

Council

Date: **23 July 2026**

Time: **2.00pm**

Venue: **Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall**

Members: **Councillors:** Fowler (Chair), Asaduzzaman, Atkinson, Alexander, Allen, Bagaeen, Baghoth, Cattell, Czolak, Daniel, Davis, Earthey, Evans, Fishleigh, Galvin, Gauge, Goddard, Goldsmith, Grimshaw, Guilmant, Helliwell, Hewitt, Hill, Hogan, Lademacher, Loughran, Lyons, Mackey, McGregor, McLeay, McNair, Meadows, Miller, Muten, Nann, Oliveira, Parrott, Pickett, Robins, Robinson, Rowkins, Sankey, Shanks, Sheard, Simon, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, Thomson, West, Wilkinson, Winder, Williams and Barton Ahmad.

Contact: **Anthony Soyinka**
Head of Democratic Services
01273 291006
anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk.
Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

Electronic agendas can also be accessed through our meetings app available through ModernGov: [iOS/Windows/Android](#)

This agenda and all accompanying reports are printed on recycled paper



Chief Executive
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove BN3 3BQ

Date of Publication - Wednesday, 15 July 2026

AGENDA

Part One

Page

12 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.

13 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

14 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

To receive communications from the Mayor.

15 LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive announcements by the Leader and Portfolio Holders.

16 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 9 July 2026 (10 working days).

17 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A list of public questions received by the due date of 10am on 13 July 2026 will be circulated separately as part of an addendum for the meeting.

18 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A list of deputations received by the due date of 10am on 13 July 2026 will be circulated separately as part of an addendum for the meeting.

PETITIONS FOR DEBATE

Petitions to be debated at Council.

19 PETITION(S) FOR DEBATE

20 CALL OVER FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

(a) Call over (items 23 - 27) 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.

21 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.

9 - 18

A list of the written questions submitted by Members has been included in the agenda papers. 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.

22 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

19 - 22

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

23 COLDEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - DECISION NOTICE

23 - 126

Contact Officer: Clare Flowers

Tel: 01273 290443

*Ward Affected: Coldean & Stanmer;
Hollingdean & Fiveways*

24 APPOINTMENT OF TWO NEW INDEPENDENT PERSONS

127 - 130

Contact Officer: Victoria Simpson

Tel: 01273 294687

Ward Affected: All Wards

25 REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE 2026/27

131 - 138

Contact Officer: Anthony Soyinka

Tel: 01273 291006

Ward Affected: All Wards

26	REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION	139 - 144
	<i>Contact Officer: Anthony Soyinka</i>	<i>Tel: 01273 291006</i>
	<i>Ward Affected: All Wards</i>	

27	YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2026-29	145 - 188
	<i>Contact Officer: Tania Riedel</i>	

REPORTS REFERRED FOR INFORMATION

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following Notices of Motion have been submitted by Members for consideration:

28	SAVE OUR BUSES	189 - 190
29	EXTREME HEAT	191 - 192
30	RESISTING HOSTILE IMMIGRATION POLICIES	193 - 194
31	NET ZERO & CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN BRIGHTON & HOVE	195 - 196
32	SEAFRONT SAFETY & INVESTMENT	197 - 198

33 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. **Attending a Council meeting held in public**

To ensure that Council meetings remain safe and accessible there are a number of measures in place. Please take note of them before and during your attendance at one of our meetings that are held in public:

Visitors are admitted on condition that they allow themselves and their belongings to be searched.

You will be asked to sign in upon arrival and may be asked to show proof of identity.

The following items are not permitted at any of our meetings:

- Sharp items e.g. knives (including Swiss army knives) scissors, cutlery and screwdrivers;
- Paint spray or similar items;
- Padlocks, chains and climbing gear;
- Items that make a noise (e.g. whistles, loud hailers, mega phones); and,
- Banners, placards and flags or similar items.

Please restrict the size of bags brought to meetings as there are no facilities for storage of bags or other personal items – all bags will be searched upon entry. You may also be subject to secondary searches once inside the meeting.

