BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

2.00PM 22 OCTOBER 2010

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Fallon-Khan (Chairman), Simson

Also in attendance: Councillor Steedman

PART ONE

- 18. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS
- 18A Declarations of Interest
- 18a.1 There were none.
- 18B Exclusion of Press and Public
- 18b.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).
- 18b.2 **RESOLVED** That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

19. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 19.1 Further to paragraph 12.6 of the minutes, the Chairman reported that he had been invited to Eon Climate & Renewables for the opening of the Robin Rigg offshore wind farm, which would be similar to the one planned off the coast of Brighton. He advised that it had served to cement the council's relationship with Eon and that he looked forward to working closely with them to realise the project in Brighton & Hove and to making the most of the economic benefits for the city.
- 19.2 **RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

20. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 20.1 The Chairman, Councillor Fallon-Khan, advised that Councillors Mears and Caulfield had sent their apologies and that he would chair meeting, with Councillor Simson present as a substitute.
- 20.2 The Chairman reported that Brighton & Hove had retained third place in the 2010 Sustainable Cities Index and was the only city of 20 in the UK to have been in the top three since the index began four years ago. The city scored really well on a wider range of indicators, not least for climate and future proofing, for business start ups and educational attainment. While the city was scored down on ecological footprint, this was hard to improve as the methodology was based on socio-economic profiling and average consumption data, which made it impossible to take account of specific local activities.

According to Forum for the Future Brighton & Hove was part of the leading group of cities that had "set themselves ambitious targets and are guided by long-term visions of how to improve life for their citizens by reducing their impact on the environment and seizing new opportunities in the green economy".

- 20.3 The Chairman advised the council was partnering with the Low Carbon Trust and the city's Permaculture Trust to run Eco Open Houses again this year. The next weekend for visits would be October 30th-31st. Thousands of people were expected to take advantage of the opportunity to find out first hand about practical environmental lifestyles in the home.
- 20.4 The Chairman announced that the launch event for the annual national Energy Saving Week was being held in the city on 25 October and would feature the Energy Saving Trust's 'Smarter Driving' simulator, which would allow residents and visitors to test and improve their skills at driving more fuel-efficiently.
- 20.5 The Chairman reported that the Sustainability Team would be seeing a number of staff changes in the coming weeks.
 - Mita Patel, Senior Sustainability Consultant, would shortly be starting maternity leave. The Chairman gave his personal thanks and congratulations to Mita and family and also passed on best wishes from the Leader of the Council.
 - Susie Howells had been recruited to cover Mita's leave and was experienced environmental consultant, having worked for many years on environmental management for BAA at Gatwick.
 - A new Sustainability Consultant had also been recruited within budget to complete the team; Shelaine Weller was very experienced and well-known to the business community in West Sussex where she had involved them in an extensive environmental management programme.
 - Following a successful placement in the previous year, the team would be welcoming another Masters in Sustainable Development Leadership student, Alison Freeman, from Forum for the Future for a placement in November. Forum for the Future was so impressed with the learning their student received last year that they have waived their fee this time.

20.6 Councillor Steedman stated that, as a former graduate of Forum for the Future, it was good that they were impressed with the experience gained by their previous student during their time with the council.

With reference to the 2010 Sustainable Cities Index, Councillor Steedman asked whether the council would consider working with the universities to undertake a bottom-up approach to gathering information to obtain a better picture of the city's ecological footprint.

20.7 The Chairman advised that he would discuss the suggestion with the Leader and contact Councillors Steedman and Mitchell, but warned that it would be difficult to identify any resources for such a piece of work.

21. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

21.1 **RESOLVED** – That all the items be reserved for discussion.

