

Subject:	Report of the Brighton and Hove Fairness Commission		
Date of Meeting:	11th July 2016		
Report of:	Chief Executive		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Nicky Cambridge	Tel: 296827
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 This report presents the final reports of the Brighton and Hove Fairness Commission which met and conducted its research between September 2016 and June 2016.
- 1.2 It summarises the key findings of the Commission and sets out the short and longer term approach to responding to its recommendations, which are made to a wide range of partners in the city, including the Council.
- 1.3 Agreement to the establishment of a Fairness Commission was given by the Council's Policy, Resources and Growth Committee (then titled Policy and Resources) on 11 June 2015.
- 1.4 On 20 July 2015, the Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee agreed to the proposed ways of working and Terms of Reference for the Fairness Commission which was formally established in September 2015.
- 1.5 The Fairness Commission held its last public meeting in March 2016, following which it has met to review evidence and produce its final report and recommendations which are attached as a main report (Appendix One) and a 'Headlines' document (Appendix Two). Also attached for information as Appendix Three is the University of Brighton/Community University Partnership Project (CUPP) analysis of the public consultation work undertaken.
- 1.6 The Corporate Plan 2015-19 sets out our purpose, values and priorities. The principles working across the plan include our commitment to increasing equality and ensuring everyone is able to share in the city's prosperity. The Fairness Commission helps us to achieve this.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee welcomes and notes the reports of the Fairness Commission; including the public consultation report produced by the University of Brighton.

- 2.2 That the Committee agrees the proposed approach to responding to its findings and recommendations; including the establishment of a short life Member Working Group.
- 2.3 That the Committee notes that the recommendations are the responsibility of city wide partners as well as the council and that Brighton and Hove Connected is therefore well placed to also receive and consider the report and its role going forward.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Fairness Commission has produced its final reports and these were launched and an event on Monday 27th June 2016.
- 3.2 The main report includes a variety of appendices which include links to evidence and submissions received during its work. It sets out approximately 100 recommendations for a wide range of partners and agencies in the city and includes 6 for central government.
- 3.3 The 'Headlines' (or summary) document sets out 40 recommendations. The commission considers those in the summary to be of highest priority but there is an expectation of response to all.
- 3.4 The main report describes the results of the Commission's extensive consultation involving professionals, national and local experts, Members and national and local community and voluntary organisations. During its work it received 1300 responses from residents and over 400 pieces of evidence in the form of reports, submissions and documents. It also held a series of themed open consultations and events framed around the following questions:
 - How do you think the council and its partners can make Brighton and Hove a fairer place to live?
 - What can residents do to make Brighton and Hove a more fair and equal place to live for everyone?
- 3.5 Findings are currently themed as follows:
 - Strong Communities
 - Travel
 - Housing
 - Early Years and Achieving at School
 - Living and Ageing Well in an Accessible City
 - Fair Employment
 - Learning to Earn
 - Fairer Ways of Working

'Fairer Ways of Working' relates to the Commission's view that there is a need for a fundamental change in the way public sector bodies work with each other and communities – specifically with regard to working collaboratively with communities and the third sector, avoiding silos, working accountably and adopting an early intervention approach.

- 3.6 It is noteworthy that many of the Commission's findings and recommendations reflect existing council work plans and priorities. The identification of public priorities for fairness are welcomed and at a time when resources are limited it is reassuring to note that the city's residents are keen to play an active part in taking them forward.
- 3.7 It should also be noted that the Commission have offered to meet twice more to review progress at six and twelve months' time.

