



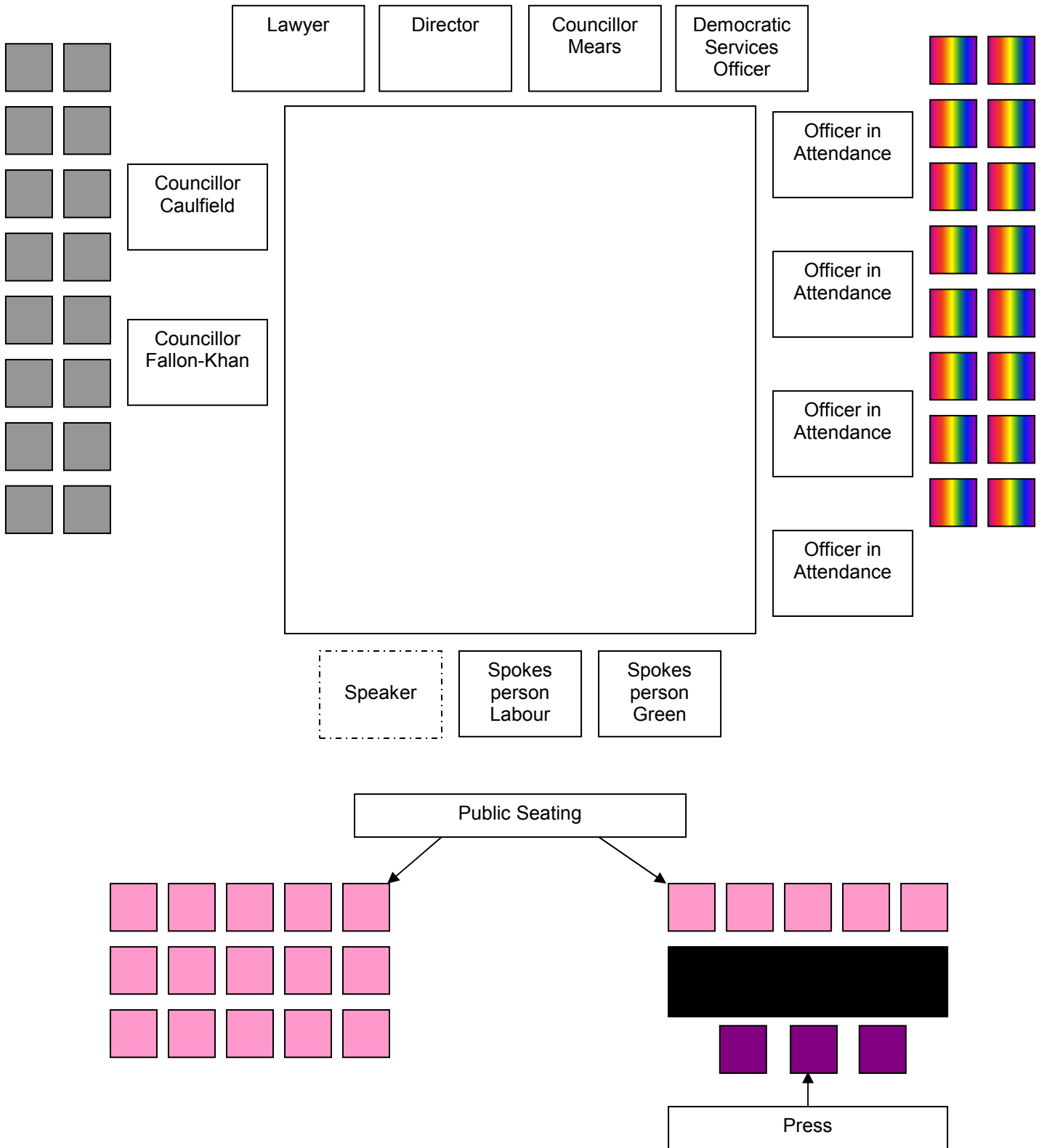
Brighton & Hove
City Council

Cabinet Committee

Title:	Sustainability Cabinet Committee
Date:	25 March 2011
Time:	3.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: Mears (Chairman), Caulfield and Fallon-Khan
Contact:	Tanya Davies Acting Democratic Services Manager 01273 291227 tanya.davies@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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Democratic Services: Meeting Layout



AGENDA

49. 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 either that it is confidential or 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 categories of exempt information is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

50. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 22

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2011 (copy attached).

51. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

52. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

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

53. PETITIONS

No petitions have been received.

54. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(The closing date for receipt of public questions is 12 noon on 18 March 2011)

No public questions received by date of publication.

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

55. DEPUTATIONS

(The closing date for receipt of deputations is 12 noon on 18 March 2011)

No deputations received by date of publication.

56. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

No letters have been received.

57. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

No written questions have been received.

58. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

No Notices of Motion have been received.

59. SUSTAINABILITY AND THE SHOREHAM PORT MASTERPLAN

Presentation from Peter Davies, Shoreham Port Development Director.

60. CITY FOOD STRATEGY REVIEW AND REVISION

23 - 28

Report of the Strategic Director, Resources (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Thurstan Crockett Tel: 29-2503

Ward Affected: All Wards

61. LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS SECTION OF THE CITY PERFORMANCE PLAN

29 - 32

Report of the Strategic Director, Resources (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Thurstan Crockett Tel: 29-2503

Ward Affected: All Wards

62. SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Verbal update from the Procurement Strategy Manager.

63. REPORT OF THE CITY SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

To note the draft minutes of the City Sustainability Partnership meeting held on 14 March 2011 (copy to follow).

