



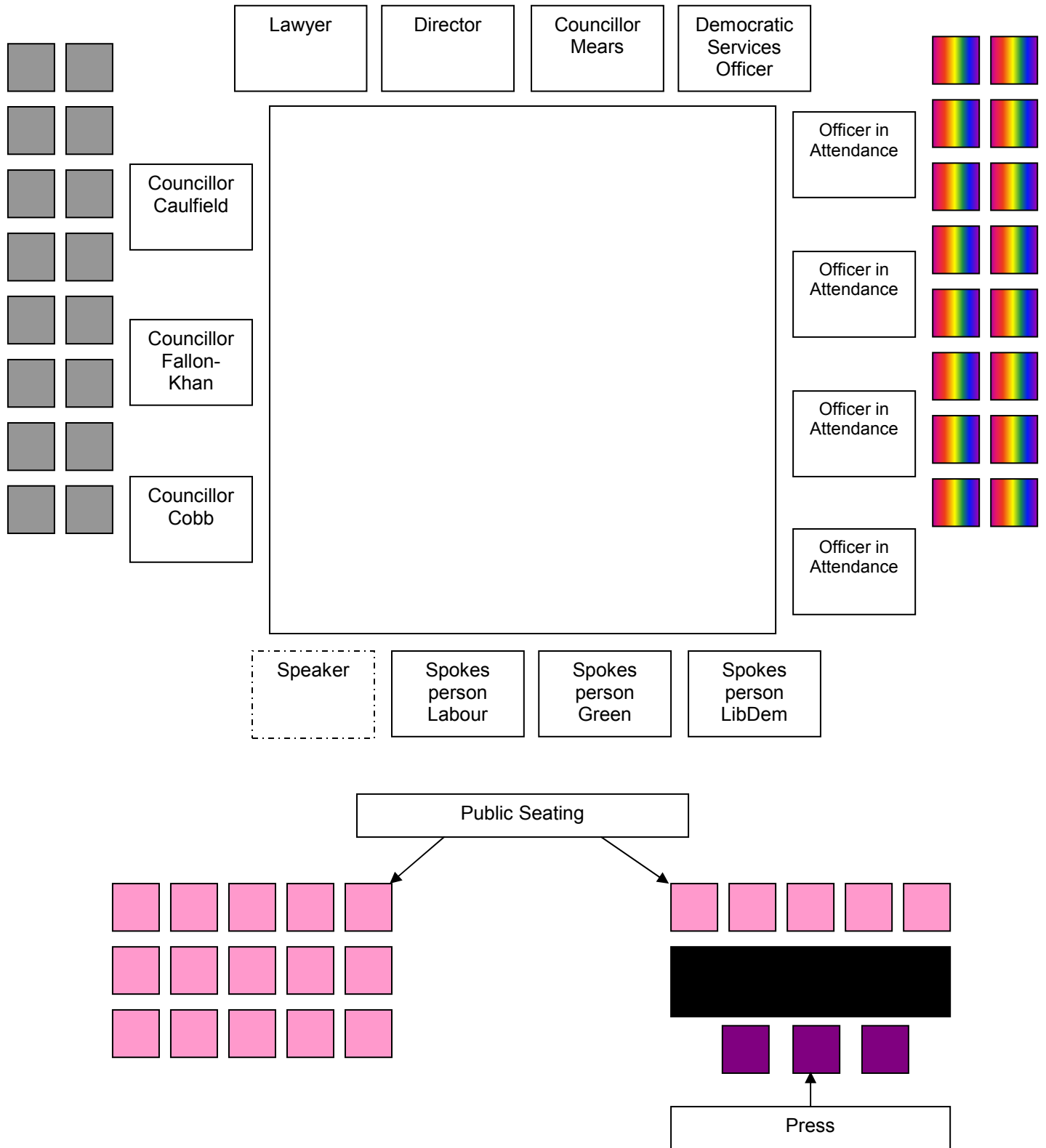
**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Cabinet Committee

Title:	Sustainability Cabinet Committee
Date:	8 May 2009
Time:	3.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: Mears (Chairman), Caulfield and Fallon-Khan Lead Councillor for Sustainability: Councillor Mrs Cobb
Contact:	Tanya Massey Acting Senior Democratic Services Officer 01273 291227 tanya.massey@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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Democratic Services: Meeting Layout



AGENDA

43. 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.

44. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 8

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2009 (copy attached).

45. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

46. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Items reserved by the Members of the Cabinet Committee
- (b) Items reserved by the Opposition Spokespeople
- (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.

47. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(The closing date for receipt of public questions is 12 noon on 30 April 2009)

No public questions received by date of publication.

48. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

No written questions have been received.

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

49. DEPUTATIONS

(The closing date for receipt of deputations is 12 noon on 30 April 2009)

No deputations received by date of publication.

50. PETITIONS

No petitions received by date of publication.

51. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

No letters have been received.

52. NOTICES OF MOTION

No Notices of Motion have been received.

53. REVIEW OF CITY FOOD STRATEGY

9 - 18

Report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Francesca Iliffe

Tel: 29-2246

Ward Affected: All Wards

54. TAKING FORWARD THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT - PROPOSALS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

19 - 26

Report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Emma McDermott

Tel: 29-3944

Ward Affected: All Wards

55. SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT

Presentation from the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy.

56. CLIMATE CONNECTIONS

Verbal update from the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy.

57. REPORT OF THE CITY SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

27 - 32

To note the draft minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2009 (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.

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

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 - Wednesday, 29 April 2009

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

3.00PM 16 MARCH 2009

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

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

Other Members present: Councillors Steedman and Wakefield-Jarrett

Apologies: Councillor Gill Mitchell (Opposition Spokesperson)

PART ONE

29. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

29A Declarations of Interest

29a.1 There were none.

29B Exclusion of Press and Public

29b.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).

29b.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

30. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

30.1 **RESOLVED** – The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

31. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS

31.1 There were none.

32. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

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

33. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

33.1 There were none.

34. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**34(i) Question – sustainable procurement**

34.1 Councillor Steedman had submitted a question asking:

“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?”

