

Council

Date: 13 October 2025

Time: **4.30pm**

Venue: Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall

Members: Councillors: Grimshaw (Chair), Galvin (Deputy Chair), Asaduzzaman,

Atkinson, Alexander, Allen, Bagaeen, Baghoth, Cattell, Czolak, Daniel, Davis, Earthey, Evans, Fishleigh, Fowler, Gauge, Goddard, Goldsmith, Guilmant, Helliwell, Hewitt, Hill, Hogan, Lademacher, Loughran, Lyons, Mackey, McGregor, McLeay, McNair, Meadows, Miller, Muten, Nann, Oliveira, O'Quinn, Parrott, Pickett, Robins, Robinson, Rowkins, Sankey, Shanks, Sheard, Simon, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, Thomson, West,

Wilkinson, Winder and Williams.

Contact: Anthony Soyinka

Head of Democratic Services

01273 291006

anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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Chief Executive Hove Town Hall Norton Road

Jet Gibbon)

Hove BN3 3BQ

Part One Page

32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests;
- (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
- (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services Officer preferably before the meeting.

33 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous Council meeting(s) which will be circulated separately as part of an addendum for the meeting.

Contact Officer: Anthony Soyinka Tel: 01273 291006

34 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

To receive communications from the Mayor.

34a LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive announcements by the Leader and Portfolio Holders.

35 TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS

To receive any petitions to be presented to the Mayor by members of the public and/or Members as notified by the due date of 29 September 2025 (10 working days) which will be circulated separately as part of an addendum for the meeting.

36 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A list of public questions received by the due date of 10am on 1 October 2025 will be circulated separately as part of an addendum for the meeting.

37 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A list of deputations received by the due date of 10am on 1 October 2025 will be circulated separately as part of an addendum for the meeting.

PETITIONS FOR DEBATE

Petitions to be debated at Council. Reports of the Executive Director for Governance, People & Resources.

a Petition for Debate - Save the Floral Clock

38 CALL OVER FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- (a) Call over (items 41 46) will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for consideration.
- (b) To receive or approve the reports and agree with their recommendations, with the exception of those which have been reserved for discussion.

39 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

A list of the written questions submitted by Members will be published as part of an addendum. This will be repeated along with the written answers received and will be taken as read as part of an addendum circulated separately at the meeting.

Contact Officer: Anthony Soyinka Tel: 01273 291006

6.30 - 7.00PM REFRESHMENT BREAK

Note: A refreshment break is scheduled for 6.30pm although this may alter slightly depending on how the meeting is proceeding and the view of the Mayor.

40 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

9 - 12

A list of Councillors who have indicated their desire to ask an oral question at the meeting along with the subject matters has been listed in the agenda papers.

Contact Officer: Anthony Soyinka Tel: 01273 291006

REPORTS FOR DECISION

41 REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE OCTOBER 2025

13 - 18

Contact Officer: Elizabeth Culbert Tel: 01273 291515

Ward Affected: All Wards

42 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

19 - 30

Contact Officer: Victoria Simpson Tel: 01273 294687

Ward Affected: All Wards

43 COUNCIL PLAN REFRESH

31 - 170

Contact Officer: Sanjan Haque Ward Affected: All Wards

44 DEVOLUTION FOR SUSSEX & BRIGHTON

171 - 236

Contact Officer: Tom Cottam Ward Affected: All Wards

45 PARTIAL REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES

237 - 272

2025

Contact Officer: Michael Appleford

Tel: 01273 291997

Ward Affected: All Wards

46 WEST SALTDEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – DECISION STATEMENT

273 - 434

Contact Officer:

Carly Dockerill

Tel: 01273 292382

Ward Affected: Rottingdean & West Saltdean

REPORTS REFERRED FOR INFORMATION

NOTICES OF MOTION

Notices of Motions received will be circulated separately as part of an addendum for the meeting.

- a Protect Independent Scrutiny, Save Healthwatch England
- b Gaza and Council Financial Exposure
- c Enforcing Covenant on land in West Saltdean
- d Inequality and Life Outcomes in Brighton & Hove
- e King Alfred Leisure Centre

47 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor will move a closure motion under Procedure Rule 17 to terminate the meeting 4 hours after the beginning of the meeting (excluding any breaks/adjournments).

Note:

- 1. The Mayor will put the motion to the vote and if it is carried will then:-
 - (a) Call on the Member who had moved the item under discussion to give their right of reply, before then putting the matter to the vote, taking into account the need to put any amendments that have been moved to the vote first:

- (b) Each remaining item on the agenda that has not been dealt with will then be taken in the order they appear on the agenda and put to the vote without debate.
 - The Member responsible for moving each item will be given the opportunity by the Mayor to withdraw the item or to have it voted on. If there are any amendments that have been submitted, these will be taken and voted on first in the order that they were received.
- (c) Following completion of the outstanding items, the Mayor will then close the meeting.
- 2. If the motion moved by the Mayor is **not carried** the meeting will continue in the normal way, with each item being moved and debated and voted on.
- 3. Any Member will still have the opportunity to move a closure motion should they so wish. If such a motion is moved and seconded, then the same procedure as outlined above will be followed.
 - Once all the remaining items have been dealt with the Mayor will close the meeting.

FOR INFORMATION

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 10:00am on the eighth working day before the meeting.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

Infra-red hearing aids are available for use during the meeting. If you require any further information or assistance, please contact the receptionist on arrival.

Webcasting notice

This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 1998. Data collected during this web cast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

Therefore, by entering the meeting room and using the seats in the chamber you are deemed to be consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for the purpose of web casting and/or Member training. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured, they should sit in the public gallery area.

Access notice

The Public Gallery is situated on the first floor of the Town Hall and is limited in size but does have 2 spaces designated for wheelchair users. The lift cannot be used in an emergency. Evac Chairs are available for self-transfer and you are requested to inform Reception prior to going up to the Public Gallery. For your own safety please do not go beyond the Ground Floor if you are unable to use the stairs.

Please inform staff on Reception of this affects you so that you can be directed to the Council Chamber where you can watch the meeting or if you need to take part in the proceedings e.g. because you have submitted a public question. **Fire & emergency evacuation procedure**

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions:

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move some distance away and await further instructions; and
- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so

Further information

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Anthony Soyinka, (01273 291006, email anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Council

Agenda Item 40

Subject: Oral questions from Councillors

A period of not more than 30 minutes is set aside for oral questions from Members, at the expiry of which, the mayor will call a halt and proceed to the next item of business of the agenda.

The following Members have indicated that they wish to put questions to the Leader, Cabinet portfolio holder, Chairs of Committees or Members of the Council that have been appointed to an outside body. The Councillor asking the question may then ask one relevant supplementary question which shall be put and answered without discussion:

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

1. Councillor Davis

Car Parks

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport and City Infrastructure

2. Councillor McNair

King Alfred Leisure Centre

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation and Libraries

3. Councillor Fishleigh

Compensation for loss of office

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council

4. Councillor Robinson

King Alfred

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation & Libraries

5. Councillor Lademacher

Temporary Accommodation Provision

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing

6. Councillor Meadows

Gasworks development

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing

7. Councillor Earthey

Reducing Bus Emissions through Smart Traffic Signal Coordination

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport and City Infrastructure

8. Councillor De Oliveira

Brighton & Hove's libraries

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation and Libraries

9. Councillor Cattell

Heat Pumps

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero and Environmental Services

10. Councillor Cllr Sykes

LGR and capital investment

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance and City Regeneration

11. Councillor Theobald

Floral clock

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Sports, Recreation and Libraries

12. Councillor Helliwell

Safe Streets

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport and City Infrastructure

13. Councillor Shanks

Gas works appeal

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing

14. Councillor Lyons

Broken paving slabs

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport and City Infrastructure

15. Councillor Sheard

ΑI

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Customer Service and Public Realm

16. Councillor Hill

Option B2 for West Sussex LGR

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council

17. Councillor Hogan

Street operatives

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet member for Customer Services and Public Realm

18. Councillor Pickett

Glyphosate

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero and Environmental Services

Council Agenda Item 41

Subject: Review of Political Balance 2025/26

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Report of: Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Name: Anthony Soyinka

Tel: 01273 29 1006

Email: Anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 The Council is required to review the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub Committees where there is a change to the membership of the political groups in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to review the allocation of seats following a byelection in Queen's Park in September 2025.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Council appoints/re-appoints its committees with the sizes and allocation of seats between political groups as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 In September 2025 Councillor Marina Lademacher (Green) was elected as a member for Queen's Park ward. The political composition of the Council is therefore now: Labour (35 Members), Green (9 Members), Conservative (5 Members), Brighton & Hove Independent Group (2 Members) and 3 Independent Members. Section 15(1) of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to review the representation of the different political groups on committees and sub-committees:
 - At, or as soon as practicable after, the Annual Meeting of the Council or,
 - Where notice is received of a change in the composition of political groups.
- 3.2 The Chief Executive is under duty, whenever such a review takes place, to submit a report to the Council showing what allocation of seats would in their opinion best meet the requirements of Section 15 of the 1989 Act.
- 3.3 The Council's duty to determine the allocation of seats is prescribed by Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (specifically sub

- section (3) to (5). The legislation does not impose any specific requirement on the Council to consult the political groups as to which committee seats should be allocated to which group this only applies to the actual appointment of Members to particular seats once they are allocated to political groups.
- 3.4 It is clearly preferable if all Groups have an agreed position as to which committee allocations are to be adjusted, provided that the agreed position does not conflict with the Council's duty, which is "to make only such determinations as give effect, so far as reasonably practicable, to the principles specified in sub-section (5)."
- 3.4.1 In summary, these principles of determination ("principles"), are that:
 - a) All seats are not allocated to the same Group,
 - b) The majority of the seats go to the Group (if any) which has an overall majority on the Council (i.e. more than 27 seats),
 - c) In accordance with the two principles stated above, the total number of seats assigned to each Group across all committees and subcommittees should reflect their proportionate representation on the Full Council and
 - d) Subject to provisions (a) and (c), the allocation of seats on each committee or sub-committee to each Group shall reflect the proportionate representation of that Group on the Full Council.

Overall Political Group split on the Council

3.5 The political groups have the following seats on the Council and there are 63 seats across all committees to be allocated:

Party	Seats on the Council	Initial Allocat (rounde	_	Initial Allocation	
Labour	35	40.83	(41)	41	
Green	9	10.50	(11)	11	
Conservative	5	5.83	(6)	6	
Brighton & Hove Independents	2	2.33	(2)	2	
Independent	1	1.16	(1)	1	
Independent	1	1.16	(1)	1	
Independent	1	1.16	(1)	1	
Total	54		•	63	

Committee Sizes and Review of Committees

3.6 The total number of Committee places (excluding sub-committees) used for the determination of the allocation of seats to the political groups is 63 as detailed in Appendix 1. (Note that the Political Balance Regulations do not apply to the Cabinet, Licensing Committee (2003 Act) or the Health and Wellbeing Board).

- 3.7 The proposed allocation of places on each of the committees as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report takes into account the principles referred to in paragraph 3.4.1 in that:
 - a) The Labour Group's overall allocation equals 41 seats,
 - b) The Green Group's overall allocation equals 11 seats,
 - c) The Conservative Group's overall allocation equals 6 seats,
 - d) The Brighton & Hove Independents equals 2 seats and
 - e) That in having regard to the convention that the Council has abided to whenever there has been an Independent Member, one seat is offered to each of the 3 Independent Members.
- 3.8 The allocations in 3.7 above provide the Labour Group, Green Group, Conservative Group and Brighton & Hove Independent Groups with allocations in accordance with their initial calculations. This outcome incorporates the Council's decision to offer 1 seat to each of the 3 Independent Members and ensures that all committees have a full membership.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

4.1 The proposed committee allocations have been raised with the respective Group Leaders and are in keeping with the Regulations governing the political balance of committees.

5. Community engagement and consultation

5.1 The Leaders of the four political groups have been consulted on the proposed allocations and notification of nominations for committee membership will be provided after the respective Annual Group Meetings. Details of these nominations will be listed in appendices 2 and 3

6. Financial implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

Name of finance officer consulted: Ishemupenyu Chagonda Date consulted 01/10/2025

7. Legal implications

7.1 The proposals in this report comply with Section 15(1) of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, which sets out the duty and principles regarding the allocation of seats to political groups.

Name of lawyer consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date consulted: 01/10/2025

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 The risk implications of not supporting the requested decisions would be a breach of statutory duty to comply with the requirements of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report and could expose the council to legal challenges or intervention the Secretary of State.
- 8.2 Decisions made by committees/sub committees could be challenged if those meetings are deemed to be unlawfully constituted.
- 8.3 Lack of political balance may lead to accusations of bias, undermining trust in the decision-making processes of the Council.
- 8.4 To address risks of non-compliance with the requirements of the Act consultations on the proposed allocations of seats were held in advance with all four political group leaders represented on the council.

9. Equalities implications

9.1 The Regulations provide for the distribution of seats amongst the political groups on an equitable basis.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 There are no sustainability issues arising from the report.

11. Conclusion

11.1 Having taken into consideration the number of committees and seats available for the distribution of places between the four Groups represented on the Council, the allocations proposed are considered to be the most compatible with the requirement of the Regulations.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Committee seat allocations

ALLOCATIONS OF COMMITTEES

Appendix 1

Committees, Sub-Committees, Boards and Joint Committees	No. Seats	Labour	Green	Conservative	Brighton & Hove Independents	Independent
Audit, Standards & General Purposes	8	5	1	1		1
Licensing*	15	10	3	1		1
Planning	10	7	1	1	1	
Health Overview & Scrutiny	10	7-6	12	1		1
People - Scrutiny	10	7	2	1		
Place - Scrutiny	10	76	12	1	1	
Total	63	4 3 41	9 11	6	2	3

Other Bodies Not included in the equation for the allocation of seats:	No. Seats	Labour	Green	Conservative	B&H Independent	Independent
Health & Wellbeing Board	3	3				
Corporate Parenting Board	5	4	1			
Licensing Panels	3	2	1			

Joint Committees				
Greater Brighton Economic Board	2	2		
Sussex Health Care Assembly	1	1		

Council Agenda Item 42

Subject: Review of the Council's Constitution

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Report of: Elizabeth Culbert, Director Governance & Law (Monitoring

Officer)

Contact Officer: Victoria Simpson, Senior Lawyer - Corporate Law

Victoria.Simpson@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This report seeks full Council approval for updates to the Constitution.
- 1.2 The report aligns with the commitments in the Council Plan 2023-2027 to ensure we are a learning council with well-run services. Specifically, this report seeks to achieve good governance and ways of working that meet the needs of staff, residents and customers. The proposals focus on the effective management of council resources, ensuring value for money and making the best use of our resources.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council formally approves the changes to the Constitution relating to increased task & finish groups and time for public questions for Overview & Scrutiny as set out in the report and in Appendix 1, with immediate effect.
- 2.2 That Council formally approves changes to the Council Procedure Rules relating to Extraordinary Council meetings and the notice period for member written questions as set out in the report and Appendix 2, with immediate effect.
- 2.3 That Council authorises the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to take all steps necessary or incidental to the implementation of the above changes, and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend such parts of the Council's constitutional documents as they consider necessary or incidental to incorporate the changes, and to republish the Constitution.

3. Context and background information

3.1 The Council is required to keep its Constitution under review with a view to achieving efficiency, economy and effectiveness. This report reviews two areas of our governance arrangements in line with our Council Plan priorities to ensure good governance and ways of working that meet the needs of staff, residents and customers.

Increased Overview & Scrutiny Task & Finish Groups

- 3.2 After a year of operating Overview & Scrutiny arrangements, officers have been requested to consider how Overview & Scrutiny can be further supported and enhanced to improve our Cabinet system and to recognise the importance of cross Party, pre-decision work on significant policy issues.
- 3.3 The Overview & Scrutiny Place Committee has recently reported to Cabinet with the outcome of its first task & finish group on Short Term Lets. The Council's task and finish groups are intended to provide an opportunity for indepth and targeted pre-decision scrutiny of specific areas of concern, making recommendations for implementation by Cabinet. They are a means of interrogating key areas of enquiry and of encouraging meaningful engagement with elected members, experts and stakeholders.
- 3.4 The Council's current arrangements state that only one task & finish group will run in any six month period across all three of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
- 3.5 Having now embedded our new Overview & Scrutiny working arrangements and officer team, it is considered that there is sufficient officer resource in place to support an increase in the number of task & finish groups. It is proposed that two task & finish groups may run concurrently across the three Overview & Scrutiny Committees in any six month period. This will double the number of task & finish groups that can be undertaken and therefore significantly increase the opportunity for the focused, cross Party, enquiry this function offers. The suggested amendment to the rules is set out at Appendix 1.

Extended time for submission of public questions to Overview & Scrutiny

- 3.6 The deadline for the public to submit their questions to Overview & Scrutiny Committees is currently set at eight working days before the Committee meeting. This is in line with the arrangements which apply to Council and its other Committees. Currently the only exception to the above deadline is Cabinet, where the deadline for public questions is four working days before the meeting.
- 3.7 To encourage and increase public engagement in Overview & Scrutiny, and to reflect the key role that the Council wishes Overview & Scrutiny to play in its decision making process, it is proposed that the deadline for public questions to the Overview & Scrutiny Committees be amended to four working days before the meeting rather than eight. This new deadline will enable public questions to be submitted after the agenda has been published so that questions can directly address issues covered on the agenda for the meeting. The suggested change is reflected in Appendix 1.

Clarifying the requirements for calling an extraordinary meeting of full Council

- 3.8 There are statutory provisions set out in the Local Government Act 1972 which permit an Extraordinary Meeting of full Council to be called by requisition of any five members of the Council. As with all Council motions, the business of an Extraordinary Council Meeting is required to relate to a matter that the Council has powers or duties for or which affects the Authority, the area of Brighton & Hove and/or its inhabitants.
- 3.9 Individual Councils may then agree their own arrangements in their Constitutions to regulate how such Extraordinary Council meetings are called and managed. Full Council meetings are resource-intensive to set up and to support. It can also be challenging for members to attend meetings scheduled at short notice and/or outside pre arranged meeting times where they have other commitments such as work or caring responsibilities.
- 3.10 As a result, it is important that Extraordinary Council meetings are only called where they are time critical, meaning that the business to be debated cannot wait until the next Ordinary Council meeting. This is implied, but not currently explicitly contained, within our Council Procedure Rules.
- 3.11 To clarify the requirements, a change is proposed to the Council Procedure Rules to make specific reference to the expectation of urgency. The proposed amendment is set out at Appendix 2. Such clarification is common practice and in line with arrangements at other councils.

Member written questions at full Council

- 3.12 Officer resources across the Council are impacted by a high volume of written questions requiring a written response to be published prior to the full Council meeting. In order to support officers to manage this, it is recommended that the deadline for submitting a member written question to full Council be amended from eight to fourteen working days before the meeting. This will assist officers to enable responses to be prepared in time for the publication deadline.
- 3.13 The proposed amended text is reflected in Appendix 2.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

4.1 One option considered when reviewing the Council's delivery of its Overview & Scrutiny function was that of holding more scheduled meetings of one or more of the Committees. However that was rejected in favour of additional task & finish groups. Additional Overview & Scrutiny meetings are already regularly being held and can continue to be supported as required and the more focused and in-depth work of task & finish groups is considered to be likely to provide a greater impact.

5. Community engagement and consultation

5.1 The proposals set out in this report were discussed with Group Leaders and feedback is incorporated in the report.

6. Financial implications

6.1 The costs of administering meetings are managed within the Democratic Services budget. It is considered that the cost of the proposed constitutional changes can be managed within the current budget envelope. The clarification on the requirements for calling an extraordinary meeting of full Council will make it easier to manage the additional costs that would occur as a result of calling an extraordinary meeting by reducing the number of meetings called in this manner.

Name of finance officer consulted: Craig Garoghan Date consulted: 01/10/2025

7. Legal implications

7.1 The legal implications are covered in the body of this Report.

Name of lawyer consulted: Victoria Simpson Date consulted 01/10/25

8. Risk implications

8.1 No risks have been identified and the arrangements will be kept under review.

9. Equalities implications

9.1 The changes to arrangements proposed relating to Overview & Scrutiny, including the timing of public questions, are recommended with the priority of enhancing opportunity for all stakeholders to engage with the democratic process.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 No sustainability implications have been identified.

11. Other Implications

11.1 No other implications have been identified.

12. Conclusion

12.1 The proposed changes are recommended for the reasons outlined in this Report.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

- 1. Extract from Part 3 of the Constitution to reflect the proposed changes to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules
- 2. Extract from Part 3A of the Constitution to reflect the proposed changes to the Council Procedure Rules

Appendix 1 – Changes proposed to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules, at <u>Part 3C1</u> of the Council's Constitution

[..]

- 20. Task & Finish Groups
- 20.1 Overview & Scrutiny Committees may each establish informal task & finish groups to undertake in-depth reviews of specific issues.
- 20.2 An Overview & Scrutiny Committee may choose to set the terms of reference for a task & finish group; or alternatively it may prefer to set the general scope for the group, delegating detailed terms of reference to task & finish group members following more detailed scoping of the issue.
- 20.3 An Overview & Scrutiny Committee may choose to set a date for a task & finish group to report back to the parent committee; or it may prefer to leave this decision for task & finish group members. However, task & finish groups are expected to take no more than 6 months to report back, unless by exception agreed by the Chair of the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 20.4 Task & finish groups are not required to adhere to strict rules of proportionality, but membership will generally reflect the composition of the Council.
- 20.5 Any elected member will be eligible to be a member of a task & finish group, other than executive members, members of HWB or Cabinet Advisors
- 20.6 An Overview & Scrutiny Committee may choose to appoint non-voting members to a task & finish group in addition to elected members for example, local residents with lived experience of the issues in focus or subject experts.
- 20.7 At the first task & finish group meeting, task & finish group elected members will vote to elect a Chair. At the first group meeting, unless already specified by the parent Overview & Scrutiny Committee, task & finish group members will also consider a scoping report prepared by officers, agree terms of reference and agree the planned duration of the group as well as a schedule of meetings.
- 20.8 When a task & finish group has finished gathering evidence, it will draft a report with recommendations, with the assistance of Overview & Scrutiny officers, to be presented to the next scheduled meeting of the parent Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Task & finish group members should make every effort to achieve consensus on their report and its recommendations. If it proves impossible to reach a consensus, dissenting members may agree to submit a minority report to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in addition to the majority report. Officer support to draft a minority report will not however be provided.

20.9 The parent Overview & Scrutiny Committee will determine whether to refer a task & finish group report to the relevant decision-making body – e.g. to Cabinet, to Council or to a partner organisation.

20.10 Where a task & finish group report has been agreed by an Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and referred on, and where the decision-making body has agreed to implement some or all of the report recommendations, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of agreed recommendations via regular progress reports to committee.

20.11 In order to manage limited member and officer resources, no more than ene two task & finish groups may be in operation at any point in time (i.e. two task & finish groups in total for the People, Place and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committees in any six month period). The Chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees will agree the sequencing of task & finish groups in instances where both committees wish to undertake reviews concurrently.

[..]

Changes proposed to the deadline for public questions to the Overview & Scrutiny Committees, as set out at Part 3C of the Council's Constitution

[..]

Public Questions

Public Question Time

- 11.9 A period of not more than thirty minutes shall be allowed for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the Authority at each ordinary meeting of a Committee. Any questions not dealt with within the 30 minute period will receive a written response. Priority Accorded to Public Questions
- 11.10 No questioner may submit more than one question to any meeting. Priority will in any case be given to questions asked by members of the public who have not asked a question at any meeting of any Council body in the previous six months. List of Questions
- 11.11 A list of the questions of which notice has been given shall be circulated to Members of the Committee at, or before, the meeting at which they are to be asked. Procedural Requirements
- 11.12 A public question shall be put at a Committee meeting provided that:-
- (a) a copy of the question has been delivered to the office of the Chief Executive (see Procedure Rule 1.7) by not later than 10am on the eighth working day before the meeting at which it is to be put, with the exception of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees, in relation to which the deadline for public questions is no later than 10am on the fourth working day before the meeting at which it is to be put;
- (b) the name and address of the questioner is indicated on the question;
- (c) the questioner is present at the time when the question is put;
- (d) the questioner is not presenting a Petition or Deputation on the same, or substantially the same, issue at the same meeting.

[..]

Appendix 2 – changes proposed to the Council Procedure Rules, at <u>Part 3A</u> of the Council's Constitution

[..]

Rule 4: Extraordinary Meetings of the Council

Extraordinary Meeting called by the Mayor

- 4.1 The Mayor may at any time call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council and shall do so when such a meeting is required under the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules. Part 3A Council Procedure Rules 16.5.24 Page 6 of 29
- 4.2 If the Mayor is unable to act for any reason, the Deputy Mayor may at any time call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council.
- 4.3 If the offices of both Mayor and Deputy Mayor are vacant, or if neither the Mayor nor Deputy Mayor are able to act for any reason, the Leader of the Council or their Deputy may at any time call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council.

Extraordinary Meeting Requisitioned by Members

4.4 An Extraordinary Meeting of the Council may be called by submission of a requisition signed by at least five Members, specifying the business to be transacted. The requisition shall be delivered to the Chief Executive (see Procedure Rule 1.5). The Extraordinary Meeting shall be called within seven days of receipt of the requisition by the Chief Executive to take place as soon as reasonably practicable.

Extraordinary Meeting called by Council or Officers

- 4.5 Extraordinary Meetings of the Council may also be called by the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer or by resolution of the Council meeting itself.
- 4.6 No Extraordinary Meeting shall be called unless it is proposed to transact at the meeting business which, in accordance with statute and these Procedure Rules, may be transacted at a meeting of the Council.

Urgency requirement for Extraordinary Meetings

4.7 The purpose of an Extraordinary Meeting is to enable business to be transacted, or a matter to be debated, that cannot await the next Ordinary Council Meeting. An extraordinary meeting will only be called to deal with a matter which is urgent and cannot wait until the next Ordinary Meeting of full Council. The Chief Executive will determine whether the stated business can wait until the next Ordinary Meeting of full Council.

[..]

Changes proposed to the Council Procedure Rules, at Part 3A of the Council's Constitution

[..]

Written Questions from Members

8.11 If a Member of the Council wishes to ask a written question at a meeting of the Council of: (a) the Mayor, (b) the Leader of the Council, (c) a Cabinet portfolio holder, d) the Chair of any Committee or Sub Committee, or in their absence, the Deputy Chair, or (d) a Member of the Council appointed by the Authority to any external body or joint authority, they shall give notice in writing by submitting their written question to the Chief Executive by no later than 10am on the eighth fourteenth working day before the meeting at which the question is to be asked. [..]

Council Agenda Item 43

Subject: Council Plan Refresh

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Report of: Director of Governance and Law

Contact Officer: Name: Anthony Soyinka

Email: anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Action Required of Council:

- 1.1 To receive the report from the Cabinet meeting held on 17 July 2025 and the recommendations for approval:
- 1.1 Council approves the Council Plan refresh at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Council notes the achievements made since the Council Plan was adopted in July 2023 as set out in Appendix 2.
- 1.3 Council notes the progress made in relation to delivering the Council Plan in 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 3.
- 1.4 Council notes the recommendations in the Corporate Peer Challenge at Appendix 4 and the response to these in the Council Plan Refresh.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CABINET

2.00pm 17 JULY 2025

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Sankey (Chair) Taylor (Deputy Chair), Allen, Daniel, Miller, Muten, Robins, Rowkins and Williams

Other Members present: Councillors

PART ONE

21 COUNCIL PLAN REFRESH

- 21.1 Cabinet considered a report that sought endorsement for a refresh of the Council Plan 2023-2027. The refresh had been informed by resident, stakeholder and staff engagement, and reflected the recommendations of the recent Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge.
- 21.2 Councillors Miller, Allen, Williams, Rowkins, Muten, Robins and Daniel contributed to the debate of the report.

21.3 Resolved-

- 1) Cabinet recommends the updated Council Plan refresh at Appendix 1 to full Council for approval.
- 2) Cabinet notes the achievements made since the Council Plan was adopted in July 2023 as set out in Appendix 2.
- 3) Cabinet notes the progress made in relation to delivering the Council Plan in 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 3.
- 4) Cabinet notes the recommendations in the Corporate Peer Challenge at Appendix 4 and the response to these in the Council Plan Refresh and agrees a future report on progress to be brought to a future Cabinet meeting, as part of the quarterly performance update.
- 5) Cabinet delegates to the Head of Cabinet Office, following consultation with the Leader, the authority to make changes to the design and layout of the documents before publication on the Council's website.

The meeting concluded at 6.05pm

Signed Chair

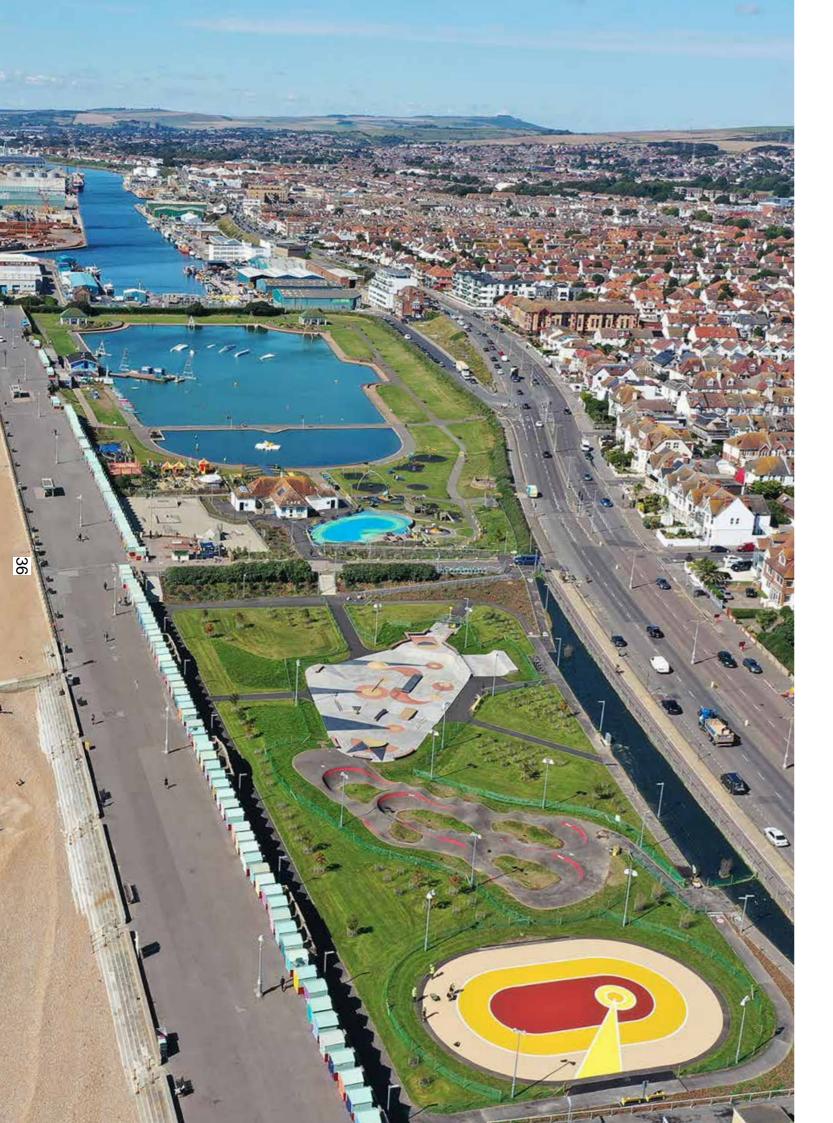
Dated this day of

A better Brighton & Hove



What we want to deliver (refresh 2025)





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Foreword

Brighton & Hove is an incredible city – full of energy, character and creativity. Recently recognised on the world stage by Time Out magazine as one of the top 50 cities globally and ranked among the top 3 destinations in the UK, our city's reputation as a welcoming, colourful and vibrant place to live, work and visit is strong.

This recognition reflects what so many of us already know and love about Brighton & Hove. We are proud to be the most active and walkable city in the UK, which is increasingly diverse and inclusive, with a bustling independent retail sector, beautiful green spaces, an iconic seafront and more electric vehicle charging points than anywhere else in the country outside of London.

In July 2023, we launched our council plan: *A Better Brighton & Hove for All*, which set out bold ambitions for the future of our city. Those ambitions remain firmly in place, and we are as committed as ever to delivering them. This refresh of our Council Plan reflects our vision for a fairer, healthier and more sustainable city and the progress we are making together to turn that vision into a reality.

We have achieved so much over the past two years, but we know there is much more to do. We continue to listen closely to our city's residents and businesses, our staff, and our partners, taking on board what we've heard and what the data is telling us about how we are doing.

Over the next two years, we will double down on our mission to improve the look and feel of our city, tackle inequality, address housing supply and prevent homelessness. We will drive sustainable economic growth and reap the benefits of

devolution for our city – by improving and better integrating our transport systems, building more council and genuinely affordable housing, attract investment and maximising efforts to decarbonise at pace.

We know that following many years of underfunding by past Governments, councils are facing significant financial challenges. We are proud to have successfully balanced our books over the last two years and financial sustainability will continue to be at the forefront of everything we do. This will ensure the council's resilience and the longer-term sustainability of services that our communities depend on. We remain ambitious to grow our city and will continue to target investment in the regeneration of our heritage assets, beautiful seafront and public realm amenities.

Brighton & Hove has incredible strengths - and together, we can continue to build on them to create a city that delivers a Better Brighton & Hove for all.



Councillor Bella Sankey Leader Brighton & Hove City Council

Introduction

When I joined Brighton & Hove City Council as Chief Executive in 2024, I was excited to lead a forward thinking, values driven organisation. A year and a half on, my excitement is undiminished. With a majority Council for the first time in 20 years and committed, hard-working staff, I believe the council is well placed to continue delivering for the city and to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

The council plan provides us with a strategic framework to guide our decision making. It sets out our overall vision and our priorities for the future. Two years on from our Council Plan being implemented, we have decided to review and refresh it. We have made significant progress in many areas but there is still much work to be done.

We have a lot to be proud of – outstanding children's services; our regeneration efforts are making a visible impact, especially on the seafront. We are proud to be a City of Sanctuary with a clear ambition to be inclusive, fair and welcoming to all communities. Alongside our partners in East Sussex and West Sussex, we have successfully applied to be on the Devolution Priority Programme, making us one of the first areas in England to receive devolved powers under the government's new framework, bringing significant opportunity.

We have aligned the council's structure to our priorities, set out our vision to be a Learning Council and introduced our five pillars of working:

connected, confident, innovative & creative, diverse & inclusive, healthy and psychologically safe. We have a new, streamlined system of decision making in the Cabinet system, and a focus on culture change and service improvement. All of this was reflected in the Corporate Peer Challenge we undertook in April 2025.

We know that there is still much work to do and some significant challenges facing our city and council. Continued pressure on public finances and rising demand for services mean that public services are increasingly stretched. Brighton & Hove has a shortage of good quality, affordable housing, unacceptable levels of homelessness, and a worrying increase in social inequality. The cost-of-living crisis continues to impact the lives of residents.

In this refreshed document we reflect on our performance data, feedback from residents, staff and others, and set out the areas that we will focus on going forward. It is developed alongside our Medium-Term Financial Plan, to ensure that we invest in our priorities while securing our financial sustainability for the longer term, which is critical to ensuring we can continue to deliver vital services that our communities rely on and target investment in areas of improvement and transformation.

We know we can't do it alone. At the heart of this Council Plan is our residents, our communities, our public sector partners and our businesses.

It is only together, by listening to and working in genuine partnership that we can achieve our ambitions.

Like other local authorities, our finances are impacted by more than a decade of structural underfunding and rising demand for services. To remain financially sustainable, we need to increase our efficiency, transforming the way we use data, technology and our assets. We need to invest in prevention and take some tough decisions on what we can and cannot do.

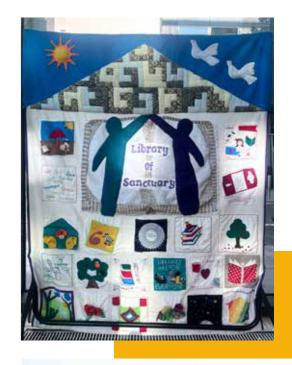
We also need to be creative and innovative. focused on our priorities, and not afraid to embrace change. Opportunities brought by Al, for example, or the devolution of power from central government, give us the scope to work with our partners to tackle the big issues facing the city. Above all, we need to be a learning organisation, one that listens to its staff and customers, that builds on its strengths, but also one that seeks out and addresses its weaknesses.

I am optimistic about the city's prospects and ambitious about what we can deliver. By remaining focused on our priorities, working with our partners and communities, I believe we can meet the challenges, seize opportunities and deliver the things that really matter to residents. We remain resolute in our commitment to delivering A better Brighton & Hove for All.



Jess Gibbons

Chief Executive, Brighton & Hove City Council









Outcome 1: A city to be proud of Investing in our city

Our goal is to develop a flourishing and inclusive local economy that attracts and nurtures businesses and talent.

Developing Brighton & Hove as a place where people want to live, work, and learn

We will celebrate our city and welcome external investment, including new employers that will create jobs for our residents. We will also work collaboratively with partners on support for innovation to allow existing businesses to scale and access funding opportunities.

Last year we began consulting on the key issues that our **new City Plan to 2041** will seek to address. We will continue to work with residents, businesses and our partners to **shape planning policy that enhances the city's unique built and natural environment, and ensures accelerated housing delivery alongside, employment and infrastructure needs are met as the city grows.**

We will **continue to invest in our parks, allotments, sports and leisure facilities** across the city. In July 2024 we took the decision to replace the King Alfred Leisure Centre and design a new, modern facility on the existing site. We will drive this work forward, sharing designs with the local community and centre users before submitting a planning application later in 2025.

We are proud of our city's swimming offer and are investing to make our pools fit for the next generation. We plan to expand our swimming facilities to deliver the city's first additional pool in forty years in Withdean. We will also start work on procuring a new leisure services management contract that is fit for the future. We will continue to deliver our Sports Facilities Investment Plan by improving sports facilities in the East of the city, and developing plans for a further swimming pool in Moulsecoomb.

We will implement our new ambitious playing pitch strategy and work to raise the profile of women's sport in support of our goal to get people moving and remain one of the nation's most active cities. In 2025, we join 8 cities across the country as hosts for the Women's Rugby World Cup. This is a once in a generation opportunity to accelerate the growth of the game for women and girls and showcase Brighton & Hove as an international sporting city.

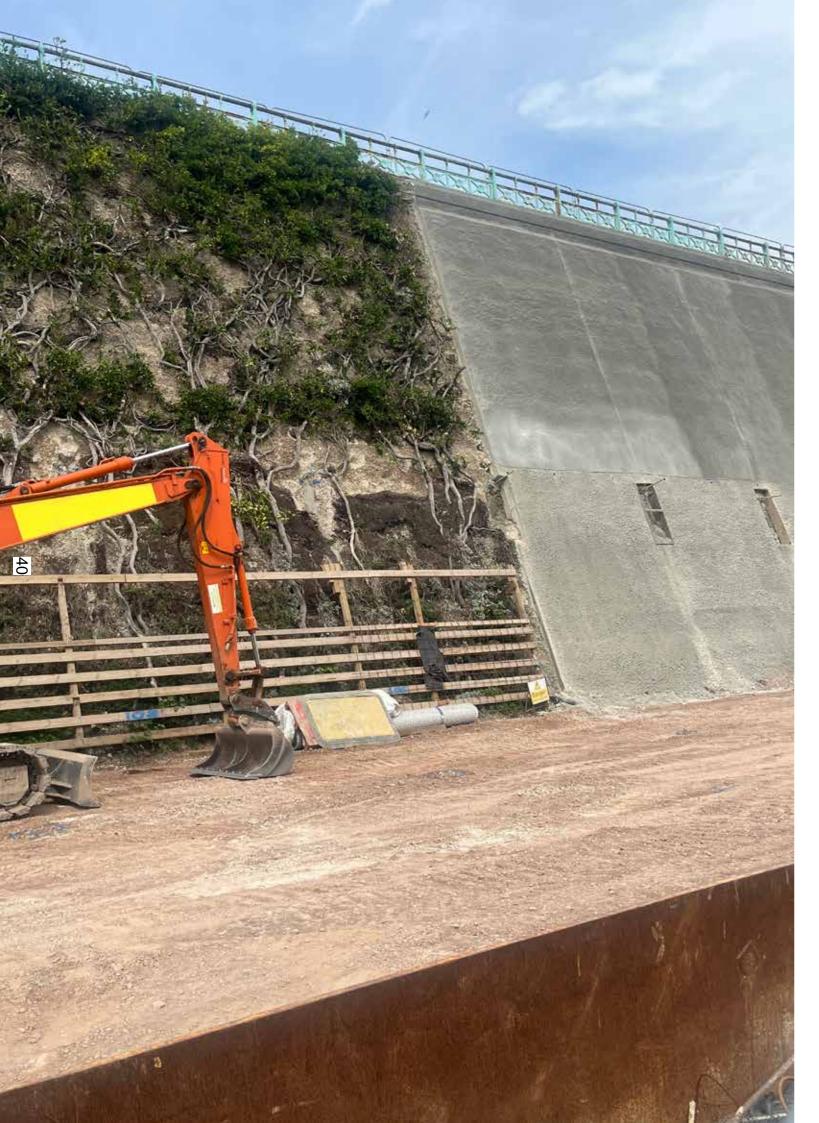
Growing a diverse and sustainable city economy

Devolution presents a significant opportunity to grow our city and regional economy. We will seek to maximise the opportunity of gaining devolved powers from central government and learn from established devolved areas. Greater Manchester, for example, is leveraging its autonomy to attract investment, talent, and innovation. This momentum has enabled the city-region to become one of Europe's fastest-growing tech cities, achieve a projected 2.2% economic growth by 2027—outpacing London—and increase employment among 16–64-year-olds from 67.8% in 2022 to 71.4% in 2023.

We will deliver the commitments set out in the city's Economic Plan working with our partners to stimulate sustainable economic growth across the city and city region. This includes our new city Economic Growth Board, ensuring the business voice is fully heard and engaged in council activity.

We will work with our fast-growing digital and tech sector, strengthen knowledge and innovation partnerships working with the city's two universities, embed our circular economy route map to help create a more regenerative economy as we move towards Net Zero, and





work with all our education partners and employers to develop a stronger and more inclusive labour market.

We will chair and work with regional partners on the Greater Brighton Economic Board for the coming year and with our wider devolution partners to grow the economy, including identifying and capitalising on the economic opportunities brought through devolution.

We will work with the new Mayoral authority to develop and deliver a Growth Strategy for Sussex and Brighton. We will continue to grow and support Sussex Energy aligned to our net zero ambitions outlined below.

We will begin delivery of the priorities set out in the Visitor Economy Strategy for Growth collaborating with our private and public sector partners to raise the profile of Sussex and Brighton as a domestic and international visitor destination.

We will review our place brand and city narrative and ensure that our corporate brand recognises our internationally recognised identity as a vibrant and welcoming city, reflects the city's diverse communities and tells our story consistently.

We will continue to recognise the importance of the culture and creatives sector in growing our economy building on the uniqueness of the city as a world**leading creative destination.** We will work in partnership, seeking opportunities to develop new infrastructure and workspaces that supports the whole industry and nurtures talent, ensuring the city retains its reputation as a centre of creative business.

Promoting and protecting what makes **Brighton & Hove unique**

Developing our strategic approach to the city's **night-time economy** we will use the assets, planning tools and licensing policies in our gift to achieve positive change.

We will work to build on the strength of the city's successful Business Improvement District to attract visitors to our city centre and to our smaller independent retailers.

Protecting our seafront heritage is one of the central ambitions of our new Seafront **Development Board**, which will shape our vision for the 13km of coastline and encourage further investment. As well as ongoing major regeneration projects, such as Maderia Terraces, we will continue to develop innovative solutions to invest in and restore our listed Victorian seafront railing, heritage lanterns, shelters and benches. We will continue to invest in future proofing the shoreline and surrounding area from erosion and flooding, upgrading sea defences and stabilising our shingle beaches.

We will bring forward new plans to improve and develop the Brighton Centre and **Brighton Town Hall**, preserving our heritage while ensuring our key civic spaces are reflective of our needs and fit for the future.

Developing talent and enabling lifelong learning

To secure the long-term future of the city's libraries we will develop a Library **Sustainability Plan** to ensure a thriving provision of services for residents across the city. Plans include focussing our investment and revenue spend on libraries serving areas of most need, promoting Libraries Extra, which enables customers to access libraries when they are unstaffed, and extending our wide range of online services, with free access to e-books and e-audio.

Jubilee Library is one of our greatest community assets in the heart of the city. To support our ambition to bring several services together, the Adult Education Hub will relocate to the library. With £3.1 million awarded by central government, we will also deliver new Skills **Bootcamps** at the library. These will be free sector-specific courses for people aged 19 or older. The courses run for up to 16 weeks and give participants the opportunity to develop their skills with a fast-track to an interview with a local employer.

An accessible, clean, and sustainable city

Our goal is to deliver an accessible, clean, and sustainable environment that we can all be proud of.

Keeping our city clean and managing waste

The look and feel of the city is a key priority. We will continue our focus on improving streets cleanliness and safety, with investment in pavement repairs, new jet washers, graffiti tag removal, the removal of disused parking meters and staying on top of weeds and basal roots. We will improve the city's waste and recycling collection service as we strive to drive down missed collections and provide certainty to residents about the action we're taking. In 2025 we will introduce wider recycling and a phased introduction of a new food waste collection service to the city.

Our environmental services are undergoing a cultural reset to address discrimination, bullying and harassment within the service. Sabotage and criminality will continue to be addressed whenever it arises and the positive behaviours modelled by the vast majority of the workforce will continue to be championed and built upon. Alongside a culture change programme, we are introducing new technology to optimise our collection rounds, improving reporting systems to manage missed collections more effectively, and investing to improve the reliability of our fleet.

We will plan and seek to secure funding to deliver further infrastructure projects

such as the A259 scheme, Elder Place and bring forward plans that enable us to seek funding for a new 'Station to the Sea' project to improve the appearance outside of Brighton Station, Queens Road and West Street.

Working towards carbon net zero

We will **continue with our efforts to achieve carbon net zero by taking advantage of government initiatives** such as Great British

Energy, a new publicly owned company, which will deliver clean power by co-investing in leading technologies, the 'solar rooftop revolution' to combat strategy to deliver solar power to homes, and the Warm Homes Plan that offers grants and low and under interest loans to support investment in insulation, solar and low carbon heating. Through a strong

partnership and shared vision with Brighton & Hove Buses we will introduce more zero-emission electric buses to the city so that passengers can enjoy quieter, smoother and greener journeys as they travel in a more environmentally friendly way.

Our work to improve energy efficiency

will enable us to meet our ambitious carbon reduction goals as well as reducing bills for our tenants and leaseholders. We will continue to invest in energy efficiency measures in council homes and complete our 3-year programme to install solar panels on 800 council homes. We will enforce energy efficiency standards in private rented housing.

We are also working to bring in large scale private investment to help deliver some of the bigger infrastructure projects, as well as working with UK Power Networks to ensure the city has the right grid capacity and flexibility. Having secured £2.8 million of grant funding at the end of 2024, we will be installing an additional 500 public electric vehicle charging points every year for the next 3 years to expand our charging network.

We will seek to build upon our circular economy achievements through adoption of a new Route Map to continue to engage with DEFRA as one of their 'pathfinders' leading the way on developing a more circular and regenerative economy.

Protecting and enhancing the city's natural environment

We will continue our efforts to protect the city's trees, **updating our tree planting plan** with a focus on additional planting in areas that lack tree coverage across the City and where tress have been lost to disease and helping the city to combat climate change and biodiversity loss. We will work to improve public awareness and understanding of our tree management approach.

We will also introduce more ways to involve members of the public and organisations in our programmes to protect and improve our green and open spaces.

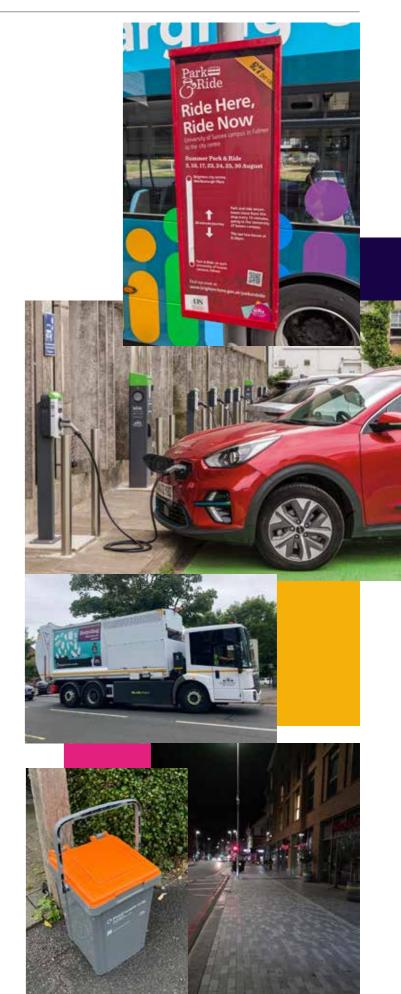
Making it easier for people to move around the city

We will develop and launch a **new ten-year** strategy setting out a long-term vision for the city's transport network and the pipeline of transport projects to deliver it. We will continue to find ways to make parking fairer and simpler (including by reintroducing 20 parking meters) and provide more options for residents and visitors to travel sustainably, using the Bus Service improvement Plan funding to increase passenger numbers and implementing and improving active travel schemes including the A259 and A23.

We will continue work to improve the city's roads, taking a preventative approach to maintenance and resurfacing more roads while also completing increased patch repairs. This will ensure we extend the life of our roads and reduce costs in the future. We will also improve people's ability to report potholes and request road or pavement repairs, with a new system to plan our work and keep our customers informed.

As a high priority, we are introducing a pilot park and ride project in summer 2025 as proof of concept before looking for a site to introducing a permanent Park & Ride facility on the outskirts of the City to help reduce congestion and vehicle emissions along key routes in the city. We will expand red routes and apply for further powers from government to enable enforcement of moving traffic offences, for example in box junctions and at school street sites.

We will work to reinforce and improve main routes in the city, including Valley Gardens and the seafront arches supporting the A259.



Outcome 2: A fair and inclusive city Homes for everyone

Our goal is to deliver accessible, affordable, and high-quality homes for all residents of Brighton & Hove.

Improving housing quality

We will continue to **invest in council homes** with almost £37 million allocated to our planned and major works programmes for 2025/26. The health and safety of our residents and those who visit and work on our homes is our key priority. Following the judgement from the Regulator of Social Housing, we will continue our work to **deliver compliance and improvements in building, health and fire safety in our homes** with investment of almost £15.2 million in 2025/26. We will continue to reduce our backlog and **increase the number of routine housing repairs** completed on time.

We will continue our work to improve standards in the private rented sector. This includes reviewing our enforcement policies and taking a zero-tolerance approach to rogue landlords. We will review the impact of our Selective Licensing Scheme introduced in 2024 and begin the phased extension of the scheme to more wards in the city. We will prepare for the introduction of new legislation on renters' rights, including the extension of the Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector and the application of Awaab's Law. We want to ensure that all rented homes are made safe where they contain serious hazards, in particular damp and mould.

Increasing housing supply

The update of the City Plan will set out the strategic planning framework to 2041. We will use this to **set revised housing delivery targets** and to address the mix of housing that the city needs, including the need for more affordable family homes. For context, there were 6,422 on Housing Register at the end of March 2025 with 583 social housing lets in 2024/25.

We have committed in our housing strategy to **deliver at least 2,000 affordable homes** over the next 5 years. In 2025/26 we aim to

deliver 418 affordable homes including 110 additional council homes. Our successful 'buy back' programme has delivered over 400 homes so far with a further 72 expected to complete this year. Work begins on our largest New Homes for Neighbourhoods Scheme to date in Moulsecoomb this year which will deliver 208 new homes. As part of our long-term programme of investment, in 2025/26 we will invest just over £50 million in creating additional council homes for the future. We will also **create** additional social housing lets by reducing under-occupancy to make best use of available housing in the city.

We will develop a Housing Company in 2025 with the goal of improving our ability to provide decent quality temporary housing and increase housing supply.

We will continue work to **reduce the number of second homes** in the city, including the introduction of a 100% council tax premium on second homes from 1 April 2025. We will participate in a government led research project on a potential new national registration scheme and new planning use class on short term lets.

We will take forward the **refurbishment or regeneration of our 8 large panel system housing blocks** to design and create better homes with the right infrastructure for our tenants and residents for decades to come. This programme of work will be a catalyst in driving wider placemaking across our neighbourhoods and estates.

Improving housing support for residents

We will undertake a **statutory review of homelessness** in the city and develop a **new homelessness and rough sleeping strategy**,
setting out our priorities for the next five years,
including our aim to eradicate rough sleeping in
the city.

Working with our partners in the city's Multiple Compound Needs Partnership, we will continue to integrate our specialist homelessness, rough sleeping and homeless healthcare services.

We will work to become a great landlord where tenants know that they are valued and are treated with respect; and where the staff who work with residents are empowered and have the time to be creative and kind. We will

Faced with a 10% increase in placements in temporary accommodation in 2024/25 we aim to **reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation**, by further improving homelessness prevention as well as increasing move-on support and housing options for people placed in temporary accommodation by using data to support households at the earliest opportunity where they are at risk of becoming homeless.

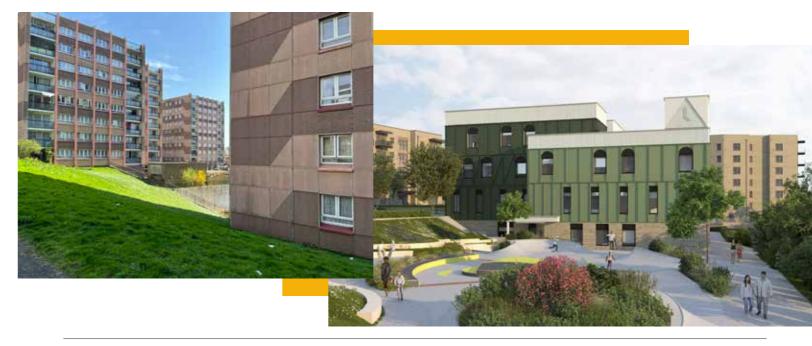
We will work with people with lived experience of homelessness to improve our homelessness and housing options service offer. We will take forward key recommendations made in the Safe Haven by the Sea report to improve housing solutions for domestic abuse survivors

We will continue to **work to improve customer satisfaction**, including satisfaction with repairs and phone and email response times. We recognise that a key part of customer satisfaction among tenants and leaseholders is knowing that we are listening to them and learning from their feedback, being proactively transparent about the safety and quality of stock as well as the quality of experience of our landlord services.

We will work to become a great landlord are treated with respect; and where the staff who work with residents are empowered and have the time to be creative and kind. We will strengthen delivery of resident focused housing services, investing nearly £1.8 million in 2025/26 to expand and improve our tenancy services, including training frontline staff to use a psychologically informed approach and implementing a new policy to deal with hate incidents. We will continue to work to address anti-social behaviour and improve **community spaces** on our estates. We will work to engage and involve our tenants and leaseholders, including residents of Large Panel System blocks, as we make decisions about the future of the blocks.

We will **improve support for our most vulnerable residents and tenants** with a greater focus on early intervention and reflective practice.

We will review and improve supported living services including reviewing our seniors housing support model. We will deliver a new councilrun supported-living scheme with 28 homes providing long-term affordable accommodation for people with physical disabilities and brain injuries. We will prepare for the anticipated changes to supported housing standards and develop a supported housing strategy as required under the Supported Housing (Regulatory) Oversight Act 2023.



An inclusive and fairer city

Our goal is for Brighton & Hove to be inclusive, accessible and equitable – a place where everyone can thrive.

Engagement and collaboration

We will continue to listen to and work with residents, tenants, community and voluntary sector organisations, ward councillors and our partners using our refreshed Community **Engagement Framework to ensure the** varied needs of our diverse communities are reflected in our policy and services and best practice in engagement is shared across the organisation.

We will increase participation through digital engagement and consultation, building on the development of our new engagement platform, Your Voice, and expanding how we use it to engage communities, staff and stakeholders in innovative ways.

We will engage with our city's disabled, LGBTQ+, Black and Racially Minoritised (BRM) communities and women and girls recognising intersectionality. We'll do this through the city's Equality & Inclusion Partnership (EQUIP), our Disability Panel and wider Reference Group, including our Trans, Non-binary and Intersex Round Table, other partnerships and ongoing consultation and engagement with local disability and LGBTQ+, women and BRM groups. The Health Counts 2024 survey response indicates that our city has much higher numbers of Trans, Non-Binary and Intersex (TNBI) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Queer (LGBQ+) adults than previously reported in the national Census 2021. 28% of adults identify as LGBQ+ and 5% identify as TNBI. These groups also report higher rates of poor health and disability. 68% of TNBI adults and 62% of LGBQ+ adults report having a disability compared to 37% across the city. Mental health concerns are also significantly higher. 24% of adults identify as Black and Racially Minoritised and many also report higher rates of disability and mental health concerns.

We will collaborate with our partners in city and across the wider region to drive change for the benefit of everyone in the city. This includes making the most of opportunities such

as the Devolution Priority Programme, the Local Visitor Economy Partnership and the Brighton & Hove Economic Growth Board to build greater equity through inclusive economic growth.

Fighting discrimination and embracing diversity

We will refresh the purpose and priorities of our Equality and Inclusion partnership approach to deliver equality actions, initiatives and strategies in the city and lead with

Through our Accessible City strategy, we will continue to embed accessibility and disability inclusion principles into how we work as an employer and service provider, to ensure our city is welcoming, inclusive and accessible for the diverse community of people who live, work or visit Brighton & Hove. We will put accessibility at the heart of how we think, work, design, and deliver our services from the very start. We will aim to support all individuals we serve to have equal access to everything our city has to offer.

We will continue to work with communities to prioritise actions in our Anti-Racist strategy, particularly in our education and learning settings, to challenge racial inequality, address racial discrimination wherever we find it and create a better, fairer and more equal city. We will develop Black and Racially Minoritised community and voluntary sector infrastructure support.

We will work with community groups to continue to build connections and community cohesion. We will increase participation in local **decision making** through delivery of a civic leadership programme.

We will strengthen our partnership with key third sector LGBTQ+ charities and groups to ensure council and community priorities are aligned and that community data directly informs our decisions and policy development. We



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remain committed to supporting new emerging LGBTQ+ community spaces and working to secure sustainable funding sources to ensure their long-term viability and community benefit.

We remain committed to trans inclusion.

aligned to our response to the Equality and Human Rights Commission consultation and will work closely with Trans, Nonbinary and Intersex communities to develop trusted spaces for community engagement and councillor dialogue, with regular meetings established to assess and respond to community concerns.

We will develop a new gender inclusion toolkit for council staff as part of our broader approach to gender equity and social inclusion.

We will be working to secure our reaccreditation as a City of Sanctuary,

delivering our City of Sanctuary action plan and reconfirming our commitment to offer sanctuary for people fleeing violence and persecution. This includes promoting our Libraries of Sanctuary and our adult education offer as inclusive and welcoming for all.

We will continue to work to embed equality, diversity and inclusion into all council **services** through our ongoing programme of Equality Impact Assessments, to ensure that decisions about changes to services and budgets consider the needs of all protected groups. We will continue to increase the diversity of our

workforce at all levels to achieve proportionate representation of the city's communities.

Working to reduce inequality

Our Thriving Communities Investment Fund will provide investment in the community and voluntary sector over a four-year period from 2025 to 2029, with annual funding to be agreed through the annual budget setting process. The fund recognises the role of sector as a valued partner in supporting marginalised communities to thrive and flourish. The fund is focused on delivery of the council's four core missions and built on the principles of tackling inequality and promoting fairness.

We will continue to grow the council's new

Fairness Fund (including through third party donations) to provide financial and practical support for residents struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. The fund will support access to nutritious, low-cost food, provide help with fuel bills, and contribute to the purchase of essential items.

We will continue our work with communities in the most deprived areas of the city to **reduce** barriers to and increase residents' confidence and uptake of health and well-being services. Our Community Health Inequalities **Programme** is being taken forward by the Healthy Communities Programme, funded until March 2026.



A city where people feel safe and welcome

Our goal is to keep people safe and to create a city that is welcoming for all.

Tackling crime and antisocial behaviour

Our Community Safety Partnership will continue to deliver work to address serious violence and exploitation, including modern slavery and human trafficking, hate crimes and incidents and the harm they cause.

We will continue to address the risk of extremism and terrorism through our multi-agency Prevent Board, working in close partnership with Police colleagues. Our Channel Panel and Adolescent Risk and Vulnerability Meetings will continue to **support people** at risk of being radicalised and criminally exploited.

With our partners in the Brighton & Hove Combatting Drugs Partnership, we will agree and implement a **new multi-agency Drug** and Alcohol Strategy, to reduce drug and alcohol-related harm and crime.

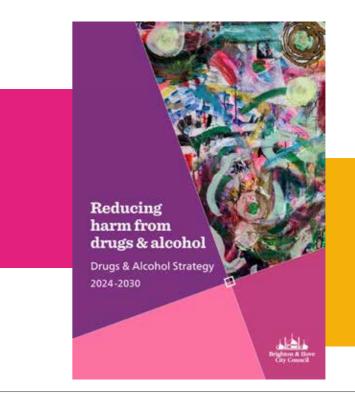
Creating safe public spaces that are accessible for all

We will take forward our work to tackle violence against women and girls, including establishing working groups to drive forward our new strategy. We will build collaborative working partnerships across Sussex to deliver our plans.

We will work closely with the police and the Business Improvement District to **protect the** public and our town centres from antisocial behaviour, retail crime and shop theft.

We will develop a new Community Cohesion **Strategy**, to ensure that all residents and visitors feel safe and welcome in our city.

As a leisure destination hosting events, attractions and festivals with an international profile and more than 150 community events spread across open spaces in the city, our events programme will continue to reflect our creative, diverse and inclusive city, and aim to enrich the lives of residents.



Outcome 3: A healthy city that helps people to thrive

A better future for children and young people

Our goal is to keep children safe, for no child, young person or family to be left behind, and to provide high quality, inclusive, and accessible services.

Keeping children and young people safe and ensuring no child or family is left behind

We're expanding our Mockingbird project to support foster carers and children in foster care keeping more children with local families. We're also working in partnership on a Sussex Fostering Hub enabling more children to remain within the local region.

We will continue our **expansion of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision in our mainstream schools**, so children with disabilities can be better supported and achieve their potential alongside their friends. We are working on development of a children's neurodiversity plan working towards alignment with the Adult Autism Strategy.

We're continuing our involvement in the **Special Educational Needs and Disability and Alternative Provision Change Programme** pilot, trialling proposed SEND reforms ensuring they support our children, their families.

We will open Rainbow Lodge, a new council run residential home for children with complex needs, enabling them to stay in the city near their family, friends and their schools. We are planning a new project this summer to provide disabled children who have very high support needs with a summer holiday activity scheme.

We will review how the city's home to school transport arrangements can be best delivered - safely, effectively and within budget – enabling children with disabilities to have the best experiences in their school days.

We will seek service improvements and value for money through collaborative commissioning arrangements. We will work with the South East Regional Care Cooperative around the children's social care market to improve placement sufficiency and achieve best value.





Developing our prevention and family support offer

Our Family Hubs Transformation Programme will continue, developing a single view of children's records to enable better multi-disciplinary and multi-agency working.

Implementing the Families First reforms to transform children's social care, creating a continuum of family help that focuses on prevention and provides the right support at the right time. Locally, this will involve integrating our Family Hubs and social work teams to provide seamless services alongside a multi-agency child protection team.

We will **develop a local youth strategy** with our partners across the city, in response to the expected national Youth Strategy. This will deliver better coordinated youth services and put young people at the heart of decision-making through development of our youth participation and engagement arrangements. **We will support the opening of new Youth Centres** in central Brighton and Hangleton and Knoll and other areas that lack youth facilities.

Supporting the provision of high quality and inclusive education from early years through to adult learning

We will review and refresh the city's special educational needs and disability (SEND) strategy. This will draw on evidence from a new Joint Strategic Needs Assessment focusing on special educational needs, learning disabilities and neurodiversity. It includes the latest advice and guidance on what helps pupils learn. The framework will benefit all pupils, especially those with special educational needs and disability or who are disadvantaged.

We will keep school organisation in the city under review and work to secure schools' financial sustainability. We will also work with school leaders to ensure a more focussed and prioritised approach. This includes reviewing and refreshing our approach to tackling educational disadvantage and ensuring that school buildings are safe and fit for purpose.

We will **continue to deliver our early-years programmes of work**, providing structured

support to ensure that children have a strong start in their educational journey and are school ready at 4 years.

We will work to **enable children to receive their education locally**, avoiding the need to attend schools far from their homes, families and friends.

Working with partners to deliver ambitious employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities

With neighbouring local authorities, we will continue to develop a Get Sussex Working plan working toward the government's goal of reducing economic inactivity and achieving an 80% long-term employment rate. We will set immediate objectives and actions for the next 1-2 years and develop a longer-term strategic plan to enhance employment, address key challenges and utilise resources efficiently. To deliver the plan we are setting up a Connect to Work programme to help people with disabilities and long-term health conditions, to find and maintain employment.

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Living and ageing well

Our goal is to promote and improve health and wellbeing, to reduce health inequalities, and to support people to live independent and fulfilling lives.

Enabling people to live healthy, happy and fulfilling lives

We will improve how we offer information, advice and guidance to help people stay healthy and independent, and to access the care and support they need. This includes developing online information services while also providing alternative options to best meet the diverse and changing health and wellbeing needs of people in the city. We will continue to make our information more accessible for people with a learning disability. We will ensure cancer health promotion materials are appropriate and accessible for people with learning disabilities and LGBTQ+ communities.

We will **support people to age well** and continue our work to make Brighton & Hove a dementia friendly city.

We will strengthen partnership working with local communities, primary care and secondary mental health services in the **recommissioning** of community mental health support **services for adults**. We will also continue work to deliver our Suicide Prevention Action Plan to reduce the risk of suicide and improve support for people affected by suicide and for people who self-harm.

We will **extend our stop smoking offer** by recruiting more people to deliver stop smoking support, making sure everyone who wants to stop smoking can access free support guickly and easily, utilising newly available government funding. And we will continue to embed targeted interventions to improve air quality in the city.

We will also publish a new Sexual Health Strategy setting out our plans to improve sexual health and wellbeing in the city.