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 Davies, (01273 291227, email tanya.davies@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Thursday, 17 March 2011

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE
3.00PM 9 FEBRUARY 2011
COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL
MINUTES

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

Also in attendance: Councillors Mitchell (Opposition Spokesperson, Labour) and Steedman (Opposition Spokesperson, Green)

PART ONE

34. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

34(a) Declarations of Interests

34a.1 There were none.

34(b) Exclusion of Press and Public

34b.1 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (“the Act”), the 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 business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and 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).

34b.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

35. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

35.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

35.2 The following comments were made in response to matters arising from the minutes highlighted by Councillor Steedman:

- In relation to Councillor Steedman’s suggestion for the council to work with the universities to consider ways of obtaining better data on the city’s ecological

footprint, The Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy explained that it was felt the best opportunity to take the idea forward was through the City Sustainability Partnership workshop on the city's ecological footprint on February 28 as Councillors Steedman, Mitchell and Fallon-Khan were all invited.

- In relation to a request from Councillor Steedman for the Chairman to write the Secretary of State about the future measurement of carbon emissions, the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy advised that it was no longer necessary following an announcement from the Government that national indicators NI185 and NI186 would continue to be measured.
- In relation to sustainable procurement and the contract for provision of school meals, the Procurement Strategy Manager reported that sustainable objectives were built into the tender evaluation, including significant staff training.

35.3 The Chairman advised that, following on from her presentation at the last meeting, Vic Borrill, Director of the City Food Partnership had been invited to the next meeting of the Cabinet Committee to discuss the planned review and revision of the city's Food Strategy.

36. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

36.1 The Chairman advised that Shoreham Port had produced a Masterplan and discussions had taken place with the Port Development Director Peter Davies in relation to their potential role in the offshore windfarm and their own renewables ideas; in the light of the exciting opportunities, Peter Davies would be invited to the next Cabinet Committee meeting to outline their vision on these important issues.

36.2 The Chairman reported that a number of events were taking place in the next month:

- the University of Sussex was organising a Sustainable City Day on 5 March in Jubilee Square with events and stalls and the council's Adult and Community Learning team were helping to organise it. Councillor Fallon-Khan and other Members would be taking part in a Question Time-style event on the same day, organised by Friends of the Earth.
- The city 10:10 campaign was preparing to celebrate its achievements over the year on 10 March in the city.
- Fairtrade fortnight would be marked through a wide range of events in the city from 28 February to 13 March and Councillor Fallon-Khan had been actively involved as part of the rejuvenated city Fairtrade Steering Group, which the Cabinet Committee had helped to set up last year.

37. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

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

38. PETITIONS

38.1 There were none.

39. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

39.1 There were none.

40. DEPUTATIONS

40.1 There were none.

41. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

41.1 There were none.

42. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

42.1 The Chairman reported that two written questions had been received.

42.2 Councillor Steedman had submitted the following question:

“The Leader and the Cabinet Member for Housing have encouraged the Council to develop programmes for the installation of solar panels on homes, offices, schools and other buildings, to take advantage of the Feed-in Tariff system. This is very welcome. The Feed-in Tariff rates are scheduled to decrease in April 2012, and rates are also due to be reviewed in that year. Conservative Climate Change Minister Greg Barker has recently suggested that a review of rates may be triggered before even this date, due to budget constraints imposed by the Chancellor George Osborne.

Could the Leader therefore:

- (a) confirm that the necessary resources will be provided to ensure that the Council has completed all solar installations identified as viable locations within its property portfolio, including the housing stock, before April 2012?;
- (b) confirm that the programme will be extended to private residents and landlords wishing to take advantage of the quality assurance and bulk-buying discounts that the Council’s scheme can provide, in order to maximise the environmental and financial benefits?; and
- (c) write to Greg Barker MP expressing this Council’s concern about the threat of an early cut in FiT rates and the damaging impact that it could have on Brighton and Hove’s plan to tackle climate change?”

42.3 The Chairman had circulated the following response:

“Thank you for your very detailed question Cllr Steedman. Each of its three parts covers an enormous amount of work, too much to explain adequately now and much of it undertaken by distinct areas of the authority.

Officers from Housing, Property and Sustainability are working to thoroughly address your concerns and I have instructed them to respond to you in writing so that you receive a level of detail worthy of your queries.

As you will be aware, some of this work may be affected by a review of feed in tariffs announced on Monday by the Energy and Climate Change secretary Chris Huhne. I would therefore be grateful if you were able to allow officers time to consider how this might impact on us before replying.

In outline however I can advise that our Housing Strategy and strategies related to sustainable energy are being aligned to ensure they complement one another and drive forward the innovative work of the council.

Our current Housing Strategy alone aims to improve housing quality by reducing fuel poverty and minimizing CO2 emissions.

The Council's Energy Manager and the Energy & Water Team are working to ensure that emissions are monitored, managed and reduced across all Council properties.

And a programme of work has been identified to investigate the feasibility of using renewables within Council stock and across the city to improve our offer in this area.

Our options with regards to the use of solar PV installations across both the council's housing and non-housing property portfolio are being appraised.

Alongside this the Housing Capital programme for 2011-14 includes home energy efficiency investment as a housing commissioning investment priority. We await information on the limits of the recently announced review to see if this impact on our developing proposals.