Conduct at meetings

Councillors must be able to make themselves heard on behalf of those they represent.

The Mayor or the Chair will not allow behaviour that disrupts council business.

Under the Council's Constitution, Part 3A, Council Procedure Rules 16.2 -16.3, at any meeting of the Council, the Mayor has the power to order the removal of any member of the public who:

- interrupts the proceedings
- acts in a way that impacts the proper and orderly conduct of the meeting

In the interest of order during a meeting, the Mayor may suspend or adjourn a meeting.

We would ask that you respect these arrangements for the benefit of all those attending and participating and to ensure that Council meetings are able to proceed safely in public.

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

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 21

Subject: Written questions from Councillors

Date of meeting: 23 July 2026

Report of: Director of Governance & Law

Contact Officer: Name: Anthony Soyinka
Tel: 01273 291006
Email: anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answer detailed below:

1. Councillor Earthey:

In the context of BHCC's Decarbonisation strategy and its response to changes in central government energy policy, please provide an update on BHCC local policy on :

- a) Installation of onshore wind capacity within the City's boundaries, and reaching agreement with the SDNP for suitable sites;
- b) Installation of battery storage capacity on BHCC-owned brownfield sites;
- c) Finding alternative sources of grant funding for domestic insulation, given that the Warmer Homes funding scheme has already reached capacity, risking a huge backlog in applications;
- d) Enforcing BHCC freeholder rights over leaseholders of BHCC properties who refuse to engage with BHCC and the local community for the installation of solar PV arrays on the council buildings they lease.

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

2. Councillor Earthey:

Please provide an update on the City's Glyphosate Weed Control Programme – has it achieved its publicly-stated objectives to date, and what is BHCC's future weed control strategy?

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

3. Councillor Barton Ahmad:

Brighton & Hove City Council

With regard to Goldsmid ward and the recent new developments within the ward, what is the council doing to monitor occupancy and ensure that these developments do not remain unoccupied?

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing.

4. Councillor Pickett:

In light of the recent hot weather, and in anticipation of the deluge that will follow, what is the council doing to pre-empt the anticipated flooding that will probably be worse than ever before and in the knowledge that calls within certain areas to clear blocked drains are being ignored eg bottom of Preston Drove?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure.

5. Councillor Pickett:

It is well documented that older people and children are most at risk of suffering health issues when it comes to pollution. Does the council have any plans to consolidate transport, environment and public health policy, joining up the statistics that prove that a reduction in traffic, woodburning, etc, correlates with improved health outcomes?

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

6. Councillor Hill:

Can papers for the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority meetings be available on the Brighton & Hove City Council website? Currently I have to use the East Sussex County Council site to get information.

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council.

7. Councillor Hill:

By April 2027, the East Sussex Fire Authority Board will be dissolved and the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority will take over their powers as well as for West Sussex. I do not agree with these proposals as I believe there will be weaker democratic oversight for Fire & Rescue without a bespoke authority dedicated to Fire & Rescue matters. There is a high level of risk involved to ensure day 1 readiness when the transfer completes. As Chair of the Strategic Authority, Cllr Bella Sankey will have some responsibility towards this. How will Cllr Sankey use her new role to ensure this transition is managed as smoothly as possible?

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council.

Brighton & Hove City Council

8. Councillor Hill:

Has Cllr Sankey met with Mark Matthews, Chief Fire Officer for the East Sussex Fire & Rescue service to discuss changes to governance arrangements that affect the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service since her election as Chair of the Strategic Authority?

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council.

9. Councillor Hill:

Park Crescent remains at risk of pluvial flooding, especially this autumn. Has the Council been able to determine if a bump in the road between Park Crescent and Lewes Road would be helpful to push the water towards The Level rather than into Park Crescent? This is different to the previous barrier which was in the middle of Lewes Road.

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure.