The Health Counts 2024 report highlights how people living in the city's most deprived areas report poorer health than those in the least deprived areas. We will use data, including the latest Health Counts report, to inform decisions about what services and support are needed to meet people's needs and to help us target interventions to tackle health inequalities.

We will work with our NHS and community partners to provide a joined-up approach to protecting the public's health, including our response to infectious diseases and vaccination coordination.

Providing services to ensure everyone has access to the information, advice and services they need

Our adult social care services were inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and we await the outcome of their assessment. We are committed to learning from this process and will use the findings to strengthen our services. This inspection is an important step in our journey of continuous improvement, and we remain focused on delivering high-quality, personcentred care for all our residents.

Providing joined up services for unpaid carers to ensure they have access to the information, advice and services they need We will launch a new Carers Strategy with plans to improve information and support for unpaid carers and encourage health, social care, education and employers to strengthen and publicise their commitment to carers.

We will also work to ensure that the Carers Hub is central to reaching all carers and has dedicated pathways with key service areas, from the Social Care Assessment Services, through to the development of Integrated Community Teams, to ensure as many unpaid carers as possible become registered with the service. We will develop the Carers Card to enable easier access and extend the offers available to carers. We will also enhance the support available for carers of residents in our seniors housing schemes.

Ensuring there is safe, effective, sustainable and high-quality health and care provision in the city

We will work closely with our NHS partners to improve health and care outcomes for our **local population**. This includes a commitment to jointly commission services where this can deliver better outcomes and better value for money.

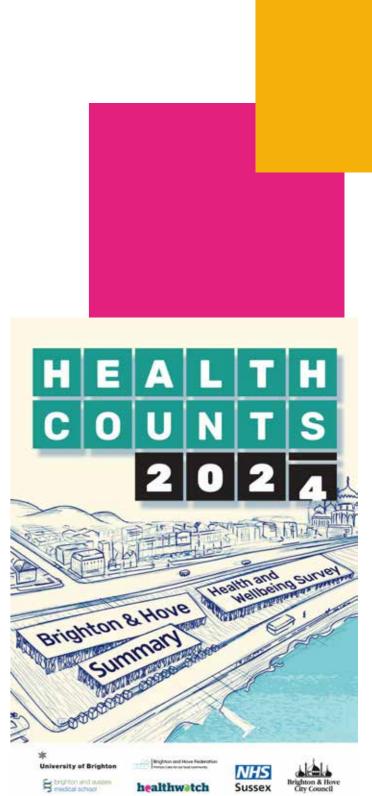
We will work with our NHS and voluntary sector partners and with local communities through our established health forums to **develop** integrated community services tailored to support health and care needs in the city as set out in the Integrated Care Strategy. This includes work with partners to co-design and implement the new Integrated Community Teams across our local neighbourhoods and city wide for people who are homeless with multiple and complex needs. This programme of work is informed by recommendations from an external evaluation of our pilot scheme. We will increase opportunities for people with lived experience to help shape services.

With our NHS partners, we will implement three new neighbourhood mental health teams across the city to better integrate assessment, treatment and emotional wellbeing support and services delivered across primary care, secondary care, community care and through the voluntary sector.

We will review our support for residents in our seniors housing schemes to increase the benefits of our service and help residents live and age well. We plan to meet future demand **for extra care housing** and care and support services for older people, maintaining their independence in self-contained accommodation wherever possible.

We will work with existing and new providers to increase the options for community support and supported living for adults in the city.

We will move forward with the delivery plan of our Transitions Strategy to ensure services are in place to support young people with additional needs as they prepare for adulthood, alongside their parents and carers.



Outcome 4: A responsive and learning council with well-run services

Innovation and technology at the heart of our strategy

Our goal is to be a learning council, with responsive and well-run services, and a council that listens to its communities to deliver positive outcomes for the city.

We will rise to the challenge of meeting growing demand for our services, ensuring they are agile and customer-responsive, and doing so within our means. We consider digital technologies, including emerging technology such as AI, to be critical in meeting this challenge and thriving as an organisation that delivers for the people we serve.

We will **research and invest in cutting-edge technologies** that deliver tangible benefits in our services for residents and help us keep our running costs low; including agentic and generative AI, predictive analytics and robotic process automation (RPA) ensuring the council's values are embedded in the way these new technologies are utilised.

We will devise a **new internal 'digital first' strategy**, placing technology at the forefront of thinking when planning our services, so that we can free up staff and resources to focus on more complex problems and on residents who most need help and support.

We will use technology to target our most complex and time-consuming processes. We recognise the urgency of many of our residents' needs, and we will use the opportunities technology brings to find ways of delivering quicker, more simply, and to a high standard.

Learning from our residents and other customers

We will continue to drive customer service innovation and develop different ways for residents to access council services, including further enhancing face-to-face support at

libraries and in the Family Hubs.

We will offer **new features in our telephone services** including a call-back option, allowing customers to retain their place in the queue, and a feedback option to give people the chance to tell us how we did. We will also consolidate our telephone lines to make it easier for residents to reach the right service quickly and efficiently.

We will continue to **improve our website** and digital service offer. We will champion digital content design that is accessible, userfriendly, quick and easy to access, and responsive to people's needs. We are actively exploring how emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, can help us deliver a more efficient and responsive customer experience.

We will strengthen our approach to customer handling to ensure that we offer timely and appropriate remedies when things go wrong, using customers' feedback and community insights to monitor performance and drive innovation and service improvement.

We will communicate timely and accurate information on how to access and use council services and opportunities to engage with the council and our missions.

We will learn from the people who use our services, including from people with lived experience of disadvantage and discrimination, drawing on their insights as well as data from a range of sources including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and population wide surveys such as Health Counts.

Transforming our ways of working

We are transforming our organisational culture to meet our ambition to become a learning council. We are operationalising our five pillars of a learning organisation to be: connected, confident, innovative and creative, diverse and inclusive, healthy and psychologically safe.

Our five pillars will drive our transformation to deliver change in our ways of working and continuous improvement in our services that's responsive to the needs of our diverse communities. We will adopt an agile and iterative, test and learn, share and grow method to spark innovation in our services and encourage active participation from our staff, customers and communities, learning from their insights.

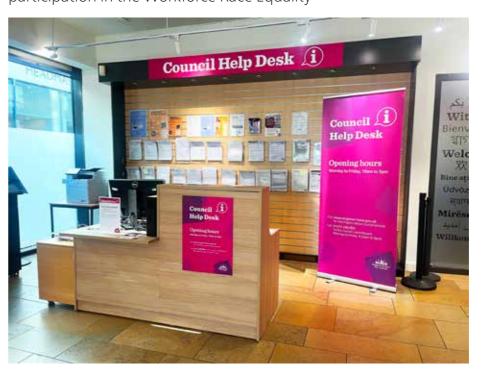
We will continue our work to recruit and retain a diverse workforce at all tiers of the organisation which reflects the communities we serve and has the modern skills we need to deliver our missions. We will embed antiracist and neurodiversity understanding and practices with psychologically safe training and conversations to enable more effective working within our teams, partners and communities. We will monitor how we are making improvements in the development and progression of Black and Racially Minoritised staff, for example, through participation in the Workforce Race Equality

Standards for our social workers.

We will **strengthen our health and safety compliance** to promote a safer working environment and practices for our staff and communities.

Information technology, digital and data remains a core area of focus to help staff to do their very best and deliver our services more effectively and efficiently. We will continue our work to get the basics right, innovate service delivery by using cutting-edge technology and harnessing the skillset of the Brighton & Hove technology and information sector. We will launch a programme of digital literacy to ensure our staff have the tools to support our residents quickly and effectively and the knowledge and skills to do this.

We will take forward a 'digital first' approach, placing technology at the forefront of thinking when planning our services, so that we can free up staff and resources to focus on more complex problems and on residents who most need help and support. This includes automating time-consuming processes and seeking to invest in cutting-edge technologies that deliver tangible benefits in our services for residents and help us keep our running costs low.



Ensuring good governance and financial resilience

We will **ensure that we have clear processes and structures in place and that Members are well briefed**, for example through holding all councillor briefings, attendance at Group Meetings and through a review of the overview & scrutiny process.

Changes brought by **devolution and local government reorganisation** will be a new area of focus going forward. Alongside East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council, we have successfully been enrolled on the Devolution Priority Programme. We will be preparing for creation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority and forthcoming mayoral elections in May 2026. Concurrently, we are also preparing for Local Government Reorganisation, which may see the boundaries of our authority shift. With both these major changes, we will work to ensure any decisions are evidence based and in the best interests of residents.

The council's **financial sustainability** is a critical concern due to the very low level of reserves balances. Our recent Local Government Association corporate peer challenge fed back that 'The council has very little, to no, tolerance in its financial resilience... it needs to prioritise a plan to increase the overall level of reserves at pace'. The council's external auditors noted in their annual opinion that 'a significant weakness in arrangements for financial sustainability remains'. The 2024/25 outturn position enables the council to begin to address these concerns. The target general fund reserves position will be increased to £12-15m, and our refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2025 onwards puts in place a plan to move the Council towards improved financial sustainability.

We will **develop our Innovation & Change portfolio of projects and programmes** designed to deliver our Council Plan, Medium Term Financial Strategy and operationalise our Learning Framework.

We will work to ensure **best possible management of available council** resources through improved processes for managing contracts of commissioned services, ensuring greater oversight, value for money and cohesive, outcomes-based commissioning.

We will develop our strategic asset management plan to ensure we are making best use of our land and buildings. This will also aim to generate capital receipts to support our capital investment programme and financial strategy, supporting our work on financial sustainability. We will continue to ensure that our council buildings and schools are used effectively and creatively across the system to offer safe spaces which maximise their earning potential.

We know that our **partnerships are key to delivering for the city.** Whether that's working collaboratively to grow a diverse and sustainable economy, improving health outcomes, creating opportunities for employment and skills with our public sector partners, or developing our youth strategy. We will **continue to collaborate and utilise our strategic partnerships** such as the City Leadership Board and work with our anchor institutions and thematic partnerships to enable us to be a connected and enabling council.

Delivering a better Brighton & Hove for all – feedback on our progress

We're committed to making Brighton & Hove a better place for all. As a learning organisation, we use feedback from our residents and communities, regulators, inspectors, peers, staff and senior leadership to shape our priorities and improve services.

We continue to focus on our four strategic priorities but now looking at how we deliver them through our 5 pillars of being a learning organisation. This chapter identifies key feedback themes that are helping guide our work.



Be connected

Being a connected organisation is a key priority for our senior leadership team to develop Brighton & Hove as a place where people want to live, work and learn. Providing joined up services will ensure we deliver access to information, advice and services that people need.

Senior leaders see a clean, safe and well-maintained city as essential to attracting investment and boosting our economy.

Protecting our historic, cultural and natural environment is also another tool for us to build Brighton & Hove as a key destination.

Financial sustainability remains a top priority. Our external auditors identified three major challenges in January 2025:

- Ongoing financial challenges
- Failings identified by the Regulator of Social Housing
- Issues identified by the King's Counsel investigation into CityClean (now Environmental Services)

We are actively addressing these challenges, with good progress made so far.

Our Performance Management Framework supports us to achieve our council plan outcomes

by helping us to track progress and improve services. We report twice a year to the Cabinet and annually to the full Council.

Residents and other customers offered positive feedback when staff provided clear responses and resolved queries without additional complications. Customers appreciated when their queries were acknowledged and kept informed about progress of their requests. However, some community representatives asked for better tracking systems for councillor response times and better cross-department and cross-organisation communication.

We've also seen some positive trends in our data to:

- Visitor numbers increasing by 8% in 2024/45
- Improved air quality (lower Nitrogen Dioxide levels)
- 65% of homelessness prevention cases being successful
- 100% of eligible two-year-olds accessing early education places

Community groups asked for better engagement with the Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS).

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Be confident

Our staff take pride in continuing to deliver vital services despite significant change and constant financial pressures. We must be agile and continue to test our approach to problems to improve as we go. Staff named over 30 achievements, including:

- Culture change work in Environmental Services
- Diverse interview panels in recruitment
- "Outstanding" Ofsted rating
- New council homes and use of sites like Brickfields
- Afghan and Ukrainian resettlement schemes
- Support for older residents in seniors housing

Ofsted rated our children's services as Outstanding in March 2024, praising the consistent quality of work, and the positive difference this is making for children and families in the city. They noted just 2 areas for improvement around placements for children with complex needs and ensuring consent was consistently gained and recorded when referrals are received at the Front Foor for Families.



Be innovative and creative

Harnessing the use of technology, especially Artificial Intelligence, offers opportunities to free up staff time and improve resident interactions. Senior leaders have prioritised strategic use of digital tools to support how we deliver a Better Brighton & Hove for all.

We know we must improve in key areas. Our data shows that last year:

- Only 27% of household waste was reused, recycled or composted last year
- While we exceeded our housing targets last year, over the past 3 years we met only 84% of
- Nearly 2,000 households are still in temporary accommodation, which negatively affects lives and puts additional pressure on council budgets

Community representatives said we have a strategy vs reality gap. While we have excellent strategies on paper (like our Anti-Racism and Accessible City strategies), the visible impact to communities is lacking. They requested public dashboards of Key Performance Indicator trackers to be available to track this.

Our data revealed:

- Some residents struggle to use our website
- Many want to be able to speak to helpful, empathetic and compassionate staff when issues can't be resolved online
- Difficulties when trying to reach services by phone and complaint handling need improvement

Social housing remains a concern. A 2024 report from the Regulator of Social Housing called for significant improvements to the safety and quality of council homes. We are committed to providing safe, good quality homes and in response are investing in improvements to meet this expectation.



Be diverse and inclusive

Building a dynamic workforce and leadership that Staff told us that supporting mental health and truly reflects our diverse communities will embed our vision that everyone can learn and grow.

Feedback from our staff focus group, senior leadership and community voices called for continued work to tackle inequalities, including health disparities, especially as voluntary sector closures impact marginalised groups. They asked for better safety measures for vulnerable communities (Black residents, Jewish community, LGBTQ+ individuals). This will be a key part of our Community Cohesion work and a priority area for our senior leadership.

The Local Government Association (LGA) provided us with valuable feedback from their Corporate Peer Challenge visit in April 2025. Areas of strength identified included:

- Strong leadership and committed staff
- Outstanding children's services
- Positive results from regeneration and infrastructure work
- National leadership on equality, diversity and inclusion

They recommended we:

- Strengthen our financial position
- Improve the safety and quality of council homes
- Build an organisational culture focused on learning
- Take full advantage of the opportunities brought by devolution and local government reorganisation



Be healthy and psychologically safe

wellbeing is essential for a resilient workforce. They said that work to embed equality, diversity and inclusion was something that we should be proud of but must keep it an area of key focus.

They support ongoing efforts to transform workplace culture and asked for:

- Clear definition of what being a learning council
- Consistency in data use and management practices
- Clear, honest communication from senior leaders
- Continued prioritisation of equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives

Senior leadership highlighted the need for a healthy city for all people. We are proud that Brighton & Hove is an active city – there were nearly 1.8 million visits to council indoor sports facilities last year.

We recently had an inspection of our adult social services by the Care Quality Commission. We will ensure that their recommendations are implemented as a future priority.

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A better Brighton & Hove for all



What we've delivered 2023 to 2025



Outcome 1: A city to be proud of Investing in our city

Our goal is to develop a flourishing and inclusive local economy that attracts and nurtures businesses and talent.

2

Developing Brighton & Hove as a place where people want to live, work, and learn

As one of the city's most treasured assets, **the restoration and rejuvenation of the seafront** is well underway. We are transforming underused and run-down public spaces into attractive, accessible places for visitors and residents, including rejuvenating Black Rock and creating Hove Beach Park complete with wheeled sports area, new padel courts, bowling green, skate park, tennis courts and outdoor sports hub. We've also kickstarted the restoration of the historic Grade II listed Madeira Terrace, beginning with the first 28 arches and a new lift to improve access to the eastern seafront.

We have made great strides **improving the** city's sport and leisure facilities as part of our 10-year Sports Facilities Investment Plan. Four 3G all-weather pitches and a new soft play area were opened at the Withdean Sports Complex and the seafront basketball court refurbished. Our swimming pools were kept open after securing almost £400,000 of grant funding, and solar PV installed at our leisure centres has generated 350,000 kWh of renewable energy each year, contributing to our decarbonisation plans for the city. Year on year we are seeing attendance numbers at our indoor sports facilities increase, with almost 1.8 million visits in the last year. We were announced as a host city for the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025, building on our international sporting reputation and creating opportunities to further promote girls and womens sport in the city.

As part of our **playground refurbishment programme**, we have spent more than £5 million in section 106 contributions from developers on outdoor play and fitness facilities to provide upgraded, inclusive and accessible play areas at 45 sites and 6 new outdoor gyms.

Growing a diverse and sustainable city economy

As part of our commitment to developing a flourishing and inclusive city economy we adopted a new three-year Economic Plan in 2024. As a member of the regional Local Visitor Economy Partnership, we also launched a new 10-year Visitor Economy Strategy for Growth to enhance Sussex's reputation as a thriving, vibrant and regenerative destination, with the aim to increase the total value of the local visitor economy from £5 billion to £7.5 billion by 2034.

In the last year alone, the council-led Business and Intellectual Property Centre Sussex, based at the Jubilee Library, supported 2,670 entrepreneurs, inventors, and small businesses from across the county. Focused on our goal of boosting economic growth and tackling inequality, we have seen high take up of our offer from women, Black and Racially Minoritised groups, disabled people and young entrepreneurs.

We have **set up a new Brighton & Hove Growth Hub** – a digital service supporting city businesses to scale and grow, creating more jobs for residents. The Growth Hub has recently completed its first Scale Up programme, with 32 businesses participating from across our economy.

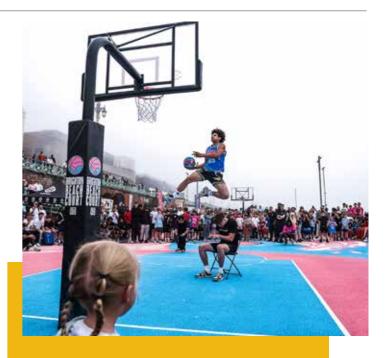
Promoting and protecting what makes Brighton & Hove unique

Our focus on protecting the city's heritage has seen the **reopening of Brighton Dome's refurbished historic Corn Exchange**, following a six-year refurbishment programme. In early 2024 we secured more than £4m grant funding in partnership with Brighton & Hove Museums to **restore the Royal Pavilion Garden**. Plans that ensure the long-term sustainability of the city centre gardens were approved in August 2024.

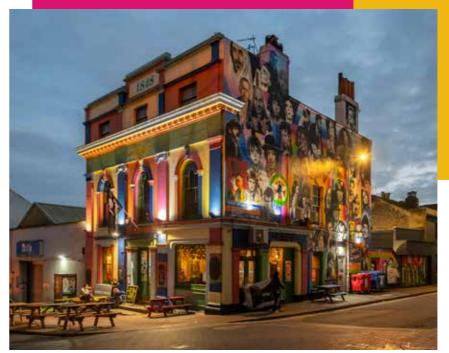
We are working to protect live grassroots music venues, recognising the important part they play in our vibrant night-time and visitor economies. Together with the Music Venues Trust, we have published a comprehensive guide to the planning system to support grassroots music venues and ensure the music scene continues to thrive.

Developing talent and enabling lifelong learning

We've increased the use of our libraries. Across the city we saw an increase in footfall in our libraries, rising to over 1.2million visits in the last year. We reopened Saltdean Library in the newly restored Saltdean Lido.









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An accessible, clean, and sustainable city

Our goal is to deliver an accessible, clean, and sustainable environment that we can all be proud of.

Keeping our city clean and managing waste

We have taken the necessary steps to get on top of weed growth to ensure roads and pathways are safe, accessible and clear for all, following five years of manual weed control. We are now treating weeds in pavements with controlled droplet application of glyphosate. Listening to residents, we have also introduced an opt out for those who want their roads to be excluded from our weed maintenance programme. So far 42 streets have opted out.

Illegal tagging is problem we have been working hard to address. Our three-year action plan prioritises removal of tagging and flyposting promptly and ensures enforcement action is taken. During the summer last year, **we invested**

£100,000 to clean up graffiti hotspots in the city centre and remove hard to reach tagging. We also worked to prevent illegal tagging by supporting streets artists to bring creativity and vibrancy to authorised sites. For example, FRIENDS mural, Hove Lagoon. Local artist Aroe worked with six contemporaries to paint a letter in their own style on this tagging

hotspot, supported by BHCC. The mural includes a full-size painting of Mercedes Gleitze, the first British woman to swim the English Channel, within the 'I'.

High-quality, accessible and family-friendly public toilets and changing places are essential for our residents and visitors. We are **investing more than £3 million in an ongoing programme to refurbish the city's public toilets.** Since July 2023 we have upgraded 6 public toilet sites and reopened and extended toilet opening hours. We also installed 3 new Changing Places toilets to help adults and children with disabilities get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities which many of us take for granted.

Additional saltwater testing. The sea water testing project is a citizen science initiative funded by Southern Water to supplement the bathing water quality testing undertaken by the Environment Agency. The local project has been led by sea swimming residents; they take regular water samples using a testing kit provided by Southern Water. Samples are collected all year

round to assess the water quality outside of the bathing season when the Environment Agency have ceased testing. The samples are then tested at the King Alfred Leisure Centre.

Working towards carbon net zero

As part of our commitment to achieving carbon net zero, we **published a ground-breaking decarbonisation pathways study** in 2024, which looks in detail at how the city can change to low carbon energy systems by delivering high-impact projects delivering energy-efficient and low carbon homes, businesses and transport. The study identifies economic opportunities for the city with the potential to create around 2,500 new jobs.

We have seen great improvements in the levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and we are now **consistently reporting NO2 levels below the legal requirement** of 40 µg/m3 at our three key monitoring locations. We are part of the largest network of air quality monitoring sensors in the UK and last year we launched a website giving people access to real time information to raise awareness of the impact of vehicle and gas boiler emissions and burning solid fuels on the city.

In partnership with Brighton & Hove buses we unlocked a landmark £10m project for zero

emission buses at the start of 2024, and in August we were named the local authority with the best on-street electric vehicle charging coverage in the UK outside of London, demonstrating our strong commitment to achieving carbon net zero and a more sustainable city.

Protecting and enhancing the city's natural environment

We have **improved the protection of the city's trees** through enhanced enforcement of Tree Protection Orders. We have also taken steps to manage the spread of elm disease, using new technology to detect and treat infected trees, removing them quickly to protect our prestigious National Collection from a wider outbreak.

We know that **good quality parks, green and open spaces** are as important for people
as they are for nature. In the last year we are
proud to have received seven Green Flag awards
for parks in Brighton, Hove, Portslade and
Rottingdean, demonstrating that we have some
of the country's best-maintained parks with
excellent facilities. We have completed significant
infrastructure improvements at Stanmer Park and
Preston Park, making them safer for pedestrians
and cyclists. Likewise, Hove and Saltdean beaches
have been awarded Blue Flags for their high-



quality bathing water, facilities, safety, and management.

We are **the UK's only accredited urban biosphere** and recognise the important stewardship role we have in protecting the wildlife and habitats, and promoting sustainable, environmentally aware communities across a 390 square kilometre designation. In 2024 we submitted our application as part of the Living Coast Partnership to UNESCO to continue our accreditation.

As part of our **ongoing commitment to improve the condition of our roads we have agreed to invest more than £3.9 million annually in planned works.** Using new digital tools, we are identifying high priority areas to target, and trialling innovative solutions that save time, cost and carbon, whilst improving the longevity of our repairs.

In November 2024 we began constructing Phase 3 of the Valley Gardens project, which is set to transform this city centre public space. The project will enhance and renew this important arrival point for visitors, provide accessible and inclusive public and green spaces, simplify the road layout for motorists, and improve road safety. We have completed significant infrastructure improvements at both Stanmer Park and Preston Park, making them safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Working closely with the city's bus operators we introduced an affordable day travel ticket, extended bus routes, and introduced a new express bus route to encourage greater use of public transport. In December 2024 we were awarded a further £9.2million of grant funding to continue delivering our Bus Service Improvement Plan. In the last year we saw more than a **6%** increase in buses running on time, despite some major works disrupting the road network.

Since we **introduced red routes on London Road and Lewes Road** in 2023, congestion has significantly reduced and road safety has improved, with almost 86% fewer pedestrian injuries. We listened to businesses and residents about the impact of red routes and installed more loading bays and a motorcycle bay in response to concerns raised.

We are working hard make parking in the city simpler and fairer and to improve people's experience. For 2023/24 we reduced planned parking hikes including around the Royal Sussex County hospital and for 2025/26 we froze parking charges in council car parks for the first time in a decade, after listening to residents' concerns about the impact of parking charges during a cost-of-living crisis.

A new Active Travel scheme is just being completed on the A23 that enables residents to choose alternative modes to the car by improving cycle lanes and introducing more crossings on a very busy strategic road. The scheme introduces a safer direct connection for cyclists to access the city and improve walking routes into Preston Park. Residents are now able to have the confidence to cycle in the city by being able to store their bikes directly on the city's streets in the expanded "Cycle hangars" network. Bike storage can be rented within safe and secure facilities across many areas of the city.

The **Let's Get Moving** strategy is being implemented, **supporting our ambition to be an active city** and building on the progress we have already made.



6

Outcome 2: A fair and inclusive city An inclusive and fairer city

Our goal is for Brighton & Hove to be inclusive, accessible and equitable – a place where everyone can thrive.

Engagement and collaboration

In March last year we **published new community engagement framework** setting out the council's commitment to engagement, with a refreshed policy statement and accompanying guidance and tools to support best practice in our engagement with local communities.

Alongside the framework we **launched Your Voice, a new digital engagement tool** which offers better and fairer opportunities for residents to have their say and to follow engagement projects they are interested in. Your Voice is intended to complement not replace face to face engagement and gives access to a wider audience.

In 2023 and 2024 we delivered Leader's surgeries, giving residents the opportunity to raise policy and strategy issues with Council leadership at surgery sessions across the city. We also hosted a series of events across the city asking residents to **Re-imagine Brighton & Hove**. The project identified **community-led ideas to tackle graffiti tagging, the cost-of-living crisis, violence against women and girls, and improving health and wellbeing**. Insights were fed back to relevant services.

Fighting discrimination and embracing diversity

We won a landmark case in the High Court against the Home Office in 2023 concerning the treatment of unaccompanied asylum



seekers (UASC). The judgment led to a change in national policy so that UASC could no longer be placed in hotels and B&Bs but rather must be placed through the National Transfer Scheme into foster placements under the Children Act.

Our commitment to being a City of Sanctuary has seen over 40 Afghan households resettled by the council, alongside our successful Homes for Ukraine scheme. In 2024, we were awarded Library Service of Sanctuary. The award recognises the efforts of our library staff to create a culture of welcome for refugees and asylum seekers.

In August 2023 we agreed and launched a **new** Accessible City Strategy to ensure barrier-free services that promote independence and equity of access, opportunity, and representation for disabled people and their diverse identities.

We progressed the development of the city council's **Anti-Racist Strategy** with a range of programmes and events, including a multiagency conference for Black history Month in October 2024, to also reaffirm allyship and action following the far-right violence of the summer of 2024. Additionally, in partnership with the Family justice quality circle, we developed a 'family court anti-racist practice statement', ratified for use in Sussex Family Courts, by the Sussex Family Justice

We have developed a new **Trans Inclusion** Schools Toolkit to support trans and gender diverse children and young people to thrive in their education. The toolkit helps staff and governors make informed decisions about how to promote the welfare of students who are gender exploring or meet the definition of being transgender.

We engaged with and supported diverse community groups including the TNBI Round Table, Disability Panel, Interfaith Group, BME & migrant groups, older people's tenant groups, groups tackling violence against women and girls, and city safety forums, to ensure diverse voices shape council policy and services. We delivered a range of cultural and community events, included Armed Forces Day, LGBT+ History Month, Black History Month, in support of our diverse communities and cultural spaces. This includes support for the city's LGBTQ+ communities and spaces, meeting regularly with community representatives, listening and responding to concerns.

Working to reduce inequality

With resident, partner and staff input we developed the Brighton & Hove Cost of Living Plan and set up a Poverty Reduction Steering **Group.** Extensive support for residents impacted by the cost-of-living crisis has been delivered through the Household Support Fund and

the **Brighton & Hove Fairness Fund**, including food, fuel, and essential items. We have used these funds to provide free school meal vouchers to eligible children during holiday periods and for those educated outside of mainstream school, supported families in buying school uniforms, worked with local food partnerships and emergency support networks, and supported pensioners on low incomes to meet their fuel

Almost 1,000 city businesses have now signed up to the Brighton & Hove Living **Wage.** These businesses are committed to paying their staff a real living wage and we continue to work closely with the Brighton Chamber to manage and deliver the campaign.

Our Welfare Rights Team used data analytics to identify and target older people on low incomes to promote uptake of Pension Credit and access to the Winter Fuel payment. We agreed the **Brighton & Hove Food Strategy Action Plan** 2025-2030 to strengthen our approach to tackling food poverty. Growing, cooking and food waste prevention are key themes in our approach.

We supported community activity and volunteering by funding local community and voluntary organisations, fostering active citizenship and stronger community networks. Our Fairness Fund for People & Place funded small community groups working to tackle poverty. Other funding for the voluntary and

community sector included the Communities Fund 2023/24, the BME Engagement Fund and the Community Catalyst Fund. In 2024 we brought together different funding streams into a new Thriving Communities Investment Fund for 2025 to 2027.

In partnership with Trust for Developing Communities and social enterprise partners across the city, we secured almost £1.3m from the Climate Action Fund **to empower** disadvantaged and under-represented communities in Brighton & Hove to participate in climate action.

A city where people feel safe and welcome

Our goal is to keep people safe and to create a city that is welcoming for all.

Tackling crime and antisocial behaviour

We have reviewed and refreshed the city's Community Safety Strategy, working with the Violence Reduction Unit **to reduce violent** crime and to divert young people away from crime.

Creating safe public spaces that are accessible for all

Last year we launched our new strategy and action plan for tackling violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual **violence** to create a better future where violence is prevented, survivors are supported, and perpetrators are held accountable.



Homes for everyone

Our goal is to deliver accessible, affordable, and high-quality homes for all residents of Brighton & Hove

Improving housing quality

Last year we **invested £89.735 million in our council homes.** This included £14.7 million to ensure building, health and fire safety compliance alongside planned maintenance, repairs and major projects including delivering new council homes. We have worked hard to address the backlog of routine repairs, with over 3,000 repairs carried out each month and a new materials supply chain introduced. Our repairs and maintenance service offered **apprenticeships** to 25 individuals in 2024/25.

Over a third of the city's residents rent privately. To drive up standards, we introduced a city-wide Additional Licensing Scheme for houses in multiple-occupation and a Selective Licensing Scheme in 4 wards. Over 8,000 properties in the city are covered by the licensing schemes.

In 2024/25 we invested £2.28m to provide **adaptations to help disabled council tenants** stay in their homes with 232 adaptations completed. We also allocated £2.03 million in Disabled Facilities Grant funding to help private renters and homeowners, with 171 adaptations delivered.

We agreed to a £30.8 million **investment in sustainability measures for council homes** over the next five years, including improved insulation and other energy efficiency measures. As part of this programme, over 400 solar panels have already been installed on council homes with a further 170 to be fitted by the end of March 2025. We also contacted over 647 landlords between April and December 2024 to **enforce energy efficiency standards in the private sector.**

Increasing housing supply

Homes for everyone, a new housing strategy for 2024 to 2029, was approved in October 2024. This sets out five priorities for tackling the city's housing crisis and delivering accessible, affordable and high-quality homes for everyone in Brighton & Hove. In 2023/24, 1,075 homes were delivered across the city, the highest number since 2013. 318 (24%) of these were affordable homes, including 127 new council homes at Denman Place in Coldean. A further 62 former council homes were bought back by the council.

226 affordable homes were delivered in 2024/25. This includes 95 additional council

homes including 21 homes purchased at the St Aubyn's development in Rottingdean. Construction has also begun on 294 affordable homes with a further 137 in the design phase. In 2024/25, **145 privately owned homes** that had been empty for over a year were **brought back into use**.

Improving housing support for residents

We have established a **new housing advice and triage service** leading to increased homelessness preventions and early interventions. We have also improved progress against our key customer service measures, including almost doubling the number of applications processed per month on the Housing Register. We recommissioned our rough sleeping and single homeless support services to reduce levels of rough sleeping and improve move-on from temporary into settled accommodation.

We agreed **a new housing allocation policy** to increase opportunities to prevent homelessness, simplify the process for applicants and increase the transparency of our decision-making. The new policy gives greater priority to people fleeing domestic abuse and to serving and former members of the armed forces.

Working with our partners, we completed a pilot of a new integrated service model for people who are homeless with multiple and compound health and social needs.

The evaluation of this pilot will help inform the development of our new homeless and rough sleeping strategy

We developed a new joint protocol to improve our response to homeless 16-and 17-year-olds. A care leavers' housing protocol was also agreed, ensuring that every one of our looked after children has a firm offer of accommodation which meets their needs on leaving council care. As a City of Sanctuary, we met our goal of resettling at least 42 Afghan households (186 individuals) by the end of March 2025.

We supported tenants to access the benefits they are entitled to, **reducing rent arrears and improving rent collection.** We worked with the Community Safety Project to establish four pilot projects to **reduce anti-social behaviour.** We have undertaken **targeted work to reduce flytipping and tackle litter** on our estates.







Outcome 3: A healthy city where people thrive A better future for children and young people

Our goal is to keep children safe, for no child, young person or family to be left behind, and to provide high quality, inclusive, and accessible services.

Keeping children and young children safe and ensuring no child or family is left behind

Ofsted inspectors confirmed in 2024 that the council delivers **outstanding children's services** to our most vulnerable families with strong social work and family help.

We've refreshed our **Corporate Parenting Strategy** and further strengthened ways for children in care and care leavers to have their voices hear.

We've launched a local Mockingbird project to support foster carers and children in foster care. The project provides a network of experienced foster carers to support the children in care much like an extended family, giving respite care when foster carers need a break.

Developing our prevention and family support offer

Our Family Hubs offer support to all families in Brighton & Hove with children aged from 0 to 19. Young people with special educational needs or disabilities can receive services up to age 25. Some 27 community and partner organisations also offer their services at our four hubs across the city. Over the last two years, 3414 people accessed support from the Family Hubs.

Our health visitors provide a proactive, universal service for all children 0-5 years and for vulnerable populations targeted according to need. They work with families to identify individual health needs, enhance health and reduce health inequalities. Our most recent figures show that over 12,000 people were in contact with our Health Visiting Service over the year.

We have embedded a Right Support at the Right Time model alongside a relationship-based practice model across all our children's services. The approach covers universal provision for all children, more structured and focused help where a child has additional needs, and specialist services to address acute or chronic need.

We have brought together our Mental Health Support Teams and a new school-based counselling pilot into a single Schools Mental Health Service. This enables a graduated approach to mental health support for children and young people. The service has also increased its voice and participation work to understand and incorporate the views of different groups of young people.

We've also **invested in youth services provision across the city**, securing new youth clubs in communities where they are needed.

Supporting the provision of high quality and inclusive education from early years through to adult learning

We celebrated Brighton & Hove achieving the nation's **highest take up of Early Years Free**

Entitlement among disadvantaged 2-year-olds.

Overall academic outcomes for pupils across the city are in line or above national averages at all levels. Reading outcomes for disadvantaged pupils are above the national average in our primary schools.

In the past year we consulted on and agreed changes to school admission arrangements aiming to improve choice and make the process fairer and more equitable. We introduced a new Free School Meals priority and made important changes to secondary school admissions, with a new oversubscription criterion to assist in tackling educational disadvantage.

We are proud to have implemented a comprehensive anti-racist education training programme for school governors and staff to support schools develop an anti-racist approach to education. We also deliver a nationally recognised environmental education programme.









We have **extended our special educational needs and disability online information offer,** launching our Connect with Digital Family Hubs service to help parents, carers, and young people find and access family support more easily.

Working with partners to deliver ambitious employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities

We secured **Turing Scheme** funding **for several local young people to take up international study and work placements**, unlocking lifechanging experiences for those taking part. Our **new city careers website** provides employment advice, tips on successful job hunting and sign posting to other sources of information and support.

A recent Ofsted inspection of our Adult Learning offer has praised Ofsted has praised the service's 'ambitious vision' and 'inclusive training'.

Living and ageing well

Our goal is to promote and improve health and wellbeing, to reduce health inequalities, and to support people to live independent and fulfilling lives

Enabling people to live healthy, happy and fulfilling lives

In August 2023 we launched the Age and Dementia Friendly Business Recognition Scheme with a toolkit that supports organisations to take simple steps to become more inclusive and accessible to people with dementia. We continued to fund the Ageing Well Service 50+, offering information and advice, befriending, group and one-to-one activity, as well as volunteering opportunities and health promotion for older people. Last year the service supported 4,466 service users. Last year, 480 referrals were made from our seniors housing schemes to help residents maintain their health, safety and wellbeing.

Each autumn we deliver the two week Ageing Well Festival with over 4,000 people attending 149 events at 58 venues across the city in 2024. We also deliver a two-week summer TAKEPART Festival, offering around 4,000 people of all ages an **opportunity to take part in community sport, dance, exercise, and physical activity.** We worked with 24 community dance groups to create Dance Active, Brighton & Hove's key

celebratory intergenerational dance events involving 210 participants from ages 7 to 77.

We have increased access to community mental health support for adults with mental health and wellbeing needs through the UOK service, delivered by a network of local community and voluntary sector partners. We have also increased access to structured treatment for people experiencing harm from drug and alcohol use. The service has supported over 2,770 adults to access treatment.

We jointly commissioned the Trust for Developing Communities and the Hangleton and Knoll Project to deliver the **Community Health Inequalities Programme (CHIP)** to work with communities in the most deprived areas in the city to **reduce barriers to and increase residents' confidence and uptake of health and well-being services**. In 2023/24 this programme had over 8000 attendees at health events across the city with 770 health checks, 987 clinical referrals and 2168 prevention referrals.

We commission the Sussex Community Foundation Trust **Oral Health Promotion**

team who last year provided over 62 different sessions on oral health in a variety of settings, they also provided support for toothbrushing at breakfast clubs, training for nursery staff and information for parents and carers on toothbrushing. The team also worked with older and vulnerable residents with poorer oral health including providing bespoke advice, including a mobile service for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers groups, people experiencing homelessness and refugees and asylum seekers.

We have provided an **agile response to threats to health for our residents**, for example the roll out of the Mpox vaccination programme to higher risk people.

Providing joined up services to ensure everyone has access to the information, advice and services they need

We have developed an **online self-service Adult Social Care Hub** to make it easier for people to find information and advice about support options. We reviewed and developed council web pages on Adult Social Care to **improve customer experience and give**

key information at the earliest stage. We also

reviewed phonelines and referral pathways **to help direct customers to the right service** at the first available opportunity.

We now have an Easy Read Information Hub on the council website to make information more easily accessible for people with learning disabilities. We also added British Sign Language resources to our website to support those who have hearing loss to access information about our services.

We helped **2,046 older people to link in** with services and activities via the Ageing Well service single point of contact. Our seniors housing schemes have offered residents a range of activities and events to keep well and maintain social connectivity.

Some 4,231 people have accessed local health and wellbeing advice and services for stopping smoking, reducing alcohol intake, losing weight or becoming more active through our Healthy Lifestyles Team and the Let's Get Moving programme. We are proud to be one of the most active cities in the country. We also improved services and support available through our partnership with the Hangleton and Knoll Project, including developing skills and confidence in local people to access support.

Ensuring there is safe, effective, sustainable and high-quality health and care provision in the city

We have worked to prevent lengthy hospital stays by supporting people with complex needs through the work of the new Admission Preventions team, freeing up much needed A&E bed space in the Royal Sussex County Hospital. We also delivered a 'Stay Strong, Steady, and Independent' campaign, working with over 20 partners and offering over 140 free activities and training courses to improve people's strength and balance and reduce the risk of falls. In collaboration with NHS Sussex and our community health partners in the Integrated Care Partnership we have delivered the first phase of the new Integrated Community Teams and our Multiple Compound Needs service transformation programme.

We worked in partnership with Healthwatch to deliver the Homecare Checks service, regularly visiting and interviewing people in the city who receive homecare services, to ensure the quality of services are monitored and supporting people's wellbeing. We also supported providers in the city to provide good quality and safe care with support from our Quality Monitoring Team.

We improved the response times for people who need equipment delivered by Community Equipment Service to ensure safety and support wellbeing. We also led the development of a new multi-agency risk management framework supported by the Safeguarding Adults Board. The new framework strengthens partnership working across the city to support people experiencing multiple disadvantage and risk of harm.

We introduced a new requirement for our care providers to sign up to the Skills for Care LGBTQ+ Learning Framework. We extended funding for an accommodation service to support people returning to the community from mental health hospitals.

We have launched a new assessment & commissioning tool to use in partnership with local providers. The tool will support **improved quality assurance and contract monitoring**, as well as supporting providers to identify improvement actions for their services.











Brighton & Hove City Council | Council plan 2023 to 2027 Council plan 2023 to 2027 | **Brighton & Hove City Council**

Outcome 4: A responsive council with well-run services

Our goal is to be a learning council, responsive and with well-run services, a council that listens to its communities and delivers positive outcomes for the city.

Meeting the needs of our residents and other customers

Over the last two years, we have made significant progress with improving access to council services and enhancing our **customer's experience**. Listening to feedback on how much some customers value face to face interaction we have extended in person support, including new helpdesks in two libraries to support residents who are unable to access council services online or by phone. In addition, our four Family Hubs offer face-to-face assistance for a wide range of needs. A specialist homelessness helpdesk is now available to support people experiencing homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

For customers who prefer to access our services online or by phone we have improved our offer with free access to computers and telephones now available at all four family hubs and **13 libraries,** so those without personal devices can still connect with council services. We have introduced a new telephone system with **features requested by customers** including queue position updates and call recording.

We have sought feedback from residents and other customers on our plans and services

with a range of methods, including standing consultation groups including our tenant and leaseholder forums, the older people's forum and the youth council. We have held public events, inviting participants to Reimagine Brighton & Hove and to take part in a budget simulator event Government Lawyer's Awards. to help us make decisions about future spending. Our new digital engagement platform **Your Voice**, helped us consult on our housing strategy, proposed school allocation policy changes, and much more. We also conduct regular customer satisfaction surveys to track our improvement journey over time.

Our ways of working

We have worked to recruit and retain a diverse, skilled workforce which reflects the communities we serve. With a major organisational redesign, we have put in place a new leadership structure and learning framework to better deliver our priorities within the constraints of our budget. We have made good progress with our People Strategy, having seen improvements in the BME and disability pay gaps, as well as an increase in the council's BME, disability and LGBT staffing levels.

Developing and motivating our staff to do their best, we launched a universal and enhanced digital skills learning pathway, and our digital champions network is helping staff work confidently and effectively as we introduce new technology and systems. Improvements in staff skills have led to more efficient working and improved services for customers. We have also seen successes in our diverse talent programmes, positively supporting staff from diverse groups to progress in their careers.

Good governance and financial resilience

In 2024, we moved to a cabinet system providing opportunity for more effective decision making and political leadership.

We have delivered safe and secure elections and by elections so that residents could exercise their right to vote in Brighton and Hove. In 2024, Brighton & Hove City Council Legal Services was named "Legal Team of the Year" at the Local

In very challenging times, we have managed to deliver a balanced budget for the last **two years**, 2023/24 and 2024/25. The newly launched Corporate Debt Management **Policy** will improve our ethical approach to effectively collecting income and the recovery of outstanding amounts due to the organisation. This is in line with the latest research evidence

and ethical collection practice to supporting the most vulnerable people in our communities.



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Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet Agenda Item 21

Subject: Council Plan Refresh

Date of meeting: 17 July 2025

Report of: Leader of the Council

Contact Officer: Name: Chief Executive

Email: jess.gibbons@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

Key Decision: Yes

Reasons Key: Is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards).

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 The Council Plan 2023-2027 is the council's main strategic document. It sets out our vision for a 'A better Brighton & Hove for All' and describes the key role that the council plays, through the provision and delivery of services, that are essential to everyday life. The Council Plan was adopted by Council on 20 July 2023.
- 1.2 This refresh provides an update of what has been delivered so far and sets out our areas of focus going forward, building on our four priority outcomes. The refresh has been informed by resident, stakeholder and staff engagement, and reflects the recommendations of our recent Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge. It forms our action plan in response to the Peer Challenge.
- 1.3 The Council Plan drives business planning for the council, with detailed delivery plans set out in the Corporate Leadership Plan and service plans. Progress is monitored through the council's performance framework and performance is regularly reported to Cabinet.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet recommends the updated Council Plan refresh at Appendix 1 to full Council for approval.
- 2.2 Cabinet notes the achievements made since the Council Plan was adopted in July 2023 as set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.3 Cabinet notes the progress made in relation to delivering the Council Plan in 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 3.

- 2.4 Cabinet notes the recommendations in the Corporate Peer Challenge at Appendix 4 and the response to these in the Council Plan Refresh and agrees a future report on progress to be brought to a future Cabinet meeting, as part of the quarterly performance update.
- 2.5 Cabinet delegates to the Head of Cabinet Office, following consultation with the Leader, the authority to make changes to the design and layout of the documents before publication on the Council's website.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The Council Plan is the council's overarching strategic document and outlines our vision, priorities, and the outcomes which we aim to deliver. The Council Plan 2023-2027 was adopted in July 2023. The progress made to date towards the delivery of the Council Plan is evidenced in the performance report as set out in Appendix 3.
- 3.2 To achieve 'A better Brighton & Hove for all', the council plan sets out four priority outcomes. The updated plan reaffirms our commitment to delivering:
 - 1. A city to be proud of
 - 2. A fair and inclusive city
 - 3. A healthy city where people thrive
 - 4. A responsive council with well-run services
- 3.3 The refreshed Council Plan also responds to the recommendations the council received through the Corporate Peer Challenge, which we undertook between 1st and 4th April 2025. LGA Corporate Peer Challenges are a highly valued improvement and assurance tool delivered by the sector. A team of 7 experienced elected Member and Officer peers were on site across the 4 days providing robust, strategic and credible challenge and support. The peer team spoke to more than 170 people including a range of council staff together with Members and external stakeholders.
- 3.4 The outcome of the Corporate Peer Challenge can be found in the report at Appendix 4. The key recommendations have been incorporated into the refresh of the Council Plan and the delivery of the actions will be monitored and tracked via the Corporate Leadership Plan. There will be a progress review conducted by the LGA on progress against these recommendations.
- 3.5 The Corporate Peer Challenge noted areas where the council is performing well, including:
 - Staff commitment, professionalism and positive attitude
 - Strong political and officer leadership
 - Positive, values-driven culture rooted in openness, collaboration, and continuous improvement
 - Positive and respectful relationships between elected Members and Officers
 - Outstanding children's services
 - Place leadership and high-quality public realm improvements, with a visible impact in the Council's regeneration and infrastructure projects
 - National exemplar in equality, diversity, and inclusion

- Transformation efforts within Environmental Services showing early improvements
- 3.6 The key recommendations the Corporate Peer Challenge made were:
 - Develop a robust and comprehensive financial strategy to deliver savings and ensure long term financial resilience
 - Develop a shared vision with all tiers of local government across
 Sussex on devolution and local government reorganisation
 - Continue cultural transformation within Environmental Services
 - Drive culture change across the organisation towards being a learning organisation – communication, leadership and staff engagement
 - Operationalise the learning organisation aspiration
 - Improve the council housing service
 - Accelerate efforts to mitigate homelessness-related financial pressures
 - Consider if further work is needed to ensure opposition parties do not feel excluded from the decision-making process through their inclusion more fully in the overview and scrutiny process

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 We are required to publish the Corporate Peer Challenge report by 14 July. Failure to do so would not be compliant with the terms of the challenge set out by the LGA and would pose reputational risk to the council.
- 4.2 The Council Plan has been refreshed to reflect the significant events that have taken place since it was adopted in July 2023, including the successful application to the Devolution Priority Programme, the linked invitation from government to take part in local government reform and the first Corporate Peer Challenge for Brighton & Hove in eight years. It also provides an opportunity for all council areas to review and update priorities moving forward, in alignment with the council's financial position.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 The refresh of the Council Plan reflects feedback from residents and stakeholders that we've received through consultation and engagement since July 2023. This includes consultation on strategies such as our housing strategy, Economic Plan, City Plan and collected data via the Health Counts survey.
- 5.2 The Council held two events in December 2024 and January 2025, for residents to discuss the council's financial situation and share their views on how to balance the council's budget. This coincided with the launch of a budget simulator tool, which gave residents the opportunity to tell us which services matter most to them, which services they would protect and where they would choose to reduce funding.
- 5.3 The council continuously engages with residents and other stakeholders on our services, including through standing consultation groups such as our

tenant and leaseholder forums, the older people's forum and the youth council. We regularly hold public events and meetings to inform and enable individuals and groups to ask questions or have their say.

- 5.4 Our new digital engagement platform, Your Voice, offers another channel for people to participate. Since launching in March 2024, 58 digital engagement projects have been conducted through Your Voice on proposals, plans and consultations, for people to share their views, with an additional 8 currently live. It also provides an opportunity for the council to reach out to participants to share updates, events or results.
- 5.5 Before the launch of the Your Voice platform, from the introduction of the Council Plan in July 2023 to April 2024, we conducted 44 engagements projects.
- 5.6 Feedback from our recent Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge and their key recommendations has informed the Council Plan refresh. The peer team met and spoke to over 170 people during the four days they were on site in April and provided us with valuable insights to incorporate.

6 Financial implications

The Corporate Peer Challenge was clear that the council needs to develop a robust and comprehensive financial strategy that delivers both the necessary savings and the longer-term financial resilience across all funding streams and that this work must be progressed at pace. It is therefore imperative that the council plan delivery is aligned to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and that these are continually reviewed together, to ensure we have the financial resources to deliver on the commitments being made in the Council Plan.

Name of finance officer consulted: John Hooton Date consulted: 07/07/25

7. Legal implications

The Council has a Best Value duty under the Local Government Act 1989 and the prioritisation and policy direction set out in the Council Plan will support the Council to meet this duty. The council's constitution provides that formal approval of the council plan is a matter reserved to full Council.

Name of lawyer consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date consulted 04/07/25

8. Risk implications

There is a risk that the council's financial position will mean there is not enough resource in future to deliver everything committed to in the Council Plan. This will need to be reviewed as the MTFS develops.

The Council is currently undergoing significant change, brought about by the opportunities of devolution and local government reform (LGR). The Council

Plan should be viewed in this context and will need to be reviewed as options are developed for LGR.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 The council is subject to the general equality duty set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This duty covers the following protected characteristics: age, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.
- 9.2 In delivering the council plan the council must have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
 - Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
 - Foster good relations between different groups
- 9.3 Given the breadth of the plan and the complexity of relevant protected characteristics and their intersections it is not possible to analyse all the impacts of the plan in relation to legally protected characteristics. However, the council's legal duties (Equality Act 2010) have shaped the development of the plan and inform its content, in relation to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, and fostering good relations.
- 9.4 Specific initiatives set out in the plan may require an Equalities Impact Assessment as part of the council's decision-making process. Areas of investment identified in the plan, as well as other decisions relating to implementation of the plan, will require Equality Impact Assessment as proposals are brought forward to relevant cabinet meetings or full council.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 Sustainability implications are set out across the plan with measures to increase sustainability in the chapter 'An accessible, clean and sustainable city'. A sustainability impact assessment will be conducted as specific initiatives are taken forward.

11. Other Implications

Social Value and procurement implications

11.1 There are no direct social value or procurement implications arising from this report. Social value and procurement implications are considered in the context of the Council Plan in the sections 'Investing in our city' and 'A responsive council, with well-run services.'

Crime & disorder implications

11.2 Crime and disorder implications are considered in the section 'A city where people feel safe and welcome'. Other measures in the plan will have a direct

impact on reducing crime and disorder, for example, tackling the cost-of living crisis and addressing educational disadvantage.

Public health implications

11.3 Public health implications have been considered throughout the plan, including in the section 'Living and ageing well' as well as in other parts of the document. Other measures in the plan will have a direct impact on improving health and reducing health inequalities, for example, improving air quality, increasing cycling and walking and improving access to green spaces.

12. Conclusion

12.1 The Council Plan sets out the strategic vision for the council and articulates the priorities and outcomes we are focused on to our residents, staff, partners, trade unions and other stakeholders. It also enables core planning for services to deliver for the city. The refresh responds to the recommendations of our recent Corporate Peer Challenge to ensure we action and monitor progress on areas identified for improvement.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

- 1. The Council Plan refresh 2023-2027
- 2. The Council Plan achievements (since July 2023)
- 3. The annual performance update report
- 4. The Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge final report

Council Plan progress update 2024/25





Creating the conditions for the right people, with the right information to drive delivery of our Council Plan



Be confident

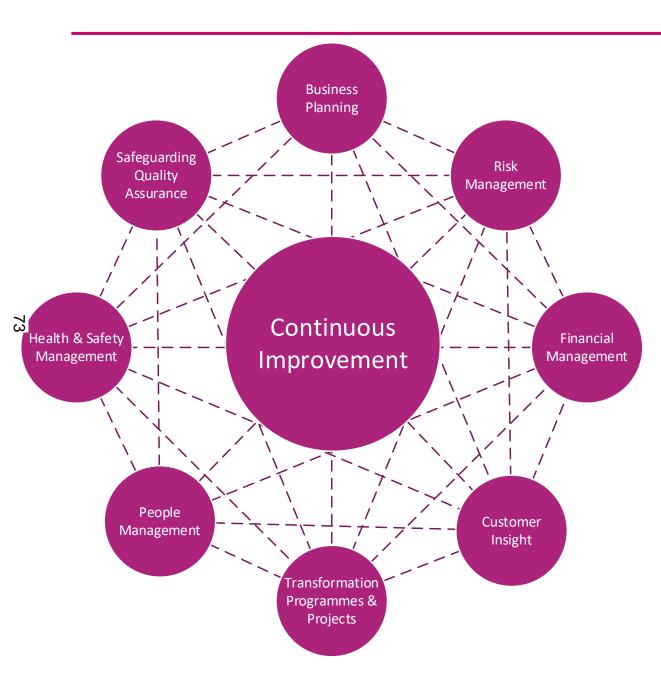
Providing timely evidence and insight on performance to enable decisive corrective action

Be connected



Summary progress update 2024/25	5
Corporate Leadership Plan: Year-end progress update	10
Corporate Key Performance Indicators: 2024/25 results	24
Strategic risk register: Summary report	32
Customer insight: 2024/25 report	45
Performance Management Framework: 2024/25 report	62

Performance Management Framework



Best Value Authorities are under a general Duty of Best Value to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness."

The eight elements of the Performance Management Framework are a key element of our Corporate Governance and allow us to understand the performance of the council as a whole which provide us with a better context in which we are operating. The elements are inter-related; most services contribute to every element in the framework.

The Performance Management Framework sets out to ensure:

- > strong leadership at all levels which is consistent and fair and challenges blame culture
- commitment to the accountability that has been assigned to individuals
- > the right information reaching the right people at the right time so that decisions are made and actions are taken
- > ongoing evaluation, review and learning to help improve future performance
- > the ability to identify and commitment to rectify poor performance at an early stage

National context and local factors

The Rolling 4-year plan Outcomes the council want to Council Refreshed annually in line with achieve financial planning Plan Key activities to deliver the Council Corporate Reviewed annually Leadership Plan and meet essential & Plan statutory duties

The Golden Thread

The Golden Thread is a concept that ensures all council activities are aligned with Council Plan outcomes through the planning process. Each plan demonstrates how they contribute to the priorities and outcomes of the overarching plan, ultimately illustrating, and mapping, how each council officer contributes to the delivery of the council plan.

Reviewed annually

How services and teams contribute to the Council Plan / Corporate Leadership Plan

Reviewed biannually

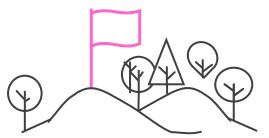
Performance Development Plan (PDP)

How individual staff contribute to the Council Plan / Corporate Leadership Plan

Summary progress update 2024/25

March 2025





Awarded seven Green Flags for Parks across the city

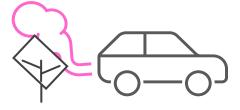


76

Nearly 1,800,000 attendances at council owned indoor sports facilities during 2024/25. A 14% increase from the previous year



Hove Beach Park development including award winning skatepark, padel courts and tennis courts

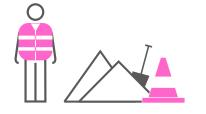


Improvements in air quality across the city (Nitrogen Dioxide levels) from 36.1µg/m3 in Mar 24 to

30.2µg/m3 in Mar 25



A city to be proud of



Challenges and areas of focus

Over £5m invested in playground refurbishment



Regeneration has started on sites at Madeira Terrace and Valley Gardens 3 and key milestones reached at Black rock



Preserving the future of our trees by limiting the spread of disease

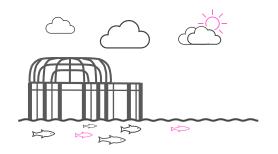


Improving the reliability of our refuse and recycling collection service by reducing the number of reported missed collections per 100,000 from 591 to under 512 (target value)

The future maintenance of roads and pavements (Strategic Risk)



Increase our recycling
Rate to from 26.8% to 33.2%
and reduce residual household
waste from 572kg to below
531kg (target value)



Investment, restoration and maintenance of our seafront



98% of council owned homes meet the government's Decent Homes standard. 1.7% higher than benchmark

Established the Poverty Reduction Steering Group to improve targeting of support and develop a preventative approach.



65.6% [10.6% above benchmark] of homelessness prevention cases have been closed with a successful prevention outcome, supporting residents into settled accommodation



New Corporate Debt policy ensuring we collect public debt in a fair & ethical way





Increase the number of routine housing repairs completed on time from 47% to 70% (target value)

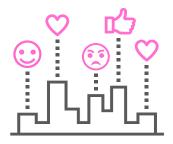
[New jobs are at 59%]



Delivering planned improvement works to council homes and evidencing compliance with building and fire safety regulations for council homes



A fair and inclusive city



Over 19,000 responses on public consultations through the Your Voice engagement platform



Increasing the number of homelessness cases presenting during the prevention duty stage from 32.45% to 50% (target value)



Reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation from 1,970 to 1,770 (target value)

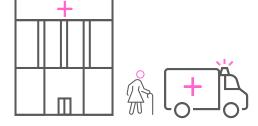


Increase the rent collected from tenants of council owned homes from 93.12% to 95.4% (target value)



89% of Initial Child Protection Conferences are held within 15 working days of a strategy discussion

Over 79% of adults are 2 physically active, 12.8% higher than the average for England



The Hospital Social Work team has supported a consistent rate of 90% of discharges to the usual place of residence





The average Attainment 8 score for all pupils in state-funded schools at the end of Key Stage 4 of 48, 1.6 above the national average



A healthy city where people thrive

Challenges and areas of focus

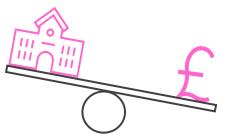


Increased demand
Education, Health & Care
needs assessments



Managing risk for service users on waiting lists for Adult Social Care

Falling numbers of school aged children present significant challenges in filling school places and balancing school budgets





90.6% [6.1% above benchmark] of Strengthening Family Assessments completed in 45 days, ensuring timely support is initiated to meet family needs





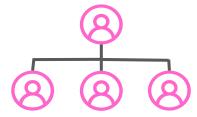
Supporting children at risk of disadvantage through their education to achieve better outcomes



% of 16 and 17 year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose NEET status is not known 6.7% (5.4%)



Started our journey to becoming a Learning Organisation



Implemented organisation design and senior management structure underpinned by learning

organisation principles and delivered £2.4m savings

Improvement in our workforce profile in Mar 24 compared to Mar 25

- BME from 10.8% to 11.9% [City 12.1%]
- Disability 9.1% to 9.9% [City 11.7%]
- LGBT 15.47% to 15.71% [City 12.2%]



A responsive council with well-run services



New customer face to face delivery model launched including community access points

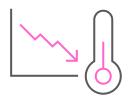


Approved devolution proposals for a new Strategic Authority for Sussex, led by an elected Mayor from May 2026

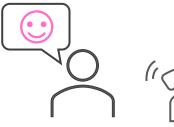
Challenges and areas of focus



Financial sustainability & organisational capacity (Strategic risks)

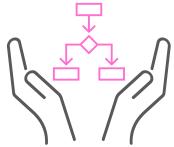


Reduce the average number of working days lost to sickness from 11.24 to 10.9 (target value)



Improve the customer experience within Council Tax (20% satisfaction) and Housing Needs services

(27% satisfaction)



Strengthen our governance arrangements (including Financial systems, Digital, Contract Management & Health & Safety)



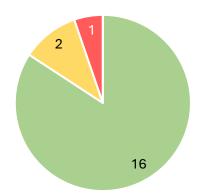
Develop and implement Innovation & Change approach to ensure focus remains on delivery of the Council Plan, MTFS and embedding Learning Organisation.

Year-end progress update

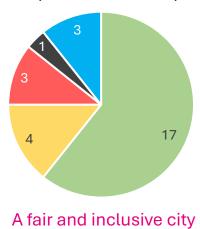


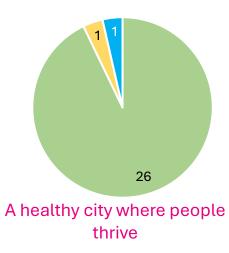


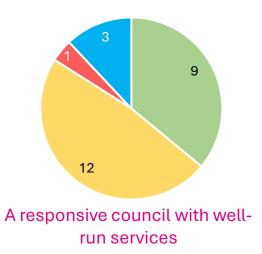
100 actions are monitored through the Corporate Leadership Plan.



A city to be proud of







Action Status	Description
On-track	The action is on-track and being delivered as expected, or with slight variance that has no meaningful impact on overall benefits. For example, it was slightly delayed but there was no impact on our customers.
Monitor	The action is off-track but will be delivered largely as expected with any impact on overall benefits not considered significant. For example, you have plans in place to deliver the required action but there are challenges or issues that may impact, or are impacting, our ability to deliver it as previously expected – this requires us to pro-actively monitor the action
Action required	The action is off-track with the potential to have a significant impact on the delivery of the expected benefits, or outcome. We do not expect to deliver the work as planned and further action is required to bring the work back on track.
Complete	The action has been completed and has had the anticipated impact and delivered the expected benefits, or the action has been completed with slight variance but there is no significant impact on overall benefits. Outcomes have been realised through delivery of the action
Stopped	All work on this action has currently stopped and we will not deliver the expected outcomes.

