

Subject:	City Sustainability Action Plan		
Date of Meeting:	28 June 2016		
Report of:	Acting Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mita Patel	Tel: 29-3332
	Email:	mita.patel@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The refreshed version of the City Sustainability Action Plan for Brighton & Hove was agreed at Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee in 2015.
- 1.2 The plan supports delivery of the council's priorities as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-19 for modernising the council and creating a more sustainable city. In particular, it helps deliver our service priority around environmental sustainability.
- 1.3 The plan also provides the overarching framework for delivering the city's sustainability objectives for the Biosphere programme and formed a critical part of submission for UNESCO Biosphere designation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the Action Progress Report in relation to the City Sustainability Action Plan (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 Approves the City Sustainability Action Plan Key Performance Indicators list (Appendix 2) and notes the City Sustainability Action Plan Key Performance Indicators 2015-16 report (Appendix 3).

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The City Sustainability Action Plan was introduced in 2013 with the ambition for stretching our existing performance and achieving sustainability excellence as a council and city. It is a detailed plan written by officers from within the council and by partners in the city. Coordinated by the council's International & Sustainability Team, the Plan is updated every six months with a refresh every two years.

- 3.2 The City Sustainability Action Plan provides a framework for presenting existing and planned projects in a comprehensive way; projects that are either being delivered or are achievable. Other benefits include: making it easier to recognise obvious gaps in key areas of work; identifying opportunities to develop partnerships to deliver new pieces of work or to connect projects that support better outcomes for the city. The plan also provides an opportunity to strengthen funding applications for the city and the Biosphere region, and facilitates the development of joint funding bids.

Action updates for April 2016

- 3.3 This update is the second six monthly update since the plan was refreshed in 2015. On the whole, the updates present positive progress in all areas. There are 146 actions in total in the action plan. Of these 124 (85%) are rated green, 11 (8%) are amber and 11 are red (8%). There is good progress across all priority areas.
- 3.4 Activities where there has been good progress and that are worth highlighting include: the district heating networks feasibility work for Shoreham Port; materials re-use projects with city partners; air quality improvement work; and the completion of the Automated Meter Reading (AMR) programme across the council's portfolio for electricity, gas and water which will enable us to better manage and reduce our energy and water use and make cost savings. New projects that are successfully underway include: the water efficiency programme in homes, schools and SMEs; and the implementation of two pilot sustainable urban drainage projects in Portslade to help reduce the impacts of flooding in the area. There has also been good progress on ongoing projects such as the environmental education work in schools, a number of city food projects and the continued installation of solar PV on our social housing stock. Areas of concern include the lack of progress in certain fuel poverty work initiatives and also in the establishment of a permanent re-use centre in the city where progress has been slower than anticipated.
- 3.5 All actions will be next updated in six months' time and the action plan will be refreshed in 2017.

Key Performance Indicators

- 3.6 To help track progress on the Action Plan, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been created (Appendix 2). These will be used to track progress and measure and support improved performance in all areas of the action plan. They will be monitored and reported on annually: the first of these update reports is attached as Appendix 3.
- 3.7 Some of the KPIs are already existing corporate measures but where there were gaps, new measures have been created to complete a comprehensive set of KPIs for tracking progress and supporting improved performance in all areas of the action plan.
- 3.8 The KPIs listed are either:

- Targeted indicators – which measure progress against achievement of target, and apply a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rating; or
- Monitoring indicators - these are defaulted to Grey and do not require target setting with a RAG status.

3.9 New information on key areas includes: corporate waste and recycling data across 10 key council buildings - this data indicates a significant improvement over the last three years and provides useful information for focusing efforts; information on tonnes of material diverted from landfill; number of properties that have reduced risk of flooding as a result of council interventions; volume of water consumption in across the council estate; a number of new indicators for supporting Biosphere priorities; and finally % of people earning below living wage, enabling efforts to be refocused in getting certain key sectors signed up to the Living Wage.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 Not having a City Sustainability Action Plan:

- This option means we will not be able to fulfil our commitment to deliver the City Sustainability Action Plan, as set out within the council's Corporate Plan, or to deliver sustainability commitments as referenced in other key city plans and strategies.
- This option will result in a lack of co-ordinated activity and progress in achieving sustainability objectives as required for maintaining our UNESCO Biosphere status.
- This option will result in reduced co-ordination for accessing funding for supporting sustainability projects.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

5.1 The action plan is the outcome of a commitment of different principle leads taking responsibility as authors for their respective sections. Part of this commitment is to ensure that all key teams, officers, stakeholders, organisations and individuals with a responsibility for delivering work in these areas, are engaged and have the opportunity to contribute.