10. Councillor Hill:

The East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service has no statutory responsibility to respond to flooding incidents and therefore is not funded to help with these incidents even though they do. Other strategic authorities provide funding to their Fire & Rescue Services to help fund this although it really should be a government funded responsibility. Can Cllrs on the Strategic Authority consider this in future when they have the relevant powers in future to affect this change?

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council.

11. Councillor Shanks:

When will the CIL allocations be decided. Residents have been waiting?

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Public Realm & Local Government Reorganisation.

12. Councillor Shanks:

Why are scrutiny call ins not given full financial information on which to base their decision?

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council.

13. Councillor Lademacher:

Brighton & Hove City Council

How are improvements to the public realm prioritised fairly across all wards, particularly in the ones that have historically received fewer resources and/or have high levels of socio-economic inequality (like Queen's Park)?

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Public Realm & Local Government Reorganisation.

14. Councillor Lademacher:

Given new enforcement powers introduced under the Renters' Rights Act, which allow local authorities in England to issue civil penalties of up to £7,000 where serious Category 1 hazards are found in privately rented homes, how does the Council intend to enforce these new powers?

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing.

15. Councillor McLeay:

Residents of Theobald House were told in 2023 that a children's play area could not be provided because major works were imminent, yet those works may now not begin until 2028. At the same time, families with children, including those with additional needs, continue to live in unsuitable conditions (on the 11th floor), alongside ongoing safety and ASB concerns. What is the council doing to improve the safety and wellbeing of children living in tower blocks such as Theobald House?

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing.

16. Councillor McLeay:

Theobald House has been wrapped in scaffolding for around five years because concrete was falling from the building. Residents are now being told that repairs may still be years away, with a possible start date of 2028. How can the council justify a delay of more than seven years to resolve what is fundamentally a building safety issue, and what assurances can be given to residents that this timetable will be improved?

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing.

17. Councillor McLeay:

Parks for London recommends protecting public access to parks, limiting the impact of large-scale events, and being transparent about how event income is spent. Following two summers of intensive event use at The Level and Valley Gardens, residents have seen significant deterioration of grassed areas, yet the Cabinet Lead confirmed last year there were "no current plans for sprinkler systems or turf replacement, with reinstatement considered only on a case-by-case basis". What is the council's long-term plan to protect these green spaces, how much has been collected in reinstatement fees over

Brighton & Hove City Council

the last two years, and how much of that money has been spent restoring The Level and Valley Gardens?

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

18. Councillor Sykes:

Please provide a figure for total spend to end June on the King Alfred Leisure Centre project and the projected updated programme to completion as it stood at end June.

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

19. Councillor Sykes:

Please provide a log of the number of refuse and recycling trucks of all types that were out of action in the month of June, by date and issue.

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

20. Councillor Sykes:

The BHCC Perkbox offers savings for council employees. However, all the offers are with multinational companies. What happened to supporting the local economy?

Reply from Councillor McGregor, Cabinet Member for Economy, Culture, Heritage & Tourism.

21. Councillor Sykes:

Road drains are blocked all over the city and this increases risk of surface water flooding. Please state the in-house and bought-in resource (FTE or cash) planned for drain clearance in 2026-27 and indicate how many road drains are no longer planned for clearance due to resource shortage.

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure.

22. Councillor West:

The Government has recognised the mistake of halting councillors pensions and members are now permitted to join their local LGPS scheme. Why has the administration not yet set this up, the delay is unacceptable. Contributions should be back dated. Will they be?

Brighton & Hove City Council

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration.

23. Councillor De Oliveira:

What speed measure are taken to regulate smart paddle bikes and scooters as some can reach up to 40 miles per hour endangering vulnerable residents?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure.

24. Councillor McNair:

The way residents report missed bin collections has changed. Instead of being able to report a missed collection, residents are now told that the council knows that their bin hasn't been collected, in effect stopping residents from reporting it. After a few days, the default seems to be no collection and no way to report it. Residents are also often told their bin was not out when it was. Or that it was collected when it wasn't. The IT system rarely seems to be accurate. Why has the reporting system changed and when can we expect it to work accurately?