Council Plan Outcomes: Corporate Leadership Plan action references

Ref	Outcome
1	A city to be proud of
1.1	Investing in our city
1.1.1	Develop Brighton & Hove as a place where people want to live, work, and learn
1.1.2	Grow a diverse and sustainable city economy
1.1.3	Promote and protect what makes Brighton & Hove unique
1.1.4	Develop talent and enable lifelong learning
1.2	An accessible, clean, and sustainable city
1.2.1	Keep our city clean and manage waste
1.2.2	Work towards carbon net zero
1.2.3	Protect and enhance the city's natural environment
1.2.4	Make it easier for people to move around the city
2	A fair and inclusive city
2.1	An inclusive and fairer city
2.1.1	Engagement and collaboration
2.1.2	Fight discrimination and embrace diversity
2.1.3	Work to reduce inequality
2.2	A city where people feel safe and welcome
2.2.1	Tackle crime and antisocial behaviour
2.2.2	Create safe public spaces that are accessible for all
2.3	Homes for everyone
2.3.1	Improve housing quality
2.3.2	Increase housing supply
2.3.3	Improve housing support for residents

Ref	Outcome
3	A healthy city where people thrive
3.1	A better future for children and young people
3.1.1	Keep children and young children safe and ensure no child or family is left behind
3.1.2	Develop our prevention and family support offer
3.1.3	Support the provision of high quality and inclusive education from early years through to adult learning
3.1.4	Work with partners to deliver ambitious employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities
3.2	Living and ageing well
3.2.1	Enable people to live healthy, happy and fulfilling lives
3.2.2	Provide joined up services and ensure everyone has access to the information, advice and services they need
3.2.3	Ensure there is a safe, effective, sustainable and quality health and care provision in the city
4	A responsive council with well-run services
4.1	Meeting the needs of our residents and other customers
4.2	Our ways of working
4.3	Good governance and financial resilience

Council Plan Outcome	Action	Action status
1.1.1	Deliver the Sports Facilities Investment Plan (SFIP) to improve indoor sports facilities in the city.	On-track
1.1.1	Enhance and preserve the city's parks, trees and green spaces to keep them safe and attractive for residents and visitors, and increase biodiversity.	On-track
1.1.1	Attract major events and investment to develop the city, including the seafront, as a key leisure destination for the benefit of visitors and residents.	On-track
1.1.1	Optimise the city's parking resources to meet the needs of the city and support making it a place where people want to live, work and visit.	On-track
1.1.1	Prepare and implement the City Plan to shape development and design of land use and the city's built environment, including infrastructure to meet the city's needs	On-track
1.1.2	Lead the city's major regeneration projects to protect heritage assets and attract investment to our city	On-track
1.1.2	Deliver an Economic Plan for the city to grow the local economy, creating more jobs for city residents and building community wealth.	On-track
1.1.3	Deliver the Shared Prosperity Fund in line with the Investment Plan to support local businesses, communities and place, and people and skills.	On-track
1.1.3	Ensure the city remains a leading national and international visitor destination, promoting the city as a place to host events and conferences that deliver an economic benefit.	On-track
1.1.3	Drive the growth and development of the city's creative, culture and heritage sectors, effectively managing key relationships with stakeholders to protect the uniqueness of Brighton and Hove as a creative destination.	On-track

Corporate Leadership Plan: A city to be proud of

Council Plan Outcome	Action	Action status
1.1.4	Increase use of our libraries and improve facilities and library users' experience	On-track
1.2.1	Deliver the City Environmental Improvement Programme to develop a sustainable, efficient waste management service with a focus on minimising waste and keeping the city clean and attractive.	On-track
1.2.2	Deliver the Fleet Strategy and fleet replacement plan to end the use of all petrol and diesel vehicles across the council by 2030.	Monitor
1.2.2	Develop a new programme to address the climate and biodiversity emergencies and help the city transition to carbon net zero.	Monitor
1.2.2	Protect properties from surface water flooding.	On-track
1.2.3	Implement the objectives of the City Downland Estate Plan (CDEP) to protect and enhance the land for future generations.	On-track
1.2.4	Agree and implement works to protect and restore the city's coastal and seafront infrastructure.	Action required
1.2.4	Deliver a Local Transport Plan (LTP) to ensure residents, visitors and businesses are better connected.	On-track
1.2.4	Implement the Highway Asset Management Plan to manage asset condition, deliver planned maintenance programmes and improve public safety on the highway.	On-track

Corporate Leadership Plan: A fair and inclusive city

Council Plan Outcome	Action	Action status
2.1.1	Enable effective consultation with residents over key council strategies and policies, distilling the information to improve outcomes	Monitor
2.1.1	Enable residents to play a bigger part in the work of the council	On-track
2.1.1	Effectively communicate the progress and achievements of the council's corporate priorities and services	Monitor
2.1.1	Refresh the city's strategic partnership arrangements to collectively address city challenges	Action required
2.1.2	Develop and agree a Gender Equality Strategy.	Stopped
2.1.2	Create a council that is equitable, diverse, inclusive and accessible as an employer and service provider, implementing the Fair and Inclusive action plan including embedding the Anti-racism strategy and Accessible City Strategy.	Monitor
2.1.2	Develop options and agree the implementation of measures to support and protect LGBTQ+ spaces in the city.	Complete
2.1.3	Develop and deliver a new four-year investment prospectus for the community and voluntary sector that delivers the ambitions of the council plan	On-track
2.1.3	Secure our re-accreditation as a city of sanctuary and become best practice council in welcome and integration of refugees	On-track
2.1.3	Enable cross council and city collaboration to address poverty	On-track

Corporate Leadership Plan: A fair and inclusive city

Council Plan Outcome	Action	Action status
2.2.1	Collaborate with city partners in delivering the Community Safety Strategy to address drug related issues in the city and tackle violence against women and girls	On-track
2.2.2	Protect public health and maintain a fair and safe trading environment for residents, businesses, and visitors in the city.	On-track
2.3.1	Deliver Planned and Major Works Capital Programmes to ensure our housing assets are maintained, improved and kept in a good state of repair.	Monitor
2.3.1	Ensure the council complies with Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 and meets the four draft consumer standards to improve safety and quality of homes, resident engagement and satisfaction.	On-track
2.3.1	Improve the condition of private rented sector accommodation to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of tenants.	On-track
2.3.1	Improve the energy performance of council homes to make homes warmer, reduce costs for residents and reduce our carbon footprint.	On-track
2.3.1	Invest in building and fire safety to meet new duties under the Building Safety Act and new Fire Safety (England) Regulations and ensure we are compliant with Health & Safety.	Action required
2.3.1	Maximise rent collection and reduce arrears to secure consistent revenue to reinvest in housing and improve the financial position for residents to sustain their tenancy.	On-track
2.3.2	Build new council homes to meet the number of homes required in the city.	On-track

Corporate Leadership Plan: A fair and inclusive city

Council Plan Outcome	Action	Action status
2.3.2	Commission single homelessness and rough sleeper supported accommodation to provide support for people to transition towards independent living.	Complete
2.3.2	Create new social housing lets by reducing under occupancy to make best use of available housing in the city.	On-track
2.3.2	Implement the new Housing Strategy to deliver accessible, affordable and high-quality homes for everyone in Brighton & Hove.	On-track
2.3.2	Increase housing supply of new and affordable homes to meet the needs of current and future residents.	On-track
2.3.2	Review the Housing Allocations Policy to ensure housing is allocated fairly, transparently and to those most in need.	On-track
2.3.3	Implement the Homelessness Transformation Strategy to improve the customer journey for people facing homelessness and maximising opportunities to prevent homelessness	Complete
2.3.3	Modernise the repairs and maintenance service for council owned housing, maintaining high tenant satisfaction and optimising social value.	Action required
2.3.3	Decrease the number of households in temporary accommodation to reduce council expenditure and provide quicker access to settled accommodation.	On-track
2.3.3	Review the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy to prevent homelessness and support homeless people and rough sleepers to access and settle in accommodation.	On-track

Corporate Leadership Plan: A healthy city where people thrive

Council Plan Outcome	Action	Action status
3.1.1	Deliver a robust and improving social work and social care service that keeps children safe.	On-track
3.1.1	Develop provision to enable more children to receive care and education in the city maintaining connections with their personal networks	On-track
3.1.1	Improve educational outcomes for the city's most disadvantaged to support all children and young people to reach their potential	Monitor
3.1.1	Deliver the city's Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Strategy 2021-2026 to protect and improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities	On-track
3.1.2	Work with partners to meet the needs of children & young people with emotional and mental health needs in order to keep them safe and well	On-track
3.1.2	Work with partners to ensure all young people can access high quality youth services to support their transition into adulthood.	On-track
3.1.2	Deliver high quality Family help services to provide support when it is first needed	On-track
3.1.2	Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Brighton & Hove through the delivery of our Starting Well programmes	On-track
3.1.3	Implement a School Organisation Strategy to address surplus places and budgetary pressures to promote sustainability of the city's schools	On-track
3.1.3	Support early years and childcare providers, including our nurseries and nursery classes to ensure the best start in life through provide high quality early years services	On-track

Corporate Leadership Plan: A healthy city where people thrive

Council Plan Outcome	Action	Action status
3.1.3	Deliver high quality adult learning opportunities to support life long learning and maximise employment opportunities	On-track
3.1.3	Continue investment in our education buildings to ensure learning environments are fit for purpose.	On-track
3.1.4	Collaborate with educational institutions and businesses to put into action the City Employment and Skills Plan that seeks to improve job opportunities and career growth	On-track
3.1.4	Work with partners to increase the take up of apprenticeships and pre-employment activities to maximise opportunities for longer-term employment	On-track
3.1.4	Continue to support care experienced young people into education training and employment to achieve well in their adult lives	On-track
3.2.1	Support people to age well in Brighton & Hove	On-track
3.2.1	Improve the health and wellbeing of adults across the city through the delivery of our Living Well programmes: - Physical Activity & healthy weight - Public Mental Health and Suicide Prevention - Drugs & alcohol - Tobacco control & stop smoking - Sexual health	On-track
3.2.1	Provide assurance and support for health protection ensuring robust prevention and response systems are in place.	On-track
3.2.1	Support the Council to deliver the Health and Wellbeing Strategy to address the broader determinants of health.	On-track

Corporate Leadership Plan: A healthy city where people thrive

Council Plan Outcome	Action	Action status
3.2.1	Develop the public health intelligence and epidemiological resource and the council to be more research active.	Complete
3.2.2	Develop and deliver Brighton and Hove's 'Improving Lives Together' Place Based Plan Integrated Community Team - Multiple Compound Needs (MCN) Transformation Programme	On-track
3.2.2	Ensure that the voice of people with lived experience is heard and that it informs service improvement and commissioning activity.	On-track
3.2.2	Ensure that transition services are in place to support young people moving into adult services and that they are integrated	On-track
3.2.2	Improve the information, advice & guidance offer to enable people to access the support they need	On-track
3.2.3	Oversee the Adult Learning Disabilities and Autism partnership strategies	On-track
3.2.3	Commission services to ensure that people and their carers have the support they need including the adoption of technology enabled care.	On-track
3.2.3	Improve and maintain performance and quality in social care, preparing for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) assurance	On-track
3.2.3	Support the delivery of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Strategic Plan	On-track

Corporate Leadership Plan: A responsive council with well-run services

Council Plan Outcome	Action	Action status
4.1	Improve organisational resilience through robust emergency planning and business continuity planning arrangements.	Monitor
4.1	Develop and implement the Corporate Modernisation portfolio of projects and programmes to enable delivery of savings and the Council Plan	Monitor
4.1	Lead the Customer Experience modernisation programme to improve customer satisfaction and accessibility of services	Monitor
4.1	Coordinate devolution proposals for the council to get the best outcomes for the city and the region	Monitor
4.2	Modernise and maintain the council's operational buildings so they remain fit for purpose, safe and secure	Monitor
4.2	Deliver a culture change programme to align culture with the council's missions and priorities	Monitor
4.2	Align the priorities and actions of the Digital, Data and Technology portfolio to support the delivery of the council plan priorities and support in the modernisation of service delivery	Action required
4.2	Deliver year 2 priorities for Our People Strategy 2023 – 2027 (included H&S) to ensure the council has the workforce needed to deliver council plan priorities and statutory and essential functions.	Monitor

Corporate Leadership Plan: A responsive council with well-run services

Council Plan Outcome	Action	Action status
4.2	Develop a programme of work to improve core finance and HR systems.	Monitor
4.2	Improve the customer experience and operational efficiency within Council Tax, Housing Benefits and Pension and Payroll Service.	Monitor
4.2	Review the effectiveness of the Orbis Partnership including the Medium Term financial commitment and savings	On-track
4.2	Streamline the approach to employee relations case work across the council and further strengthen industrial relations with recognised trade unions.	On-track
4.2	Develop and deliver priorities within the Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy, including the external workforce.	Monitor
4.3	Deliver value for money for the council by providing in-house architectural and building surveying services to design and maintain sustainable development in the city.	On-track
4.3	Optimise the use of council assets through generating capital receipts, increasing income, and delivering efficiencies.	On-track
4.3	Ensure effective Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services support to deliver robust governance arrangements and embed changes to streamline support to the new cabinet model of governance.	On-track

Corporate Leadership Plan: A responsive council with well-run services

Council Plan Outcome	Action	Action status
4.3	Refresh the corporate performance management approach to provide oversight of the delivery of the Council Plan	On-track
4.3	Maintain the Contract Management Framework, including changes required by new procurement regulations, compliance with standing orders and implement improved oversight over contract management across the council.	Monitor
4.3	Provide an effective scrutiny service and develop a sustainable model for scrutiny function within financial constraints	On-track
4.3	Develop a 4-year balanced medium term financial plan and a fully funded capital programme	Complete
4.3	Implement actions emerging from audit findings to improve key financial systems (including pension/payroll, housing rent, housing benefits, council tax) with a view to address partial assurance	Monitor
4.3	Refresh the Code of Corporate Governance to ensure clarity on governance arrangements	Complete
4.3	Review the councils information governance vulnerabilities and cyber risks, and develop an action plan to reset and strengthen policy and processes to better manage the risks	Complete
4.3	Implement improvements to operational financial processes for Adult Social Care clients to improve efficiency and mitigate potential loss of income.	On-track
4.3	Maximise income generation through modernised service delivery across registration and bereavement services	On-track

94

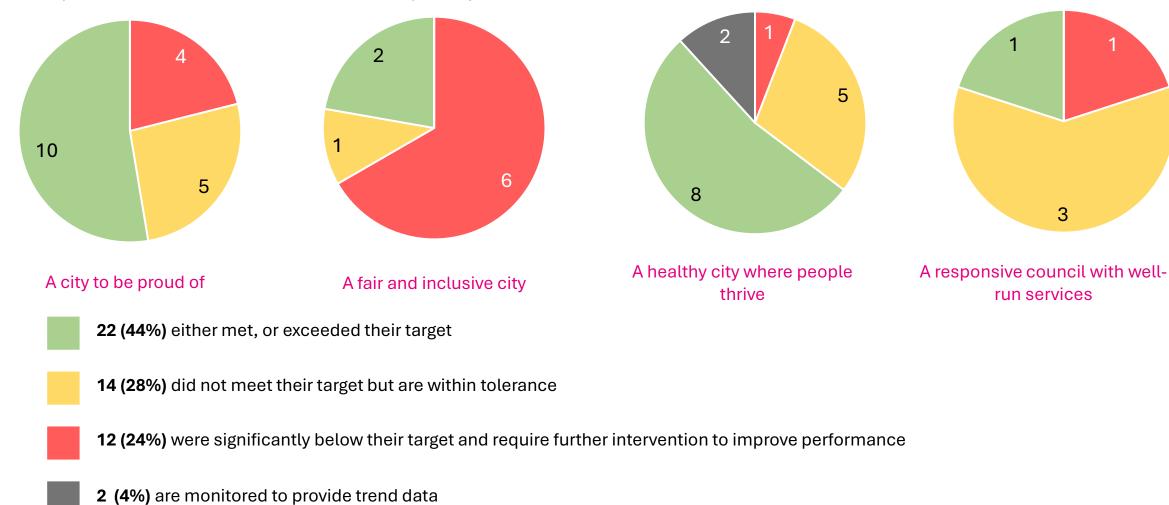
Year-end results



3

run services

51 performance indicators were monitored corporately in 2024/25*



^{*}Only 50 KPIs have results at year-end for 2024/25; the result for % of schools judged good or outstanding by Ofsted is not reportable due to the move away from single word judgements

Corporate Key Performance Indicators: A city to be proud of

Measure	Reporting Frequency	Green target	Amber target	Previous result	March 2025	Status	DoT
% change in the number of Jobs	Annual	2.20%	1.60%	4.30%	-1.70%	Action required	\downarrow
% major planning application decisions that are overturned at appeal	Quarterly	0.80%	5.00%	4.55%	1.43%	Monitor	1
% non-major planning application decisions that are overturned at appeal	Quarterly	0.90%	5.00%	0.55%	0.76%	On-track	→
% of major development applications decided within agreed timeframes	Quarterly	88.60%	80.00%	93.94%	95.71%	On-track	1
% of non-major development applications decided within agreed timeframes	Quarterly	85.10%	80.00%	93.72%	93.59%	On-track	→
Number of visitors to Brighton and Hove	Annual	11,470,000	10,896,500	11,470,000	11,800,000	On-track	\uparrow
% of bus services running on time	Annual	95.00%	75.00%	72.48%	79.39%	Monitor	1
% of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	Quarterly	33.20%	29.50%	27.50%	26.80%	Action required	→
% of non-principal roads requiring structural maintenance	Annual	14.96%	20.50%	14.96%	11.90%	On-track	\downarrow
% of principal roads requiring structural maintenance	Annual	18.32%	20.50%	18.32%	13.73%	On-track	1
% of streets inspected which are found to have widespread or heavy levels of litter	Quarterly	4.85%	5.80%	5.15%	5.37%	Monitor	<u> </u>

Measure	Reporting Frequency	Green target	Amber target	Previous result	March 2025	Status	DoT
% of unclassified roads requiring structural maintenance	Annual	7.89%	9.67%	7.89%	7.89%	On-track	\leftrightarrow
Greenhouse gas emissions	Annual	666,200	732,600	811,600	795,429	Action required	1
Missed kerbside refuse or recycling collections per 100,000 collections reported	Quarterly	512	615	615	591	Monitor	1
Nitrogen Dioxide levels in Brighton and Hove (µg/m3 – micrograms per cubic metre) Lewes Road	Quarterly	37	40	34	35	On-track	→
Nitrogen Dioxide levels in Brighton and Hove (µg/m3 – micrograms per cubic metre) North Street	Quarterly	34	35	31	31	On-track	→
Nitrogen Dioxide levels in Brighton and Hove (µg/m3 – micrograms per cubic metre) Wellington Road, Portslade	Quarterly	32	34	25	25	On-track	1
Residual household waste per household (Kg)	Quarterly	531	541	564	599	Action required	V
The energy efficiency rating of local authority owned homes (based on Standard Assessment Procedure 2009)	Annual	77	73	74	74	Monitor	\leftrightarrow

Corporate Key Performance Indicators: A fair and inclusive city

Measure	Reporting Frequency	Green target	Amber target	Previous result	Mar-25	Status	DoT
% of council owned homes that meet the government's Decent Homes standard	Quarterly	100.00%	96.30%	97.90%	98.00%	Monitor	1
% of homelessness cases presenting during the prevention duty stage	Quarterly	50.00%	40.00%	31.71%	32.45%	Action required	↑
% of homelessness prevention cases closed with a successful prevention outcome	Quarterly	55.00%	45.00%	67.44%	65.60%	On-track	V
% of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) where all special conditions have been met	Quarterly	55.00%	50.00%	48.14%	48.88%	Action required	↑
% of new homes delivered against the number of homes required (rolling 3-year result)	Annual	95.00%	90.00%	130.00%	84%	Action required	4
% of rent collected from current tenants of council owned homes	Quarterly	95.36%	94.49%	93.07%	93.12%	Action required	1
% of routine council housing repairs completed on time	Quarterly	70.00%	58.00%	46.20%	47.18%	Action required	1
No. of additional affordable homes delivered by the council (new build, acquisitions & conversions)	Quarterly	78	59	90	95	On-track	1
Total number of households in temporary accommodation	Quarterly	1,770	1,870	1,928	1,970	Action required	Ψ

Corporate Key Performance Indicators: A healthy city where people thrive

Measure	Reporting Frequency	Green target	Amber target	Previous result	Mar-25	Status	DoT
% of all pupils attending state funded schools achieving the 'expected standard' in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2	Annual	60.00%	57.00%	60.00%	60.00%	On-track	\leftrightarrow
% of children and families engaged with Family Hub services where a positive change is recorded	Quarterly	91.00%	81.00%	88.50%	88.20%	Monitor	V
% of Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks including exceptions	Quarterly	57.10%	45.80%	75.30%	70.60%	On-track	V
% of eligible two year olds taking up early education places	Annual	86.60%	73.90%	87.00%	100.00%	On-track	1
% of schools are judged good or outstanding by Ofsted	Annual	90.90%	88.60%	89.40%		t reportable due to th n single word judgem	
% of Strengthening Family Assessments completed in 45 days	Quarterly	84.50%	77.50%	89.60%	90.60%	On-track	↑
% of 16 and 17 year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose NEET status is not known	Annual	5.40%	6.20%	5.00%	6.70%	Action required	4
Number of children in care	Quarterly	TREND	TREND	337	334	TREND	1

Corporate Key Performance Indicators: A healthy city where people thrive

Measure	Reporting Frequency	Green target	Amber target	Previous result	Mar-25	Status	DoT
The average Attainment 8 score for disadvantaged children in state-funded schools at the end of Key Stage 4	Annual	35.10	32.40	32.5	34.0	Monitor	↑
% of people aged 18+ who smoke	Annual	11.70%	17.20%	12.80%	14.00%	Monitor	4
% of people with a learning disability in paid employment	Annual	6.60%	4.60%	8.85%	7.51%	On-track	\
% of social care clients receiving direct payments	Quarterly	24.10%	21.40%	22.86%	21.91%	Monitor	V
Adults in receipt of community support as a proportion of all adults in receipt of a long-term service	Quarterly	70.00%	65.00%	70.57%	70.74%	On-track	↑
Number of adults in structured treatment for drugs and alcohol harms	Annual	2832	2549	2728	2811	Monitor	↑
Number of attendances at council owned indoor sports facilities	Quarterly	1,569,970	1,412,973	1,728,577	1,797,425	On-track	↑
Number of verified rough sleepers	Quarterly	TREND	TREND	28	26	TREND	↑
The proportion of physically active adults	Annual	74.30%	70.90%	80.40%	79.2%	On-track	+

Corporate Key Performance Indicators: A responsive council with well-run services

Measure	Reporting Frequency	Green target	Amber target	Previous result	Mar-25	Status	DoT
Average number of working days / shifts lost per Full Time Equivalent (FTE) due to sickness absence (not including schools)	Quarterly	10.9	11.56	11.69	11.24	Monitor	↑
Staff who declare that they have a disability as a % of the total workforce who declare whether they have a disability (not including schools)	Biannual	11.70%	9.36%	9.8%	9.9%	Monitor	↑
Staff who declare themselves as BME (excludes White Irish and White Other) as a % of the total workforce who declare their ethnicity (not including schools)	Biannual	12.10%	9.68%	11.6%	11.9%	Monitor	↑
Staff who declare themselves as White Other as a % of the total workforce who declare their ethnicity (not including schools)	Biannual	13.10%	10.48%	9.00%	9.1%	Action required	↑
% of high priority audit actions recommended by Internal Audit that have reached their due date for completion and have been implemented by services.	Quarterly	95%	90%	84%	97%	On-track	↑

Strategic risk register Summary report

Year-end report



Risk Ref	Risk title					
SR02	Failure to develop and deliver a Medium-term financ resili	16 L4 x I4				
	Summary description Mitigation actions					
Central government funding reductions and changes to local government funding have increased financial risks, particularly with Business Rate appeals. Rising costs in social care,		Develop a 4-year balanced medium term financial plan and a fully funded capit programme	al Complete			
	s, inflation, and cost of living are major concerns. Uncertainties continue in ue to unpredictable funding, taxation, and inflation, Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.	Decrease the number of households in temporary accommodation to reduce council expenditure and provide quicker access to settled accommodation.	On-track			

Risk Ref	Risk	Target score	
SR10	SR10 Failure to adequately protect information assets from a successful cyber-attack impacting our ability to deliver a responsive council with well-run services		
	Summary description	Mitigation actions	Action status
BHCC faces sig	nificant cyber risks due to its extensive digital assets, including business	Review the council's information governance vulnerabilities and cyber risks develop an action plan to reset and strengthen policy and processes to be manage the risks	
systems and emain hackers, and for volume of information Gove	ils. Threats come from various actors, such as employees, cyber criminals, oreign states, as well as accidental data loss or publication. The growing mation and sophisticated cyber threats require advanced cybersecurity, ernance, and Information Management strategies. Post-pandemic working	Prevention - Technical Controls: Improve the Council's Information Risk Management process maturity. This will include elevating the visibility of the register, implementing technical solutions to improve information asse management and publicizing clear processes and guidance.	e risk Monitor
methods incr	ease these vulnerabilities and make recovery efforts more challenging.	Prevention - Technical Controls: Review and improve user access contro (network and application access rights for starters, leaver and movers) via Access Management project	

Risk Ref	Risk title					
SR13	Failure to ensur	e effective safeguarding arrangements to keep adults safe	12 L3 x I4			
	Summary description	Mitigation actions	Action status			
		Collaborate with city partners in delivering the Community Safety Strategy to address drug related issues the city and tackle violence against women and girls	in On-track			
		Implement the Homelessness Transformation Strategy to improve the customer journey for people facin homelessness and maximising opportunities to prevent homelessness	g Complete			
	Review the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy to prevent homelessness and support homeless people and rough sleepers to access and settle in accommodation.		S On-track			
& Hove City C safeguarding wor	Council has a statutory duty to co-ordinate rk across the city and the Safeguarding Adults	Improve the health and wellbeing of adults across the city through the delivery of our Living Well programm	nes On-track			
Board. This work li	inks partnerships across the Police and Health and Social Care providers.	Commission services to ensure that people and their carers have the support they need including the adoption of technology enabled care.	On-track			
	e Act, since 2015, the Local Authority has a nquire, or cause others to enquire, if it believes	Support the delivery of the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Strategic Plan	On-track			
a person with care	e and support needs is experiencing or is at risk d abuse and cannot protect themselves.	Improve and maintain performance and quality in social care, preparing for the Care Quality Commissio (CQC) assurance	n On-track			
		Ensure that mandatory PREVENT training is embedded in all training induction and development plans wit the organisation to support effective identifiers and that the referral pathway is known	hin On-track			
		Provide assurance that there is a comprehensive clear Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and recheck process in place which reduces risk to the organisation and to the community	Monitor			

Risk Ref	Risk title			
SR15		to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements to keep children and young people safe from harm and neglect		
	Summary description	Mitigation actions	Action status	

Summary description	Mitigation actions	Action status
	Deliver a robust and improving social work and social care service that keeps children safe.	On-track
The Council has a legal responsibility to protect vulnerable children from harm and neglect, following national guidance. The Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership was established in 2019 to ensure an effective multi-agency safeguarding response.	Support early years and childcare providers, including our nurseries and nursery classes to ensure the best start in life through provide high quality early years services	On-track
The complexity of circumstances for many children presents a constant state of risk which demands informed and reflective professional judgement, and often urgent and decisive action, by all agencies using agreed thresholds and procedures. Such complexity inevitably presents a high degree of risk. Children subject to harm, exploitation and/or neglect are	Ensure that mandatory PREVENT training is embedded in all training induction and development plans within the organisation to support effective identifiers and that the referral pathway is known	On-track
unlikely to achieve and maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired. In some circumstances, harm and neglect may lead to a child's death.	Provide assurance that there is a comprehensive clear Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and recheck process in place which reduces risk to the organisation and to the community	Monitor
	Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Brighton & Hove through the delivery of our Starting Well programmes	On-track

Risk Ref	Risk title		Target score
SR18	Failure to invest in and maximise use of digital technology to enable a responsive council with well-run		12
	services		L3 x I4
	Summary description Mitigation actions		
The organisation faces significant risks due to its reliance on technology for service delivery. Without continuous financial investment to keep up with technological advancements, there is a danger of service disruption resulting from technology failures. Key investment areas include foundational technology, end-user technology, business applications, digital transformation,		Align the priorities and actions of the Digital, Data and Technology portfolion to support the delivery of the council plan priorities and support in the modernisation of service delivery	Action required
and enhancing the tech competencies of leadership and staff. These investments are crucial to maintaining a secure infrastructure, providing appropriate devices and systems, ensuring service effectiveness, enabling modernization, and recognizing opportunities offered by technology.		Investment in 'end user' technology - Foundational IT Programme: Strategic Telephony Review	On-track

Risk Ref	Risk title		Target score
SR21 Failure to optimise council housing stock, make best use affordable ho		12	
	affordable homes		L3 x I4
	Summary description Mitigation actions		
_	a growing city with high house prices, low incomes, an ageing population and a	Build new council homes to meet the number of homes required in the c	ity. On-track
significant proportion of households with a support need. Scope for development within the city is affected by significant geographical constraints and competing land pressures. The increasing demand for housing continues to outstrip new supply and as a consequence accommodation is becoming less affordable. Housing shortages are particularly acute for low income households affecting our ability to retain essential workers in the city. Demand for affordable rented homes is growing with a significant number of households in temporary accommodation. The private rented sector continues to expand at the expense of rates of owner occupation which are in long term decline.		Create new social housing lets by reducing under occupancy to make be use of available housing in the city.	est On-track
		Implement the new Housing Strategy to deliver accessible, affordable a high-quality homes for everyone in Brighton & Hove.	nd On-track
		Increase housing supply of new and affordable homes to meet the needs current and future residents.	of On-track

Risk Ref	Risk title		Target score
SR24	Failure to provide an equitable approach to ensure equality of access, outcomes and experiences for all		9 L3 x I3
	Summary description	Mitigation actions	Action status
The cost of living crisis has led to increased demand and staffing pressures in council services, social services, and the voluntary sector. The Council's response has been supported by the Household Support Fund (HSF) with £4.3 million for 2023-24, but future funding is uncertain. Key support mechanisms, previously core-funded by the council, now rely on HSF. If funding is not renewed, these services will either cease or require alternative funding. The new Cost of Living strategy aims to support vulnerable households through winter 2023/24 and beyond. The Department for Work and Pensions will migrate legacy benefit cases to Universal Credit by the end of 2024/25, adding further pressure to council and voluntary services.		Continually review food insecurity and health implications via the Food Insecurity Group.	On-track
		Enable cross council and city collaboration to address poverty	On-track
		l Improve the customer experience and enerational efficiency within Council	Monitor

Risk Ref	Risk title		Target score
SR25	Failure to use the council's resources and capabilities to deliver the Council Plan and adapt to the evolving needs of the city		20 L4 x 15
	Summary description	Mitigation actions	Action status
A combination	of factors such as lack of governance, strategic direction, and budget	Create a council that is equitable, diverse, inclusive and accessible as an employer and service provider, implementing the Fair and Inclusive action plan including embedding the Anti-racism strategy and Accessible City Strategy.	Monitor
pressures, coupled with increasing service demand, the need for new technological skills, challenging industrial relations, and difficulties in retaining and recruiting skilled staff, all contribute to the risk of failing to deliver essential changes and services. This could negatively impact statutory duties, increase staff stress and sickness, and reduce the overall resilience and agility of the organization.		Deliver year 2 priorities for Our People Strategy 2023 – 2027 (included H&S) to ensure the council has the workforce needed to deliver council plan priorities and statutory and essential functions.	Monitor
		Deliver a culture change programme to align culture with the council's missions and priorities	Monitor
		Deliver the phase 2 organisational redesign (action lead Jess Gibbons)	Monitor

Risk Ref	Risk title		Target score
SR29	Failure to manage contracts to ensure value for money and achieve the best outcomes for the city		16 L4 x I4
	Summary description	Mitigation actions	Action status
oversight may l	ocurement activity, contract management and contract performance ead to sub-optimal service outcomes, financial irregularity and losses, bliance with the Procurement Act 2023 and reputational damage.	Maintain the Contract Management Framework, including charequired by new procurement regulations, compliance with state orders and implement improved oversight over contract manages across the council.	anding Monitor

Risk Ref	Risk title		
SR38	Failure to take effective action to increase our city's resilience to climate change, improve biodiversity and transition to net zero		
Summary description		Mitigation actions	Action status
		Enhance and preserve the city's parks, trees and green spaces to keep them safe and attractive for residents and visitors and increase biodiversity.	On-track
		Protect properties from surface water flooding.	On-track
		Implement the objectives of the City Downland Estate Plan (CDEP) to protect and enhance the land for future generations.	
The climate is ch	anging due to man-made greenhouse gas	Agree and implement works to protect and restore the city's coastal and seafront infrastructure.	
emissions. Clima	oacts to Brighton & Hove's infrastructure,	Reduce harmful emissions from transport in the city through the Air Quality Action Plan.	
of life over the n	conomy, natural environment and quality next decades. The timing and intensity of	Deliver the City Environmental Improvement Programme to develop a sustainable, efficient waste management service with a focus on minimising waste and keeping the city clean and attractive.	
tnese risi	ks is unpredictable but inevitable.	Deliver the Fleet Strategy and fleet replacement plan to end the use of all petrol and diesel vehicles across the council by 2030.	
		Develop a new programme to address the climate and biodiversity emergencies and help the city transition to carbon net zero.	
		Deliver a Local Transport Plan (LTP) to ensure residents, visitors and businesses are better connected.	
		Deliver the Bus Service Improvement Plan to grow bus usage in the city.	

Risk Ref		Risk title	Target score
SR39	SR39 Failure to maintain and demonstrate the building and fire safety of council homes		20 L4 x 15
5	Summary description	Mitigation actions	Action status
As a landlord, it's important that the housing we		Invest in building and fire safety to meet new duties under the Building Safety Act and new Fire Safety (England) Regulations and ensure we are compliant with Health & Safety.	Action required
		Ensure the council complies with Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 and meets the four draft consumer standards to improve safety and quality of homes, resident engagement and satisfaction.	
provide to ou hazards, inclu	r residents is safe and free from any uding: building safety, fire safety, gas	Deliver Planned and Major Works Capital Programmes to ensure our housing assets are maintained, improved and kept in a good state of repair.	Monitor
safety, electrical safety, water safety, lift safety and asbestos. Failure to maintain our council homes to the required standards or provide evidence of our		Embed the new Health & Safety oversight arrangements to monitor compliance and drive improvements of health, safety and wellbeing performance and practice across the council	New action
•	ith regulations could have significant health and wellbeing of our residents.	Housing Asset Management Strategy approved by 31st December 2025	New action
		Strengthen the oversight and scrutiny of projects within Housing Major and Planned Works by 30th A 2025	
		Review the approach to collection, recording, review and use of stock condition information to ensure full compliance with Regulator of Social Housing Consumer Standard requirements by 30th April 2025	Monitor

Risk Ref	Risk title			rget score
SR40	Failure to maintain a clean and safe city		12 L4 x I3	
Summary description		Mitigation actions		Action status
		Deliver the City Environmental Improvement Programme to develop a sustainable, efficient waste management service with a focus on minimising waste and keeping the city clean and attractive.		On-track
-	aintain the city streets - cleanliness,	Lead the city's major regeneration projects to protect heritage assets and attract investment to our city		On-track
and feel of the	ads, weeds, etc. will impact the look city and people's experience. This will the reputation of the city, and council,	This will Deliver a Local Transport Plan (LTP) to ensure residents, visitors and businesses are better connected.		On-track
potentially impacting the level of investment, tourism, funding etc. Something about roads, pavements etc.		sm,		On-track
		Review the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy to prevent homelessness and support homeless people and rough sleepers to access and settle in accommodation.		On-track

Risk Ref	Risk title		
SR41 Failure to maintain and den		nonstrate the health & safety compliance and fire safety of the council's commercial property	12 L3 x I4
	Summary description	Mitigation actions	Action status
As a landlord, it's important that the commercial property we provide is safe and free from any hazards, including: building safety, fire safety, gas safety, electrical safety, water safety, lift safety and asbestos. Failure to maintain our property to the required standards or provide evidence of our compliance with regulations could have significant impacts on the health and wellbeing of tenants and users using our properties.		Develop and establish KPI reporting process within contracts to ensure value for money and assurance over compliance	New action
		Develop and deliver a communication campaign on health & safety requirements and responsibilities for current tenants	
		safety, lift safety and asbestos. Failure to maintain perty to the required standards or provide evidence safety including details on how to provide compliance data	
		acts on the health and wellbeing of tenants and users	
		Embed the new Health & Safety oversight arrangements to monitor compliance and drive improvement of health, safety and wellbeing performance and practice across the council	s New action

Risk Ref	Risk title		
SR42	Failure to deliver on or maximise opportunities of Devolution in the best interests of Brighton & Hove		
Summary description		Mitigation actions	Action status
In December 2024, the government announced plans to replace District and County Councils with larger unitary Councils of at least 500,000 people. The English Devolution White Paper outlines devolved responsibilities, including transport, skills, housing, economic development, environment, health, public service reform, and public safety. Brighton & Hove, East and West Sussex are part of the priority programme for establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority by May 2026, with Brighton & Hove hosting the mayoral election.		Work with neighbouring authorities to establish the Sussex & Brighton Mayoral County Combined Authority and prepare for mayoral elections	Monitor

Risk Ref	Risk title		
SR43	SR43 Failure to maximise the opportunities of Local Government Reorganisation in the best interests of Brighton & Hove		8
			L4 x I2
Summary description		Mitigation actions	Action status
While Brighton & Hove, as a unitary authority, is not required to undergo reorganisation, East and West Sussex are subject to this process, potentially impacting Brighton & Hove. Consequently, Brighton & Hove has been invited to submit a proposal. The government emphasises that local government reorganisation should not delay devolution and that both processes should complement each other.		Develop and consult on proposals for Local Government Reorganisation	to Monitor

Risk Ref	Risk title Failure to maintain and demonstrate the health & safety compliance and fire safety of the council's			
SR44	, altare to maintain and dom	operational property	12 L3 x 14	
	Summary description	Mitigation actions	Action status	
As an employer and a landlord, it's critically important that the premises we own and provide to our staff, service users and members of the public, is secure, compliant, safe and free from any hazards, including all regulatory compliance disciplines e.g. building safety, fire safety, gas safety, electrical safety, water safety, lift safety, asbestos, etc. Failure to maintain our council premises to the required standards or provide evidence of our compliance with regulations, could have significant impacts on the council's reputation, financial sustainability, political positioning and health, safety, welfare and wellbeing of our staff, premises users and members of the public.		Embed the new Health & Safety oversight arrangements to monitor compliance and drive improvements of health, safety and wellbeing performance and practice across the counc	NEW action	
		Invest in building and fire safety to meet new duties under the Building Safety Act and new Fire Safety (England) Regulations to ensure Health & Safety compliance through increasing personnel in associated teams and maintenance budgets to ensure they are adequate and sufficient.		
		conce of our compliance with regulations, e significant impacts on the council's confined by system and associated personnel resource to bring operational efficiencies and data oversight for compliance and maintenance related tasks.		
		Working with strategic property and finance colleagues ensuring a 'one council' approach decision making and effective use of property portfolio	in New action	

Customer Insight

Year-end report 2024/25





Our Customer Experience Vision: Getting things right first time, every time

Our Customer Promise: We will make it clear how you can contact or access our services | We will understand and get things done | We will be clear and treat you with respect

As a learning organisation, the aim of this Customer Insight report is to ensure we better understand the needs of all our customers, to learn and grow consistently from the feedback we receive in order to improve the customer experience and create a better Brighton & Hove for all. This report includes how our approach to delivering customer services is aligned to the five pillars.





Be connected

Empower staff to collaborate across all areas of the organisation to deliver services in a One Council way



Be innovative and creative

Use innovative and creative approaches to meet diverse customer needs, drive continuous improvement and learn from feedback



Be confident

Encourage and empower staff to communicate effectively and problem solve for our customers



Be diverse and inclusive

Promote inclusive service delivery that reflects the needs of our customers, providing welcoming and accessible services



Be healthy and psychologically safe

Encourage supportive and respectful behaviours between the council and those we serve

We collect information from a variety of sources on the customer experience of using council services in 2024/25.

By customer we mean any user of council services, whether voluntary or involuntary. This includes residents and visitors to the city, businesses, students, service users and their representatives.

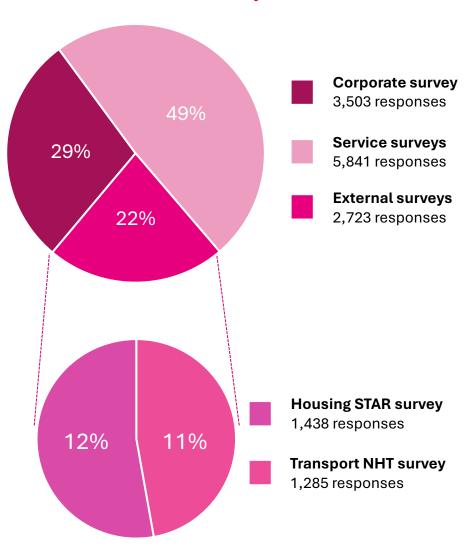
Our aim is to ensure we better understand the needs of all our customers, and to learn and grow consistently from the feedback we receive, to improve the customer experience.

Results presented here have been taken from responses to the corporate Customer Satisfaction survey between April 2024-March 2025 (including surveys completed in paper form at the council's Customer Service Centres and Libraries) and combined with surveys carried out by individual services.

Customers had the option to include feedback on up to 3 services per submission in the corporate customer satisfaction survey, data in this report is based on feedback per service.

Due to the varying methodologies used in collecting and compiling data, results can only be considered indicative of customer experience.

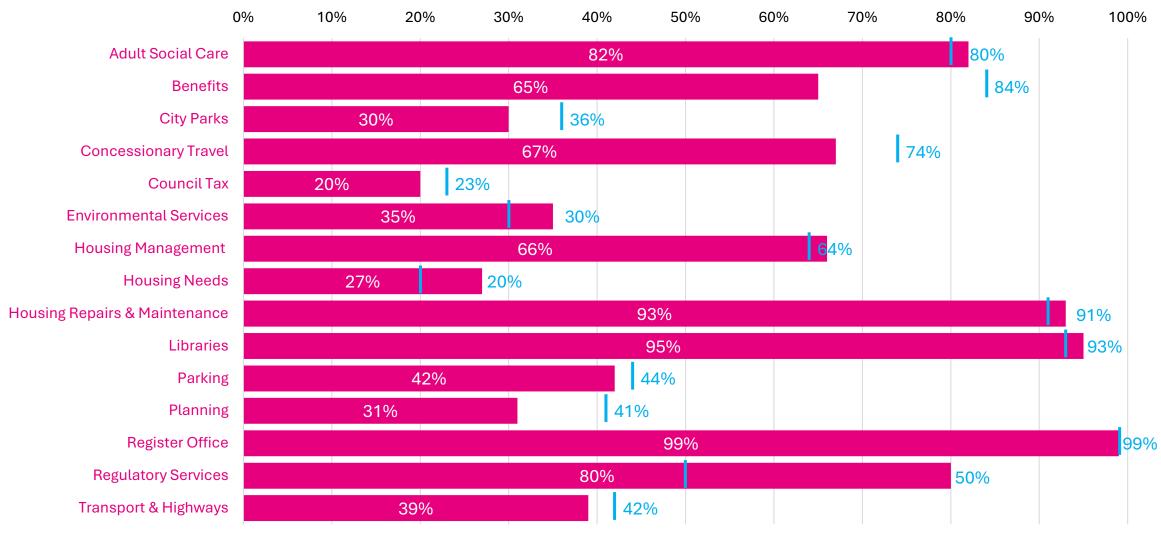
Source of survey results



2024/25 results

2023/24 results

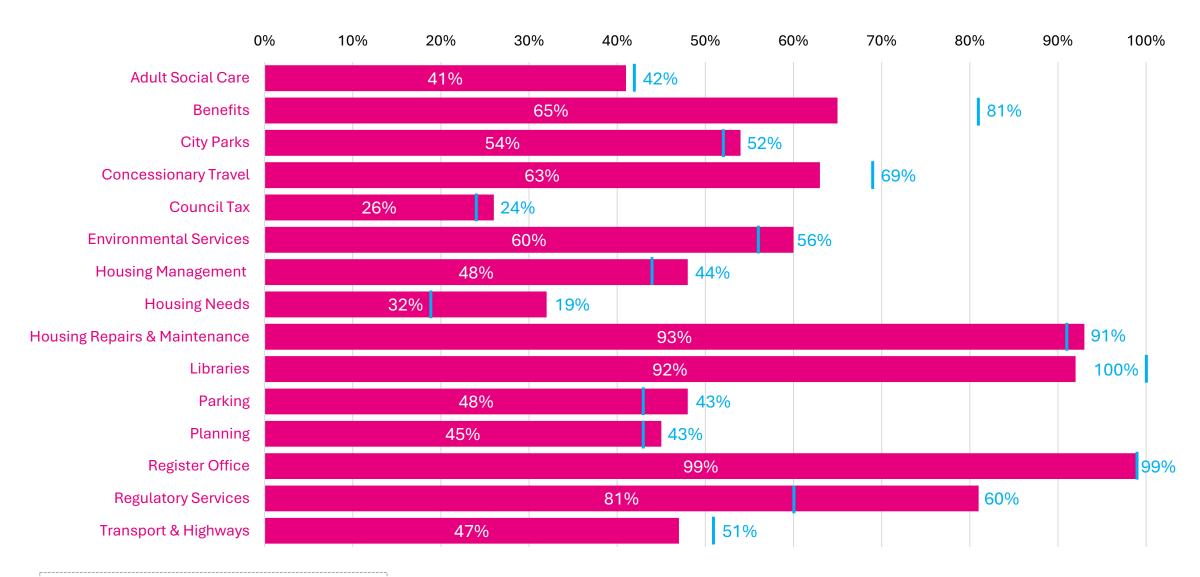
The below chart details the percentage of respondents who said they found the standard of customer service received from the service was 'very good' or 'fairly good'.



2024/25 results

2023/24 results

The below chart details the percentage of respondents who said they found the service selected 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' to contact or use.



Customer Satisfaction and Ease of access: Equalities data overview

This equalities data is taken from responses to the satisfaction survey provided through the corporate consultation portal and do not include results from independent surveys carried out within services. 61% of respondents elected to provide equalities data.



Overall, we've seen an increase in Stage 1 complaints and an increase in complaint escalation to Stage 2.

Stage 1

2,202 stage 1 complaints were received in 2024/25, **147** complaints **more** than were received in 2023/24.

70/0 increase

45% upheld

991 stage 1 complaints were upheld, **5.9% fewer** than in 2023/24

1,784 stage 1 complaints were responded to within target, **7**% **fewer** than in 2023/24

72%

responded to within target

Stage 2

371 complaints were escalated to Stage 2 in 2024/25, **81 more** than in 2023/24. Of those, 260 were investigated.



2.7% increase

11.8% of stage 1 complaints were escalated to Stage 2, an increase from 9.1% in 2023/24

252 stage 2 complaints were responded to within target (20 working days). **8% more** than in 2023/24

68% responded to within target

45% upheld

117 stage 2 complaints were upheld. **1% fewer** than in 2023/24

141
complaints
about BHCC

Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman

The Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) received 141 complaints in **2024/25**, this represents **38**% of stage 2 complaints for the same period being escalated to the Ombudsman. 82% of complaints were not investigated by the Ombudsman after their initial assessment.

15 of the 25 complaints investigated were upheld. This equates to **0.7**% of the number of stage 1 complaints received.

60%
upheld
20% better than the average for similar authorities

83% of complaints investigated had some or all aspects

upheld

Housing Ombudsman

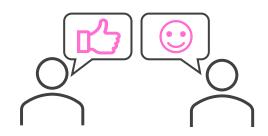
For 23/24, BHCC's **maladministration rate was 83**% compared to 73% on average in other local authorities and landlords with a similar number of properties. The Housing Ombudsman service categorise this as having "performed similarly when compared to other landlords by size and type." Of the 10 cases investigated by the Ombudsman, 8 had some/all aspects upheld.









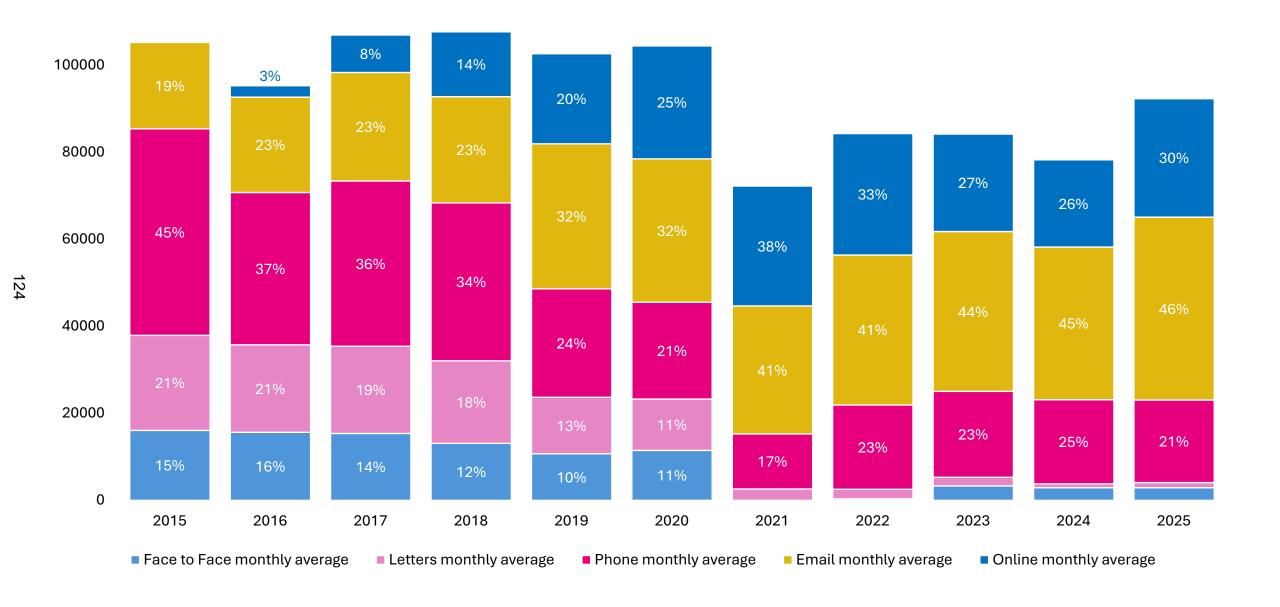




The council received just over 1,100,000 contacts, an increase of 14% when compared with 2023/24. (This refers to contact received into our highest-volume services across the council and only includes contact received into generic service inboxes and telephone lines, rather than contact made with individual officers or smaller teams within those services).

46% of contact with the council was through email. Online forms account for 30% of all contact with the council. With the exception of Council Tax & Housing Needs all key services responded to emails or contact forms on average within the 10-working day promise.

21% of contact was made by phone. Taking into account all high-volume services, the average call waiting time for the council was 7 minutes 53 seconds. Council Tax and Housing Needs had average waiting times longer than 10 minutes.



Brighton and Hove City Council works with Digital Brighton and Hove, an organisation that helps residents to build digital skills and confidence. They work collaboratively across Brighton & Hove and have built a cross-sector partnership which brings together over 300 organisations working to create a more digitally confident city. They train

436 volunteers and staff in their network organisations to become digital champions. Supported with 335 digital skills ************ New learners supported Devices gifted Hours of support 514 **Total sessions** delivered 986 Total Group sessions 1-2-1 sessions attendances 107 Home sessions

3,605 Requests for a service response

810/0
Responded to within 5 working days

A total of 3,605 requests for response were made to council services between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025 through the councillor enquiries case management system. Overall, 81% (2,913) of requests were responded to within 5 working days. The below table shows the top 10 services receiving the highest number of requests. These figures do not reflect enquiries processed outside the system.

Reason for contact	Requests received	Requests responded to within 5 working days	On time %
Rubbish or recycling collection	296	256	86%
Trees	146	108	74%
Potholes	133	112	84%
Fly tipping	117	106	91%
Pavements (broken, uneven or unsafe)	100	77	77%
Weeds/leaves on the pavement	100	76	76%
School Admission	97	87	90%
Repairs - day to day, including emergencies	94	94	100%
Requests for traffic calming (reduced speed limits, speed bumps, planters etc)	92	72	78%
Parking Enforcement	86	78	91%
	Rubbish or recycling collection Trees Potholes Fly tipping Pavements (broken, uneven or unsafe) Weeds/leaves on the pavement School Admission Repairs - day to day, including emergencies Requests for traffic calming (reduced speed limits, speed bumps, planters etc)	Rubbish or recycling collection 296 Trees 146 Potholes 133 Fly tipping 117 Pavements (broken, uneven or unsafe) 100 Weeds/leaves on the pavement 100 School Admission 97 Repairs - day to day, including emergencies 94 Requests for traffic calming (reduced speed limits, speed bumps, planters etc)	Reason for contactreceivedworking daysRubbish or recycling collection296256Trees146108Potholes133112Fly tipping117106Pavements (broken, uneven or unsafe)10077Weeds/leaves on the pavement10076School Admission9787Repairs - day to day, including emergencies9494Requests for traffic calming (reduced speed limits, speed bumps, planters etc)9272

What we achieved in 2024/25

Based on customer feedback, we have taken significant steps to improve access to council services and enhance the customer experience over the course of the year:

- > **Expanded in person support:** We opened council helpdesks in two libraries to support residents who are unable to access services online or by phone. In addition, four family hubs across the city now offer faceto-face assistance for a wide range of needs.
- > **Dedicated homelessness support:** A specialist homelessness helpdesk is now available to assist individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Improved digital access: Free access to computers and telephones is now available at all four family hubs and 13 libraries, ensuring residents without personal devices can still connect with council services.
- > **Improved telephony system:** We introduced a new telephone system to improve the customer experience, including features such as queue position updates and call recording.
- > **Listening to customers:** Through the Your Voice digital engagement platform, we have actively sought feedback from residents, helping us better understand their needs and continuously improve our services.
- > **Better Complaints Handling:** More effective resolutions to complaints are being delivered by providing appropriate remedies when things went wrong and by using feedback to drive service improvements. More thorough and timely investigations of escalated complaints have been enabled through the addition of extra resources.

Detailed analysis undertaken of the 15 upheld LGSCO decisions from 2024/25 has identified key areas for improvement:

- Continue to support teams to establish a consistent approach to remedies, relevant to their specific area of work, where we identify faults through a complaint investigation.
- > Even where the substantive issue of complaint is not being upheld, all aspects of the complaint, however minor, should be considered as there may have been fault within these, if not within the main issue. Additionally, where we are not investigating the substantive issue as there is a more appropriate route of appeal/challenge, we should still consider whether there was fault in any of the other associated issues of complaint.
- When it isn't possible to deliver a service or provide something that the council is obliged to provide, or where there are delays in doing so that don't meet set timescales (whether through error or inability to source the service that is required), then we must consider a remedy for this fault. We should also continue to try to source/provide the service that we are obliged to and document all attempts to do so.
- > Whenever we make key decisions which affect a customer, we should have a published policy in place, which makes clear to customers what they can expect from us.

Responding to complaints and councillor enquiries in a One Council way

Recent feedback has shown an increasing need to deliver joined up and effective services, particularly when dealing with customer contact during this unprecedented time when many of our contact channels are operating with reduced resources.

As an organisation we have been struggling to respond to complaints in a timely way, which often leads to increased customer dissatisfaction and escalation to stage 2, resulting in more work for the organisation. Things you can do to improve complaint responses:

When you first receive a complaint, review it and plan in sufficient time to collect information, input from colleagues and write your response.

Do not leave responding to the complaint until the last minute, we have found this often leads to a rushed response that doesn't fully address the customers dissatisfaction and can delay the response being sent to the customer if you require additional information or input from another service.

If you require input from another council service, ensure that you communicate with them early enough to allow them to provide a considered response and ensure you communicate clearly with colleagues, so they understand what is required from them and by when.

If you have been asked to contribute to a complaint response or provide information to a colleague who is responding to a complaint, ensure that you fully understand what is being asked of you and plan your time sufficient time for your colleague to come back to you if required.

Recent feedback from our customers has emphasised the importance of being clear and easy to understand in our communications

As an organisation we have a responsibility to deliver our services with transparency and honesty, as such it is imperative that we maintain regular communications with our customers, particularly if we are not going to be able to deliver our service as expected or previously communicated, including any information on the council website.

As well as the adverse effect that poor communication can have on the customer experience, this type of failure demand increases pressure on already strained services as the resulting enquiries and/or complaints frequently cost the council and service more time and resource.

Consider the below when thinking about communications with customers:

Do you clearly explain what may or may not be possible when communicating with the customer so that you are managing their expectations?

Do you proactively inform customers as soon as we become aware of any delay in service delivery?

Do you update service delivery information on the council website in line with current service timeframes?

Do you ensure customer communications is a priority and included in all plans when addressing high workloads?

Keeping publicly available information up to date

Most teams will have a range of ways in which they publish or share information about their service. These may include:

Webpages

Voice mail messages

Telephone line messages/options

Template letters

Shared email auto-replies

Inaccurate or outdated information from these or any source is confusing, frustrating and can lead to complaints from the public and from councillors.

Please ensure that you regularly check all your webpages, automated telephone messages and options, auto replies on email inboxes, messages on voicemail boxes, template letters/emails etc. to ensure that they aren't giving inaccurate contact details/opening hours/statements about covid/working from home etc. or any other inaccurate, misleading or out of date information.

You may wish to consider keeping a simple log of published info/template letters etc. so that you know when it was last reviewed and can easily check things, rather than starting to look for inaccurate info without knowing where else it may be held.

Walk a mile in your customer's shoes...

As council officers we are very familiar with our service processes and the ways in which the council works, this can sometimes mean that we find it difficult to see whether there are any gaps in our communications or issues in our processes from the customer's perspective.

Some services do check that customer journeys (a phrase used to describe the process that the customer goes through from the customer's perspective) through their processes are seamless, but often the service officers are only checking their team's specific part of that process and don't consider other parts of the customer's end to end journey e.g. where does the customer find the contact details to begin the journey, or what happens once the customer has pressed 'pay now' on a transaction which requires payment.

Customer's experiences of transacting or contacting the council usually start from when they identify or realise that they have a need to get information or interact/transact with the council. When we analyse a customer's journey, we should think about it from this starting point, from the customer's point of view. E.g. Would most customers go straight to the home page of the council website, or are they more likely to use a search engine to find the information? What comes up in an internet search for your team/service/transaction?

We should also be analysing our processes from the perspective of different customer groups, especially when it comes to accessibility, e.g. How would you get in touch with the team if you can't use email? Where would you find the information if you didn't have internet access?

Based on the feedback, our council wide areas for improvement are:

- > **Strengthening in person services:** We will continue to enhance face-to-face support at libraries and family hubs to ensure all residents can access the help they need in a welcoming and inclusive environment.
- > Advancing telephony services: New features such as a call-back option—allowing customers to retain their place in the queue—and a feedback module will further improve the telephone experience.
- > **Simplifying access:** We are consolidating our telephone lines to make it easier for residents to reach the right service quickly and efficiently.
- > Improving online services: Our website will continue to be developed to ensure it is accessible, user-friendly, and responsive to residents' needs.
- > **Exploring innovation:** We are actively exploring how emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, can help us deliver more efficient and responsive customer services.
- > **Complaint Handling:** Enhanced complaint resolution quality will be achieved by revising our training for complaint handling staff to align with the latest best practice guidance from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. A more resident-focused approach to complaint handling in our landlord services will be achieved by equipping staff with bespoke training tailored to the Housing Ombudsman's latest Complaint Handling Code.

Services were provided with the results from the survey, including free text information supplied by customers and were asked to identify 3-5 service improvements based on this feedback to focus on over the course of 2025/6. The details of the service improvements are included in the full Customer Insight report.

Other elements of Performance Management Framework

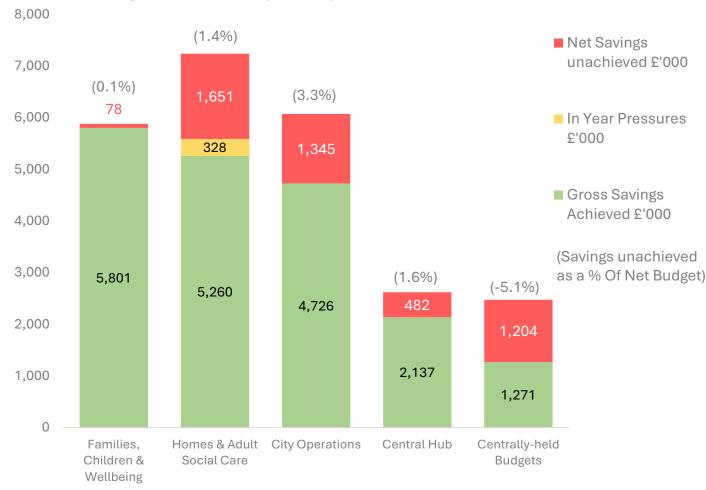
Year-end report



TBM 12 2024/25

Directorate	2024/25 Budget Month 12 £'000	Provisional Variance Month 12 £'000	Provisional Variance Month 12 %
Families Children & Wellbeing	72,692	-1,062	-0.80%
Homes & Adult Social Care	118,117	2,431	2.31%
City Operations	40,814	-3,797	-9.3%
Central Hub	30,513	-43	-0.1%
Sub total	262,136	-2,471	-0.9%
Corporate	-56,753	1,380	2.4%
Total General Fund	205,383	-1,091	-0.5%





£19.19m of savings were made in 2024/25 however, £4.760m (20%) of the substantial savings package in 2024/25 of £23.627m was not achievable largely due to exceptional inflationary pressures experienced during the year.

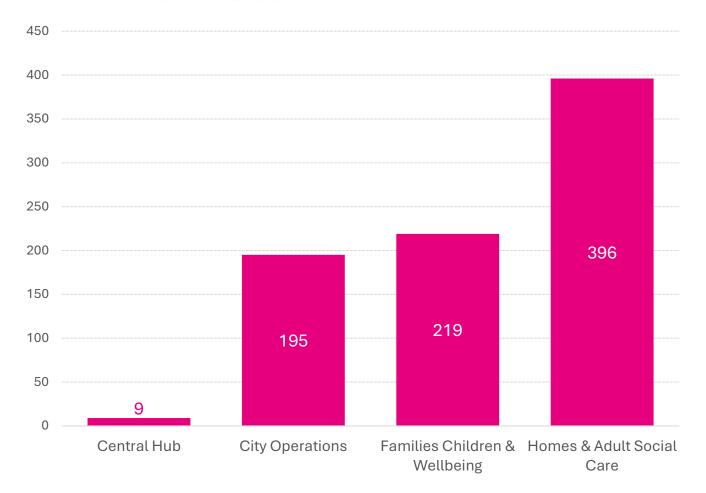
		ВМЕ		
		target 12.1%		
Directorate	Head count	all staff	grade SO1/2 to M9	grade M8 and above
Central Hub	1,145	12.3%	11.1%	10.4%
City Operations	704	9.7%	13.2%	7.5%
Family Children & Wellbeing	1,209	13.0%	13.2%	13.6%
Homes & Adult Social Care	1,551	12.5%	8.5%	11.4%
Council	4,609	11.9%	11.5%	11.3%

Disability				
t	arget 11.7%	ó		
all staff	grade SO1/2 to M9	grade M8 and above		
13.4%	14.3%	9.4%		
8.5%	9.7%	3.9%		
10.1%	8.7%	11.7%		
9.1%	10.3%	11.6%		
9.9%	10.3%	9.7%		

LGBT				
t	arget 12.2%	ó		
all staff	grade SO1/2 to M9	grade M8 and above		
13.8%	14.5%	4.7%		
14.9%	16.7%	14.6%		
15.4%	15.2%	21.4%		
17.8%	19.8%	10.0%		
15.7%	16.8%	14.1%		

Rates of BME, disabled staff and LGBT have increased across the council in the past year, however, further improvement is required for BME and disabled staff

Health & Safety: total injury type incidents 2024/25



Sickness: average days lost between Oct 24 and Mar 25

Directorate	Average days lost	Direction of travel		
Central Hub	4.54	↑		
City Operations	6.09	→		
Families Children & Wellbeing	4.76	↑		
Homes & Adult Social Care	6.77	1		
Council	5.73	↑		

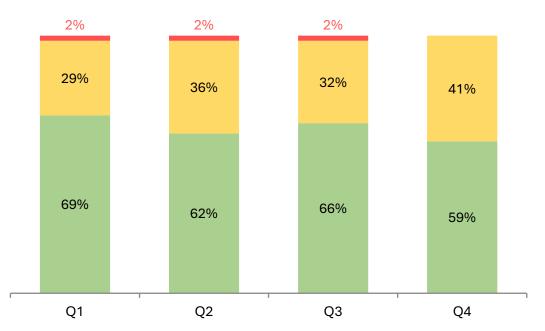
Direction of travel compared to Dec 24 \uparrow improving \downarrow declining \leftrightarrow no change

All 16 corporate transformation programmes are either Green or Amber

	Programme or Project Name	Overall RAG Rating	Direction of travel	Programme or Project Name	Overall RAG Rating	Direction of travel
	ASC Modernisation	Α	\leftrightarrow	Net Zero	Α	\leftrightarrow
	Homelessness Transformation	А	\leftrightarrow	Sport & Physical Activity	Α	\leftrightarrow
	Organisational Design & Culture	Α	\leftrightarrow	Workstyles/Workspace Innovation	Α	\leftrightarrow
	FCW Modernisation	G	\leftrightarrow	Customer Experience	Α	\leftrightarrow
136	Environmental Services	Α	\leftrightarrow	Fair & Inclusive	Α	\leftrightarrow
	Foundation IT Programme Yr2	G	\leftrightarrow	Our People Promise	Α	\leftrightarrow
	Data Programme	G	↑	Housing Building Safety	Α	\leftrightarrow
	Digital Organisation	Α	\leftrightarrow			
	Digital Customer	Α	\leftrightarrow			

Overall RAG rating for each programme and project is based upon an assessment of scope, time, cost, cashable benefits, non-cashable benefits, and risk.

Children's Safeguarding outcomes



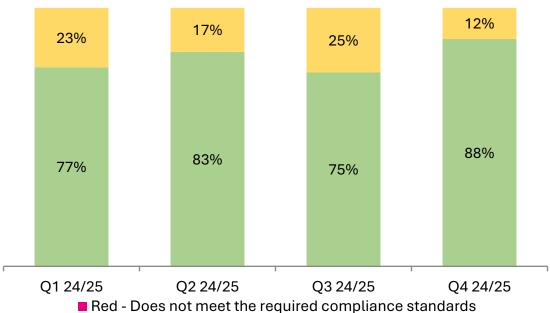
- There is limited evidence that good outcomes have been achieved for the child
- There is some progress but the child's situation needs to improve
- The outcomes for the child are good and sustainable

Audits rated as green, amber or red.

Part A of the audit tool relates to compliance with quality standards for key practice areas e.g. recording; statutory processes; supervision etc.

It is a requirement that if there is no up to date chronology, a case cannot be graded Green

Children's Safeguarding audits



- Amber Meets some of the required compliance standards
- Green Meets the required compliance standards

Managers (following a review of the audit with the social worker) are asked to provide an overall scale for the child's outcomes



Audits

A quality assurance framework is in place for Safeguarding enquiries undertaken by social workers in Adult Assessment Service



Each Quarter

Audits are completed by operational managers, general managers, the Principal Social Worker, Professional Standards & Safeguarding Team and the Head of Safeguarding for a selection of cases within that quarter



Compliance

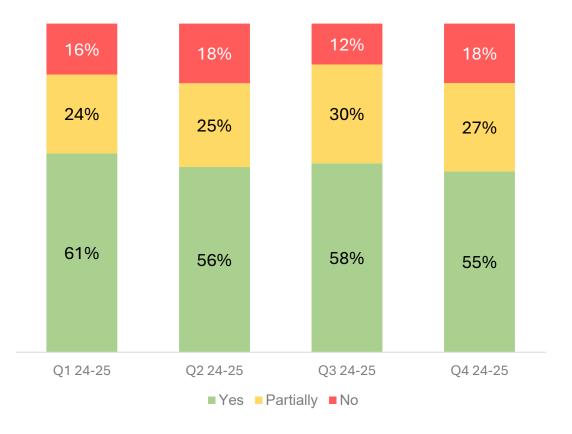
The audit framework is overseen by the Moderation Panel which meets every quarter to validate the overall audit outcome



Improvement

Action plans are agreed in the Moderation Panel which also monitors the progress of remedial actions. Feedback by auditors to practitioners is a key part of the process

Adults: % of people achieving identified safeguarding outcomes



Outcomes expressed by people when the council's safeguarding duty is closed, as measured quarterly. This information does not include enquires closed where no outcomes were expressed



LGA Corporate Peer Challenge

Brighton and Hove City Council

1 - 4 April 2025

Final Feedback report

Corporate Peer Challenge

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1. Introduction

Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) is a highly valued improvement and assurance tool that is delivered by the sector for the sector. It involves a team of senior local government members and officers undertaking a desktop review of key finance, performance and governance information and then spending four days at upper tier councils to provide robust, strategic and credible challenge and support.

CPC forms a key part of the improvement and assurance framework for local government. It is underpinned by the principles of sector-led improvement put in place by councils and the Local Government Association (LGA) to support continuous improvement and assurance across the sector. These state that local authorities are responsible for their own performance, accountable locally not nationally and have a collective responsibility for the performance of the sector.

CPC assists councils in meeting part of their Best Value duty, with the UK Government expecting all local authorities to have a CPC at least every five years.

Peers remain at the heart of the peer challenge process and provide a 'practitioner perspective' and 'critical friend' challenge with 'no surprises', they offer their views in good faith.

This report outlines the key findings of the peer team and their recommendations. The council will be developing an action plan against these recommendations.

2. Executive summary

The peer team for the Brighton and Hove City Council's CPC were consistently impressed by the commitment, professionalism and positive attitude of staff across the organisation. The council is supported by a dedicated, hard-working workforce who are focused on delivering high-quality services that make a meaningful difference to residents. The pride that staff displayed was evident throughout all the people the peer team spoke with.

There is strong and visible leadership provided by the Council Leader, the Chief Executive, and the wider leadership team. Since the election result in May 2023, the change in the governance structure and the appointment of a new chief executive there has been a new set of clear and coherent priorities, and there is a shared

sense of direction across the political and officer leadership which is enabling the organisation to move forward with purpose.