22. PETITIONS

22.1 There were none.

23. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

23.1 There were none.

24. DEPUTATIONS

24.1 There were none.

25. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

25.1 There were none.

26. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

26.1 There were none.

27. NOTICES OF MOTIONS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

27.1 There were none.

28. HARVEST FOOD GROWING PROGRAMME UPDATE

- 28.1 The Cabinet Committee received a presentation from Vic Borrill, Director of the City Food Partnership concerning the Harvest food growing project (see Appendix 1).
- 28.2 Ms Borrill explained that the aim of the project was to encourage people to grow there own food on any available pieces of land in order to support a sustainable food system and a vibrant food economy. She reported that the project had met most of the targets

set at the beginning of the first year and created both jobs and volunteering opportunities within the city.

Ms Borrill highlighted a number of the successes including raising awareness, providing training, work placements for the unemployed, a mentoring programme, reducing food miles within the city, the Grow It competition and finding new land on which to grow food. She advised that aims for the future included increasing composting, helping growers to sell their produce and working to engage students.

Ms Borrill thanked Members and council officers for their support for and interest in Harvest.

- 23.3 Councillor Steedman stated that Harvest had achieved an extraordinary amount within one year. He noted that the council's Core Strategy had originally not made any reference to food growing, but that despite this, the Harvest project was making it happen throughout the city.
- 23.4 The Assistant Director for CityClean and City Parks advised that the gardeners at Preston Park were initially sceptical about the demonstration garden that Harvest had created there, but that they now recognise its success and would like for the size of it to be increased.
- 23.5 Ms Borrill explained that the next step would be use adjacent plots to demonstrate how food can be grown in different small locations, as well as to show companion growing. She added that no true vandalism had been seen and that this was in part due to the vigilance of local residents.
- 23.6 The Chairman stated that the council had pursued the idea of growing food on its own pieces of land, however, small, and that this work would continue.
- 23.7 Councillor Simson stated that it was clear that a gap had existed for some time and that it was now time to promote food growing through projects like Harvest and through one's own family.
- 23.8 **RESOLVED** That the presentation be noted.

29. 10:10 CAMPAIGN

- 29.1 The Cabinet Committee received an update from the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy concerning the 10:10 campaign.
- 29.2 The Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy reported the following:

City 10:10 Campaign

- Support provided to social entrepreneurs in setting up the campaign had had a real effect on sign up and the strength of commitment seen in the city had resulted in the Brighton & Hove being used as a model city by the national campaign.
- The aim was to achieve 2500 sign ups within a year and the campaign had been heavily promoted at many community events during the summer; the city had achieved the largest batch of offline sign ups over the year in the UK.

- Progress was being made in the business, health and education strands and, to date, 1800 sign ups had been achieved, including approximately 1500 individuals, 100 businesses, 13 schools, 12 charities and 5 universities.
- The council had provided match funding for a Knowledge Transfer Partnership with the University of Brighton, enabling the recruitment of a project manager for a year, with academic support.

Council 10:10 Campaign

- The Water & Energy Team and the Communications had worked together to launch the first 'Footprint Fortnight', during which stickers had been placed on computers and monitors in King's House found to be left on over night in order to raise awareness and encourage staff to switch off appliances at night.
- Work was continuing towards reducing the number of servers; 100 had been decommissioned so far, resulting in a reduction in energy consumption by over a quarter with scope for more to be done.
- Accommodation strategies were focused on increasing flexible working and smartspace to reduce emissions.
- Work on staff travel habits was looking at promoting telephone conferencing and increasing awareness.

He added that the employee to emissions ratio for the council was positive compared to other similar local authorities in the South East.

29.3 In response to questions from Councillor Steedman, the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy advised that it was not yet possible to determine how close the city or the council was to achieving the aim of a 10% reduction in carbon emissions as there were many factors to consider; in particular, it was difficult to measure real time energy consumption until the council obtained automatic meter readings. There was a sense that good progress was being made, but it was important to note that many of the measures would result in longer term improvements.

The council was committed to the ongoing measurement of its own CO₂ emissions, despite the abolition of National Indicators, however, the ongoing measurement of the city's emissions was uncertain because currently this was funded by DEFRA.

