

Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership

Tuesday 5th March 2013, 4.00-6.00pm

Suite 1, Jurys Inn, 101 Stroudley Road

Brighton, BN1 4DJ

Present:

Roger French	Business Sector (Chair)
Cllr. Geoffrey Bowden	Brighton & Hove City Council (Vice-chair)
Chris Todd	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum (Vice-chair)
Penny Thompson	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr. Jason Kitcat	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr. Gill Mitchell	Brighton & Hove City Council
Christa Beesley	NHS Brighton & Hove
Grahame Widdowson	Job Centre Plus
Mark Baker	University of Brighton
Trevor Freeman	Business Sector
Tony Mernagh	Business Sector
Lisa Dando	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Geraldine Des Moulins	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Gail Gray	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Doris Ndebele	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Vicky Watson	Advice Partnership
Jackie Lythell	Arts & Creative Industries Commission
Lynn Thackway	City Employment & Skills Steering Group
Vic Borill	City Sustainability Partnership
Gary Peters	Economic Partnership
Chris Thomson	Learning Partnership
Leighe Rogers	Safe in the City Partnership
Julie Frith	Strategic Housing Partnership

Independent Secretariat:

Charmian Hay-Ellis (minutes)

Simon Newell

Presenting:

Rob Fraser	Brighton & Hove City Council
Nick Hibberd	Brighton & Hove City Council
Peter Wilkinson	Brighton & Hove City Council

Officers Attending:

Corinna Allen	Brighton & Hove City Council
Richard Butcher-Tuset	Brighton & Hove City Council
Mel North	Brighton & Hove City Council
Geoff Raw	Brighton & Hove City Council
Christine Easterbrook	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Clair Farenden	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Frank LeDuc	Brighton & Hove News

Apologies:

Cllr. Geoffrey Theobald Brighton & Hove City Council
Graham Bartlett Sussex Police
Katy Bourne Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

1. Welcome, Introductions & Chair's communications

- 1.1 Apologies listed as above
- 1.2 Roger French (RF) informed the group that John Holmstrom had recently left Brighton Housing Trust and so would no longer be attending the BHSP meetings. RF wanted to thank John on behalf of the group for all the support and effort he had put into the BHSP and Advice Partnership over the years.
- 1.3 RF stated that Graham Bartlett had retired from his role as Brighton & Hove Divisional Commander at Sussex Police and that Superintendent Stephen Whitton would be acting up as Chief Superintendent in the city until a new permanent divisional commander is appointed. RF wanted the board's gratitude to be passed onto Graham for all his work, help and support that he has provided to the city over the last few years.
- 1.4 Further to the strategic finance paper that came to BHSP on 4th December 2012, a CEO and finance directors meeting has been arranged to take place on Monday 25th March to take this work forward. Simon Newell (SN) informed the group that this would form the basis for future PSB meetings. This will be discussed in more detail in item 5.
- 1.5 The Biosphere Reserve consultation was launched on 28th January and people can have their say on it at www.biospherehere.org.uk until 22nd April. Following BHSP approval last year, the One Planet Framework is making good progress finalising a three year sustainability action plan for the city and council. This is set to get the city a designation as a One Planet City. The plan is due to be launched at the Eco Technology show being held at the Brighton Centre on 14th and 15th June. As this is ten days before the next BHSP meeting, RF asked the board for delegated powers that the chair and vice-chairs can approve the plan. **This was agreed.** All partners were thanked for contributing to this work, especially on the City Sustainability Partnership. The final plan will be brought to the next BHSP meeting on 25th June. **Action: Simon Newell/Thurstan Crockett/Geoff Raw**

2. Minutes & matters arising from meeting Tuesday 4th December 2012

- 2.1 Chris Todd (CT) asked for an amendment to be made under the Citytracker item point 7.7 from the previous minutes. He said that he didn't just speak about air pollution, but also flagged up that the reporting of the climate change question was slightly misleading given the large number of people who didn't respond or said 'don't know'.