With regards to 'extending the programme to private residents and landlords' I can advise we already have a comprehensive renewal programme for private sector housing within the Housing Strategy and an existing sub-regional partnership (BEST) through whom we are working to review and take forward FIT and other investment options for Housing, both Council and Private Sector.

As a recent member of the Housing Management Consultative Committee and sitting on the Tenants Energy Efficiency Working Group, you will have received briefings on our work in this area already.

The Energy Manager has also been meeting with colleagues across the region to discuss energy matters and identify joint partnerships. One of the benefits to emerge has been the opportunity to bulk buy with other local authorities.

I am mindful of writing to Greg Barker MP at this specific point in time, especially as the review of feed in tariffs has just been announced. Our initial impression is that the review threshold is unlikely to affect council plans, but we have not yet had time to consider whether there may be wider city impacts on larger PV arrays."

42.4 Councillor Steedman asked the following supplementary question:

"The announcement of the review of feed in tariffs so soon is quite shocking. Where is the sense of urgency in the council's programmes to make the most of feed in tariffs and when will we be tendering for the contract to provide solar panels?"

42.5 The Chairman gave the following response:

“I have met with Greg Baker MP, Minister for Energy & Climate Change, and have been told that the Government will soon announce their solar energy policy. We need to capture what the Government is going to be doing before we proceed. I expect the announcement by June of this year. It is important that we know what the Government is planning.”

42.6 Councillor Steedman had submitted the following question:

“Sustainability encompasses local environmental quality, as much as it does big global questions such as climate change. Residents, community groups, council officers and ward councillors, have been working over the last two years on a scheme to improve the much degraded environment of Richmond Parade (Queen’s Park ward), to help improve road safety, tackle anti-social behaviour, increase tree planting and provide the many residents of the Albion Hill Estate and beyond, who use this route every day to get to work, school and the shops. The work was identified as a priority by the Tarner Area Partnership, and has been developed via a series of interactive public workshops. Funding for the first phase of the project has been identified, from the Section 106 contributions made as part of the Ebenezer Church development.

I understand that the Council Leader herself has taken an interest in the scheme, which I am delighted about. Can she announce today the start date for the works to begin?”

42.7 The Chairman had circulated the following response:

“I am very mindful of the work undertaken by the local community and ward councillors to improve the Richmond Parade area of Tarner. Having personally visited the site, I am also aware of the section 106 contributions made as part of the Ebenezer Church development.

I am cautious that the budget available may not be able to meet the expectations of residents as funds are limited and we may need to prioritise.

A lot of work has been done to determine improvements to the area and officers are working to develop a plan that will, as far as possible, meet the aspirations of residents. I am sure, once all parties are happy, that they will prove an attractive and sustainable addition to the area.”

42.8 Councillor Steedman asked the following supplementary question:

“Residents are aware that the full scale transformation won’t be achieved in one go, but when will the public be able to see the plans and why is there further delay to work starting?”

42.9 The Chairman gave the following response:

“The proposal is to bring part of the scheme forward at the beginning. We must fully understand the impact on Grand Parade before work begins because we don’t want to start and then have to stop. It is important to get the whole scheme right for residents to

prevent any knock on effect on other areas. We know that residents are happy with the scheme and aware that it will be completed over three years. I met with officers yesterday and the start of work is not too far off.”

43. NOTICES OF MOTION

43.1 There were none.

44. CLIMATE CONNECTIONS

44.1 The Cabinet Committee received a presentation from Paolo Boldrini from the Brighton Peace & Environment Centre (BPEC) concerning the Climate Connections project, which was a partnership between BPEC, the council, Oxfam and UK Aid (see Appendix 1).

44.2 Mr Boldrini explained that the project was a three year programme aiming to raise awareness of the impact of climate change from a global to a local level, engage residents and communities to act on climate change, and promote local community projects, initiatives, organisations and businesses supporting residents in making informed choices. Progress to date included the launch of an interactive website, an outdoor exhibition which moved around the city, day events and 10 workshops for communities focusing on setting actions. The interim evaluation report showed that the project was succeeding in increasing take-up of local climate change related resources, initiatives and projects and in encouraging people, particularly those who participated in workshops, to take positive actions to mitigate climate change. Future plans included three more exhibitions, continued attendance at events, more workshops, a more interactive website and delivery of training and support for individuals and communities in partnership with the city 10:10 campaign.

44.3 Councillor Mitchell praised the outdoor exhibitions and stated that they had succeeded in catching the attention of the public. She welcomed the planned workshop with Bristol Estate residents, which was part of the ward she represented. She asked whether the programme included any work with schools.

44.4 Councillor Steedman commended the project and queried its future when funding ended.

44.5 Councillor Fallon-Khan welcomed the community workshops undertaken and asked for more information on which groups had been approached to take part.

44.6 In response to the question from councilor, Mr Boldrini made the following comments:

- Climate Connections was primarily an adult education programme, but BPEC worked separately with schools in other ways.
- It was likely to be difficult to secure more funding, however, it was hoped that working with organisations and going in to areas of the city to establish community champions would ensure that the progress made would be sustained. The website could also be maintained by the BPEC.

- Two workshops had taken place with MOSAIC, the black, ethnic minority & mixed parentage family community support group, one with a refugees and immigrants group and four with different groups for older people.
- It was important to target groups with high carbon footprints and deliver to a broad range of groups; interpreters could be provided where required.

44.7 The Chairman thanked Mr Boldrini for his presentation and invited him to report back to the Cabinet Committee in six months time.

44.8 **RESOLVED** – That the presentation be noted.

