

Subject:	Better Brighton and Hove		
Date of Meeting:	13 October 2016		
Report of:	Executive Lead Officer – Strategy, Governance and Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Nicky Cambridge	Tel: 29-6287
	Email:	nicky.cambridge@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that the proposals in the report had to be checked with the sponsors before despatch and deferring the report would have adverse impact on progressing the project.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 This report proposes the establishment of a new “think tank” called “Better Brighton & Hove!” for the council and city.
- 1.2 Better Brighton & Hove is the product of a proposal initiated by a local charity, The Pebble Trust, to create an independent “think tank” with charitable trust status to generate ideas and propose solutions to meet the challenges facing Brighton & Hove as a city.

The objectives of the trust would be:

- To identify, analyse and propose solutions to major problems in Brighton & Hove;
 - To work to encourage the adoption of these solutions to improve the city; and
 - To identify and support the realisation of opportunities for the city.
- 1.3 The proposal allows the council to access additional resources, capacity and expertise to analyse and tackle priority issues in the city.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee:

- 1) Agree in principle the proposal to set up Better Brighton & Hove following the completion of due diligence processes;
- 2) Delegate the power to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, to take all steps necessary or incidental to the establishment of Better Brighton & Hove;
- 3) Note that the Leaders Group will receive regular progress updates as well as the work of the Trust when established.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Think tanks around the country are established as a means for bringing together expertise, knowledge, skills and resource to analyse specific societal issues and produce reports and recommendations with regard to public policy approaches.
- 3.2 At a time when resources are reducing but entrenched and costly problems continue to exist, the ability to critically analyse and find innovative solutions is hugely beneficial.
- 3.3 To date the city has not benefitted from its own think tank, although similar models exist in other cities such as Manchester. Better Brighton & Hove will work with and build on the expertise of the city's Universities, whilst also bringing research, intelligence and analysis resource through the council's public health intelligence team. The organisation will also have the ability to commission work especially where we are able to learn from other parts of the country that are breaking new ground on the problems we face.
- 3.4 The advantages to the Council are that it allows us to access research capacity/funding we do not currently have and could act as a catalyst for leveraging in more funding through donations. It will also serve as a useful mechanism to bid for external funding. Furthermore, it would help the Council develop closer relations with local universities and businesses.

Status

- 3.5 It is proposed that the trust will have a charitable status. This would have clear advantages, including:
 - Exemption from VAT and general taxation;
 - Providing a framework or structure for donations to augment its own core funding;
 - It would force it to operate on a strictly non-party-political basis.
 - It would be subject to the oversight and supervision of the Charity Commission to ensure that its funds are used for the intended purposes

- 3.6 The Trust would be independent of the Council, with the Council being one of the partners who may appoint individuals as Trustees and contribute to the funding of the Trust, but the trust will not legally be part of the Council.
- 3.7 The Council will be able to control and/or influence the work of the trust with at least 40% of the funding going exclusively to Council priorities identified by the Council and having a say on how the rest is used.

Governance

- 3.8 The trust would be set up by a deed of trust setting out its objectives and providing for a Board of Trustees. The Board would consist of at least 9 Trustees including:
- The Pebble Trust, Co-Chair
 - Brighton & Hove City Council (represented by CEO) Co-Chair
 - At least 7 Trustees appointed from across the city including Universities.
- 3.9 The Council will propose that at least one Lead Member from the Council (the Leader) becomes a Member of the Board of Trustees in addition to the Chief Executive.
- 3.10 The powers and duties of the trustees will include agreeing projects and resource allocation, monitoring of implementation, staffing and fund raising. These will be set out in the deed of trust.

Budget and Funding

- 3.11 The proposed budget for the trust will consist of the following:

The Pebble Trust	£300,000
BHCC <i>(may be premises/officer seconders services)</i>	£250,000
Local Partners (e.g. universities, CCG, Police, Amex etc.) <i>(subject to confirmation)</i>	£50,000
Consulting Services (to aid implementation)	£50,000
Total per annum	£650,000

- 3.12 The above may be supplemented by winning bids, donations and sponsorships from businesses, partners and charitable donations. The actual yearly fund may therefore exceed the dedicated annual figure of £650K.
- 3.13 It is proposed that the main funders make an initial 3 year commitment which may be extended after 2 years for a further 3 years and so on.
- 3.14 It is not proposed that the Council finds additional resources to fund its contribution. This will be largely in the form of office space, administrative support, research Officer time (mainly though the Policy Team) and possibly secondees on a project by project basis. This will be met from existing resources.