34.2 The Chairman circulated the following written response:

“This is a very detailed and complex set of questions, which would have required a disproportionate amount of officer time to answer in full detail. But officers have produced the following summary:

- While we have extensive records of the “white goods” bought by the council over the past year on our financial system, this does not extend to their energy ratings.

- The council's Fleet Manager was already undertaking a detailed review of our fleet, purchase and lease arrangements; data for the last year is not immediately available but once the review is complete, we will send you details.
- The amount of a) chicken: 1872 products – diced, strips etc – none of which was free range. b) Approximately 18,000 eggs a very small percentage <1% were free range. c) 2055 fish and/or fish products were purchased by the authority/supplied to the school meals contracts in the last year - none of this was either Marine Stewardship Council-certified or appeared on the Marine Conservation Society's 'Fish to Eat' list.
- On a more positive note, we aim by September 2009 to have gained the Bronze Food for Life accreditation for school meals served within BHCC Primary Schools, which includes the use of eggs from cage free hens. More information can be found at <http://www.foodforlife.org.uk/awards/criteria/bronze>
- Furniture expenditure for the calendar year 2008 was £128,006.58. Suppliers Portsdown Office furniture said all of the wooden furniture we buy is covered by the FSC certification; while Eurotek confirmed that all their wood-based products are accredited with FSC and PEFC certification. Eurotek were also one of the first furniture manufactures to receive FISP award (Furniture Industry Sustainability Program) and in fact have been used as the benchmark of good practice. They have also calculated the carbon footprint of our products.

Looking ahead the Environmental Management System proposed for introduction at this meeting will steadily address any shortcomings in sustainable procurement – this is covered in paragraphs 3.4, 3.5 and 3.10 of the report on the agenda today.”

34.3 Councillor Steedman asked the following supplementary question:

“Do you not agree that by setting minimum sustainability standards for purchases made by the authority, determining such information would become much easier?”

34.4 The Chairman gave the following response:

“A significant amount of work is being done around procurement, with a particular focus on the council's fleet of vehicles. Setting minimum standards could have a negative effect with suppliers doing the bare minimum, instead of striving for higher standards. We want to ensure that we can demand higher standards wherever possible.”

34.5 The Lead Councillor for Sustainability added that the council held open days so that members of the public could utilise old furniture with only a nominal charge made for delivery. This could be seen as the first stage towards recycling in this area.

34.6 The Chairman reiterated that the council was seeking Bronze Food for Life accreditation for Primary schools.

34(ii) Question – peak oil production

34.7 Councillor Steedman had submitted a question asking:

“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?”

34.8 The Chairman had circulated the following written response:

“The implications of the Peak Oil issue are a matter for national government to advise us on, right across all the sectors you have mentioned.

Any failure of global oil supply or security of national supply chains are matters first to be addressed by central rather than local government, and its plans (e.g. National fuel emergency plan NEP-F) would be implemented if and when the risks were felt to be sufficiently severe.

Business continuity plans for council teams look at how they respond to potential risks and if the global oil supply becomes one of them then teams will consider this how to plan to mitigate any issues for the service.

The council’s emergency plan is similarly based on nationally, regionally and locally relevant risks relating to actual emergencies as defined by relevant legislation / guidance - and is regularly reviewed on the latest information made available.

We are, of course, also supporting local resilience through the Be Local, Buy Local campaign which supports the local economy, local businesses and localised transport.”

34.9 Councillor Steedman asked the following supplementary question:

“Do you not agree that more must be done locally with regard to Peak Oil, and that this Cabinet Committee should ask for a scrutiny investigation to take place?”

34.10 The Chairman advised that the council was restricted to the powers delegated to it by central government and that until clear guidelines had been handed down little could be done at a local level.

35. DEPUTATIONS

35.1 There were none.

36. PETITIONS

36.1 There were none.

37. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

37(i) Letter – reducing the ecological or carbon footprint of the Council’s supply chain

37.1 A letter was received from Councillor Steedman regarding working with the Council’s suppliers to help them reduce the ecological or carbon footprint of the Council’s supply chain (for copy see minute book).

37.2 The Chairman stated that the council had already decided to look into the carbon footprint of its key suppliers by signing up to the Public Procurement Programme run by the Carbon Disclosure Project, which had an international track record in the field. This would start shortly with a focus on ten of the council’s very largest contracts, suppliers would be asked to provide detailed emissions information; which would provide a fuller picture by the summer.

37.3 The Chairman confirmed that officers would report back on this at the Sustainability Cabinet Committee as part of the Carbon Management Programme updates for members.

37.4 The Chairman explained that, over time, the council planned to extend this to more and more of our suppliers as part of the programme. This would be an important but very significant additional burden on suppliers – a substantial proportion of which were local - and one which could not be achieved overnight. Introducing an Environmental Management System would also help us to achieve the goal. In the meantime, with a recession on, the council could not expect instant change from hard-pressed businesses, and while ecological footprinting was very important, it would not yet be a language that most businesses understood. Improving the specification within the council’s own contracts regarding sustainability, especially by asking for environmental management system accreditation from larger ones and carbon emissions data from many more, would ensure that significant improvements were achieved. The council would also look to work with other public sector partners through the LSP.

37.5 **RESOLVED** – That the letter be noted.

38. NOTICES OF MOTION

38.1 There were none.

39. INTRODUCING AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- 39.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance concerning proposals to introduce an accredited environmental management system (EMS) (for copy see minute book).
- 39.2 The Lead Councillor for Sustainability explained that such a system would ensure that that council could put its own house in order with regard to environmental resource efficiency and lead by example.
- 39.3 The Cabinet Member for Housing supported the need to make progress in this area and queried whether priority areas would need to be identified and what timescales might be proposed.
- 39.4 The Sustainability Coordinator working on the project explained that once a commitment had been given by the Cabinet Committee officers would begin working with senior managers to identify appropriate service areas to pilot the programme.
- 39.5 In response to questions from Councillor Steedman the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy clarified that, after work had been done to identify a suitable service area, discussions around resource implications could take place.
- 39.6 The Cabinet Member for Central Services thanked officers for their work on this project and was pleased that a staged approach would be taken in order to ensure that value for money was a key priority.
- 39.7 The Chairman commented that there was a commitment to laying good foundations before launching the pilot and that she was confident that resources would be used efficiently.
- 39.8 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Committee accepted the following recommendations:
- (1) That approval be given for the following:
- (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).

40. SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE THEME 2009/10

- 40.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance concerning proposals for the theme of the 2009/10 Sustainability Conference (for copy see minute book).
- 40.2 The Chairman commented that the annual Sustainability Conference offered the ideal opportunity to make the sea a strong focus of the council's work.

40.3 The Lead Councillor for Sustainability added that she looked forward to positive outcomes from the conference and that local school children had been focussing on this topic in recent weeks.

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

- (1) That officers in the Sustainability Team be directed to organise the next Sustainability conference on the theme of the sea.

41. ECO SCHOOLS PROGRAMME UPDATE

41.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance concerning the council's Eco Schools work and how it fits into a wider Environmental Education programme (for copy see minute book).

41.2 In response to queries from Councillor Steedman, the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy explained that while relatively few independent schools were signed up, the eco schools programme already seemed to favour those schools with the highest educational attainment and it was therefore important to consider issues around equalities. He added that school registration was visible the Eco Schools website and that any schools not registered may have chosen to take a different approach to sustainability.

41.3 The Cabinet Member for Housing identified that the east side of the city was particularly underrepresented and supported more work being done in the area to effect change.

41.4 The Chairman praised the work being done with the schools and maintained that it was essential that young people engaged in and understood the importance of sustainability at an early age.

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

- (1) That the report be noted.

42. REPORT OF THE CITY SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

42.1 The Cabinet Committee considered the minutes of the City Sustainability Partnership held on 23 February 2009 (for copy see minute book).

42.2 The Lead Councillor for Sustainability confirmed that the City Sustainability Partnership had been gaining momentum through the city-wide involvement and that good work was being done, particularly around the revision of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

42.3 In response to a request from Councillor Steedman, the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy confirmed that a revised draft response from the Partnership would be circulated to its members shortly.

42.4 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.

The meeting concluded at 3.42pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 53

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Review of City Food Strategy
Date of Meeting: 8 May 2009
Report of: Acting Director of Strategy & Governance
Contact Officer: Name: Francesca Iliffe Tel: 29-2246
E-mail: francesca.iliffe@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Purpose of the report is to inform Sustainability Cabinet Committee that a review of the *Brighton & Hove Food Strategy and Action Plan, Spade to Spoon: Making the Connections* will be undertaken within the council and across the city by Brighton & Hove Food Partnership may-December 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Sustainability Cabinet Committee note the review is being undertaken and encourage participation amongst council officers where relevant.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The original City Food Strategy was published in 2006, produced by the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (<http://www.bhfood.org.uk/page.php?id=138>). The city council was a key partner in its production, writing around 50 targets for the Action Plan. The Strategy was endorsed at Policy & Resources Committee 9 November 2005.
- 3.2 The review will be undertaken by Vic Else, Executive Director, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (see below and appendix 1 for information on the Food Partnership).
- 3.3 At the time of publication in 2006, the Brighton & Hove Food Strategy was celebrated nationally and considered the most far reaching food policy in the UK. It brought together work from the public, private and community/voluntary sector to enhance health, social, environmental and economic benefits through the food sector, and minimize the many negative impacts of food from production, transportation, consumption and disposal.
- 3.4 The Food Strategy includes targets from the city council, Primary Care Trust, the Food Partnership and community/voluntary organisations in the city. The review will involve consultation with all stakeholders in the production of the new draft.

3.5 Departments, sections and teams previously involved in providing targets for the Food Strategy 2006 *as they were then called*:

- Children, Families & Schools: Healthy Schools; B&H Learning Partnership, Children's Commissioning Team; Primary Link Advisers.
- Environment: Cityclean; City Enforcement; Allotments Service; Planning Policy; Public Transport Team; Env Health & Licensing; Food Safety; Trading Standards; Sustainability Team; Countryside Management Team.
- Adult Social Care: Older People and Physical Disabilities; Social Care Contracts.
- Cultural Services: Voluntary Sector & External Funding Unit; Neighbourhood Renewal; Economic Development.
- Corporate Services: Finance; Property & Design; Client Contracts; Procurement.

3.6 Corporate Drivers:

- Corporate Plan targets: Reduce city & council carbon emissions; reduction in obesity in primary schools; positive activities for young people; improving the health of residents; encourage people to live healthy active lives.
- LAA targets: NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6; NI 119 Self-reported measure of people's overall health and well-being; NI 186 Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area; NI 185 L 26 CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations.
- Sustainable Community Strategy: Reduction in rise of obesity in children under 11; reduce CO2 emissions by 3.5% p/a.
- Sustainability Strategy: aims around health; access to basic elements of life; economy & work; education & training; land use; natural environment; transport; waste.

3.7 Proposed timeline 2009:

May-July	Review existing and negotiate new targets within the council. Engage/consult with community.
June-August	Redraft Action Plan.
September-November	Take relevant targets to appropriate Trust, Boards, committees for amendment, approval and endorsement.
November	Redraft as appropriate.
December	Publish revised Food Strategy.

Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

- 3.8 The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (BHFP) is a cross sectoral body, established in 2003 with Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust (BHPCT) and city council support. Historically BHFP reported to the Sustainability Commission and Healthy City Partnership to which it still reports in addition to having a seat on the City Sustainability Partnership. Cllr Cobb (council sustainability lead) sits on the BHFP Board.