The organisation benefits from a positive and values-driven culture, which is being developed thoughtfully and deliberately. This cultural evolution is clearly rooted in openness, collaboration, and a commitment to continuous improvement, and it is having a positive impact on both staff morale and service delivery.

Children's services continue to be a major strength, with Ofsted rating them as 'Outstanding'. This is a significant achievement and a reflection of sustained hard work, strategic leadership, and a clear commitment to improving outcomes for children, young people, and families. This success should be acknowledged and celebrated widely.

The recent move to a leader and cabinet model of governance provides an opportunity for greater strategic clarity, more effective decision-making, and enhanced political leadership. Embedding this model successfully will require continued focus on effective member development and robust support structures.

The council is demonstrating national leadership in its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) agenda. There are impressive EDI programmes underway across the city, reflecting a clear ambition to be an inclusive, fair and welcoming place for all communities.

The council's placemaking work is making a visible and positive impact. Major regeneration projects such as the Madeira Terrace, the seafront revitalisation, and new housing developments are transforming the city and enhancing its appeal as a vibrant destination for residents, visitors and investors alike.

The relationships between elected members and officers are positive and respectful. Whilst the new governance structure has required everyone to understand and recognise new ways of working there is a healthy understanding of respective roles and a collaborative spirit which underpins effective governance and service delivery.

Significant work is underway within Environmental Services, early results show that transformation efforts are beginning to yield improvements in both the culture at the depot and in service delivery. A continued focus on this area will be important to ensure momentum is maintained and benefits are embedded.

There are several key areas where further work is required:

The council needs to develop a robust and comprehensive financial strategy that delivers both the necessary savings and the longer-term financial resilience across all funding streams, including the General Fund (GF), Housing Revenue Account (HRA), and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This work is urgent and must be progressed at pace.

A shared narrative with partners across Sussex is essential in relation to Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. Building a collective vision for the future of local governance will be vital to ensure influence and readiness in shaping any forthcoming changes.

The cultural transformation within Environmental Services must continue, with an ongoing focus on strengthening industrial relations, (including the relationships between the two recognised trade unions and between the unions and the council), improving workforce engagement, and embedding new ways of working.

The council should seek to drive cultural change more widely across the organisation, ensuring consistent communication, leadership behaviours and staff engagement in all departments and at all levels.

The aspiration to become a learning organisation is commendable and presents a real opportunity. To make this a reality, the council needs to define and operationalise what this means in practical terms across different service areas, embedding mechanisms for feedback, innovation and knowledge sharing.

The improvement work of the council housing service in response to the recent judgement by the regulator remains a top priority. The council should continue to build upon recent work with a renewed, ambitious strategy that addresses both operational challenges and long-term objectives, that links to the financial strategy and is underpinned by a strong assurance framework.

Work to mitigate the financial pressures associated with homelessness needs to be accelerated. This should include proactive service redesign, improved partnership working and innovative housing solutions to manage demand and associated costs.

3. Recommendations

There are several observations and suggestions within the main section of the report. The following are the peer team's key recommendations to the council:

- 3.1 Recommendation 1: The council needs to develop a robust and comprehensive financial strategy that delivers both the necessary savings and the longer-term financial resilience across all funding streams such as building back reserves, including the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), the equal pay claims risk and the transformation programme and its priorities. This work is urgent and must be progressed at pace.
- 3.2 Recommendation 2: Develop a shared vision and narrative with all tiers of local government including upper tier as well as district and borough councils across Sussex on devolution and Local Government reorganisation. A shared narrative developed in collaboration with partners across Sussex is essential in relation to Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. Building a collective vision for the future of local governance will be vital to ensure influence and readiness in shaping any forthcoming changes.
- 3.3 Recommendation 3: The cultural transformation within Environmental Services must continue, with an ongoing focus on strengthening industrial relations, improving workforce engagement, and embedding new ways of working. Any alleged criminal behaviour should be referred by the council to the relevant authorities.
- **Recommendation 4:** The council should seek to drive the desired cultural change towards being a learning organisation more widely across the organisation, ensuring consistent communication, leadership behaviours and staff engagement in all departments and at all levels.
- 3.5 Recommendation 5: The aspiration to become a learning organisation is commendable and presents a real opportunity. To continue to make this a reality, the council needs to define and operationalise what this means in practical terms across different service areas, embedding mechanisms for

feedback, innovation and knowledge sharing.

- **Recommendation 6:** The improvement work of the council housing service in response to the recent judgement by the regulator remains a top priority. The council should continue to build upon recent work with a renewed, ambitious strategy that addresses both operational challenges and long-term objectives that links to the financial strategy and is underpinned by a strong assurance framework.
- **3.7 Recommendation 7:** Work to mitigate the financial pressures associated with homelessness needs to be accelerated. This should include proactive reviews, service redesign, improved partnership working, and innovative housing solutions to manage demand and associated costs.
- 3.8 Recommendation 8: The transition from a committee system of governance to a leader and cabinet model has been well managed with members and officers adjusting to the new discussion and decision-making processes over the last year. The council should consider if further work is needed to ensure opposition parties do not feel excluded from the decision-making process through their inclusion more fully in the overview and scrutiny process.

4. Summary of peer challenge approach

4.1 The peer team

Peer challenges are delivered by experienced elected member and officer peers. The make-up of the peer team reflected the focus of the peer challenge and peers were selected by the LGA based on their relevant expertise. The peers were:

- Stephen Young, Chief Executive, Halton Borough Council
- Cllr Tudor Evans OBE, Labour Peer, Leader of Plymouth City Council
- Cllr Neil Prior, Independent Peer, Cabinet Member, Pembrokeshire County Council

- Rupaben Raghwani, Assistant Director of Finance, LB Southwark
- Joanne Drew, Executive Director of Housing and Regeneration, LB Enfield
- Jamaila Hussain, Executive Director of People and NHS Place Director, St Helens Borough Council
- Marcus Coulson, LGA Peer Challenge Manager

4.2 Scope and focus

The peer team considered the following five themes which form the core components of all CPCs. These areas are critical to councils' performance and improvement.

- 1. **Local priorities and outcomes** Are the council's priorities clear and informed by the local context? Is the council delivering effectively on its priorities? Is there an organisational-wide approach to continuous improvement, with frequent monitoring, reporting on and updating of performance and improvement plans?
- 2. **Organisational and place leadership** Does the council provide effective local leadership? Are there good relationships with partner organisations and local communities?
- 3. **Governance and culture** Are there clear and robust governance arrangements? Is there a culture of challenge and scrutiny?
- 4. Financial planning and management Does the council have a grip on its current financial position? Does the council have a strategy and a plan to address its financial challenges? What is the relative financial resilience of the council like?
- 5. **Capacity for improvement** Is the organisation able to bring about the improvements it needs, including delivering on locally identified priorities? Does the council have the capacity to improve?

In addition to these themes, the council asked the peer team to provide feedback on a few specific areas under the five CPC themes which were:

Local priorities and outcome

How we are addressing mental health and homelessness

Look and feel of the city

Organisational and place leadership

- Leadership on economic growth
- Collaboration on Devolution and LGR

Governance and culture

- Embedding the move to a cabinet system
- Creating a learning organisation

Financial planning and management

Financial sustainability and risk management

Capacity for improvement

Opportunities e.g. Al and data analytics

4.3 The peer challenge process

Peer challenges are improvement focused; it is important to stress that this was not an inspection. The process is not designed to provide an in-depth or technical assessment of plans and proposals. The peer team used their collective experience and knowledge of over 180 years in local government to reflect on the information presented to them by people they met, things they saw and material that they read.

The peer team prepared by reviewing a range of documents and information to ensure they were familiar with the council and the challenges it is facing. This included a position statement prepared by the council in advance of the peer team's time on site. This provided a clear steer to the peer team on the local context at Brighton and Hove City Council and what the peer team should focus on. It also included a LGA Finance briefing (prepared using public reports from the council's website) and a LGA performance report outlining benchmarking data for the council across a range of metrics. The latter was produced using the LGA's local area benchmarking tool called LG Inform.

The peer team then spent four days onsite in Brighton and Hove, during which they:

- Gathered evidence, information, and views from more than 80 meetings, in addition to further research and reading.
- Spoke to more than 170 people including a range of council staff together with members and external stakeholders.

This report provides a summary of the peer team's findings. In presenting feedback, they have done so as local government officers and member peers who have engaged with those in Brighton and Hove in a trusting manner and make their observations and recommendations in good faith.

5. Feedback

5.1 Local priorities and outcomes

Brighton and Hove has a total population of 279,637 residents. 16.7% of the population are aged under 18, and 14.2% of the population are aged 65 and over. At the last Census 14.6% of the population are from a black or minority ethnic population, and 26.1% of the population described themselves as non-white UK (i.e. not white British, English, Northern Irish, Scottish, or Welsh). 1.2% of the population report that they cannot speak English well or at all.

According to the indices of multiple deprivation 2019 (IMD) Brighton and Hove is ranked 131 out of 326 authorities in England, with a ranking of 1 being the most deprived. IMD combines information across seven Domains: Income Deprivation, Employment Deprivation, Health Deprivation and Disability, Education Skills and Training Deprivation, Barriers to Housing and Services, Living Environment Deprivation, and Crime, to provide a measure of relative deprivation for all areas in England. 15.3% of children in Brighton and Hove live in poverty. This is based on the IMD Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) 2019. According to the latest Department for Work and Pensions figures, there are an estimated total of 7,048 children in Brighton and Hove living in families in relative low income. 52.7% of children in Brighton and Hove achieved 9-5 in English and Maths GCSEs in 2023/24 (academic). This compares with 46.2% for England. 4.2% of working age people in Brighton and Hove are unemployed, compared with 3.9% for England as a whole. The median weekly wage for employees living in Brighton and Hove is £748.2. This

compares with an England wage of £732.0.

The council has a strong understanding of its local context, and its priorities are clearly aligned with the needs of the city's residents. There is evidence of significant progress in a number of key areas, with services focused on achieving meaningful outcomes for residents, particularly the most vulnerable. A commitment to continuous improvement, early intervention, and integrated working is apparent and the council is increasingly using data and performance insight to inform decision-making and monitor the impact of its work. Below, we reflect on individual service areas.

Children and Young People's Services (CYPS)

Children's Services stand out as a flagship area of delivery for the council. In October 2015 the council created a model of relationship-based social work called the 'Team Around the Relationship'. This relationship-based practice is built on the idea that a social worker's relationship with the family is the most powerful tool to facilitate change and that these relationships, when they are trusting, empathic and authoritative, can be reparative.

This model of practice is premised on providing continuity and consistency for families so that they do not have to experience changes of social worker and they know how to access support. These small social work teams, called pods, work with families throughout their journey so that a child can have the same social worker from their first assessment until they end their involvement with social workers.

This approach allows social workers to collaborate and share skills with each other in order to support families. Small teams, including group supervision and a flatter management structure, also means that social workers experience more support regarding the emotional impact of their work from their managers and peers.

This embedded model of practice has now been in place for a decade and has delivered consistently strong results. The long-term, whole-system approach has created a stable and high-performing service with positive outcomes for children and families, high morale among staff and notably low turnover culminating in an 'Outstanding' rating from Ofsted. The SEND inspection in 2023 gained the highest possible rating and the Youth Justice inspection in 2021 was also outstanding. This mean CYPS have the highest possible inspection ratings across the key inspection regimes. These achievements are significant and should be celebrated as a model of

sector-leading practice.

The redesign of Early Help and the development of Family Hubs has further strengthened the preventative offer. These hubs are operating as effective, multiagency environments with strong external partnerships. The council's emphasis on prevention is having a measurable impact - evident in the reduction of Child in Need referrals - and lays solid foundations for a more holistic, family-first model, which includes raising aspirations of parents and young people through learning and skills.

However, there are areas where further strategic focus would be beneficial. In particular, there is a need to give greater attention to the special educational needs and disability (SEND) agenda, building on the good inclusion work that has been completed by the teams. The ambition of the council to ensure equity across communities is commendable and changes to the schools' admission policy will enable young people and parents to have wider access to schools of choice. Equally the work the council has undertaken with schools has resulted in a reduction in exclusions as well as a school stating that they will implement a zero-exclusion policy.

There are opportunities to further enhance the ambition of the council to continue to empower families and promote independence for young people, through a review of school transport, including SEND transport, and encourage flexible alternative options. There may also be the opportunity to unlock much needed financial opportunities back to the General Fund through a review of SEND transport as well as the DSG Fund from a review of SEND.

Mental Health and Integrated Services

There is strong, pioneering work underway on mental health in schools with the school counselling pilot launched in September 2024. This focuses on Year 9 students in all secondary schools in Brighton and Hove through an offer of counselling sessions that are individualised and dependent on need. The project aims to provide additional support alongside the Schools Mental Health Service for children and young people who have experienced challenges accessing education because of their mental health. This provides a vital early intervention platform and represents an important opportunity to improve outcomes for children and young people.

The council currently has an integrated mental health assessment service within adult services where social workers are hosted by the NHS mental health provider.

It may be helpful to expand mental health provision to include wider participation from the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector (CVFS) who could further strengthen the prevention offer and support people and carers earlier, decreasing reliance on crisis care.

Adult Social Care

Adult social care is navigating significant challenges and transformation pressures as well as an inspection by the Care Quality Commission (in April 2025). A continued focus on integration between housing, health, and community services is essential to support the council's ambitions around prevention and early intervention. Strengthening these connections can reduce the demand for crisis-level interventions and create more resilient, person-centred support systems.

Growth and Housing Supply

The council has a strong track record of delivering new housing, which reflects a proactive and capable approach to place-based leadership. It has successfully delivered 1,075 new homes citywide in 2023/24, the highest since 2013, including 318 affordable homes and 127 new award-winning council homes. In 2024/25 the council delivered a total of 90 additional council homes, with 435 affordable homes in total. In the context of national policy shifts and increasing demand, there is now an opportunity to scale up and accelerate delivery to meet housing needs more ambitiously and to support inclusive economic growth.

To achieve this, the council may consider:

- Bringing forward an update to the Local Plan, embedding a bold and clear vision that creates opportunities for development and generates market interest.
- Reviewing the development management function to ensure planning processes are streamlined, timely, and responsive to higher volumes of applications. A faster and more agile process will be vital to attracting and retaining developer interest, confidence and the potential for increased housing supply.

• Enhancing stakeholder engagement, giving partners, including developers, investors and anchor institutions, clear incentives and meaningful involvement in shaping and delivering the city's growth agenda.

Council Housing

Housing has two main regulators, the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) and the Building Safety Regulator (BSR). Following engagement with the RSH, the council received a C3 judgement in summer 2024, indicating that the council does not currently meet required regulatory standards in relation to some elements of the safety and quality standard. This led to monthly meetings focused on compliance with the Safety and Quality Standard.

In July 2024 the council submitted a mandatory occurrence notice to the BSR in relation to the Large Panel System (LPS) of eight blocks due to structural and fire safety concerns. The council adopted an emergency planning response to the mitigations that quickly kept occupants of the blocks safe, progressing remediation works and completing the building safety case regime.

The council is responding assertively to the housing safety and regulatory compliance agenda, with resident engagement at the centre. Leadership in this area has been visible and determined, focused on rebuilding trust and ensuring that all tenants feel safe and supported in their homes.

Looking ahead, there is a need to stabilise and strengthen the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). A financial strategy and deliverability plan will be essential by 2026/27, and this should be supported by:

- A clear financial framework for the HRA, including target metrics to guide decisions and increase transparency around resources and capacity.
- A strategy to improve operational performance, focusing on efficiency, income maximisation, and the release of capital through non-core or economically unviable assets.
- A well-articulated vision for council housing, including how the council will become a high-performing landlord. Establishing an assurance framework will help provide the necessary governance oversight, track progress, and strengthen resident confidence.

Partnerships and external funding opportunities should also be actively pursued to support new housing delivery.

Homelessness

The council recognises the increasing number of people in the city reported as homeless and that this can also be accompanied by mental health issues. There are now 1900 households in temporary accommodation and a rising trend of single male presentations.

The council has a proactive and evolving strategy to address homelessness, reflecting both the scale of the challenge and the complexity of resident needs. As the council reviews the homelessness and rough sleeping strategy it is also seeking to enhance resident engagement and strengthen early intervention and prevention services. However, delivery now needs to be accelerated to have the desired impact. A key strategic goal should be to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

To support this, the council is encouraged to:

- Strengthen policies that support placement in areas where housing is both affordable and appropriate, balancing cost with community cohesion and access to services.
- Review eligibility criteria to ensure the most vulnerable families receive timely support.
- Explore more flexible and responsive models of emergency and temporary accommodation, including council-delivered rapid assessment and resettlement options, particularly for lower priority groups.

Mental health support for homeless residents is strong in cases involving Care Act eligibility. Further integration is now needed for individuals with support needs not covered by the Care Act, particularly to prevent homelessness in the first place and to help maintain stable tenancies and prevent repeat homelessness. A review of access pathways to available exempt accommodation and a supported housing strategy should be considered and prioritised to those with complex needs but who fall below the Care Act thresholds.

5.2 Performance

The council has a comprehensive and structured Performance Management Framework (PMF) in place, which plays a critical role in supporting the delivery of its Council Plan outcomes. The PMF enables the organisation to monitor, assess, and improve performance at the individual, service, and organisational levels.

As a Best Value Authority, the council recognises its duty to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions, with a clear focus on economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The PMF is designed around eight interconnected components that collectively drive ongoing improvement. These elements ensure a holistic understanding of performance across the council. Most services contribute to multiple aspects of the framework, reinforcing a culture of shared responsibility for improvement.

Delivery against the Council Plan is tracked through a combination of corporate key performance indicators (KPIs), progress updates on the Corporate Leadership Plan, and performance reporting aligned to each of the PMF's elements. The Corporate Leadership Plan itself translates the strategic ambitions of the Council Plan into priority activities, providing a mechanism to ensure accountability, transparency, and demonstrable impact.

Towards a Learning Organisation

The council is actively exploring what it means to become a learning organisation. This includes embedding mechanisms for reflection, feedback, and continuous development into everyday practice. A formal culture change programme is currently in development, with early initiatives already influencing organisational behaviours. The council is considering the use of the LGA's Leadership and Management Transformation Maturity Matrix to support this journey and benchmark progress.

To align with its learning organisation ambitions, the council is working to ensure coherence between its performance frameworks, corporate policies, and internal procedures. A comprehensive leadership development programme is also being designed to underpin this cultural evolution. An important aspect of this development will be to ensure that there is a golden thread so staff at all levels of the organisation are aware of the vision and priorities and how their work supports these intentions.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in Performance

The council is committed to embedding equality, diversity, and inclusion within its performance management approach. EDI considerations are integrated into the PMF to ensure that the delivery of Council Plan outcomes is inclusive and equitable. This strengthens the council's ability to respond to the needs of all communities it serves, while also aligning performance management with core values of fairness and transparency.

Specific areas of a successful performance are:

Cost-of-living Support:

- Extensive support delivered via the Household Support Fund, including food, fuel, and essential item vouchers.
- Ongoing work with local food partnerships and emergency support networks.
- Notable implementation of free school meal vouchers and school uniform schemes.

Climate Action and Sustainability:

- 3,000 solar panels installed through Solar Together Sussex.
- EV charging network now includes 370+ charge points.
- Eleven electric refuse collection vehicles with two more joining shortly.
- Introduction of the first electric buses in the city.

Transport and Accessibility:

- Twenty-four new dropped kerbs and improved accessibility via the Local Transport Plan.
- Continued development of active travel infrastructure and walking/cycling schemes.

Housing and Homelessness:

 Successful delivery of affordable homes via the New Homes for Neighbourhoods and Homes for Brighton and Hove programmes.

Children and Young People:

- Maintained high educational attainment and Ofsted performance 100% good across Children's Services.
- Expansion of Early Years SEND specialist placements.

Digital Transformation and Customer Service:

- Implementation of digital inclusion initiatives.
- Launch of a new customer experience strategy.

Ongoing Key Challenges are:

Budget Pressures:

- The Council have experienced significant pressures and projected overspends during 24/25, but have managed this to a balanced position through recovery plans and the implementation of spending controls.
- Cost pressures in adult social care, temporary accommodation, and home-toschool transport.
- Inflation and high service demand impacting financial sustainability.

Temporary Accommodation Crisis:

- Increasing reliance on temporary housing due to rising homelessness and affordability issues.
- Pressures on emergency housing stock and placements outside the city.

Social Care Demand:

- Continued rise in complexity and volume of adult and children's social care cases.
- Recruitment and retention pressures in the care workforce.

Transport and Infrastructure Limitations:

Delay in delivering some transport and city infrastructure projects.

Climate Emergency Delivery Gap:

- While projects are progressing, the scale of carbon reduction needed remains significant.
- Behavioural change across communities remains a barrier.

5.3 Organisational and place leadership

Organisational leadership

The council benefits from visible and effective leadership. The leader, chief

executive, and the wider executive team are providing clear direction and there is evidence of collective ownership and accountability within the Extended Corporate Leadership Team (eCLT). Strategic priorities are well understood, and there is a shared sense of ambition and purpose across senior management.

The council's organisational culture is evolving and there is a strong foundation on which to build. The journey of cultural change is being approached thoughtfully, with a recognition that embedding values of openness, inclusivity, and continuous improvement will be essential to sustaining transformation over time.

The council is fortunate to have many allies across sectors, including anchor institutions, voluntary and community groups and business partners who are engaged, supportive and ready to contribute. The council is encouraged to harness this energy and goodwill more systematically by involving partners in long-term strategic conversations, co-designing creative solutions and creating shared ownership of outcomes.

The city boasts several strong and growing economic sectors, underpinned by a national and international reputation in areas such as creative industries, tourism, health and digital innovation. There is a significant opportunity to align economic strategy with housing growth plans to support inclusive growth. A vision and strategy that links place-based economic development with housing growth and workforce attraction and retention could unlock wider benefits for both residents and employers. This should specifically address the need for affordable and intermediate housing for key workers.

The council is aware that it needs to develop a shared vision and narrative with councils across Sussex on devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. As regional conversations around Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation develop, the council should continue to play an active leadership role. Developing a shared and compelling narrative in collaboration with partners across Sussex will be critical in influencing the future local government landscape.

The council's recent transition from a committee system to a leader and cabinet Model has been well-received by stakeholders and represents an important step forward in streamlining decision-making and strengthening accountability. There is an opportunity now to fully embed this model, ensuring that roles are clearly understood,

and that the benefits of more agile governance are realised across the organisation.

The peer team noted that partners and partnership working were not prominent in the opening narrative for this CPC. It was felt that this inward focus may be a moment in time due to the changes in leadership, governance and culture ongoing at the council and therefore understandable due to the capacity needed to address these issues. As the council moves forward it is encouraged to further develop its approach to partnership working as a core element of its overall organisational narrative. Framing partnerships not as an external addition but as integral to delivering outcomes will help drive shared accountability and deepen trust. The peer team witnessed positive partnership meetings with organisations ready and willing to be engaged on the issues of the day with BHCC.

There is also the potential to better maximise the contributions of all elected members. Developing the roles of member who are not on Cabinet and enhancing opportunities for participation in policy development will be important. For example, Overview and Scrutiny could play a more strategic role by working more closely with the Cabinet's forward work programme, helping to shape emerging policy and offering a platform for more collaborative working across political groups. Providing concise information and continuing with the member training programme with regular effectiveness review will support members in their roles.

As part of the commitment to EDI the council has a Fair and Inclusive Action Plan that embeds equality and diversity in the workforce and service delivery. Progress is reviewed through Corporate and Directorate Equality Delivery Groups to work towards developing a workforce that reflects the city's diversity and there is a clear recognition of the need to ensure this representation exists at all levels of the organisation. Continued work on inclusive recruitment, leadership development and workforce progression will be key to achieving this aspiration and building a resilient, representative organisation.

Place Leadership

The council's role as a place leader is evident in its stewardship of key regeneration and infrastructure projects. The Madeira Terrace regeneration stands out as a flagship scheme, showcasing high-quality public realm improvement and significant public engagement. The staff leading this work are skilled, knowledgeable and

committed to making it a success and rightly proud of what they have achieved to date. The project also reflects the council's growing capacity to lead complex, high-profile capital programmes. The project lead has a clear understanding of the need to create a shared partnership board and bring in key stakeholders to promote the work to ensure it is sustained for the necessary long term. As the restoration progresses, it will be important to ensure that there is a clear, agreed vision for the end-use of the site, aligned with the city's economic, cultural and environmental goals. A particular issue would be to come to a decision about car use in and around the restored structure.

Brighton and Hove has a strong identity and is known nationally and internationally as a vibrant, diverse and innovative city. However, in the peer team's onsite work there were at least five different taglines or mottos used by different individuals and groups to describe the place. These multiple branding messages and identities may dilute the impact of the desired outcomes for the city and the council. There is an opportunity to define and commit to a single, coherent place-brand that unites messaging across economic development, tourism, culture and civic pride. This agreed branding should then be visible on council communications and in council places.

Internally, the council is making important progress on cultural transformation within Environmental Services. The new interim Director of Environmental Services is driving forward improvements including better working practices, strengthened industrial relations and increased staff engagement. This is a critical area of work, and the council is encouraged to maintain this positive momentum. Any alleged criminal behaviour should be addressed by informing the relevant authorities.

5.4 Governance and culture

Brighton and Hove City Council has taken important steps to strengthen its governance and develop a values-led organisational culture. There is a strong foundation of respect and ambition, with clear signals that both governance and culture are evolving in ways that will support long-term effectiveness, transparency, and trust.

Governance

The council has successfully transitioned from a committee system to a leader and cabinet model, marking a significant change in how decisions are made and how strategic direction is exercised. The cabinet system has been implemented effectively in a short period of time, and the informal cabinet session that peers observed was well managed, with portfolio holders taking ownership and showing a good understanding of their brief. The peer team observed that some items were presented with a set of 'guiding principles' and 'the vision' and felt that this practice is positive in helping members to focus on priorities. Officers showed informed support and expertise and there was evidence of clear forward planning. There is early evidence that this has enabled the organisation to move more decisively and take forward important and sometimes difficult decisions in a timely manner.

This change represents a crucial step forward in strengthening the council's ability to respond to complex challenges, drive transformation and operate with greater agility. Continued support for cabinet members and the broader councillor cohort will help embed this model further and ensure that the governance structure remains inclusive, transparent and accountable.

In contrast, some members outside of the ruling administration did feel a sense of loss of the old committee system and were critical of scrutiny being geared towards the administration. Some felt that their voices were no longer heard effectively and as such there is an opportunity for scrutiny to get more upstream of the cabinet work plan, so that all members can feel a sense of ownership of policy development. Scrutiny has ambitions to move to a more 'member to member' conversation and to consider setting up more cross-party task and finish groups. The council should consider how it maximises the contributions of all members for the benefit of the city. As scrutiny matures, consideration should be given to whether further work is needed to ensure opposition parties do not feel excluded from the decision-making process through their inclusion more fully in the overview and scrutiny process.

Some members felt excluded in communications that affected their wards and felt that officer responsiveness was not always consistent. One said, "We've become complaint clerks, not councillors". Other issues raised by opposition members included not being able to access to exempt / confidential papers and poor

responsiveness from some officers and it struck the peer team that there could be a more comprehensive approach to member development to address these concerns and to ensure that all members are able to contribute effectively.

To fully maximise the benefits of this new system, attention must now be given to the quality and usability of risk management information. Risk reporting should be enhanced to provide clearer, more focused outputs, including succinct executive summaries that highlight key risks, mitigations and implications. This will help both members and officers engage more effectively with risk and make well-informed, proportionate decisions. A more tailored and accessible approach to risk information will also support stronger scrutiny, oversight and assurance.

In addition, there is a need to clarify the council's risk appetite. During the peer challenge it was not clear to the team what level of risk the organisation is willing to accept or tolerate in different decision-making contexts, whether in commercial ventures, innovation, service transformation, or capital projects. A clear articulation of risk appetite, aligned with the council's strategic ambitions and financial resilience, would enable officers and members to take measured risks confidently and responsibly.

Culture

The council's organisational culture is widely regarded as positive, respectful, and values driven. There is a visible commitment to building a modern, inclusive organisation that is responsive to the needs of its workforce, partners, and residents. The leadership has made a deliberate effort to create an open and supportive environment where staff feel empowered to raise concerns, contribute ideas and challenge constructively.

The recent organisational redesign process, while necessarily difficult at times, has been approached with integrity and a long-term view of building a more resilient, effective council. The introduction of the 'Five Pillars' of the learning organisation framework is a valuable tool in this transition. They are to be:

- confident
- connected
- innovative and creative

- diverse and inclusive
- healthy and psychologically safe.

These are understood and referenced by senior leaders, but wider engagement and visibility across the whole workforce will be needed to ensure that all staff understand how these principles apply to their day-to-day work. Displaying these values more prominently and using them in internal communications and performance conversations could help embed them further.

There is also an opportunity to define and communicate a more compelling and consistent narrative about what it means to be a 'learning organisation'. While individual programmes and initiatives, such as leadership development or internal career progression, demonstrate good intent, a more explicit and shared understanding of what learning looks like at every level (from senior management to front-line and back-office staff) will help embed this culture more deeply. Partners and communities, too, should be able to see and feel the difference as the organisation adapts, grows, and reflects on experience.

A powerful illustration of progress in this area is the Future Leaders Diverse Talent Programme, which has had a demonstrable impact on participants and the wider organisation. One staff member's comment "For years I felt rubbish in here, now I feel heard and seen", captures the emotional and transformational significance of this work. It shows how inclusive leadership and investment in people can have a direct and lasting effect on morale, belonging and performance.

The senior leadership team should be commended for encouraging an open 'speakup' culture and we note the commitment to taking action in response. This should be further promoted to encourage staff to continue to engage and to act on the feedback.

5.5 Financial planning and management

Brighton and Hove City Council is operating within a particularly challenging financial context, marked by increasing demand pressures, funding uncertainty, and the legacy of national cost inflation. There is a shared awareness at senior levels of the severity of the council's financial position, which is an important foundation from which to take the necessary strategic actions. However, the current level of financial

risk, particularly the low level of reserves and projected deficits across all major funds, requires urgent and sustained focus.

Financial Position and Risk

The council is projecting significant budget deficits across its core financial funds, namely the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets out the broad principles and intentions required to meet this challenge. The next step is to translate this strategic intent into a detailed plan, which is developed, agreed and collectively owned across leadership. This will require clear accountability, measurable outcomes and regular tracking of progress to ensure financial risks are mitigated and benefits realised.

Financial Resilience. The council is required to maintain an adequate level of reserves to deal with future forecast, manage risk and to provide cover for any unexpected pressures. The council has very little, to no, tolerance in its financial resilience. The council's current working balance, and the overall level of usable reserves, is considered very low, placing it at heightened risk of financial instability should there be any in-year budgetary pressures, overspends or new risks arising. Councils are not permitted to spend beyond available resources; this current low level of reserves puts the council at significant exposure. A small change in external environment, which cannot be mitigated, could give rise to the issuance of a section 114 notice. This vulnerability underscores the need for immediate action to a) prioritise increasing the working balance to the minimum target with an overall robust plan to increase the overall level of reserves at pace and b) solid assurances over the planned medium term financial savings to deliver a sustainable budget.

Financial Sustainability. The council has considerable savings to deliver across the medium term which is well articulated in its MTFS. The council has achieved significant savings during 2024/25, however, it should be noted there was difficulty in delivering c£4m of planned savings which has been reflected in the most recent MTFS update. The council has identified further areas of savings and opportunities to enable it to set an annual balanced budget and achieve a financial sustainable position over the medium term. At time of the review, there weren't action plans developed by the relevant services to support the delivery of these. The 2025/26

budget and medium-term projections are dependent on the delivery of these to the agreed timescales. In the future, members may need to be prepared to make difficult decisions around spend and investment and where this necessitates this may require service reductions or redesign to release cashable savings.

Strategic Actions Required

A number of focused actions are now required to strengthen the council's financial planning and management:

- Resilience and Sustainability: The council should further develop its
 strategy to rebuild reserves and achieve a balanced, recurrent operating
 position. For the General Fund, this means targeting a sustainable base
 budget where savings and pressures are addressed on a structural, not
 temporary, basis. There is a need for rapid mobilisation to increase the pace
 and co-ordination of the actions that are needed to achieve both financial
 resilience and financial sustainability.
- Housing Revenue Account (HRA): A strategic review of the HRA is needed
 to determine how best to manage cost pressures, income potential and capital
 investment needs. This should consider the long-term viability of housing
 services and options to generate capital receipts from non-core or
 underperforming assets. Governance should be strengthened to track delivery
 and identify trends.
- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG): The growing deficit in the DSG requires the
 development of a formal recovery action plan, likely to involve joint work with
 the Department for Education and other external stakeholders. The council will
 need to act as a system leader, working in partnership with schools and the
 wider education sector to reshape provision and address financial pressures,
 particularly in relation to high needs.
- Investment Strategy: Investment funds should be tightly targeted towards
 initiatives that can deliver early and realisable savings. A business case driven
 approach will help ensure return on investment is measurable and contributes
 to the council's financial goals.

- In-Year Savings: The council has a strong track record of delivering savings, but the environment has become more constrained. It will be important to undertake a rigorous review of in-year savings plans early in the financial year to confirm deliverability and apply management intervention where savings are at risk.
- Savings: Future planned savings will need to deliver to the tight the
 timescales outlined in the MTFS. It is recommended that delivery plans are
 developed by the relevant service so these can be effectively monitored to
 provide the assurances required on their delivery. This will also help identify
 risks and where capacity and resources need to be directed.
- Opportunities: It is recommended that senior leadership review all other avenues to explore opportunities. These could include a) acceleration of savings opportunities identified in future years b) output and outcomes achieved from the spending controls.
- Capital programme: The council has recently undertaken a review of its
 capital programme. It is recommended that this continues and where possible
 further opportunities identified to further re-profile, re-prioritise and consider
 options around financing to reduce the impact on the GF and HRA. This may
 include de-programming lower priority schemes from the capital programme
 even if, in some cases, this may imply turning down external grants and reprioritising and delaying delivery. There could be headroom created into the
 general fund budget or provide one-off savings to support the council's
 financial resilience position.
- Reporting: In year financial monitoring reports are comprehensive and
 provide detail on in year position and savings delivery. It is recommended that
 the position statement should also include the impact on reserve levels from
 the current in-year position and the anticipated impact of the collection fund
 performance so that the impact on the reserves position over the medium term
 of the current landscape can be visibly seen and taking into consideration with
 wider decision-making.
- **Equal Pay**: The current budget and position does not forecast any financial implications from the equal pay claims in place. The position with regards to

this needs to be fully clarified and risk exposure and implications determined.

Spend Control: The introduction of spending controls during 2024/25 was a
pragmatic and effective response, helping to limit the impact of financial
pressures on the year-end position. Continued vigilance will be required as the
council looks ahead to 2025/26 and beyond. The outcomes achieved should
be reflected upon and the culture and behaviour of managing with budgets
continue to be embedded.

Asset Management and Capital Planning

The council has acknowledged the need to refresh its asset management strategy, spanning both the General Fund and the HRA. This update must go beyond compliance and asset condition to address how to become a strategic enabler, providing insight into how assets are performing, where opportunities for rationalisation or repurposing exist and how the capital programme can support organisational priorities. It would also consider the future of partnership initiatives such as the landmark Jubilee Library that is nearing the end of its Private Finance Initiative (PFI) period and Seaside Homes. Crucially, this refreshed strategy must be clearly linked into the capital investment plan, enabling more informed and coherent decision-making around the council's future asset base and borrowing needs.

Internal Control and Governance

Feedback from the council's internal and external auditors has identified areas for improvement in the internal control environment and value-for-money arrangements. Senior leadership should prioritise a clear and coordinated response to these recommendations, ensuring that improvements are embedded in practice and subjected to ongoing monitoring. Strengthening the internal control framework will be essential not only for assurance purposes but also for sustaining stakeholder confidence and maintaining transparency.

The recent appointment of a new Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) presents a timely opportunity for renewed leadership and clarity around financial governance. The new postholder can help guide the organisation toward greater clarity on its investment and borrowing risk appetite, ensuring that decisions align with financial resilience, regulatory requirements and the long-term vision for the city.

5.6 Capacity for improvement

Brighton and Hove City Council has a clear commitment to improving services and outcomes for its residents. The organisation benefits from a talented and motivated workforce, strong senior leadership and a willingness to reflect and evolve. However, to accelerate and embed meaningful transformation the council must ensure that its improvement agenda is underpinned by coherent governance structures, robust planning and well-communicated priorities.

Strategic Oversight of Transformation

While there are multiple areas of change and improvement underway across the council, it was not always clear to the peer team how these efforts are coordinated within the transformation programme. There is awareness of the importance of effective transformation governance arrangements that have clarity of purpose, ownership and direction. Staff at all levels should be able to understand how transformation activity connects to the council's corporate priorities and the council should maximise staff contributions to the design and delivery of transformation so that it will deliver tangible outcomes, particularly in terms of improved services, efficiencies and financial sustainability. The peer team understand the council is considering the LGA Leadership and Management Transformation Maturity Matrix to guide the development of this work. Having a well-structured framework will help prioritise the right projects and provide the rigour needed to support change at scale.

The transformation programme should have clearer links to savings plans, making it easier to assess progress, monitor delivery, and direct resources effectively within timescales that can be assessed.

Digital, Data and Technology

The council is aware of the need to improve the approach to digital, data and technology and approved its Digital, Data and Technology (DDaT) strategy in 2022 which provides a powerful lever for improvement. The focus in the strategy on improving foundational IT, the Digital Customer Programme and the data programme around governance presents an opportunity not only to streamline operations but also to drive a data-informed culture. The need to address digital inclusion is a further

driver that will require investment in data infrastructure, improved access to quality information and capacity-building around data literacy, insight generation and performance analysis. A stronger focus on data will support better decision-making, service redesign and evaluation of impact.

At the moment there appears to be a low level of understanding amongst member and officers of what being digital means and a danger that the answer is purely a technological one. Real maturity in digital and data would see service owners examining end to end business processes and realising that technology is only one part of the solution. The organisation has been 'passive' towards maximising the use of technology and the IT service has felt the point of blame.

There are 172,000 registered accounts on the council's online 'My Account' platform with nearly two million digital transactions per year. The platform is there and needs greater internal visibility and reporting of success.

There is a clear recognition among staff of the need to embrace modern tools and technology to enhance ways of working. Ensuring all staff can access the internet and council IT systems will increase productivity, unlock capacity across services and contribute to improved efficiency and staff experience.

The council should harness the enthusiasm and digital capability that exists within its workforce. Staff are eager to explore new tools, and the council would benefit from taking a more targeted approach to digital innovation. In particular, it should identify high impact use cases for artificial intelligence (AI), automation, and predictive analytics, ensuring that any deployment is purposeful, ethical and aligned with service outcomes.

Community Engagement and Collaboration

A critical part of the council's capacity for improvement lies in how it works with local communities and partners. The peer team noticed an absence of dialogue around how the council engages, listens to and empowers the communities. The peer team felt confident that this type of activity happens across the council and it may have been a quirk of what the team were asked to focus on that this was not heard very loudly. It is clear however that there is an active interest in the council and willing and able CVFS sector partners who acknowledge the council's move to a more strategic footing, but there is an opportunity here for the council to go further to address the

housing, homelessness and mental health challenges.

The Business sector also has the potential to add more value to the council's priority of improving the look and feel of the city. Strengthening these partnerships and embedding them in service design and delivery will not only increase capacity but also bring innovative, locally informed approaches to tackling complex challenges.

Enabling a Learning Organisation

All of the above areas, from transformation governance to digital enablement and community partnerships, are essential components of the council's aspiration to become a learning organisation. To enable this the council should articulate a clear, practical vision for what being a learning organisation means in the day-to-day experiences of staff, residents and partners. This includes visible leadership behaviours, ongoing professional development, feedback loops and mechanisms for sharing insight and innovation. Initiatives such as the Future Leaders Diverse Talent Programme demonstrate the council's potential to lead in this space and should be amplified across the organisation. In this way staff can be supported and empowered to contribute to change, learn from success and failure and continuously improve how services are delivered.

6. Next steps

It is recognised that senior political and managerial leadership will want to consider, discuss and reflect on these findings. The LGA will continue to provide on-going support to the council. Following publication of the CPC report the council will need to produce and publish an action plan within five months of the time on site. As part of the CPC, the council are also required to have a progress review and publish the findings from this within twelve months of the CPC. The LGA will also publish the progress review report on their website.

The progress review will provide space for a council's senior leadership to report to peers on the progress made against each of the CPC's recommendations, discuss early impact or learning and receive feedback on the implementation of the CPC action plan. The progress review will usually be delivered on-site over one day.

In the meantime, Mona Sehgal, LGA Principal Adviser, South East (Berkshire, East Sussex, Brighton and Hove, Kent and Medway), is the main point of contact between

the authority and the LGA and her email address is Mona.Sehgal@local.gov.uk.

On behalf of the Corporate Peer Challenge team.

Marcus Coulson

LGA Senior Adviser

April 2025.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council Agenda Item 44

Subject: Devolution for Sussex & Brighton

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Report of: Director for Governance and Law

Contact Officer: Name: Head of Democratic Services

Email: anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 In July 2025, following a public consultation, the Government, confirmed that the proposal to create a new Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) for Sussex and Brighton had met the statutory tests and that it would move forward with mayoral elections scheduled for May 2026.
- 1.2 Before a new MCCA for Sussex and Brighton can be formally created, the three Upper Tier authorities – West Sussex County Council (WSCC), East Sussex County Council (ESCC), and Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) are required to provide their consent.
- 1.3 This report advises Council of a Cabinet report that asks Cabinet to confirm its approval in principle to consenting to devolution in the terms outlined, and seeks authority to delegate to the Council's Chief Executive Officer the task of conferring Brighton & Hove City Council's formal consent.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council endorse the recommendations set out in the Cabinet report attached.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 In December 2024, the Government published the English Devolution White Paper outlining its vision, priorities and plans for devolution in England. In February 2025, an application from BHCC, ESCC and WSCC to join the Devolution Priority Programme and to establish an MCCA for the Sussex and Brighton region was accepted by the government.
- 3.2 Between 10th February and 17th April 2025, the government carried out a consultation to seek views from stakeholders and residents from across the Sussex region on proposals to form an MCCA for Sussex and Brighton. In July 2025, the government published the outcome of the consultation and confirmed that the proposal to create an MCCA for Sussex and Brighton had

- met the statutory tests and that it would move forward with mayoral elections scheduled for May 2026.
- 3.3 Prior to the passing of the Bill, the creation of a new MCCA will require secondary legislation in the form of an SI to be debated and approved by both Houses of Parliament. The government has announced its intention to lay the necessary SI that would create a new MCCA for Sussex and Brighton in Parliament in Autumn 2025. Before the SI can be laid it is necessary for all constituent authorities to provide formal consent.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 Having submitted a successful expression of interest to join the Devolution Priority Programme and been given the go-ahead by the government to progress devolution in Sussex and Brighton, the Council has been working with partners towards the creation of an MCCA.
- 4.2 The alternative to the recommendations outlined above is to refuse consent to move forward with devolution in Sussex and Brighton.

5. Community engagement and consultation

5.1 A summary of a government-led public consultation is set out in the Cabinet report attached.

6. Financial implications

6.1 A summary of the financial implications is set out in the Cabinet report attached.

Name of finance officer consulted: James Hengeveld Date consulted: 01/10/2025

7. Legal implications

7.1 A summary of the legal implications is set out in the Cabinet report attached.

Name of lawyer consulted: Allan Wells Date consulted: 25/09/2025

8. Equalities implications

8.1 A summary of the equalities implications is set out in the Cabinet report attached.

Name of equalities officer consulted: Deborah Totney Date consulted: 01/09/2025

9. Sustainability implications

9.1 A summary of the sustainability implications is set out in the Cabinet report attached.

10. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

10.1 A summary of the health and wellbeing implications is set out in the Cabinet report attached.

11. Conclusion

11.1 Council is asked to endorse the proposals the recommendations for devolution set-out in the Cabinet report attached.

Supporting Documentation

- 1. Brighton and Hove City Council devolution consultation response
- 2. Summary of the Sussex & Brighton Combined County Authority Regulations 2026
- 3. Summary of Devolution Framework
- 4. Sussex and Brighton devolution consultation response GOV.UK

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet Agenda Item 52

Subject: Devolution for Sussex & Brighton

Date of meeting: Thursday, 16 October 2025

Report of: Leader of the Council

Lead Officer: Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Tom Cottam - Devolution Programme Director

tom.cottam@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards).

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 The Government has set out an ambitious plan to broaden and deepen devolution across England to help drive economic growth, improve living standards and strengthen public services. Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) firmly believes that devolution has the potential to deliver significant benefits to our City and the wider region by ensuring more decisions are made closer to local communities, unlocking funding and investment and supporting collaboration. BHCC has welcomed the Government's decision to move forward with plans for devolution in Sussex and Brighton and has been collaborating with partners across the region towards the creation of a new Mayoral County Combined Authority (MCCA).
- 1.2 Before a new MCCA for Sussex and Brighton can be formally created, the three Upper Tier authorities West Sussex County Council (WSCC), East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and BHCC are required to provide their consent. The purpose of this report is to support this decision-making process. The report sets out the background to devolution in Sussex and Brighton, summarises the provisions of the draft Statutory Instrument (SI) that would create a new MCCA, and outlines the implications of devolution for BHCC. It asks Cabinet to confirm its approval in principle to consenting to devolution in the terms outlined and seeks authority to delegate to the Council's Chief Executive Officer the task of conferring Brighton & Hove City Council's formal consent.
- 1.3 Devolution is central to the delivery of BHCC's ambitions set out in the refreshed Council Plan and commits the Council to seek to maximise the opportunities offered by devolution. Devolution is particularly relevant to Outcome 1 A City to be proud of, and Outcome 2 A fair and inclusive city.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the content of this report including the effect of the Statutory Instrument and the assessment of the implications for Brighton & Hove City Council of creating a new Mayoral Combined County Authority for Sussex & Brighton.
- 2.2 That Cabinet confirms its approval in principle to consenting to devolution and delegates authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to undertake all steps necessary to provide consent on behalf of the Council to the Statutory Instrument that the Government proposes to lay before Parliament to create a new Mayoral Combined County Authority in the Sussex and Brighton region.
- 2.3 That Cabinet approves the procurement of the mayoral booklet services outlined in 6.13 of the report and grants delegated authority to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Director Governance and Law to:
 - i. Take all steps necessary or incidental to undertake the procurement process;
 - Award the framework agreement and any respective call-off contracts and take all steps necessary or incidental to recover the costs incurred from the MCCA.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 In December 2024, the Government published the English Devolution White Paper outlining its vision, priorities and plans for devolution in England. In February 2025, an application from BHCC, ESCC and WSCC to join the Devolution Priority Programme and to establish an MCCA for the Sussex and Brighton region was accepted by the Government.
- 3.2 Between 10th February and 17th April 2025, the Government carried out a consultation to seek views from stakeholders and residents from across the Sussex region on proposals to form an MCCA for Sussex and Brighton covering the areas of WSCC, ESCC and BHCC with the three upper tier authorities becoming 'constituent authorities' within a new MCCA. BHCC responded to this consultation outlining its support for devolution and the potential benefits for the region (Appendix 1). In July 2025, the Government published the outcome of the consultation and confirmed that the proposal to create an MCCA for Sussex and Brighton had met the statutory tests and that it would move forward with mayoral elections scheduled for May 2026.
- 3.3 In July 2025, the Government published the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill ('the Bill'), which sets out the legislation required to deliver the vision outlined in the White Paper. The Bill includes a new standardised 'Devolution Framework' that sets out the powers and functions that will be exercised by different levels of new 'Strategic Authorities'.

- 3.4 Prior to the passing of the Bill, the creation of a new MCCA will require secondary legislation in the form of an SI to be debated and approved by both Houses of Parliament. The Government has announced its intention to lay the necessary SI that would create a new MCCA for Sussex and Brighton in Parliament in Autumn 2025. Before the SI can be laid it is necessary for all constituent authorities to provide formal consent.
- 3.5 The Government has informed prospective constituent authorities that the time between seeking formal consent and laying the SI before Parliament will be limited and therefore officials have requested that Cabinets delegate authority to Chief Executives to provide consent.

The Benefits of Devolution

3.6 The vision outlined in the Government's White Paper and the provisions set out in the SI and the Bill (summarised in this report) represent a significant transfer of powers and resources from Central Government to regions and offers benefits across a range of policy areas. Some of the expected benefits of devolution are set out below.

Economic Growth

- 3.7 Brighton & Hove is a thriving city with a vibrant small business base. The research undertaken for the City's Economic Plan showed that the number of businesses in the City increased by 30% between 2013 and 2023, with the number of jobs increasing by 19.5%. The City is a regional economic hub that supports thousands of residents in surrounding areas and is well-positioned for future growth and investment. However, regional collaboration is vital to address shared structural challenges that limit the region's potential, such as access to affordable housing or poor transport connectivity, and help address the persistent inequalities experienced by many communities.
- 3.8 Supported by a new 30-year £1.14 billion Investment Fund, devolution offers a significant opportunity to drive economic growth that draws on the region's strengths and is responsive to the needs of its diverse communities. A new Local Growth Plan for Sussex and Brighton, drawing on the work of the many active collaborations across the region, including the Brighton and Hove Growth Board and the Greater Brighton Economic Board, can create a long-term focus for regional priorities and establish a distinctive economic vision that can help attract new investment.

Transport

3.9 Devolution offers new opportunities and powers to take a more strategic regional approach to transport, such as improving both east-west and north-south connectivity, that could deliver improvements in how residents across the region live and work. Existing combined authorities, such as Greater Manchester and West Midlands, have demonstrated the benefits that can be achieved by working at a regional level to develop integrated transport services that improve access to jobs, education, and services.

3.10 Alongside driving improvements in transport infrastructure, the Government has made it clear that a new MCCA will play an important role in decarbonising the transport network and reducing its environmental and health impacts. An updated Transport Plan for Brighton and Hove will be published early next year and will set out ambitions for transport in the City. This up-to-date plan will provide a clear focus for engagement with partners on the development of a vision for improving transport across the entire region.

Adult Skills

- 3.11 The Get Sussex Working Plan that will be published imminently, outlines a vision of a dynamic Sussex workforce that empowers residents to develop the skills they need to access meaningful employment that improves lives, addresses inequalities, and enables businesses to thrive.
- 3.12 Devolution will allow regional control over adult skills funding that will be vital to deliver this vision by enabling the design of training and support that reflects the specific needs of employers and the aspirations of residents across Sussex. West Yorkshire Combined Authority are already delivering benefits for residents and employers by having direct control of devolved skills funding and working collaboratively with partners to deliver provision tailored to local need. By working at a regional level to develop the Get Sussex Working Plan and the Local Skills Improvement Plan we have established strong foundations across Sussex for collaboration and are well positioned to benefit from devolution.

Housing

- 3.13 Like many areas across the UK, Brighton and Hove is facing significant challenges with housing supply and affordability, with 7,500 households currently on the Housing Register, including 1,800 people currently living in temporary or emergency accommodation. BHCC is taking steps to increase the availability of affordable housing, but high land values in the city have led challenges with funding not being sufficient or flexible enough to unlock affordable homes in developments and Registered Providers being sometimes unwilling to take on secured affordable homes.
- 3.14 With access to new powers and greater control and flexibility over funding, a new MCCA could work in partnership with local authorities, Homes England, and communities to coordinate housing development and regeneration in line with regional need and investment in transport, skills, and infrastructure. This can help to increase housing supply, unlock growth and accelerate regeneration.

The Statutory Instrument

3.15 The SI will be called *The Sussex & Brighton Combined County Authority Regulations 2026*. Under parliamentary procedure for the introduction of legislation, the full and final text of the SI would be made public at the point it is laid in Parliament. To support Cabinet decision-making, a summary of the SI has been prepared and is included as Appendix 2.

- 3.16 Cabinet should note that the scope of this SI is comparatively limited compared to similar regulations that have provided the legal force to create new combined authorities in the past. This is because the full range of powers and responsibilities that will be exercised by a newly created MCCA are set out in the Bill and will be conferred on all combined authorities (depending on the level of devolution outlined in the Bill (see section 3.9 below)) once it is approved by Parliament. The Bill is currently at Committee Stage in the House of Commons. It is the Government's intention that the Bill will pass into law and take effect before the mayoral elections in May 2026. An overview of the key provisions of the SI are summarised below:
 - Establishment of Combined County Authority (CCA) Establishes
 the CCA for the local government areas of BHCC, ESCC and WSCC and
 names it as the Sussex and Brighton Combined County Authority. The
 CCA will have the functions set out in SI although further functions may
 be conferred in the future through further regulations.
 - Commencement date all Regulations will come into force the day after they are made, except Mayoral Functions which come into force on 11 May 2026 (post the Mayoral election on 7th May).
 - Election of Mayor Sets out how Mayors will be elected every fourth
 year as well as how terms will begin and end. Sets out that the Mayor will
 be able to employ a single political advisor, who will be an employee of
 the CCA. The position will be a politically restricted post that is tied to the
 mayor who appoints them.
 - Transport sets out the functions that will transfer to the CCA from the
 constituent authorities. These relate to the requirement to produce a
 Local Transport Plan (LTP) and associated statutory requirements and
 guidance for producing and publishing an LTP. These functions will only
 be exercisable by the Mayor. There will be a transition period ending 31st
 March 2027 during which the powers will be held concurrently by the
 CCA and constituent authorities
 - Power to pay grant A CCA may pay a grant to (a) constituent authority/ies towards expenditure incurred or to be incurred by a constituent council. This power is exercisable only by the Mayor. In determining the amount to be paid to a constituent council in relation to that council's highway functions, the CCA must have regard to the desirability of ensuring that the relevant constituent council has sufficient funds to exercise its highways function and decisions must take into account other sources of funding.
 - Funding constituent authorities must ensure the reasonable costs of the CCA and Mayor are met (to the extent the Mayor has decided not to use other funds). The constituent authorities must meet the costs of expenditure associated with the exercise of mayoral functions. However, the mayor must agree with the CCA the total expenditure in advance of incurring the expenditure. The costs to constituent authorities must be apportioned either through a mechanism of their own agreement or, if no

agreement is in place, based on the number of their residents as a proportion of the total population of the CCA area. The CCA can raise its own funds through a precept.

- **Constitution** the constitution of the CCA will be included as a Schedule of the SI and includes the following provisions:
 - Membership and substitution each constituent authority must appoint two members to join the CCA, and two substitute members, either of whom may substitute for either member.
 - Chair the Mayor will act as Chair once elected. Ahead of the Mayor being elected, the CCA will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair appointed by the CCA will cease to be Chair following the election of the Mayor and the Office of Vice Chair will be abolished.
 - Non-constituent & associate members The CCA may if it wishes appoint up to a maximum of six non-constituent and associate members in total, and each of these must nominate a substitute. Associate members (appointed at the discretion of the CCA) may not vote; non-constituent members (representatives of a designated 'nominating body') do not have voting rights unless the CCA resolves to give them voting rights.
 - Voting Ahead of the Mayor being elected the normal rule is that any decision of the CCA is by a simple majority (but must include the Chair (or Vice Chair) and three constituent members. Once the Mayor is elected, such a majority must include the Mayor (or the Deputy Mayor acting in place of the Mayor) and with a minimum of four constituent members being present. Each member of the CCA has one vote and there is no casting vote. The SI sets out 2 exceptions to the normal rule:
 - A two thirds majority vote is needed to veto the Mayor's budget
 - In the event of a tie, the Mayor has a casting vote on the Local Transport Plan
 - Quorum before the first Mayor's term, quoracy will require the Chair or Vice Chair to be present as well as three of the members appointed by the constituent authorities. After the Mayor is elected, quoracy requires the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor acting as Chair and a minimum of any four constituent authority members be present.
 - Remuneration Ordinary members of the CCA will not be remunerated except for travel and expenses. Remuneration will be allowed for the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, provided they are not also a Leader of a constituent authority. Remuneration will also be allowed for members appointed to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee or Audit Committee of the CCA.

3.17 Should all three constituent authorities consent to the laying of the SI, it will then need to be debated in and approved by both Houses of Parliament. Parliament can only approve or reject SIs; it is not possible for them to be amended once they have been laid. Parliament is allowed up to 8 sitting weeks in which to approve the SI, and it is expected that this process would be completed at some point in early 2026, at which point the MCCA would formally come into existence.

The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill

- 3.18 The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill will create in law a new category of authority in England, the 'Strategic Authority.' The government aims to introduce a Strategic Authority for each area in England. Under provision in the Bill, each Strategic Authority will belong to 1 of these levels of devolution:
 - **Foundation** available to those authorities without an elected Mayor, with more limited devolution.
 - Mayoral available to areas with an elected Mayor, with greater devolution. The proposals outlined here would result in the creation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority for Sussex and Brighton.
 - Established Mayoral available to Mayoral Strategic Authorities who are able to satisfy additional governance requirements.
 Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities will have access to the broadest range of devolved powers and functions.
- 3.19 A Strategic Authority can progress through the levels of devolution, but each level is exclusive, meaning a Strategic Authority cannot be in more than one level at any one time.
- 3.20 The Bill includes provision that will enable Strategic Authorities to expand their powers over time in the following ways:
 - Power to expand the Devolution Framework over time using secondary legislation giving more powers to devolved areas.
 - Create the ability for specific Strategic Authorities to pilot devolved powers before the government decides whether to add them to the Devolution Framework and make them available to all Strategic Authorities.
 - Empower Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities with a 'right to request' which allows them to propose further powers, funding and partnerships to expand the Devolution Framework. The government will be required to officially respond to these requests.
- 3.21 The Bill introduces a 'Devolution Framework' with a standardised set of legal powers, funding commitments, and partnership/collaboration arrangements with government across seven competency areas. The competency areas for Strategic Authorities are:
 - transport and local infrastructure
 - skills and employment support

- housing and strategic planning
- economic development and regeneration
- environment and net zero
- health, wellbeing and public service reform
- public safety
- 3.22 The framework sets out what Strategic Authorities are entitled to at each level of devolution across the competency areas including where powers are exercisable by the Mayor alone and where powers will be held concurrently with constituent authorities. Appendix 3 sets out the powers and duties of Mayoral Strategic Authorities outlined in the Devolution Framework and a summary is provided below.
- 3.23 **Transport and Local Infrastructure** The provisions in the Bill that relate to transport are significant and would result in the transfer of Local Transport Authority (LTA) functions and powers that are currently held by local authorities.
 - Local Transport Authority Functions Strategic Authorities will automatically become the Local Transport Authority (LTA) for their area, with responsibility for preparing and publishing LTPs. These functions will transfer from constituent authorities but will be held concurrently with for a transitional period. As the LTA, Strategic Authorities will have powers and duties to secure the provision of passenger transport services, to prepare a bus strategy, enter partnerships with bus operators, enter franchising schemes, and manage travel concessions. Functions relating to LTPs and franchising schemes are exercisable only by the Mayor. However, final approval of a Local Transport Plan is subject to a simple majority vote of constituent members where the Mayor must be in the majority. If the vote is tied, the Mayor has an additional casting vote.
 - Transport Levy Power for Strategic Authorities to issue levies to their constituent authorities to meet the cost of exercising their transport functions, where otherwise not met.
 - Agreements between authorities and strategic highways companies - This allows Strategic Authorities to enter into agreements with local highway authorities (upper-tier local authorities) and/or National Highways to delegate or share the maintenance and improvement of roads. These functions will be held concurrently between constituent authorities and Strategic Authorities.
 - Civil enforcement of road traffic contraventions Powers to enable Strategic Authorities to enforce parking, bus lane, and moving traffic contraventions through penalty charge notices. This is only possible if the relevant constituent council already has those functions and consents to the Strategic Authorities using them. These functions will be held concurrently between constituent authorities and Strategic Authorities.

- Key Route Network Mayoral Strategic Authorities will have a duty
 to set up and coordinate a Key Route Network. Mayors will also hold
 a Power of Direction over constituent highway authority exercise of
 their traffic, permit, street and local highways authority powers on Key
 Route Network roads. This function is exercisable only by the Mayor.
- Transfer of duty of principal councils to make reports on Key Route Network roads - Mayoral Strategic Authorities will be required to prepare reports assessing local road traffic levels and forecasting their growth on their Key Route Network. These reports may include targets and proposals for achieving these targets. Mayoral Strategic Authorities will take over this duty for key route network roads. constituent authorities will retain this duty for other local roads.
- Road User Charging These powers enable a Strategic Authority to make a joint road user charging scheme (e.g. congestion charging) with relevant constituent councils. This function can only be exercised jointly with the relevant constituent local traffic authority (the uppertier local authority) where the scheme would take place. Constituent authorities continue to be able to exercise this power independently.
- On-Street Micromobility Schemes These powers enable Strategic Authorities, in their role as the Local Transport Authority, to license micromobility schemes operating on public roads and pavements.
- 3.24 Skills and employment support The Bill will transfer adult education functions from central government to Strategic Authorities. This will enable the Department for Education to give Strategic Authorities a grant for adult skills. Strategic Authorities can use this as they see fit to meet the skills needs of adults in their region. Subject to a transitional period, the Bill will automatically transfer functions relating to adult education to any new Strategic Authorities.

3.25 Housing and strategic planning

- Spatial Development Strategies Strategic Authorities will have a
 duty to produce a Spatial Development Strategy. These documents
 enable them to strategically plan for development across their whole
 area. This function is exercisable by the Mayor. However, approval of
 the strategy requires a simple majority vote of the Mayor and
 constituent members. This provision will be introduced through clause
 52 of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill that has reached Report
 Stage in the House of Lords.
- Housing and Land Powers Powers to allow Mayoral Strategic
 Authorities to acquire housing and land for specific purposes. This
 includes powers to acquire land using the compulsory purchase
 powers previously solely held by Homes England. They also include
 the ability to provide financial assistance to any person. These
 functions are exercised concurrently with Homes England. Mayors

exercise the compulsory purchase function on behalf of the Strategic Authority. Before exercising their compulsory purchase powers, Mayors must consult the local planning authority where the power is to be exercised.

- Mayoral Development Corporations These powers enable Mayors of Strategic Authorities to designate a Mayoral Development Area and subsequently establish a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) for that area. These powers are exercisable by the Mayor. This means that the Mayor is responsible for establishing and overseeing a Mayoral Development Corporation. However, the designation of a Mayoral Development Area will be subject to a simple majority of voting members.
- Strategic Development Management Powers These powers enable Mayors to intervene in planning applications of potential strategic importance and the ability to call in these applications.
- Mayoral Development Orders These powers give Mayors the ability to prepare Mayoral Development Orders (MDOs). MDOs allow them to grant pre-emptive planning permission for a particular development instead of relying on an application to be submitted. These functions are exercisable only by the Mayor on behalf of the Strategic Authority. However, Mayors must consult and gain approval of the local planning authority where the order would have effect. Where the local planning authority does not approve the order, the Mayor can request the Secretary of State approve the order instead.
- Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy These powers enable
 Mayors to charge developers a Mayoral Community Infrastructure
 Levy. This is a charge which can be imposed on new development in
 their area. It can be used to raise funds to deliver infrastructure
 needed to support development in their area.
- 3.26 **Economic growth and regeneration –** The Bill places a range of powers and duties on Strategic Authorities to support economic growth and regeneration. Central is the duty to produce a Local Growth Plan that will provide a long-term strategic framework for driving economic growth and investment priorities in a region.
 - Power to borrow up to an agreed cap This power will automatically confer on Strategic Authorities the power to borrow upon establishment for purposes relevant to their functions. However, a Strategic Authority must obtain consent from the Secretary of State before the first exercise of the power to borrow money for a purpose relevant to a function other than its transport, police or fire and rescue functions. This function is exercised concurrently with constituent authorities.
 - Local Growth Plans Mayoral Strategic Authorities will have a duty to produce a Local Growth Plan.

- Duty to prepare an assessment of economic conditions Strategic Authorities must prepare and maintain an assessment of the
 economic conditions of their area. This is a separate duty from the
 duty to produce a Local Growth Plan but both duties could be
 satisfied simultaneously. This function is exercised concurrently with
 constituent authorities.
- Powers to encourage visitors and provide entertainment. These
 powers enable Strategic Authorities to encourage people to visit their
 area and provide, support, and/or contribute to the provision of
 entertainments, such as concerts, plays, or exhibitions, and incur
 expenditure for these purposes. This includes powers to provide
 premises, facilities, or publicity for cultural and recreational events.
 This function is exercised concurrently with constituent authorities.
- 3.27 Environment and climate change The functions set out in the Devolution Framework related to environment and climate change are limited to a Heat Network Zoning coordination role. This means that Strategic Authorities will be well placed to take forward heat network zones and create zone coordinators.
- 3.28 **Health, wellbeing and public service reform –** The Bill introduced 'health in all policies' duty to ensure that when a mayor or Strategic Authority is considering whether or how to use any of its powers and functions they will have a duty to have regard to the need to improve the health of people in the Strategic Authority area and the need to reduce health inequalities in the local area.
- 3.29 **Public safety –** The Bill provides for the transfer of Policing and Crime Commission and Fire and Rescue Authority functions as well as duties to share information relating to crime and disorder:
 - Sharing of information in relation to crime and disorder These powers both enable and place a duty on Strategic Authorities to disclose information relating to the reduction of crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour, to other relevant authorities (such as local authorities, social landlords and the police). This function is exercised concurrently with constituent authorities.
 - Police and Crime Commissioner Functions Mayors will be, by default, accountable for the exercise of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) functions where mayoral boundaries align with police force boundaries, or with two police force boundaries when taken together. Transfers will be subject to secondary legislation. These functions will be exercisable by the mayors, but mayors will have to delegate PCC responsibilities to a Deputy Mayor (for Policing, Fire and Crime for each police force area for which they have PCC functions). Government has confirmed that PCC functions will not transfer until April 2027.

- Fire and Rescue Authority Functions Mayors will be, by default, accountable for the exercise of Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) functions where FRA and mayoral boundaries align, subject to secondary legislation. These functions will be exercisable by the mayors, but mayors will have the option to delegate FRA responsibilities to a Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime, or a Public Safety Commissioner. Government has confirmed that FRA functions will not transfer until April 2027.
- 3.30 **Mayoral Powers of Competence -** The Bill will also give mayors of Strategic Authorities new powers known as 'the Mayoral Powers of Competence.' These powers will strengthen the role of a mayor, by giving them the means to drive growth, collaboration and improvements within their areas. The Mayoral Powers of Competence are made up of:
 - the General Power of Competence a broad general power enabling Mayoral Strategic Authorities, and their mayors, to do anything an individual can legally do
 - a power to convene enabling mayors to convene local partners to address local challenges
 - a duty to respond placing a duty on local partners to respond to a mayor's request when they make use of the power to convene
 - a duty to collaborate ensuring that mayors have a formal process by which they can collaborate with neighbouring mayors to deliver projects and strategies together
- 3.31 Other powers The Bill also permits the Secretary of State to add areas to a combined authority without needing approval of the local authorities affected.

