Business and Value For Money Meeting Minutes

4/12/2019 | 10.00am-12.00pm

Tyson Place (Moved to a café nearby due to the room being locked)

Attendees: David Spafford, David Croydon
Staff: Keely McDonald, Fabrizio Oliveri, Beth Hudson

Minutes Completed by: Beth Hudson

Section 1 – Welcome and Apologies

	Introduction to new staff
1	New administration staff members, Fabrizio Oliveri and Beth Hudson. New community Engagement Assistant – Lian Baker who mainly focuses on EDB.

Section 2 – Agenda items, agreements and future action

Agenda Item 1 - Engagement Strategy	
Discussion/ Points Raised	- KM – We are looking to develop the Engagement Strategy with the consultation of all SIGs. **Meaningful Consultation and Current BVFM** - Residents would like input to policy - Residents would like input into expenditure, they weren't consulted on the recent Housing Revenue account budget - Confusion around the purpose of the different SIGs, there are some overlaps. - Residents feel that when BVFM report to housing committee, information is watered down. - Residents feel they are consulted about minor issues but higher level issues are just imposed on them. - I&E and other group minutes to be received quicker - The residents would like all group SIG and citywide group meetings documents to be available online Attendance - All meetings have the same 20 people attending - They feel that currently the population is uninformed - They would like wider representation of the population in Brighton, some groups are underrepresented. Wider involvement was promised but not achieved. - Everyone should be involved, not just association members. Not all housing in the area have Resident Associations, but there should still be a division in groups between housing issues and general engagement strategies within the city. - All meetings should be attended by councillors - CEOs need to be targeted to work more directly for the public and

	councillors rather than the council. - Reports/minutes should be more tractable – the art of precis-writing. - Something to mimic like/hate buttons if possible for collecting data. - Too many abstract nouns as job titles – DaveS suggested a top level concrete division of buildings/people. - Way too many meetings. **BVFM Action Plan** - Community Engagement team want as many people involved as possible in contributing to the new Engagement Strategy. - We are trying other ways to reach new people from underrepresented groups such as door-knocking and pop-up events. - Tenants would like to know when these are happening, they would like to join/shadow if possible. - The Involvement & Empowerment (I&E) group will be focusing on the new Engagement Strategy and all other Service Improvement Group members are invited to join. - Use surveys to gain a wider reach of people. - Content of SIGs to be wider and include higher level issues. **Other Comments** - Leaseholders are not notified of changes and budgets, they would like to be involved in the discussions on maintenance etc of properties and know what costs are preferably before they go ahead. - There should be a separate consultation for repairs and maintenance of buildings, recent experiences with unnecessary works going ahead that haven't fixed the problem. - When reporting problems, residents don't feel that they have the same leverage as CEOs. - The group highlighted that informal groups don't have the same representation as formal groups, there should equal opportunity to be fully involved with or without a formal group. - CEOs need to be targeted to work more directly for the public and councillors rather than the council. - Reports/minutes should be more tractable – the art of precis-writing. - Something to mimic like/hate buttons if possible for collecting data. - Too many abstract nouns as job titles – Daves suggested a top level concrete division of buildings/people. - The group feels that there are too many meetings. - Clarity on difference between community engagement and community development – why do we use Trust for Developing Communities. - The Community Engagement team facilitate and support residents of Brighton and Hove to have a relationship with their council. Empowering and enabling them to have their voices heard. TDC carry out development work with activities and interest groups in Brighton and Hove e.g. youth work.		
Action(s)	• Sent out question/information to the rest of the BVFM members to ask them the same questions and thoughts that have been discussed today.	Who KM	Deadline

	• Send Team Structure to BVFM members	BH	
	• Create 'Useful Contacts' file for BVFM members for general queries	BH	
	• Find out if the SIG docs can be available online	BH	

Agenda item 2 - Citywide Conference

Agreement / Decision	Concerns from the group that the attendance at the Citywide Conference isn't large enough to warrant holding the conference.

Agenda item 3 – Universal Credit Update

Agreement / Decision	The group were interested in find out some more in-depth figures, the specific figures are listed below as actions.		
Action(s)	Find more stats/figures on the following • The numbers of people involved in comparison to population as well as %. • The number of people living in poverty. • The number and % of people living in areas. • Figures on transfer between UC direct payments to landlords, how the transfer is going and how many people have/plan to have the direct payments. • The number and % of people being sanctioned and what they're being sanctioned for.	Who KM	Deadline

Agenda item 4 – Home Group Updates

Agreement / Decision	Concerns that the current standard of properties isn't up to modern housing standard.		
Action(s)	• Find the report that the quantity surveyor made for the comparative cost of scaffold/cherry pickers that came up in Home Group and have it as Agenda Item in Home Group meeting.	Who BH	Deadline

Agenda item 5 – Any Other Business

	• It has been agreed to have no more print outs available, and to bring their own unless it new material. • There are currently issues to warrant scheduling future meeting. It is recommended meetings are paused until group members raise items.

Section 3 – Agenda for next meeting

1	Report from Home Group of Comparative Costs