- 3.9 BHFP is an independent body applying for charity status, with a turnover of approximately £450K p/a. employing 10 people (Further information: appendix 1 or www.bhfood.org.uk).
- 3.10 The Partnership delivers substantial health work on the obesity and health promotion agenda through a service level agreement with BHPCT. It is now seeking to make equivalent progress in the local food/food growing/food access agenda through Big Lottery funding for '*Harvest Brighton & Hove*'.

Harvest Brighton & Hove

- 3.11 The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership has applied to the Big Lottery 'Local Food' fund for a Beacon grant of £500,000. The outcome of the application is expected in April 2009, prior to this meeting. '*Harvest*' aims to explore the feasibility of a city increasing the food produced within its boundaries, providing opportunities for local people to grow and eat fresh, nutritious food. If successful '*Harvest*' will bring £500,000 into the city over 4 years, creating 3 new posts and cascading money to existing academic, community and voluntary sector organizations.

National concerns

- 3.12 An estimated 10-15% of the UK population experiences poor access to adequate food due to lack of money?
- 3.13 Obesity levels in B&H children are rising towards 20%. The World Health Organisation has warned of an 'obesity epidemic'. Treating diet related health conditions costs the NHS an estimated £2billion a year.
- 3.14 Food transport in UK currently account for 25% of the distance covered by HGVs and accounts for 19million tonnes of CO₂, about 10% of annual UK CO₂ emissions.
- 3.15 The UN recently expressed deep concern about global food shortages and food security as a result of: climate change; water shortages; energy, land and labour issues and population increase.
- 3.16 A recent report by the Chatham House *thinktank* 'Food Futures: Rethinking UK Strategy' concludes: the prospect of the UK being hit by a food crisis is "highly likely". The report claims: "What we had thought of as abundant food supply is anything but. Western societies, in particular, have tended to take their food supply for granted. The global system will reach breaking point unless action is taken."
- 3.17 In the context of the recession, concerns about food price volatility add to the financial worries of householders: From 2005-2008 global food prices rose at an unprecedented rate: butter 74%; chicken 62%; US wheat 120% and milk powder by 69%. UK consumers were hit by food-price inflation peaking last summer at 12.8%. This resulted in families that spent £100 a week on food in 2007 spending nearly £13 a week more in 2008 for the same goods. John Beddington, chief scientific adviser to the government, observed: "We are going to have to expect to have - throughout the world and not just in the UK - higher food prices."

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 A paper went to TMT asking for officer support on 1 April 2009 at which full support was granted.
- 4.2 Extensive consultation will be undertaken internally and externally for the Food Strategy review by the Food Partnership.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The food strategy review will be undertaken by the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership at a cost of £2,900. This will need to be met from within the BHCC Sustainability Team's budget which for 2009/10 is £216k, of which £178k relates to salary costs.

Finance Officer Consulted: Peter Francis Date: 06/04/09

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon Date: 20/04/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The existing strategy has within its vision statement and aims commitment to addressing inequality. An Equalities Impact Assessment is planned for the Food Strategy Review to ensure that the review improves its robustness in addressing inequality.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Sustainability considerations are central to the Food Strategy which aims to address environmental, social and economic implications of the food system.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Any implications for the prevention of crime and disorder will be considered in relation to any existing or new targets in the Food Strategy.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The review presents opportunities to contribute to the delivery of the council's strategic objectives and LAA objectives outlined in paragraph 3.6, and for positive publicity for the council. Risks are that council may face adverse publicity where council targets are not met or are not developed in areas perceived as important. Proposed new targets may involve additional council resource or financial commitment.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 Contribution to Corporate objectives is noted at paragraph 3.6. The Food Strategy intends to have citywide benefits through enhancing environmental, economic, social and health benefits possible through the food system. The potential impact will be broad due to the strategy being developed collaboratively between Brighton & Hove Food Partnership, the council, the Primary Care Trust, and other community/voluntary sector, business and academic organisations in the city.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 There are currently inadequate resources within the sustainability team in terms of officer time and capacity to undertake the work of the review internally, although the review by the Food Partnership will be managed by the Sustainability Team.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The council put forward around 50 targets into the existing Strategy, many of which have been achieved. A review will highlight this success and offer opportunities for positive communications around these achievements.
- 7.2 Brighton & Hove Food Partnership have a £500,000 bid to the Big Lottery for food work in the city and also deliver substantial work around health (commissioned by the PCT). A review of council work by the Food Partnership is likely to lead to further collaboration and joint working from which the council can benefit from support and resources from the Food Partnership.
- 7.3 The food agenda is just as high in the public's mind as it was when the food strategy was produced (simultaneous to the Jamie Oliver/school dinners agenda)– this time the issues are particularly around food price volatility, global food shortages and food security. A review will facilitate consolidation of council action around this agenda – in which the city is already a perceived national leader through the existing Food Strategy.
- 7.4 New targets may simply reflect work already undertaken by the city council – raising its profile and providing strategic support.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Background on Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

Documents in Members' Rooms

None.

Background Documents

1. *Brighton & Hove Food Strategy and Action Plan. Spade to Spoon: Making the Connections.* <http://www.bhfood.org.uk/page.php?id=138>

Background on Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

This appendix gives details of:

- Current Food Partnership Board & Food Team
- Food Partnership Achievements
- Brighton & Hove Food Partnership Mission Statement

Current Food Partnership Board

Chair, Sue Dibb, Sustainable Development Commission

Treasurer, Tom MacMillan, Food Ethics Council

Vice Chair, Alan Lugton, Care Co-ops/Nourish/20-20 Café

- Cllr Denise Cobb, Deputy Leader B&HCC
- Francesca Iliffe, Sustainability Officer, B&HCC
- Kate Lawson, BHPCT
- Annie Alexander, BHPCT/Healthy City Partnership
- Clare Devereux, Food Matters
- Barbara Myers, Radio 4 Food Programme
- Jethro Carr, Kitchen Academy
- Nick Fry, Carers Centre Manager
- Peter Deadman, Founder Infinity Foods & Brighton Natural Health Centre
- Joyce Edmond Smith
- Durwin Banks, Farmer