- 29.4 At the request of Councillor Steedman, the Chairman agreed to write to the Secretary of State about future measurement of emissions and added that the council had taken every step to be a leading example in the 10:10 campaign, most notably the reduction of emissions through the new printer contract and the establishment of 10:10 pioneering groups.
- 29.5 **RESOLVED** That the update be noted.

30. SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

30.1 The Cabinet Committee received an update from the Senior Procurement Advisor concerning sustainable procurement.

- 30.2 The Senior Procurement Advisor reported the following:
 - a change to the type of pre-qualification questionnaires used for lower value contracts would streamline and simplify the process for smaller local businesses.
 - 'Top Tips for Tenderers' had been launched on the council's website to provide simple advice for smaller businesses and ensure that they understand the evaluation process.
 - A 'Frequently Asked Questions' documents would also be launched soon.
 - Officers were currently working on two significant contracts:
 - 1. Corporate stationary contract focusing on transportation, packaging, reducing deliveries, increasing the number of environmental options, provider awareness of sustainability issues and electronic ordering processes.
 - 2. School meals contract for 63 schools focusing on fresh seasonal produce, Fairtrade, composting and recycling, local sourcing and reducing food miles.
 - Contracts were also evaluated for their community benefit and the Procurement Team were aware of the right questions to ask in relation to sustainability issues.
- 30.3 In response to questions from Councillor Steedman the Senior Procurement Advisor explained that once the new contract had been approved, it would be publicised internally and all teams would be encouraged to utilise it; however it was likely that a small number of teams would use alternative suppliers.
- 30.4 The Chairman stated that he felt that all teams within the council should use only the corporate contract where one existed and requested further information on those teams not utilising the current stationary contract.
- 30.5 Councillor Simson advised that the new contract should be clearly communicated to the city's schools to ensure that they also made use of it.
- 30.6 With regard to the school meals contract, Councillor Steedman advised that the Food for Life Silver Standard should be included as a requirement for the preferred bidder.
- 30.7 **RESOLVED** That the update be noted.

31. BIOSPHERE RESERVE

- 31.1 The Cabinet Committee received an update form the Assistant Director for CityClean and City Parks concerning work undertaken in pursuit of a Biosphere Reserve designation for the city.
- 31.2 The Assistant Director reported that the UK branch of UNESCO had visited the city to meet with members of the steering group and were very supportive of the concept of a biosphere reserve for Brighton & Hove. UNESCO provided the following information:
 - The biosphere reserve must focus on the downland, but could include urban areas and should also take in the coast.
 - The biosphere reserve was likely to cross administrative boundaries.
 - High levels of consultation would be required and should include residents, public bodies and businesses.
 - Achieving biosphere reserve designation was an accolade.

- It would take two years to prepare for a bid and the assessment process would take up to one year.
- A detailed management plan would need to be established for the whole of the proposed area and it must show any actions undertaken and future plans; a steering group would be required to manage this.
- The designated area would need to include: (1) a core area; (2) a buffer area; and (3) a transition area.
- It would be necessary to identify policy gaps across organisations.

The Assistant Director advised that work was already underway on the following:

- Sites of Nature Conservation Interest review
- Identifying policy gaps within the council
- Organising meetings within other local authorities
- Raising the matter with the Local Strategic Partnership
- Reviewing how the council consults on in green spaces.
- 31.3 **RESOLVED** That the update be noted.

32. PILOT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PROJECTS

- 32.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance updating Members on the implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) as a pilot into two service areas of the council.
- 32.2 The Senior Sustainability Consultant explained that EMSs would bring significant benefits in the challenging economic climate and that they also served to support a number of key council strategies. She reported that Brighton & Hove City Council was the first local authority to hold the ISO14001 and BS8901 standards simultaneously.
- 32.3 In response to a question from Councillor Steedman, the Senior Sustainability Consultant explained that a staggered approach to rolling out EMSs across the council was preferred so that the necessary work could be undertaken to identify those service areas that would benefit most.
- 32.4 **RESOLVED** That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Committee accepted the following recommendation:
 - (1) That progress made within the relevant services in which the EMS has been piloted so far be noted, and approved as a business case for implementation of an EMS into other suitable service areas of the council portfolio.

