marine ecosystems to be known as Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in order to protect sensitive habitats and species

5. Management of Fisheries

In place of the existing Sea Fisheries Committee, there will be new Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) with duties relating to the operation of inshore fisheries and nature conservation. The Environment Agency will have new powers to conserve and manage migratory fish, in response to depleting fish stocks.

6. Coastal Access

The Sec of State and Natural England will be required to secure public access to a new route around the whole English coast, accessible by foot or ferry; and to provide a margin of land along the length of the coast which the public can enjoy. Rights of access will not be unfettered: they must strike a fair balance between the interests of the public wishing to access the route and those of any person with a legal interest in the land.

Subject: Eco Schools Programme Update
Date of Meeting: 16 March 2009
Report of: Acting Director of Strategy & Governance
Contact Officer: Name: Sarah Costelloe Tel: 29-3331
E-mail: sarah.costelloe@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: No Forward Plan No. N/A
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report explains what the city council's Eco Schools work entails and how it fits into a wider Environmental Education programme.
- 1.2 The work described helps meet the council priority to "protect the environment while growing the economy".

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 (1) That the Sustainability Cabinet Committee note the report.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

Eco Schools in Brighton & Hove

- 3.1 Brighton & Hove has one of the most successful eco schools programmes in the country. This has steadily increased since May 2007, with good progress from schools moving from Bronze to Silver and then onto the top Green Flag level. Currently, over 80% of state schools in the city are at least registered on the Eco Schools Programme, with 62% achieving award status (see appendix 1).

What is Eco Schools?

- 3.2 Launched in Brighton & Hove during 1998, Eco Schools is an international environmental award scheme for schools, rewarding and accrediting schools that have made a commitment to continuously improving their environmental performance.

- 3.3 Most children and young people care deeply about environmental issues. They can learn about these issues in the classroom as well as through the media. They want to 'help the planet' but knowing what to do and how to do it is not always easy. Eco Schools is rooted in a genuine desire to help children become more effective and involved citizens, and promotes valuable life skills such as leadership, independence and social responsibility. The Eco Schools programme is the ideal and easy-to-understand framework on which teachers can 'hang' all their environmental education work.
- 3.4 Eco Schools is much more than an environmental management system for schools. It is a whole-school programme for promoting environmental awareness and sustainability issues in a way that links to the National Curriculum, developing skills of participation and responsible action. It is also an award scheme that will raise the profile of the school in the wider community, and carries a great deal of kudos too.

What are the benefits of becoming an Eco School?

- 3.5 The Eco Schools programme can help schools to:
- Improve their school environment, indoors as well as outdoors.
 - Reduce litter and minimise waste.
 - Reduce energy and water bills.
 - Promote healthier lifestyles.
 - Address traffic congestion and road safety issues.
 - Encourage citizenship and wider global perspectives.
 - Develop the creative curriculum.
 - Forge international links with other schools.
- 3.6 The Eco Schools programme brings additional benefits:
- Recognition and publicity.
 - Funding opportunities and budget savings.
 - Links to the National Curriculum.
 - School improvements, both physical and attitudinal.
- 3.7 Eco Schools enables excellent progress towards achieving objectives laid out in Every Child Matters, published in 2004. This details the aim for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to:
- Be healthy
 - Stay safe
 - Enjoy and achieve
 - Make a positive contribution
 - Achieve economic well-being
- 3.8 These key aims underpin the National Curriculum and the Schools Evaluation Framework used by Ofsted during the inspection process. In a May 2008 report on schools and sustainability, Ofsted recommends that local authorities and their partners should 'develop a common vision for a sustainable community in which the contribution of schools is explicit and work together to implement it'. It is clear that Ofsted value this work and the whole school ethos it engenders.

How do schools get involved?