Current Food Partnership Food Team

- Executive Director, Vic Else
- Food Partnership Co-ordinator, Ann Baldrige
- Community Nutrition Manager, Jannette Smith
- Health Promotion Community Dietician, Rachel Hollingdale
- Health Promotion Community Dietician, Susan Morgan
- Cookery Development Manager, Erika Adler
- Cookery Development Worker, Jocelyn Dodgson
- School Food Policy Manager, Paul Streetly
- Referral Co-coordinator (weight management) & Admin, Vicky Dagnan
- Referral Co-coordinator (weight management) under recruitment

Food Partnership Achievements

- Produced City Food Strategy 2006: Spade to Spoon: Making the Connections. A Food Strategy and Action Plan for Brighton & Hove in 2006 with full involvement of the city council and PCT
- Has a turnover of around £450K p/a of health funding including Brighton & Hove PCT SLA, Health City money and Communities for Health Funding. Delivers considerable health promotion work across the city on food/health issues
- Membership of 300 consisting of residents and organisations interested in and working on food related issues.
- Annual grant scheme has been running for 3 years: 'Good Food Small Grant' scheme offering £15,000 p/a to community groups and schools for food projects.

- New community kitchen established for teaching cookery to community workers and residents, Village Centre, Portslade (completed March 09).
- Funding programme run alongside Good Food Grants with £10,000 for equipment to improve kitchens in the community to enable these spaces to be used for more cookery training and associated activities
- Delivery of MEND: a family-based programme for overweight and obese children aged between 7-13 years and Mini-MEND for 2-4 year olds Delivered at King Alfred and Prince Regent and Moulsecoomb Leisure Centre and in future Roundabout Children's Centre, Whitehawk. Takes referrals from GPs and school nurses.
- Delivery of Shape-Up: a healthy lifestyle programme Delivered in Moulsecoomb Leisure Centre, Crew Club in Whitehawk, BRIGHTHELM Centre, in central Brighton, and hoping to add a second central Brighton programme. A new programme will start soon in Portslade.
- Coordination of School Food Action Group & newsletter 'Eat'
- Helped set up George Street Farmers' Market
- Delivered 3 Local Produce Festivals in schools
- Annual Big Food Debate as part of Food & Drink Lovers Festival
- Allotment matchmaking Scheme
- Website & Quarterly newsletters to members
- Offers strategic network & support to Food based organisations in the city
- Cookery Development Manager works across East Brighton delivering cookery training to adults and children. Focus on 'cooking on a budget'.
- Cookery Development Worker works across Central and West B&H, teaching cookery skills to adults and children. Also currently supporting the development of a food co-op in Portslade.
- 'Cook Train' (a new project), will train trainers to teach a set of basic recipes to local residents (this is based on Jamie Oliver's 'pass it on' idea)
- Cookability – Run by & worker: termly Cookability courses in East Brighton. A second programme to run termly in Portslade. Third evening programme to run soon.

Brighton & Hove Food Partnership Mission Statement

The Brighton and Hove Food Partnership works across the community to strengthen the growth and development of a localised food system which promotes social equity, economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, global fairtrade and the health and well-being of *all* residents.

It aims to develop an integrated, cross-sectoral approach to food policy, which links initiatives within public health, environmental sustainability, community development, education, agriculture, cultural and economic development, waste management, urban planning/land use and tourism.

Aims

The Brighton and Hove Food Partnership aims to:

- support educational initiatives across all sectors of the community to raise awareness of the production of food and its role in supporting health, the economy and the environment, in a local and global context;

- provide networking opportunities and the exchange of information, support and advice for individuals and organisations working on food initiatives across the City and beyond, in order to build skills and capacity, and to encourage linkage between diverse sectors;
- lobby Governmental agencies at local, regional and national levels, run local campaigns within the City and influence policy and planning decisions, in order to further the aims of the Partnership;
- increase access for *all* residents within the City to nutritious, safe, affordable food in culturally and socially acceptable ways;
- promote food production systems which conserve and enhance the environment;
- encourage the development of a vibrant local food economy, expand local¹ food production and create opportunities for City residents to access locally produced food;
- introduce procurement policies within public institutions such as schools, hospitals, etc. which favour the use of regional and locally produced healthy food, and which strive to support environmental sustainability, animal welfare and fairtrade;
- reduce, re-use and recycle waste generated by the food system, e.g. reduce packaging, compost organic waste to improve soil fertility;
- provide a policy forum to initiate research, publications and activities that encourage the exchange of ideas both within the City and beyond, and to inform, and be kept informed, of emerging trends in local and global food policy;
- be accountable to and rooted in the participation of *all* sectors of the community, give voice to those not normally heard, to reflect the social diversity of the City, and to celebrate the part food plays in the community and culture of the City.

¹ In this context 'local' includes growers and producers in the immediate feeder areas to Brighton and Hove City.

Subject:	Taking Forward the Sustainable Communities Act – proposals and community involvement		
Date of Meeting:	8 May 2009		
Report of:	Acting Director of Strategy & Governance		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Emma McDermott	Tel: 29-3944
	E-mail:	emma.mcdermott@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Brighton & Hove City Council has made the decision to 'opt in' to the Sustainable Communities Act. The Act gives the Government a legal duty to 'assist local authorities in promoting the sustainability of local communities.' Individuals, community groups and councils can put forward proposals on how they feel that the Government could carry out this duty.
- 1.2 This paper provides a brief update on the arrangements for generating and approving proposals in Brighton and Hove, including the process by which the public may submit proposals.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 (1) That the Sustainability Cabinet Committee notes the work being carried out by the Council and its partners to generate and assess proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Sustainable Communities Act is unique in that perhaps for the first time it gives councils the opportunity to bid to bypass 'top-down' decision-making from Government and put real power in the hands of local communities. The Act was introduced to Parliament as a Private Members' Bill by Nick Hurd MP following a lengthy and widespread grassroots campaign by Local Works, who are supported by over 120 organisations, ranging from the Women's Institute to the Campaign for Real Ale.
- 3.2 The driving force behind the grassroots campaign was a frustration amongst many local communities over feeling powerless to affect change for the better in their neighbourhoods.