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

25. Councillor McNair:

Why is it proving impossible to have yellow lines provided to prevent dangerous parking in Patcham & Hollingbury? We have requested lines where there is risk to pedestrians and motorists due to badly parked cars, e.g. on the corners of roads in Rotherfield Crescent, but we are always told there is a lack of money. This is a typical quote:

"We have advised them that due to limited resources, our current focus is on maintaining existing parking restrictions. Regrettably we are unable to consider any changes to the public highway outside of controlled parking zones, except for disabled bay requests or busy junctions on or near the main road network where safety to all road users is of concern."

However, there is money for red routes in the centre of town. Why is the safety of residents in Patcham & Hollingbury of less concern?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure.

26. Councillor Meadows:

Fly tipping in Orchid View is extremely frequent. Can we have CCTV fitted, as it is in Bramble Way and Birch Grove Crescent, to deter fly tipping and, ultimately raise money for a cash-strapped council?

Brighton & Hove City Council

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

27. Councillor Meadows:

There were abandoned bike frames left chained to a bike rack in Patcham Old Village for months. They were retagged on 14th May for removal 14 days later – so 28th May – because the original tag for removal had no date. But, they still have not been removed on 2nd July. If notices are not followed through a) offenders will be encouraged to abandon bikes and vehicles with impunity b) it looks to residents that the council does not care about such 'trivial' matters. Why were the bikes not removed at the expiry date on the notice?

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

28. Councillor Theobald:

Rubbish, recycling and garden waste collections have been very inconsistent over the past few weeks. In particular, garden waste collections have been frequently missed despite residents paying extra for the service. Residents are also frequently told they had not left their garden waste out for collection when they have. Why is Garden Waste not being collected regularly and will residents receive extensions to their subscriptions?

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

29. Councillor Theobald:

At a previous Council Meeting I spoke in favour of the retention of Wellington House. On 23 June, Cllr Alexander circulated an email in which she stated that "there are 6 other providers of day opportunities for adults with learning difficulties in the city." Would Cllr Alexander please confirm where each of these centres are located, who operates them and whether all 21 current users of Wellington House would be able to be placed in one of them should the Administration decide to close Wellington House. I am advised that there are no Day Centres in Brighton and Hove to which all the current users can be transferred hence I strongly believe that Wellington House should not be closed.

Reply from Councillor Alexander, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities, Public Health & Adult Social Care.

30. Councillor Lyons:

A number of residents in Woodlands have contacted me, requesting an additional lampstand (at least one) at the end of the close, as it is very dark at nighttime. The response that they and I have received to their requests is that

Brighton & Hove City Council

'The Street Lighting Team are not funded for the installation of additional lighting requests across the city & are only funded for the maintenance of the existing stock. Funds would need to be found to finance the new installation then the team would be able to adopt the new lighting assets and add them to the inventory and maintenance regime.' Can I ask that the close is added for consideration for additional street lighting at next year's budget?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure.

31. Councillor Lyons:

21 households in Artists Corner have contacted me, requesting a review of the parking situation in their streets. The preferred solution is to reduce the 4-hour parking paid bays to 2 hours, which may deter residents in other roads taking up spaces from 16:00 or alternatively, extending the paid bay service to beyond 20:00. Can this be investigated further?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure.

32. Councillor Hogan:

A typical working day ends between 4 and 5pm so why are the council phonelines only open between 9 and 1.30pm?

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Public Realm & Local Government Reorganisation.

33. Councillor Hogan:

Could any damage to grass verges (mainly caused by workmen digging them up) be repaired by the council. Some of the damage is very unsightly and potentially dangerous as can be a trip hazard?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure.

34. Councillor Fishleigh:

Title: Protecting trees

In December 2022 Full Council agreed a Notice of Motion about protecting trees in the city. It was agreed that "This Council therefore resolves to request: A report to TECC Committee which outlines a. Details on the council's and national planning policy in relation to trees with TPOs that are removed without BHCC's permission and lawful conditions the council can make on applications regarding trees; b. A draft communications plan for residents and developers to support the Council's enforcement approach."