- 3.9 Schools can apply to join this free voluntary scheme via ENCAMS (formerly known as the Tidy Britain Group). Once a school has registered they receive a handbook, an information CD and access to a website giving lots of practical advice on how to set up Eco Schools within a school, and how to maximise the positive effects of the programme.
- 3.10 Once registered the school has to set up an eco committee, which ideally should be student-dominated, as the children and young people should be at the centre of the decision making process.

How is progress assessed?

- 3.11 Schools can achieve each stage in their own time. The first level is the bronze award, followed by the silver award, and the ultimate goal is the coveted Green Flag status which is awarded after an external assessment.

How does the local authority support the Eco Schools scheme?

- 3.12 Since its inception, Eco Schools has been supported by the Environmental Education Officer as part of a wider Schools Environmental Education Programme, previously delivered by 1.5 FTE officers and now delivered by 1 officer (a part-time Environmental Education Officer working three days a week, and a Support Officer for 2 days a week).

What else has the Environmental Education programme delivered in 2008, apart from supporting Eco Schools?

- 3.13.1 A programme of PSHE lessons on Environmental Education themes, delivered to every child in year 7 (Litter), year 8 (Recycling), year 9 (Vandalism) and year 10 (Global Environment) at Dorothy Stringer School, plus many other series of one-off visits to schools within the city. This supports the work of colleagues at City Clean across a range of areas, most notably in the drive to increase recycling rates and promote new collection arrangements.
- 3.13.2 Several competitions to highlight events such as Fairtrade Fortnight in February, and World Toilet Day in November.
- 3.13.3 The Young Environmentalist of the Year Award Ceremony (2008).
- 3.13.4 Eco weeks at Carden Primary School, Somerhill Junior School, Saltdean Primary School and Brighton College Pre-Prep School, and Green Activity Days at Cardinal Newman Catholic School and Dorothy Stringer High School.
- 3.13.5 A pilot art & film education project - More Plastic than Plankton - in which an artist worked with students from Somerhill Junior, St Luke's Junior, St Mark's CE Primary, Westdene Primary, Coldean Primary, Portslade Infants and Carden Primary.

- 3.13.6 Cool Seas Roadshow - visiting 10 schools over 2 weeks (St Marks CE Primary, Carden Primary, West Hove Infants, Hangelton Infants, Woodingdean Primary, St Luke's Infants, Queens Park Primary School, St Mary Magdalene RC Primary, St Peters Infant & Nursery and Moulsecoomb Primary School), delivering interactive presentations on the marine environment to approximately 6,000 children.
- 3.13.7 An Eco Schools Twilight training session for teachers.
- 3.13.8 A teachers' inset training session in partnership with the BBC Breathing Places officer on the subject of school grounds improvement.
- 3.13.9 A Climate Change Workshop, hosted by Brighton & Hove High School and attended by student delegates from ten local schools (Somerville Junior, West Hove Junior School, Lancing College Prep, St Luke's Junior, Middle St Primary, St Andrews C.E. Primary School, St Mary Magdalen, Cardinal Newman, Hangleton Junior, Westdene).
- 3.13.10 Supported the Heritage & Environment Festival and teacher inset hosted by Moulsecoomb Primary School.
- 3.13.11 A DVD project about vandalism, working with the Media department at Dorothy Stringer School.

What other resources directly support the council's first priority to "protect the environment" through schools work?

- 3.14 There are a range of council officers providing services which support this priority and which directly contribute towards sustainable development education in schools. The Healthy & Extended Schools Team has achieved great success in implementing a programme that also meets many sustainability targets around food and local well-being. A School Travel Planning Officer will have developed travel plans for all the city's schools by March 2010, similarly contributing to travel and traffic targets. Until recently, a School Grounds Biodiversity Action Plan Officer was employed to get 70% of schools using their 'outdoor classroom' by 2011. Despite great success, most notably the development of grounds at Moulsecoomb Primary School, this post expired at the end of last year due to grant funding coming to an end. For more information, please refer to appendix 2.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Children & Young People's Trust and sustainable schools contacts have been consulted.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The resources associated with the Schools Environmental Education programme are managed through the sustainability budget.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 16/02/09

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from the report.