45. 10:10 CITY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

45.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director, Resources concerning the implementation to date and next steps for the Brighton and Hove citywide 10:10 campaign.

45.2 The Senior Sustainability Consultant reported that the national 10:10 campaign had become international and the national campaign was set to continue under the new strap line of “cutting carbon 10% at a time”. The city campaign had achieved significant success under strong leadership and was being used as a model approach. Local buy-in had been considerable and the city campaign had now been established as a community interest company. A dedicated project manager was in place and an inclusive and engaging approach was being achieved using pioneers.

45.3 Councillor Mitchell welcomed the report and noted the hard work of all those involved in successfully raising awareness of the campaign and engaging the business community. She supported the establishment of a community interest company and continuation of a long term project manager for the city campaign.

45.4 In response to a question from Councillor Mitchell regarding measurement of the impact of the campaign on the city’s carbon emissions, the Senior Sustainability Consultant explained that measurement was difficult, partly because of cost, therefore the steering group was focussing on case studies that demonstrated how people could cut emissions. She added that the council’s own data collection had improved significantly and agreed that it would be valuable to highlight larger organisations’ emissions reductions.

45.5 Councillor Fallon-Khan commended the creation of pioneer groups and advised that the campaign had engaged both individuals and organisations. He stated that new business had been established directly as a result of the campaign and that he was hopeful that methods of collecting data from individuals would become easier in the future.

45.6 In response to a question from Councillor Steedman regarding the plans for the next phase of the campaign, the Senior Sustainability Consultant advised that the steering group was due to meet the following week to consolidate ideas for the future and that she would report back to Members on the outcome.

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

- (1) That the progress of the city-wide campaign over the past year be noted.
- (2) That it be noted that the campaign was set to continue.

46. SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT UPDATE

46.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director, Resources advising Members of the recently awarded Sports Facilities Management Contract, which had built-in social and environmental sustainability objectives.

46.2 The Procurement Strategy Manager explained the benefits of the contract and reported that Freedom Leisure would invest £125,000 in the first year of the contract in energy saving measures to help reduce the carbon footprint of facilities and that further investment was likely to be made in the future. Freedom Leisure was a local company, but was large enough to make use of economies of scale and was committed to address social and environmental concerns during the 10-year contract.

46.3 Councillor Steedman welcomed the report and noted that the contract included a commitment to a 15% energy reduction. He queried how the council could align its aspirations with citywide sustainability targets through its procurement process without prescribing targets up front.

46.4 The Procurement Strategy Manager explained that all contracts were continuously reviewed to monitor performance against targets, but that it was necessary to consider what was appropriate for the contract in light of the key priorities. She advised that quality was always balanced carefully against cost and that the Procurement Team worked closely with the Sustainability Team.

46.5 Councillor Mitchell thanked those involved and highlighted the importance of promoting the contract as an example of what could be achieved, particularly as the council moved towards becoming a more contractual organisation. She also welcomed a more structured contractual management process.

46.6 The Chairman advised that she had requested the report to demonstrate to Members what the council could achieve for the city and to showcase the expertise within the Procurement Team.

46.7 Councillor Fallon-Khan welcomed the emphasis on contract management, which would enable the council to assess future bidders and protect itself. He thanked the Procurement Strategy Manager and officers involved.

46.8 Councillor Young thanked the council's contract managers for their significant contributions to the Value for Money programme.

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

- (1) That the commitments made by Freedom Leisure within their winning tender submission be noted.
- (2) That Freedom Leisure's Policy Statement setting out how they will operate the facilities, including in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner, be noted.

47. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

47.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director, Resources updating Members on the outcome of Round One of the Sustainable Communities Act and the process for submitting future proposals.

47.2 The Acting Central Policy Development Manager advised that two proposals put forward through the council had been accepted by the Government and were being progressed:

1. That the council be given the power to offer discretionary business rate relief to encourage and sustain small and medium local businesses. This was being taken forward through the Localism Bill.
2. That the installation and use of renewable energy by households be made more accessible and affordable. This had been addressed through the recent announcement made in relation to feed in tariffs.

47.3 The Chairman paid tribute to the considerable work undertaken by officers in working with groups and organisations on all of the proposals.

47.4 Councillor Steedman suggested that consideration be given to staging an event to encourage submissions be made through the new ongoing process.

47.5 The Chairman advised that the Community & Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) would be the best platform to discuss putting on an event and explained that the new portal made it possible for individuals, and not just groups, to submit proposals at any time.

47.6 Councillor Fallon-Khan thanked the officers involved and acknowledged the significance of having two proposals accepted by the Government.

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

- (1) That the outcome of Round One of the Sustainable Communities Act and the process for submitting future proposals be noted.

48. REPORT OF THE CITY SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

48.1 The Cabinet Committee considered the minutes of the City Sustainability Partnership meeting of 1 November 2010 and the draft minutes of the meeting of 17 January 2011.