Coordinating the Response

- 3.8 As the Commission has only just launched its final report; timescales have not allowed a detailed response to be made at this time.
- 3.9 It is therefore proposed that Members welcome and note the publication of the reports and agree to a longer term process for responding to the recommendations in detail.
- 3.10 To enable this to happen in the most effective way, it is proposed that Members agree to the establishment of a task and finish Member Working Group consisting of 3 Members, consisting of the Chair of the Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee and one member each from the other Groups in the Committee. It is proposed that the Working Group meets a minimum of three times between July and October 2016.
- 3.11 During this time the Corporate Policy Team will work with the Executive Leadership Team and relevant senior officers to produce detailed responses to each recommendation and report progress on this to the Working Group.
- 3.12 It is proposed that the Member Working Group considers proposed responses to the Fairness Commission recommendations with an implementation plan before they are submitted to the full Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equality Committee at its meeting of 10th October 2016.
- 3.13 In order to ensure that the Implementation Report is considered as part of council budget setting, it is proposed that the report is then considered by the Policy, Resources and Growth Committee on 13th October 2016.
- 3.14 Any amendments to the Implementation Report agreed by the Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee would be minuted and included as part of this.

Ensuring Good Governance and City Wide Engagement

- 3.15 It is proposed that at the October meeting consideration be given to an ongoing oversight and monitoring role for the Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee to ensure effective delivery of the Implementation Report.
- 3.16 As many of the Commission's recommendations relate to the roles and responsibilities of other partners in the city; (for example, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and The Chamber of Commerce), the final report will have been shared formally with Brighton and Hove Connected and the family of partnerships on the 4th July 2016.
- 3.17 Subject to final discussion and agreement by Connected, it has also been proposed that the Equalities and Inclusion Partnership (EquIP) assume oversight of the delivery of the Implementation Report on behalf of Brighton and Hove Connected.
- 3.18 This will ensure that the Commission's findings and recommendations can be shared and discussed with all relevant partners, services and organisations for consideration, response and ownership.
- 3.19 As mentioned above, the Fairness Commission itself has offered to meet again at six and twelve months to review progress and add support to implementation. Learning from Commissions around the country suggests that this is an important part of ensuring good governance and delivery.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Consideration of alternative options to the establishment of a Fairness Commission was presented to the Policy, Resources and Growth Committee in June 2016.

5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Commission undertook extensive consultation during the course of its work, the full details of which are available as appendices to the main report. The public consultation analysis report is available as Appendix Three to this document.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the reports of the Fairness Commission and welcome the final reports.
- 6.2 Members are asked to agree to the proposed approach for coordinating the response, ensuring good governance and engaging city wide partners.
- 6.3 Members are asked to agree the membership of a cross party working group to develop the full response to the recommendations which will return to the Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee on 10th October 2016.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 Financial Implications:

Financial implications will emerge and be considered as the work on responding to the commission begins. This detail will be included at the next meeting as part of the Implementation Report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Mchael Bentley

Date: 29/06/2016

7.2 Legal Implications:

The proposals in the Fairness Commission, in addition to supporting the Council's priorities, will help the Council in discharging its statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010. This includes the duty under section 1 of the Act regarding the need to have regard to socio-economic inequalities and to exercise its powers in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage

Given the wide ranging and corporate implications of the recommendations of the Commission, it is appropriate that the final decision on the response and implementation plan is referred to the Policy & Resources Committee.

Lawyer Consulted:
June 2016

Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis Name

Date: 29

7.3 Equalities Implications:

The Fairness Commission has looked at a significant range of equality and fairness issues. Recommendations for all protected characteristic groups are included in the draft report and if accepted will have implications for the Council's work across the organisation.

7.4 Sustainability Implications:

A broad definition of sustainability, which takes account of the health and wellbeing of people and communities as well as the environment, is wedded through the principles and priorities of our Corporate Plan 2015-19. These are interconnected in terms of the causes and outcomes of inequality, which many of the recommendations in the Fairness Commission seek to address.

7.5 Any Other Significant Implications:

If accepted the Fairness Commission recommendations have considerable implications for many Council departments, services and teams. These will be considered for the Policy, Resources and Growth Committee report in October 2016.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Final 'Headlines' Summary Report of the Brighton and Hove Fairness Commission.

2. Main Report of the Brighton and Hove Fairness Commission.
3. University of Brighton and Community University Partnership Project (CUPP) analysis of the findings from public consultation.

Documents can also be found on the council's webpages at:

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/council-and-democracy/fairness-commission>

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Hard copies of the Final Headlines Report.
2. Hard copies of the Main Report.
3. Hard copies of the University's report on the public consultation.