Please would you tell me if these actions took place as I can't find any details. Thank you.

Brighton & Hove City Council

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

35. Councillor Fishleigh:

Title: Better Brighton & Hove Fund

Will BHCC honour the costings given in the first consultation which were £10,000 for a bus shelter and, I think, £1,0000 for a bench?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & City Infrastructure.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 22

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: 23 July 2026

1. Councillor Davis:

Transparency

Reply from Councillor Sankey, Leader of the Council.

2. Councillor McNair:

Fortnightly rubbish collections

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

3. Councillor Fishleigh:

Public toilet staffing and wages

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Public Realm & Local Government Reorganisation.

4. Councillor Grimshaw:

3X Bus

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport & Public Realm.

5. Councillor Hill:

EHRC Guidance

Reply from Councillor Alexander, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities, Public Health & Adult Social Care.

Brighton & Hove City Council

6. Councillor Meadows:

War memorial in Peace Gardens

Reply from Councillor McGregor, Cabinet Member for Economy, Culture, Heritage & Tourism.

7. Councillor Earthey:

Garden waste missed collection compensation claims

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

8. Councillor Atkinson:

Allocation of council housing to people with known behavioural problems and the impact on near neighbours.

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing.

9. Councillor Wilkinson:

Weeds and Street Appearance

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

10. Councillor Sykes:

Divestment

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration.

11. Councillor Lyons:

Garden waste collections

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

12. Councillor Pickett:

Hollingdean Materials Recovery Facility

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

13. Councillor Theobald:

Brighton & Hove City Council

Vale Avenue playground

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

14. Councillor Shanks:

s106 & CIL

Reply from Councillor Allen, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Public Realm & Local Government Reorganisation.

15. Councillor Hogan:

Schools still becoming academies

Reply from Councillor Daniel, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Youth Services.

16. Councillor Lademacher:

Temporary accomodation

Reply from Councillor Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing.

17. Councillor De Oliveira:

Public assets

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 23

Subject: Coldean Neighbourhood Plan – Decision Statement

Date of meeting: 23 July 2026

Report of: Corporate Director City Operations

Contact Officer: Name: Clare Flowers
Email: clare.flowers@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: Coldean & Stanmer, Hollingdean & Fiveways

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 The examination into the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan has now been completed, and the Examiner's report has been published. Subject to a number of modifications, the Examiner recommends that the Plan proceed to a local referendum. All proposed modifications have been discussed and agreed by the Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum.
- 1.2 This is the fifth 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 to the Examiner's recommendations for modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan and publish the Council's Decision Statement. The modified Plan will then be subject to a local referendum to be held within the Coldean Neighbourhood Area (see map in Appendix 2).

2. Recommendations

That Council agrees to:

- 2.1 Determine that the Coldean 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 Approve the examiner's recommendation that the Neighbourhood Plan now proceed to a local referendum. The referendum area is the Coldean Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.3 In the event that more than 50% of residents vote to support the Neighbourhood Plan in the local referendum, the Council formally 'makes' the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan.

3. Context and background information

The Neighbourhood Plan Examination

- 3.1 Coldean Neighbourhood Forum submitted their draft Neighbourhood Plan to the council in September 2025. The Neighbourhood Plan Area includes parts of the South Downs National Park, and the council acts as the lead authority on behalf of the South Downs National Park Authority (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 23 October 2025 to 4 December 2025.
- 3.2 In January 2026, the Corporate Director for City Operations 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 Coldean Neighbourhood Plan examination commenced in early February 2026.
- 3.3 The role of the Neighbourhood Plan examiner is to assess whether the Plan meets certain legal requirements known as 'Basic Conditions'. The 'Basic Conditions' are set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended. In order to meet the Basic Conditions, the neighbourhood plan must:
- 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. *not result in the development plan for the area of the authority proposing that less housing is provided by means of development taking place in that area than if the neighbourhood development plan were not to be made;*
 - iv. *be compatible with, and not breach, assimilated obligations; and*
 - v. *meet prescribed conditions and comply with prescribed matters.*
- 3.4 Regulation 32 of the 2012 Regulations prescribes a further Basic Condition for a neighbourhood plan. This requires that the making of the Neighbourhood Development Plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- 3.5 The examiner's initial assessment of the Plan sought further clarification and information on several matters. Firstly, the examiner noted that the City Council had made extensive comments on the draft plan at Regulation 16 stage and asked the Qualifying Body (Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum) to review these comments and submit an amended version of the plan with their agreed amendments. Secondly, the examiner asked the City Council for an update on the timetable for preparation of the new City Plan. The examiner suggested that the council and the Forum produce a Statement of Common Ground to resolve outstanding issues from