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

The meeting concluded at 4.05pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated this

day of



Climate Connections

Presentation to B&HCC Sustainability Cabinet Committee
on 09/02/2011

by

G Paolo Boldrini – project coordinator

www.climateconnections.org.uk



A partnership:



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Be Humankind  **Oxfam**





Aims & objectives:

- To raise awareness on the impacts of climate change from a global to local level and to show the global links by connecting stories of people living around the world, with those in Brighton and Hove
- To engage with residents and communities across Brighton and Hove in acting on climate change, reduce their carbon foot print and support their learning through the creation of local champions
- Promote local community projects, initiatives, organisations and businesses for supporting local residents making informed choices and actions concerning how they impact the world around them



Brighton & Hove City Council and Climate Connections

Outreach the city population on issues around carbon reduction and sustainability

Work together/feedback on the adaptation planning work prioritised by the City Sustainability Partnership following from last year scrutiny panel inquiry

Link the programme with B&HCC ebulletins and website

Link with the low carbon city and 10:10 campaign endorsed by the council





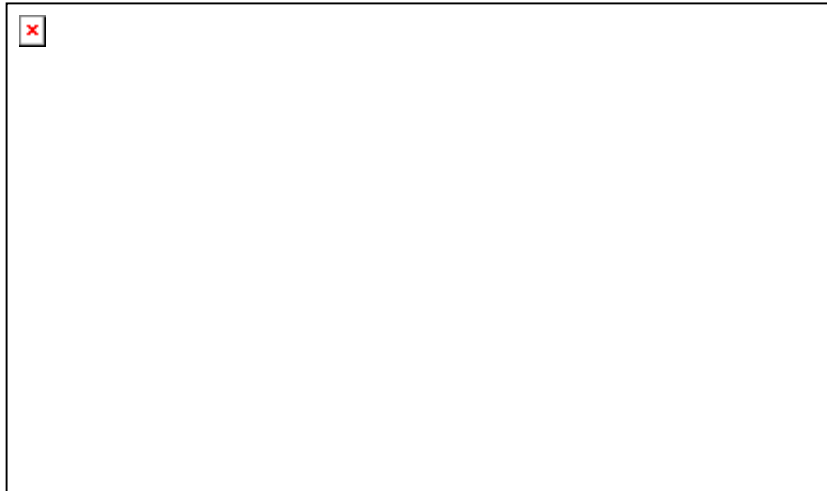
Time frame:

- The 3 years programme was started in April 2010, it was launched at the end of March 2010 and will close on June 2012
- Launch of interactive website
- Large scale outdoor exhibition at locations across the city
- Presence at day events
- Workshop to community groups





Progress so far: exhibition



- **Exhibition on city public spaces**
- Jubilee Square – 2 weeks
March/April 2010
- Mosaic area next to birdcage bandstand – 4 weeks August 2010
- Churchill Square – 4 weeks
January/February 2011





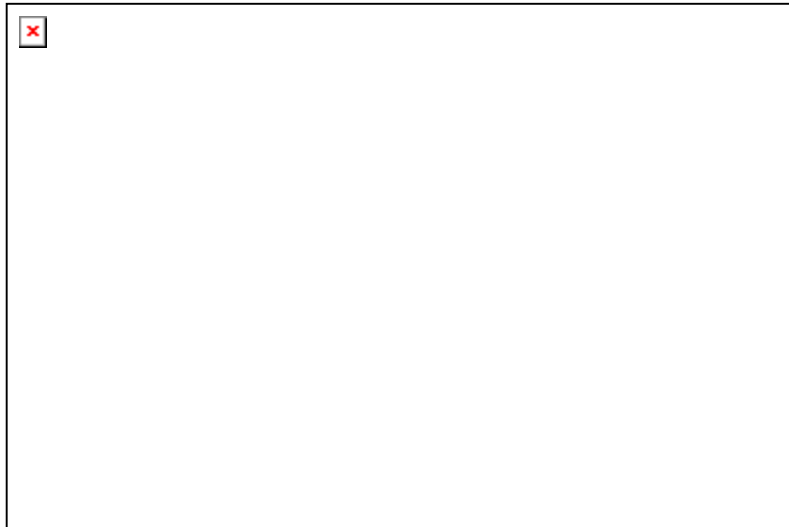
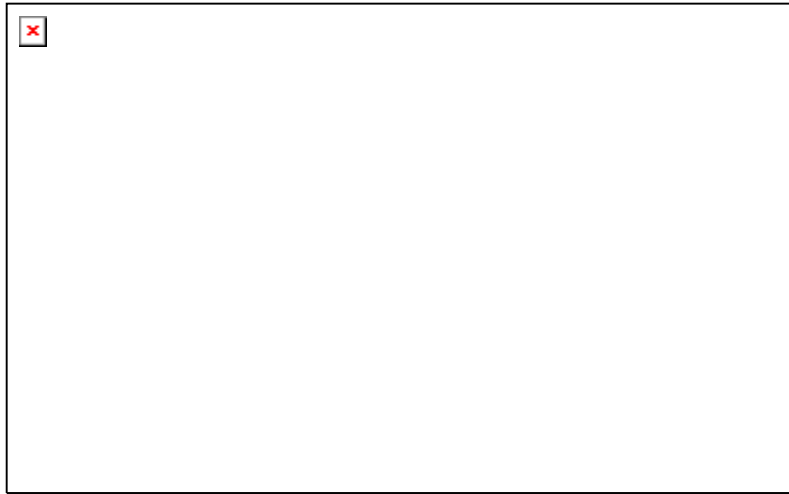
Progress so far: events



- **Participation to day events across the city**
- A total of 14 events attended with replica of exhibition and info stall
- St Annes Well Gardens Festival
- Springwatch at Stanmer Park