Lawyer Consulted:

Oliver Dixon

Date: 26/02/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 All Green Flag primary schools achieved above average results in 2007 KS2 assessments. The two state secondary schools with Green Flag status both achieved above average exam results. None of the secondary schools achieving average GCSE results of less than 40% have made any progress with Eco Schools, although two of them are registered.
- 5.4 Although no formal monitoring of the equalities impact of the schools Environmental Education programme has taken place, there is some concern that resources may be disproportionately favouring high achieving, well-resourced schools. This should be addressed in future service planning.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.5 Authority support for the development of whole school environmental programmes supports sustainability across schools and the city, promoting long-term sustainable development and behaviour.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.6 With a strong focus on the consequences of anti-social behaviour in KS3 lessons, the environmental education programme is able to positively affect juvenile petty criminal behaviour. Litter and vandalism, and their consequences, are a frequent focus of the environmental education programme.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.7 There are “victim of success” risks of the Schools Environmental Education and Eco Schools programmes becoming overstretched – this is being addressed through internal Strategy & Governance discussions about resourcing.
- 5.8 There are both risks and opportunities regarding integration of environmental education programme – based in Strategy & Governance - with all CYPT’s schools work.

Corporate / Citywide Implications

- 5.9 Protecting the environment by promoting long-term sustainable development is a key priority. A fully resourced environmental education programme is able to deliver a range of positive activities for all young people, particularly those with behavioural, emotional and social needs. Most importantly, it is crucial in fostering the environmentally aware behaviours and attitudes increasingly required of future citizens.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

Sustainable Schools Framework

- 6.1 The Sustainable Schools Framework is a clear, comprehensive government strategy supporting work across 'eight doorways'. The aim is to develop existing programmes, e.g. Eco Schools, i.e. building on rather than replacing/undermining existing programmes of support. The government have stated that it 'would like every school to be a sustainable school by 2020' but has provided little to resource this with. Some schools and authorities engaging with this framework have found the s3 self-audit tool complex and time-consuming. The lack of an award system, like that used in Eco Schools, makes it difficult for schools to celebrate their progress and motivate students to build on success. The framework is non-statutory.
- 6.2 The framework was assessed by the Healthy & Extended Schools Strategy Group in early 2008. It was generally agreed that, although the strategy is ambitious, without central funding from DCSF it remains difficult to justify allocation of resources to its implementation. The Sustainability Team continues to invest in developing its highly successful Eco Schools work, while an informal Internal Sustainable Schools Network is used to disseminate information from DCSF and GOSE to relevant council officers.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Some concern about poor awareness of the extent and external profile of Eco Schools and the Environmental Education programme, at the same time as an increase in the number of schools requiring environmental education support.
- 7.2 Every Child's Future Matters: 'it may not be possible to deliver ECM at all unless sustainable development [...] becomes one of its leading considerations'.
- 7.3 Ofsted report on Schools and Sustainability May 2008: key recommendation to 'give a higher priority to sustainable schools...funding for central and local initiatives... making it an integral part of [school] improvement plans'.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Chart: Brighton & Hove Eco Schools February 2009
2. Table: Council support for school sustainability
3. Case studies: Dorothy Stringer High School & Hove Park School

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Every Child Matters: Change for Children, DfES 2004
2. 2006 DfES Sustainable Schools Consultation: response from Brighton & Hove, Sustainability Commission, September 2006

Background Documents

1. Schools & Sustainability, Ofsted May 2008
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Education/Leadership/Management/Schools-and-sustainability/>
2. Every Child's future Matters, Sustainable Development Commission, June 2007
<http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=578>
3. Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto, DfES 2006
<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFES-04232-2006&>

