

## Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012, 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) |
| Cllr. Jason Kitcat      | Brighton & Hove City Council                    |
| Cllr. Geoffrey Theobald | Brighton & Hove City Council                    |
| Catherine Vaughan       | Brighton & Hove City Council                    |
| Geraldine Hoban         | NHS Brighton & Hove                             |
| Steve Whitton           | Sussex Police                                   |
| Tim Smith               | Job Centre Plus                                 |
| Chris Wick              | Environment Agency                              |
| Colin Monk              | University of Brighton                          |
| Ian Carter              | University of Sussex                            |
| Trevor Freeman          | Business Sector                                 |
| Tony Mernagh            | Business Sector                                 |
| Rachel Brett            | Community & Voluntary Sector Forum              |
| Ian Chisnall            | Community & Voluntary Sector Forum              |
| Christine Easterbrook   | Community & Voluntary Sector Forum              |
| Doris Ndebele           | Community & Voluntary Sector Forum              |
| John Holmström          | Advice Partnership                              |
| Adam Trimmingham        | 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:**

|                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Paula Black      | Brighton & Hove City Council |
| Debbie Corbridge | Brighton & Hove City Council |
| Valerie Pearce   | Brighton & Hove City Council |

**Officers Attending:**

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Corinna Allen         | Brighton & Hove City Council |
| Richard Butcher-Tuset | Brighton & Hove City Council |
| Julian Fennell        | Brighton & Hove City Council |

**Apologies:**

|                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cllr. Gill Mitchell | Brighton & Hove City Council          |
| Graham Bartlett     | Sussex Police                         |
| Lisa Dando          | Community & Voluntary Sector Forum    |
| Neil Holmes         | Community & Voluntary Sector Forum    |
| Jackie Lythell      | Arts & Creative Industries Commission |

## 1. Welcome, Introductions & Chair's communications

- 1.1 Apologies as listed above
- 1.2 Roger French (RF) welcomed Catherine Vaughan, interim Chief Executive of Brighton & Hove City Council, Gary Peters, new chair of the Economic Partnership, Cllr. Geoffrey Bowden, new vice-chair of the BHSP representing Brighton & Hove City Council, Ian Carter, new representative for the University of Sussex, Julie Frith, new representative of the Strategic Housing Partnership and Lynn Thackway, new representative for the City Employment & Skills Steering Group and new principle of City College
- 1.3 RF brought out that a Strategic Finance Session has been scheduled for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October from 10am-12:30pm in the Hanover room of the Brighthelm Centre. This meeting will highlight with partners the situation for funding of public services in the medium term, to understand the implications and to explore possible solutions. All BHSP members are welcome to attend
- 1.4 RF drew the groups attention to the BHSP's 12 month activity report paper that went to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2012. He noted that the report received positive feedback and that minutes from this meeting would be available in the near future.

## 2. Introduction to Brighton & Hove City Council's New Chief Executive Officer

- 2.1 CV highlighted that she understood how important the partnership arrangements are to delivering progress within the city and brought out that she would be looking to continually strengthen this approach alongside partners.

## 3. Minutes & matters arising from the BHSP meeting Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2012

- 3.1 Chris Todd (CT) asked for one amendment to be made to the minutes. Regarding item 5.5, CT asked for the first sentence of the item to be reworded as follows: *CT asked how the plan included provision for climate change adaptation issues and how the expansion in retail fitted with One Planet Living principles.* This amendment will be made to the previous minutes. **Action: Charmian Hay-Ellis**
- 3.2 With the amendment made, the minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.
- 3.3 Under item 2.3, Vic Borill (VB) confirmed that additional information relating to the scores on the doors scheme would be picked up by the One Planet Living work.
- 3.4 Regarding item 2.4, Simon Newell (SN) confirmed that he had spoken to the lead officer about the inclusion of BME populations in the Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Strategy and he had it confirmed that this would be picked up in future work.
- 3.5 Under item 5.6, RF informed the board that the City Plan consultation was now complete and that the board now awaits a further progress report.
- 3.6 Under item 6.4, SN brought out that a member of staff had been appointed to take forward the Living Wage campaign further and that work was progressing.
- 3.7 All other actions had either been completed or were items on this agenda

