

Appendix 2

1. Renewable Energy Potential

Community and private renewable energy developers have real ambitions to see more renewables installed locally and are looking for opportunities here. While there is a general Corporate Plan commitment currently to more renewables and some success in grant-aiding solar hot water heating systems on a modest scale, there has been no large scale support or uptake of renewable energy in the city. The planning environment is criticised by some as conservative, especially in Conservation Areas, and it seems other UK cities are moving ahead on this at a greater pace.

Focus of the review:

- Why and what can we learn from other cities?
- What is the renewable energy potential here and which technologies should we realistically go for?
- How can we overcome barriers to much more renewable energy generation locally e.g. visual impact
- What support is needed to enable more generation, especially community schemes / those which have multiple benefits (e.g. env industries sector, low income households' energy bills)?

What is the renewable energy potential of the City? Is this being maximised and if not why not?

The feed-in tariff provides a very strong investment window between now and April 2012 for renewable energy in the UK. The government is strongly pushing local power and heat generation and there is broad political consensus on this nationally.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn10_079/pn10_079.aspx

A recent study has shown the potential in the south east:

<http://www.se-partnershipboard.org.uk/page/5/view/175/sub/77/energy>

There is a clear role for a scrutiny panel on this issue. It is a live issue, with a short window of opportunity for scrutiny to make an impact.

2. State of the Local Environment

This would be essentially a mapping exercise; however the council's sustainability team is already planning for a very similar piece of work. Any scrutiny activity in this area would therefore risk duplication. It is however recommended that ECSOSC should take an interest in the outcome of this study.

3. Steps to a Low Carbon City

This would potentially be a massive piece of work encompassing carbon reduction, renewable energy, transport, housing etc. Any scrutiny work on renewable energy would be a component part of this. It is doubtful whether a

piece of work this size could be undertaken without the commitment of a significant level of scrutiny resource.

4. Air Quality within the City

A general review of air quality levels within the city to identify areas of concern and what can be done to improve air quality.

Air quality is monitored across the city at a number of locations. The council has an Air Quality Action Plan, which is updated regularly. Air quality is expected to meet air quality objectives with the exception of hourly and annual mean standards for Nitrogen Dioxide. In 2008 an expanded Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared for this pollutant. One consolidated AQMA includes Central Brighton and Hove and the harbour at Portslade.

Where a local authority considers that one or more of the air quality objectives is unlikely to be met it must declare an AQMA covering the part of the area where the problem lies. Having declared an AQMA the local authority must draw up an action plan setting out what it will do to meet the objectives within the area.

Given that there is a Air Quality Action Plan and that transport is the major source of the emissions in the city that contribute towards poor air quality; 50% of total UK emissions in 2000, it is suggested that the issue could be addressed through LTP3 with further work undertaken once that process is complete.

5. Commitment to the 10:10 Campaign

Brighton & Hove City Council 's commitment to 10:10 campaign, and the impact on carbon emissions of council services, and also in terms of education for residents.

Whilst a review of the 10:10 campaign is an excellent idea this should wait until it has finished and the council is in a position to judge its success and act on any issues learnt.

6. Evaluation of LIFE programme – how successful has this been and what lessons can be learnt?

Evaluation of the LIFE programme in the City as a key multi agency behavioural change agent for youth.

This programme is already addressing successfully the problems of young people who are drawn into deliberate fire-setting and other anti-social behaviour and is part of the City's priority area of reducing crime and improving safety. It is vital that we should be able to collectively measure and evaluate the programme's success in effecting permanent positive behavioural change in order to seek continued partnership commitment and funding support in the City,

and indeed the rest of the County, bearing mind the bleaker prognosis of funding on this sort of initiative.

Our preliminary evaluation work undertaken with Brighton University demonstrates successful long term outcomes in changed behaviour for key people within each cohort, and whilst partnership comments on other aspects of the evaluation report have merit, fundamentally unless we can find similar ways of proving the long term worth of particular preventative initiatives to funders, partners and other stakeholders, we will not be able to make sufficiently robust business cases to justify continuation programmes, despite long term outcomes actually saving money to the collective public purse in the long term. Essentially, we have to toughen up to deliver defined community outcomes from specified levels of resource inputs and know what investments achieve greatest impact for each £1 invested. This will be an altogether harder nut to crack with ever tighter financial constraints. An area scrutiny panel could look at how smart we are in considering, developing and managing the collective worth of relevant initiatives to meeting defined SMART outcomes.