Submission of proposals

- 3.3 The Act gives the Government a legal duty to ‘assist local authorities in promoting the sustainability of local communities.’ Individuals, community groups and councils can put forward proposals on how they feel that the Government could carry out this duty.
- 3.4 The meaning of sustainability under the Act has 4 strands: (i) improvement of the local economy, (ii) protection of the environment; (iii) promotion of social inclusion, and (iv) participation in civic and political activity. Proposals must fall into one or more of these categories. The Act also sets out a ‘schedule’ of matters to which people must have regard when putting forward proposals (see appendix A).
- 3.5 Those wishing to put forward proposals will be assisted in due course by the production of Local Spending Reports by national Government, which will provide a breakdown of all public spending within a local authority area (not just council spending). The Act requires ‘arrangements to be in place’ for the production of spending reports by April 2009. However, as a consultation paper on the specific contents of the reports has only just been released, it seems unlikely that this will take place in time for the first round deadline.
- 3.6 The Council launched its publicity for the Act on 6th March. A page has been created on the Council website and organisations, groups and partnerships have been contacted alerting them to the opportunity to generate proposals.

Assessment of proposals

- 3.7 A basic criterion is that proposals must require some form of central Government action (e.g. change in primary legislation, transfer of function between public bodies etc.) and which cannot currently be carried out under existing freedoms and flexibilities. As such, it represents an extension of local authorities’ current ‘well-being’ powers¹.
- 3.8 Proposals which are submitted will first be checked by the council’s Legal Team to ensure that they satisfy the conditions of the Act before being passed to a panel of local representatives for consideration, as stipulated by the Act.
- 3.9 This panel will be convened under the framework of the Stronger Communities Partnership (SCP). On behalf of the SCP, the Brighton & Hove Community & Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) will run a call for expressions of interest to seek wider involvement from the community and voluntary sector in the local panel to ensure it meets the requirements of the Act.
- 3.10 Support for groups to discuss and develop their ideas will be available from the city council and we would like to establish a dialogue at an early stage to make sure that their ideas will meet the criteria.

¹ The Local Government Act 2000 gave local authorities a discretionary power to promote or improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of their area.

- 3.11 The Local Panel will convene following a period of induction and training delivered jointly by the CVSF and the Council to consider the eligible proposals. The Council and the Panel seek to ‘reach agreement’ about which proposals should be in the final submission to the Government’s selector – the Local Government Association (LGA).
- 3.12 The Council will submit the final list of proposals to the LGA following a formal decision at Cabinet or Council (depending on whether the proposals relate to an executive or council function). Feedback on the final submission will be given locally through a range of means including directly to those who submitted ideas that were considered by the panel.
- 3.13 Additionally, the Council has made a commitment that public proposals which don’t meet the criteria of the Act will be referred to either the appropriate City Council Cabinet Member or to the organisation that would be most affected by the proposal (e.g. Primary Care Trust, Police etc.) for consideration and feedback.

Timetable and next steps

- 3.14 Table 1 shows the key dates in the process for submitting and assessing proposals under the Act.

Table 1 – Timetable for implementing the Sustainable Communities Act

	Date
Information launch	5/3/09
Panel membership expression of interest deadline	17/4/09
SCP to assess and confirm panel membership	20/4/09 – 1/5/09
Panel agreed	1/5/09
Deadline for proposal submission to Council	4/5/09
Panel briefing	12/5/09
Panel meets to assess proposals	20/5/09
Council and/or Cabinet formally agree proposals	9 or 16/7/09
LGA submission deadline	31/7/09

- 3.15 It is important to stress that this is just the first round of the Sustainable Communities Act. It is expected that the Secretary of State will issue further calls for proposals on a regular (probably annual) basis. Therefore, should groups and individuals require more time to develop workable proposals, there will be plenty of further opportunity.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Stronger Communities Partnership was consulted about the local process to promote the Act and develop the local panel. As the lead partnership in the city for improvement of community engagement it has the relevant expertise, knowledge and experience to advise on the most appropriate process for the opportunity.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The assessment of proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act will need to consider whether they can be delivered within existing budget resources. The financial implications of the agreed proposals will be identified at the next stage when reported to Council and /or Cabinet.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley Date: 09/04/09

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 To ensure compliance with the Act, Legal Services have advised the Chief Executive's Policy Team on the arrangements for establishing a panel of representatives of local people and for assessing proposals.
- 5.3 The arrangements now in place and described in this report conform to the Act, Regulations made under it, statutory guidance, and further guidance issued by the Local Government Association in their role as Selector.
- 5.4 There are no Human Rights implications arising directly from the report.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon Date: 20/04/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.5 The meaning of sustainability under the Act has 4 strands: (i) improvement of the local economy, (ii) protection of the environment; (iii) promotion of social inclusion, and (iv) participation in civic and political activity. Proposals must fall into one or more of these categories. Therefore within this definition proposals may include action to address inequality and discrimination.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.6 The primary aim of the legislation is to enhance and promote the sustainability of local communities.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.7 The meaning of sustainability under the Act has 4 strands: (i) improvement of the local economy, (ii) protection of the environment; (iii) promotion of social inclusion, and (iv) participation in civic and political activity. Proposals must fall into one or more of these categories. Therefore within this definition proposals may include action to reduce crime and disorder.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.8 The Act has introduced for the first time a co-operative element to decision making between local communities and national government with all decisions negotiated between relevant parties. However, as there are several tiers of negotiation there is an element of risk in terms of managing communities' expectation. Moreover, proposals are only eligible under the Act if they require action by national government. If the council can already carry out the desired action the proposal is not eligible for consideration under this process. In light of this the council has made a commitment to respond to all proposals submitted but which may not be eligible under the act.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.9 As the Act allows for proposals that request the transfer of power from national to local government and from one public agency to another the implications of the Act are relevant to all key public agencies in the city.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The process by which proposals are to be submitted under the act was defined in the legislation and associated guidance. Opportunity for an alternative approach was limited.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To ensure the Cabinet Committee is kept up to date on all opportunities to enhance and promote sustainability in the area.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. 'Schedule' to the Sustainable Communities Act