Local Implementation

- 3.32 Preliminary work to prepare for the creation of a new MCCA is ongoing and will accelerate if and when formal consent is provided by all constituent councils. To enable collaboration and partnership working, an informal Partnership Board has been established to bring together senior partners from across the region to support establishment of a new MCCA. The first meeting of the Partnership Board is scheduled for 10th October 2025. Subject to guidance from the Partnership Board, there are plans to convene a wider Stakeholder Forum to strengthen and deepen partnership working.
- 3.33 A delivery partner with experience of supporting the development and set-up of new combined authorities has been appointed and will work with Leaders and officers from across the constituent councils to undertake the necessary work to legally and practically establish a new MCCA for Sussex and Brighton. Early requirements include agreeing a Constitution and the development of a Local Assurance Framework (LAF). The LAF must demonstrate that robust assurance, project appraisal and value for money processes are in place and requires government sign-off before the first Investment Fund instalment can be released.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The Government has been clear about its ambition to 'complete the map' for devolution in England. The Bill includes a power for a ministerial directive to enable devolution directly and create Strategic Authorities in any places where local leaders in that region have not been able to agree how to access devolved powers. Having submitted a successful expression of interest to join the Devolution Priority Programme and been given the goahead by the Government to progress devolution in Sussex and Brighton, the Council has been working with partners towards the creation of an MCCA.
- 4.2 The alternative to the recommendations outlined above is to refuse consent to move forward with devolution in Sussex and Brighton, which would have a number of negative impacts. This would include preventing or delaying the predicted benefits of devolution and the flow of new funding and powers from government to Sussex and Brighton, including £38m of new investment provided by the 30-year Investment Fund.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 National government undertook an 8-week public consultation from 17 February to 13 April 2025 to engage and seek responses from a range of interested parties across the region. Government-led engagement included issuing a press notice at the start and towards the end of the consultation for local and regional media, a social media advertising campaign, distribution of flyers, posters, and hard copy consultation documents. Officials from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government ran an in-person event on 31 March in Brighton and attended a range of stakeholder meetings.
- 5.2 BHCC promoted the Government consultation to our residents through local media, on social media, on the council website, and through partners. Information was also shared offline at public meetings, through support of an in-person engagement event, as well as making the consultation material available in Council buildings such as libraries and town halls.
- 5.3 Overall, the Government-led consultation in Sussex and Brighton resulted in 6,122 responses from individuals and organisations including; 5,959 from members of the public and 163 from a range of organisations including the prospective constituent and other local councils, businesses, the voluntary and community sectors, and academic institutions. A full summary of the consultation responses was published by the Government (Appendix 4)

6. Financial implications

6.1 It is anticipated that the financial implications of devolution and the creation of a new MCCA will be significant. A new 30-year investment fund will be made available to new MCCAs to spend on agreed regional priorities. The transfer of functions from government and constituent authorities to new MCCAs will in some instances be accompanied by the transfer of funding

- streams. A new mayor will have powers to issue council tax precepts, pay grants to constituent authorities to deliver its functions and issue a transport levy. There will also be costs associated with the administration of a new MCCA and the delivery of mayoral elections.
- 6.2 Work to assess the full financial impacts of these changes is ongoing and will continue as more information is received from government relating to future funding allocations. Most significantly this will relate to transport functions, housing and development and adult skills. The financial and staffing impact will also necessarily be shaped by the decisions and priorities of a new MCCA once established. Without more information on funding allocations and in advance of the establishment of the MCCA, it is only possible to provide an overview of the potential financial impact, which is outlined below.
- 6.3 The creation of a 30-year investment fund The government has confirmed that £38 million a year over 30 years will be made available to a new MCCA to be spent in line with agreed regional priorities. This is expected to be new resources. The fund will be paid from 2026/27 onwards and will be split 50/50 between capital and revenue spend.
- 6.4 **Transport** As a new MCCA takes on Local Transport Authority functions, it is anticipated that relevant funding currently provided by government will transfer once a new MCCA is created. This could include the transfer of funding that has previously been provided via the Bus Services Improvement Plans (BSIP), the Integrated Transport Block and for local highway maintenance. In 2025/26 the combined funding allocated to BHCC under these three schemes was £17.645 million.
- In addition, new MCCAs will also have the power to **issue levies** to their constituent authorities to meet the cost of exercising their transport functions. Mayors will also have the **power to make grant** to constituent authorities to carry out functions on behalf of the MCCA, which is commonly used by existing mayors to pass funding for maintaining local roads to constituent authorities.
- Responsibility for managing **travel concessions** will transfer from constituent authorities to the MCCA. Currently, there is no specific funding to BHCC for travel concessions (concessionary fares and supported bus routes); funding for these services was originally transferred to general resources through Revenue Support Grant and the retained share of business rates. However, these resources have reduced drastically over time. In reality, the very high take up of concessionary travel in Brighton and Hove has been funded from the income generated from on-street parking. In 2025/26 the cost of providing concessionary travel in Brighton and Hove is estimated to be £10.800 million and the net (of BSIP) cost of supported bus routes is £0.380 million. In the future, concessionary travel could be funded by a new MCCA through a transport levy on constituent authorities.
- 6.7 **Adult skills –** Under plans for adult skills, functions and budgets will transfer from government to a new MCCA. Implementation of adult skills devolution

commences in time for the 2027/28 academic year. Currently, this funding is paid directly to local authorities and other providers to commission and/or deliver education and training. In 2025/26 BHCC received circa £0.535 million from the Adult Skills Fund and £3.500 million for Skills Bootcamps. In the future the strategic oversight and distribution of this funding will be transferred to a new MCCA subject to the passing of the Bill.

- 6.8 **Housing and Regeneration** Historically, BHCC had bid for funding to support housing projects such as through the Affordable Housing Programme, Brownfield release schemes and warmer homes and decarbonisation funding streams. At this stage it is not clear if these bids would need to go through the MCCA and if this funding will be devolved to the MCCA at a future date.
- 6.9 **The power to issue a precept** The Mayor will have the power to issue a precept to generate revenue across all mayoral and MCCA functions.
- 6.10 Funding MCCA The SI includes a provision that the constituent authorities must meet the costs of expenditure associated with the exercise of mayoral functions although it is assumed these costs will be met from other resources available to the MCCA. The mayor must agree with the MCCA any expenditure in advance and so there is the potential for costs to fall on the BHCC albeit with advance agreement. The default cost sharing mechanism is apportionment by population of the constituent authorities unless another mechanism is agreed.
- 6.11 The cost of the establishing a new MCCA The government has confirmed that a capacity fund to contribute to the cost of setting up a new MCCA will be provided for four years from 2025/2026 with £1 million having been committed for the first year of funding (which will be released when the SI is laid). An additional minimum of £3 million has been allocated for the three subsequent years, with funding for each year to be confirmed subject to government business planning.
- 6.12 The cost of running the Mayoral election The election of the Mayor will be administered by the Returning Officers at district level with the respective authorities incurring cost which must then be reimbursed by the MCCA. Draft Maximum Recoverable Amounts based on the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (Local Returning Officers' and Police Area Returning Officers' Charges) Order 2024 estimate that delivery of the election will cost £4.337 million across the region if no other polls take place on the same day. The cost to be reimbursed to BHCC, for costs incurred locally, is estimated to be £0.572 million. The BHCC Returning Officer will also act as the Combined County Authority Returning Officer (CCARO).
- 6.13 **Cost of Mayoral Booklet** At the election, the CCARO is also required to post a mayoral booklet containing manifestos to each elector in Sussex. It is estimated this will cost a further £1.1 million and must be recovered from the MCCA. To deliver the mayoral booklets requirement, the CCARO seeks Cabinet approval to procure print and postage services. The CCARO has identified the Crown Commercial Service framework as a compliant

procurement route that has been used by several other CCAROs. The majority of the cost will be postage. Due to the requirement to send booklets to postal voters first class, the final number of postal voters not being available until April and rising postage costs, there is potential for costs to rise above the estimated £1.1million figure. Agreement is therefore sought for a total contract cost of up to £1.3million to prevent further Cabinet decisions being required for a statutory spend. The CCARO will seek to deliver best value and will work closely with suppliers from the framework to reduce costs to a minimum, while taking all available steps to recover the total costs from the MCCA.

Name of finance officer consulted: James Hengeveld

Date consulted :10/09/2025

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The current statutory provisions for the establishment of a MCCA are set-out in section 46 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. These include the requirement for each of the constituent authorities to consent to its establishment before the Secretary of State can make the necessary regulations, together with the need for consultation and for the Secretary of State to be satisfied of the relevant tests. The consultation was carried out as indicated in this report from February to April 2025, and the MHCLG confirmed its view that the relevant tests had been met in July 2025.
- 7.2 The report sets out a summary of the proposed Statutory Instrument which will need to be approved by parliament before the MCCA can be established. It is anticipated that the functions that will be delegated to the MCCA will be those identified in the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, once that is enacted.
- 7.3 The decision to consent to the establishment of the MCCA is an executive function and as a key decision ordinarily needs to be exercised by the Cabinet. The recommendations to this report reflect the MHCLG's preference for this decision to be delegated to the council's Chief Executive, to ensure that it can be made in a timely way once all the details have been clarified. This delegation is enabled by section 9E of the Local Government Act 2000.

Name of lawyer consulted: Allan Wells

Date consulted: 25/09/2025

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 A key risk is that one or more of the constituent authorities do not provide their consent to the creation of a new MCCA. This could delay or ultimately prevent the creation of a new MCCA in the Sussex and Brighton region and the devolution of relevant powers and funding.
- 8.2 There are risks associated with the anticipated transfer of functions and/or the diversion of funding from BHCC to a new MCCA. This could include

disruption to affected BHCC services during transition or uncertainty regarding the future of current provision due to changes in priorities and funding allocations. Work to identify these risks and the appropriate mitigations will continue as the specific impacts of devolution on service delivery and provision become clearer.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 Brighton & Hove City Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 and must seek to:
 - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act:
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

It must have "due regard" to these needs in its day-to-day work: considering the impact of its policies, decisions, and services on people with protected characteristics.

- 9.2 The aim of devolution is to place more funding and decisions for transport, adult skills, housing, jobs and economic growth at a local level, which has the potential to provide significant benefits to our communities. Provisions in the Bill will also include a new statutory health improvement and health inequalities duty placed on Strategic Authorities when discharging any of their powers or functions. See section 11 below.
- 9.3 It is not anticipated that the recommendations in this report will result in disproportionate impacts for any specific group sharing any of the legally protected characteristics.
- 9.4 As a public body receiving public funds a new MCCA will also be subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. It is important that robust equalities governance and scrutiny are put in place to ensure equity in decision-making processes across the Sussex and Brighton regional population.
- 9.5 Equality impact assessments will need to be conducted as powers and funding are transferred to the MCCA, including considerations outlined in Sections 6 and 11.

Name of equalities officer consulted: Deborah Totney

Date consulted: 03/10/2025

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 The government has stated that they are keen for new MCCAs to play a leadership role in the delivery of the green transition and has committed to working closely with MCCAs on this agenda, though statutory functions

given to a new MCCA would be limited. The Bill creates "environment and climate change" as one of seven areas of competence for new Strategic Authorities and includes statutory functions relating to Heat Network Zoning coordination. The Government has stated its ambition that Strategic Authorities would take on responsibility for the development and delivery of local energy planning, green jobs and skills coordination, the Warm Homes Plan and Local Power Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

11.1 The Government has stated that Strategic Authorities will play a key role in taking action on the social determinants of health through the exercise of their functions, in areas such as transport, housing, and planning. The Bill includes a new statutory health improvement and health inequalities duty placed on Strategic Authorities when discharging any of their powers or functions, which requires them to have regard to the need to improve the health of people in their area and the need to reduce health inequalities. To support collaboration between Strategic Authorities and Integrated Care Systems, there is an expectation that mayors or a delegate will be appointed to one or more relevant Integrated Care Partnerships in their local area.

Other Implications

13. Crime & disorder implications:

13.1 The Bill sets out that mayors will, by default, be accountable for the exercise of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) functions where mayoral boundaries align with police force boundaries, or with two police force boundaries when taken together. Transfers will be subject to secondary legislation and are scheduled to take place in May 2027. The Bill also includes provisions for sharing of information in relation to crime and disorder, which will enable and place a duty on Strategic Authorities to disclose information relating to the reduction of crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour, to other relevant authorities (such as local authorities, social landlords and the police).

14. Staff implications

14.1 Where staffing changes are needed, we are committed to an open and inclusive approach to working through impacts. This will include engagement with affected services, trade unions, and staff, the establishment of a clear plan to oversee workforce implications, and the development of specific proposals, which will be prepared in line with BHCC's normal processes for managing change.

15. Conclusion

15.1 Devolution presents significant benefits for Brighton and Hove and the wider Sussex region. The government has confirmed that a £38 million a year 30-year Investment Fund (£1.14 billion in total) will be made available to a new MCCA to spend on agreed regional priorities. This funding can be used to drive economic growth, support jobs and strengthen local services. The SI

allows for the establishment of a new MCCA with limited powers relating to transport. In addition, the Bill will enable the devolution of new powers in areas such as transport, housing and adult skills to the regional level so decisions can be made closer to where people live.

15.2 While powers currently held by BHCC will transfer to a new MCCA, most significantly those related to transport planning and delivery, collaborating at a regional and strategic level on critical issues like infrastructure and skills has the potential to deliver significant benefits. Even in those areas where statutory duties are more limited, such as environment and climate change, a new MCCA has the potential to play a transformative role in embedding and supporting cross Sussex collaboration.

Supporting Documentation

Appendices

- 1. Brighton and Hove City Council devolution consultation response
- 2. Summary of the Sussex & Brighton Combined County Authority Regulations 2026
- 3. Summary of Devolution Framework
- 4. Sussex and Brighton devolution consultation response GOV.UK

Response to Sussex and Brighton devolution consultation by Brighton & Hove City Council

Consultation questions

Question 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority over the proposed geography will deliver benefits to the area?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Please explain your answer.

Brighton & Hove city Council (BHCC) strongly agrees that the establishment of a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) over the proposed geography will deliver benefits to the area. We feel the Sussex geography makes sense in terms of size, identity, as well as being the right footprint to ensure delivery of the benefits of devolution including economic growth, improved governance and enhanced public services.

Sussex has so much potential. We are proudly home to a beautiful coastline and national park recognised by a UNESCO Biosphere, three leading universities, a Premier League football team and international gateways including the UK's second largest airport in Gatwick, and the ports of Shoreham and Newhaven. The total population of Sussex is 1,705,800 and as a region we welcome over 60 million visitors each year. We have so much to offer but have not yet reached our potential.

Despite our relative prosperity, there are significant regional disparities, with pockets of deprivation and unmet potential. Devolution has the potential to turn these challenges into opportunities, and support collaboration to drive economic, social and environmental benefits. We are therefore excited by the government's commitment to go further with devolution and recognise the real opportunity this presents for us to deliver change for our residents.

Economic Development and Growth: Brighton & Hove as a city has seen significant jobs and productivity growth- among the strongest in the UK since 2010, with one of the most entrepreneurial economies and with the strongest business density per head of population of any city outside London, according to the centre for cities- cities outlook 2024. Brighton & Hove now has 16,150 registered businesses¹, plus a large number of freelancers and sole traders. The number of businesses in the city continues to rise, having increased by more than 12% since 2023. However, our economy does not exist in a vacuum. The UK economy is in a period of stagnation. Real wages have not grown in the last 15 years; income inequality is growing across the country; taxes have increased; and foreign direct investment has declined by 11% since Brexit. Our city is impacted by these larger structural

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¹ ONS data 2024

challenges. For residents, the city is becoming increasingly unaffordable, with those on average incomes no longer comfortably able to afford to own or rent a home within Brighton & Hove. The rising cost of essentials means that in real terms pay is decreasing, and certain places and communities are disproportionately impacted by these wider economic challenges.

Improved Governance: Brighton & Hove has a history of working successfully with partners across Sussex through the Greater Brighton Economic Board (which covers seven local authority areas) and the Greater Brighton and Coastal West Sussex Strategic Planning Board, alongside other key partnerships such as The Living Coast UNESCO urban biosphere and Sussex Bay (regional vision for the 100 miles of coastline of seascape and rivers across Sussex). We feel that a clear collaboration mechanism which ensures that councils across Sussex and Brighton & Hove working together in a structured way, which can take decisions over a wider area footprint, is a huge benefit for the place and people across Sussex, with the added hopeful benefit of increasing trust from residents across Sussex.

Enhanced Public Services: Through the governance and focus on key strategic areas such as: Transport and local infrastructure, Skills and Employment, Housing and Planning, Economic development and regeneration, Environment and climate change, Health and Wellbeing and more. A clear mechanism of improved governance and collaboration with other Sussex local authorities led by the clear direction of a democratically elected mayor, will afford us the ability to work more effectively across Sussex and Brighton & Hove to continue to drive improvements on key public services.

Question 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed governance arrangements for the Mayoral Combined County Authority?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Please explain your answer.

Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) agrees with the proposed governance arrangements for the Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA). Coming together as a MCCA would provide greater visibility and transparency for this work across Sussex and Brighton & Hove and give us the necessary capacity to use key growth levers such as transport, skills, economic development, and regeneration. It would enable focus on the things that will make the biggest difference to the lives of our residents and the businesses within Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

Mayor: BHCC agree that the MCCA should have a mayor directly elected by residents to be a regional leader who will chair the MCCA and will have the powers, functions and budget outlined in the devolution white paper. We welcome the establishment of the Council of Nations and Regions and want to ensure that the region of Sussex and Brighton & Hove is represented in Whitehall. We also want to ensure that residents across the strategic authority understand who they can hold directly accountable when it comes to developing the Sussex and Brighton & Hove regional area.

Constituency Councils: BHCC agree that Sussex and Brighton MCCA would have the following:

A directly elected Mayor

- Constituent Members (Members appointed by the constituent councils, with each constituent council appointing a lead member- which is expected to be the leader or their nominee) and one further member from its elected members. The number of constituent members will depend on the final proposal for local government reorganisation in Sussex
- Non-constituent and associate members to support the delivery of their work programme
 (who will be representatives of an organisation for example a local NHS trust, Fire Authority,
 the police crime commission or local business representative or (for associate members)
 named individuals with expertise in specific areas. In terms of the number of non-constituent
 authorities, we consider that flexibility should be afforded to the MCCA to increase this
 number if the MCCA considers appropriate.

MCCA decision making and voting: BHCC agree that the voting members of the MCCA should be the constituent authorities (2 representatives each) and the mayor. We note that the final number of voting members will be determined following Local Government Re-Organisation, which will determine the number of Unitary Authorities that are established, so the numbers of voting members cited in the consultation may change. In relation to quoracy, again the final numbers will need to be be dependent on the final number of constituent members.

We understand that the decision making at the MCCA would be by a majority voting system. However, this is an area that we would like more clarification on in terms of voting and ensuring that all areas will be effectively represented by decision making. As such, we would like to continue to develop with Government proposals around governance. For example, regarding the proposed arrangements for quoracy at MCCA meetings.

Question 3: To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through the Mayoral Combined County Authority will support the economy of the area?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Please explain your answer.

Brighton & Hove City Council strongly agrees that a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) will support the economy of the strategic area of Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

Current economic position: By traditional economic measures, Brighton & Hove is in a strong economic position. External research has shown that we have some of the best conditions for investment of anywhere outside of London. Brighton & Hove is ranked as the 5th best city in which to live and work, and the 5th best city in which to start a business. The city has seen significant jobs and productivity growth- among the strongest in the UK since 2010, with one of the most entrepreneurial economies and with the strongest business density per head of population of any city outside London, according to the centre for cities- cities outlook 2024. Brighton & Hove now has 16,150 registered businesses, plus a large number of freelancers and sole traders. The number of businesses in the city continues to rise, having increased by more than 12% since 2023.

The strength of the city as a place to do business is exhibited in recent Centre for Cities research (Outlook 2025) which has the highest share of new economy knowledge-based firms when compared

to working age population.² This reflects the presence of two universities and leading FE providers, plus the University of Chichester and the Sussex and Surrey Institute of Technology located within Brighton & Hove's core travel to work area. Brighton & Hove is delivering economic growth, with a focus on sectors already identified by the government as crucial to future success. This is reflected in our recently adopted Economic Plan, which demonstrates our economic diversity and highlights the potential for growth of the digital knowledge economy, maximising the potential of our wider creative and cultural industries and our highly specialised and growing advanced manufacturing sector.

Our recent Employment Land Study shows that between 2023 and 2041 jobs in office and industrial sectors of the city's economy are forecast to grow by 8%. Combined with the city's existing strengths in financial services and the visitor economy, this demonstrates Brighton & Hove's potential for future growth.

Key Challenges: However, this growth may be impacted by key challenges being faced by Brighton & Hove. We have significant geographical constraints due to the South Downs National Park and the sea. This has meant that our businesses are finding it increasingly challenging to find space for expansion and competing pressures on space mean that some employment space is being lost to residential development. Between 2018 and 2023, the city lost an estimated 16% of its industrial floorspace and 7% of its office floorspace.³ Our recent Employment Land Study has shown that Brighton & Hove needs a further 56,386 square metres of new industrial space over the period to 2041, with a potential supply pipeline of just 6% of this. The study also shows a need for over 87,000 square metres of new office space. In addition, our aging building sock may mean that, without adequate support, landlords may struggle to upgrade commercial space to meet required minimum energy efficiency standards.

Despite this, housing prices continue to be high, meaning that residents struggle to rent or buy a home. The median house price in the year ending September 2023 is £430,000, and the median gross annual workplace-based earnings in 2023 for Brighton & Hove is 34,876. The competing pressures on developable land means that the ratio of median house price to media gross place workplace-based earnings put Brighton at 12.33 in 2023. This is higher than average in the Southeast at 10.39, and higher than the average in England at 8.26.4

The benefits of our economic growth are not felt evenly across the city, with pockets of significant deprivation in parts of East Brighton, Hangleton and North Portslade. Around 10% of all Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Brighton & Hove are in the most deprived decile. Parts of Whitehawk are in the topmost deprived LSOAs anywhere in the country. ⁵

Strategic Benefits of MCCA

Brighton & Hove is a key economic hub in Sussex. Our prosperity is already felt by surrounding areas, but we need to work collaboratively to address our shared issues. Where the city struggles to find space for our growing business base, Sussex can help to grow the economy at a regional level, creating new opportunities for our residents and helping to address the deprivation seen in some parts of Brighton & Hove. It can be positive displacement in action – helping to alleviate the pressure on the over-heating city economy and generating new investment and growth for the region's wider benefit.

² Cities-Outlook-2025.pdf

³ Economic Plan Evidence Base

⁴ ONS data: <u>House price to workplace-based earnings ratio - Office for National Statistics</u>

⁵ IMD 2019 stats: File 1 gives the stats: English indices of deprivation 2019 - GOV.UK

This economic growth will not just happen. Taking a strategic view to infrastructure issues, including both east-west and north-south transport, and tied to environmental sustainability, will make a significant positive impact. Likewise, working together to promote Sussex & Brighton for investment – rather than competing against each other – can only benefit the economy. This builds on the work we've started with neighbours in the Greater Brighton Economic Board, delivering £200m of investment and growth in the sub-region.

This is why we believe that a strategic view of Sussex and Brighton & Hove can address these interlocking issues and find creative solutions.

A MCCA could provide:

- Localised Decision-Making: More tailored policies and initiatives that address specific regional needs.
- Improved Infrastructure: Enhanced transport links and infrastructure projects that connect different parts of Sussex more effectively.
- Balanced Development: Leveraging the strengths of both urban and rural areas to ensure balanced economic growth compatible with the net zero transition.
- Increased Investment: Attracting investment in key sectors, boosting employment opportunities, and supporting local businesses.

In conclusion, the strategic oversight provided by a Mayoral Combined County Authority could help overcome the challenges faced by Brighton & Hove and support the broader economic development of Sussex. This collaborative approach would enable us to harness the full potential of the region, ensuring sustainable growth and prosperity for all.

Question 4: To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through the Mayoral Combined County Authority will improve social outcomes in the area?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Please explain your answer.

Key Social outcomes in Brighton & Hove have been developed through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The JSNA is concerned with wider social factors that have an impact on people's health and wellbeing. Whilst there are some benefits in living in Brighton & Hove such as a lower mortality rate for air pollution 4.5% compared to 5.7% in Southeast, low number of young people not in education, employment or training of 3.8% compared to the Southeast of 6.9%. We also have lower hospital admissions for alcohol specific conditions of 531 per 100,000 compared to 587 per 100,000 in Southeast for 2021/2022. We also have a strong community with higher rates of belonging, pulling together, formal volunteering and feeling that people from different background get compared to England. (City tracker survey results 2018).

However, we do have some unique challenges In Brighton & Hove. Whilst we are the 131st most deprived local authority in England (of 317) according to the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD),

we do have, 17% of the population of the city living in one of the 20% most deprived areas in England. Additionally, in terms of population, we have a significantly smaller number of children under aged 18 (17%) compared to the Southeast (21%), we also have a high percentage of children in care with 74 per 10,000 children and young people in care compared to Southeast of 57 per 10,000. Overall, this paints a complicated picture of social outcomes.

We believe the MCCA will play an important role in health and wellbeing alongside wider public service reform. The new bespoke duty of in relation to health improvement and health inequalities would ensure that health outcomes and reduction in health inequalities would be given a clear plan across the Sussex and Brighton & Hove region. This is essential in creating a healthier society, more resilient to the effects of climate change, and supporting in a closer collaboration and partnership across health partners in the region.

Question 5: To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through a Mayoral Combined County Authority will improve local government services in the area?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- · Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Please explain your answer.

Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) strongly agrees that the MCCA will improve local government services. We understand that the MCCA will not replace Brighton & Hove City Council and that key council services will continue to be provided for our residents.

As a unitary council, Brighton & Hove provides over 700 services to residents in our area. This ranges from adult social care, to waste management to housing and planning and a lot more. Currently, we receive funding from a range of sources, some of this is controllable, where we have a say, and some of this is non-controllable. Pressures on council budgets has been mounting, with spiking inflation, high energy costs, increases to national living wage. This, combined with the increased demand on services has led to a 27% real term cut in core spending power since 2010.

The funding given to the MCCA will aid us in ensuring that devolved funding from central government, will be analysed reviewed and voted on tackling key issues locally. We agree with the MCCA having control over how funding is spent, including how it is spent to meet local needs in the area.

Question 6: To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through a Mayoral Combined County Authority will improve the local natural environment and overall national environment?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Please explain your answer.

Brighton & Hove, situated between the South Downs and the sea, has over 40 percent of its area within the South Downs National Park. This unique positioning provides a substantial opportunity to enhance and protect the natural environment, as recognised by its status as a UNESCO urban biosphere (which also incorporates parts of the neighbouring Sussex area). The Biosphere has enabled the development of strong partnership working across many facets of environmental enhancement in the Brighton and Hove and wider Sussex area.

The city has recently established a strategic partnership, Sussex Energy, with the goal of achieving net zero energy status in the Greater Brighton and wider Sussex area by 2040. The energy demand in Sussex is 14 times greater than the current supply from zero carbon sources and therefore it is necessary to reduce energy demand and increase the local supply of zero carbon energy. This would directly contribute to the government's priorities of transitioning to a zero-carbon electricity system by 2030. This initiative supports national efforts such as the creation of GB Energy and the UK-wide scaling up of solar panels for homes and businesses.

The proposed geography for the MCCA matches the geography adopted for the Sussex Local Nature Recovery strategy, thus the MCCA would be ideally placed to strategically oversee implementation of the strategy. In wider natural environment improvement, including adaptation to climate change, the ability of the MCCA to work strategically at catchment-level would lead to better outcomes than approaching this on a more local scale. The proposed public safety role of local resilience is also welcomed, enabling a joined-up, nature-based, approach to improving resilience to climate change.

The MCCA will play an essential role in this development. Its strategic role in convening partnerships, coordinating action, securing funding, and ensuring effective delivery is paramount in combating climate change. The devolution of retrofit funding and the hosting of heat network zonae coordination would enable the MCCA to take a strategic, joined-0up approach to these activities across Sussex. The MCCA's involvement will be crucial in driving forward the initiatives necessary to improve the local and national environment.

In addition to specific powers and functions related directly to climate and the environment that are proposed for the MCCA, the powers and functions of the MCCA (transport and local infrastructure, skills an employment, housing and strategic planning, economic development and regeneration, health wellbeing and public service and public safety) are all strongly intertwined with improving the local and national environment. The proposed scope of powers and functions covered by the MCCA, and the inclusion of climate and the environment amongst them, should enable the MCCA to take a holistic view and bring about improvements that balance environmental, economic and social needs, rather than working in a siloed manner.

Question 7: To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through the Mayoral Combined County Authority will support the interests and needs of local communities and reflect local identities?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

Brighton & Hove City Council agrees that a MCCA will support the interests and needs of local communities and reflect local identities. In Brighton & Hove, we have some unique challenges that we believe the MCCA will be able to support, specifically in reducing inequalities.

However, we believe it is critical that local government reorganisation and devolution go hand in hand, so that our unique identity is protected and that governance structures support the needs of our diverse communities and reflect local identities. This is vital to ensuring that the government's aim of bringing power closer to people is realised and does not get lost in the establishment of new structures.

Our city is unique and diverse. We are unofficially referred to as the LGBTQIA+ capital of Britain and we are proud to host the UK's biggest Pride Festival. More than 20% of the city's population were born outside the UK, and we have a higher migrant population than elsewhere in the southeast – and much of England. As a City of Sanctuary, we are committed to being a welcoming place of safety, acceptance and freedom of expression for all – and to offer sanctuary for people fleeing violence and persecution.

The 2021 census shows that;

- 1 in 10 residents identify with an LGB+ sexual orientation 10.6% compared to Southeast 3.1%
- One in a hundred adult residents identify as Trans, double than what is found in the Southeast
- A quarter of residents are BME 26% compared to the Southeast 21%
- One in five residents were born outside of the UK 20% higher than seen in the Southeast of 16%
- Over a half of residents have no religion or belief 55%, significantly higher than in the Southeast of 40%

We celebrate our diversity and this is one of our great strengths. While there is much to celebrate, Brighton & Hove also faces a number of significant challenges in addressing the needs of our local communities. We are a city of deep inequalities, with areas of significant deprivation.

The national housing crisis is severely impacting the city, with 7,500 households currently on the Housing Register, including 1,800 people currently living in temporary or emergency accommodation. One of our biggest challenges is how we can provide more housing to meet the city's ever-increasing needs. Due to the constraints of being situated between the South Downs and the Sea, we do not have the space to meet the full demand within our own confines.

On a city-wide basis, average household earnings are almost the same as the national level (£30,000 per year). However, in some communities, those earnings are well below the national average. 9% of our population earns below the national living wage.

In Brighton & Hove, there are neighbourhoods that rank among the worst nationally for access to healthy and affordable food and GP services. Overall wages have not kept pace with inflation in recent years, which means residents are actually worse off in real terms than they were in 2011. Women's wages remain below men's, and the gap has widened in the last two years.

As a council we are taking a number of steps to tackle entrenched inequalities, provide more affordable housing and immediate financial support to our residents most at need, we believe that the MCCA offers a strategic framework to address these challenges. By providing localised decision-making, tailored policies, and coordinated efforts across the region, the MCCA can enhance economic growth, improve infrastructure, and attract investment.

Ensuring that local representation from across unitary authorities who have a seat at the table and can champion their areas is essential to ensuring that communities feel they have a say and is essential for the growth and development of the region.

Summary of Draft SI: The Sussex & Brighton Combined County Authority Regulations 2026

- 1. The SI will establish the Sussex & Brighton Combined County Authority (CCA) and confirm the statutory tests are met, the Constituent Authorities (CAs) have consented, and the process of approval has been completed.
- 2. **Commencement date** all Regulations will come into force the day after they are made except Mayoral Functions which come into force on 11 May 2026 (post Mayoral election on 7th May).

3. Establishes CCA

- Establishes the Combined County Authority and names it as the Sussex and Brighton
 Combined County Authority. The Authority will have the functions set out in SI although further
 functions may be conferred in the future through further regulations.
- Confirms how the <u>Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014</u> provisions (statement of accounts) will be met during the first and subsequent years.
- References that the Constitution is included as a Schedule (see below).

Confirms first financial reporting required from the date Regulations in force to 31st March 2027.

4. Election of Mayor

Sets out how mayors will be elected every fourth year as well as how terms will begin (the first on 7.5.26) and end.

Sets out that the mayor will be able to employ a single political advisor, who will be an employee of the Combined Authority. The employment of an advisor is tied to the mayor who recruits them, meaning that they cannot be employed after the end of a term or after a mayor resigns. The position will be a politically restricted post. The advisor will not be responsible for other employees of the Combined Authority.

Incorporates LGHA 1989 provisions relating to political advisors, including restrictions on pay.

5. **Transport**

Transfers the functions set out in Ss108, 109 and 112 of Transport Act 2000 to the CCA from the Constituent Authorities.

There will be a transition period which will end 31 March 2027 during which the powers will be held concurrently.

S108 TA 2000 – is the requirement to develop policies for the promotion and encouragement of safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport to, from and within their area and requirement to produce a **Local Transport Plan** setting out the Policies and how they will be implemented.

S109 TA 2000 – sets out the details of who to consult and how to publish the Local Transport Plan

S112 TA 2000 – sets out the requirement to have regard to Guidance from Secretary of State and to the needs of disabled people when producing Local Transport Plans.

Power to pay a grant

A CCA may pay a grant to CA towards expenditure incurred or to be incurred by a constituent council This power is exercisable only by the mayor. In determining the amount to be paid to a constituent council in relation to that council's highway functions, the CCA must have regard to the desirability of ensuring that the council has sufficient funds to exercise its highways function and decisions must take into account other sources of funding.

6. The following functions can only be exercised by the Mayor:-

Ss108,109 and 112 Transport Act 2000 (Local Transport Plans)

S31 LGA 2003 – power to pay grants (under Reg 8 above)

The Mayor can also do anything that a Combined Authority can do under <u>section 49</u> of the <u>Levelling Up and Regeneration Act</u> (general power of the CCA).

However the Mayor may enter into **joint committee arrangements** pursuant to S101(5) of the LGA 1972 (with the CCA, the CAs and other LAs) for the discharge of the above functions.

7. How the CCA will be Funded

Constituent Authorities to ensure costs of CCA and Mayor are met (to the extent Mayor has decided not to use other funds) reasonably attributed to the exercise of function.

The constituent councils must meet the costs of expenditure associated with regulation 10 (Part 5 - mayoral functions above). However, the mayor must agree with the CCA the total expenditure in advance of incurring the expenditure. Any precept issued in relation to this expenditure under <u>section</u> 40 of the <u>Local Government Finance Act 1992</u> is to be disregarded from the cost of expenditure.

The constituent councils must be apportioned either through a mechanism of their own agreement or if no agreement is in place, based on the number of their residents as a proportion of the total population of the CCA area.

CCA can raise its own funds through a precept.

8. CCA duty to share information in relation to Crime & Disorder (plus other additional functions)

The functions of the constituent councils set out in section <u>17A</u> of the <u>Crime and Disorder Act 1998</u> (sharing of information), exercisable concurrently with the constituent councils. The Combined Authority also becomes the relevant authority for the purposes of <u>Section 115</u> of the Act (disclosure of information).

The Localism Act functions of the CAs exercisable for the purpose of economic development (<u>not</u> economic *assessments*) may also be exercised by the MCCA.

Constitution

	Detail
Membership	The Constitution sets out that each constituent authority must appoint two members to join the CCA.
	The Constitution outlines that a member of the CCA would cease to be a member if they were no longer a member of the appointing constituent authority, or the appointing constituent authority ended the appointment. Process for termination of appointment (by CA - not CCA) or resignation by written notice to the appointing CA (in latter case takes effect on date of receipt).
	Where above has happened, a process whereby the CA 1) gives written notice to the CCA & 2) appoints another member 'as soon as practicable'
	Any new appointment starts/ terminated appointment ends between one week (min) from notice or later specified period of up to 4 weeks.
Substitution	One substitute to be appointed per member – i.e. two for each CA (either of whom may sub for either member)
Chair	Chair and Vice Chair
	Mayor to act as Chair once elected.
	Process for appointing a Chair and Vice Chair from the CCA members for the period before the mayoral election.

Ahead of the mayor being elected, the CCA will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair appointed by the CCA will cease to be Chair following the election of the mayor and the Office of Vice Chair will be abolished. The Chair will also cease holding the position if they are no longer a member of the CCA.

Vice Chair to act where Chair unable to/ office vacant.

A vacancy in the chair or vice-chair must be filled at the next meeting of the CCA unless this date is within 14 days, then the vacancy is to be filled at the following meeting.

No meetings of the CCA can happen if for any reason <u>both</u> the Chair & Vice Chair are unable to act or both their offices are vacant.

Nonconstituent & associate members

Non-Constituent and Associate Members

CCA may have a maximum of six non-constituent (NC) members & associate members (AMs) in total.

Requirement that each of the above also nominate a sub.

See the LURA 2023 for voting & appointment:

- AMs may not vote
- The NCs are designated by a 'nominating body' only if the CCA approves this and that body agrees. These NCs do not have voting rights <u>unless</u> the CCA resolves to give them voting rights.

Voting

Any decision of the CCA ahead of a mayor being elected is by a simple majority, subject to the exceptions listed below. Once a mayor is elected, any decision of the CCA is by simple majority but must include include the mayor (or deputy mayor acting in their place).

Ahead of a mayor being elected, no business can be transacted without the chair (or vice chair) and three constituent members being present.

Once a mayor has been elected, no business can be conducted without the mayor (or deputy) and four constituent members being present.]

Article 8(4) of the Combined Authority (Finance) Orders 2017 will require a two thirds majority.

Decisions regarding the Local Transport Plan (section 108 of the 2000 Act) will be decided by a simple majority.

Each member has one vote and there is no casting vote. In the event of a tie in relation to the power of the Local Transport Plan only, the Mayor (or Deputy, acting as Chair) shall have a casting vote.

Business conducted by the CCA will not be deemed void as a result of a membership vacancy, or a clerical error in the appointment of a member or substitute.

Exceptions to normal rule:

- a two thirds majority vote needed to veto the Mayor's budget(
- in a tied vote on a local transport plan, the Mayor has a casting vote Each member (i.e. voting member) to have one vote and the status quo prevails if vote is tied.

No member to have a casting vote – with exception of Mayor on local transport plan.

Quorum

<u>Before the first Mayor's term</u> starts: requirement that the Chair/ Deputy be present and also three of the members appointed by each constituent council'.

	After Mayor is elected, the following must be present 1) the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor acting as Chair and also 2) any four CA members NB If Deputy is chairing, they do <u>not</u> count also as a CA member
Minutes & records of meetings;	Minutes and records required (5); Standing Orders to regulate proceedings (6) and a Constitution (8) permitted.
Standing Orders & Constitution	Sets out that the CCA can make provisions about its constitution and Standing Orders.
Remuneration of members	Ordinary members not remunerated (other than travel & expenses).
	Remuneration only allowed to following appointees:
	Mayor, the Deputy (provided not leader or elected mayor of a CA & receiving an SRA for that)
	 Members appointed to the O&S of the CCA and any Sub Committee under it OR to the Audit Cttee
	provided that the CCA has established an IRP, considered a report recommending it, and sets a level which does not exceed its recommended allowances

The framework below sets out the statutory functions of **Mayoral Strategic Authorities (MSAs)** as set out in the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill and other legislation.

As set out in the Devolution Framework in the English Devolution White Paper, different categories of Strategic Authorities are also guaranteed access to other non-statutory offers, including partnership and funding arrangements.

General Mayoral Powers – not included in the Devolution Framework but included in the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill:

The Mayoral Powers of Competence are suite of powers which will be conferred on Mayoral Strategic Authorities. The powers provide new legal force to Mayors' existing "soft powers" and convening role, and will help drive growth, collaboration and improvement across geographies. The MPC is made up of:

	Governance – where "Standard"		
	means:	Related Clauses	Tier of Functions devolved from Central Government
Statutory Function	 Voting is a simple majority inc. the Mayor Exercised solely by the SA 		
The General Power of	To be used at the discretion of	Clause 20 of the English Devolution	MSAs – new power provided for in
Competence	the Strategic Authority and its	and Community Empowerment Bill	the EDCE Bill.
This is an existing broad general power which will enable Mayoral Strategic Authorities, and their	Mayor independently of each other.	&	
Mayors, to do anything an			

individual can do in relation to their		Schedule 4 in the English	
areas of competence		Devolution and Community	
		Empowerment Bill	
A Power to Convene and a Duty to	To be used at the discretion of the	Clause 21 of the English Devolution	MSAs – new power provided for in
Respond	Mayor of a Strategic Authority.	and Community Empowerment Bill	the EDCE Bill
This will enable Mayors to convene			
local partners to address local			
challenges. It will also place a duty			
on local partners to respond to a			
Mayor's request when they make			
use of the power to convene. The			
specific local partners covered will			
be set out in subsequent			
secondary legislation.			
A Duty to Collaborate	To be used at the discretion of the	Clause 22 of the English Devolution	MSAs – new power provided for in
This will ensure that Mayors of	Mayor of a Strategic Authority.	and Community Empowerment Bill	the EDCE Bil
neighbouring Strategic Authorities			
have a formal process by which			
they can enter into collaboration			
with one another.			

Area of Competence – Transport and Infrastructure

Statutory Function	Governance	Related Clauses	Tier of Functions devolved from Central Government
Local Transport Authority	Standard, with the exception that	Clause 29 and Schedule 9 of the	MSA - powers consolidated over a
functions	functions relating to Local Transport		strategic geography (but with
Strategic Authorities are the Local Transport Authority for their area, with responsibility for preparing and publishing a local transport plan and powers to secure the provision of passenger transport services where not otherwise provided. Strategic Authorities also have powers and duties to prepare a bus strategy for carrying out their bus functions, enter into partnerships with bus operators, enter into franchising schemes, and manage travel concessions.	to make a proposed franchising scheme are exercisable only by the Mayor. However, final approval of a Local		transitional concurrency)

Transport Levy	Standard.	Clause 13 of the English Devolution	MSAs – new power provided for in
Strategic Authorities can issue levies to their constituent authorities to meet the cost of exercising their transport functions, where otherwise not met.	Apportionment between constituent councils is subject to the Transport Levying Bodies Regulations 1992.	Host legislation:	the EDCE Bill
Agreements between authorities and strategic highways companies This allows Strategic Authorities to enter into agreements with local highway authorities (upper-tier local authorities) and/or National Highways to delegate or share the maintenance and improvement of roads.	The function is exercised concurrently with local authorities.	Clause 24 and Schedule 6 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill Host legislation: Highways Act 1980 – s.6 and 8	Held concurrently between MSA and constituent LAs
Civil enforcement of road traffic contraventions These powers enable Strategic Authorities to enforce parking, bus lane, and moving traffic contraventions through penalty	The function is exercised concurrently with local authorities.	Clause 25 and Schedule 7 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill Host legislation: Part 6 and Schedule 8 of the Traffic Management Act 2004	Held concurrently between MSA and constituent LAs

charge notices. This is only possible	where the function would be		
if the relevant constituent council	exercised.		
already has those functions and			
consents to the SA using them. The			
SA must follow existing statutory			
guidelines for charge levels for Fixed			
Penalty Notices and provide			
information on appeals processes.			
Key Route Network	This function is exercisable only by	Clause 27 and Part 1 of Schedule 8	MSAs – new power provided for in
Mayoral Strategic Authorities will have a duty to set up and coordinate a Key Route Network. This will allow the most important local roads to be strategically managed. Mayors will also hold a Power of Direction over constituent highway	However, final agreement of which roads are included in the Key Route	Community Empowerment Bill Host legislation: Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 – s.107ZA Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 – s.22-24	the EDCE Bill
permit, street and local highways authority powers on Key Route Network roads to support delivery of the Mayor's agreed Local Transport Plan. This means Mayors can direct councils with responsibilities for roads in their area to use their		2023 - 3.22-24	

powers in a certain way; for			
example, to create a bus gate.			
Transfer of duty of principal	Standard	Clause 27 and Part 2 of Schedule 8	MSAs are taking over this duty for
councils to make reports on Key		of the English Devolution and	key route network roads.
Route Network roads		Community Empowerment Bill	Constituent LAs retain this duty for
Mayoral Strategic Authorities will be		Host legislation:	other local roads.
required to prepare reports assessing local road traffic levels and forecasting their growth on their		The 1997 Road Traffic Reduction Act - s2	
Key Route Network. These reports may include targets and proposals			
for achieving these targets.			
		·	Can only be exercised by MSA jointly
Authority to make a joint road user charging scheme (e.g. congestion charging) with relevant constituent	that this function can only be exercised jointly with the relevant constituent local traffic authority (the upper-tier local authority) where the scheme would take place.	1	with relevant constituent LA(s). Constituent LAs continue to be able to exercise independently.
On-Street Micromobility Schemes	Standard	Clause 23 and Schedule 5 of the	MSAs – new power provided for in
These powers enable Strategic		English Devolution and Community tempowerment Bill	the EDCE Bill. (Although this power
Authorities, in their role as the Local			

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Transport Authority, to license		would be available to constituent
micromobility schemes operating on		LA's if MSA didn't exist).
public roads and pavements. This		
allows them to have greater control		
of bike and e-bike rental schemes		
run by private companies. Other		
types of shared micromobility		
impacting on public space could		
also be included in the framework in		
the future.		

Area of Competence: Skills and Employment Support

Statutory Function	Governance	Related Clauses	Tier of Functions devolved from Central Government
powers of the Secretary of State	functions in section 90 and 100 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 are exercised concurrently with the Secretary of State.	Empowerment Bill	MSAs – new power provided for in the EDCE Bill.

Area of Competence: Housing and Strategic Planning

Statutory Function	Governance	Related Clauses	Tier of Functions devolved from Central Government
Spatial Development Strategy	This function is exercised by the	To be introduced through clause 52	MSAs – new power provided for in
Development Strategy. These documents enable them to strategically plan for development across their whole area. (Note: This duty will also be mirrored for all principal local authorities in areas without Strategic Authorities,	Authority. However, approval of the strategy requires a simple majority vote of the Mayor and constituent	Bill: Part 1A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	the EDCE Bill (although new duty would sit with constituent LA if MSA didn't exist)
Housing and Land Powers, concurrent with Homes England These additional powers allow Mayoral Strategic Authorities to acquire housing and land for specific purposes (set out in the	These functions are exercised concurrently with Homes England. Mayors exercise the compulsory purchase function on behalf of the Strategic Authority. Before	Clause 34 and Part 1 of Schedule 15 (Acquisition and development of land) in the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill Host legislation:	MSAs – new power provided for in the EDCE Bill

governance arrangements column). exercising their compulsory This includes powers to acquire land purchase powers, Mayors must using the compulsory purchase powers previously solely held by Homes England.

They also include the ability to provide financial assistance to any person (again in line with the objectives set out in the governance arrangements column).

consult the local planning authority where the power is to be exercised.

All other functions are exercised by the Strategic Authority and subject to the standard governance.

All of these functions must be exercised for the purposes of, or for purposes incidental to the objectives of:

- Improving the supply and quality of housing in the area;
- Securing the regeneration or development of land or infrastructure in the area;
- Supporting in other ways the creation, regeneration or development of communities in the area or their continued well-being;

Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 - s.5-10; s.19; p.19 & 20 of Sch.3; p.1-4, 6, 10, 20 of Sch.4

	Contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and good design in the area.		
Housing and Land Powers,	These functions are exercised	Clause 34 (Acquisition and	All powers held concurrently
concurrent with Local Authorities	concurrently with local authorities.	development of land); Clause 35	between MSA and constituent LAs
These powers enable Strategic Authorities to acquire and develop housing and land as well as provide services in relation to housing. The powers of local authorities conferred on Strategic Authorities differ from the powers of Homes England by placing a duty on Strategic Authorities to review housing needs in their area and enabling them to provide additional facilities in relation to housing they provide. The land acquisition powers can also be used for the purpose of providing housing, develop the land, or for planning purposes.	Compulsory purchase powers under the Housing Act 1985 are only exercisable by the Mayor. Whereas all other powers, including compulsory purchase powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, are exercised by the Strategic Authority	Empowerment Bill Host legislation:	

These powers are held by lower-tier	Apart from functions exercised by		
local authorities ordinarily.	the Mayor, the standard voting		
	arrangement applies.		
Mayoral Development	These functions are exercisable only		MSAs – new power provided for in
·		,	the EDCE Bill
These powers enable Mayors of Strategic Authorities to designate a Mayoral Development Area and subsequently establish a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) for that area. MDCs are statutory corporate bodies which can take broad planning and land assembly powers, have the ability to attract	establishing and overseeing a Mayoral Development Corporation.	Host legislation: Localism Act 2011 – Chapter 2 of Part 8; and Schedule 21	
Strategic Development	These functions are exercisable only	Clause 31 and Schedule 11 of the	MSAs – new power provided for in
•	by the Mayor on behalf of the	English Devolution and Community	the EDCE Bill
These powers enable Mayors of Strategic Authorities to intervene in	,	Empowerment Bill Host legislation:	

These powers give Mayors of	These functions are exercisable only by the Mayor on behalf of the		MSAs – new power provided for in the EDCE Bill
prepare Mayoral Development Orders (MDOs). MDOs allow them to grant pre-emptive planning permission for a particular development instead of relying on an application to be submitted.		Host legislation: Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Part 3, s.61DA-61DE.	
These powers enable Mayors of Strategic Authorities to charge developers a Mayoral Community		English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill.	MSAs – new power provided for in the EDCE Bill. Constituent LPAs retain CIL powers.

which can be imposed on new	However, the approval of a charging	Planning Act 2008 – Part 11	
development in their area. It can be	schedule for the levy is subject to a		
used to raise funds to deliver	simple majority vote of the voting		
infrastructure needed to support	members of the Strategic Authority.		
development in their area.			

Area of Competence: Economic Development and Regeneration

Statutory Function	Governance	Related Clauses	Tier of Functions devolved from Central Government
Mayoral Council Tax Precept The changes to this power will allow Mayors to issue a precept to generate revenue across all Mayoral and CA/CCA functions. Previously, a Mayor could precept only for Mayoral functions, and not CA/CCA functions.	arrangements will vary, depending on whether the precept is on Mayoral functions, or wider C(C)A functions:	and Community Empowerment Bill	MSA's – new power provided for in the EDCE bill.

	commonly 2/3 of constituent		
	authorities can vote against		
	or to amend a precept.		
	A Mayor wanting to raise a precept on wider C(C)A functions would be subject to the standard voting arrangements of a simple majority including the Mayor.		
Power to borrow up to an agreed	Standard, except that this function	Clause 12 of the English Devolution	MSA's – new power provided for in
cap		_	the bill. Constituent LA's retain their
This power will remove the	authorities.	and community Empowerment Bix	own borrowing powers.
requirement to lay bespoke SIs for	Exercise of the power to borrow will		
Mayoral Strategic Authorities (MSAs)	be automatically conferred for		
by automatically conferring on them	functions relevant to transport,		
the power to borrow upon	police and crime commissioner and		
establishment for purposes relevant	fire and rescue functions when an		
to their functions. However, an MSA	MSA takes on those functions. This		
must obtain consent from the	power may be exercised by an MSA		
Secretary of State before the first	immediately for these functions		
exercise of the power to borrow	only, before a Mayor has been		
money for a purpose relevant to a	elected. Otherwise, Secretary of		

function other than its transport, police or fire and rescue functions. Local Growth Plans Mayoral Strategic Authorities will have a duty to produce a local growth plan.	State consent will be needed before the power is used. Standard	MSA's – new power provided for in the EDCE bill.
Duty to prepare an assessment of economic conditions Strategic Authorities must prepare and maintain an assessment of the economic conditions of their area. This is a separate duty from the duty to produce a Local Growth Plan but both duties could be satisfied simultaneously.	function is concurrent with local authorities.	Power is held concurrently between MSA and constituent LAs
Power to pay grant to a constituent authority	This function is exercisable only by the Mayor on behalf of the Strategic Authority.	MSA's – new power provided for in the EDCE bill.

This is most commonly used to pass funding for maintaining local roads to councils.	When paying grants for councils' road functions, Strategic Authorities must make sure payments are sufficient for them to exercise their functions.	s.32A of the Local Government Act 2003	
provide entertainment.		Clause 40 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill Host legislation: s.144 and s.145 of the Local Government Act 1972.	Power is held concurrently between MSA's and constituent LAs
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Standard, except that exercise of function is concurrent with local authorities.	Clause 42 and Paragraph 2 of Schedule 20 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill	Power is held concurrently between MSA's and constituent LAs

		Host legislation:	
These powers enable Strategic		Local Government Act 1972 –	
Authorities to arrange for the		<u>s.142(2)</u>	
publication of information related to			
their functions as well as services			
available in the area. This means			
that they can collect, compile, and			
disseminate such information.			
Power to place staff at the	Standard, except that the function	Clause 42 and Paragraph 1 of	Power is held concurrently between
disposal of other authorities	can be exercised concurrently with	Schedule 20 of the English	MSA and constituent LAs
	other Strategic Authorities, local	Devolution and Community	
	authorities or other bodies such as	Empowerment Bill	
These powers enable Strategic	NHS England.	Host legislation:	
Authorities to enter agreements with		l lost tegistation.	
other Strategic Authorities, local		s.113 of the Local Government Act	
authorities, and other organisations		1972	
like the NHS, to share staff services			
for their functions.			
Power to prosecute and defend	Standard, except that exercise of	Clause 42 and Paragraph 3 of	Power is held concurrently between
legal proceedings	function is concurrent with local	Schedule 20 of the English	MSA and constituent LAs
	authorities.	Devolution and Community	
		Empowerment Bill	
These powers allow Strategic			
Authorities to initiate or defend legal			
proceedings where they consider it			

expedient for promoting or		Host legislation:	
protecting the interests of the		s. 222 of the Local Government Act	
residents of their area. This includes		1972.	
the ability to prosecute, defend, or		1372.	
appear in any legal action and to			
institute proceedings in their own			
name to address local concerns.			
Research and collection of	Standard, except that exercise of the	Clause 42 and Paragraph 4 of	Power is held concurrently between
information	function is concurrent with local	Schedule 20 of the English	MSA and constituent LAs
	authorities.	Devolution and Community	
		Empowerment Bill	
These powers enable Strategic			
Authorities to conduct research and			
collect information on matters		Host legislation:	
concerning their area to support		s.88(1)(a) and (1)(b) of the Local	
their functions and share their		Government Act 1985	
findings.		Soveriment Act 1909	
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Area of Competence: Environment and Net Zero

Statutory Function	Governance	Related Clauses	Tier of Functions devolved from Central Government
Heat Network Zoning coordination	Standard	s228(5) of the Energy Act 2023	MSA's – new power provided for in
role			the 2023 Energy Act.
This means that Strategic			
Authorities will be well placed to			
take forward heat network zones			
and create zone coordinators.			

Area of Competence: Health, Wellbeing and Public Service Reform

Statutory Function	Governance	Related Clauses	Tier of Functions devolved from
C.a.a.o., r.a.i.o.i.	000011191100		Central Government
A bespoke statutory health	Standard	Clause 43 of the English Devolution	MSA's - new power provided for in
improvement and health		and Community Empowerment Bill	the EDCE Bill.
inequalities duty			
When considering whether or how to			
use any of its powers and functions			
a Mayor or a Strategic Authority will			
have a duty to have regard to the			
need to improve the health of			

people in the Strategic Authority		
area and the need to reduce health		
inequalities in the local area.		

Area of Competence: Public Safety

Statutory Function	Governance	Related Clauses	Tier of Functions devolved from Central Government
Sharing of information in relation to crime and disorder These powers both enable and place a duty on Strategic Authorities to disclose information relating to the reduction of crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour, to other relevant authorities (such as local authorities, social landlords and the police).	authorities.	Clause 48 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill Host legislation: s.17A and s.115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998	Power is held concurrently between MSA and constituent LAs
Police and Crime Commissioner Functions		Clause 44, 45 and 47 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill	MSA's – new power is provided for in the EDCE Bill.

accountable for the exercise of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) functions where mayoral	responsibilities to a Deputy Mayor (for Policing, Fire and Crime for each police force area for which they have PCC functions).	Host Legislation: Existing power, in statute in Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sections 5, 7(7), 16, 18, 21, 28, 29, 20, 31(3), 62-63, 64(3) to (4A), 65, 70 and Schedule 1, and the modification of several related pieces of legislation	
Fire and Rescue Authority	Mayors will have the option to	Clause 46 and 47 of the English	MSA's - where constituent LAs are
Functions	delegate FRA responsibilities to a	Devolution and Community	the FRA, it will be passed to the SA.
Mayors will be, by default, accountable for the exercise of Fire	Crime, or a Public Safety	Empowerment Bill Host Legislation:	

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functions where FRA and mayoral	E	Existing power, in statute in – Fire	
boundaries align, subject to	į	and Rescue Services Act, 2004 p2	
secondary legislation	5	sections 6-10	
The Secretary of State may by order	h	Transfer functions to a Mayor – Local	
transfer FRA functions to a CA or	I	Democracy, Economic	
CCA where there are coterminous	I	Development and Construction Act	
borders. The Secretary of State, at		2009, Section 107D	
the same time may alter the			
boundary of the FRA area (or areas)			
to which the transfer relates to			
achieve coterminosity.			

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council Agenda Item 45

Subject: Partial Review of Polling District and Polling Places 2025

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Report of: Elizabeth Culbert, Director Governance and Law

(Monitoring Officer)

Contact Officer: Michael Appleford, Head of Elections, Registration

Services and Local Land Charges

michael.appleford@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This report deals with the partial review of polling districts and polling places within Brighton & Hove. This partial review seeks to improve polling place provisions after gathering feedback regarding venue suitability following the general election and looking ahead to see what may affect election delivery in the future
- 1.2 The potential need for change was identified at the following polling places:
 - Hove Library, Central Hove
 - St Helen's Church Hall, Hangleton & Knoll
 - The Spire, Kemptown
 - Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, North Portslade
 - Whitehawk Library, Whitehawk & Marina
 - Woodingdean Library, Woodingdean
- 1.3 A full statutory review of all polling districts and polling places took place in autumn 2023 with changes made in January 2024. The council is required to keep all polling districts and polling places under review.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council agrees the revised polling district and polling place schemes outlined in Appendix 3
- 2.2 That the Council delegates authority to the Director Governance and Law to take all measures as are necessary or incidental, as required by law, to implement the changes indicated in para 2.1.
- 2.3 That the Council delegates authority to the Returning Officer to designate alternative polling places, in the event of any polling place being unavailable, at any poll taking place prior to the next review of polling places, subject to consultation with Group Leaders and respective ward Councillors.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide its area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district for UK Parliamentary elections. It must keep these arrangements under review and undertake a full review of all polling districts and polling places within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2013.
- 3.2 The (Acting) Returning Officer is responsible for administering parliamentary elections. At Brighton & Hove this is the Chief Executive. The (Acting) Returning Officer must be consulted and comment on polling district and polling place reviews.
- 3.3 When assessing changes to the polling scheme, the design principles introduced in 2022 continue to be used. These are:
 - assign a polling place to each polling district and elector
 - ensure polling places are nearby to electors and located close to public transport routes and local amenities, so far as is reasonable and practicable
 - ensure every polling place has step free access or can be provided with a ramp, so far as is reasonable and practicable
 - help facilitate the safe and efficient administration and delivery of local and parliamentary elections
 - have a high proportion of double/triple stations this will enable polling places to benefit from a higher proportion of senior staff who can resolve issues.
 - ensure most polling stations have between 1,250 to 1,750 polling station electors - this will ensure that polling stations are not too busy or quiet, staffing resources are best utilised and Electoral Commission ratios do not require further polling station splits.
 - where possible, limit the use of schools
 - avoid the use of temporary buildings

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 After the 2025 general election, the Electoral Services team collated feedback from polling station staff, polling station inspectors and electors, and looked ahead to see what may affect election delivery in the future. They identified 6 polling places that required review.
- 4.2 Potential new polling places were researched and visits undertaken to assess their suitability in line with the design principles outlined in 3.3. Where the location of the alternative venue required changes to polling district boundaries the distance to the polling station, topography and availability of public transport were considered. Officers also considered the necessity of making changes with familiarity and consistency of polling place being highly beneficial to electors knowing where they should go to vote.

- 4.3 A scheme and consultation document were published (see Appendix 1) and consulted on during September. Appendix 2 provides all the responses received during the consultation and the (Acting) Returning Officer's comments on these.
- 4.4 Most responses were neutral or positive about the changes. The responses which did not agree with the proposals or offered alternatives are summarised below:
 - A request was made to return Blatchington Windmill to the scheme instead of Hounsom Memorial Church Hall. The responder also stated that church halls and schools should not be used as polling places. Hounsom Memorial Church Hall is situated in the centre of the polling district and is located next to amenities of the local area. Blatchington Windmill was removed from the scheme as part of the 2022 review due to its unfavourable location on the periphery of the ward. The Returning Officer agrees, in line with the design principles, that schools should be avoided where possible. Churches and church halls are a key type of venue that support the Brighton & Hove polling station scheme. If these buildings are not utilised, then available polling venues would be severely limited.
 - A request was made that a polling station for KKTX was found within the
 polling district and ward. The Returning Officer and their staff have
 researched venues across the area but no suitable alternatives have
 been identified. No alternative venue was identified by the responder.
 Should a suitable alternative space be found in the future then this can
 be considered at a subsequent review.
 - A response proposed an additional polling place and district for the Bristol Estate. The Bristol Estate Community Centre was removed from the scheme as part of the council's comprehensive review of polling places in 2022. This change was agreed in line with the design principles of that review, which are still in place for this partial review in 2025. A polling station for the Bristol Estate would serve a very small number of electors and would be out of step with the rest of the scheme. Manor Gym, which is situated on the eastern part of the estate, is served by the number 37 bus, and has full level access and residents parking bays.
 - A further response proposed a new polling station for north Whitehawk in Kingfisher Community Room. This area is currently served by St Cuthman's - which is in a prime central location for this polling district, with its own bus stop on Whitehawk's main through road. The Kingfisher Community Room is on the periphery of the polling district which would result in a longer walk for some electors. Moreover, Cabinet have agreed in principle that their preferred option for addressing the structural and strengthening issues of Kingfisher Court is demolition.
 - The final response stated that there were poor public transport links to the polling station for voters in the east of the KWOX district. This comment has been noted and will form part of any subsequent review.

5. Community engagement and consultation

5.1 The consultation period for this review ran from 26 August to 28 September 2025. Public notice of the review was given, and information about the

review was made available on the Council's website and on the Council's consultation portal. Electors residing in the Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven, and Hove and Portslade constituencies were invited to make representations. Hard copies of the consultation document were available on request.

- 5.2 The consultation paper, together with maps of each reviewed ward showing the polling district boundaries, can still be viewed on the Council's website at: Partial Review of Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places 2025
- 5.3 Ward Councillors, Members of Parliament, local political parties and several Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion groups were sent the consultation documents for feedback.
- 5.4 14 comments were received in response to the consultation. These are summarised in Appendix 2 along with responses from the (Acting) Returning Officer

6. Financial implications

6.1 There are no material financial implications arising from the report. Any costs arising from the review are expected to be met within existing resources

Name of finance officer consulted: Ishemupenyu Chagonda Date consulted 01/10/2025

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 Under sections 18A to 18E of the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Registration Act 2006, local councils are required to keep the designation of polling places and polling districts under review. In doing so they must act so as to give all electors in their area such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances
- 7.2 In a Leader/Cabinet governance model, Council must exercise the functions in relation to electoral matters

Name of lawyer consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date consulted 01/10/25

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 Not regularly reviewing and updating the polling place scheme brings significant risks to election delivery with the potential for venues to be unavailable or inaccessible at scheduled and unscheduled polls. This can result in unsatisfactory polling arrangements being in place for some electors.
- 8.2 As can be seen with this review, a change of polling places can result in the need to redraw polling districts to ensure the venue serves the correct electors. It is best to make these changes during the annual electoral

registration canvass to allow the Electoral Registration Officer to make changes to the structuring of the electoral register. Delaying the changes until closer to a poll can result in there being limited time to make the structural changes required before the election printing timetables begin.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 The Council is required to have due regard to its public sector equality duties (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) in the exercise of all its functions. Advancing equality of opportunity by ensuring that steps are taken to facilitate the electorate's exercise of their right to vote is a clear imperative. As a result, the Council must ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practical, every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible.
- 9.2 The (Acting) Returning Officer and their staff actively seek suitable venues. However, in some cases a polling place may not have step free access. In these situations, the (Acting) Returning Officer will provide the polling place with a ramp or will work with the venue to find an alternative measure.
- 9.3 The consultation document along with an email encouraging a response was sent to the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion team's list of public contacts. This included Possibility People, a local charity set up to support and involve disabled people in issues affecting their lives.
- 9.4 The Returning Officer is completing an EIA. The draft has identified that young people at school could be disproportionately impacted should a school choose to close when used as a polling place. This could be mitigated by INSET days and/or the Returning Officer avoiding the use of schools.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 The continued reduction in polling places should result in the decrease of energy use to heat and light venues. It also allows the Returning Officer to reduce the amount of printed materials for display in polling places. The double stations can allow for polling station staff to share transport to the venue.
- 10.2 Ensuring, polling places are nearby to electors and located close to public transport routes and local amenities, should reduce the need for voters to use private transport to attend their polling station.

11. Conclusion

11.1 The Council is required to designate suitable polling places which satisfy the (Acting) Returning Officer's requirements. The proposed changes provide more than satisfactory arrangements. Approval of these changes will allow the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer to continue their preparations for the potential Sussex Combined County Authority Mayor election in May 2026.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

- 1. Appendix 1 Partial Review of Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Consultation Paper and (Acting) Returning Officer Comment
- 2. Appendix 2: Responses to the Full Review of Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Consultation Paper and (Acting) Returning Officer Comment
- 3. Appendix 3 New Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Schemes

Appendix 1 - Partial Review of Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Consultation Paper and (Acting) Returning Officer Comment

Partial Review of Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Consultation Paper and (Acting) Returning Officer Comment

1. Introduction & Strategy

Brighton & Hove City Council are conducting a partial review of its polling districts and polling places under Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and in line with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. We are only conducting a partial review so that we can react to changing circumstances that are specific to certain wards. The six wards included in this partial review are:

- Central Hove
- Hangleton & Knoll
- Kemptown
- North Portslade
- Whitehawk & Marina
- Woodingdean

A comprehensive review took place in 2022 following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Review of the city's wards - and the passing of the Elections Act 2022. This Act brought about changes including the introduction of Voter ID.