There's certainly an interesting topic here in broad terms: i.e. the (cost) effectiveness of diversionary programmes, including the LIFE programme. As the council moves to a commissioning system, these kind of questions will presumably come to the fore – i.e. do we re-commission the existing model of services or do we look to invest in areas which may ultimately reduce the demand for services (funding youth projects rather than policing, public health information rather than secondary healthcare etc).

However, focusing only on the LIFE programme seems very narrow. Although O&S is certainly looking to become more of a whole-city resource, we're not currently in a situation where we can readily justify focusing on what is essentially an ESFA initiative. This is not to say that the O&S team would be unwilling to undertake the piece of work if commissioned to do so by ESFA – it does sound interesting, and as noted above, there are doubtless learning points which would have broad benefit to public services in the city.

7. Dog fouling

I would like the Commission to look at dog fouling problems. I am concerned about the amounts of dog excrement I see daily on Brighton and Hove footpaths and roads. This does not seem to be cleared up. I wondered if you could review this issue to see if the Council needs to put in extra dog bins and to scrutinize the clean up times. I also think that the Council should look at having an education campaign to help the public understand the need to clear up the dogs mess. It is shocking in 2010 that the City has to put up with dogs mess on the streets. This issue needs to be addressed, particularly in areas close to schools and children's play parks.

The Council recently reviewed the rules relating to dogs in the City after an extensive public consultation in 2007 & 2008. The council implemented these new Dog Control Orders in 2009. The control of fouling and dog exclusion areas was included in the orders.

Currently all land open to the public including roads, streets and open spaces require owners of dogs to clear up after them. All children's playgrounds, the gardens of some of the small historic squares, the Council cemeteries and some of the beaches during the summer are dog exclusion areas. The Council animal welfare officers, park rangers, and seafront officers enforce the rules and can issue fixed penalty notices of £80 if they catch offenders. The city's animal welfare officers carry out approximately 350 fouling investigations each year and 250 proactive patrols in hot spots across the city. The team also works with the LATs and the police to enforce the rules.

Dog fouling bins are installed in areas where people exercise their dogs. Some are also carefully located in residential areas, as a result of public requests and after careful consultation with residents. The City Clean service funds and installs these bins. The public can also use litter bins found throughout the city to dispose of dog waste. City Clean will clean badly affected streets and residents are encouraged to telephone this service on 29-2929 if they are experiencing problems.

ECSOSC could look at this issue; it lends itself to short focused piece of work rather than a lengthy panel.

8. Parking Issues

A number of consultation responses suggested a review of parking, either city-wide or in specific areas. Parking is clearly a significant issue in the city with a regular flow of petitions and questions being received by the council.

It is understood that the scope and timing of a city-wide review of parking are currently being discussed. There is limited utility in scrutiny therefore undertaking a review of parking. ECSOSC could however seek to ensure it has the opportunity to comment on the methodology of any review.

9. Transport Issues

There were a number of transport related issues raised as part of the consultation. However, as set out in the covering report, it is recommended that ECSOSC undertakes a body of work on LTP3. It would therefore seem sensible to hold-fire on establishing a panel to at transport issues that may well be addressed through the LTP3 process.

The issues are listed below; if following the LTP3 process members feel there are still outstanding issues that could usefully be addressed ECSOSC could undertake an in-depth review.

- Pedestrianisation
- Congestion charging
- Pedestrian crossings
- Free bike scheme – e.g. London, Washington
- No-passing of buses restriction within the city – cars shouldn't be allowed to overtake buses at bus stops to ensure swifter bus journeys

- Affordable Travel in the city – general review of affordable travel options
- Cycling on the pavement/seafront - Brighton and Hove seem very keen to get people cycling, but there seems to be a lack of tolerance of cyclists who are keen to do just that. Hove promenade is so wide there is plenty of room for people to move along it by foot, bike or skateboard. Cyclists in a hurry should use the road, but recreational cyclists should be allowed to use the prom.
- Cycling on the pavement – hazardous for pedestrians
- Transport - reduce the number of buses, a major overhaul of the road networks and maybe provide some kind of circular tram service for the buses to connect to & create more pedestrian zones.
- Lewes Road Traffic – To get the traffic on the Lewes Road moving, remove one set of traffic lights between the Level and Saunders Park, [there are too many] and re-think the cycle lane provision on the section, the road is too narrow to accommodate a cycle lane both sides of the road, and that bit of road is almost at gridlock most days. And enforce no parking both sides. They seem to be permanent parking spaces between the Level and Sainsburys, yet they are double lined.