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

‘Schedule’ to the Sustainable Communities Act

SCHEDULE

MATTERS TO WHICH LOCAL AUTHORITIES MUST HAVE REGARD

1) The matters referred to in section 2 are—

- (a) the provision of local services,
- (b) the extent to which the volume and value of goods and services that are—
 - (i) offered for sale; or
 - (ii) procured by public bodiesand are produced within 30 miles (or any lesser distance as may be specified by a local authority in respect of its area) of their place of sale or of the boundary of the public body,
- (c) the rate of increase in the growth and marketing of organic forms of food production and the local food economy,
- (d) measures to promote reasonable access by all local people to a supply of food that is adequate in terms of both amount and nutritional value,
- (e) the number of local jobs,
- (f) measures to conserve energy and increase the quantity of energy supplies which are produced from sustainable sources within a 30 mile radius of the region in which they are consumed,
- (g) measures taken to reduce the level of road traffic including, but not restricted to, local public transport provision, measures to promote walking and cycling and measures to decrease the amount of product miles,
- (h) the increase in social inclusion, including an increase in involvement in local democracy,
- (i) measures to increase mutual aid and other community projects,
- (j) measures designed to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases,
- (k) measures designed to increase community health and well being,
- (l) planning policies which would assist with the purposes of this Act, including new arrangements for the provision of affordable housing, and
- (m) measures to increase the use of local waste materials for the benefit of the community.

2) In this Schedule the following terms shall have the following meanings—

“local services” includes, but is not restricted to, retail outlets, public houses, banks, health facilities, including hospitals and pharmacies, legal services, social housing, post offices, schools, public eating places, leisure facilities and open spaces;

“local food economy” means a system of producing, processing and trading primarily organic forms of food production, where the activity is largely contained in the area or region where the food was produced;

“local jobs” mean—

- (a) jobs in companies or organisations that in the opinion of the appropriate authority will spend a significant proportion of their turnover in the locality of the place of operation; and
- (b) jobs which are held by people living within 30 miles of that job;

Item 54 Appendix 1

“mutual aid” means actions or initiatives by people in the community to improve services or provisions for themselves and other persons in the community;

“product miles” means the total distance produce is transported from the place of growth or production to the place of consumption;

“social inclusion” means the opportunity for all people resident in any area to play an equal role in the economic, social and civic life of the area;

“local democracy” means the ability to participate, by means of voting at elections or otherwise, in decision-making that is as local as practicable to people’s place of residence; and

“community health and well-being” means the degree to which persons resident in an area identify with that area and receive an increased quality of life as a result of the nature and the environment of the area.

City Sustainability Partnership Meeting – Monday 6th April 2009 DRAFT 1

City Sustainability Partnership Meeting - Monday 6th April 2009

Jury's Inn, 101 Stroudley Road, Brighton

Public Services:

Councillor Denise Cobb – **Vice Chair**

Councillor Paul Steedman

Councillor David Watkins

Councillor Gill Mitchell

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

Alison Hadfield – Eco Schools

Business

Lorraine Bell –

Thea Allison – Brighton & Hove Business Community Partnership

Community and Voluntary Sector

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

Vic Else - Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

Angela Marlow – Brighton & Hove Wildlife Advisory Group

Phil Belden -

Sharon Philips -

Agencies

Chris Wick – Environment Agency

Council Officers

Richard Miles - Performance Analyst

Emma Mc Dermott - Senior Policy Development Officer

Anthony Pope - Policy Development Officer

Mustapha Semanda - Consultation Officer

Oliver Dixon - Lawyer

Mita Patel - Sustainability Co-ordinator

Partnership manager

Thurstan Crockett - Head of Sustainability

Meeting notes

Sarah Costelloe - Administrator, Sustainability

1. Apologies

Jan Jackson, Jane Simmons, Mike Creedy

2. Minutes and Actions from the previous meeting

2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

- 2.2 **Action** - Thurstan Crockett to circulate complete LAA targets report so partners can see sustainability targets in context.
- 2.3 Venue for social event after next meeting has yet to be decided. This should be near Jury's Inn but Thurstan welcomes suggestions.
- 2.4 Thurstan has removed 2% emissions reference from draft Sustainability Community Strategy consultation and sent draft targets to CSP group for comment.
- 2.5 **Action** (carried forward) - Thurstan will update Strategies & Consultation Programme draft. Please continue to send updates.
- 2.6 National Park update - 95% of boundaries have been confirmed for new South Downs National Park. Further consultation is planned on 6 areas, 3 of which are pertinent to Brighton & Hove. Loss of Green Ridge is disappointing - the council may be able to apply some pressure.
Action - CSP to look at this in detail in future meeting and agree recommendations.

3. Sustainable Community Strategy review response

- 3.1 Thurstan has drafted response from discussions in two working group meetings and circulated information.
- 3.2 Anthony Pope is now collating all responses and will have completed whole 1st draft by the end of the month for 12 week consultation to July 10th.
- 3.3 2nd draft will be made available for a brief consultation from mid-August to mid-September.

Action - CSP to look at Thurstan's draft in next meeting for comments in time for July 10th. Working group to try and meet between 18th May and July 10th.

4. Local Area Agreement targets and progress

- 4.1 Richard Miles gave a presentation introducing the Comprehensive Area Assessment.
- 4.2 Starting this month, the CAA is a broad ranging process driven by Audit Commission. It is a two stage process consisting of an Area Assessment, looking at what it is like to live in Brighton & Hove, and an Organisational Assessment relating to the performance of service delivery. The Area Assessment will involve assigning Green Flag status to high scoring areas and Red Flag status to areas where something has not been working well and there is no apparent prospect for improvement. Information relating to the Area Assessment will be published on the web. The Organisational Assessment will look at use of resources by public service organisations and the way in which they manage performance.