Brighton & Hove Eco Schools February 2009

School	Type	Composting	Growing food
Aldrington CE Primary School	Pri		
Alternative Centre for Education (ACE)	Sp pri		
Balfour Infant School	Inf	Y	Y
Balfour Junior School	Jnr		Y
Benfield Junior School	Jnr	Y	Y
Bevendean Primary School	Pri		
Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College	Sec		
Brighton & Hove High School	Ind		
Brighton & Hove High School Junior	Ind		
Brighton College	Ind		
Brighton College Prep School	Ind		
Brighton College Pre-Prep School	Ind		
Brighton Steiner School	Ind		
Brighton, Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College	FE		
Carden Primary School	Pri		
Cardinal Newman Catholic School	Sec		
Carlton Hill Primary School	Pri		
The Cedar Centre	Pri	Y	Y
City College Brighton & Hove	FE		
Coldean Primary School	Pri		
Coombe Road Primary School	Pri		
Cottesmore St. Mary's Catholic School	Pri		
Davigdor Infants' School	Inf		
Deepdene Nursery Pre-Prep	Ind		
Dorothy Stringer School	Sec	Y	Y
Downs Infant School	Inf		
Downs Junior School	Jnr		
Downs Park School	Sp pri		
Downs View School	Sp pri		
Elm Grove Primary School	Pri		
Fairlight Primary School	Pri		
Falmer High School	Sec		
Goldstone Primary School	Pri		
Growing up Green Day Nursery	Ind		
Hamilton Lodge School	I (Sp)		
Hangleton Infant School	Inf		Y
Hangleton Junior School	Jnr	Y	Y
Hertford Infant & Nursery School	Inf	Y	Y
Hertford Junior School	Jnr		
Hillside School	Sp		
Home from Home Nursery	Ind		
Hove Park School (Valley Campus)	Sec	Y	Y
Hove Park School (Nevill Campus)	Sec	Y	Y
Jeanne Saunders Centre	Sp		
Longhill School	Sec		
Middle Street Primary School	Pri		
Mile Oak Primary School	Pri	Y	Y
Moulsecoomb Primary School	Pri	Y	Y
Lancing College Prep School	Ind		
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	Pri		
Ovingdean Hall School	I (Sp)		
Patcham High School	Sec		

Unregistered	42
Registered	17
Bronze	22
Silver	16
Green	7

Brighton & Hove Eco Schools February 2009

Patcham House School	Sp		Y
Patcham Infant School	Inf		
Patcham Junior School	Jnr		
Peter Gladwin Primary School	Pri		
Portslade Community College	Sec		
Portslade Community College Sixth Form Centre	FE		
Portslade Infant School	Inf		
Queens Park Primary School	Pri		
Roedean School	Ind		
Royal Spa Nursery	Inf		
Rudyard Kipling Primary School	Pri	Y	
Saltdean Primary School	Pri		
Somerhill Junior School	Jnr		Y
St. Andrew's C.E. Primary School	Pri	Y	Y
St. Aubyn's School	Ind		
St. Bartholomew's C.E. Primary School	Pri		
St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School	Pri		
St. Christopher's School	I pri		
St. John The Baptist R.C. School	Pri		
St. John's College	I (Sp)		
St. Joseph's R.C. School	Pri		
St. Luke's Infant School	Inf		
St. Luke's Junior School	Jnr		
St. Margaret's C.E. Primary School	Pri		
St. Marks C.E. Primary School	Pri	Y	Y
St. Martins C.E. Primary School	Pri		Y
St. Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School	Pri		
St Mary's Hall Junior School	Ind		
St. Mary's R.C. Aided School	Pri		
St. Nicolas C.E. Junior School	Jnr		
St. Paul's C.E. Primary School & Nursery	Pri		
St. Peter's Community Infant & Nursery School	Inf		
Stanford Infant School	Inf		
Stanford Junior School	Jnr		
Tarnerland Nursery	Inf	Y	Y
The Dharma School	I		
The Drive Prep School	I		
The Fold School	I pri		
Torah Academy Nursery	I		
University of Brighton	HE		
University of Sussex	HE		
Varndean College	FE		
Varndean School	Sec		
West Blatchington Infant School	Inf		
West Blatchington Junior School	Jnr		
West Hove Infant School	Inf		
West Hove Junior School	Jnr		
Westdene Primary School	Pri	Y	Y
Whitehawk Primary School	Pri	Y	Y
Windlesham School Charitable Trust	I (Sp)		
Woodingdean Primary School	Pri		