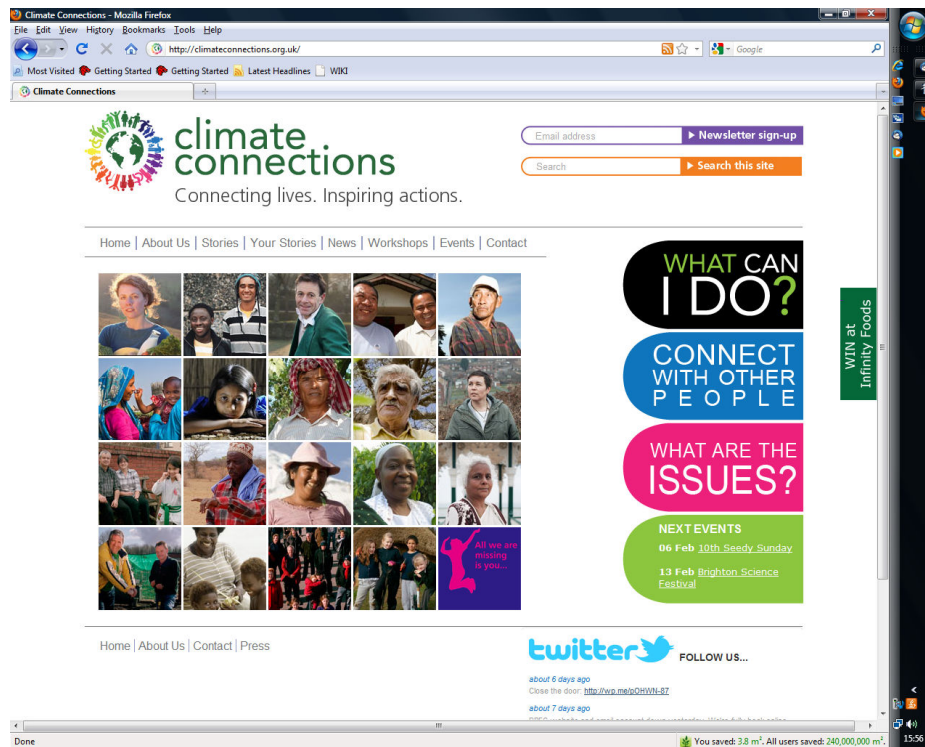
Progress so far: workshops



- **Workshops to communities groups**
- A total of 10 workshops delivered – participative and inclusive space for individuals to explore issues related to climate change and make pledges
- Hindu Elders Groups
- Care Management Group



Progress so far: website



- A portal reflecting the exhibition
- Global and local stories
- Info on what people can do
- Links to Brighton Green Pages and what's going on in the city
- Events in the city



2 case study:

- **Care Management Group:**
- Following two workshops delivered to CMG residents in supported housing, individuals took ownership of reducing the amount of water and energy used; the way individuals travel; growing of food vegetables gardens and consumption of locally produced food. We are in the process of rolling out same training to other supported housing services
- **Bristol Estate:**
- Leading a neighbourhood event on sustainability taking place in March for residents of East Brighton. Individuals will be able to find out more about what's available in the city



Evaluation interim report

- People engaging with Climate Connections are increasing their take-up of local climate change related resources, initiatives and projects, particularly those who participate in workshops
- The workshops are succeeding in making participants aware that climate change has an impact on poverty
- Climate Connections is succeeding in encouraging people, particularly those who participate in workshops, to take positive actions to mitigate climate change
- *(The report is available by request from me or Thurstan Crockett)*



Future Plans:

3 more large scale exhibition –
seafront, Bartholomew Square

Attendance to events – Seedy
Sunday, Sussex University
Green Week

Workshops to community groups

A more interactive website with
more stories, information and
links

Deliver of a comprehensive training
and support for individuals and
communities in partnership with
B&H 10:10 – carbon
conversations

Ongoing partnership with
Groundwork, Food Partnership
Brighton & Hove and Brighton &
Hove Sustainability Team, adult
education colleges and
Community Development Trust

Subject: City Food Strategy review and revision
Date of Meeting: 25 March 2011
Report of: Strategic Director, Resources
Contact Officer: Name: Thurstan Crockett Tel: 29-2503
E-mail: thurstan.crockett@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report is an update on the review of Spade to Spoon: a Food Strategy and Action Plan for Brighton & Hove (originally published in 2006) that is being led by the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership.
- 1.2 The review is being undertaken by Vic Borrill, Director, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and involves working with the City Council, NHS Brighton & Hove, the voluntary and community sector and local food businesses.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Committee acknowledges the achievements of Spade to Spoon 2006 – 2010.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Committee supports the involvement of the departments listed in 3.7 in reviewing the strategy working with the Food Partnership to identify new targets and areas of partnership work.
- 2.3 That the Cabinet Committee endorses the high level outcomes identified for the Food Strategy in 3.5

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 At the time of publication in 2006, the Brighton & Hove Food Strategy was the first of its kind, celebrated nationally and considered the most far reaching UK local food policy of it's time. 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. The city council was a key partner and wrote around 50 targets for the original Action Plan, which was endorsed by the then Policy & Resources Committee 9 November 2009, with cross party support.

3.2 **Some of the key Spade to Spoon targets that have been achieved include:-**

- All schools adopting a whole school food approach as part of the Healthy Schools programme.
- The introduction of the Healthy Choice Award to enable easy identification of healthy options when eating out.
- 75% of all nurseries that are have achieved a Healthy Choice Award
- Three new community kitchens have been developed
- The Food Partnership is funded by the PCT to employ three community based dieticians to reduce obesity in adults and children
- There has been an increase in the number of peer led cookery groups
- The Food Partnership secured £500,000 funding to the city for a Big Lottery project to increase the amount of food grown in the city
- Recycling rates for food packaging have increase

3.3 The review will revisit the national context in which local work is being delivered and consider how the food strategy is enabling the city to deliver on key priorities including meeting climate change targets and delivering on the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities.