33. REPORT OF THE CITY SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

- 33.1 The Cabinet Committee considered the minutes of the City Sustainability Partnership 13 September 2010.
- 33.2 **RESOLVED** That the minutes be noted.

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

22 OCTOBER 2010

The meeting concluded at 3.40pm	
Signed	Chairman
Dated this	day of







Presentation to Sustainability Cabinet Committee 22nd October Vic Borrill, Director Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

www.harvest-bh.org.uk Vic@bhfood.org.uk 01273 431700

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Year one in numbers

- ▶ **129** new allotments created including **9** new community plots
- **68** existing and new food projects supported and **18** projects received Good Food Grants
- ▶ **150**people attended **20** training courses
- 7 new jobs created and 80 volunteers provided more than 500 hours of voluntary work
- ▶ **10** work placement were created for unemployed individuals
- Attended **80** community events and spoke to more than **4,000** people
- ▶ **1,150** people receive the e-bulletin & **10,500** people visited the website
- Harvest has 245 Facebook fans and 400 Twitter followers
- ▶ **60**people attended Pick and Cook days
- **500** people attended Preston Park Picnic during Local Food Week



Harvest one year on







Outcomes

- increase the amount land available to grow food
- improve access to local food
- increase skills and confidence of local people in growing food
- improve awareness of the benefits of growing, buying and eating local produce
- develop strategies and guidance that support land use and infrastructure for urban agriculture



Increased knowledge, skills and confidence

- Training courses
- Work placement scheme
- Website / information
- Mentoring programme
- Volunteers





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Increasing access to fresh local produce

- 'zero food miles' soup
- Small grants scheme
- Grow It competition
- New markets







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More land on which to grow

- Grow your neighbours own
- Allotments
- Land owned by the Council







Strategies and guidance that ... change the world?

- Sustainable CommunityStrategy & Core Strategy
- Planning Advisory Note
- Integrating food growing into new developments
- Work on reducing inequalities and child poverty





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Looking forward to

- Breaking new ground
- Wildlife UNESCO Biosphere
- Better links with composting projects
- Planning Advisory Note
- Influencing developments
- More opportunities for local food businesses to sell their produce
- Engaging our student population
- Volunteering and work placements
- ▶ Involvement of secondary schools



Demonstration Growing Garden



WELCOME TO THE FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW OF HARVEST BRIGHTON AND HOVE

In 2009, the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership, Food Matters and other community food groups in the city were awarded Beacon funding of almost £500,000 over four years from the Big Lottery to run an urban growing project. Harvest Brighton & Hove is now celebrating a busy and successful first year. The project is driven by the vision of a sustainable food system where more food is provided from within the city, and which is accessible to all local residents. The primary aim is to get people growing their own food whether this is in their own back gardens, on allotments, or in unusual

spaces such as public parks, areas of empty land around housing estates or container gardening on balconies. The project offers training to individuals and community groups and supports the development of new projects. Harvest's range of projects are delivered by partners across the city, including the Whitehawk Community Food Project, Moulsecoomb Forest Garden, Brighton & Hove FareShare, Fork and Dig It, the Brighton Permaculture Trust, the Brighton & Hove Allotment Federation, and supported by Brighton & Hove City

Sowing seeds at the Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project Allotment



Council and NHS Brighton & Hove. As a Beacon project Harvest will share learning and exchange information with projects across the UK and beyond and is being evaluated by the University of Brighton.