Supporting school sustainability in Brighton & Hove

Doorway	Support In Brighton & Hove	Targets / Performance Indicators?
Food and Drink	School meals service / PFI contract; Eco Schools Food Partnership / SFAG; PCT – School Food Worker, Food4Life etc.	Statutory nutrition targets for 2008/9. Food4Life/Eco Schools: bronze/silver/green flag framework.
Energy & Water	Eco Schools/ Schools' Carbon Management Project Officer	Implementation of Display Energy Certificates (performance & potential)
Travel & Traffic	School travel planning; Road safety; Bikeability; Bike-it Project;	All schools to have a travel plan by March 2010 (99, incl. private sector)
Purchasing & Waste	Eco Schools/ New Waste & Recycling Contract	50% schools recycling by 2011
Buildings & Grounds	School Grounds Biodiversity Action Plan Project Officer/ Environment & Heritage Festival/ Eco Schools	50% schools signed up to BAP manifesto by 2011. 70% of schools using 'outdoor classrooms' by 2011.
Inclusion & Participation	ESIAS—consultation processes, community use; Eco Schools Healthy & Extended schools/ school councils / EHWB/ Review of inclusion/participation in Education Programme	All schools to operate a schools council and increase the number of secondary schools with student governors.
Local Well-being	Healthy schools generally; ESIAS – swift & easy referral and parenting support. PCT / EB4U / NRF	All schools to achieve Healthy Schools Status by 2008.
Global Dimension	Healthy schools team – curriculum support for citizenship (&PSHE); Eco Schools; Fairtrade School Scheme	Reporting on KS3 citizenship attainment. Uptake of Fairtrade schools

Case study: Dorothy Stringer High School

The Environmental Education Officer has been responsible for teaching year 7-10 PSE Environmental Education at Dorothy Stringer High School since 1991. Ongoing council commitment to the PSE Curriculum & the Eco Schools programme, combined with good SMT support for Environmental Education, has enabled the school to achieve permanent Green Flag status. Two teachers are given protected non-teaching time to deliver a range of Environmental Education projects, including:

- An Environmental Education GCSE, delivered in the Environment Centre, a refurbished classroom.
- School Grounds which include a Wildlife Area, a pond, a meadow, butterfly haven and coppice woodland.
- Events open to parents and students from other schools, such as Woodland Working Days, where families can come and tend to the coppice woodland, and a playgroup where children from Balfour Infants and Juniors enjoy activities such as pond-dipping, which utilise the wealth of school grounds resource.
- A herd of sheep, to graze on the meadow
- An internal 'Green pages' publication sent out to all parents.
- An 'Ecology Lunch Club', in addition to the Eco Committee required by the Eco Schools Programme.
- A variety of school trips with an eco theme.
- An extensive, embedded culture of recycling.

The school has recently been successful in applying for funding to install solar panels on the roof of the Environment Centre.

Case study: Hove Park School

Hove Park School has been a registered Eco School for several years but has not achieved any award status, despite the work of several dedicated members of staff. The school is split-site with the main Eco Contact based in the science department of the Upper School. A successful team of 'Eco Dudes' are responsible for organising the site's recycling and some use has been made of the school's allotment. Meanwhile the Lower School doesn't even have adequate litter bins on site, thus failing the simple Environmental Review which is a key part of the criteria for Bronze Award. The Lower School Eco Contact is an enthusiastic LSA who has encouraged some of the school's most challenging students to engage with the environment. There is little concerted support from SMT, however, and neither of these teachers has protected time to deliver the Eco Schools programme.