3.4 **Potential benefits to council for being engaged in the review:**

- The council put forward around 50 targets in the existing Strategy, most of which have been achieved. The review will highlight this success and offer opportunities for positive communications around these achievements.
- B&H Food Partnership are the lead partner on Harvest Brighton & Hove, a £500,000 Big Lottery funded project for food growing 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.
- The food agenda is still high in the public's mind e.g. the Jamie Oliver/school dinners and Ministry of Food programmes and high profile campaigns about sustainable fishing practices – this time the issues are particularly around food prices, global food shortages, and climate change impacts. A review will facilitate consolidation of council action around this agenda – in which B&H is already a perceived national leader through the existing Food Strategy
- New targets may simply reflect work already undertaken by the city council – raising its profile and providing strategic support.

3.5 The process will consult on high level outcomes the strategy is aiming to deliver on and produce an updated action plan for the stakeholders to take forward.

Outcomes to be covered by the Food Strategy

The process of developing the Food Strategy will refine these outcomes however at this stage of the review the following high level outcomes are proposed for the Food Strategy:

- (a) People in Brighton & Hove eat a healthier and more sustainable diet
- (b) The amount of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions that can be attributed to our food system are reduced
- (c) Reduce levels of food poverty (or prevent them from increasing)
- (d) A reduction in health inequalities attributed to diet.
- (e) The amount of food (and packaging related to food) that is thrown away is reduced.
- (f) The city has a resilient sustainable local food economy.

(g) The city grows more of its own food.

3.6 Proposed timeline 2011

1 st March	Community and voluntary sector consultation
14 th March	City Sustainability Partnership consultation
25 th March	Report presented to Sustainability Cabinet Committee meeting
April - June	Meetings held with Council Officers and Redraft Action Plan
	Meetings held with other stakeholders eg health, local businesses, education
June 2011	Stakeholder event to identify priorities
July 2011	Final strategy approved by all partners and published

3.7 Council teams required for involvement

Because healthy, sustainable food is such a cross cutting issue there is a requirement for numerous teams from the Council to input into this process.

Adult Social Care (Residential and Day Care Services for elderly people), Allotments Service, Cityclean, Communities Team, Countryside, Economic Development, Food Safety Team, Healthy Schools Team (CYPT), Housing, Parks, Planning, Procurement / client contracts, School Futures (CYPT), School Meals Team, Sustainability Team, Town Centre Management, Transport

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 In addition to the consultation work with teams across the council (see above): there will be consultation with the voluntary and community sector at the CVSF Your Space event on 1st March. There will be consultation at the City Sustainability Partnership Meeting on 14th March 2011.

4.2 There will be consultation with the public health team at NHS Brighton & Hove and the local food business sector.

4.3 There will be a public / stakeholder consultation on the draft strategy in June.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 The Sustainability Team has provided £2,900 from within existing budget resources to pay the Food Partnership to undertake this review and strategy revision work. Various Delivery units across the Council will be involved in supporting the review, which will largely be staff time and be met from existing budgets.

Finance Officer Consulted: Mike Bentley

Date: 23/02/11

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no legal implications directly associated with this report. The Cabinet Committee has the requisite powers to agree the recommendations at paragraph 2 above.

Lawyer Consulted:

Oliver Dixon

Date: 01/03/11

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment will be conducted for the Food Strategy and the outcomes within it. One specific outcome relates to tackling health inequalities attributed to poor diet.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 With the estimated annual cost of diseases related to overweight and obesity in Brighton and Hove at £78.1 million in 2010, with 25% of the city's ecological footprint related to food and with 35% of our domestic waste stream being food (most of which could have been eaten) there is an imperative to continue to work in partnership to improve the sustainability of the city's food system. A vibrant local food economy is also a key component of a sustainable future - bringing jobs, skills, tourists and investment to the city.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 A significant contributor to the increasing rate of crime, aggression, depression and poor school performance is poor nutrition. That was the conclusion of the 2008 inquiry held by the Associate Parliamentary Food and Health Forum (an all-party independent forum for the exchange of views and information on food policy in the UK Parliament). Raising awareness of the links between diet and behaviour and improving the nutrition of residents is a key strand of the food strategy.
- 5.6 Establishing community food growing projects in areas with problems such as fly tipping can reduce the problem as has been seen in the area around Moulsecoomb Forest Garden as project users and volunteers both look out for and look after the area.
- 5.7 The experience of current food projects across the city is that they experience minimal crime or vandalism. Many people believed that the open nature of the demonstration growing garden in Preston Park would lead to theft and vandalism which one year in has not been the case.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.8 The Food Partnership has allocated staff time between January and July 2011 to work on the review. There is a risk that with the pressures on statutory services at the moment that the review may not be seen as a priority for the departments involved. This is why we are asking for the Sustainability Cabinet Committee's endorsement of the review. In order to ensure that the review remains on target the Head of Sustainability and Environmental Policy will be overseeing the work

with regular updates on progress. Other potential risks are that the strategy is not connected to other city wide strategies and/or is not owned by stakeholders. The Food Partnership is linked in well via the City Sustainability Partnership and the Healthy City Partnership and has a good understanding of the policy context. There will be a public / stakeholder consultation event in June as part of the review process.