A further partial review took place in 2023 to make further necessary changes to a limited number of wards.

The proposed scheme will follow similar design principles to 2022 and 2023. These are:

- Assign a polling place to each polling district and elector
- So far as is reasonable and practicable, ensure polling places are nearby to electors and located close to public transport routes and local amenities.
- So far as is reasonable and practicable ensure every polling place has step free access or can be provided with a ramp
- Help facilitate the safe and efficient administration and delivery of local and parliamentary elections
- Have a high proportion of double/triple stations. This will enable polling places to benefit from a higher proportion of senior staff who can resolve issues.
- Ensure most polling stations have between 1,250-1,750 polling station electors. This will ensure
 that polling stations are not too busy or quiet, staffing resources are best utilised and Electoral
 Commission ratios do not require further polling station splits.
- Where possible, limit the use of schools
- Avoid the use of temporary buildings

2. The Review and Decision-Making Process

The Council has published notice of holding the review and consulted the (Acting) Returning Officer for each Parliamentary Constituency in the Council's area. The (Acting) Returning Officer has commented on the proposals throughout. An interactive map of the proposals can be viewed here

The Council then invites comments on the proposals. The consultation paper will be published on the Council's website. It will also be sent to Councillors, Members of Parliament, local political parties, and local people and stakeholders with expertise in disability and accessibility.

All representations will be considered and responded to by the (Acting) Returning Officer. They will be published in the final report by the (Acting) Returning Officer with their final recommendations. Full Council will consider the proposals and make a final decision on 23 October. The agreed polling districts will then be passed to the Electoral Registration Officer for publication in the revised Register of Electors. This register will be published on 8 December.

3. The Review Timetable

The timetable for the review is set out below:

- Publication of notice of review, and consultation document including (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals – Tuesday 26 August 2025
- Closing date for representations Sunday 28 September 2025
- Final proposal published via Agenda papers and website Wednesday 15 October 2025
- Decision on scheme at Full Council meeting Thursday 23 October 2025
- Revised Register Published Monday 8 December 2025
- Combined County Authority Mayoral election Thursday 7 May 2026

4. Commenting on the Proposals

The Council and (Acting) Returning Officer welcome your thoughts on our proposals. When making comments or alternative proposals, please consider the principles that we have used to develop the scheme:

- Assign a polling place to each polling district and elector
- So far as is reasonable and practicable, ensure polling places are nearby to electors and located close to public transport routes and local amenities.
- So far as is reasonable and practicable ensure every polling place has step free access or can be provided with a ramp
- Help facilitate the safe and efficient administration and delivery of local and parliamentary elections
- Have a high proportion of double/triple stations. This will enable polling places to benefit from a higher proportion of senior staff who can resolve issues.
- Ensure most polling stations have between 1,250-1,750 polling station electors. This will ensure that polling stations are not too busy or quiet, staffing resources are best utilised and Electoral Commission ratios do not require further polling station splits.
- Where possible, limit the use of schools
- Avoid the use of temporary buildings

You can respond to the review in several ways:

- Online on our consultation portal 'Your Voice'
- by email to electors@brighton-hove.gov.uk
- by post to: The Returning Officer, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove BN3 3BQ

We must receive your views by Sunday 28 September 2025 for them to be considered in this review

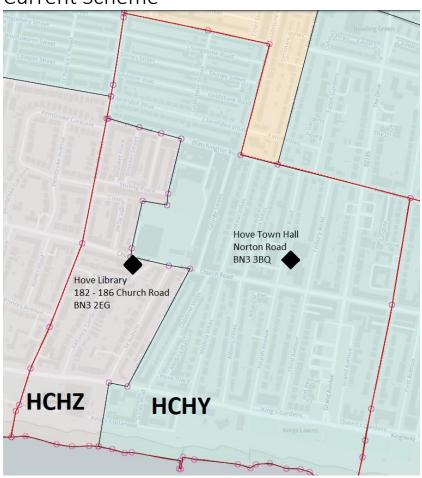
Central Hove, Hove and Portslade

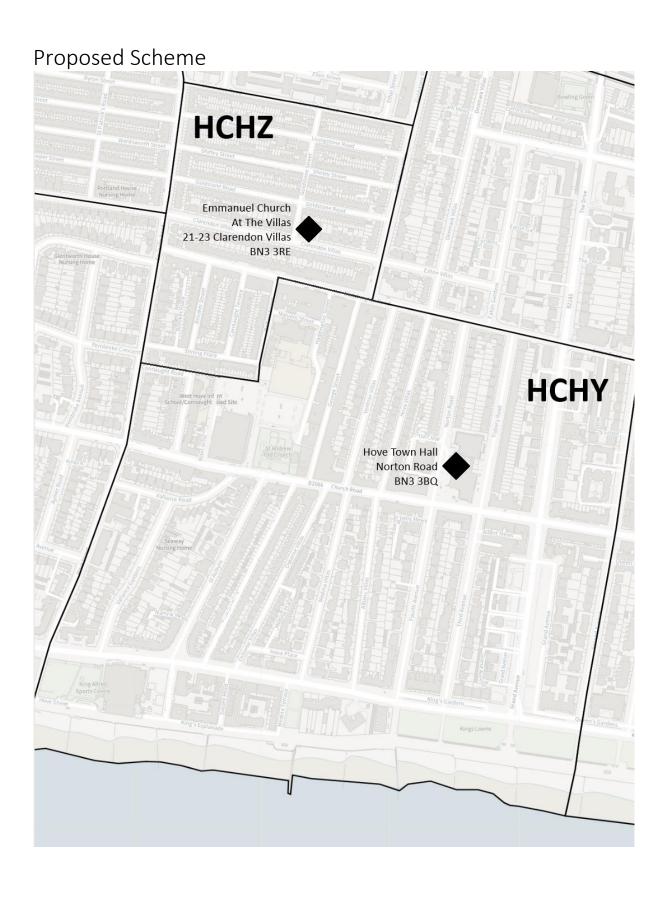
The current scheme includes Hove Library as the polling place for polling district HCHZ. The library's functions have since changed to host one of the city's two Help Desks to provide in-person support to residents. To prevent interference with this function, it is proposed to remove Hove Library from the scheme.

This change provides an opportunity to revisit the polling district boundaries for this ward, to provide more locally situated polling stations for a higher number of electors. A new polling place at Emmanual Church, Clarendon Villas is therefore proposed, with amended polling district boundaries.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place
Hove and Portslade	НСНҮ	6661	5781	Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, BN3 3BQ
Hove and Portslade	HCHZ	2178	1945	Emmanuel Church, At The Villas, 21- 23 Clarendon Villas, BN3 3RE

Current Scheme





Hangleton & Knoll, Hove and Portslade

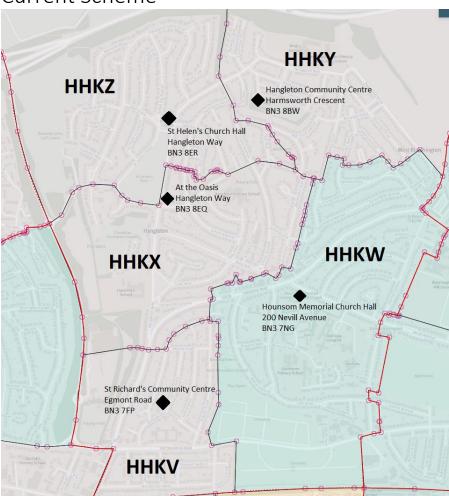
The current scheme includes St Helen's Church Hall as the polling place for polling district HHKZ. St Helen's Church Hall has limited step-free access and therefore provides reduced accessibility for some electors. It is therefore proposed to remove St Helen's Church Hall from the scheme.

The most suitable alternative polling place for electors in this polling district has been identified as At the Oasis, Hangleton Way. This venue currently serves as a polling place for polling district HHKX, and has full level access from the street into the hall.

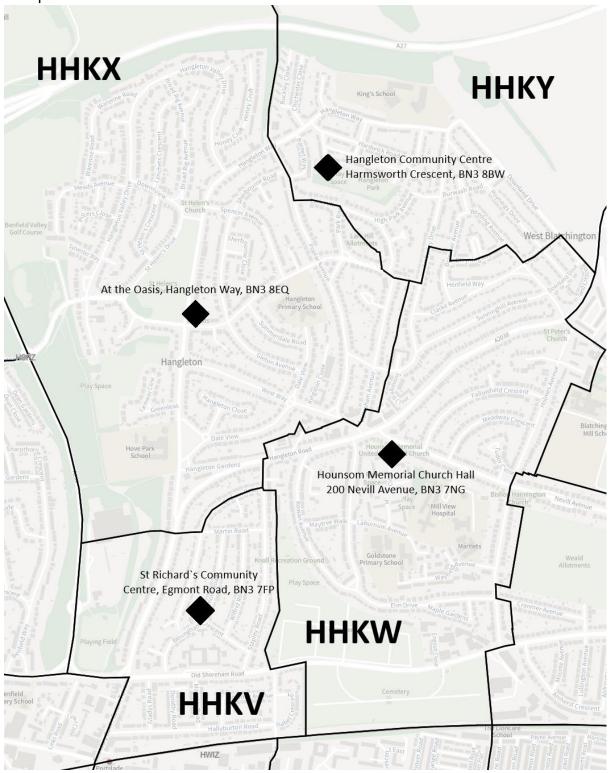
It is therefore proposed to merge polling districts HHKZ and HHKX to create a double station. This aligns with the review's principles of increasing accessibility for disabled voters, and creating more double polling stations to increase the number of senior staff available at each polling place.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place
Hove and Portslade	ННКУ	2011	1658	St Richard`s Community Centre, Egmont Road, BN3 7FP
Hove and Portslade	ннкw	3547	2886	Hounsom Memorial Church Hall, 200 Nevill Avenue, BN3 7NG
Hove and Portslade	ннкх	3765	2947	At the Oasis, Hangleton Way, BN3 8EQ
Hove and Portslade	ННКҮ	1974	1601	Hangleton Community Centre, Harmsworth Crescent, BN3 8BW

Current Scheme



Proposed Scheme



Kemptown, Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven

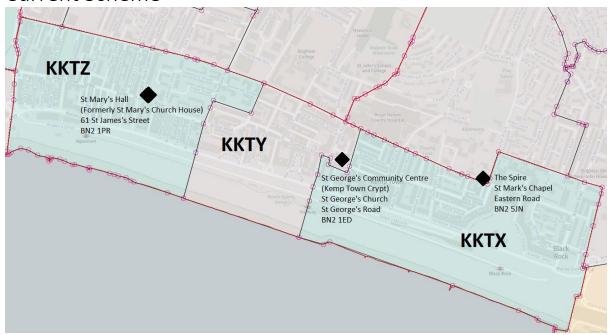
The current scheme includes The Spire as the polling place for polling district KKTX. The Spire is no longer able to serve as a polling place due to structural problems with the building. The Spire is therefore being removed from the scheme.

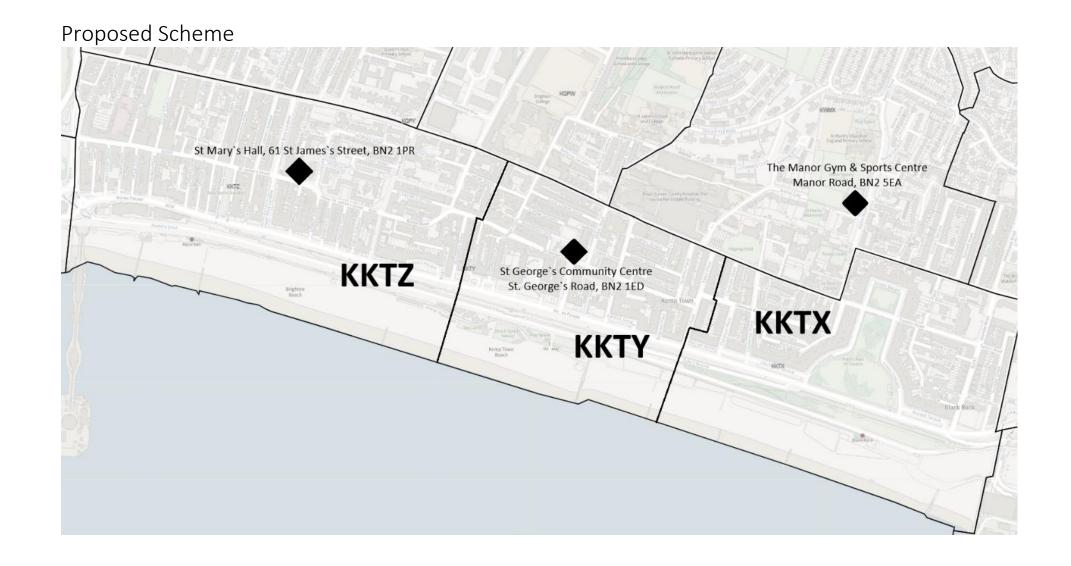
It is proposed to redraw the polling district boundaries in order to locate the remaining two polling places in the heart of their polling districts, resulting in a more local polling station for a higher number of electors. Polling district KKTX would therefore reduce in size, and its remaining electors be allocated to The Manor Gym & Sports Centre.

The Manor Gym currently serves as a polling place for Whitehawk & Marina. This proposal would therefore align with this review's principle of increasing the number of double polling stations.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	ККТХ	2185	1835	The Manor Gym & Sports Centre, Manor Road, BN2 5EA
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	ККТҮ	2302	2016	St George`s Community Centre (Kemp Town Crypt), St. George`s Church, St. George`s Road, BN2 1ED
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KKTZ	4696	4071	St Mary`s Hall, 61 St James`s Street, BN2 1PR

Current Scheme





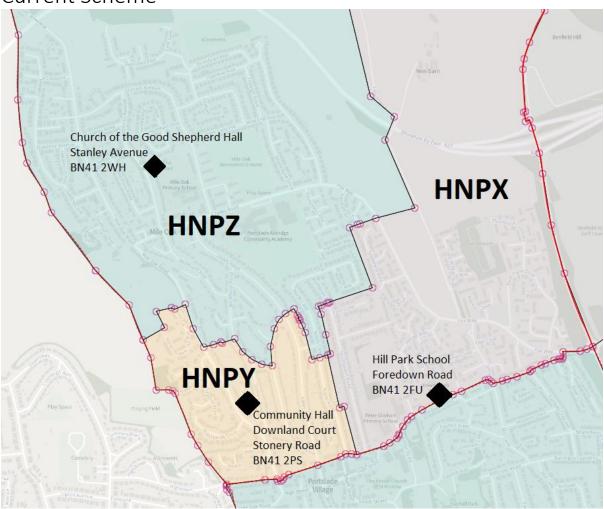
North Portslade, Hove and Portslade

The current scheme includes the Church of the Good Shepherd Hall as the polling place for polling district HNPZ. There is a significant lip at the entrance of this hall, reducing accessibility for some electors. It is therefore proposed to change the polling place to the church itself, which has no lip on the threshold.

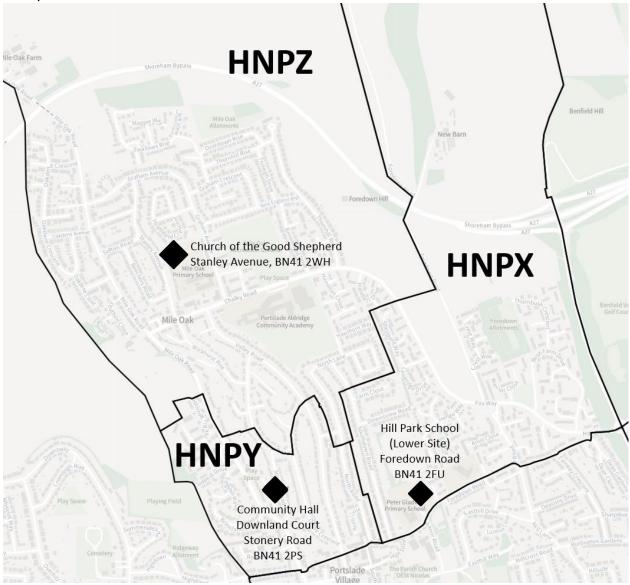
No polling district boundary changes are proposed for this ward.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place
Hove and Portslade	HNPX	2003	1596	Hill Park School (Lower Site), Foredown Road, BN41 2FU
Hove and Portslade	HNPY	1536	1287	Community Hall, Downland Court, Stonery Road, BN41 2PS
Hove and Portslade	HNPZ	4243	3536	Church of the Good Shepherd, Stanley Avenue, BN41 2WH

Current Scheme



Proposed Scheme



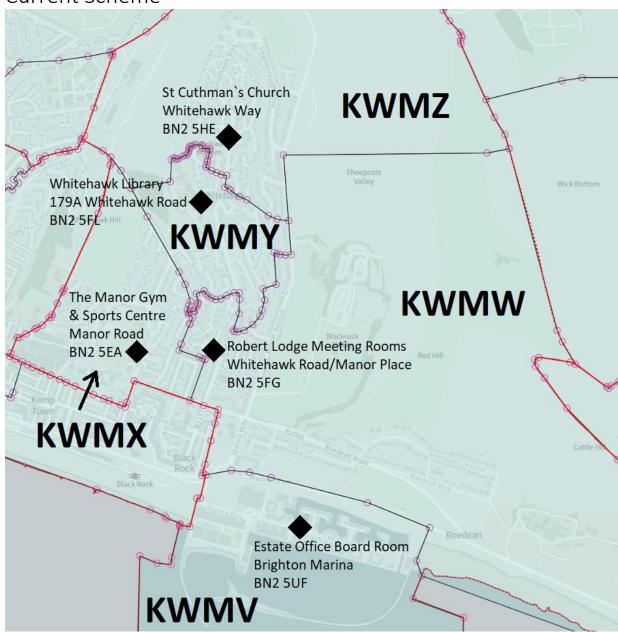
Whitehawk & Marina, Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven

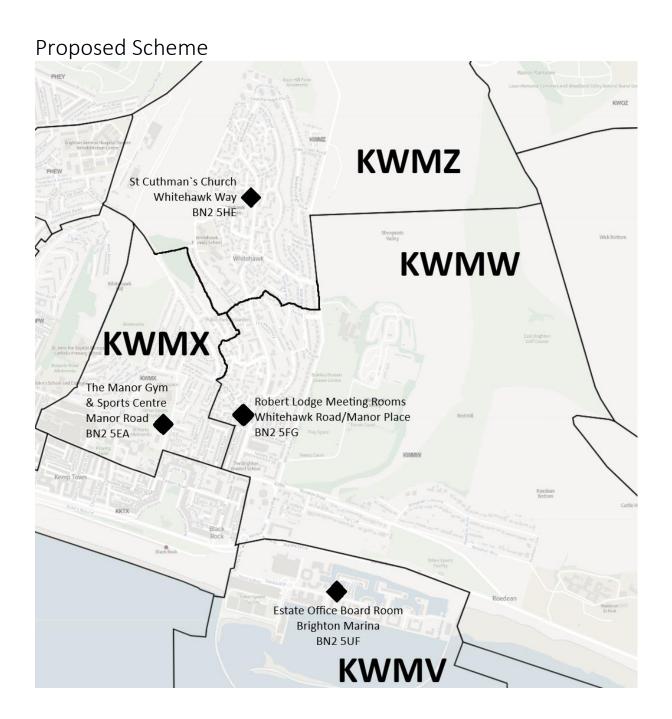
The current scheme includes Whitehawk Library as the polling place for polling district KWMY. Whitehawk Library currently serves as an access point to council services for residents who don't have access to the internet, or who require library staff support in order to self-serve. The library must close to the public on election day, resulting in reduced access to council services for some residents. It is therefore proposed to remove Whitehawk Library from the scheme.

It is proposed to split polling district KWMY, and for it to be absorbed by three neighbouring polling districts. Electors would vote at the established polling places for these districts: Robert Lodge Meeting Rooms (KWMW), The Manor Gym & Sports Centre (KWMX), and St Cuthman's Church (KWMZ).

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWMV	1140	937	Estate Office Board Room, Brighton Marina, BN2 5UF
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWMW	2582	2119	Robert Lodge Meeting Rooms, Whitehawk Road/Manor Place, BN2 5FG
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWMX	2169	1780	The Manor Gym & Sports Centre, Manor Road, BN2 5EA
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWMZ	2785	2288	St Cuthman's Church, Whitehawk Way, BN2 5HE

Current Scheme





Woodingdean, Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven

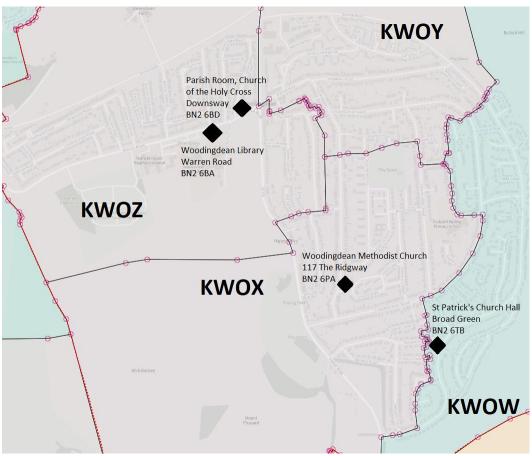
The current scheme includes Woodingdean Library as the polling place for polling district KWOZ. Woodingdean Library currently serves as an access point to council services for residents who don't have access to the internet, or who require library staff support in order to self-serve. The library must close to the public on election day, resulting in reduced access to council services for some residents. It is therefore proposed to remove Woodingdean Library from the scheme.

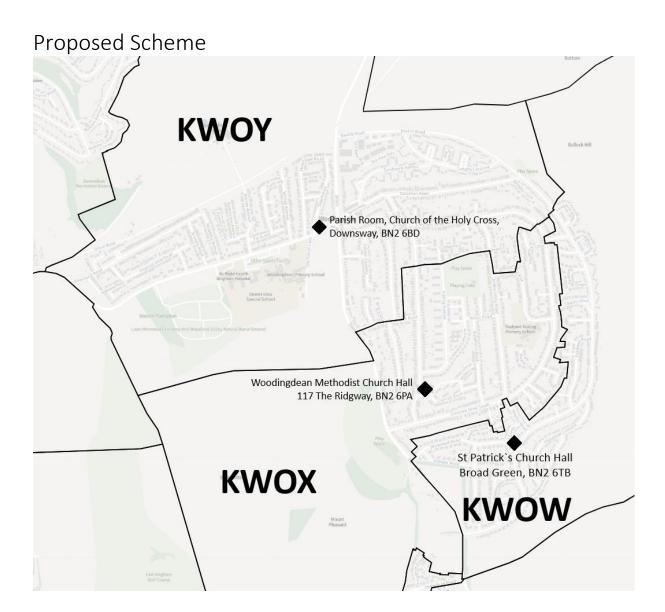
The most suitable alternative polling place for electors in this polling district has been identified as the Parish Room, Church of the Holy Cross. This venue currently serves as a polling place for polling district KWOY.

It is therefore proposed to merge polling districts KWOZ and KWOY to create a double station. This aligns with the review's principle of creating more double polling stations to increase the number of senior staff available at each polling place.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWOW	1941	1579	St Patrick`s Church Hall, Broad Green, BN2 6TB
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWOX	2016	1625	Woodingdean Methodist Church Hall, 117 The Ridgway, BN2 6PA
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWOY	3512	2776	Parish Room, Church of the Holy Cross, Downsway, BN2 6BD

Current Scheme





Appendix 2: Responses to the Partial Review of Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Consultation Paper and (Acting) Returning Officer Comment

Responder comments	Ward	RO reply
Good to move it so the help desk can remain open	Central Hove	No reply necessary
I'm in Clarke Ave and wont vote if I have to go to Hounsom. I don't believe church halls or schools should be used. The use of school means closure of a school which during term time is unacceptable as it affects a child's education, and parents are not allowed to take them out during school term = doible standards. I'm against use of churches or church halls due to religious grounds - no believer of any religion. Should stick to using Blatchington Windmill.	Hangleton & Knoll	Hounsom Memorial Church Hall is situated in the centre of this polling district and continues to serve its voters well, being located next to amenities of the local area. Churches and church halls are a key type of venue that support the Brighton & Hove polling station scheme. If these buildings are not utilised, then available polling venues would be severely limited andelectors would likely need to travel significantly further to vote. The design principles of this review agree that schools should be avoided where possible, and no additional schools are proposed to be used in this review. Blatchington Windmill was removed from the scheme as part of the 2022 review due to its unfavourable location on the periphery of the ward. Postal voting is an option available to all electors who prefer not to vote in person.

Responder comments	Ward	RO reply
good that accessibility is being considered - so like this one too	Hangleton & Knoll	No reply necessary
For KKTX - the polling station is not in the district or even the ward. It's some distance from the southern part of the district and requires crossing at least one main road (Eastern Rd). All efforts should be made to find an alternative site within the ward	Kemptown	The Returning Officer and their staff have researched venues across the area but are limited by the location of available venues. No suitable alternatives have been identified for this polling district. We have previously used T.S.Nautilus on Chesham Road as a temporary contingency, however the step-free access for this venue is too unsuitable for it to be considered as a permanent polling place for the district. We are happy to look at suggestions for alternate polling places when proposed.
sceptical of "double polling places" but understand that saves costs	Kemptown	The use of double polling stations is standard practice across the country, supporting Returning Officers' safe and efficient administration and delivery of elections. They also enable polling places to benefit from a higher proportion of senior staff who can resolve issues.
We are concerned that the proposal to replace The Spire with The Manor Gym as the polling station for Bristol Estate fails to consider the steep geography of	Kemptown	

Responder comments	Ward	RO reply
the estate. Bristol Estate is located on what is locally recognised as the steepest hill in Brighton, which creates a serious barrier for many residents, particularly older people and those with mobility issues. The area has some of the highest levels of deprivation		The Spire does not serve as a polling station for the Bristol Estate. In the current scheme, The Spire only serves polling district KKTX, in Kemptown ward, which is predominantly to the south of Eastern Road.
in the city, ranking within the top 3% most deprived nationally on the Index of Multiple Deprivation. It also has a higher proportion of residents with health and mobility needs, as reflected in Brighton and Hove's		There are no proposed changes to the polling place for electors living on the Bristol Estate, who have been voting at the Manor Gym since 2023.
above-average spending on adult social care compared with neighbouring authorities. These factors make accessibility a critical consideration when deciding polling locations. Asking residents to travel down and back up this steep hill to reach The Manor Gym will deter participation and		The Bristol Estate Community Centre was removed from the scheme as part of the council's comprehensive review of polling places in 2022. This change was agreed in line with the design principles of that review, which are still in place for this partial review in 2025.
risks denying people effective access to the ballot box. To ensure fairness and inclusion, we propose that in addition to The Manor Gym, a second polling station is placed at the BELTA Community Centre, located within the estate itself. This would provide a practical and accessible option for those who would otherwise struggle, ensuring that Bristol Estate residents are not disadvantaged in exercising their democratic right.		These principles must be applied fairly and consistently across the city to avoid favouring any particular area. The principles include aiming for polling stations to serve between 1,250 and 1,750 electors to ensure that polling stations are not too busy or too quiet and that staffing resources are best utilised. The number of electors in the Bristol Estate is significantly below this threshold.
		This proposal is also consistent with the principle of having a high proportion of double polling stations, which has considerable operational advantages, allowing polling stations to benefit from a higher number of senior staff to resolve queries which have become

Responder comments	Ward	RO reply
		more complex since the introduction of Voter ID with the Elections Act 2022.
		We are mindful of topography and accessibility when designing the scheme. We note that the Manor Gym, which is situated on the eastern part of the estate, is served by the number 37 bus, as well as having full level access and resident parking bays. Postal and proxy voting options are also available for all electors.
absolutely fine	Kemptown	No reply necessary
absolutely fine	Whitehawk & Marina	No reply necessary
Within the same context as Bristol Estate, North Whitehawk contains several high rise blocks up a steep hill. Whilst the bottom of Whitehawk is served by Robert Lodge well, North requires an additional spot. We would	Whitehawk & Marina	The review does not propose a change to the polling place for the most northerly part of Whitehawk. The proposed changes in Whitehawk & Marina relate to
propose that the Kingfisher Community Room be used as a polling station.		the current KWMY polling district which would merge into its three neighbouring polling districts, including KWMZ, which will continue to be served by St Cuthman's.
		St Cuthman's is in a prime central location for this polling district, with its own bus stop on Whitehawk's

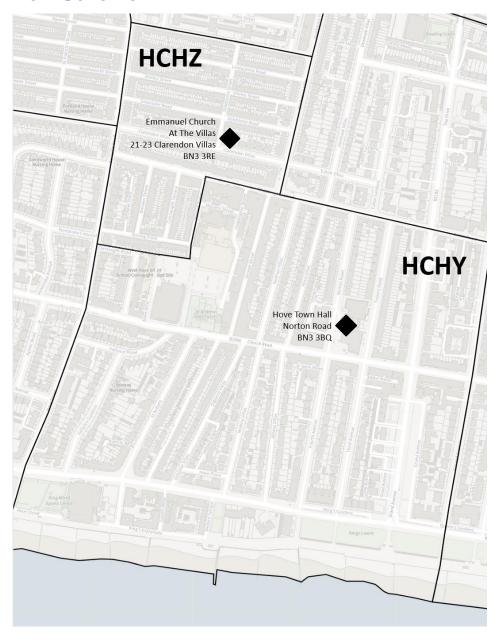
Responder comments	Ward	RO reply
		main through road. Kingfisher Community Room sits at the periphery of the polling district, and its use would result in a longer journey for the average elector in the district
		One purpose of this partial review is to identify where polling places may cease to be available in the future, and seek alternatives ahead of time in these circumstances. In July 2025 Cabinet agreed in principle that the preferred regeneration outcome for the area included the demolition of Kingfisher Court. It would therefore go against the principle of this review to include it in a reliable scheme of polling places.
A much more coherent arrangement. Lots of confusion over the library as it was so close to the Holy cross church people were getting mixed up. fully approve of this.	Woodingdean	No reply necessary
Seems to be a sensible proposal	Woodingdean	No reply necessary

Responder comments	Ward	RO reply
The proposals seem sensible	Woodingdean	No reply necessary
This seems better than existing but pubic transport for voters in east part of KWOX do not easily access polling station.	Woodingdean	It is important to avoid confusion by regularly changing polling district boundaries so that electors can, insofar as is possible, have a consistent voting location. Boundaries for KWOX were decided following public consultation as part of our review of polling places in 2023. Feedback from key stakeholders at this time led to a decision to move the polling district boundary between KWOX and KWOW eastwards. Additional electors were therefore included in KWOX to vote at Woodingdean Methodist Church, rather than their previous arrangement which had included them in KWOW, voting at St Patrick's Church. It is therefore not proposed to revert to the previous polling district boundary between KWOX and KWOW.
Seems OK, as someone who currently lives in kwoy	Woodingdean	No reply necessary

Appendix 3 - New Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Schemes

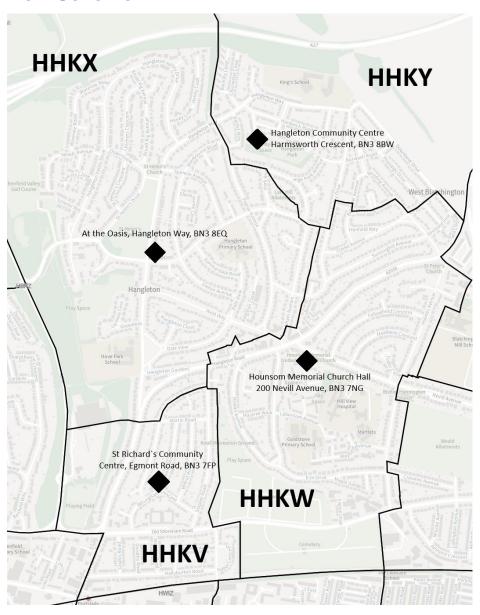
Central Hove, Hove and Portslade

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place
Hove and Portslade	НСНҮ	6661	5781	Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, BN3 3BQ
Hove and Portslade	HCHZ	2178	1945	Emmanuel Church, At The Villas, 21- 23 Clarendon Villas, BN3 3RE



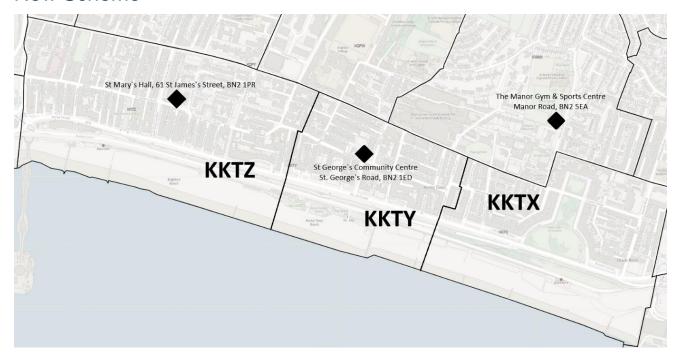
Hangleton & Knoll, Hove and Portslade

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place
Hove and	HHKV	2011	1658	St Richard`s Community Centre,
Portslade	ппки	2011	1036	Egmont Road, BN3 7FP
Hove and	HHKW	3547	2886	Hounsom Memorial Church Hall, 200
Portslade	ППКVV	3547	2886	Nevill Avenue, BN3 7NG
Hove and	ннкх	3765	2947	At the Oasis, Hangleton Way, BN3
Portslade	ППКА	3703	2947	8EQ
Hove and	ННКҮ	1974	1601	Hangleton Community Centre,
Portslade	ппкі	15/4	1001	Harmsworth Crescent, BN3 8BW



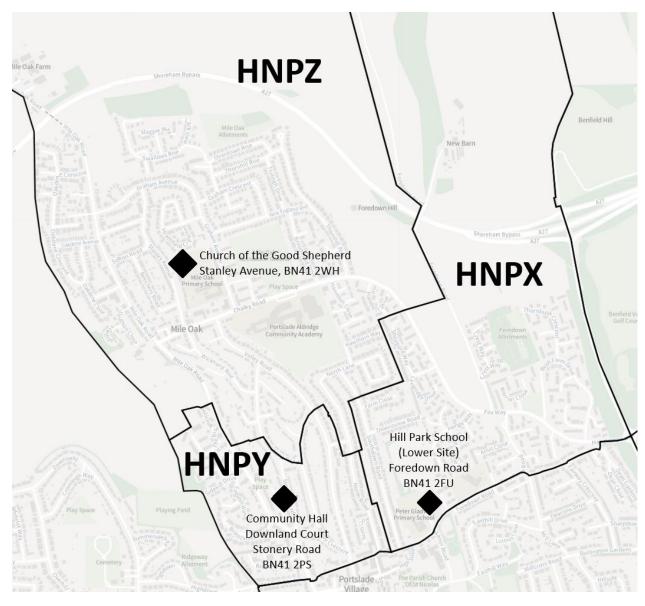
Kemptown, Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	ККТХ	2185	1835	The Manor Gym & Sports Centre, Manor Road, BN2 5EA
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	ККТҮ	2302	2016	St George`s Community Centre (Kemp Town Crypt), St. George`s Church, St. George`s Road, BN2 1ED
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KKTZ	4696	4071	St Mary's Hall, 61 St James's Street, BN2 1PR



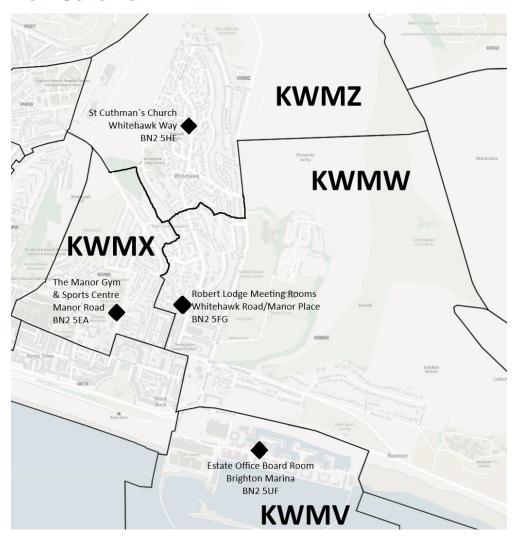
North Portslade, Hove and Portslade

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place
Hove and Portslade	HNPX	2003	1596	Hill Park School (Lower Site), Foredown Road, BN41 2FU
Hove and Portslade	HNPY	1536	1287	Community Hall, Downland Court, Stonery Road, BN41 2PS
Hove and Portslade	HNPZ	4243	3536	Church of the Good Shepherd, Stanley Avenue, BN41 2WH



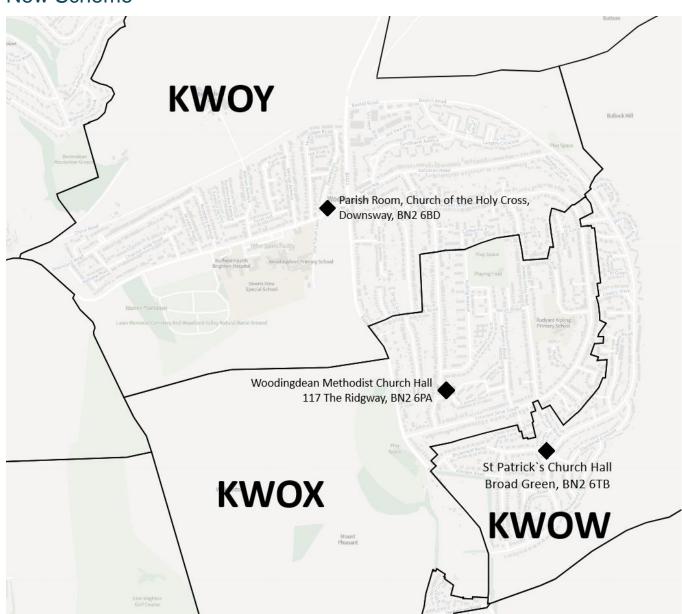
Whitehawk & Marina, Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWMV	1140	937	Estate Office Board Room, Brighton Marina, BN2 5UF
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWMW	2582	2119	Robert Lodge Meeting Rooms, Whitehawk Road/Manor Place, BN2 5FG
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWMX	2169	1780	The Manor Gym & Sports Centre, Manor Road, BN2 5EA
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWMZ	2785	2288 St Cuthman`s Church, Whitehawk Way, BN2 5HE	



Woodingdean, Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWOW	1941	1579	St Patrick`s Church Hall, Broad Green, BN2 6TB
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWOX	2016	1625	Woodingdean Methodist Church Hall, 117 The Ridgway, BN2 6PA
Brighton Kemptown and Peacehaven	KWOY	3512	2776	Parish Room, Church of the Holy Cross, Downsway, BN2 6BD



West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan

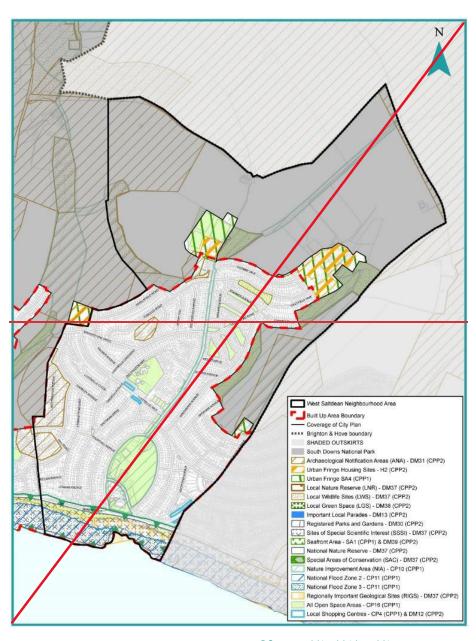
2024 - 2030

Protecting the things we love about where we live



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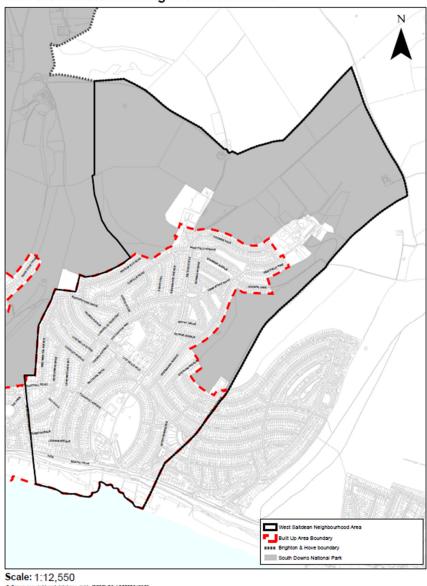
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Map 1 — BHCC City plan policies

Map 1 – BHCC City plan policies LGS designation, Wildlife corridor, Shopping areas

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The West Saltdean Neighbourhood Area



Appendices

- 1. AECOM Design Code
- 2. AECOM Housing Needs Assessment
- 3. Transport data and survey results
- 4. Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre's ecology data search
- 5. Local Green Spaces for designation
- 6. Community buildings and spaces list of
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Foreword

Located five miles east of Brighton, the popular purpose-built seaside suburb of Saltdean is known for its iconic lido, beaches, clifftop, and proximity to the South Downs National Park.

This plan has been prepared by the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum, in consultation with residents and businesses, who have given much time and thought as to how we can protect the area that we love for future generations whilst also planning for its future.

The goals and policies within this plan reflect the views and needs of West Saltdean's residents and stakeholders and will frame development for the area until the year 2030.

As for all areas in the South-East of England, there is pressure from central and local Government to identify locations for new homes in West Saltdean. However, development is inevitably constrained by West Saltdean's boundaries of the sea, the countryside, and the adjacent residential areas of East Saltdean and Rottingdean.

There are three sites that have been identified in the City Plan of Brighton & Hove for development:

- Coombe Farm 72 new homes expected to be complete in early 2025.
- Saltdean Boarding Kennels planning application for seven homes submitted early 2024
- Former nursery area, just south of the football club 18 homes guidance in Brighton & Hove's City Plan Part 2

WHowever, we are increasingly seeing family homes being divided into flats or converted into nursing homes and assisted living homes.

In this plan we have also identified numerous new open spaces that we feel should be designated as local green spaces which will give them greater protection from development.

We have also identified where infrastructure improvements and additional services are needed to meet the needs and wishes of current and future residents and businesses.

The West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum

Section 1. Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning

- 1.1 The Localism Act of 2011 gave local communities the power to develop neighbourhood planning policies and plans that were specifically for their area. In making these plans, local people and businesses get to have a greater say in how their local spaces are developed and a very real voice in deciding the look and feel of the local area in years to come.
- 1.2 The West Saltdean Neighbourhood Area is within two Local Planning Authority areas covered by Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), Our Neighbourhood Plan (NP), once made, will form part of the Development Plan for BHCC and SDNPA and will be used by both bodies, as appropriate, to make decisions about planning applications until 2030. As a formal document, the NP must be robust and sound, based on evidence and facts, as well as local opinion. The NP will be subject to a range of consultations where residents and businesses are encouraged to share their knowledge and thoughts on built-environment issues affecting the local area
- 1.3 The Neighbourhood Forum managed the development of the Local Neighbourhood Plan. It is keen that this version of the NP is wider than a planning document and so it also contains potential community projects that can be consulted upon and used as a basis for future funding bids and grant applications. The NP also discusses the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), a stream of money "levied" by the local authority on developers in the neighbourhood. Currently West Saltdean receives 15% of this levied money, however, once a Neighbourhood Plan is adopted this will rise to 25%.
- **1.4** It <u>intended is intended for</u> the NP to work closely with those documents already set by the local planning Authority and SDNPA, as these have already been tested and provide a robust framework for the emerging NP. The Forum has considered those documents and has taken the pragmatic view that those documents are best placed to allocate specific housing and commercial sites. As <u>such such</u>, this NP does not allocate housing or commercial sites.

Monitoring & Review

1.5 The effectiveness of the policies in the NP will be monitored on a regular basis up to 2030. BHCC and the SDNPA are presently reviewing their current Local Plans, and it may be necessary to formally review the NP prior to 2030 to take account of the policies and proposals in those updated Local Plans, in order that the NP will remain as a key part of the statutory development plan for West Saltdean.

Section 2. Vision, Aims, Objectives. Policies vs Projects

Our Vision

In 2030 West Saltdean will be a great place to live, work and visit with a good quality of life for residents.

We will have preserved and enhanced the unique local character of West Saltdean's built environment and open spaces including the seafront and SDNPA.

We will have ensured that the infrastructure is in place to support existing and new residents, businesses and community groups.

We will have made West Saltdean a healthier, more sustainable environment with good access to quality open spaces, including SDNPA and thriving shops, businesses and community-run buildings.

The Aims of This Plan

- 2.1 Aims (or goals) help realise the plan's vision and give the Neighbourhood Plan a framework. The best aims should be strategic in nature and not too specific. Aims can be designed to address the area's weaknesses, build on its strengths and deal with any other issues identified.
- 2.2 In setting the aims for the plan, the Neighbourhood Forum addresses both aspiration and reality for how West Saltdean should be in 2030 and the likely social, environmental and physical trends in the area over that period. They are based on evidence, consultation feedback and knowledge of the area.
 - We will have projects that conserve and improve the unique local character of West Saltdean's built environment and open spaces including the seafront and SDNPA.
 - We will establish infrastructure to support existing and new residents, businesses and community groups.
 - We will work to create a healthier, more sustainable environment with good access to quality open spaces and thriving shops, businesses and community-run buildings and land.
 - We will work with residents and businesses to create more sustainable buildings that are more energy and water efficient.

Objectives of this plan

- **2.3** The objectives set out what the plan and its policies intend to achieve and are derived from the aims. The objectives can tend towards the specific and, if possible, are measurable.
 - To ensure that all new developments will be designed so that they enhance and complement existing buildings.
 - To ensure that improvements to existing walking and cycling routes will be made to
 encourage and enable more active travel including into, and within, the SDNPA.
 - To conserve and enhance green and open spaces in West Saltdean by securing Local Green Space designation for a number of sites which meet the related criteria.
 - To protect and improve the biodiversity and wildlife located in West Saltdean's green and open spaces including the SDNPA.
 - To create the conditions for success for retail outlets and businesses and to support sustainable trade, tourism and economic development.
 - To ensure that the beach and undercliff remain attractive and well-maintained destinations with facilities for visitors and residents of all ages.
 - To protect and maintain good quality, accessible and fit-for purpose community facilities within West Saltdean which promote community cohesion and social inclusion.
 - To ensure that CIL money is secured for new and existing facilities in the neighbourhood plan area.
 - To ensure that planning applicants fully engage with residents during the planning process.

Policies vs Projects

- **2.4** This plan contains both policies and projects.
- **2.5** Policies set out specific requirements that developers have to meet to get planning permission. Some of these policies will be achieved by the planning conditions applied when applications receive planning permission.
- **2.6** Policies (in green boxes) become part of the overall development plan for the Neighbourhood Plan area and will be used in deciding future planning applications for example for new homes or other buildings.
- **2.7** Projects are identified priorities for action listed in section 7 that are outside of the planning process. It is hoped that many of these will be delivered by BHCC through funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Section 3 – West Saltdean Today

- **3.1** West Saltdean is a purpose built coastal outer suburb of Brighton & Hove. The 2021 Census recorded 5,870 individuals in West Saltdean, indicating an increase of 274 people since the 2011 Census.
- **3.2** In terms of housing, the 2021 census indicates that there are 2809 dwellings, an increase of 131 dwellings since 2011. Whereas BHCC gives a figure of 2763 dwellings.
- **3.3** For centuries West Saltdean was an open area of downland and furze with a few isolated farm buildings and cottages. In 1924 The Saltdean Estate Company was established by Charles Neville and miles of new roads were pegged out and designed around a central park named the Saltdean Oval, in which Saltdean Lido was later built.
- **3.4** By the Second World War much of the housing at Mount Estate and the area around Saltdean Oval was complete and the Saltdean Estate Company had built the Lido, the Ocean Hotel, several blocks of flats, and the Smuggler's Haunt tea-rooms (now the Whitecliffs café) on the clifftop. Land plots continued to be sold off until the 1970s.
- **3.5** West Saltdean is dominated by detached low level housing dating from the 1920s to the 1950s with some good examples of 1930s architecture that include West Saltdean's distinctive green-tiled roofs.
- **3.6** Future development of new homes is constrained by West Saltdean's boundaries of the sea, the SDNPA and the adjacent residential areas of East Saltdean and Rottingdean
- **3.7** West Saltdean is a gateway to the SDNPA with its protected flora and fauna and range of nature. The area also benefits from proximity to coast and cliff tops (part of the protected UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve).

West Saltdean Today 5,870 residents (2021 census)

The 2021 census found that the mean age for West Saltdean is 47.

The 2021 census showed there's been a 22% drop in children aged 0-4 living in Brighton & Hove compared to the 2011 census. This drop is reflected in falling pupil numbers at Saltdean Primary School.

Households	2809	(ONS)
Accomodation type Whole house or bungalow Flat/Maisonette Other	72.9 % 27.0 % 0.1 %	(ONS)
Household size 1 person 2 people 3 people 4+ people	32.8 % 40.1 % 13.6 % 13.5 %	(ONS)
Household occupation Full time Second home Empty properties (probate, uninhabitable, long-term empty (55)) Sole occupier properties Occupied solely by students Households classed as disabled Care homes	2631 35 97 910 9 14 5	(внсс)
Ownership Private rented Shared ownership Owned Social rent – council Social rent – other (e.g. Registered Providers) Could be living rent free	17.1 % 1.6 % 76.9 % 1.2% 3% 0.2%	
AECOM Housing Needs Assessment 4.4 % of households socially renting compa 14.9 % across Brighton & Hove and 17.1 % na Under 20 % of households live in flats 1.3 % live in terraced homes		(August 2023 Data)
Disabled Residents Disabled under the Equality Act Not disabled under the Equality Act	18.7 % 81.3 %	(ONS)

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Issues raised by residents during consultations

3.10 In Q3 2022 the residents of the area took part in a survey conducted by the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum about the NA. This helped identify issues that affect the local area. (Appendix 9)

- Lack of affordable housing for families, couples and single person households
- Family homes being converted into nursing/care homes or short-term rentals
- Need to protect the remaining green spaces from over-development and increase biodiversity
- Increasing congestion on the A259
- Deteriorating bus service
- Poorly maintained pavements that discourage walking
- Hilly topology discouraging cycling
- Economic situation and low footfall preventing new retail offerings
- Declining numbers at Saltdean Primary School (following trend across Brighton & Hove)



Section 4 – West Saltdean Tomorrow

4.1 West Saltdean has limited opportunities for urban growth. However, where developments are sought, there needs to be policies that can help deliver a sustainable approach which enables the wider community to engage, and achieves a balance between existing and new homes.

4.2 A major development is any application that involves:

- Mineral extraction
- Waste development
- Residential development of 10 or more dwellings
- Residential development on a site area of 0.5 ha or more and the number of dwellings is unknown.
- Development of floorspace of 1,000 sqm or more
- Development on sites over 1 ha or more



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Section 5 - Local Area Policies

1. Achieving Good Design

5.1.1 "The creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Being clear about design expectations, and how these will be tested, is essential for achieving this." National Planning Policy Framework 2023 paragraph 131.

5.1.2 The NPPF, Brighton and Hove Local Plan and supplementary design guidance (SPD 17 Urban Design Framework) and the West Saltdean design guidance and codes (appendix 1) establish a framework for how good design is to be achieved in the West Saltdean NA.

5.1.3 However, achieving good design is more than just setting out how buildings should look. It comes through making the right choices for a specific space. This includes layout, use, movement, nature and appearance. The National Design Guide 2021 sets out ten key characteristics for achieving well-design places.



- **5.1.4** The hilly nature of West Saltdean among the chalk downs; the tradition of spaced detached buildings allowing long views, wide verges and its close relationship with the sea and cliff tops; are all contributors to the landscape character of the area, which has resulted in a highly distinctive place with a landmark lido building as its gateway. Although West Saltdean contains no conservation areas, all new development should respond accordingly to the landscape in which the proposal is being set.
- 5.1.5 The Adopted Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) of the SDNPA will apply within the SDNPA part of the NA. https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/supplementary-planning-documents/adopted-design-guide-spd/

POLICY WS1 - Achieving High Quality Design

- 1. Where appropriate, Aall proposals for development should demonstrate how they have taken into consideration the <u>City Council's Supplementary Planning Document</u> (SPD) No. 17 'Urban Design Framework' June 2021), the South Downs National Park Authority's SPD 'Adopted Design Guide' (July 2022) and the West Saltdean <u>Delesign Guidance</u> and <u>Codes (January 2024)</u> (at Appendix 1 to this Plan).
- 2.—All proposals for development should be designed to a high standard, using sustainable materials suitable for the location and setting out how materials have considered "Zero Avoidable Waste"* in construction.
- All proposals for development should be designed to a high standard of design,
 minimise construction and demolition waste and use sustainable materials.
 suitable for the location which have low embodied carbon. Developers are
 encouraged to consider circular economy principles* and 'Zero Avoidable Waste'
 principles**
- 3. All proposals should demonstrate consideration to the existing form and street scene in terms of scale, mass, height, siting, character, spacing and materials
- 4. Proposals for development should be sympathetic to West Saltdean's local character and history, which includes the spaces around buildings, landscape and heritage settings and filtered views.
- 5. Proposals should seek to protect existing landscaping features and enhance urban greening of the site by retaining existing trees and hedges and using planting rather than fencing or walls for boundary treatments.
- Existing flow routes and drainage features within the development site should be identified and preserved, such as ditches, seasonally dry watercourses and historic ponds.
- 5-7. Proposals should integrate sustainable drainage measures to minimise and control surface water run-off and improve habitats and species migration.

 Such measures include rainwater re-use/harvesting, green roofs, rain gardens, trees and permeable paving.

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^{*} Zero Avoidable Waste as set out at section 5 of the waste prevention programme for England: maximizing resources, minimising waste—Government August 2023.

^{*} Circular economy principles encourage material and resources to be kept in use for as long as possible by re-using, recycling, re-manufacturing and sharing resources.

^{**}Zero Avoidable Waste' refers to the Government's Waste Prevention Programme for England, published in. August 2023, and specifically to the Routemap for Net Zero Avoidable Waste in Construction by 2050.

2. The South Downs National Park

- **5.2.1** West Saltdean lies in a valley bordered by the sea to the south, the South Downs National Park (SDNP) to the north and the neighbouring settlements of Rottingdean to the west and East Saltdean to the east. Large parts of the Plan area lie within the SDNP.
- **5.2.2** The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is the local planning authority for those areas of West Saltdean that are within the SDNP. The SDNPA when making planning decisions is guided by the statutory purposes and duty of the National Park, and by national and local policies.
- 5.2.3 The National Park purposes are:
- 1) To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area, and
- 2) To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.
- **5.2.4** The duty of the SDNPA in carrying out these purposes is to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities within the National Park.
- 5.2.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), paragraph 189 (as revised December 2024) states:
- "Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas."
- **5.2.6** The adopted South Downs National Park Local Plan (SDLP) 2014-2033 requires that a landscape led approach is adopted for those areas of West Saltdean within the SDNP. The landscape led approach to design is defined in the SDNPA's 'Adopted Design Guide' Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which states that "Design, which is strongly informed by understanding the essential character of the site and its context (the landscape), creates development which speaks of its location, responds to local character and fits well into its environment. It needs to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area and create sustainable and successful places for people."
- **5.2.7** For the landscape led approach in the SDLP see in particular Policies SD4 Landscape Character, SD5 Design and SD6 Safeguarding Views. The landscape led approach is expanded upon in the SDNPA's 'Adopted Design Guide' Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
- 5.2.8 The landscape led approach notes that the SDNP is an International Dark Skies Reserve.

 Development needs to conserve and enhance the dark night skies of the SDNP as set out in the SDLP.

 2014-2033, Policy SD8 Dark Night Skies. Further guidance is provided in the SDNPA's 'Dark Skies' Technical Advice Note (TAN) (May 2021).
- **5.2.9** The SDNP was designated in recognition of its exceptional natural beauty, for the opportunities to learn about and appreciate its special qualities and as a landscape of national importance. The special qualities are expanded upon in the Introduction chapter of the SDLP.

5.2.10 Proposals should reflect the setting of the National Park including the guidance provided by the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment, Appendix A Landscape Character Type A: Open Downland and specifically A2: Adurto Ouse Open Downs including the Landscape.

Management/Development considerations for that area.

POLICY WS2 - South Downs National Park

Development within, or impacting upon, the SDNPA should have alandscape led approach to design, having regard to the setting of the National Park in terms of its landscape and visual amenity. Development within or impacting upon the SDNPA must respect the landscape setting of West Saltdean, including meeting the purposes of the SDNPA.

1. Development within, or impacting upon, the South Downs National Park should have a landscape-led approach to design, having regard to the special qualities of the National Park and, as appropriate, in accordance with the policies of the adopted South Downs Local Plan 2014-2033, including Policies SD4 Landscape Character, SD5 Design, SD6 Safeguarding Views and SD8 Dark Night Skies, and the guidance contained in the Adopted Design Guide SPD.

2. Development within, or impacting upon, the South Downs National Park must respect the landscape setting of West Saltdean, including meeting the purposes of the South Downs National Park.

2-3. Creating future housing stock for the area

- **5.3.1** West Saltdean Housing Needs Assessment (AECOM August 2023 Appendix 2) sets out the baseline evidence for what type of housing is needed in the plan area. In particular, it shows that the West Saltdean area has a high proportion of owned homes with a much lower proportion of rental properties.
- **5.3.2** House prices in the area peaked in 2022 with a lower quartile house price (most affordable type of property) at £350,000. This means that local households on average incomes are unable to access entry-level homes unless they have access to large deposits and this is creating higher demand for private renting and pushing up rental costs.
- **5.3.3** The evidence suggests that there is a large group of households in West Saltdean who may be able to rent but cannot afford home ownership and as such this "can rent, can't buy" cohort would benefit from home ownership products such as First Homes discounts or shared ownership options.
- **5.3.4** The housing assessment estimates that there is a need for 13 affordable rented homes

as well as 28 affordable home ownership dwellings to be provided per annum in the plan area. However, many of the latter group are housed adequately within the private sector and as such the demand is much less acute than the need for social/affordable rented housing in the area, which performs a vital function in West Saltdean as the only option for a large segment of single person households who generally cannot afford to rent privately in the area.

POLICY WS3 - Affordable Housing

Applications involving affordable housing should have regard to the local needs identified in the West Saltdean Housing Needs Assessment 2023. In particular, schemes should prioritise afforded rented tenures at 65% with affordable home ownership products at 35%.

In those circumstances where a case is made that the inclusion of affordable housing within a development scheme would be unviable, where such provision is a policy requirement.

Rrobust "open-book" viability assessments should be undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (or similar) and the guidance contained in 'Assessing Viability in Planning' RICS (April 2023), published by the Royal Institution of Chartered.

Surveyors (RICS) (including any future updates), and should be based on Benchmark Land Values as undertaken by a qualified RICS Assessor.

RICS = Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Specialist Housing for Older People

- **5.3.5** The Housing Needs Assessment (Appendix 2) notes that in the 2021 Census there were 774 individuals aged 75+ in West Saltdean projected to increase to 950 by 2030 (14.8% of the population, a significantly higher proportion than across Brighton & Hove) This suggests that the current housing provision is in the region of 13 units per 1000 of the 75+ population.
- **5.3.6** Calculations show that there will be a need to provide between 44 and 63 specialist accommodation units during the plan period. Some of these could be accommodated by adapting existing housing stock, allowing older households to remain in their own homes for longer. However, there is a clear gap in the market in the West Saltdean area to provide market sheltered housing.

POLICY WS4 - Other types of low-cost and specialist housing

Applications that provide the following will be supported:

- 1. Well-designed schemes developed through community land trusts, housing associations or co-operative housing schemes which demonstrate that they help meet the needs of the local area.
- 2. Well-designed schemes which involve the provision of land for self-build projects which demonstrate that they help meet the needs of the local area.
- Proposals Applications for specialised housing/accommodation which take account of have regards to the local needs identified in The West Saltdean Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) (August 2023) which is at Appendix 2 to this plan.
 (Appendix 2)
- 4. Housing for older people provided in partnership with specialist developers which will provide a greater choice of sheltered housing options for people who want to move in later life.

POLICY WS5 - Adaptable housing

- Support will be given for adaptation of existing buildings to create high-quality sustainable accommodation suitable for people of differing levels of physical and mental abilities that adhere to existing City Plan policies.
- 2. Adapted housing proposals will need to demonstrate that the intended units will meet an identified local need and:

Be easily accessible to shops, public transport, medical facilities, community facilities and services appropriate to the needs of the intended occupiers.

Demonstrate that proposals meet or exceed the Building Regulations requirements for "Accessible and adaptable dwellings" M4(2) or successor regulations.

- Developments/adaptations should include adequate amenity space indoors as well as outdoors and, where appropriate, should consider opportunities for sitting together, socialising, gardening and the promotion of active leisure and community pursuits.
- 4. Where appropriate housing proposals should provide suitable facilities for care/medical staff and visitors, such as day rooms, dedicated parking, additional washrooms and overnight accommodation.
- 5.—Proposals for new assisted living units and other specialist housing will only besupported if there is no more than one similar unit within 400 metres. This isbecause these units create more traffic movements and will put increasedpressure on the on-street parking.
- 6-5. Proposals to extend an existing facility into an adjoining property will be supported subject to additional off-street parking being made available for visitors and site employees.

3.4. Conserving local heritage

- **5.4.1** The NA is rich in history from Saxon habitants, local smugglers, through to the Grade II* Saltdean Lido and former Butlins Hotel, both built in the modernist style.
- **5.4.2** East Sussex Heritage Environment Record shows that over the years there have been some significant historical finds locally such as the Saltdean Bowl, discovered in 1910 on the clifftop at Saltdean Gap. Dated to around 200 BC it is held in Brighton Museum.
- **5.4.3** Saxon Close derives its name on account of archaeological discoveries in 'Tumulus' Road including a small grey Saxon cup unearthed by a fox.
- **5.4.4** Looes Barn is thought to be named from the Saxon name for a 'Farmstead' and is near to the prehistoric 'Looes Barn burial'.
- **5.4.5** The first mention of 'Salt Dene' in a map appears on the 'Armada Map' of 1587 and is marked as a landing place. An 1825 one-inch-to-the-mile map shows Salt Dean Gap. From here a Droveway, (a route for moving livestock on foot from one place to another) would become Longridge Avenue. (now the main shopping area. See map page 48)
- **5.4.6** The Valley of Salt: This name may derive from storms which carried sea salt onto the valley.
- **5.4.7** Sparsely populated until the early 20th century, 1924 marked the first housing project in West Saltdean by the developer Charles W. Neville. There remains a wealth of distinctive buildings in the West Saltdean Area including those built during the 1930s Art Deco era and in the earlier International Moderne Style by RWH Jones and Connell, Ward and Lucas. These are all surveyed and plotted within the accompanying AECOM Design Code. See Appendix A.



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5.4.8 Heritage Designations - Listed Buildings:

i. Saltdean Barn and Attached Walls - Grade II (now Boomerang nursery)

An early to mid-19th century barn, formerly on open farmland, constructed of coursed flint with red brick dressings ad quoins (masonry blocks at the corner of a wall) and a half-hipped tiled roof, featuring an early 2000s extension.

ii. Saltdean Lido - Grade II*

Built in 1938 to designs by RWH Jones who also designed The Ocean Hotel, the lido is in the Modernist style.

iii. The Ocean front block, walls and gate piers - Grade II

Former hotel built in 1938. Now flats.

iv. Newlands Barn, Saltdean Vale - Grade II.

Located on the corner of Saltdean Vale and Lustrells Crescent. Built near the end of the 18th century, the barn and neighbouring stables became workshops then offices for the Saltdean Estate Company. The building was listed in 1977 and converted to residential use in 1983. Characterised by coursed flint with red brick dressings and a tiled roof.

5.4.9 Section HCo1 of the Design Code "Preserving and promoting local vernacular" notes that West Saltdean's local vernacular and its Art Deco style houses contribute significantly to its character and setting. The wide variety of housing styles and architectural details, achieved through a unified material palette enriches West Saltdean's streetscape. It is essential that future developments are sympathetic to the design, housing styles and use of material across the Neighbourhood Area.

POLICY WS6 – Conserving Local Heritage

1. Proposals to replace the existing green-tiled roofs on buildings with tiles of another colour will be rejected. Development proposals should seek to retain the original green roof tiles and pantiles that are characteristic of many existing buildings in the Plan area, and proposals that seek to replace them with tiles of another colour will not be supported.

2. Any development of dwellings on plots identified as being a typical house type or a building of note in the Design Code should preserve the features that contribute to West Saltdean's special character, including architectural details, materials, scale, plot coverage and boundary treatments.

4-5. Achieving Water Efficiencies

- **5.5.1** Without action the Greater Brighton Region faces a water deficit of almost 90 million litres per day by 2050. This is due to increasing combined pressures of climate change, population growth and environmental protection. The Greater Brighton Water Plan 2020 sets out a range of initiatives for corporate companies and local authorities to undertake. This includes delivering sustained pressure to embed water efficiencies in new developments, and promoting water recycling, harvesting and conservation.
- **5.5.2** Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) Supplementary Planning Document 16 Sustainable Drainage 2019 already sets out numerous ways new developments can incorporate water management into their developments and all applications should adhere to this guidance.
- **5.5.3** In addition to water management, Sustainable Urban Drainage systems can contribute to enhancing local wildlife and biodiversity. Rainwater gardens allow for water to be collected from impermeable surface areas such as roofs and divert it through a specially designed planter or garden so that it can be used by plants rather than going into the main sewer system.

WS7 - Incorporating Sustainable Drainage and Water Efficiency Measures

All developments within the Neighbourhood Plan area should seek to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs) and proposals should:

- 1_Incorporate, where possible, rainwater harvesting and water recycling measures including the provision of water butts to use for non-potable water use such as toilet flushing and gardening.
- 2. Through landscape design, maximise the use of permeable surfacing that allows surface water run-off to be infiltrated where possible.
- 3. To minimise the risk of sewer flooding and to protect water quality, surface water will not be allowed to discharge to the wastewater drainage network.
- 4. Where developments are proposed in areas overlying Source Protection Zones (SPZ), proposals must demonstrate how SuDS designs will protect groundwater quality sufficiently to protect public water supply. SuDS designs should be agreed with the statutory water supplier, and be supported by a hydrogeological risk assessment where required.