10. Bees

Given the worrying decline in the UK's bee population, we would like to request scrutiny into how we can make B&H the most bee-friendly city in the UK, not least because B&H is home to the UK's largest research group for the study of honey bees and other social insects: the Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI) at the University of Sussex, supervised by Professor Francis Ratnieks, the UK's only Professor of Apiculture.

Some things a scrutiny panel on bees might consider would be:

- a) using council-owned land (eg Stanmer nurseries) to establish city hives*
- b) producing city honey from these hives which can be sold to the public*
- c) a review of pesticides used on council-owned farm-land*
- d) seeking external funding for bee-related projects from the Co-operative's 'Plan Bee' fund, and Waitrose (who have recently given some funding to Sussex)*

This is potentially a very interesting issue, particularly as the University of Sussex hosts the country's only academic department of apiculture.

There is already in existence a Sussex Bee Plan – co-ordinated by University of Sussex. Much of this is focuses on academic research areas, but some of it is relevant, for example there's an aim to encourage the siting of hives on park/allotment land. There have also been local events/conferences bringing together partners to coordinate support for bees.

There does therefore seem to be a solid body of bee-related activity and the need for a scrutiny panel to spur people into activity or to get the parties concerned talking to one another is already being met.

However there are definitely issues here – it seems links between the US apiarists and BHCC could be strengthened, and some work could be undertaken to exploit the media potential of the Bee Plan very well. These issues however could be addressed by ECSOSC itself.

Prof Ratnieks has invited members to tour his lab and see the work that his team are doing – this or a committee report would seem sensible starting points. Any report could address the issue of siting hives on council land.

11. Winter Service Plan

Winter Service Plan – In view of the problems faced by (among others) older people in Brighton and Hove as a result of the severe weather last winter, we would suggest that a further review of the Winter Service plan would be appropriate: bearing in mind the provisions made by the council following the problems experienced last winter, a subsequent review of the effectiveness of the modified Service Plan during and following the coming winter would be extremely welcome by older people, and by those with mobility and/or other disabilities.

ECSOSC has a role in monitoring the implementation of the recommendations relating to the winter service plan. If these are not being implemented, or there is another severe weather event that results in significant disruption, ECSOSC could undertake a further review.

12. Street Lighting

Reduce the amount of light pollution, caused by inefficient outdoor lighting, in Brighton. This, in turn, would lead to considerable financial savings.

- *Vast waste of energy (and so money, and the excessive carbon footprint) caused by inefficient outdoor lighting throughout the city.*
- *Yellow smog that hangs over our city every night, and is predominantly caused by council-owned lighting.*
- *In Calgary, Canada, they replaced all existing street-lights with efficient street lights that only shone light onto the street*
- *The project was completed in 2005, and will have paid for itself in energy savings within 6 years.*
- *Lights in Brighton shine throughout the night – there is limited utility in a street light being on at 3am*
- *Street-lights are often erroneously left on over night in the hope of reducing crime, even though research indicates that, at best, over-night street lighting has no effect, and at worst lighting can help criminals see what they are doing thus leading to an increase in crime.*
- *Essex County Council has recently trialled a mass over-night switch off street-lights. According to the local news-paper:
"Commenting on the scheme, a police spokesman said: "A year on year comparison for April 2006 to May 2007 and April 2007 to May 2008 has shown that night-time crime has almost halved in Saffron Walden and reduced by over a third in Dunmow.*
- *This vast waste of energy is not only limited to street lighting, but also to other public buildings (such as schools, hospitals, monuments, etc)*

- that are all needlessly illuminated through the small hours of the night when most people are sleeping*
- *A search on the internet also reveals the effect of excessive lighting on human health (sleep disruption; increase of stress and anxiety; increases the risk of breast cancer and fertility problems as light suppresses the production of the brain chemical melatonin), wildlife (nocturnal wildlife such as owls and bats have evolved over millions of years to take advantage of darkness which does not exist near Brighton anymore), and on astronomy (only the brightest few stars can now be seen through the smog of light pollution that hangs over Brighton).*
 - *Today, street lights can be installed that minimise energy usage by only shining where they are needed (on the ground, and not into peoples homes or into the sky), and when they are needed (either through automatic dimming of the lighting, or even turning them off completely, in the small hours).*

Street lighting was the subject of an ECSOSC scrutiny report some 18 months ago. It is suggested that an update including energy-efficient bulbs be added to ECSOC work programme.

13. Bonfires

Neighbours having bonfires which cause problems for other neighbours e.g. having to close windows on a hot day, further breathing problems for asthma sufferers. They weren't sure whether there was a Bye Law to stop bonfires. People should be taking their waste to a tip instead of burning it.