It's hard to believe it's been a year since the Hawest team first walked into an empty office at the Food Partnership. Since then we've made contact with thousands of people across the city who want to grow their own and eat more local food. This interest isn't just a passing trend; it's about improving our quality of life - reconnecting with healthier food, with outdoor spaces and with our neighbours.

Over the past year, we've been inspired by the many existing and new community projects that are helping ensure the benefits of food growing are

accessible even in the most disadvantaged communities in our city. These projects depend on committed volunteers, and we are pleased that so many new people are keen to be involved with Hawest and local food growing projects. In otherwise difficult times, these projects help bring people together to develop new skills and gain confidence and a renewed sense of community. In return we are keen to learn from them how to improve our services and meet the needs of people in the city.

As our first Hawest celebrations draw to a close, we're looking forward to more work with communities to find out what they want from food growing and to help them achieve this - sowing the seeds for another bountiful year of activity in 2011!

Jess Crocker, Harvest Manager

HARVEST OUTCOMES

- increase the amount of food produced locally
- improve access to local food
- increase skills and confidence of local people in growing food
- improve awareness of the benefits of growing, buying and eating local produce
- develop strategies and guidance that support land use and infrastructure for urban agriculture

HARVEST SUCCESS STORIES

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new allotments

allotments created

existing and new food

projects received Good

people attended 20 training courses

volunteers provided nore than 500 hours of

Harvest staff attended 🕇 🕕

Harvest's e-bulletin

risited the Harvest website

Facebook fans

Nitter followers

people attended Pick

Preston Park Picnic during people attended

new jobs created

IMPROVE AWARIENESS OF THE SENEFITS OF GROWING, SUYING AND EATING LOCAL FOOD

volunteers who have gained skills as the public. The garden is one of only answer questions from members of a handful of vegetable gardens in grown in a small domestic space Preston Park is the city's largest of a demonstration garden is to residents and visitors. The idea and inspire people to have a go they tend the garden and who maintained by a team of local park and is well-used by both show how much food can be themselves. The garden is





growing food for the relax, reconnect with first time as a result People now gather was previously just seasons and share gardening in what together to chat, the cycles of the of the garden. an empty lawn. that they are

INCREASE SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE IN FOOD GROWING

I'm not a natural gardener. At school I booked me onto a two-hour "Container gardening for beginners" course run by now really enjoying eating the fruits of was the only one whose cress failed to therefore did I manage to cook a curry Harvest...I had a great time - and am armfuls of carrots, marvelling at their with admiration as friends produced potatoes, carrots and tomatoes? The basil yesterday? And how is it that I sprout. For many years, I watched using my own spinach, chillies and am proudly awaiting a harvest of turning point came when a friend ability to keep plants alive. How my gardening labours.'

In addition to the extensive training programme offered, Harvest runs a Community Food Project. Three of work placement scheme for people who have been unemployed for six the participants have continued to volunteer at the project after their months or more. This year ten people took up the programme which involved a four-week placement at Whitehawk placement finished. Of the 80 volunteers involved with others have moved on to college or Harvest, at least five have gone on to find paid employment and re-training.

Fabia Bates, training course attendee

IMPROVE ACCESS TO LOCAL FOOD

opportunities for parents and pupils A week of activities celebrating local to share recipes and taste local food. month-long Brighton & Hove Food and Drink Festival. Coinciding with schools, including Moulsecoomb produce took place as part of the Harvest Festival time, several celebrations which included Primary and St Luke's, held

A range of local juices, chutneys and annual Apple Day festival. This fruit the efforts of our Scrumping Project would have gone to waste without which has been harvesting from Brighton Permaculture Trust's pies were also served up at the trees throughout the city.

Preston Park where over 500 people preserves and even met some sheep The week culminated in a picnic in enjoyed the late autumn sunshine and tasted and bought local food also swapped excess produce and from a range of producers. They conservation grazing scheme. Winners of the 'Grow It' from the City Council's

Court area.

of food growing in nurseries and even inspiring example entrants included produce the most their workplace 28 businesses competed to the local bus pubs, hotels, company.