5.2 Part of the co-ordination and oversight role of the International & Sustainability Team is to also ensure that key areas and pieces of work are considered, and support action plan lead officers in this process.

5.3 Consultation is also undertaken for supporting delivery of individual pieces of work on a project-by-project basis included in the action plan.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The City Sustainability Action Plan sets out a commitment for achieving ambitious goals in key service areas and improving the delivery of work in the council and across the city. It serves to support the council's priorities as set out in the council's Corporate Plan 2015-19.

- 6.2 The recommended progress monitoring sets out a robust approach that will ensure the Plan remains current and works towards meeting targets.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The actions within the City Sustainability Action Plan have been identified and selected because of the social, environmental or economic return on investment for the authority and the city.
- 7.2 The costs associated with implementing the identified actions are funded from a combination of existing council budgets, government grants, specific reserves and commercial, public sector and other third party partners. Each action will only be carried out when funding has been identified and approved and the financial implications have been considered. Where actions are not yet funded one or more potential sources of funding have been identified subject to approval.
- 7.3 The City Sustainability Action Plan supports funding applications for external resources and the development of joint funding bids to deliver the identified actions. Officers will continue to identify opportunities to maximise external funding sources. External funding is potentially an important source of income, but funding conditions need to be carefully considered to ensure that they are compatible with the aims and objectives of the council.
- 7.4 The development and monitoring of the City Sustainability Action plan is administered by the council's International & Sustainability Team and supported by the council's Performance Team. The cost of development and monitoring is funded from the general fund revenue service budgets.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steven Bedford

Date: 20/05/16

Legal Implications:

- 7.5 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 23/05 /2016

Equalities Implications:

- 7.6 Equalities implications will be assessed throughout project development and delivery. Projects will produce an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA), as appropriate, as part of the project planning stage.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.7 The City Sustainability Action Plan sets a framework for setting ambitious targets and for delivering on sustainability objectives across all sectors, both in the council and across the city. Individual actions are considered for their sustainability considerations.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 7.8 There are no crime and disorder implications. The project may generate opportunities to reduce crime and disorder by encouraging greater community involvement in the management and enjoyment of the environment and public spaces, supporting opportunities for the local economy and associated benefits from this, and through projects aimed at alleviating poverty.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 7.9 The purpose of ensuring that the plan is regularly performance managed is to help to reduce risks and manage them accordingly as they arise. Also, having a plan that is comprehensive in delivering on broader sustainability ambitions provides the basis for identifying greater opportunities for partnership working and in successful funding bids that may not otherwise have been possible.
- 7.10 As part of ongoing coordination of the City Sustainability Action Plan, risks and opportunities will be regularly considered and managed accordingly. However, some considerations are presented below:

- *A number of actions are dependent on securing external funding:*

All actions included in this plan have been assessed and included on the basis that they are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound). External funding that has been referenced has either been secured or is likely to be secured. Where funding is not secured alternative funding will be sought.

- *Reduced staff capacity and resources for managing and coordinating updates to plan:*

Coordination of the plan is managed within existing budgets and staff time. Governance, co-ordination and performance management of the plan has been adapted to improve efficiency and minimise time taken for administering this process.

- *Lack of sufficient buy-in of wider city partners:*

Citywide support through the Biosphere Board, authorship by a wide range of city partners and key individuals and experts, and consultation on particular sections of the plan where relevant, should reduce this risk

- *Supporting the Biosphere Reserve designation*

Supporting the sustainability objectives of the Biosphere programme and strengthening its brand for the region.

Public Health Implications:

- 7.11 The City Sustainability Action Plan supports projects and initiatives that aim to positively impact on public health (both in terms of physical and mental health). The Health and Happiness section of the plan is owned by the City's Public Health team and there are several other chapters that refer to projects and initiatives that have a benefit to public health.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 7.12 The Action Plan sets out a number of ambitious targets and opportunities both for the council and the city. These targets have been agreed upon, set and are owned by key corporate and city stakeholders from each of the areas included in the plan.

Any Other Significant Implications:

There are no other significant implications identified

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Planning Action Progress Report for the City Sustainability Action Plan 2015-16
2. List of all Key Performance Indicators for the City Sustainability Action Plan
3. City Sustainability Action Plan Key Performance Indicators 2015-16 Report

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None