Action - Thurstan to circulate LAA Performance Improvement Report to CSP members.

- 4.3 The potential role of the CSP in this process was discussed in some detail. Terms of reference allow the partnership '[t]o direct the performance of key city stakeholders against the environmental sustainability indicators in the new National Indicator Set' enabling it to monitor progress against CAA targets, acting as an internal watchdog for the process. A common framework for public service organisations and the work of the CSP presents an opportunity to highlight good practise in other organisations. There was some concern, however, about the possibility that in focussing on the area of Brighton & Hove the county and area-wide implications may be lost. There is a need to cross connect and recognise the importance of the regional economic context.

Action - item on next agenda to work on detail of how CSP will respond to this.

5. Sustainable Communities Act

- 5.1 Emma McDermott gave a presentation introducing the Sustainable Communities Act.
- 5.2 Driven by concern regarding community decline, the Sustainable Communities Act offers an opportunity for councils in England, working with local people and community groups, to put forward proposals on sustainable improvements to economic, environmental and social wellbeing of their area. This includes plans involving decentralisation and reconfiguration of public services, and changes to the pattern of public spending, which would contribute to these goals. It specifically places a legal duty on Government to 'assist local authorities in promoting the sustainability of local communities'.
- 5.3 Anyone can submit an idea which must require national government action – new/change in legislation or transfer of powers from one public organisation to another. Eligible ideas are considered by a local panel. The panel and council reach agreement on which idea(s) to submit. Submission is then signed off at city council Cabinet or Council meeting after which the idea is submitted to Local Government Association. Finally, the LGA and Secretary of State reach an agreement about which ideas to implement.
- 5.4 Key dates:
17th April – deadline to express interest in panel
4th May – deadline to submit proposals to City Council
Mid-May – when local panel considers proposals
Early/Mid July – Council signs off final submission
31st July – deadline for submissions to Local Government Association
- 5.5 Members felt it would be useful to have examples of the kind of ideas that may be submitted as there is a wide range of possibilities and potential for the panel to be inundated with inappropriate ideas. Lorraine Bell raised the

possibility of Portland Rd traders asking for government action against proposals for a large supermarket nearby, an example of an idea which would be inappropriate for government action. Thurstan suggested that action on how local business rates are spent, for instance to support particular local industries, would be an example of a more appropriate action. He raised concerns about the likelihood that the processes involved would inevitably lead to a 'suggestion box' of ideas passing from the Cabinet to Sustainability with serious resourcing implications for an already under-resourced team.

- 5.6 The role of the CSP in this process was discussed. The partnership can encourage ideas to come forward, illustrate routes through which they can travel and should play a part in shaping the criteria for decision making. CSP should send delegates to sit on the local panel - Vic Else has already applied.
- 5.7 Some concern was expressed regarding what looks like a time-consuming process and the importance of effectively communicating expectations of success to avoid disappointing participants. Oliver Dixon explained that the council's existing powers are broad enough for 95% of proposals to be enacted without going through the full bureaucratic process. What needs capturing is the energy of the proposals in order to analyse priorities, take forward under existing powers, and monitoring/ communicating with those who have made proposals. This is a good opportunity to get funding and support for bottom-up ideas and priorities. Timescales do not allow CSP to put forward ideas at this time. Emma will publish info on the website re: ideas that come forward in first round.

Action - Emma to report on first round of process for future meetings to give opportunity to learn how CSP can engage with this process.

6. Funding Bids update: Harvest & Climate Connections

- 6.1 Harvest decision due in March but delayed to end of this week.
Action - Vic Else to update at next meeting.
- 6.2 Climate Connections - funding provisionally secured from Department for International Development (£186k), subject to checks. This is a 3 year city-wide public engagement project around concept of global interdependence aimed at raising awareness of climate change issues. The council is working in partnership with BPEC and Oxfam. Project leader will be recruited and based at BPEC (lead partner). Project consists of a) an outdoor photo exhibition based on local/global individuals and their experience of climate change, b) workshops delivered by the co-ordinator and c) a website maximising access for a wider audience. A media campaign will be supported by the BHCC communications team.
- 6.3 Ruth England, overall project co-ordinator, will give a more detailed presentation about the Climate Connections at the next CSP meeting.

7. Updates from the city council

- 7.1 Theme of next Sustainability Conference will be 'The Sea' and is likely to take place in March 2010.
- 7.2 1st hearing of the cross-party panel enquiry into the potential of environmental industries has taken place. Further meetings will take place on March 31st, April 23rd, May 13th and June 10th. Report due in December.
- 7.3 Enquiry into city's work preparing for climate change adaptation will be scoping into May.
- 7.4 Henry Christie has been appointed as Schools Carbon Management Officer. He will be giving advice to schools about grants, energy and carbon management. He will be supporting schools Display Energy Certificate work.

8. Wag meeting report

- 8.1 Angela Marlow highlighted key discussion points from the WAG meeting on 6th April.
- 8.2 WAG is concerned about uncollected grass cuttings on chalk grassland. Environment Agency is in favour of finding pragmatic, common sense solutions. Light touch approach is preferred although there are potential risks to public health around groundwater pollution. CSP needs to flag this issue to relevant council officers as an important issue requiring a strategic approach, particularly if aspiring to become an Urban Biosphere.
- 8.3 Concern about biodiversity and Shoreham Harbour development. Thurstan plans to raise this at June 29th meeting with consultants.

9. Any other business

- 9.1 Food Strategy review has been agreed - Food Partnership will be leading. Meetings with officers will take place over the next two months and a draft will be produced by the end of the summer.

Action - table agenda item on Food Strategy for next CSP meeting.

- 9.2 Business Lifebelt - Brighton & Hove Business Show at Hove Town Hall on 13th April - free event, contact Chamber of Commerce for more information.
- 9.3 UK biodiversity indicators released on Friday show decline in grassland biodiversity. Some serious concerns needs attention but will be taken to WAG first.