## 4. City Performance Plan Annual Report

- 4.1 Paula Black (PB) gave an overview of the CPP report from March 2012. From the report, she brought out that there are some areas showing real achievement, but also highlighted three areas of concern and recommended that these areas be looked into more detail. These were:
- Youth unemployment and Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS) - PB stated that the current figures don't show this to be the biggest issue for the city, but the figures are rising and there is a definite trend starting to show
  - Housing and homelessness - Homelessness has increased in the past year in the city and is still rising. There are also pressures on the availability of housing affecting all areas of the city.
  - Alcohol related issues - The number of people admitted to hospital for alcohol related reasons continues to rise. This is another area where a lot of good work is already being done but there is still room for improvement
- 4.2 PB brought out that it would be down to the PSB to drill down into issues, but that data will still be provided to the BHSP for information and to oversee the process. She added that performance updates are already given at many thematic partnerships but encouraged partnerships representatives to speak to her about coming along to partnership meetings where this is not already being done.
- 4.3 CT noted that under some of the areas it was awaiting data. It was suggested that in future it would note when this data was expected to be available if not already.
- 4.4 Rachel Brett (RB) asked how the voluntary sector could connect with the PSB. PB brought out that there would be a process of stages available for the CVSF to be involved in. RF added that the CVSF are represented on the PSB as well as on all the thematic partnerships.

## 5. City Engagement Calendar

- 5.1 SN presented the City Engagement Calendar to the group. He stated that it has understandably not captured everything, but that there are 190 current consultations listed. A template was sent to all partners asking for details of consultations that they knew were taking place. These have then been collated and put into a spreadsheet. This will be repeated every 6 months in order to show what is currently being consulted on.
- 5.2 The next part of this process is to go back to those doing the consultation and ask them what changed as a result of it. This will in future hopefully reduce duplication as well as having other benefits. SN added that there are currently not as much information as would have been preferred around the cost of each consultation, the reasons behind this will need to be looked at. **Action: Simon Newell/Paula Black**
- 5.3 Once completed, this spreadsheet will be made available. **Action: Simon Newell/Paula Black**
- 5.4 Ian Chisnall noted that the spreadsheet provided a good starting point for gathering information about different consultations, but also expressed his concern around the lack of information about costs. SN agreed, but brought out that there are some very complex issues behind this.
- 5.5 Ian Chisnall asked the group if it was a case of the Community Engagement Framework not being used to its full capacity. He noted that a number of the consultations taking place were statutory and that this did not necessarily fit with the recent localism bill.
- 5.6 CT asked if it would be more useful breaking down each consultation into further categories. Trevor Freeman (TF) asked if it would be worth noting the type of consultation conducted. SN replied that this seemed to be the best

way of presenting the information as many of the consultations fall under more than one category.

- 5.7 Cllr. Jason Kitcat stated that there is an issue around the amount of consultation taking place and reducing duplication around this, however a balance needs to be had in making sure people are being consulted about decisions being made.
- 5.8 SN reiterated that the next stage of this work would be to analyse with lead officers what has happened since the consultation(s) had been completed. This information will then be added to the various websites
- 5.9 SN confirmed that it would be the Community Engagement Partnership that would own this work and take it forward. **Action: Geraldine Des Moulins/Simon Newell**

## **6. City Prospectus**

- 6.1 Tony Mernagh (TM) conducted a presentation on the City Prospectus website.
- 6.2 TM brought out that many estate agents are already attracting business to the city, which is having a large impact. This website however will allow potential investors to take a look at the city without the hard sell.
- 6.3 TM brought out that this website is not something that has been done by one organisation, rather it has been shared amongst the local authority, the Economic Partnership and a number of other partners.
- 6.4 CT asked how it would be judged how useful this tool was in terms of allocating its future resources. TM replied that activity on the website would be measured. CT also asked if there would be opportunity for the voluntary sector to have more of a part of this website. TM responded that he was not sure if the voluntary sector opportunities could be captured on the website, but that he would be interested in looking into this in more detail. **Action: Tony Mernagh**
- 6.5 Chris Wick (CW) asked how the site was being promoted. TM stated that search engine optimisation was being used, but that other forms of promotion are often expensive. There is however an element of self promotion.
- 6.6 CW asked how this website linked into the various economies, i.e.: green economy, digital economy. TM replied that the key sectors had been covered, but not in detail on the prospectus website, but noted that links to other websites are available on it.