What laws exist to prevent problem bonfires? What action does the Council take re this? What action can be taken when there are repeated problems?

Every year especially during the summer months Brighton & Hove City Council receives many complaints about garden bonfires which can be annoying to neighbours.

Smoke, smuts and smells can prevent residents from enjoying their gardens, putting out their washing and opening windows. They may also affect people's health, particularly the young and elderly and people with asthma, bronchitis or other breathing problems.

It is unnecessary for most people to have bonfires. Household refuse is collected by the dustman. Bulky and garden refuse can go the Civic Amenity sites at Wilson Avenue, Brighton or Leighton Road, Hove. However, many things can be recycled and the best example of recycling is the compost heap.

In many parts of Brighton, it is not possible to have a bonfire without causing a nuisance because gardens are so small. However, a bonfire can be a convenient way of getting rid of waste or wanted for recreational purposes -on Guy Fawkes night for instance. If a bonfire is the best practical option for

disposing of garden waste, the following guidelines may minimise the chance of annoying your neighbours or causing a serious nuisance.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 it is an offence to produce smoke which causes a nuisance. The Council could serve a Notice requiring this to stop – continuation would cause a fine of up to £5,000 being issued.

It is difficult to see the issue of bonfires and enforcement forming a wide enough topic for a scrutiny review.

14. Wild Park Tree Removal

Why scrutiny could not look at the situation with the removal of trees from Wild park? Is there a conflict of interest with the Council and the Southdowns organisations?? Consultation for Wild Park? Where did the timber go? Why is the sheep contract not put out to tender? Should there be barbed wire in a public park? Should enclosure be taking place?

Members will recall discussing Wild Park at the July meeting of ECSOSC. Members requested that further discussion and consultation should take place between officers and the conservation/interest groups involved. This continues to be a live issue with a petition on the council website. Conversations with officers indicate that consultation is still on-going.

15. Wheelie Bins

I noted today that our recycling boxes were emptied into 'wheelie bins' which were then emptied into the carts. This seems to me to be a considerable improvement in efficiency, allowing the workmen to work much faster. I suggest that an even better idea would be to provide households with said 'wheelie bins', instead of the current black rectangular bins provided. The wheelie bins could be filled by residents, cutting out double handling by workmen. Separated glass is a different matter. No separate receptacles are currently provided. I have very little glass for recycling, but I can see that in a house where there is a large consumption of beverages, this could present a problem.

The current black box recycling scheme was introduced when all materials had to be sorted on to the vehicle before the materials recycling facility (mrf) was constructed. These are the only suitable containers to sort materials out as they are being collected.

Now the mrf has been constructed at Hollingdean paper, card, plastic bottles and cans can be collected mixed, only glass has to be kept separate.

The possibility of using wheelie bins for recycling has been considered in detail. However our 'kerbside vehicles' purchased to be able to sort materials as they are collected, are not suitable for lifting and emptying large numbers of wheelie bins as the tipping process is very slow compared to refuse

vehicles. In addition most kerbside vehicles have not been adapted to lift wheelie bins.

When the vehicles are due to be replaced different collection options will be considered, however glass will still need to be kept separate so a wheelie bin system only will not be suitable.

In addition to this many properties in the city are not suitable for wheelie bins, or only have room for one wheelie bin.

Finally recycling collections using wheelie bins tend to result in a larger percentage of non-recyclable material being mixed in which affects the quality of recycling.

How we collect recycling is kept under review but all the above factors need to be considered.

16. Public Toilet Provision

Insufficient public toilets along the seafront at night e.g. Madeira Drive

CityServices have an annual survey on the website which people can complete with comments and suggestions e.g. about public toilets.

In terms of opening the toilets at night, this has been and continues to be reviewed. A number of toilets are open until 10pm along the seafront. Consideration has to be given to the health & safety of staff monitoring the toilets at night, and have found the 10pm close allows the balance between public use and contractor safety.

Automatic toilets (eliminating staffing concerns) were operated but there were some issues of anti-social behaviour and rough sleeping.

A lot of late night activity originates in private settings e.g. pub/club, who provide their own facilities.

The LINK has previously referred the issue of toilet provision to ECSOSC, a detailed answer being supplied.

17. Hove Lawns BBQ Provision

Suggestion that fixed BBQs should be provided either on Hove Lawns or on the prom.

There is an ongoing issue with BBQs on Hove Lawns, which has been the subject of a petition. BBQs on the lawns burn patches of grass and residents also raise the issue smoke.

Alternative options are being investigated and discussed with residents. It is suggested that CMMs are the most appropriate arena to deal with this issue.