We have also given out Good Food community and Honeycroft older food. For example, Moulsecoomb improve access to fresh seasonal Food Co-op provides affordable Grants to support projects that people's lunch club supports fresh produce to the local

The Harvest website also provides a list of local food resources such as markets and caterers which has seen viewed over 1,000 times. box schemes, shops, farmers

competition were

Grow It winner Little Earthworms Nursery

we can bring edible plants into seeing the plants growing and we have had some marvellous our business space. Our staff and customers have enjoyed Peter Allinson, Temptation Café, Grow It winner



CASE STUDY

Unemployed Families Centre knowledgeable in exactly the Project (BUFCP). The Centre unemploved adults and their vandalism and arson and ways we need." The

INCREASE LAND AVAILABLE TO GROW FOOD

and allotments with willing growers Land is precious in urban settings, registered, this year 32 gardeners scheme matches unused gardens space available for growing. The who share the produce with the have been successfully matched garden owner. With 110 people surprising amount of potential Grow Your Neighbours Own' yet within the city there is a with 15 gardens.

into disuse and 80 of which are new. To help community groups be more allotment waiting list is bulging, but allotments, 49 of which had fallen allotments have also been created. number of people can now access In addition the size of allotments has been halved, so when plots this year the City Council has successfully created 129 new become available double the them. Nine new community Like many places, the city's

has established a mentoring scheme productive on their plots, Harvest to offer expert advice and support inevitable teething problems of and see groups through the developing a new garden.

potential housing land currently not develop growing projects on empty land around housing estates or on We have also worked with City Council officers to establish a system for council tenants to being developed.



New allotments at Whitehawk Hill



DEVELOP GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT FOOD GROWING WITHIN THE CITY

A key aim of Harvest is to ensure that food growing and local food become an integral part of life in the city well after the project is finished. We want local and national policy to recognise the benefits that food growing brings to the social and economic development of the city, providing opportunities for developing skills, volunteering, improving health, reducing carbon emissions and our environmental impact. We have been successful in ensuring that the Core Strategy, which will provide a framework for future development in the city, makes several references to food growing. Work has now started on developing planning guidance for new developments to include food growing, a pioneering piece of work which will be of use elsewhere in the country. The team has presented papers at conferences – including the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors conference in Paris, and the British Sociological Society in London. We want to show people outside the city what great work is happening here, share the lessons we are learning and the examples of best practice being developed.



Local food picnic in Preston Park

TI-IANK YOU...

to all the fantastic volunteers who have given their time to help Harvest at the office, and the demonstration garden. Thank you to the **Harvest Advisory Group and** partners for their input, and in particular staff from the City Parks team for their support for allotments and the demonstration garden. Thank you to all our funders, especially the Big Lottery Fund, for making Harvest possible, and to Brighton & **Hove City Council and NHS Brighton & Hove for** supporting with either funding or in-kind support from staff. And last but certainly not least, thanks to the excellent staff team at the Food Partnership for their commitment, and for having achieved so much in just one year.

This residents group had been struggling to find new members, and all of a sudden this exciting project hit a really positive note and nine residents have come forward to join the tenants association and take forward the project.

Graham Allen, Community
Development worker working with
South Hawk Tenants Association to
create a community garden

THE COMING YEAR

What we are looking forward to

- 'Breaking new ground' and developing community projects on land other than allotments
- More networking and support for local food projects
- Awarding grants to support more community and school-based cooking and growing projects
- More targeted work with different communities in Brighton & Hove
- More events and activities to build on the success of Local Food Week's business competition, film screening, picnic and food swap events
- New food markets, shops and community projects to increase food access
- An expansion to the demonstration garden to show what can be grown on balconies, patios and in herb beds
- More work with secondary schools to give young people a chance to learn to grow