CPP2 policy DM43 Sustainable Drainage and SPD Sustainable Drainage will also apply.

5.6. Achieving More Sustainable Buildings

- **5.6.1** Brighton and Hove City Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency in December 2018, alongside an ambition for the City to be carbon neutral by 2030. 38% of the City's carbon emissions are from gas and 26% from electricity. Heating and energy use in existing buildings is difficult to decarbonise due to ownership/ tenancy arrangements, site locations etc. A mix of solutions will be required including community-led renewable energy projects. These are projects which seek to generate renewable energy to meet local needs and will help people that are at risk of fuel poverty.
- **5.6.2** A vast majority of buildings in the West Saltdean area were built between the 1930s and 1950s, meaning that the existing housing stock is ageing, and many would not meet modern standards of building, energy efficiency or have the most effective layout.
- **5.6.3** For retrofit work undertaken to existing homes, the use of the PAS 2035:2019 Specifications and Guidance (or any superseding guidance) is encouraged. PAS 2035 establishes a process for assessing the improvement measures best suited to each individual home. This includes a risk assessment, a check to ensure that the measures recommended are compatible with each other and suitable for the home under assessment as well as the needs of those who live within the building and the homeowners' improvement objectives.
- **5.6.4** Other important components of PAS 2035 is a requirement for monitoring of performance after retrofit (to ensure a satisfactory outcome for the customer), a whole home approach (so that improvement measures are not considered in isolation to reduce the risk of them not working well together) and a fabric first approach.
- <u>5.6.5</u> The South Downs Local Plan Development Management Policy SD51: Renewable Energy applies to land in the National Park.

5.6.55.6.6

At the time of writing this plan, the Saltdean Climate Action Network, Saltdean Residents Association, and Saltdean Community Association have commissioned Brighton & Hove Energy Co-Op to undertake a Decarbonisation Feasibility Study for Saltdean. Policy WS8 will be revised and make reference to this study, when it is completed.

- **5.6.7** As part of West Saltdean's Decarbonisation Strategy, West Saltdean's potential largest roof-mounted solar opportunities have been identified as the Lido building and the Lido's two car parks. Saltdean United Football Club's building and the roof-spaces of blocks of flats. There are only small publicly owned plots (which are designated as Local Green Spaces) that would be suitable for ground-mounted solar and wind.
- 5.6.8 West Saltdean has the capacity to launch a community energy scheme and work on this is ongoing. A community energy scheme is defined as a defined group of import and/or export electricity meters that are aggregated into a single entity for the purpose of sharing costs and benefits between scheme members served by those meters. The scheme would have a charter, or statement of objectives and rules that detail how the scheme works, what Low Carbon Technologies (LCTs) may be used in the scheme, and how costs and benefits are spread equitably among its members. Larger-scale projects will be encouraged to join the Saltdean community

energy scheme.

5.6.9 Management of the community energy scheme will be left to its members. Links (technical and financial) to neighbouring community energy schemes will be strongly encouraged, especially where economies of scale and other benefits from linkage can be demonstrated. Therefore, applications from community-led or by a not-for-profit organisation such as a Co-operative are welcomed by the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum.

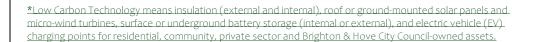
5.6.6 5.6.10 Where there are alternative choices of Renewable Energy or Low Carbon.

Technology* (LCT) to implement, the fitting of the technology most suitable for the property in question will be encouraged, with reference to the Saltdean Decarbonisation Feasibility. Study and Energise Sussex Coast Carbon Footprint Report.

POLICY WS8 – Small scale renewable energy projects including community energy scheme Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technology (LCT) Projects including Community Energy Scheme

- Proposals for Applications for small scale* renewable energy or Low Carbon Technology (LCT) projects in to (part) power new or existing developments and Brighton & Hove City Council-owned properties and assets, that are not retrofit buildings that are not submitted under covered by permitted development rights will be supported in principle. acceptable.
- 2.—Applications from community-led or by a not-for-profit organisation such as a Co-Operative are welcomed.
- 3.—Such projects must demonstrate the current carbon footprint for the buildings and how the scheme will reduce this and when.
- 4-2. Any application Proposals should seek to that includes renewable energy must conserve and enhance the <u>surrounding</u> landscape and should be sensitively designed, taking account of noise, air pollution and long-term management.
- 5-3. ____The ground-mounting of on-premisesite installations which would involve involves the paving-over of gardens lawns or other green spaces will be discouraged, unless this is is strongly discouraged unless technically essential and is mitigated by clearly demonstrable environmental benefits.
- 4. All proposals that require planning permission should satisfy the requirements of the relevant policies in the adopted Brighton & Hove City Plan and the South Downs Local Plan.
- 6.5. Planning applications Proposals for new developments in the Plan area should seek to incorporate low carbon or renewable heating sources and avoid the use of gas or solid fuels, build homes with coal/wood fireplaces and woodburning stoves will be rejected.

*small scale means roof-mounted solar panels and micro-wind turbines, surface or underground battery storage (internal or external), and EV battery exports (from charging points) for both residential, community and BHCC-owned



6-7. Travel, Transport and Active Movement

- **5.7.1** The topography surrounding West Saltdean, which lies in an enclosed valley close to the sea, means that the main access road is the A259 which runs from east to west close to the seafront. The main roads off the A259 running north/south are Longridge Avenue and Arundel Drive West which turns into Saltdean Vale. Most roads in West Saltdean are connected to these main routes.
- **5.7.2** The northern part of the Neighbourhood Plan area is set within the SDNPA and provides public rights of way connections to other nearby areas such as Rottingdean, Woodingdean and Telscombe.
- **5.7.3** The southern part of the NP area comprises an undercliff walk which forms part of the National Coastal Pathway and provides cycling access to Brighton via a non-motor vehicular route
- **5.7.4** The following policies relating to travel in Brighton & Hove City Plan Part 2 already apply in West Saltdean:
 - DM33 Safe, Sustainable and Active Travel
 - DM35 Travel Plans and Transport Assessments
 - DM36 Parking and Servicing

See Appendix 3 for information about how people travel into, out of and within the NP area as well as information from surveys about transport.

POLICY WS9 - Encouraging and enabling better travel planning

- 1. Planning applications that would result in a net gain of three or more dwellings should set out the site connectivity to nearby services and community spaces.
- 2. Transport statements/assessments should positively encourage <u>reducing the</u> <u>need to travel and facilitate</u> higher levels of walking, cycling and public transport use by demonstrating how the proposed <u>scheme development creates</u> links to existing walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure and, where possible <u>by providing new_and/</u> or improved facilities to achieve this.
- For major <u>development</u> proposals where the <u>a new</u> development includes is proposing new footways, <u>cycleways</u> and <u>vehicle</u> highways that will <u>not on't</u> be adopted by the Highway authority, <u>managed by either BHCC or SDNPA</u>, a long term-management strategy for their <u>future</u> maintenance <u>and funding</u>, <u>where appropriate</u>, should be submitted <u>as part of the development proposals</u>.

POLICY WS 10 - Parking

- 1. <u>Proposals for new development Planning applications</u> that would result in a net gain of <u>residential</u> dwellings should include, <u>where possible</u>, dedicated offstreet vehicle parking spaces <u>with electric vehicle (EV charging points)</u> unless they are specified as car free.
- 2. <u>Vehicle p</u>Parking provided on driveways should be designed to minimise the visual impact on the street scheme. <u>New p</u>Parking <u>areas spaces</u> should <u>include</u> appropriate landscaping features, wherever possible, to reduce the visual impact. have greenery incorporated on boundaries.
- 3. The removal of <u>existing</u> grass verges <u>and or trees to facilitate vehicle</u> <u>enable</u> <u>access to a new parking will not be supported. space is prohibited.</u>

7-8. Enhancing Our Open Spaces, Encouraging Biodiversity & Wildlife

- **5.8.1** West Saltdean lies in a valley bordered by the sea to the south, the SDNPA to the north and the neighbouring settlements of Rottingdean to the west and East Saltdean to the east. Large parts of West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan area lie within the SDNPA. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), December 2023 paragraph 182 states:
- **5.8.2** "Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas".
- **5.8.3** So, although West Saltdean is not in the green belt, any development within the Neighbourhood Plan area should be considered within the setting of the SDNPA and should be "sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impact on the designated areas."

Designating Local Green Spaces

- **5.8.4** Local Green Space designations (LGS) protect local green areas of particular importance to local communities. Once designated, the LGS is subject to the same strong development restrictions as Green Belt, and new development here is ruled out other than in special circumstances.
- **5.8.5** There are no areas in West Saltdean that have been designated as LGS in Brighton & Hove's City Plan. (See Policy DM38 p103 City Plan Part 2).
 - **5.8.6** The West Saltdean NP therefore sets out the LGS listed below and defined on the inset maps that are locally important to the people of West Saltdean and meet the national criteria for designation. Further site details are provided in Appendix 5 to this plan.
 - **5.8.7** The NPPF paragraph 106-107 states that "The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:
- (a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- (b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and
- (c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
- **5.8.8** All the LGS proposed in this plan for protection have been assessed against the criteria set out in the NPPF and their value in terms of:



Beauty

- Heritage
- Recreation
- Wildlife
- Tranquillity

POLICY WS11 - Protecting Local Green Spaces

The areas listed below and described within \land ppendix \land are designated as Local Green-Spaces.

SITE 1 SUFC and North Saltdean Recreation Ground*

SITE 2 Looes Barn Close. (Land behind*)

SITE 3 Westfield Avenue North and South

SITE 4 Coombe Farm new housing estate?

SITE 5 Hailsham Avenue*

SITE 6 Stanmer Avenue*

SITE 7 Hempstead Road*

SITE 8 Mount Estate Plot 1***

SITE 9 Mount Estate Plot 2**

SHE 9 MOUNT Estate Plot 2***

SITE 10 Mount Estate Plot 3**

SITE 11 Saltdean Primary School*

SITE 12 St Nicholas Church****

SITE 13 Saltdean Vale*

SITE 14 Saltdean Oval Park*

SITE 15 Saltdean Lido***

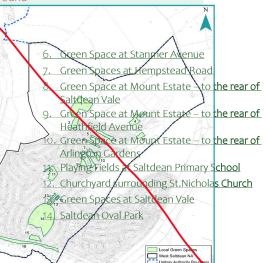
SITE 16 The Cliff Top*

The areas listed below and shown on the accompanying map and on the Inset Maps at Pages 27-42 are designated as Local Green Spaces:

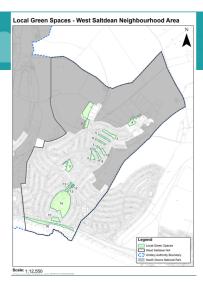
- Saltdean United Football Club (SUFC) and North Saltdean.
 Recreation Ground
- 2. Land to the rear of Looes Barn
- 3. Green Space at Westfield

 Avenue North and Westfield

 Avenue South
- 4. Green Space at Coombe Farm
 Estate
- Green Space at Hailsham Avenue



15. Green Space at Saltdean Lido16. The Cliff Top



Development proposals in the 16.
designated Local Green Spaces listed
above and defined on the accompanying
maps to this Policy will be managed in
accordance with national policy for
Green Belts.

* owned by BHCC.

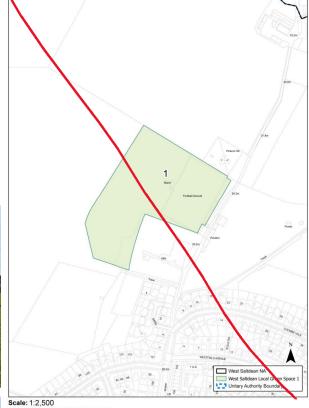
** privately owned

*** owned by Community Interest Companies
(Freehold of Saltdean Lido owned by BHCC)

**** owned by Church of England

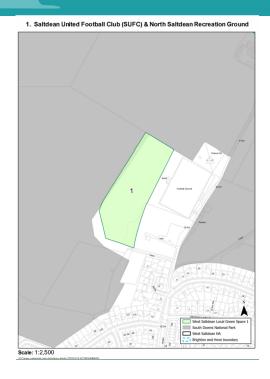
5.8.85..8.9 All landowners affected by the proposed designation of their land as a Local Green Space were made aware of this during the course of the Plan's preparation and given the opportunity to make representations on the proposal as it concerns their land ownership.

SITE 1 – <u>SUFC Saltdean United Football Club (SUFC)</u> and North Saltdean Recreation Ground





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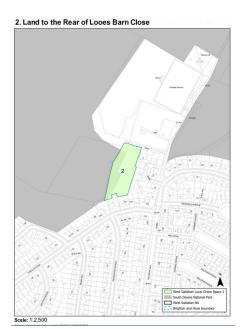


3.52.3 Acres designated as public space. Bridlepath and rights of way path

onto the SDNPA.

Home of Saltdean United Football Club: 2 pitches and clubhouse. Mown public open space which is surrounded on three sides by hedges used by walkers.

SITE 2 – <u>Land to the rear of Looes Barn Close</u>. (<u>Land behind</u>.)



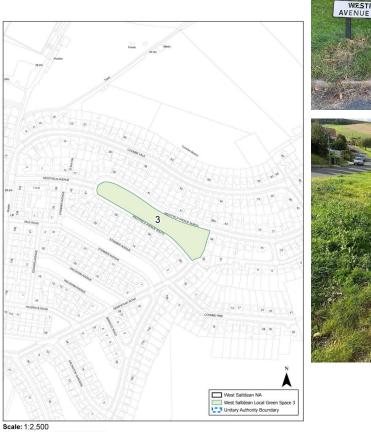




Unmaintained scrubland with trees owned by BHCC. No public access as access track privately owned.

SITE 3 – <u>Green Space at Westfield Avenue North</u> and <u>Westfield Avenue South</u>

Open public grassed space which is part of the original Saltdean estate. Owned and maintained by BHCC. Home to trees and wildlife and used by residents for leisure. This site is also a designated Local Wildlife Site (Ref. BH72) as listed at paragraph 5.8.18.







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SITE 4 – <u>Green Space at Coombe Farm new housing eE</u>state



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Open green space built as part of new housing development (72 homes) currently being built. Will be maintained by privately-owned freeholder of the site. Photos not available.

SITE 5 – <u>Green Space at Hailsham Avenue</u>

Open public grassed space which is part of the original Saltdean estate. Owned and maintained by BHCC. Home to trees and wildlife and used by residents for leisure.

Scale: 1:2,500





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SITE 6 – Green Space at Stanmer Avenue

Open public grassed space which is part of the original Saltdean estate. Owned and maintained by BHCC. Home to trees and wildlife and used by residents for leisure.





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SITE 7 – <u>Green Spaces at Hempstead Road</u>



Open public grassed space which is part of the original Saltdean estate. Owned and maintained by BHCC. Home to trees and wildlife and used by residents for leisure.



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SITE 8 — Green Space at Mount Estate Plot 1 to the rear of Saltdean Vale

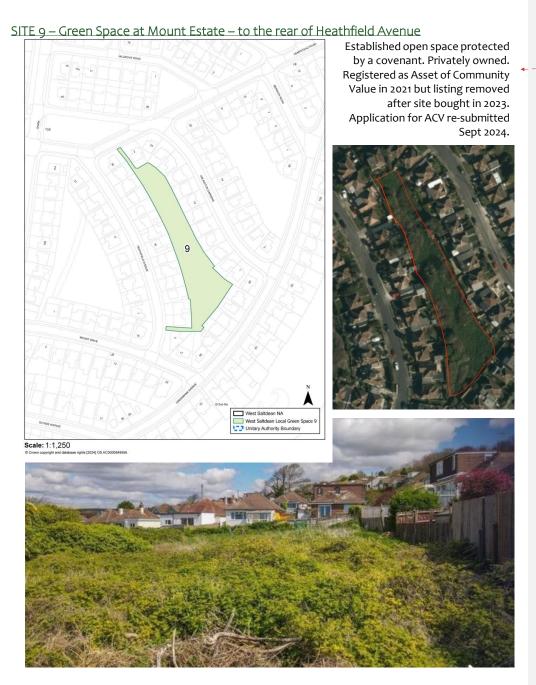


Open space protected by a Covenant and part of the original Saltdean estate. Previously registered as Asset of Community Value but removed from listing in February 2024 after purchase by a CIC in 2023.





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Established open space protected by a covenant. Listed as Asset of Community from September 2021 for 5 years.



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SITE 11 - Playing Fields at Saltdean Primary School



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SITE 12 – <u>Churchyard Surrounding St.</u> Nicholas Church



Church, Church Hall and small grassy area surrounding both that is accessible to the public.



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SITE 13 – <u>Green Spaces at Saltdean Vale</u>



Three open public spaces besides main through road – Saltdean Vale - which are part of the original Saltdean estate. Contains trees.

SITE 14 - Saltdean Oval Park



Contains: trees, hedge boundary, shrubs, chalk grass slope. Home to two pre-school nurseries with private grounds and one privately-owned home with a garden, The Golf House.

Amenities:

Playground, bowls green, tennis courts, skateboard park, outdoor gym, one marked-out football pitch, Multi-Use games area (MUGA), sports pavilion which houses two public toilets (m and f); two wooded areas.

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SITE 15 – <u>Green Space at Saltdean Lido</u>

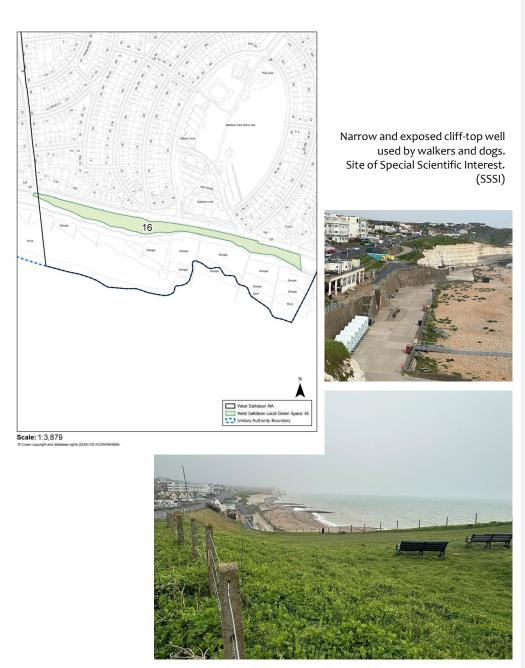


Green space surrounding the lido building and pool including a large grassy area to the south of the building accessible to paying customers only. Used for sunbathing and for events. Asset of Community Value expired 2015



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SITE 16 – The Cliff Top



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Gardens and verges

5.8-95.8.10 The majority of homes in Saltdean have their own gardens. As many were built in the 1930s, the gardens are larger than you would find in a typical 21st C development. The main blocks of flats - Westbrook, Mayfield Court and Grand Ocean - have communal gardens and paved space.

5.8.105.8.11 Gardens provide a valuable resource for wildlife, particularly where chemicals are limited or not used at all. Simple measures such as inserting small gaps in fencing and raising fences off the ground can provide runs for hedgehog and other small mammals. Homeowners are also encouraged to promote and demonstrate garden planting of local provenance.

5.8.115.8.12 Most roads benefit from wide grassed verges maintained by BHCC and many roads are tree-lined. These can be managed better for wildlife and wildflowers, particularly where they are close to other green spaces, for example by mowing less frequently and after wildflowers have set seed (later in the summer). Combined with front gardens, they also provide a valuable drainage during heavy rainfall which is increasingly common in winter due to climate change.

5.8.125.8.13 According to the West Saltdean Community Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) – Appendix 10 - undertaken by the Saltdean Climate Action Network (SCAN), Saltdean 1600 AD would most likely contain scrubby herb rich grassland with grass and wildflowers, rather than being wooded because of the salty sea air.

5.8.135.8.14 Areas of sheltered land may have seen "a mix of Beech, Oak, Hornbeam, hazel, the species mix changing between chalk and areas of clay soil. The more habitat and species variety, the more biodiversity".

5.8.145.8.15 The BAP goes on to say "'It is likely most of the wildflowers in Saltdean road verges, originate from the natural scrubby grassland landscape, before development began in the 1930s. There is a good diversity of wildflowers in the road verges, and interesting localised variation that may indicate pre-development habitats, from some indicator species. Violets are a woodland species, so violets in road verges very likely indicate areas of former woodland and scrub vegetation.

5.8.155.8.16 The road verges and amenity grass, have good potential for biodiversity enhancement and also harvesting grass as biomass energy to produce biogas, and as compost feedstock to regenerative agriculture. Harvesting the grass would reduce soil nutrients, thus grass growth and the need for mowing, while increasing wildflowers and biodiversity, also producing

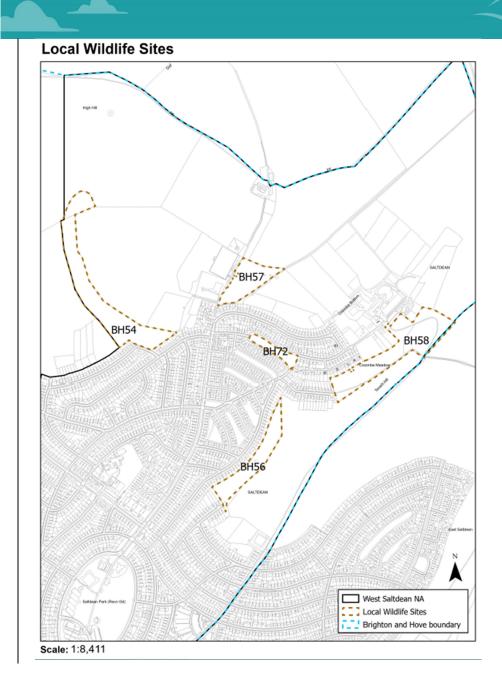
sustainable biogas energy, and regenerating soil carbon."

5.8.165.**8.17** The Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre conducted an ecology data search in January 2024 (Appendix 4) and reported that in West Saltdean there are:

- 1 SSSI (Cliff top)
- 65 Local Wildlife Sites
- 32 Species with international designations
- 116 Species with national designations
- 252 Species with other designations
- 21 Invasive non-native species
- 5.8.175.8.18 There are five Local Wildlife Sites within the Plan area:
 - 1. BH54 Wivelsfield Rd Grassland within the South Downs National Park (SDNP). (Also part of an ecological corridor within both the Plan area and the SDNP. This forms part of the existing Nature Improvement.

 Area/Green Network which is designated under the Brighton & Hove City Plan Part 1 Policy CP10)
 - 2. BH56 Quarry Field within the SDNP
 - 3. BH57 Looes Barn Woodland within the SDNP
 - 4. BH58 Coombe Farm within the SDNP
 - 5. BH72 Westfield Avenue North and South also designated as a Local Green Space (Site No. 3)

These sites are shown on the accompanying map.



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POLICY WS12 - Enhancing local green spaces, biodiversity & wildlife

- Proposals for new development which would cause any potential harm to the designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Wildlife Ssites (LWS) or Local Green Spaces (LGS) will not be supported unless they are justified in the public interest and suitable appropriate mitigation measures are proposed.
- 2. <u>Proposals for new development that would Planning applications that will</u> require the removal of trees with TPOs <u>will be refused</u> not be supported.
- 3. Proposals will be supported that:
- <u>a)</u> conserve and enhance the landscape of the South Downs and its special qualities
- <u>b)</u> conserve and enhance wildlife and biodiversity, <u>and provide Biodiversity Net Gains when</u> required.
- c) respect, enhance and provide green linkages with biodiversity and green space within and around developments, particularly where the space is in the vicinity of a Local forms part of, or is adjacent to, the Wildlife Site Corridor or Local Green Space.
- <u>d</u>) include <u>the planting of tree species that are suitable to Brighton & Hove <u>and, where appropriate</u>, to the South Down National Park.</u>
- <u>e)</u> include new grassland areas including verges which should be seeded (if necessary) and managed to enhance existing Chalk Downland wildflowers
- f) provide opportunities for gardening, wildlife and food production within new residential areas
- g) provide outdoor space including private and community gardens, as well as contributing to the provision of new tree cover

8.9. Promoting and Safeguarding the Local Economy

- **5.9.1** West Saltdean is primarily a residential area with a higher number of retired residents than in Brighton & Hove.
- **5.9.2** Most people travel outside the area for paid employment. Home working is, as per national trends, increasing in popularity with Saltdean Lido offering a shared working space.
- **5.9.3** The largest local employers are Saltdean Primary School, various nursing homes and Saltdean Lido.
- **5.9.4** There are also offices for small enterprises in each of the three main shopping parades.
- **5.9.5** No land has been allocated for additional business premises in the Brighton & Hove City Plan part 2.

Shops and Business Space

- **5.9.6** West Saltdean has three distinct and geographically separated shopping areas which cater for local residents: Lustrells Vale, Longridge Avenue and Saltdean Vale.
- **5.9.7** In Brighton & Hove's Retail Hierarchy (adopted City Plan Part 1 Policy CP4 Retail Provision), Lustrells Vale and Longridge Avenue are defined as Local Centres and subject to policies DM12, SA6 and CP4.
- **5.9.8** The economic viability of West Saltdean is not dependent upon a thriving, accessible and safe High Street. However, one of the goals of our plan is to create the conditions for success for retail outlets and businesses.

Local Shopping Areas West Saltdean Neighbourhood Area

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5.9.9 The City Plan Part 1 includes as part of Policy SA1: "Safeguard the important community and recreation facility at Saltdean Lido." While the heritage and recreational aspects of the Lido buildings and pool are addressed elsewhere in this plan, t_he Open Spaces and Biodiversity chapter seeks to enhance the role of the Lido as a tranquil and beautiful green space. The following policy is therefore proposed specifically relates to the Lido:

POLICY WS13 - Saltdean Lido

Planning proposals relating to Saltdean Lido should support the year-round community, leisure, events, office, café/restaurant, library and recreation role of the Lido for residents and visitors whilst safeguarding the heritage importance of the Grade II* listed building.

POLICY WS14 – Supporting local businesses and providing a mix of employment opportunities

- Proposals Applications for business and retail development in the three
 main shopping areas of the Neighbourhood Plan area will be supported,
 where the developments would meet the following criteria, as relevant to the
 specific nature and use of the proposed development: they seek to:
 - a) Provide additional services to for residents and visitors and increase local employment opportunities;
 - <u>b) Include Introduce (where possible)</u> flexible workspaces that <u>would</u> allows for co-shared and affordable working spaces and training facilities to support the local economy affordably; as outlined in CPP2 Policy DM11 and DM12.
 - c) Provide opportunities for Improve the public realm improvements that would and create a more attractive user experience, where appropriate, which can be enjoyed by all people of all ages and abilities: as outlined in CPP2 Policy DM18.
 - <u>d) Would support and maintain Increase and expand</u> the retail offering <u>with</u>in the <u>Plan</u> area, for <u>the benefit of residents</u> and visitors.
- 2. Proposals that provide for local employment opportunities within the Plan area, including small-scale, not-for-profit social enterprises, small and medium size businesses, and livework units, are welcome, particularly where they reduce outcommuting, and are in compliance with CPP2 policies.

9-10. Encouraging day visitors, improving facilities on the beach and undercliff and safeguarding the beach/clifftop flora and fauna

5.10.1 West Saltdean is a popular destination for day visitors with easy access via bus from Brighton. The main attractions are the beach, the lido, walks along the undercliff and over the Downs.

5.10.2 An overview of the facilities and services available at Saltdean seafront and on the undercliff are at Appendix 7.

5.10.3 Overnight accommodation is limited to AirBnBs and short-term rentals. According to the Housing Needs Assessment about 5% of the current housing stock has no main resident, though it is not possible to assess whether these are let for tourism or are second homes.

5.10.4 There are unlikely to be any new hotels or formal guest houses in the NP area. However, given the small size of West Saltdean, any increase in tourist accommodation could impact on the housing market and increase rental prices in particular.

POLICY WS15 – Improving facilities. Safeguarding the beach/clifftop flora and fauna

- Support will be given to planning applications on the <u>U</u>undercliff promenade and beach that comply with <u>Policies</u> SA1 (The Seafront) and <u>CPP2 Policy</u> DM39 (<u>D</u>development on the <u>S</u>seafront) in the <u>Brighton & Hove City Plan – Part 2</u>, and:
 - a) seek to provide additional and appropriate small-scale facilities, including pop-up outlets and water-sport facilities
 - b) support and maintain the beach area as a safe and pleasant place to use for all ages and abilities.
- Any The impacts of <u>development planning</u> proposals <u>upon the designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS), and on <u>that would impact</u> the coastal flora and or fauna should be assessed through an Ecological Impact Assessment and will need to be taken fully into account in accordance with Policy DM37 (Green Infrastructure and Nature Conservation) in the Brighton & Hove City Plan Part 2. and fully mitigated.
 </u>
- Support will be given to planning applications from not-for-profit organisations
 wanting to provide additional built facilities on the undercliff or shingle beach to the
 east of Saltdean tunnel.

POLICY WS16 - Retaining Whitecliffs Café/Bar as a café/bar/restaurant and an employment site.

This facility is much_valued by residents and visitors and applications to change its ground floor usage from the existing bar/café will not be supported rejected.

Section 6. Community Infrastructure Levy

- **6.1** The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge that local authorities can set on new developments in their area. Its purpose is to raise funds for infrastructure needs in the area to support growth.
- **6.2** The legislation which sets out how CIL is spent requires that a portion of the CIL income raised from development, within a charging authority area is spent in that neighbourhood area. This is referred to as Neighbourhood CIL. The Neighbourhood CIL is increased from 15% to 25% in areas that have an adopted Neighbourhood Plan.
- ${f 6.3}$ BHCC and SDNPA are responsible for collecting CIL monies within their respective LPA areas.
- **6.4** CIL receipts are to be spent by councils within five years of receipt and the money must be spent on (see Regulation 59C of the CIL Regulations 2010 as amended):
- providing, replacing, improving, operating or maintaining infrastructure that supports development in the area; or
- anything else concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area.
- **6.5** Within this NP, the WSNF has identified via its 2022 resident survey and feedback from the Regulation 14 consultation possible projects that it would like to take forward and it is hoped that CIL receipts would enable these to commence. Most of these would be delivered by BHCC. See Section 7.

Section 7. Potential Projects that could be funded by CIL receipts

- 7.1 Trave
- 7.1.1 Travel Project 1 Promoting active travel in the Neighbourhood Plan Area

i. Encouraging cycling:

- Additional bike stands
- Cycle lane on Saltdean Vale to link to SUFC and SDNPA to the north, and Saltdean Primary School to the west. It is noted that this route wouldn't connect to any existing cycle route
- Cycle lane through park
- Bike share scheme (Beryl Bikes) that comes inland.
- Kerbside charging for electric bikes at the main shopping points and in the three car parks

ii. Encouraging walking:

- Walking bus to Saltdean Primary School, the two nurseries in Saltdean Oval Park and the nursery in St Nicholas' Church Hall
- Safer walking paths with more crossing points on major roads and in the three shopping areas
- More dropped kerbs on pavements of major walking routes
- More benches
- Wider pavements in some areas to encourage walking although we would not want to see a reduction in grass verges
- Sensor lighting for the park and along the undercliff
- Improved pavements even and weedless
- More safe crossings: on Saltdean Vale and Lustrells Vale in particular to serve people
 walking to Saltdean Primary School and the shops. More crossing points on the A259
 are not considered necessary as there are already three in West Saltdean.
- Improvements to Whiteway Lane, a walking/cycling route that connects West Saltdean and Rottingdean including reinstatement of barriers/bars to prevent vehicular access. We would not support replacement of the chalk surface with tarmac.
- Access to SDNPA
- Enhancing Rights of Way access points
- Promoting connections into SDNPA

7.1.2 Travel Project 2 - Enhancing Public Transport Infrastructure and services in the Neighbourhood Plan Area

i. Encouraging bus use – infrastructure

- More electronic bus boards
- More benches and shelters

ii. Encouraging bus use – services. Work with the bus companies and BHCC to achieve:

- Demand responsive hoppa buses down to the A259 where there are frequent buses going east and west
- Developing a low NP area bus fare scheme, that provides a lower fare for hop on hop
 off use in the NP area and encourages more use of local facilities, services and retail.

ii. Enhancing Public Transport in the Neighbourhood Plan Area

 Information campaign by the bus companies to tackle the perceptions indicated in the survey that the bus service is expensive, unreliable – and that it takes longer to reach final destination by bus.

This will likely trigger a debate that it does take longer to reach final destination by bus, and the lack of a Metro-style limited stop service that gets passengers quickly into the city from the east, as those using trains from the west.

7.1.3 Travel Project 3 - Improved Traffic Management and reducing carbon emissions from vehicles

i. Improving Traffic Management and road safety through:

Use of smart traffic light technology

ii. Tackling Carbon emissions

- More electronic charging points for vehicles and e-bikes:
 in one public car park & two privately owned (Saltdean Lido CIC) car parks.
 Kerbside near the blocks of flats on Lustrells Vale and Grand Ocean.
- Solar panels on bus shelters to supply the energy for lighting at night and bus scheduling boards

7.1.4 Travel Project 4 - Improving the street scape (overlaps with local economy group and open spaces)

- More trees and planting
- More benches especially in the shopping areas

7.15 Travel Project 5 - Enhancing accessibility to the National Park and Beach Areas

- Existing rights of way (mapped & maintained) should be signed, open and easy to use.
- New rights of way where appropriate should be considered.

7.2 Business and Economy

- Use CIL receipts to develop a gateway tourist masterplan, capitalising on opportunities for beach and lido tourism and a destination for day visitors.
- ii. Work with partners to develop a retail feasibility study for Longridge Avenue, looking at how commercial businesses could be supported and grown.

7.3 Green Spaces

Continue planting native trees and woodland creation.

7.4 Seafront

Protect 'Cliff top wildflower' and 'vegetated shingle' on the beaches through better signage. Encourage more water sports, beach and land-based activities.

Encourage and provide facilities for residents and visitors on the beach and undercliff.

The following additional facilities were identified by West Saltdean residents as desirable:

- Pop-up food outlets at beach level to provide additional food/drink offerings.
- Horsebox sauna
- Crazy golf
- Lighting and security e.g. Camera on beach chalets
- More bins between Saltdean and Rottingdean
- More benches
- Deck chairs for hire
- More drinking water facilities
- Permanent building for Saltdean Swim & Surf Club



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Brighton & Hove City Council

Council Agenda Item 46

Subject: West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan – Decision Statement

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Report of: Corporate Director City Services

Contact Officer: Name: Carly Dockerill

Email: carly.dockerill@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: Rottingdean & West Saltdean

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 The examination into the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan has now been completed and the Examiner's report has been published. Subject to several modifications, the Examiner recommends that the Plan can proceed to a local referendum. All proposed modifications have been discussed with and agreed by the West Saltdean Forum.
- 1.2 This is the fourth Neighbourhood Plan in the city to have reached this final stage. The Council must now publish a Decision Statement setting out what actions it intends to take in response to each of the examiner's recommendations. A proposed Decision Statement is included at Appendix 1 of this report.
- 1.3 Members are therefore asked to agree the Examiner's recommendations for modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan and publish the Council's Decision Statement. The amended Plan will then be subject to a local referendum to be held within the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Area.

2. Recommendations

That Council agrees to:

- 2.1 Determine that the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan be modified according to the recommendations in the independent examiner's report and as set out in the attached Decision Statement (Appendix 1) and that the Decision Statement be published.
- 2.2 To approve the examiner's recommendation that the Neighbourhood Plan now proceed to a local referendum. The referendum area is the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.3 In the event that more than 50% of residents vote to support the Neighbourhood Plan in the local referendum, that the Council formally 'makes' the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan.

3. Context and background information

The Neighbourhood Plan examination

- 3.1 West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum submitted their draft Neighbourhood Plan to the council on 1 September 2024. The Neighbourhood Plan Area includes parts of the South Downs National Park and the council acts as the lead authority on behalf of the SDNPA. The Council published the draft Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents for public consultation in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations over a 6-week period from 27 January to 10 March 2025.
- 3.2 On 25 April 2025 the Corporate Director for City Services agreed, by delegated authority, council officer comments in response to the Regulation 16 consultation and that the draft plan should be submitted for examination. Council officers then appointed a neighbourhood plan examiner, and the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan examination commenced in early May 2025.
- 3.3 The role of the Neighbourhood Plan examiner is to assess whether the Plan meets certain legal requirements known as 'Basic Conditions'. These state that Neighbourhood Plans should:
 - i) Have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - ii) Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development,
 - iii) Be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area (i.e. the City Plan); and
 - iv) Not breach, and otherwise be compatible with, EU obligations.
- 3.4 The Examiner's initial assessment of the Plan sought further clarification and information on several matters. These matters concerned:
 - WS2 (South Downs National Park): Adding detail on assessing development proposals affecting the Park, referencing relevant policies.
 - WS5 (Adaptable Housing): Addressing internal contradictions and justification evidence.
 - WS8 (Small-scale Renewable Energy): Redrafting to better support appropriate projects and align with climate goals; relocate certain clauses and review related policy wording.
 - WS11 (Protecting Local Green Spaces): Clarifying site boundaries, updating maps, confirming landowner notifications, and correcting references to appendices and wildlife designations.
 - WS12 (Enhancing Green Spaces, Biodiversity, and Wildlife): Justifying the mention of a "Wildlife Corridor."
 - Emerging City Plan 2041: Confirming the Plan's progress and upcoming consultations align with the Local Development Scheme.
- 3.5 The City Council, SDNPA and West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum responded jointly on these matters.
- 3.6 The examiner issued his final report on 6 August 2025, and this has been published on the Council's website. The report concludes that, subject to

- several recommended modifications, the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and can proceed to a referendum.
- 3.7 The plan is subject to a referendum. A 'yes' vote of more than 50% is required.
- 3.8 The examiner is also required to consider what is the appropriate referendum area if the Council decides that the Plan should proceed to that stage. In his report, he concludes that the referendum's area should not extend beyond the designated neighbourhood area to which the plan relates.

West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan Content

- 3.9 The West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan addresses a Plan period from 2024 to 2030. The Plan's objectives are to:
 - ensure that all new developments will be designed so that they enhance and complement existing buildings.
 - To ensure that improvements to existing walking and cycling routes encourage and enable more active travel including into, and within, the SDNPA.
 - To conserve and enhance green and open spaces in West Saltdean by securing Local Green Space designation for a number of sites which meet the related criteria.
 - To protect and improve the biodiversity and wildlife located in West Saltdean's green and open spaces including the SDNPA.
 - To create the conditions for success for retail outlets and businesses and to support sustainable trade, tourism and economic development.
 - To ensure that the beach and undercliff remain attractive and wellmaintained destinations with facilities for visitors and residents
 - To protect and maintain good quality, accessible and fit-for purpose community facilities within West Saltdean which promote community cohesion and social inclusion.
 - To ensure that CIL money is secured for new and existing facilities in the neighbourhood plan area.
 - To ensure that planning applicants fully engage with residents during the planning process.
- 3.10 The draft Plan contains 16 policies (policies WS1-WS16), which address the themes of Design; The South Downs National Park; Future Housing;; Conserving Local Heritage; Achieving Water Efficiencies; Sustainable Buildings; Travel, Transport and Active Movement; Open Spaces, Encouraging Biodiversity and Wildlife; Promoting and Safeguarding the Local Economy; Improving Facilities on the Beach and Undercliff and Safeguarding the Beach/Clifftop Flora and Fauna. The aim of policies is to ensure that West Saltdean will be a good place to live, work and visit with a good quality of life for its residents. The Plan seeks to make West Saltdean a healthier, more sustainable environment with good access to quality open spaces, including the South Downs National Park, and with thriving shops, businesses and community groups. A Design Code for the Plan area is also included.

Council actions – next steps

- 3.11 The Council must publish a Decision Statement setting out what actions it determines to take in response to each of the examiner's recommendations. Appendix 1 of this report sets out the proposed Decision Statement with each of the examiner's recommended modifications to the Plan along with his reasons. It addresses each of the examiner's recommendations. The examiner's proposed modifications have been discussed and agreed with the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum.
- The Council must also decide whether to send the Plan, as modified, to a 3.12 local referendum and to agree the examiner's recommendations about the referendum area. In accordance with the relevant legislation, the referendum must be held within a period of 56 days from the Council's decision (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, bank holidays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day¹).
- 3.13 If the Neighbourhood Plan is supported by more than 50% of those voting in the referendum, it then comes into force as part of the statutory development plan for the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Area and it will be used alongside the adopted City Plan to make planning decisions. The Neighbourhood Plan must be formally 'made' (i.e., adopted) by the Council within a further 8 weeks of the referendum date. The Neighbourhood Plan Area includes parts of the South Downs National Park and therefore the National Park Authority will also be required to formally 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.14 Appendix 2 presents a tracked changes update of the Neighbourhood Plan highlighting all the modifications recommended by the Examiner and the updates to the supporting text agreed between the Council and the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum. Appendix 3 shows these amendments accepted as the final 'Referendum Version' of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The implication of the Neighbourhood Plan being 'made' is that it will then 3.15 form part of the statutory development plan for the Neighbourhood Area and be used to determine planning applications within the West Saltdean area.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

4.1 The Council is not bound by the Examiner's recommendations and is able to make a decision which differs from that recommended by the Examiner. The Council is required by the legislation to make its own decision regarding whether the draft neighbourhood plan meets or could meet, following modification, the basic conditions and legal requirements.

The Council could decide that the plan does not meet the basic conditions and legal requirements and cannot be modified to do so. This is not considered to be a practical option, as the examiner's recommendation is clear that the plan meets the legal requirements and can be modified to meet

¹ The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (legislation.gov.uk)

- these requirements. The Neighbourhood Forum have also accepted these recommendations.
- 4.3 The Council could decide that the plan meets the basic conditions and legal requirements without the need for the modifications recommended by the examiner. This is also not considered a possible option. The examiner has set out clear reasoning for why the modifications are necessary. Several of the recommendations are small changes that ensure the plan is clear and consistent with national planning policy and the City Plan. In other instances, changes to the plan directly address elements of the plan that council officers had already identified as requiring modification at the Regulation 16 consultation.
- 4.4 While the Council is not bound by the Inspector's recommendations, a failure to accept them without good reason runs the risk of legal challenge and/or intervention by the Secretary of State.
- 4.5 If the Council wishes to depart from any of the Examiner's recommendations it must notify relevant people and invite representations. Any representations must be submitted within six weeks of the Council inviting representations. It is also possible for the Neighbourhood Forum to request intervention from the Secretary of State. Once the consultation is complete, the Council may then refer the issue(s) to further independent examination if it considers it appropriate. The Council must issue its final decision within five weeks. The Neighbourhood Plan would then be revised and sent to referendum.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations do not make any provision for public consultation on modifications to the Plan recommended by the examiner which the Council is minded to accept. As noted above, the Council is required to undertake public consultation if it wishes to depart from the examiner's recommendations.
- 5.2 Community engagement and consultation has been undertaken at earlier stages of the Neighbourhood Plan preparation process. Community engagement was undertaken by the Neighbourhood Forum in preparing the Plan.
- 5.3 Full details of the consultation and community engagement undertaken by the Neighbourhood Forum are set out in a Consultation Statement and its Appendices, which was submitted to the Council and formed one of the supporting documents to the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.4 The preparation of the Plan began in 2022. The Forum undertook regular consultation and engagement with local residents and community groups throughout the course of the development of the Neighbourhood Plan leading up to the formal Regulation 14 in May 2024.
- 5.5 The draft Plan underwent Regulation 14 consultation for 7 weeks from 12 May to 30 June 2024. A paper survey was completed by 70 people at the 12th

May exhibition. A total of 247 residents of West Saltdean and 16 residents of East Saltdean (in the neighbouring district / parish) completed the survey. An additional five statutory bodies including BHCC also responded. After incorporating feedback, the Plan was submitted to the City Council in November 2024 and underwent further consultation under Regulation 16 in 2025, receiving 75 comments from 28 respondents before being examined.

- 5.6 The draft Plan and supporting documents were published on the Council website, an email was sent to all consultees on the Planning Policy database (which includes the national statutory bodies and a wide range of local stakeholders) and all city councillors were informed. In addition, the Neighbourhood Forum were requested to email all consultees who had commented on the Plan at the earlier Regulation 14 stage (as is specifically required by the Regulations). The consultation was also publicised by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) during this time as the Neighbourhood Area extends within the SDNPA boundary.
- 5.7 Residents in the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Area have been able to participate and provide feedback on the Neighbourhood Plan throughout its preparation. The upcoming referendum offers residents in the Neighbourhood Area the option to support or reject the Plan.

6. Financial implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications from the recommendations of this report. The Neighbourhood Plan referendum will be organised and administered by the City Council's Electoral Services team with costs of the referendum charged to planning services. The Council is entitled to funding from Government (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) once it has set a date for the referendum to cover the costs charged to planning. Any significant variations to budget will be reported as part of the council's monthly budget monitoring process.

Name of finance officer consulted: John Lack Date consulted: 29/08/2025

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The designation of Neighbourhood Areas, Forums, and the making of Neighbourhood Plans, are governed by the sections within the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and the Town and Country Planning Act the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) along with the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012.
- 7.2 It is a requirement of the Regulations that the Council publishes a Decision Statement under Regulation 18(2) (a) of the General Regulations 2012. This Statement must set out how the Council intends to respond to the Examiner's recommendations.
- 7.2 If the Council intends to accept the recommendations from the Inspector, the Plan can proceed to referendum. If supported at referendum, the West

- Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory Development Plan, and its policies will be used alongside those in the adopted City Plan.
- 7.3 Following a vote of over 50% at referendum in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan, local authorities are required to publish a Decision Statement explaining the Council's decision and its reasons to formally 'make' (i.e. adopt) the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 7.4 Adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan will be done via an Adoption Statement published on the council's website which will publicise the referendum results, and pursuant to Regulations 20 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 formally confirm the 'making' of the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan. The Council will also contact all relevant stakeholders to inform them that the Plan has been made.

Name of lawyer consulted: Katie Kam Date consulted: 27/08/2025

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1 The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between persons who have a "protected characteristic" and those who do not. This duty applies to the Council when taking formal decisions about the neighbourhood plan process.
- 8.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared through an extensive process of local community engagement which is set out in detail in the Forum's Consultation Statement (which was submitted alongside the draft Plan) and is summarised in section 5 above. The Plan is also required to be in general conformity with the City Plan (which has been subject to Equalities Impact Assessment). As part of the submission of the plan to the council, the Neighbourhood Forum also submitted their own Equalities Impact Assessment (see background document 3 to this report).

9. Sustainability implications

- 9.1 The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and one of the 'Basic Conditions' against which neighbourhood plans are tested is that they should contribute to this.
- 9.2 To meet UK environmental regulations, the draft Plan was screened for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) by the City Council in a document dated April 2022. The Screening Report concludes that the Plan is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects and therefore that SEA is not required. The Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England were consulted on the draft Screening Report during March 2022, and they each concluded that the preparation of a SEA is not required. The examiner concludes that the Plan has been prepared with regard to achieving the principles of delivering sustainable development as identified in the Basic Conditions

Statement and, subject to his recommended modifications and if approved at referendum, would assist in delivering sustainable development within the Neighbourhood Area.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1 The West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan has taken several years to reach this stage but is now nearing its conclusion. The Neighbourhood Forum is to be commended on all its hard work on reaching this stage.
- 10.2 Overall, the examiner considers that the Plan as modified will meet the required 'Basic Conditions'.
- 10.3 Members are therefore recommended to agree all the modifications to the Plan as set out in the examiner's report and to approve his recommendation that the Neighbourhood Plan proceed to a local referendum subject to the modifications set out in the Council's Decision Statement.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

- 1. West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan Council Decision Statement
- 2. West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2030: Submission Draft showing proposed modifications as tracked changes.
- 3. West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2030: Referendum Version

2. Background documents

- 1. West Saltdean Examiner's Report August 2025
- 2. West Saltdean Consultation Statement 2025
- 3. West Saltdean Equalities Impact Assessment



Brighton & Hove City Council

West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2030

DECISION STATEMENT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), the City Council has a statutory duty to assist communities in the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and Orders and to take plans through a process of examination, referendum and adoption. The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6 Chapter 3) sets out the local planning authority's responsibilities under Neighbourhood Planning.
- 1.2 This report confirms that the modifications proposed by the examiner's report have been accepted, the draft West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan has been altered as a result of it, and that this plan may now proceed to referendum.

2. Background

- 2.1 The West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan relates to the West Saltdean area and the associated Neighbourhood Forum, which were officially designated as a Neighbourhood Area and Forum by Brighton & Hove City Council on 23 August 2022 and by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) on 30 August 2022. This designated area is within the ward of Rottingdean & West Saltdean and includes part of the South Downs National Park. Brighton & Hove City Council is the lead authority on behalf of the SDPNA. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum.
- 2.2 Following the submission of the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan to the Council, the plan was publicised, and representations were invited over a 6-week period from 27 January to 10 March 2025 in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Plan regulations.
- 2.3 Mr Derek Stebbing BA (Hons) DipEP MRTPI was appointed by the City Council, with the consent of West Saltdean Forum, to undertake the examination of the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan and to prepare a report of the independent examination. The Neighbourhood Plan examination commenced in early May 2025.
- 2.4 The examiner's report was received on 6 August 2025. It concludes that the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan, subject to a number of recommended

modifications, meets the Basic Conditions as defined in the Localism Act 2011, Schedule 10 and Schedule 4B, 8 (2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and can proceed to referendum.

3. Decision

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 require the local planning authority to outline what action it wishes to take in response to the recommendations of an examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (as applied by Section 38A of the 2004 Act) in relation to a neighbourhood development plan.
- 3.2 Having considered each of the recommendations in the examiner's report and the reasons for them, Brighton & Hove City Council, with the consent of Brighton West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum, has agreed what action to take in response to each recommendation. It has been decided to accept all the modifications to the draft Plan proposed by the examiner in accordance with paragraph 12 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act.
- 3.3 Table 1 below sets out the examiner's recommended modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan and the accompanying reasons given in his report. The table indicates what action has been decided by the Council in response to each recommendation.
- 3.4 Please note that the Examiner's recommendations refer to Policy, Figure and page numbers as set out in the Neighbourhood Plan as submitted to the Council. In the Referendum Version of the Plan, the numbering has been changed to reflect modifications.

4. The Referendums Area and Procedure

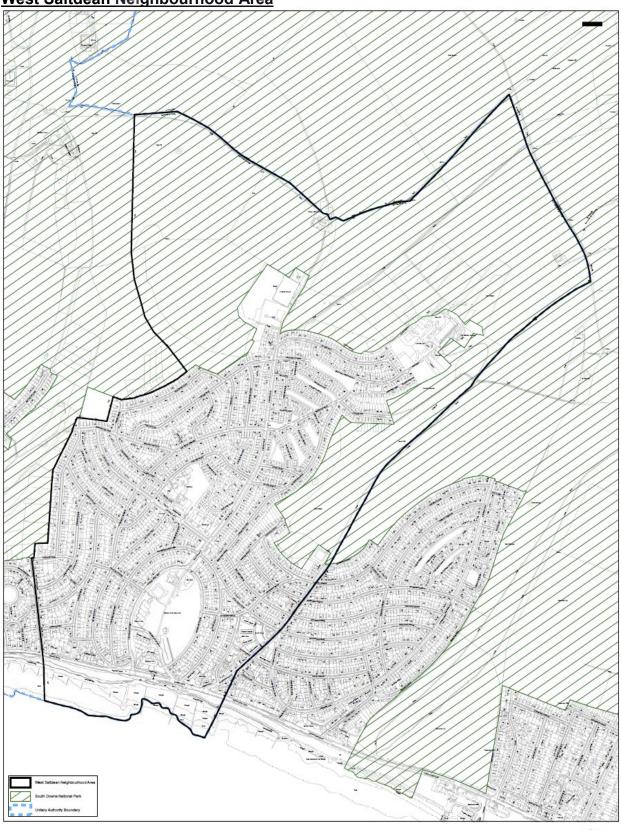
4.1 The Council agrees with the Examiner's recommendation that the boundary for the purposes of referendums on the Plan should be the boundary of the designated Neighbourhood Area.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Brighton & Hove City Council determines that the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2030, as modified in Table 1, meets the basic conditions in Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act and complies with the provisions made by or under Sections 38A and 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and may now proceed to Referendum.

30 September 2025

West Saltdean Neighbourhood Area



(A1) Scale: 1:4,382

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The Examiner's Report, the draft Neighbourhood Plan (Referendum version, updated to include modifications), and other relevant documents can be viewed on the Brighton & Hove Council website at https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/planning/planning-city/west-saltdean-neighbourhood-area-and-forum

Hard copy versions of these documents can be viewed at Jubilee, Rottingdean and Whitehawk Libraries.

Table 1: Recommendations by the Examiner agreed by Brighton & Hove City Council with consent of the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
Modification PM1 Page 2 Map 1 – BHCC City Plan Policies, LGS Designation, Wildlife Corridor, Shopping Areas	Delete existing title and replace with "The West Saltdean Neighbourhood Area", and amend Contents Page accordingly. Delete all BHCP Policy content and other notations from the map, with the exception of the Neighbourhood Area boundary, the Built-Up Area boundary and that part of the South Downs National Park (SDNP) that lies within the Neighbourhood Area. Adjust Notation Panel accordingly.	The title of the Map is incorrect (as it does not depict Local Green Space (LGS) designations or the Wildlife Corridor) and, at the small scale of this map, the depiction of other BHCP policy notations detracts markedly from the clarity of the map, and which will be difficult for users of the Plan to interpret with accuracy. The BHCP policy content and other notations should be removed, in order to improve its clarity.	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted
Modification PM2 Page 13 Policy WS1 – Achieving High Quality Design	"Where appropriate, all proposals for development should demonstrate how they have taken into consideration the City Council's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) No. 17 'Urban Design Framework' (June 2021), the South Downs National Park Authority's SPD 'Adopted Design Guide' (July 2022) and the West Saltdean Design Guidance and Codes (January 2024) (at Appendix 1 to this Plan)." Delete the text of Part 2 in full, and replace with:	The City Council has made detailed comments regarding this Policy and suggests amendments to Part 2 of the Policy text. Examiner concurred with those suggestions and also considered that several focused amendments to the Policy and text are required to ensure the necessary clarity and accuracy.	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	"All proposals for development should be designed to a high standard of design, minimise construction and demolition waste and use sustainable materials suitable for the location which have low embodied carbon. Developers are encouraged to consider circular economy principles* and 'Zero Avoidable Waste' principles**." Amend Part 4 of the Policy text to read as follows: "Proposals for development should be sympathetic to West Saltdean's local character and history, which includes the spaces around buildings, landscape and heritage settings and filtered views." Add new Parts 6 and 7 to the Policy text, as follows: "6. Existing flow routes and drainage features within the development site should be identified and preserved, such as ditches, seasonally dry watercourses and historic ponds. 7. Proposals should integrate sustainable drainage measures to minimise and control surface water run-off and improve habitats and species migration. Such measures include rainwater re-use/harvesting, green roofs, rain gardens, trees and permeable paving."		

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
Modification PM3 Page 14 Policy WS2 South Downs National Park	Add footnotes to the Policy, as follows: "* Circular economy principles encourage material and resources to be kept in use for as long as possible by re-using, recycling, remanufacturing and sharing resources." "**Zero Avoidable Waste' refers to the Government's Waste Prevention Programme for England, published in August 2023, and specifically to the Routemap for Net Zero Avoidable Waste in Construction by 2050." Delete Policy text in full, and replace with: "POLICY WS2 – South Downs National Park 1. Development within, or impacting upon, the South Downs National Park should have a landscape-led approach to design, having regard to the special qualities of the National Park and, as appropriate, in accordance with the policies of the adopted South Downs Local Plan 2014-2033, including Policies SD4 Landscape Character, SD5 Design, SD6 Safeguarding Views and SD8 Dark Night Skies, and the guidance contained in the Adopted Design Guide SPD. 2. Development within, or impacting	The examiner considers that the Policy is rather limited in providing guidance on the acceptability or otherwise of proposals for new developments within or impacting upon the National Park, and that there is no supporting text to justify the Policy or to provide any additional policy guidance for its future implementation.	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	upon, the South Downs National Park must respect the landscape setting of West Saltdean, including meeting the purposes of the South Downs National Park."		
	Add the following supporting text to precede the Policy:		
	"5.2.1 West Saltdean lies in a valley bordered by the sea to the south, the South Downs National Park (SDNP) to the north and the neighbouring settlements of Rottingdean to the west and East Saltdean to the east. Large parts of the Plan area lie within the SDNP.		
	5.2.2 The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is the local planning authority for those areas of West Saltdean that are within the SDNP. The SDNPA when making planning decisions is guided by the statutory purposes and duty of the National Park, and by national and local policies.		
	5.2.3 The National Park purposes are: 1) To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area, and 2) To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public		
	heritage of the area, and 2) To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park		

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	carrying out these purposes is to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities within the National Park.		
	5.2.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), paragraph 189 (as revised December 2024) states: "Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas."		
	5.2.6 The adopted South Downs National Park Local Plan (SDLP) 2014-2033 requires that a landscape led approach is adopted for those areas of West Saltdean within the SDNP. The landscape led approach to design is defined in the SDNPA's 'Adopted Design Guide'		
	Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which states that "Design,		

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	which is strongly informed by understanding the essential character of the site and its context (the landscape), creates development which speaks of its location, responds to local character and fits well into its environment. It needs to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area and create sustainable and successful places for people."		
	5.2.7 For the landscape led approach in the SDLP see in particular Policies SD4 Landscape Character, SD5 Design and SD6 Safeguarding Views. The landscape led approach is expanded upon in the SDNPA's 'Adopted Design Guide' Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).		
	5.2.8 The landscape led approach notes that the SDNP is an International Dark Skies Reserve. Development needs to conserve and enhance the dark night skies of the SDNP as set out in the SDLP 2014-2033, Policy SD8 Dark Night Skies. Further guidance is provided in the SDNPA's 'Dark Skies' Technical Advice Note (TAN) (May 2021).		
	5.2.9 The SDNP was designated in recognition of its exceptional natural beauty, for the opportunities to learn about and appreciate its special qualities and as a landscape of		

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
Modification PM4 Page 15 Policy WS3 – Affordable Housing	national importance. The special qualities are expanded upon in the Introduction chapter of the SDLP. 5.2.10 Proposals should reflect the setting of the National Park including the guidance provided by the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment, Appendix A Landscape Character Type A: Open Downland and specifically A2: Adur to Ouse Open Downs including the Landscape Management/Development considerations for that area. Amend the second paragraph of Policy text to read as follows: "In those circumstances where a case is made that the inclusion of affordable housing within a development scheme would be unviable, where such provision is a policy requirement, robust 'open-book' viability assessments should be undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and the guidance contained in 'Assessing Viability in Planning' (April 2023), published by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) (including any subsequent updates), and should be based on Benchmark Land Values as undertaken by a qualified RICS Assessor."	The City Council made a comment regarding this Policy. and the Examiner concurs with that comment and recommends an amendment to the Policy text.	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
Modification PM5 Page 16 Policy WS4 – Other Types of Low-cost and Specialist Housing	Amend Part 3 of the Policy text to read as follows: "Proposals for specialised housing/accommodation which take account of the local needs identified in the West Saltdean Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) (August 2023) which is at Appendix 2 to this Plan."	Two focused amendments to Part 3 of the Policy text improve clarity.	
Modification PM6 Page 17 Policy WS5 – Adaptable Housing	Delete the text of Part 5 of the Policy text in full, and re-number Part 6 as Part 5.	As drafted, this Policy contains a number of potential internal contradictions for its effective implementation. The Examiner does not identify any justification or evidence that supports Part 5 of the Policy, and as such the Examiner concludes that this part of the Policy should be deleted.	All recommended deletions accepted
Modification PM7 Page 19 Policy WS6 – Conserving Local Heritage	Number the two separate paragraphs of this Policy as 1. and 2. Delete in full the existing text of the first paragraph, and replace with: "Development proposals should seek to retain the original green roof tiles and pantiles that are characteristic of many existing buildings in the Plan area, and proposals that seek to replace them with tiles of another colour will not be supported."	The City Council made a number of comments regarding this Policy, which I have considered alongside my own assessment. Examiner considers that a number of amendments are necessary to ensure the Policy's requirements are clear, for the benefit of users of the Plan.	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
Modification PM8 Page 20 Policy WS7 – Incorporating Sustainable Drainage and Water Efficiency Measures	Insert "(SuDS)" after the words "Sustainable Drainage Systems" in the second line of policy text. Delete bullet points and replace with 1. and 2. Add new points 3 and 4 to the Policy text, as follows: "3. To minimise the risk of sewer flooding and to protect water quality, surface water will not be allowed to discharge to the wastewater drainage network. 4. Where developments are proposed in areas overlying Source Protection Zones (SPZ), proposals must demonstrate how SuDS designs will protect groundwater quality sufficiently to protect public water supply. SuDS designs should be agreed with the statutory water supplier, and be supported by a hydrogeological risk assessment where required."	The Examiner has taken into account the representations made by Southern Water concerning this Policy, and recommend a series of amendments to the Policy text to ensure that it provides appropriate and clear guidance for users of the Plan.	
Modification PM9 Page 22 Policy WS8 – Small Scale Renewable Energy Projects including Community Energy Scheme	Amend Policy title to read "Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technology (LCT) Projects including Community Energy Scheme" and amend Contents Page. Amend Policy text to read as follows: "1. Proposals for renewable energy or Low Carbon Technology (LCT) projects in new or existing developments and Brighton & Hove City Council-owned properties and	A series of amendments are necessary to the Policy text and its supporting text, including the addition of further supporting text, in order that this Policy can be implemented effectively and that it provides appropriately clear guidance for users of the Plan.	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	assets, that are not covered by Permitted Development rights will be supported in principle.		
	2. Proposals should seek to conserve and enhance the surrounding landscape and be sensitively designed, taking account of noise, air pollution and long-term management.		
	3. The ground-mounting of on-site installations which would involve the paving over of gardens or other green spaces will be discouraged, unless this is technically essential and is mitigated by other clearly demonstrable environmental benefits.		
	4. All proposals that require planning permission should satisfy the requirements of the relevant policies in the adopted Brighton & Hove City Plan and South Downs Local Plan. 5. Proposals for new developments in the Plan area should seek to incorporate low carbon or renewable heating sources and avoid the use of gas and solid fuels."		
	Delete existing Policy footnote.		
	Delete the final sentence of paragraph 5.6.6.		
	Add new paragraphs 5.6.7-5.6.10 as follows:		
	"5.6.7 As part of West Saltdean's		

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	Decarbonisation Strategy, West Saltdean's potential largest roof-mounted solar opportunities have been identified as the Lido building and the Lido's two car parks, Saltdean United Football Club's building and the roof-spaces of blocks of flats. There are only small publicly owned plots (which are designated as Local Green Spaces) that would be suitable for ground-mounted solar and wind. 5.6.8 West Saltdean has the capacity to launch a community energy scheme and work on this is ongoing. A community energy scheme is defined as a defined group of import and/or export electricity meters that are aggregated into a single entity for the purpose of sharing costs and benefits between scheme members served by those meters. The scheme would have a charter, or statement of objectives and rules that detail how the scheme works, what Low Carbon Technologies (LCTs) may be used in the scheme, and how costs and benefits are spread equitably among its members. Larger-scale projects will be encouraged to join the Saltdean community energy scheme. 5.6.9 Management of the community energy scheme will be left to its members. Links (technical and financial) to neighbouring community energy schemes will be strongly encouraged, especially where		

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	economies of scale and other benefits from linkage can be demonstrated. Therefore, applications from community-led or by a not-for-profit organisation such as a Co-operative are welcomed by the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum.		
	5.6.10 Where there are alternative choices of Renewable Energy or Low Carbon Technology* (LCT) to implement, the fitting of the technology most suitable for the property in question will be encouraged, with reference to the Saltdean Decarbonisation Feasibility Study and Energise Sussex Coast Carbon Footprint Report."		
	Add Footnote as follows: "*Low Carbon Technology means insulation (external and internal), roof or ground-mounted solar panels and micro-wind turbines, surface or underground battery storage (internal or external), and electric vehicle (EV) charging points for residential, community, private sector and Brighton & Hove City Council-owned assets."		
Modification PM10 Page 24 Policy WS9 – Encouraging and Enabling Better Travel Planning	Amend Part 2 of the Policy text to read as follows: "Transport statements/assessments should positively encourage reducing the need to travel and facilitate higher levels of walking, cycling and public	The City Council has made two comments regarding the text of this Policy. The Examiner concurs with those comments and recommended modification PM10 sets out the necessary	

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	transport use by demonstrating how the proposed development creates links to existing walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure and, where possible, by providing new and/or improved facilities to achieve this." Amend Part 3 of the Policy text to read as follows: "For major development proposals where the development includes new footways, cycleways and highways that will not be adopted by the Highway Authority, a long-term management strategy for their future maintenance and funding, where	amendments to the Policy text.	
	appropriate, should be submitted as part of the development proposals."		
Modification PM11	Amend Part 1 of the Policy text to read as follows:	The City Council has made a number of comments regarding	All recommended modifications accepted
Page 24 Policy WS10 – Parking	"Proposals for new development that would result in a net gain of residential dwellings should include, where possible, dedicated off-street vehicle parking spaces with electric vehicle (EV) charging points." Amend Part 2 of the Policy text to read as follows:	this Policy. The examiner concurs with these comments, and in particular with the comment regarding the lack of a definition for 'car-free' dwellings, which in practice would be extremely difficult to control and enforce by the Local Planning Authority.	·
	"Vehicle parking on driveways should be designed to minimise the visual impact on the street scene. Parking areas should include appropriate landscaping features, wherever	The amendments provide the necessary clarity for users of the Plan, and also to correct a typographical error.	