## **7. Supporting People with Complex Needs**

- 7.1 SN stated that he and Sally Polanski, Chief Executive of the CVSF, had been approached by the Big Lottery Fund about a project that would focus on single people with complex needs. This funding could only be applied for by voluntary sector organisations. Brighton Housing Trust were elected by a vote on who should become the lead partner for taking this work forward.
- 7.2 John Holmström (JH) brought out that the proposal included funding of £8million over a course of eight years. This would be used to do deeper work with those who have complex needs in order to improve outcomes. A Visioning consultative event is being scheduled in order for partners to agree on what wants/needs to be achieved. JH encouraged the group to contact either him or Anna Thomson if they would like to know more information about this project.
- 7.3 JH brought out that the proposal will come to December BHSP for formal endorsement. **Action: John Holmstrom**
- 7.4 Leigh Rogers (LR) brought out that this fund would be hugely important in helping families with complex needs. It will also link into the other projects ongoing at this time around similar subjects
- 7.5 Geraldine Hoban (GH) asked if the visioning event was only extended to those in the voluntary sector. JH replied that partners are welcome to be involved in

this event, and added that he will send an invite to this event to the BHSP.

**Action: John Holmström/Charmian Hay-Ellis**

- 7.6 SN brought out that there would be statutory input into the core group to ensure that it links with statutory organisations. JH noted that as this would be a commissioning group, more work still needs to be done around the final membership in order to get the balance right.
- 7.7 Ian Chisnall asked if there would be potentially more resource available for this work. JH responded that the funding would be used to look at new ways of working. Business cases could be made by other organisation to match fund projects, but this would not be done by the core group itself.
- 7.8 The BHSP endorsed this work

#### **8. Stronger Families Stronger Communities Programme**

- 8.1 Debbie Corbridge (DC) stated that this project will soon be officially renamed the Integrated Team for Families programme.
- 8.2 DC gave an overview of her paper to the group. She highlighted that approximately £4000 per family had been allocated with a focus on reducing anti-social behaviour. She brought out that the delivery arm of this team would be directly linked with other city partners via secondments within the team.
- 8.3 LR noted that families who have dealings with professionals from across a variety of sectors often incur a huge expense to the organisations involved. By drawing this work together, organisations will be able to achieve shared outcomes. Steve Whitton (SW) added that there was a need to get commitment from other organisations on this project as the relatively small amount of investment required by organisations will bring a huge beneficial return to them.
- 8.4 The BHSP endorsed this approach.

#### **9. Brighton & Hove Council Tax Low Income Discount Scheme**

- 9.1 Valerie Pearce (VP) highlighted the keys points from the paper and on how it would affect people, particularly those of working age receiving benefit. She noted that the consultation on the scheme would be ending in October 2012.
- 9.2 RF asked if the £3 shortfall next year will apply to the current 10,000 people on benefits. VP confirmed that this would. Cllr. Jason Kitcat added that this has been balanced by other means such as charging the full amount of council tax on second homes. He noted that this does not cover the costs completely, but most. The more notice that is given about this work the more beneficial it will prove to be
- 9.3 Cllr. Jason Kitcat brought out that it needs to be noted that many families who are receiving benefits do have jobs, but are on a low income.

#### **10. Items for information**

- 10.1 RF asked the BHSP to note the items for information

#### **11. AOB**

- 11.1 None

#### **12. Date of next meeting**

- 12.1 The next BHSP Meeting takes place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012, 4.00-6.00pm, Suite 1 at the Jury's Inn Hotel, 101 Stroudley Road, Brighton, BN1 4DJ