Given this fact, the citytracker cannot really claim that most people feel enough is being done to tackle climate change in the city as is done. This amendment will be recorded. **Action: Charmian Hay-Ellis**

- 2.2 **By including the amendment, the minutes from the previous meeting were agreed**
- 2.3 Regarding item 5.2, Nick Hibberd (NH) brought out that the city was on target to meet its decent home standard by the end of the year. Many other social housing providers are in a similar situation.
- 2.4 Under item 7.6, Simon Newell (SN) informed the group that he and Corinna Allen had produced some very brief guidelines which have been agreed around shared communications. Headlines from Citytracker were duly publicised
- 2.5 From item 7.8, SN confirmed that the PSB had agreed to fund the Citytracker for a further year
- 2.6 Under item 12.3, Tony Mernagh (TM) stated that a further consultation event was being held for the Economic Strategy refresh on 7th March at the Hilton Metropole to which all BHSP members are invited from 5:30pm
- 2.7 All other matters arising have either been completed or will be discussed during this meeting

3. Chairs Appointment

- 3.1 RF informed the group that Tony Mernagh had been nominated by RF and the Leader of the Council to become the new chair of the BHSP. TM said that he was delighted to take on the opportunity.
- 3.2 **Tony Mernagh's appointment was unanimously endorsed by the partnership**

4. Sustainable Community Strategy Refresh

- 4.1 SN gave a brief outline of the paper and directed the groups' attention to the recommendations contained within it.
- 4.2 Doris Ndebele (DN) asked if it would be possible to include some key targets within the strategy document. SN responded that some areas lend themselves to include long term targets more than others. However, these could be included where necessary.
- 4.3 Vic Borill (VB) stated the need to ensure that cross cutting issues were not overlooked. SN brought out that the website would not just be a series of links, but would be about drawing things together and forming a coherent whole.
- 4.4 Gary Peters (GP) asked how the general public would have access to the strategy. RF replied that it would be up to this board to get the message out to the city and highlight the city's vision.
- 4.5 CT brought out that although the information would be available on the website, it also needs to be in a printable format. SN noted that this was currently how the Partnership Directory is being done (i.e.: no formal printed document is available, but a full document can be

printed out from the website, or various webpages can be visited as appropriate)

4.6 **The recommendations were agreed**

4.7 SN asked the group if they felt that the current 8 priority themes were still relevant.

4.8 Penny Thompson (PT) noted that there was currently a focus on learning, but not necessarily on children. There is a risk of this aspect of the population being missed.

4.9 Jackie Lythell (JL) noted that containing a lot of images in the document would be key to helping people understand the strength of the cultural aspect of Brighton & Hove

4.10 SN asked the BHSP to confirm that they were happy with the strategy's source documents. Cllr. Geoffrey Bowden stated that other strategies such as culture, seafront and sports & physical activity would need to be included

4.11 Cllr. Geoffrey Bowden brought out that it would be sensible to note on the website the date when each section of the strategy was last updated

4.12 Trevor Freeman (TF) stated that the need to ensure each of the themes is straightforward will be essential.

4.13 SN informed members that following from this meeting a steering group will be set up to take this work forward.

4.14 The aim is to have refreshed the strategy by the end of the year.

Action: Simon Newell/Charmian Hay-Ellis

4.15 Updates will be provided to BHSP in future meetings

5. Public Service Board Restructure

5.1 Cllr. Jason Kitcat brought out that the PSB itself was perhaps not working as well as it could do, but that previous finance session held had been particularly productive. Considering this, it was agreed that in order for the PSB to be most effective, it would need to be restructured.

5.2 PT stated that at the PSB meeting on 26th February 2013, it was agreed that the board would be most functional if chief officers of public services were only to attend (the option is outlined under point 3a in the PSB restructure paper) in order to form a city management/delivery board.

5.3 Cllr. Gill Mitchell asked if this tied into the responsible authorities partnerships. SN replied that these were specifically designed for issues around community safety.

5.4 Chris Thomson asked for clarification on why the city needed a PSB. PT responded that the members of the PSB board would be the officers responsible for taking forward public service delivery within the city. A new terms of reference will be drawn up to reflect these changes. Cllr. Jason Kitcat brought out that the PSB would be responsible to deliver policies and strategies.

- 5.5 Lisa Dando (LD) asked if the BHSP would have an opportunity to comment on the new terms of reference. RF confirmed that these can be circulated to the BHSP for comment when available. **Action: Simon Newell**
- 5.6 TF asked who would now monitor performance. RF brought out that the City Performance Plan (CPP) would still be available.
- 5.7 CT noted that though this restructure of the group has clear links to the Sustainable Community Strategy, much of what is affected is not directly controlled by public services. He asked how these areas would be accounted for and not lost. RF replied that the thematic partnerships would be able to take on these areas.