Allocation and use of resources

3.15 The proposal is for the resources, in terms of time (project person hours) to be allocated as follows:

40% BHCC chosen priorities

40% To be determined by the Trust Board on the recommendation of the Board Chairs

10% To be selected by local partners subject to the Board's approval

10% To follow up implementation, consulting etc.

3.15 Resources would be allocated on a rolling 12 month programme of work.

3.16 Once chosen, all non-council work will be published on the Trust's website. Council work to be published only if agreed by the CEO of BHCC.

Commissioning Budget/Resource

3.17 The trustees will commission work and determine how it is sourced. By way of an indicative figure, the trust will have at least **£433K** for commissioning work. It will decide whether, or how much of this, is allocated to staffing and how much of it is used to commission work.

Themes and Criteria

3.18 Trust will work with three core guiding principles in terms of approach:

- data driven
- apolitical, and
- change and implementation : taking things forward

3.19 The work of the Trust would be guided by a set of best practice research and commissioning principles with a focus on pieces of work which:

- Provide opportunities for new solutions to high cost entrenched problems.
- Add value and do not duplicate existing work or knowledge in the city.
- Include innovative approaches which help us to modernise the council.
- Enable the attraction of new sources of funding locally and nationally.
- Demonstrate meaningful cashable benefits.
- Are informed by best practice locally, nationally and internationally.

Ways of Working

3.19 The detailed rules of procedure for the Trust will be set out in the deed of trust or agreed by the Trust Board at its first meeting. It is proposed that:

- The budget for each year is agreed by the trustees.
- The appointment of staff (if any) will be agreed by the majority of the trustees and one of the co-chairs.
- All reports to be agreed by a majority of 2/3 of the trustees before publication.

- One of the co-chairs could delay publication by 3 months.
- All non-council related work to be published on the trust's website.
- Council related work to be published with the agreement of the Council's CEO.

3.20 It is expected that the Council's staff within the Policy Team will administer meetings of the Board, receive and process bids for funding, develop templates for funding requests, submit bids for funding on behalf of the Trust, develop criteria for commissioning and monitor outcomes as well as undertaking research work themselves depending on capacity.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 This is a unique opportunity for the council to work with local businesses and other partners to create a Trust with the resource and capacity to supplement our research and policy work.

4.2 There are no alternative options other than not to progress with the establishment of the project.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

5.1 The activities undertaken by Better! are likely to involve a range of community engagement and consultative processes. This will be decided alongside the agreed programme of activities.

5.2 In establishing the Trust and Better! priorities consultation is happening with key partners including the Universities.

6. FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

6.1 The proposed funding of the Trust includes £250,000 of in kind services from the council. No direct financial support is planned and therefore there is no direct financial implications. It is anticipated the in kind support will include officer time, particularly from the council's policy team, use of existing premises and access to officers depending on the focus of the priorities. The establishment of the Trust requires the Chief Executive to consult the section 151 officer and this will include ensuring there are no ongoing financial obligations. *Finance Officer*

Consulted: James Hengeveld

Date: 3/3/16

Legal Implications

6.2 The Council has the power to participate in the trust through the general power of competence. The details of the governance arrangements and any legal

implications arising from there (taxation, charity commission requirements etc) will be examined in detail before the establishment of the trust

Lawyer Consulted: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis Date: 03 October 2016

Equalities Implications

- 6.3 The work of Better Brighton & Hove is likely to have a range of positive impacts on equalities issues given its focus on improving the city's social and economic prospects.

Sustainability Implications

- 6.4 There are no adverse sustainability implications arising from the proposals. Sustainability could be one of the areas either on its own or in combination that could benefit from a study by the trust.

7. REASON FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Committee is recommended to approve the establishment of Better Brighton & Hove as it represents a unique opportunity to bring additional capacity to tackling some of the priority social and economic issues in the city. Furthermore it provides a vehicle for attracting further funding and a unique partnership between the council and representatives of the city's business community.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

None

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