City Sustainability Partnership Meeting - Monday 23 February 2009

Jury's Inn, 101 Stroudley Road, Brighton

Public Services:

Councillor Denise Cobb – **Vice Chair**

Councillor Paul Steedman

Councillor Cllr David Watkins

Stuart Laing, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) University of Brighton – **Chair**

Alison Hadfield – Eco Schools

Business

Eleanor Bell – Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership

Jan Jackson – Sussex Enterprise/Business Link

Thea Allison – Brighton & Hove Business Community Partnership

Community and Voluntary Sector

Chris Todd, Friends of the Earth – **Vice Chair**

Jacqui Cuff – Transition Brighton & Hove

Mike Creedy – Brighton Peace & Environment Centre

Vic Else, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

Angela Marlow – Brighton & Hove Wildlife Advisory Group

Agencies

Chris Wick – Environment Agency

Partnership manager

Thurstan Crockett, Head of Sustainability

Meeting notes

Amanda Fletcher, Senior Support Officer, Sustainability

1. Apologies

Jane Simmons, Lorraine Bell, Phil Belden, Cllr Mitchell, Sharon Philips

2. Minutes and Actions from the previous meeting

2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

2.2 Two induction sessions had been held. A small group of people are still due to have an induction session and should contact Thurstan to arrange.

2.3 **Action:** Simon Newell to send the CSP members the targets outlined in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Thurstan to progress this.

2.4 The first draft of the One Planet living plan had been circulated to the CSP for comment. CSP feedback has been passed to Bioregional and they are preparing a second draft, which would come back to the partnership.

City Sustainability Partnership Meeting - Monday 23 February 2009

3. Future CSP meeting dates

- 3.1 **Action:** CSP members to note the amended dates for future meetings, all at Jurys Inn:

5.30 – 7.30pm	Monday 6 April
6 – 8pm	Monday 18 May followed by a social event*
5.30 – 7.30pm	Monday 29 June
5.30 – 7.30pm	Monday 7 September
5.30 – 7.30pm	Monday 19 October
5.30 – 7.30pm	Monday 30 November
5.30 – 7.30pm	Monday 18 January 2010

Please note: exact timings may vary depending on room availability. The CSP will not now be meeting in August as a number of people would be away.

- 3.2 **Action:** There will be a social event after the CSP meeting on Monday 18 May thanks to a kind offer by Jan Jackson to provide wine/refreshments. Please contact Thurstan if you have any ideas for the social.

4. Draft Sustainable Community Strategy consultation response

- 4.1 The CSP sub-group met twice to consider the draft Sustainable Community Strategy consultation. Thank you to all who were involved. Comments from the CSP reflect the breadth of topics and priorities and will inform the consultation document. Additional comments from today's CSP meeting will be added to the CSP response to the consultation document.

Action: CSP members to email Thurstan with any additional/more detailed comments by Tuesday 3 March. Thurstan to circulate the full draft response to all members in advance of the final submission deadline (now 13 March).

The revised version of the whole strategy (first draft of the refresh) will go out for a 12-week consultation, so there will be further opportunity for the CSP to comment.

4.2 Comments at the CSP meeting on the draft Sustainable Community Strategy consultation

- **Restructuring the themes**

CSP sub group agreed that the consultation document should be restructured to reflect the changed sustainability priorities. For example, climate change to be brought forward as a key issue, with other themes to flow into it. Climate change could be split into two sections, one focussing on emissions and the other about living with a changed climate. Consider links to eco-schools programme.

City Sustainability Partnership Meeting - Monday 23 February 2009

- **Clarity of message and language**

Important to strike a balance between outlining the issues as they relate to climate change and making the Sustainable Community Strategy easy to understand by a general audience.