6. City Deal

- 6.1 NH stated that the full report would be circulated to members with the minutes of the meeting. **Action: Charmian Hay-Ellis**
- 6.2 NH provided a background to the group on City Deal. He stated that this work provides the city with an opportunity to raise its profile and enable it to compete with other large cities. This item will be brought back to the BHSP for updates when appropriate. NH thanked the partners for their help and support in this work.
- 6.3 Cllr. Jason Kitcat brought out that this had proven to be a really positive piece of work with 4 local authorities working together to achieve more.
- 6.4 LD asked if City Deal supported social enterprise. NH responded that this would be included in the Economic Strategy refresh.
- 6.5 **City Deal was endorsed by the BHSP**

7. City Plan

- 7.1 Rob Fraser brought out that the City Plan was one of the key delivery vehicles for the Sustainable Community Strategy. He provided the group with background information and an outline on the plans' current position. The plan will be submitted to inspector later this year and aims to be adopted early 2014. Rob Fraser wanted to thank partners for their involvement and support in this process. He added he would like to be able to continue this positive relationship particularly with thematic partnerships throughout the plans implementation.
- 7.2 TM asked Rob Fraser to comment on the proposal from government to changes commercial buildings into residential areas. Rob Fraser brought out that the authority had asked for exemption from this, as a balance needs to be maintained within the city. Cllr. Jason Kitcat added that the argument included that this should remain a local decision
- 7.3 JL noted a caution around the valley gardens issue and highlighted that the current lack of pedestrian links and the barrier caused by traffic causes issues in St. James Street. The Arts & Creative Industries Commission requested that access across Victoria Gardens between the Cultural Quarter and the Faculty of Art and the proposed

development there be much improved. Cllr. Jason Kitcat stated that the redevelopments taking place in this area would improve these links and also make it a more attractive place to be. Cllr. Gill Mitchell brought out that this development has cross party sign up and needs to have continued support. SN noted that the Transport Partnership had also been very involved in this area of work.

8. Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy

- 8.1 Peter Wilkinson (PW) provided the group with a presentation on the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy. This will be circulated to all members. **Action: Charmian Hay-Ellis**
- 8.2 Cllr. Jason Kitcat asked what the connection was between the Healthy City Partnership and the new Health & Wellbeing Board and why there was a need for both partnerships. SN informed him that the proposal was to make the Healthy City Partnership (which mainly concentrates on World Health Organisation outcomes) a working group for the Health & Wellbeing Board
- 8.3 Vicky Watson (VW) asked how the Advice Partnership could help take this work forward. PW suggested that the partnership contact him directly to look at ways in which the partnership can link into this work. **Action: Vicky Watson/Simon Newell**
- 8.4 Cllr. Geoffrey Bowden asked how this work fed into licensing issues. PW said that at present the Alcohol Programme Board covers this area. Based on the national guidance the Health and Wellbeing Board's remit is likely to increase over time and may include issues such as alcohol.
- 8.5 VB noted how the Health & Wellbeing strategy adds value around the prevention agenda. Christa Beesley (CB) added that some of the areas were particularly pertinent to hospital areas and agreed that the work will prove very beneficial.
- 8.6 RF asked how members could feed into this work. PW replied that they could email him directly (peter.wilkinson@brighton-hove.gov.uk). **Action: All members**

9. Census Demographic Detail

- 9.1 RF encouraged the group to read the paper provided by David Golding
- 9.2 SN brought out that planning was taking place around the possibility of arranging a specific session to look at the census in more detail and what can be done with this information. **Action: David Golding/Simon Newell**
- 9.3 TM asked if the Economic Development bulletin could also be circulated to partners with the minutes for members to read for information. **Action: Charmian Hay-Ellis**

10. Economic Strategy

- 10.1 The refreshed Economic strategy will come back to a future meeting for sign off

11. Partnership Feedback

- 11.1 Only one partnership responded. RF encouraged the partnership to continue to complete the forms as they provide a vital link between the thematic partnerships and the BHSP

12. Date of next meeting

- 12.1 The next BHSP Meeting takes place on Tuesday 25th June 2013, 4.00-6.00pm, Suite 1 at the Jury's Inn Hotel, 101 Stroudley Road, Brighton, BN1 4DJ

13. Roger's Retrospective Reflections

- 13.1 RF made a presentation reviewing the BHSP since its inception. The speech he made will be circulated as an appendix to the minutes.

Action: Charmian Hay-Ellis

- 13.2 CT on behalf of the BHSP thanked RF for all of his hard work, support and leadership over the years, and wished him all the best in his future endeavours.