- 5.9 The review offers an opportunity for the partners to reflect on what has worked well and not so well and to work together on ideas and priorities. The review also allows partners to identify and work towards city wide outcomes for food and health and sustainability. This is an opportunity to identify where further workforce development / training may be effective and to share good practice. Actions identified within the strategy may also lead to new partnerships and projects with the potential to attract additional funding to the city.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.10 Creating the City of Opportunity: Sustainable Community Strategy. There are a number of relevant areas within the strategy including targets for reducing CO2 emissions per capita, reducing health inequalities, preventing and reducing obesity, connecting green spaces, reducing waste, sustainable transport and living within environmental limits.
- 5.11 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.
- 5.12 Core Strategy: support for food growing within the city, introduce planning policies which support food growing in developments
- 5.13 Waste Strategy: 35% of the domestic waste stream is food. Most of which is avoidable food waste. The 2010 Municipal Waste Strategy includes a target to reduce food waste by 10%, to increase home composting and support community composting.
- 5.14 One Planet Living: Led by the City Sustainability Partnership (CSP) a piece of work is currently being undertaken by Best Foot Forward to deliver a plan to reduce the city's ecological footprint. As food is responsible for 25% of our current footprint, actions in this area will be key.
- 5.15 Child Poverty Needs Assessment: Approx 1 in 5 children in Brighton & Hove lives in child poverty. Children living in poverty will be living in food poverty. The JSNA for 2011/12 identifies the issue of food poverty as an issue for the city.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 It could be an option not to review and revise the strategy at this time; but since most of the actions have been completed and it is getting out of date, revision is now necessary.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Leader of the council asked at the last meeting on 9 February 2011 for this item to be on this agenda, as it is timely and important for the city.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. Spade to Spoon: a Food Strategy and Action Plan for Brighton & Hove Summer 2006 (the original strategy): <http://www.bhfood.org.uk/pdfs/SpadeToSpoon.pdf>

Subject:	Living Within Environmental Limits section of the City Performance Plan		
Date of Meeting:	25 March 2011		
Report of:	Strategic Director, Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Thurstan Crockett	Tel: 29-2503
	E-mail:	thurstan.crockett@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report explains the role of the new City Performance Plan for the city and how the Living within Environmental Limits section is being dealt with in this.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Committee notes the current draft section and the timetable for the plan as a whole.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 In 2010 the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership and its family of partnerships refreshed the city's Sustainable Community Strategy. The strategy was revised during a time of unprecedented economic challenge and is focussed on shielding the city from the impacts of the recession and ensuring the city is best placed to make the most of the opportunities during and after the down turn.
- 3.2 In October 2010 the Coalition Government announced that it no longer expects local areas to report performance on Local Area Agreement targets. Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government emphasised that areas are now free to focus on their own priorities without the burden of reporting to central government.
- 3.3 Therefore for 2011/12 the Strategic Partnership is developing a new City Performance Plan. The plan will be led by the priorities identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy. It will measure and report against indicators that best demonstrate if the Partnership is achieving a change on local priorities as set in the Strategy.
- 3.4 The City Sustainability Partnership oversees in particular the "Living Within Environmental Limits" chapter of the Strategy, so its chairman and vice-chairs have commented in detail on the draft Sustainability section of the plan.

About the City Performance Plan

- 3.5 The City Performance Plan will be the main mechanism by which the Strategic Partnership will monitor and manage the city's performance against the outcomes defined in the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.6 Where appropriate, and locally relevant, indicators from the 2008-2011 Local Area Agreement (LAA) will be used in the City Performance Plan. However, it is an opportunity to discard any LAA indicators that were not measurable, useful or relevant.
- 3.7 The plan will be reported to the Strategic Partnership, the Public Service Board and to meetings of the city council, specifically, Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, several times a year.
- 3.8 There is no financial reward attached to the City Performance Plan. The Strategic Partnership is not required to report progress against the plan to Government.

Timetable for producing the Plan

- 3.9 The city council is currently leading the development of the Plan on behalf of the Public Service Board and Strategic Partnership. Officers from the council's corporate performance team are working with the thematic partnerships on the outcomes and indicators for inclusion in the plan. The political groups within the council have been briefed on the Plan.
- 3.10 The plan will be presented for endorsement by the city council in June and approval by the Public Service Board and Local Strategic Partnership thereafter.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Colleagues in Performance, City Services, City Planning and the Chairs group of the City Sustainability Partnership have been consulted.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation made in this report. The staff time required in developing the City Performance Plan will be met from within existing revenue budgets.

Finance Officer Consulted: Mike Bentley

Date: 25/02/11

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The report is for noting only, and there are no legal implications directly associated with it. Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2000 requires local authorities to prepare a sustainable community strategy for promoting or improving the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area. Local authorities may modify the strategy from time to time.

Lawyer Consulted:

Oliver Dixon

Date: 02/03/11

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The City Sustainability Partnership has undergone an Equalities Impact Assessment and an action plan is being prepared currently.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The Living within Environmental Limits section of the performance plan represents the areas of city-wide performance that are considered a priority for action in 2011/12.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 None.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Strategic risk in relation to sustainability in the city is being reviewed currently by the Sustainability Team in relation to legal compliance, city reputation and leadership, resource efficiency and environmental impact.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 As the city performance plan, this is for the city as a whole and so has real significance in terms of action planning and achievement in Brighton & Hove.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 There is no other realistic option than to produce a plan of this kind.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Members of the Sustainability Cabinet Committee are aware and reassured that sustainability issues are being incorporated into the city performance plan.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