Need to encourage people to take ownership of environmental issues.

Ensure consistency with national policy and five principles of sustainable development.

- **Bold statements – Brighton & Hove an exemplar city?**

e.g. 'why should Brighton & Hove cut carbon emissions if we are only responsible for 2% of emissions?'

The 2% figure is based on emissions produced in the UK, but if you consider embedded emissions for products and services produced elsewhere then the figure is much higher.

Action: Thurstan to remove this 2% mention.

Brighton & Hove should state its current performance i.e. we have a much larger ecological footprint than other cities in the UK.

The Institute of Development Studies & Sussex University lead the way on initiatives for sustainable power in developing countries.

Need to have strong branding as an eco-city or exemplar.

- **Links to other strategies and targets**

Need for clear signposting from the Sustainable Community Strategy to other strategies and targets. Bioregional are to send targets for 2012-13.

Action: TC to send draft targets page to the CSP group for comment.

4.3 **Transport**

- Look at transport in terms of meeting needs, rather than in the traditional categories of bus, rail, bicycle etc.
- Travel plan partnership.
- Emerging LDF – links to core strategy.
- Need stronger links with planning, designing urban space is an equalities issue as space planned for children and people with mobility issues is good for everyone.

5. **Sustainability issues for business**

5.1 **Sustainability guidelines for small businesses?**

Retailers in the city are facing challenges especially in the current economic climate. Small retail businesses are often not well connected to the internet and it can be difficult to reach them to give information and change behaviours. There's an opportunity to offer very simple tools that organisations can use to become more sustainable, for example, standard text to include in contracts to ensure sound environmental policies. Need to communicate the business benefits of improved sustainable practice such as cost savings, improvement in staff retention and morale and good reputation. These

City Sustainability Partnership Meeting - Monday 23 February 2009

messages should be conveyed in an easy to understand way and using plain English.

5.2 **Can or How can the CSP add value to businesses?**

The CSP should be prescriptive so that businesses have a model to follow. Business community partnership offers space to network, shared value system. Need to support businesses by creating more of these spaces. There may be an opportunity to incorporate sustainability themes into the business support package 'business lifebelt'. Business link goes into businesses and advises them – the baseline is an environmental review – but this relies on businesses putting themselves forward.

5.3 There was need in the economy section of the response to cover fair shares/equalities agenda/distribution of wealth. Businesses work to create opportunities.

5.4 There are opportunities for the CSP to champion the city's Social Enterprise Strategy.

6. **Wildlife Advisory Group** – the group received a presentation from Angela Marlow, Brighton & Hove Wildlife Advisory Group.

6.1 Angela described the role of the WAG and its relevance to the CSP. She highlighted the role of green infrastructure and the multiple benefits it conveys such as opportunities for education and awareness raising, green spaces for local people and the formation of green corridors for species movement.

Action: Bring actions/minutes to the CSP group.

Action: The 'Sustainability Pioneer' scheme for businesses is being run by Business Link and Sussex Wildlife Trust. If any of the group know a business that would be interested in becoming a sustainability pioneer please contact Jan Jackson on janjackson@businesslinksussex.co.uk

7. **Strategies and consultation programme draft**

Additional strategies:

Biodiversity Action Plan

Review of local transport plan

Rights of way improvement plan

Urban Biosphere

Water Framework Directive - Draft River Basin Management Plan

Action: Thurstan to research and amend plan. CSP members to email Thurstan details of any other strategies to be added.

8. **Waste issues – preparing for the city council strategy** – this will be carried over as an agenda item for the 18 May or 29 June meeting to coincide with the consultation period.

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9. Any other business

- 9.1 Climate Change Debate as part of Brighton Science Week.
7.30pm on 25 February in Friends Centre, Brighton.
- 9.2 Transition talk and discussion, 'Building more resilient local economies'
7pm on 26 February at the Brighthelm Centre, Brighton.