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
Modification PM12 Pages 26- 42 Policy WS11 – Protecting Local Green Spaces	possible, to reduce the visual impact." Amend Part 3 of the Policy text to read as follows: "The removal of existing grass verges and trees to facilitate vehicle parking will not be supported." Delete existing Policy text in full and replace with: "The areas listed below and shown on the accompanying map and on the Inset Maps at Pages 27-42 are designated as Local Green Spaces: 1. Saltdean United Football Club (SUFC) and North Saltdean Recreation Ground 2. Land to the rear of Looes Barn Close 3. Green Space at Westfield Avenue North and Westfield Avenue South 4. Green Space at Coombe Farm Estate 5. Green Space at Hailsham Avenue 6. Green Space at Hempstead Road 8. Green Spaces at Hempstead Road 8. Green Space at Mount Estate – to the rear of Saltdean Vale 9. Green Space at Mount Estate – to the rear of Heathfield Avenue 10. Green Space at Mount Estate – to	The revised mapping, information and proposed text amendments that have been supplied by the Qualifying Body addresses all of the matters that were raised in representations to the draft Plan and from the Examiner's own assessment, recommends the necessary revisions and amendments as part of consolidated modification PM12. Some amendments are necessary to the Policy text, including the descriptors of a number of the sites for improved geographical accuracy. The policy text should be extended to have proper	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted
	the rear of Arlington Gardens 11.Playing Fields at Saltdean Primary School 12.Churchyard surrounding St. Nicholas Church	regard to Paragraph 107 of the NPPF in order to satisfy the Basic Conditions	

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	13.Green Spaces at Saltdean Vale 14.Saltdean Oval Park 15.Green Space at Saltdean Lido 16.The Cliff Top Development proposals in the 16 designated Local Green Spaces listed above and defined on the accompanying maps to this Policy will be managed in accordance with national policy for Green Belts." Amend the site descriptors to conform with the descriptions stated above,		
	including the titles of all relevant maps. Replace the maps for the Index Map (on Page 26), Site 1 (on Page 27), Site 2 (on Page 28), Site 4 (on Page 30), Site 5 (on Page 31) and Site 6 (on Page 32) with the revised maps supplied by the Qualifying Body in		
	response to the fourth of my questions (see also paragraph 4.57 of this report).		
	Amend the site area of Site 1 (on Page 27) to read "2.3 acres". Add the following text to the description of Site 3 (on Page 29):		
	"This site is also a designated Local Wildlife Site (Ref. BH72) as listed at paragraph 5.8.18."		

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
Modification PM13 Page 44	Policy WS12 – Enhancing Local Green Spaces, Biodiversity and Wildlife Amend Part 1 of the Policy text to read as follows: "Proposals for new development which would cause any potential harm to the designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) or Local Green Spaces (LGS) within the Plan area will not be supported unless they are justified in the public interest and appropriate mitigation measures are proposed." Amend Part 2 of the Policy text to read as follows: "Proposals for new development that would require the removal of any trees that are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) will not be supported." Amend Part 3 of the Policy text as follows: 1. Replace the seven bullet points with the letters a)-g) respectively. 2. Amend the second bullet point text (to be b)) to read as follows: "conserve and enhance wildlife and biodiversity, and provide Biodiversity Net Gains when required" 3. Amend the third bullet point text (to be c)) to read as follows: "respect, enhance and provide green linkages		

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	with biodiversity and green space within and around developments, particularly where the space is in the vicinity of a Local Wildlife Site or Local Green Space"		
	4. Amend the fourth bullet point text (to be d)) to read as follows: "include the planting of tree species that are suitable to Brighton & Hove and, where appropriate, to the South Downs National Park"		
	Amend paragraph 5.8.17 of the supporting text to refer to		
	"5 Local Wildlife Sites" rather than 6 Local Wildlife Sites.		
	Add new paragraph 5.8.18 to the supporting text, to read as follows:		
	"5.8.18: There are five Local Wildlife Sites within the Plan area:		
	1. BH54 - Wivelsfield Rd Grassland – within the South Downs National Park (SDNP). (Also part of an ecological corridor within both the Plan area and the SDNP. This forms part of the existing Nature Improvement Area/Green Network which is designated under the Brighton & Hove City Plan Part 1 Policy CP10)		
	2. BH56 - Quarry Field - within the SDNP		

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	3. BH57 - Looes Barn Woodland – within the SDNP 4. BH58 - Coombe Farm - within the SDNP 5. BH72 - Westfield Avenue North and South – also designated as a Local Green Space (Site No. 3) These sites are shown on the accompanying map." Add the map entitled 'Local Wildlife Sites' supplied by the Qualifying Body on 12 June 2025 with its response to the questions to follow new paragraph		
Modification PM14 Page 47 Policy WS13 – Saltdean Lido Paragraph 5.9.9	5.8.18 and to precede Policy WS12. Delete the words "While the heritage and recreational aspects of the Lido buildings and pool are addressed elsewhere in this plan" from the second sentence of text. Amend the third sentence to read as follows: "The following policy specifically relates to the Lido:"	Paragraph 5.9.9 in the supporting text requires an amendment as it states that "the heritage and recreational aspects of the Lido buildings and pool are addressed elsewhere in the Plan". However, these aspects are not covered in any other parts of the Plan. Recommended modification PM14 addresses the necessary amendment.	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted
Modification PM15 Page 47 Policy WS14 – Supporting Local Businesses and Providing a Mix of Employment Opportunities	Amend the opening sentence of Part 1 of the Policy text to read as follows: "Proposals for business and retail developments in the three main shopping areas of the Plan area will be supported, where the	The City Council has made a number of comments regarding this Policy. I concur with those comments, and recommended modification PM15 sets out the necessary revisions to the	All recommended modifications accepted

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	developments would meet the following criteria, as relevant to the specific nature and use of the proposed development:"	Policy text, in order to provide greater clarity for future users of the Plan.	
	Amend the four bullet points in Part 1 of the Policy text to the letters a)-d) respectively.		
	Amend the first bullet point text (to be a)) to read as follows: "Provide additional services for residents and visitors and increase local employment opportunities;"		
	Amend the second bullet point text (to be b)) to read as follows: "Include flexible workspaces that would allow for shared and affordable working spaces and training facilities to support the local economy;"		
	Amend the third bullet point text (to be c)) to read as follows: "Provide opportunities for public realm improvements that would create a more attractive user experience, which can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities;"		
	Amend the fourth bullet point text (to be d)) to read as follows:		
	"Would support and maintain the retail offering within the Plan area, for the benefit of residents and visitors."		

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
Modification PM16 Page 48 Policy WS15 – Improving Facilities. Safeguarding the Beach/Clifftop Fauna and Fauna	Amend the first paragraph of Part 1 of the Policy text to read as follows: "Support will be given to planning applications on the Undercliff promenade and beach that comply with Policies SA1 (The Seafront) and DM39 (Development on the Seafront) in the Brighton & Hove City Plan - Part 2, and:" Amend the second and third paragraphs of text in Part 1 of the Policy text to be preceded by the letters a) and b) respectively. Amend the text of Part 2 of the Policy text to read as follows: "The impacts of development proposals upon the designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS), and on the coastal flora and fauna, should be assessed through an Ecological Impact Assessment and will need to be taken fully into account in accordance with Policy DM37 (Green Infrastructure and Nature Conservation) in the Brighton & Hove City Plan - Part 2."	The City Council has made a number of comments regarding this Policy. I agree with those comments and have identified a further necessary amendment as part of my own assessment. Recommended modification PM16 sets out the necessary amendments to this Policy, in order to provide greater clarity for users of the Plan.	
Modification PM17 Page 49 Policy WS16 – Retaining Whitecliffs Café/Bar as a Café/Bar/Restaurant and an Employment Site	Amend the words "much-valued" in the Policy text to read "much valued". Delete the word "rejected." in the Policy text and replace with "will not be supported."	Two focused amendments are necessary to the text of this Policy, which is otherwise suitably drafted. Recommended modification PM17 sets out the two amendments. Since June 2025, the Café/Bar is now known as "Kitti's", and thus the Policy title would benefit from being updated accordingly.	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
Modification PM18 Page 5	Section 1 – Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning Add new sub-section entitled 'Monitoring and Review' to follow paragraph 1.4. Add new paragraph 1.5 to read as follows: "1.5 The effectiveness of the policies in the NP will be monitored on a regular basis up to 2030. BHCC and the SDNPA are presently reviewing their current Local Plans, and it may be necessary to formally review the NP prior to 2030 to take account of the policies and proposals in those updated Local Plans, in order that the NP will remain as a key part of the statutory development plan for West Saltdean."	The draft Plan does not contain a clear statement regarding its future monitoring and review. The Plan's relationship with the BHCP and the SDLP is particularly important and both of those Local Plans are now being reviewed. There is the likelihood that there will be a need to formally review the Plan during the Plan period, following the completion of those Local Plan reviews and also to take account of any changes to national planning policies. I consider that the Plan should contain a statement regarding the necessity to undertake a future review in order to take account of the new Local Plans and to address the implications for West Saltdean, that may arise	
Modification PM19 Various Other Matters	1. The SDNPA advises that specific references to BHCP policies should be removed where those policies apply to both the Brighton & Hove and SDNP areas of West Saltdean, e.g. at Policies WS7 and WS14. 2. The City Council suggests an amendment to the Foreword. 3. Paragraph 1.3 – "Local Plan" should be "Neighbourhood Plan".	from those reviews. The draft Plan contains a number of small inconsistencies which have been identified in representations from the City Council and the SDNPA and through my own detailed assessment of the Plan. In the interests of brevity, these are summarised at recommended modification PM19	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	 4. Check and amend references to the SDNPA throughout the Plan where the South Downs National Park is being referred to rather than the SDNPA, e.g. two references within 'Our Vision'. 5. Amend all references to "NA" to the "Neighbourhood Area". 6. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are now known as National Landscapes. 17 However, as the Plan has been prepared and examined in accordance with the NPPF (December 2023), the AONB reference can be retained in the Plan and its supporting documents but will need to be amended in a future review of the Plan. 7. Amend text of paragraph 5.8.5 to also add "or the South Downs Local Plan." 		

West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan

2024 - 2030

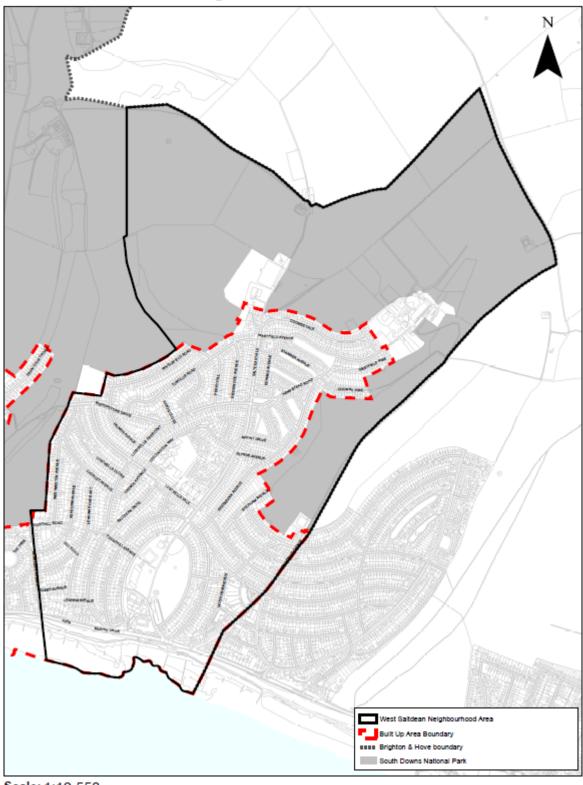
Protecting the things we love about where we live



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The West Saltdean Neighbourhood Area



Scale: 1:12,550

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- 5. Local Green Spaces for designation
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- 10. Saltdean Climate Action Network biodiversity report

Foreword

Located five miles east of Brighton, the popular purpose-built seaside suburb of Saltdean is known for its iconic lido, beaches, clifftop, and proximity to the South Downs National Park.

This plan has been prepared by the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum, in consultation with residents and businesses, who have given much time and thought as to how we can protect the area that we love for future generations whilst also planning for its future.

The goals and policies within this plan reflect the views and needs of West Saltdean's residents and stakeholders and will frame development for the area until the year 2030.

As for all areas in the South-East of England, there is pressure from central and local Government to identify locations for new homes in West Saltdean. However, development is inevitably constrained by West Saltdean's boundaries of the sea, the countryside, and the adjacent residential areas of East Saltdean and Rottingdean.

There are three sites that have been identified in the City Plan of Brighton & Hove for development:

- Coombe Farm 72 new homes expected to be complete in early 2025.
- Saltdean Boarding Kennels planning application for seven homes submitted early 2024
- Former nursery area, just south of the football club 18 homes guidance in Brighton & Hove's City Plan Part 2

We are increasingly seeing family homes being divided into flats or converted into nursing homes and assisted living homes.

In this plan we have also identified numerous new open spaces that we feel should be designated as local green spaces which will give them greater protection from development.

We have also identified where infrastructure improvements and additional services are needed to meet the needs and wishes of current and future residents and businesses.

The West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum

Section 1. Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning

- 1.1 The Localism Act of 2011 gave local communities the power to develop neighbourhood planning policies and plans that were specifically for their area. In making these plans, local people and businesses get to have a greater say in how their local spaces are developed and a very real voice in deciding the look and feel of the local area in years to come.
- 1.2 The West Saltdean Neighbourhood Area is within two Local Planning Authority areas covered by Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), Our Neighbourhood Plan (NP), once made, will form part of the Development Plan for BHCC and SDNPA and will be used by both bodies, as appropriate, to make decisions about planning applications until 2030. As a formal document, the NP must be robust and sound, based on evidence and facts, as well as local opinion. The NP will be subject to a range of consultations where residents and businesses are encouraged to share their knowledge and thoughts on built-environment issues affecting the local area
- 1.3 The Neighbourhood Forum managed the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is keen that this version of the NP is wider than a planning document and so it also contains potential community projects that can be consulted upon and used as a basis for future funding bids and grant applications. The NP also discusses the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), a stream of money "levied" by the local authority on developers in the neighbourhood. Currently West Saltdean receives 15% of this levied money, however, once a Neighbourhood Plan is adopted this will rise to 25%.
- **1.4** It is intended for the NP to work closely with those documents already set by the local planning Authority and SDNPA, as these have already been tested and provide a robust framework for the emerging NP. The Forum has considered those documents and has taken the pragmatic view that those documents are best placed to allocate specific housing and commercial sites. As such, this NP does not allocate housing or commercial sites.

Monitoring & Review

1.5 The effectiveness of the policies in the NP will be monitored on a regular basis up to 2030. BHCC and the SDNPA are presently reviewing their current Local Plans, and it may be necessary to formally review the NP prior to 2030 to take account of the policies and proposals in those updated Local Plans, in order that the NP will remain as a key part of the statutory development plan for West Saltdean.

Section 2. Vision, Aims, Objectives. Policies vs Projects

Our Vision

In 2030 West Saltdean will be a great place to live, work and visit with a good quality of life for residents.

We will have preserved and enhanced the unique local character of West Saltdean's built environment and open spaces including the seafront and SDNP.

We will have ensured that the infrastructure is in place to support existing and new residents, businesses and community groups.

We will have made West Saltdean a healthier, more sustainable environment with good access to quality open spaces, including SDNP and thriving shops, businesses and community-run buildings.

The Aims of This Plan

- Aims (or goals) help realise the plan's vision and give the Neighbourhood Plan a framework. The best aims should be strategic in nature and not too specific. Aims can be designed to address the area's weaknesses, build on its strengths and deal with any other issues identified.
- 2.2 In setting the aims for the plan, the Neighbourhood Forum addresses both aspiration and reality for how West Saltdean should be in 2030 and the likely social, environmental and physical trends in the area over that period. They are based on evidence, consultation feedback and knowledge of the area.
 - We will have projects that conserve and improve the unique local character of West Saltdean's built environment and open spaces including the seafront and SDNP.
 - We will establish infrastructure to support existing and new residents, businesses and community groups.
 - We will work to create a healthier, more sustainable environment with good access to quality open spaces and thriving shops, businesses and community-run buildings and land.
 - We will work with residents and businesses to create more sustainable buildings that are more energy and water efficient.

Objectives of this plan

- 2.3 The objectives set out what the plan and its policies intend to achieve and are derived from the aims. The objectives can tend towards the specific and, if possible, are measurable.
 - To ensure that all new developments will be designed so that they enhance and complement existing buildings.
 - To ensure that improvements to existing walking and cycling routes will be made to encourage and enable more active travel including into, and within, the SDNP.
 - To conserve and enhance green and open spaces in West Saltdean by securing Local Green Space designation for a number of sites which meet the related criteria.
 - To protect and improve the biodiversity and wildlife located in West Saltdean's green and open spaces including the SDNP.
 - To create the conditions for success for retail outlets and businesses and to support sustainable trade, tourism and economic development.
 - To ensure that the beach and undercliff remain attractive and well-maintained destinations with facilities for visitors and residents of all ages.
 - To protect and maintain good quality, accessible and fit-for purpose community facilities within West Saltdean which promote community cohesion and social inclusion.
 - To ensure that CIL money is secured for new and existing facilities in the neighbourhood plan area.
 - To ensure that planning applicants fully engage with residents during the planning process.

Policies vs Projects

- 2.4 This plan contains both policies and projects.
- Policies set out specific requirements that developers have to meet to get planning permission. Some of these policies will be achieved by the planning conditions applied when applications receive planning permission.
- Policies (in green boxes) become part of the overall development plan for the Neighbourhood Plan area and will be used in deciding future planning applications for example for new homes or other buildings.
- Projects are identified priorities for action listed in section 7 that are outside of the planning process. It is hoped that many of these will be delivered by BHCC through funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Section 3 - West Saltdean Today

- West Saltdean is a purpose built coastal outer suburb of Brighton & Hove. The 2021 Census recorded 5,870 individuals in West Saltdean, indicating an increase of 274 people since the 2011 Census.
- 3.2 In terms of housing, the 2021 census indicates that there are 2809 dwellings, an increase of 131 dwellings since 2011. Whereas BHCC gives a figure of 2763 dwellings.
- **3.3** For centuries West Saltdean was an open area of downland and furze with a few isolated farm buildings and cottages. In 1924 The Saltdean Estate Company was established by Charles Neville and miles of new roads were pegged out and designed around a central park named the Saltdean Oval, in which Saltdean Lido was later built.
- 3.4 By the Second World War much of the housing at Mount Estate and the area around Saltdean Oval was complete and the Saltdean Estate Company had built the Lido, the Ocean Hotel, several blocks of flats, and the Smuggler's Haunt tea-rooms (now the Whitecliffs café) on the clifftop. Land plots continued to be sold off until the 1970s.
- West Saltdean is dominated by detached low level housing dating from the 1920s to the 1950s with some good examples of 1930s architecture that include West Saltdean's distinctive green-tiled roofs.
- **3.6** Future development of new homes is constrained by West Saltdean's boundaries of the sea, the SDNP and the adjacent residential areas of East Saltdean and Rottingdean
- 3.7 West Saltdean is a gateway to the SDNP with its protected flora and fauna and range of nature. The area also benefits from proximity to coast and cliff tops (part of the protected UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve).

West Saltdean Today 5,870 residents (2021 census)

The 2021 census found that the mean age for West Saltdean is 47.

The 2021 census showed there's been a 22% drop in children aged 0-4 living in Brighton & Hove compared to the 2011 census. This drop is reflected in falling pupil numbers at Saltdean Primary School.

Households	2809	(ONS)
Accommodation type Whole house or bungalow Flat/Maisonette Other	72.9 % 27.0 % 0.1 %	(ONS)
Household size 1 person 2 people 3 people 4+ people	32.8 % 40.1 % 13.6 % 13.5 %	(ONS)
Household occupation Full time Second home Empty properties (probate, uninhabitable, long-term empty (55)) Sole occupier properties Occupied solely by students Households classed as disabled Care homes	2631 35 97 910 9 14 5	(ВНСС)
Ownership Private rented Shared ownership Owned Social rent – council Social rent – other (e.g. Registered Providers) Could be living rent free	17.1 % 1.6 % 76.9 % 1.2% 3% 0.2%	
AECOM Housing Needs Assessment 4.4% of households socially renting compared to - 14.9% across Brighton & Hove and 17.1% nationally Under 20% of households live in flats 1.3% live in terraced homes		(August 2023 Data)
Disabled Residents Disabled under the Equality Act Not disabled under the Equality Act	18.7 % 81.3 %	(ONS)

Issues raised by residents during consultations

- 3.10 In Q3 2022 the residents of the area took part in a survey conducted by the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum about the NA. This helped identify issues that affect the local area. (Appendix 9)
 - Lack of affordable housing for families, couples and single person households
 - Family homes being converted into nursing/care homes or short-term rentals
 - Need to protect the remaining green spaces from over-development and increase biodiversity
 - Increasing congestion on the A259
 - Deteriorating bus service
 - Poorly maintained pavements that discourage walking
 - Hilly topology discouraging cycling
 - Economic situation and low footfall preventing new retail offerings
 - Declining numbers at Saltdean Primary School (following trend across Brighton & Hove)



Section 4 – West Saltdean Tomorrow

4.1 West Saltdean has limited opportunities for urban growth. However, where developments are sought, there needs to be policies that can help deliver a sustainable approach which enables the wider community to engage, and achieves a balance between existing and new homes.

4.2 A major development is any application that involves:

- Mineral extraction
- Waste development
- Residential development of 10 or more dwellings
- Residential development on a site area of 0.5 ha or more and the number of dwellings is unknown.
- Development of floorspace of 1,000 sqm or more
- Development on sites over 1 ha or more
- Change of use over 1,000 sqm or more



Section 5 - Local Area Policies

1. Achieving Good Design

- **5.1.1** "The creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Being clear about design expectations, and how these will be tested, is essential for achieving this." National Planning Policy Framework 2023 paragraph 131.
- **5.1.2** The NPPF, Brighton and Hove Local Plan and supplementary design guidance (SPD 17 Urban Design Framework) and the West Saltdean design guidance and codes (appendix 1) establish a framework for how good design is to be achieved in the West Saltdean NA.
- 5.1.3 However, achieving good design is more than just setting out how buildings should look. It comes through making the right choices for a specific space. This includes layout, use, movement, nature and appearance. The National Design Guide 2021 sets out ten key characteristics for achieving well-design places.



- **5.1.4** The hilly nature of West Saltdean among the chalk downs; the tradition of spaced detached buildings allowing long views, wide verges and its close relationship with the sea and cliff tops; are all contributors to the landscape character of the area, which has resulted in a highly distinctive place with a landmark lido building as its gateway. Although West Saltdean contains no conservation areas, all new development should respond accordingly to the landscape in which the proposal is being set.
- 5.1.5 The Adopted Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) of the SDNPA will apply within the SDNP part of the NA.

https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/adopted-design-guide-spd/

POLICY WS1 - Achieving High Quality Design

- 1. Where appropriate, all proposals for development should demonstrate how they have taken into consideration the City Council's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) No. 17 'Urban Design Framework' June 2021), the South Downs National Park Authority's SPD 'Adopted Design Guide' (July 2022) and the West Saltdean Design Guidance and Codes (January 2024) (at Appendix 1 to this Plan).
- 2. All proposals for development should be designed to a high standard of design, minimise construction and demolition waste and use sustainable materials suitable for the location which have low embodied carbon. Developers are encouraged to consider circular economy principles* and 'Zero Avoidable Waste' principles**
- 3. All proposals should demonstrate consideration to the existing form and street scene in terms of scale, mass, height, siting, character, spacing and materials
- 4. Proposals for development should be sympathetic to West Saltdean's local character and history, which includes the spaces around buildings, landscape and heritage settings and filtered views.
- 5. Proposals should seek to protect existing landscaping features and enhance urban greening of the site by retaining existing trees and hedges and using planting rather than fencing or walls for boundary treatments.
- 6. Existing flow routes and drainage features within the development site should be identified and preserved, such as ditches, seasonally dry watercourses and historic ponds.
- 7. Proposals should integrate sustainable drainage measures to minimise and control surface water run-off and improve habitats and species migration. Such measures include rainwater re-use/harvesting, green roofs, rain gardens, trees and permeable paving.

^{*} Circular economy principles encourage material and resources to be kept in use for as long as possible by re-using, recycling, re-manufacturing and sharing resources.

^{**}Zero Avoidable Waste' refers to the Government's Waste Prevention Programme for England, published in August 2023, and specifically to the Routemap for Net Zero Avoidable Waste in Construction by 2050.

2. The South Downs National Park

- **5.2.1** West Saltdean lies in a valley bordered by the sea to the south, the South Downs National Park (SDNP) to the north and the neighbouring settlements of Rottingdean to the west and East Saltdean to the east. Large parts of the Plan area lie within the SDNP.
- **5.2.2** The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is the local planning authority for those areas of West Saltdean that are within the SDNP. The SDNPA when making planning decisions is guided by the statutory purposes and duty of the National Park, and by national and local policies.
- 5.2.3 The National Park purposes are:
- 1) To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area, and
- 2) To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public
- **5.2.4** The duty of the SDNPA in carrying out these purposes is to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities within the National Park.
- 5.2.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), paragraph 189 (as revised December 2024) states:
- "Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas."
- **5.2.6** The adopted South Downs National Park Local Plan (SDLP) 2014-2033 requires that a landscape led approach is adopted for those areas of West Saltdean within the SDNP. The landscape led approach to design is defined in the SDNPA's 'Adopted Design Guide' Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which states that "Design, which is strongly informed by understanding the essential character of the site and its context (the landscape), creates development which speaks of its location, responds to local character and fits well into its environment. It needs to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area and create sustainable and successful places for people."
- **5.2.7** For the landscape led approach in the SDLP see in particular Policies SD4 Landscape Character, SD5 Design and SD6 Safeguarding Views. The landscape led approach is expanded upon in the SDNPA's 'Adopted Design Guide' Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
- **5.2.8** The landscape led approach notes that the SDNP is an International Dark Skies Reserve. Development needs to conserve and enhance the dark night skies of the SDNP as set out in the SDLP 2014-2033, Policy SD8 Dark Night Skies. Further guidance is provided in the SDNPA's 'Dark Skies' Technical Advice Note (TAN) (May 2021).
- **5.2.9** The SDNP was designated in recognition of its exceptional natural beauty, for the opportunities to learn about and appreciate its special qualities and as a landscape of national importance. The special qualities are expanded upon in the Introduction chapter of the SDLP.

5.2.10 Proposals should reflect the setting of the National Park including the guidance provided by the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment, Appendix A Landscape Character Type A: Open Downland and specifically A2: Adur to Ouse Open Downs including the Landscape Management/Development considerations for that area.

POLICY WS2 - South Downs National Park

- 1. Development within, or impacting upon, the South Downs National Park should have a landscape-led approach to design, having regard to the special qualities of the National Park and, as appropriate, in accordance with the policies of the adopted South Downs Local Plan 2014-2033, including Policies SD4 Landscape Character, SD5 Design, SD6 Safeguarding Views and SD8 Dark Night Skies, and the guidance contained in the Adopted Design Guide SPD.
- 2. Development within, or impacting upon, the South Downs National Park must respect the landscape setting of West Saltdean, including meeting the purposes of the South Downs National Park.

3. Creating future housing stock for the area

- **5.3.1** West Saltdean Housing Needs Assessment (AECOM August 2023 Appendix 2) sets out the baseline evidence for what type of housing is needed in the plan area. In particular, it shows that the West Saltdean area has a high proportion of owned homes with a much lower proportion of rental properties.
- **5.3.2** House prices in the area peaked in 2022 with a lower quartile house price (most affordable type of property) at £350,000. This means that local households on average incomes are unable to access entry-level homes unless they have access to large deposits and this is creating higher demand for private renting and pushing up rental costs.
- **5.3.3** The evidence suggests that there is a large group of households in West Saltdean who may be able to rent but cannot afford home ownership and as such this "can rent, can't buy" cohort would benefit from home ownership products such as First Homes discounts or shared ownership options.
- 5.3.4 The housing assessment estimates that there is a need for 13 affordable rented homes as well as 28 affordable home ownership dwellings to be provided per annum in the plan area. However, many of the latter group are housed adequately within the private sector and as such the demand is much less acute than the need for social/affordable rented housing in the area, which performs a vital function in West Saltdean as the only option for a large segment of single person households who generally cannot afford to rent privately in the area.

POLICY WS3 - Affordable Housing

Applications involving affordable housing should have regard to the local needs identified in the West Saltdean Housing Needs Assessment 2023. In particular, schemes should prioritise afforded rented tenures at 65% with affordable home ownership products at 35%.

In those circumstances where a case is made that the inclusion of affordable housing within a development scheme would be unviable, where such provision is a policy requirement, robust 'open-book' viability assessments should be undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and the guidance contained in 'Assessing Viability in Planning' (April 2023), published by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) (including any future updates), and should be based on Benchmark Land Values as undertaken by a qualified RICS Assessor.

Specialist Housing for Older People

- **5.3.5** The Housing Needs Assessment (Appendix 2) notes that in the 2021 Census there were 774 individuals aged 75+ in West Saltdean projected to increase to 950 by 2030 (14.8% of the population, a significantly higher proportion than across Brighton & Hove) This suggests that the current housing provision is in the region of 13 units per 1000 of the 75+ population.
- **5.3.6** Calculations show that there will be a need to provide between 44 and 63 specialist accommodation units during the plan period. Some of these could be accommodated by adapting existing housing stock, allowing older households to remain in their own homes for longer. However, there is a clear gap in the market in the West Saltdean area to provide market sheltered housing.

POLICY WS4 - Other types of low-cost and specialist housing

Applications that provide the following will be supported:

- 1. Well-designed schemes developed through community land trusts, housing associations or co-operative housing schemes which demonstrate that they help meet the needs of the local area.
- 2. Well-designed schemes which involve the provision of land for self-build projects which demonstrate that they help meet the needs of the local area.
- 3. Proposals for specialised housing/accommodation which take account of the local needs identified in The West Saltdean Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) (August 2023) which is at Appendix 2 to this plan.
- 4. Housing for older people provided in partnership with specialist developers which will provide a greater choice of sheltered housing options for people who want to move in later life.

POLICY WS5 - Adaptable housing

- 1. Support will be given for adaptation of existing buildings to create high-quality sustainable accommodation suitable for people of differing levels of physical and mental abilities that adhere to existing City Plan policies.
- 2. Adapted housing proposals will need to demonstrate that the intended units will meet an identified local need and:
 - Be easily accessible to shops, public transport, medical facilities, community facilities and services appropriate to the needs of the intended occupiers.
 - Demonstrate that proposals meet or exceed the Building Regulations requirements for "Accessible and adaptable dwellings" M4(2) or successor regulations.
- 3. Developments/adaptations should include adequate amenity space indoors as well as outdoors and, where appropriate, should consider opportunities for sitting together, socialising, gardening and the promotion of active leisure and community pursuits.
- 4. Where appropriate housing proposals should provide suitable facilities for care/medical staff and visitors, such as day rooms, dedicated parking, additional washrooms and overnight accommodation.
- 5. Proposals to extend an existing facility into an adjoining property will be supported subject to additional off-street parking being made available for visitors and site employees.

4. Conserving local heritage

- **5.4.1** The NA is rich in history from Saxon habitants, local smugglers, through to the Grade II* Saltdean Lido and former Butlins Hotel, both built in the modernist style.
- **5.4.2** East Sussex Heritage Environment Record shows that over the years there have been some significant historical finds locally such as the Saltdean Bowl, discovered in 1910 on the clifftop at Saltdean Gap. Dated to around 200 BC it is held in Brighton Museum.
- **5.4.3** Saxon Close derives its name on account of archaeological discoveries in 'Tumulus' Road including a small grey Saxon cup unearthed by a fox.
- **5.4.4** Looes Barn is thought to be named from the Saxon name for a 'Farmstead' and is near to the prehistoric 'Looes Barn burial'.
- 5.4.5 The first mention of 'Salt Dene' in a map appears on the 'Armada Map' of 1587 and is marked as a landing place. An 1825 one-inch-to-the-mile map shows Salt Dean Gap. From here a Droveway, (a route for moving livestock on foot from one place to another) would become Longridge Avenue. (now the main shopping area. See map page 48)
- **5.4.6** The Valley of Salt: This name may derive from storms which carried sea salt onto the valley.
- **5.4.7** Sparsely populated until the early 20th century, 1924 marked the first housing project in West Saltdean by the developer Charles W. Neville. There remains a wealth of distinctive buildings in the West Saltdean Area including those built during the 1930s Art Deco era and in the earlier International Moderne Style by RWH Jones and Connell, Ward and Lucas. These are all surveyed and plotted within the accompanying AECOM Design Code. See Appendix A.



5.4.8 Heritage Designations - Listed Buildings:

i. Saltdean Barn and Attached Walls - Grade II (now Boomerang nursery)

An early to mid-19th century barn, formerly on open farmland, constructed of coursed flint with red brick dressings ad quoins (masonry blocks at the corner of a wall) and a half-hipped tiled roof, featuring an early 2000s extension.

ii. Saltdean Lido - Grade II*

Built in 1938 to designs by RWH Jones who also designed The Ocean Hotel, the lido is in the Modernist style.

iii. The Ocean front block, walls and gate piers - Grade II

Former hotel built in 1938. Now flats.

iv. Newlands Barn, Saltdean Vale - Grade II.

Located on the corner of Saltdean Vale and Lustrells Crescent. Built near the end of the 18th century, the barn and neighbouring stables became workshops then offices for the Saltdean Estate Company. The building was listed in 1977 and converted to residential use in 1983. Characterised by coursed flint with red brick dressings and a tiled roof.

5.4.9 Section HCo1 of the Design Code "Preserving and promoting local vernacular" notes that West Saltdean's local vernacular and its Art Deco style houses contribute significantly to its character and setting. The wide variety of housing styles and architectural details, achieved through a unified material palette enriches West Saltdean's streetscape. It is essential that future developments are sympathetic to the design, housing styles and use of material across the Neighbourhood Area.

POLICY WS6 – Conserving Local Heritage

- 1. Development proposals should seek to retain the original green roof tiles and pantiles that are characteristic of many existing buildings in the Plan area, and proposals that seek to replace them with tiles of another colour will not be supported.
- 2. Any development of dwellings on plots identified as being a typical house type or a building of note in the Design Code should preserve the features that contribute to West Saltdean's special character, including architectural details, materials, scale, plot coverage and boundary treatments.

5. Achieving Water Efficiencies

- **5.5.1** Without action the Greater Brighton Region faces a water deficit of almost 90 million litres per day by 2050. This is due to increasing combined pressures of climate change, population growth and environmental protection. The Greater Brighton Water Plan 2020 sets out a range of initiatives for corporate companies and local authorities to undertake. This includes delivering sustained pressure to embed water efficiencies in new developments, and promoting water recycling, harvesting and conservation.
- **5.5.2** Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) Supplementary Planning Document 16 Sustainable Drainage 2019 already sets out numerous ways new developments can incorporate water management into their developments and all applications should adhere to this guidance.
- **5.5.3** In addition to water management, Sustainable Urban Drainage systems can contribute to enhancing local wildlife and biodiversity. Rainwater gardens allow for water to be collected from impermeable surface areas such as roofs and divert it through a specially designed planter or garden so that it can be used by plants rather than going into the main sewer system.

WS7 – Incorporating Sustainable Drainage and Water Efficiency Measures

All developments within the Neighbourhood Plan area should seek to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs) and proposals should:

- 1. Incorporate, where possible, rainwater harvesting and water recycling measures including the provision of water butts to use for non-potable water use such as toilet flushing and gardening.
- 2. Through landscape design, maximise the use of permeable surfacing that allows surface water run-off to be infiltrated where possible.
- 3. To minimise the risk of sewer flooding and to protect water quality, surface water will not be allowed to discharge to the wastewater drainage network.
- 4. Where developments are proposed in areas overlying Source Protection Zones (SPZ), proposals must demonstrate how SuDS designs will protect groundwater quality sufficiently to protect public water supply. SuDS designs should be agreed with the statutory water supplier, and be supported by a hydrogeological risk assessment where required.

6. Achieving More Sustainable Buildings

- **5.6.1** Brighton and Hove City Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency in December 2018, alongside an ambition for the City to be carbon neutral by 2030. 38% of the City's carbon emissions are from gas and 26% from electricity. Heating and energy use in existing buildings is difficult to decarbonise due to ownership/ tenancy arrangements, site locations etc. A mix of solutions will be required including community-led renewable energy projects. These are projects which seek to generate renewable energy to meet local needs and will help people that are at risk of fuel poverty.
- **5.6.2** A vast majority of buildings in the West Saltdean area were built between the 1930s and 1950s, meaning that the existing housing stock is ageing, and many would not meet modern standards of building, energy efficiency or have the most effective layout.
- 5.6.3 For retrofit work undertaken to existing homes, the use of the PAS 2035:2019 Specifications and Guidance (or any superseding guidance) is encouraged. PAS 2035 establishes a process for assessing the improvement measures best suited to each individual home. This includes a risk assessment, a check to ensure that the measures recommended are compatible with each other and suitable for the home under assessment as well as the needs of those who live within the building and the homeowners' improvement objectives.
- **5.6.4** Other important components of PAS 2035 is a requirement for monitoring of performance after retrofit (to ensure a satisfactory outcome for the customer), a whole home approach (so that improvement measures are not considered in isolation to reduce the risk of them not working well together) and a fabric first approach.
- **5.6.5** The South Downs Local Plan Development Management Policy SD51: Renewable Energy applies to land in the National Park.

5.6.6

At the time of writing this plan, the Saltdean Climate Action Network, Saltdean Residents Association, and Saltdean Community Association have commissioned Brighton & Hove Energy Co-Op to undertake a Decarbonisation Feasibility Study for Saltdean.

- **5.6.7** As part of West Saltdean's Decarbonisation Strategy, West Saltdean's potential largest roof-mounted solar opportunities have been identified as the Lido building and the Lido's two car parks, Saltdean United Football Club's building and the roof-spaces of blocks of flats. There are only small publicly owned plots (which are designated as Local Green Spaces) that would be suitable for ground-mounted solar and wind.
- **5.6.8** West Saltdean has the capacity to launch a community energy scheme and work on this is ongoing. A community energy scheme is defined as a defined group of import and/or export electricity meters that are aggregated into a single entity for the purpose of sharing costs and benefits between scheme members served by those meters. The scheme would have a charter, or statement of objectives and rules that detail how the scheme works, what Low Carbon Technologies (LCTs) may be used in the scheme, and how costs and benefits are spread equitably among its members. Larger-scale projects will be encouraged to join the Saltdean community energy scheme.

- **5.6.9** Management of the community energy scheme will be left to its members. Links (technical and financial) to neighbouring community energy schemes will be strongly encouraged, especially where economies of scale and other benefits from linkage can be demonstrated. Therefore, applications from community-led or by a not-for-profit organisation such as a Co-operative are welcomed by the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum.
- **5.6.10** Where there are alternative choices of Renewable Energy or Low Carbon Technology* (LCT) to implement, the fitting of the technology most suitable for the property in question will be encouraged, with reference to the Saltdean Decarbonisation Feasibility Study and Energise Sussex Coast Carbon Footprint Report.

POLICY WS8 – Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technology (LCT) Projects including Community Energy Scheme

- 1. Proposals for renewable energy or Low Carbon Technology (LCT) projects in new or existing developments and Brighton & Hove City Council-owned properties and assets, that are not covered by permitted development rights will be supported in principle.
- 2. Proposals should seek to conserve and enhance the surrounding landscape and be sensitively designed, taking account of noise, air pollution and long-term management.
- 3. The ground-mounting of on-site installations which would involve the paving-over of gardens or other green spaces will be discouraged, unless this is technically essential and is mitigated by clearly demonstrable environmental benefits.
- 4. All proposals that require planning permission should satisfy the requirements of the relevant policies in the adopted Brighton & Hove City Plan and the South Downs Local Plan.
- 5. Proposals for new developments in the Plan area should seek to incorporate low carbon or renewable heating sources and avoid the use of gas or solid fuels.

^{*}Low Carbon Technology means insulation (external and internal), roof or ground-mounted solar panels and micro-wind turbines, surface or underground battery storage (internal or external), and electric vehicle (EV) charging points for residential, community, private sector and Brighton & Hove City Council-owned assets.

7. Travel, Transport and Active Movement

- **5.7.1** The topography surrounding West Saltdean, which lies in an enclosed valley close to the sea, means that the main access road is the A259 which runs from east to west close to the seafront. The main roads off the A259 running north/south are Longridge Avenue and Arundel Drive West which turns into Saltdean Vale. Most roads in West Saltdean are connected to these main routes.
- **5.7.2** The northern part of the Neighbourhood Plan area is set within the SDNP and provides public rights of way connections to other nearby areas such as Rottingdean, Woodingdean and Telscombe.
- **5.7.3** The southern part of the NP area comprises an undercliff walk which forms part of the National Coastal Pathway and provides cycling access to Brighton via a non-motor vehicular route.
- **5.7.4** The following policies relating to travel in Brighton & Hove City Plan Part 2 already apply in West Saltdean:
 - DM33 Safe, Sustainable and Active Travel
 - DM35 Travel Plans and Transport Assessments
 - DM36 Parking and Servicing

See Appendix 3 for information about how people travel into, out of and within the NP area as well as information from surveys about transport.

POLICY WS9 - Encouraging and enabling better travel planning

- 1. Planning applications that would result in a net gain of three or more dwellings should set out the site connectivity to nearby services and community spaces.
- 2. Transport statements/assessments should positively encourage reducing the need to travel and facilitate higher levels of walking, cycling and public transport use by demonstrating how the proposed development creates links to existing walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure and, where possible by providing new and/ or improved facilities to achieve this.
- 3. For major development proposals where the development includes new footways, cycleways and highways that will not be adopted by the Highway authority, a long term- management strategy for their future maintenance and funding, where appropriate, should be submitted as part of the development proposals.

POLICY WS 10 - Parking

- 1. Proposals for new development that would result in a net gain of residential dwellings should include, where possible, dedicated off-street vehicle parking spaces with electric vehicle (EV charging points).
- 2. Vehicle parking on driveways should be designed to minimise the visual impact on the street scheme. Parking areas should include appropriate landscaping features, wherever possible, to reduce the visual impact.
- 3. The removal of existing grass verges and trees to facilitate vehicle parking will not be supported.

8. Enhancing Our Open Spaces, Encouraging Biodiversity & Wildlife

- **5.8.1** West Saltdean lies in a valley bordered by the sea to the south, the SDNP to the north and the neighbouring settlements of Rottingdean to the west and East Saltdean to the east. Large parts of West Saltdean Neighbourhood Plan area lie within the SDNP. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), December 2023 paragraph 182 states:
- **5.8.2** "Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas".
- **5.8.3** So, although West Saltdean is not in the green belt, any development within the Neighbourhood Plan area should be considered within the setting of the SDNP and should be "sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impact on the designated areas."

Designating Local Green Spaces

- **5.8.4** Local Green Space designations (LGS) protect local green areas of particular importance to local communities. Once designated, the LGS is subject to the same strong development restrictions as Green Belt, and new development here is ruled out other than in special circumstances.
- **5.8.5** There are no areas in West Saltdean that have been designated as LGS in Brighton & Hove's City Plan. (See Policy DM38 p103 City Plan Part 2).
 - **5.8.6** The West Saltdean NP therefore sets out the LGS listed below and defined on the inset maps that are locally important to the people of West Saltdean and meet the national criteria for designation. Further site details are provided in Appendix 5 to this plan.
 - **5.8.7** The NPPF paragraph 106-107 states that "The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:
- (a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- (b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and
- (c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
- **5.8.8** All the LGS proposed in this plan for protection have been assessed against the criteria set out in the NPPF and their value in terms of:

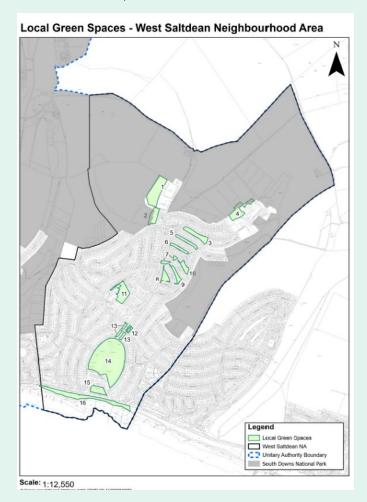
- Beauty
- Heritage
- Recreation
- Wildlife
- Tranquillity

POLICY WS11 – Protecting Local Green Spaces

The areas listed below and shown on the accompanying map and on the Inset Maps at Pages 27-42 are designated as Local Green Spaces:

- Saltdean United Football Club (SUFC) and North Saltdean Recreation Ground
- 2. Land to the rear of Looes Barn Close
- Green Space at Westfield
 Avenue North and Westfield
 Avenue South
- 4. Green Space at Coombe Farm Estate
- 5. Green Space at Hailsham Avenue
- 6. Green Space at Stanmer Avenue
- 7. Green Spaces at Hempstead Road
- 8. Green Space at Mount Estate to the rear of Saltdean Vale
- Green Space at Mount Estate to the rear of Heathfield Avenue
- 10. Green Space at Mount Estate to the rear of Arlington Gardens
- Playing Fields at Saltdean Primary School
- 12. Churchyard surrounding St.Nicholas Church
- 13. Green Spaces at Saltdean Vale
- 14. Saltdean Oval Park

- 15. Green Space at Saltdean Lido
- 16. The Cliff Top



Development proposals in the 16 designated Local Green Spaces listed above and defined on the accompanying maps to this Policy will be managed in accordance with national policy for Green Belts.

5.8.9 All landowners affected by the proposed designation of their land as a Local Green Space were made aware of this during the course of the Plan's preparation and given the opportunity to make representations on the proposal as it concerns their land ownership.

SITE 1 - Saltdean United Football Club (SUFC) and North Saltdean Recreation Ground









2.3 Acres designated as public space.
Bridlepath and rights of way path
onto the SDNP.

Home of Saltdean United Football Club: 2 pitches and clubhouse. Mown public open space which is surrounded on three sides by hedges used by walkers.

SITE 2 – Land to the rear of Looes Barn Close.

2. Land to the Rear of Looes Barn Close





Unmaintained scrubland with trees owned by BHCC. No public access as access track privately owned.

SITE 3 – Green Space at Westfield Avenue North and Westfield Avenue South

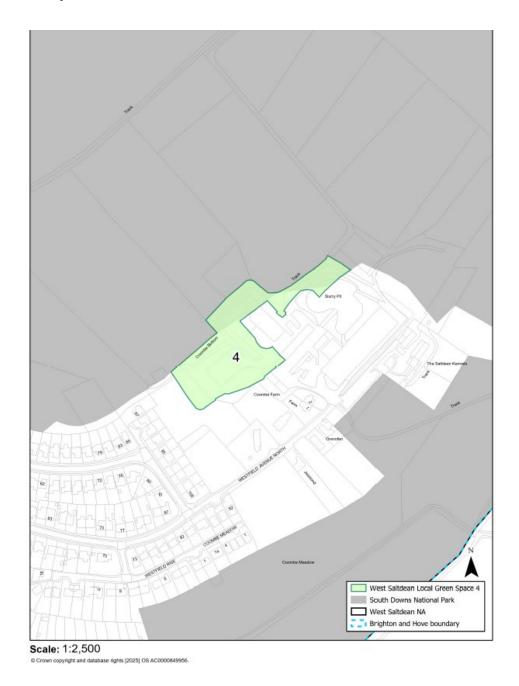
Open public grassed space which is part of the original Saltdean estate. Owned and maintained by BHCC. Home to trees and wildlife and used by residents for leisure. This site is also a designated Local Wildlife Site (Ref. BH72) as listed at paragraph 5.8.18.







SITE 4 – Green Space at Coombe Farm Estate



Open green space built as part of new housing development (72 homes) currently being built. Will be maintained by privately-owned freeholder of the site. Photos not available.

SITE 5 – Green Space at Hailsham Avenue

Open public grassed space which is part of the original Saltdean estate. Owned and maintained by BHCC. Home to trees and wildlife and used by residents for leisure.

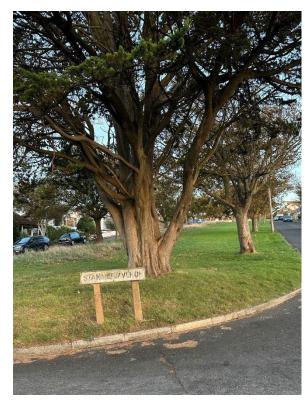


HAILSHAM AVENUE

SITE 6 – Green Space at Stanmer Avenue

Open public grassed space which is part of the original Saltdean estate. Owned and maintained by BHCC. Home to trees and wildlife and used by residents for leisure.





SITE 7 – Green Spaces at Hempstead Road



Open public grassed space which is part of the original Saltdean estate. Owned and maintained by BHCC. Home to trees and wildlife and used by residents for leisure.



Scale: 1:1,250
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SITE 8 – Green Space at Mount Estate to the rear of Saltdean Vale



Scale: 1:1,250



Open space protected by a Covenant and part of the original Saltdean estate. Previously registered as Asset of Community Value but removed from listing in February 2024 after purchase by a CIC in 2023.



SITE 9 – Green Space at Mount Estate – to the rear of Heathfield Avenue



Established open space protected by a covenant. Privately owned. Registered as Asset of Community Value in 2021 but listing removed after site bought in 2023. Application for ACV re-submitted Sept 2024.





SITE 10 – Green Space at Mount Estate – to the rear of Arlington Gardens

West Salddean NA

West Salddean Local Green Space 10

Unitary Authority Boundary

Established open space protected by a covenant. Listed as Asset of Community from September 2021 for 5 years.



SITE 11 – Plaving Fields at Saltdean Primary School



SITE 12 – Churchyard Surrounding St. Nicholas Church



Church, Church Hall and small grassy area surrounding both that is accessible to the public.

Scale: 1:1,500
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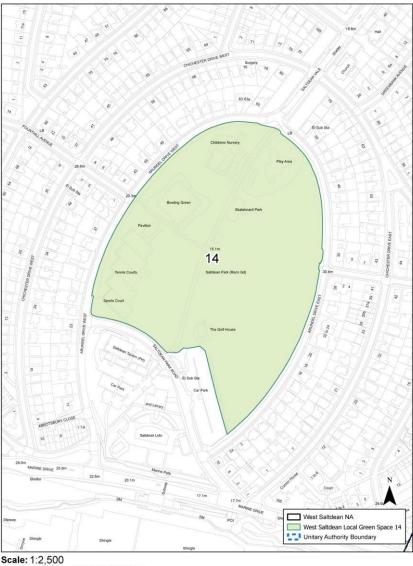


SITE 13 – Green Spaces at Saltdean Vale



Three open public spaces besides main through road – Saltdean Vale - which are part of the original Saltdean estate. Contains trees.

SITE 14 - Saltdean Oval Park



Registered as an Asset of Community Value in 2014 (now expired) and has a covenant on it that prohibits buildings used for commercial use.



Contains: trees, hedge boundary, shrubs, chalk grass slope. Home to two pre-school nurseries with private grounds and one privately-owned home with a garden, The Golf House.

Amenities:

Playground, bowls green, tennis courts, skateboard park, outdoor gym, one marked-out football pitch, Multi-Use games area (MUGA), sports pavilion which houses two public toilets (m and f); two wooded areas.

SITE 15 – Green Space at Saltdean Lido



Green space surrounding the lido building and pool including a large grassy area to the south of the building accessible to paying customers only. Used for sunbathing and for events. Asset of Community Value expired 2015

Scale: 1:1,250
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SITE 16 – The Cliff Top



Narrow and exposed cliff-top well used by walkers and dogs. Site of Special Scientific Interest. (SSSI)



Scale: 1:3,879



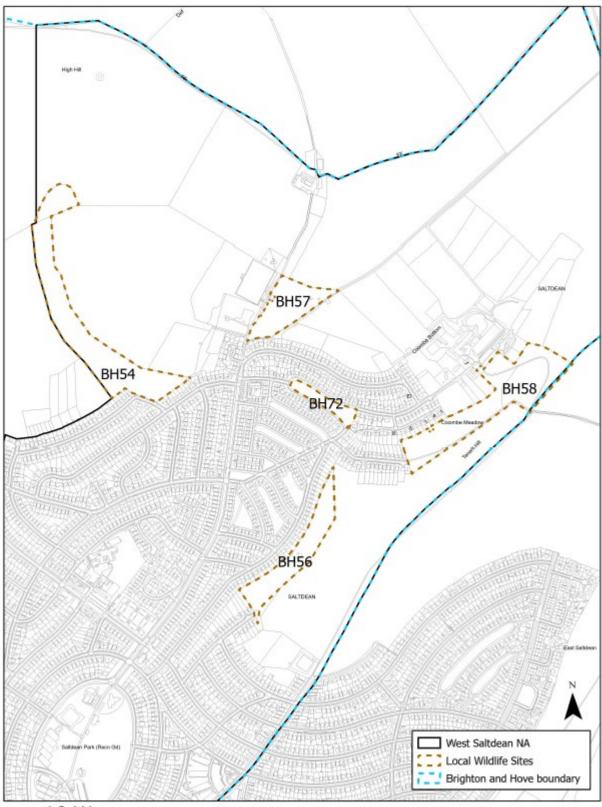
Gardens and verges

- **5.8.10** The majority of homes in Saltdean have their own gardens. As many were built in the 1930s, the gardens are larger than you would find in a typical 21st C development. The main blocks of flats Westbrook, Mayfield Court and Grand Ocean have communal gardens and paved space.
- **5.8.11** Gardens provide a valuable resource for wildlife, particularly where chemicals are limited or not used at all. Simple measures such as inserting small gaps in fencing and raising fences off the ground can provide runs for hedgehog and other small mammals. Homeowners are also encouraged to promote and demonstrate garden planting of local provenance.
- **5.8.12** Most roads benefit from wide grassed verges maintained by BHCC and many roads are tree-lined. These can be managed better for wildlife and wildflowers, particularly where they are close to other green spaces, for example by mowing less frequently and after wildflowers have set seed (later in the summer). Combined with front gardens, they also provide a valuable drainage during heavy rainfall which is increasingly common in winter due to climate change.
- **5.8.13** According to the West Saltdean Community Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Appendix 10 undertaken by the Saltdean Climate Action Network (SCAN), Saltdean 1600 AD would most likely contain scrubby herb rich grassland with grass and wildflowers, rather than being wooded because of the salty sea air.
- **5.8.14** Areas of sheltered land may have seen "a mix of Beech, Oak, Hornbeam, hazel, the species mix changing between chalk and areas of clay soil. The more habitat and species variety, the more biodiversity".
- **5.8.15**The BAP goes on to say "'It is likely most of the wildflowers in Saltdean road verges, originate from the natural scrubby grassland landscape, before development began in the 1930s. There is a good diversity of wildflowers in the road verges, and interesting localised variation that may indicate pre-development habitats, from some indicator species. Violets are a woodland species, so violets in road verges very likely indicate areas of former woodland and scrub vegetation.
- **5.8.16** The road verges and amenity grass, have good potential for biodiversity enhancement and also harvesting grass as biomass energy to produce biogas, and as compost feedstock to regenerative agriculture. Harvesting the grass would reduce soil nutrients, thus grass growth and the need for mowing, while increasing wildflowers and biodiversity, also producing sustainable biogas energy, and regenerating soil carbon."

- **5.8.17** The Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre conducted an ecology data search in January 2024 (Appendix 4) and reported that in West Saltdean there are:
 - 1 SSSI (Cliff top)
 - 5 Local Wildlife Sites
 - 32 Species with international designations
 - 116 Species with national designations
 - 252 Species with other designations
 - 21 Invasive non-native species
- **5.8.18** There are five Local Wildlife Sites within the Plan area:
- 1. BH54 Wivelsfield Rd Grassland within the South Downs National Park (SDNP). (Also part of an ecological corridor within both the Plan area and the SDNP. This forms part of the existing Nature Improvement Area/Green Network which is designated under the Brighton & Hove City Plan Part 1 Policy CP10)
- 2. BH56 Quarry Field within the SDNP
- 3. BH57 Looes Barn Woodland within the SDNP
- 4. BH58 Coombe Farm within the SDNP
- 5. BH72 Westfield Avenue North and South also designated as a Local Green Space (Site No. 3)

These sites are shown on the accompanying map.

Local Wildlife Sites



Scale: 1:8,411

POLICY WS12 - Enhancing local green spaces, biodiversity & wildlife

- 1. Proposals for new development which would cause any potential harm to the designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) or Local Green Spaces (LGS) will not be supported unless they are justified in the public interest and appropriate mitigation measures are proposed.
- 2. Proposals for new development that would require the removal of trees with TPOs not be supported.
- 3. Proposals will be supported that:
 - a) conserve and enhance the landscape of the South Downs and its special qualities
 - b) conserve and enhance wildlife and biodiversity, and provide Biodiversity Net Gains when required.
 - c) respect, enhance and provide green linkages with biodiversity and green space within and around developments, particularly where the space is in the vicinity of a Local Wildlife Site or Local Green Space.
 - d) include the planting of tree species that are suitable to Brighton & Hove and, where appropriate, to the South Down National Park.
 - e) include new grassland areas including verges which should be seeded (if necessary) and managed to enhance existing Chalk Downland wildflowers
 - f) provide opportunities for gardening, wildlife and food production within new residential areas
 - g) provide outdoor space including private and community gardens, as well as contributing to the provision of new tree cover

9. Promoting and Safeguarding the Local Economy

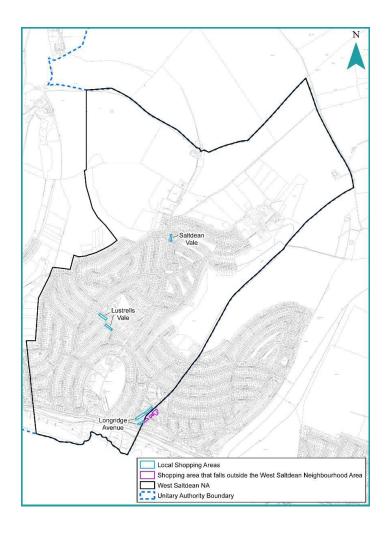
- **5.9.1** West Saltdean is primarily a residential area with a higher number of retired residents than in Brighton & Hove.
- **5.9.2** Most people travel outside the area for paid employment. Home working is, as per national trends, increasing in popularity with Saltdean Lido offering a shared working space.
- **5.9.3** The largest local employers are Saltdean Primary School, various nursing homes and Saltdean Lido.
- **5.9.4** There are also offices for small enterprises in each of the three main shopping parades.
- **5.9.5** No land has been allocated for additional business premises in the Brighton & Hove City Plan part 2.

Shops and Business Space

- **5.9.6** West Saltdean has three distinct and geographically separated shopping areas which cater for local residents: Lustrells Vale, Longridge Avenue and Saltdean Vale.
- 5.9.7 In Brighton & Hove's Retail Hierarchy (adopted City Plan Part 1 Policy CP4 Retail Provision), Lustrells Vale and Longridge Avenue are defined as Local Centres and subject to policies DM12, SA6 and CP4.
- **5.9.8** The economic viability of West Saltdean is not dependent upon a thriving, accessible and safe High Street. However, one of the goals of our plan is to create the conditions for success for retail outlets and businesses.

Local Shopping Areas West Saltdean Neighbourhood Area

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5.9.9 The City Plan Part 1 includes as part of Policy SA1: "Safeguard the important community and recreation facility at Saltdean Lido." The Open Spaces and Biodiversity chapter seeks to enhance the role of the Lido as a tranquil and beautiful green space. The following policy specifically relates to the Lido:

POLICY WS13 - Saltdean Lido

Planning proposals relating to Saltdean Lido should support the year-round community, leisure, events, office, café/restaurant, library and recreation role of the Lido for residents and visitors whilst safeguarding the heritage importance of the Grade II* listed building.

POLICY WS14 – Supporting local businesses and providing a mix of employment opportunities

- 1. Proposals for business and retail development in the three main shopping areas of the Plan area will be supported, where the developments would meet the following criteria, as relevant to the specific nature and use of the proposed development:
 - a) Provide additional services for residents and visitors and increase local employment opportunities;
 - b) Include flexible workspaces that would allow for shared and affordable working spaces and training facilities to support the local economy;
 - c) Provide opportunities for public realm improvements that would create a more attractive user experience, which can be enjoyed by all people of all ages and abilities;
 - d) Would support and maintain the retail offering within the Plan area, for the benefit of residents and visitors.
- 2. Proposals that provide for local employment opportunities within the Plan area, including small-scale, not-for-profit social enterprises, small and medium size businesses, and live work units, are welcome, particularly where they reduce out-commuting, and are in compliance with CPP2 policies.

10. Encouraging day visitors, improving facilities on the beach and undercliff and safeguarding the beach/clifftop flora and fauna

- **5.10.1** West Saltdean is a popular destination for day visitors with easy access via bus from Brighton. The main attractions are the beach, the lido, walks along the undercliff and over the Downs.
- **5.10.2** An overview of the facilities and services available at Saltdean seafront and on the undercliff are at Appendix 7.
- **5.10.3** Overnight accommodation is limited to AirBnBs and short-term rentals. According to the Housing Needs Assessment about 5% of the current housing stock has no main resident, though it is not possible to assess whether these are let for tourism or are second homes.
- **5.10.4** There are unlikely to be any new hotels or formal guest houses in the NP area. However, given the small size of West Saltdean, any increase in tourist accommodation could impact on the housing market and increase rental prices in particular.

POLICY WS15 – Improving facilities. Safeguarding the beach/clifftop flora and fauna

- 1. Support will be given to planning applications on the Undercliff promenade and beach that comply with Policies SA1 (The Seafront) and DM39 (Development on the Seafront) in the Brighton & Hove City Plan Part 2, and:
 - a) seek to provide additional and appropriate small-scale facilities, including pop-up outlets and water-sport facilities
 - b) support and maintain the beach area as a safe and pleasant place to use for all ages and abilities.
- 2. The impacts of development proposals upon the designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS), and on the coastal flora and or fauna should be assessed through an Ecological Impact Assessment and will need to be taken fully into account in accordance with Policy DM37 (Green Infrastructure and Nature Conservation) in the Brighton & Hove City Plan Part 2.
- 3. Support will be given to planning applications from not-for-profit organisations wanting to provide additional built facilities on the undercliff or shingle beach to the east of Saltdean tunnel.

POLICY WS16 - Retaining Whitecliffs Café/Bar as a café/bar/restaurant and an employment site.

This facility is much valued by residents and visitors and applications to change its ground floor usage from the existing bar/café will not be supported.

Section 6. Community Infrastructure Levy

- 6.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge that local authorities can set on new developments in their area. Its purpose is to raise funds for infrastructure needs in the area to support growth.
- 6.2 The legislation which sets out how CIL is spent requires that a portion of the CIL income raised from development, within a charging authority area is spent in that neighbourhood area. This is referred to as Neighbourhood CIL. The Neighbourhood CIL is increased from 15% to 25% in areas that have an adopted Neighbourhood Plan.
- **6.3** BHCC and SDNPA are responsible for collecting CIL monies within their respective LPA areas.
- 6.4 CIL receipts are to be spent by councils within five years of receipt and the money must be spent on (see Regulation 59C of the CIL Regulations 2010 as amended):
- providing, replacing, improving, operating or maintaining infrastructure that supports development in the area; or
- anything else concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area.
- 6.5 Within this NP, the WSNF has identified via its 2022 resident survey and feedback from the Regulation 14 consultation possible projects that it would like to take forward and it is hoped that CIL receipts would enable these to commence. Most of these would be delivered by BHCC. See Section 7.

Section 7. Potential Projects that could be funded by CIL receipts

7.1 Travel

7.1.1 Travel Project 1 - Promoting active travel in the Neighbourhood Plan Area

i. Encouraging cycling:

- Additional bike stands
- Cycle lane on Saltdean Vale to link to SUFC and SDNP to the north, and Saltdean Primary School to the west. It is noted that this route wouldn't connect to any existing cycle route
- Cycle lane through park
- Bike share scheme (Beryl Bikes) that comes inland.
- Kerbside charging for electric bikes at the main shopping points and in the three car parks

ii. Encouraging walking:

- Walking bus to Saltdean Primary School, the two nurseries in Saltdean Oval Park and the nursery in St Nicholas' Church Hall
- Safer walking paths with more crossing points on major roads and in the three shopping areas
- More dropped kerbs on pavements of major walking routes
- More benches
- Wider pavements in some areas to encourage walking although we would not want to see a reduction in grass verges
- Sensor lighting for the park and along the undercliff
- Improved pavements even and weedless
- More safe crossings: on Saltdean Vale and Lustrells Vale in particular to serve people
 walking to Saltdean Primary School and the shops. More crossing points on the A259
 are not considered necessary as there are already three in West Saltdean.
- Improvements to Whiteway Lane, a walking/cycling route that connects West Saltdean and Rottingdean including reinstatement of barriers/bars to prevent vehicular access. We would not support replacement of the chalk surface with tarmac.
- Access to SDNP
- Enhancing Rights of Way access points
- Promoting connections into SDNP

7.1.2 Travel Project 2 - Enhancing Public Transport Infrastructure and services in the Neighbourhood Plan Area

i. Encouraging bus use - infrastructure

- More electronic bus boards
- More benches and shelters

ii. Encouraging bus use – services. Work with the bus companies and BHCC to achieve:

- Demand responsive hoppa buses down to the A259 where there are frequent buses going east and west
- Developing a low NP area bus fare scheme, that provides a lower fare for hop on hop off use in the NP area and encourages more use of local facilities, services and retail.

iii. Enhancing Public Transport in the Neighbourhood Plan Area

 Information campaign by the bus companies to tackle the perceptions indicated in the survey that the bus service is expensive, unreliable – and that it takes longer to reach final destination by bus.

This will likely trigger a debate that it does take longer to reach final destination by bus, and the lack of a Metro-style limited stop service that gets passengers quickly into the city from the east, as those using trains from the west.

7.1.3 Travel Project 3 - Improved Traffic Management and reducing carbon emissions from vehicles

i. Improving Traffic Management and road safety through:

Use of smart traffic light technology

ii. Tackling Carbon emissions

- More electronic charging points for vehicles and e-bikes:
 in one public car park & two privately owned (Saltdean Lido CIC) car parks.
 Kerbside near the blocks of flats on Lustrells Vale and Grand Ocean.
- Solar panels on bus shelters to supply the energy for lighting at night and bus scheduling boards

7.1.4 Travel Project 4 - Improving the street scape (overlaps with local economy group and open spaces)

- More trees and planting
- More benches especially in the shopping areas

7.15 Travel Project 5 - Enhancing accessibility to the National Park and Beach Areas

- Existing rights of way (mapped & maintained) should be signed, open and easy to use.
- New rights of way where appropriate should be considered.

7.2 Business and Economy

- i. Use CIL receipts to develop a gateway tourist masterplan, capitalising on opportunities for beach and lido tourism and a destination for day visitors.
- ii. Work with partners to develop a retail feasibility study for Longridge Avenue, looking at how commercial businesses could be supported and grown.

7.3 Green Spaces

Continue planting native trees and woodland creation.

7.4 Seafront

Protect 'Cliff top wildflower' and 'vegetated shingle' on the beaches through better signage. Encourage more water sports, beach and land-based activities.

Encourage and provide facilities for residents and visitors on the beach and undercliff. The following additional facilities were identified by West Saltdean residents as desirable:

- Pop-up food outlets at beach level to provide additional food/drink offerings.
- Horsebox sauna
- Crazy golf
- Lighting and security e.g. Camera on beach chalets
- More bins between Saltdean and Rottingdean
- More benches
- Deck chairs for hire
- More drinking water facilities
- Permanent building for Saltdean Swim & Surf Club

