

Subject:	Progress to date on the establishment of the Brighton & Hove Fairness Commission		
Date of Meeting:	05 October 2015		
Report of:	Assistant Chief Executive		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 In July 2015, The Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee received a report setting out the proposed details on the ways of working for the Brighton & Hove Fairness Commission along with its draft terms of reference for consideration by the Committee.
- 1.2 The Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee agreed to the proposed way of working and approved the terms of reference for the Fairness Commission.
- 1.3 This report provides an update on the progress to date of establishing the Fairness Commission.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee notes the progress made to date; and
- 2.2 Requests an update on the work of the Fairness Commission at its Committee meetings during the period of the Commission's work.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Progress in establishing the Fairness Commission: Membership

- 3.1 The Commission will be composed of 12 individuals chosen for their knowledge and expertise. Commissioners will be expected to contribute expertise rather

than represent specific interests, groups, organisations or sectors. All of the 12 places for members of the Fairness Commission are now confirmed as:

Panel Member	Position
Vic Rayner (Chair)	Chief Executive, SITRA Board member of the London Housing Foundation
Wednesday Croft	The Brighton & Hove Youth Mayor
Martin Harris	Managing Director, Brighton & Hove Bus and Coach Company
Ann Hickey	General Manager, East Sussex Credit Union
Dr Rhidian Hughes	Chief Executive, Voluntary Organisations Disability Group (VODG)
Imran Hussein	Director of Policy, Rights and Advocacy; Child Poverty Action Group
Sally Polanski	Chief Officer; Brighton & Hove Community Works Trustee of Community Base
Bill Randall	Board member of the Brighton Housing Trust Journalist and writer
Dan Shelley	Vice Principal, Sussex Coast College, Hastings
Dr Katie Stead	Public Health GP and CCG Clinical Lead for Primary Care, locally commissioned services and Quality
Rachel Verdin	GMB Organiser
David Wolff	Director, Community University Partnership Project, University of Brighton

3.2 Cllrs. Daniel, Simson and Littman will sit as Observers on the Fairness Commission.

3.3 In accordance with the report to Policy & Resources Committee on 11 June 2015, the Chair of the Commission has made a number of suggestions for additional Commissioners and these have been followed up.

Process for delivering the Brighton & Hove Fairness Commission

3.4 The Fairness Commission will be delivered along very similar lines to those set up since the London Borough of Islington established the first such commission in 2010: evidence and solutions will be gathered through a range of methods including:

- A series of themed select committee-style meetings where Commissioners will hear evidence from expert and community witnesses;
- A 'Call for Evidence and Ideas' with the aim of engaging with residents across the city, encouraging debate and gathering their feedback and ideas;
- A range of events, workshops and open sessions where residents will be able to give evidence and ideas directly to the Commissioners;

- Planned visits for the Commissioners to meet with frontline workers and service users to listen to their experiences and hear their solutions.

Public meeting dates

- 3.5 The dates for meetings of the whole Commission to hear evidence, at select committee-style meetings, have been agreed and will take place in various venues across the city. The first two meetings will be closed in order for the Members to gain a shared insight into inequalities in the city, the financial challenge facing the city council and its partners, the context and aspirations for the Fairness Commission and to decide on key issues for its lines of enquiry.
- 3.6 From November 2015 to March 2016, the Fairness Commission will invite expert and community witnesses to give evidence at themed monthly meetings to which the public will be invited. These meetings will be webcast live.

Meeting Date	Purpose of Meeting
Thursday 24 September	Introductory meeting
Wednesday 14 October	Closed meeting to agree themes and lines of enquiry
Thursday 26 November	Theme 1 – public meeting
Wednesday 16 December (or 10 December)	Theme 2 – public meeting
Wednesday 20 January 2016	Theme 3 – public meeting
Thursday 18 February 2016	Theme 4 – public meeting
Wednesday 16 March 2016	Theme 5 – public meeting

Links to existing work

- 3.7 Duplication with existing plans, work programmes and other council committees will be avoided by ensuring that the Fairness Commission Panel Members are made aware of all on-going work and that this is taken account of when developing their recommendations.

Timetable

- 3.8 The timetable for the Commission's work is:

Month	Key Activity
September	Recruitment to the Commission finalised
10 September	Fairness Commission launched
September – Feb 2016	'Call for Evidence' – engagement programme implemented
24 September	Initial meeting of Fairness Commission held
14 October	Commission finalises key issues and lines of enquiry
November – March	Series of 5 public meetings held to hear evidence from

2016	expert & community witnesses
April – May 2016	Commission finalises its recommendations
May – June 2016	Draft report for approval by the Commission
May 2016	Recommendations shared with council and partners
June 2016	Final Report Published on council website

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 Not applicable at this stage of the process.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

Engagement Programme

5.1 A 'Call for Evidence and Ideas' was launched on 10th September with the aim of engaging as many residents, community & voluntary sector groups, service providers and businesses in the process and encouraging everyone to provide evidence and offer ideas for making Brighton & Hove a fairer and more equal place to live and work. Through this 'Call for Evidence' residents will be offered a number of ways for submitting their evidence and ideas including social media, email, via dedicated web pages linked to the council's website and via events to be held in community venues across the city.

5.2 Community groups will be encouraged and supported to run their own workshops, focus groups or discussion groups and to feed their experiences and solutions back to the Commission.

5.3 A series of visits for Commissioners will be arranged across the city, each focusing on specific aspects of work being undertaken to address inequality. These visits will give the Commissioners an opportunity to hear directly from residents, frontline workers and service users.

5.4 Information on the Fairness Commission, its Members, meeting dates and events programme will be available at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/fairness-commission. There is a link from these web pages to a Fairness Commission Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/FairnessBH>).

5.5 Officers of the council, Elected Members, Partners and Fairness Commission Panel Members will be asked to promote opportunities to get involved in engagement activity and act as champions for the Commission.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee agreed to the formation of the Brighton & Hove Fairness Commission and approved its terms of reference at its meeting on 20 July 2015.
- 6.2 This report provides an update on progress to date.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The set-up and running costs of the Fairness Commission are expected to be met from within existing budget resources. The Chair and Members will receive subsistence and travel allowances.
- 7.2 The financial implications arising from the Commission's recommendations will help to inform future budget development and the medium term financial strategy.

Finance Officer Consulted: Michelle Herrington Date: 09/09/2015

Legal Implications:

- 7.3 There are no legal implications arising from the progress to date as set out in this report.

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 The Fairness Commission will consider issues relating to equalities, particularly being about inequality experienced by people and communities within the city.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 The Fairness Commission may consider issues broadly relating to sustainability, particularly being about the quality of life (social, financial and environmental) within the city as a whole and for specific communities and neighbourhoods.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

- 7.6 This report has no crime and disorder implications.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 7.7 This report has no risk and opportunity management implications.

Public Health Implications:

7.8 The Fairness Commission will consider issues relating to health inequalities, being either a cause and/or outcomes of fairness, as experienced by people and communities.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

7.9 The Fairness Commission itself will consider the risks associated with not addressing issues relating to inequality and poverty and opportunities for the city, communities and council and public services more widely in creating a fairer city.

Any other Significant Implications:

7.10 There are no other significant implications of the information set out in this report.