Regulation 16 stage. A Statement of Common Ground was produced and forwarded to the examiner.

- 3.6 The examiner issued his final report on 4 June 2026, and this has been published on the Council's website. The report concludes that, subject to several recommended modifications, the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and can proceed to a referendum.
- 3.7 The examiner is also required to consider what the appropriate referendum area is, if the Council decides that the Plan should proceed to that stage. In his report, he concludes that the referendum area should not extend beyond the designated neighbourhood area to which the plan relates. Appendix 2 shows the map of the designated Coldean neighbourhood area.

Coldean Neighbourhood Plan Context

- 3.8 The Coldean Neighbourhood Plan addresses a Plan period from 2021 to 2030. The Plan's objectives are to protect and enhance Coldean as a sustainable, attractive and inclusive neighbourhood. The plan aims to safeguard green spaces and wildlife habitats and support a balanced community by encouraging family housing and managing HMOs. The plan also aims to improve the appearance of the area to strengthen local identity and retail vitality, work with partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, improve access to green open spaces, and promote sustainable development that helps the area respond to water scarcity, flooding and climate change.
- 3.9 The draft Plan contains 16 policies which address the themes of Housing and Development, Open Spaces, Anti-social Behaviour and Crime, Traffic and Travel, Building & Design and the Environment. The aim of the policies is to ensure that Coldean will be protected and become a more attractive place to live. A Design Code for the Plan area is also included.

Council actions – next steps

- 3.10 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 examiners' recommended modifications to the Plan along with his reasons. It addresses each of the examiners' recommendations. The examiner's proposed modifications have been discussed and agreed with the Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum.
- 3.11 The Council must also decide whether to send the Plan, as modified, to a 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 Day).

- 3.12 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 Coldean Neighbourhood Area and it will be used alongside the adopted City Plan to make planning decisions.
- 3.13 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 SDNP and therefore the National Park Authority will also be required to formally 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.14 Appendix 3 presents a tracked changes update of the Neighbourhood Plan indicating all the modifications recommended by the Examiner and the updates to the supporting text agreed between the Council and the Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

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.
- 4.2 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 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 modifications recommended by the examiner. This is also not considered a recommended option. The examiner has set out clear reasons for why 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 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 Planning 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 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 have been undertaken at earlier stages of the Neighbourhood Plan preparation process. Community engagement was undertaken by the Neighbourhood Planning Forum in preparing the Plan.
- 5.3 Full details of the consultation and community engagement undertaken by the Neighbourhood Planning 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 2021. 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 submission in June/July 2024.
- 5.5 The draft Plan underwent a consultation as required by Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations for 6 weeks in June/July 2024. The Forum stated that they received over 50 on-line surveys and 23 paper surveys responses to the consultation as well as 2 telephone calls, a Facebook messenger chat, and several emails as well as many conversations at the launch events and on stalls. Results showed that 94% of individual online respondents were residents of Coldean, and for those responding on paper surveys 91% were residents of Coldean and 9% were working in Coldean. An additional three statutory bodies including BHCC also responded. After incorporating feedback, the Plan was submitted to the City Council in September 2025.
- 5.6 The draft submission plan underwent further consultation under Regulation 16 in October to December 2025, which was run by the council. The draft submission plan and supporting documents were:
- published on the Council website
 - emailed to all consultees on the Planning Policy database, including the national statutory bodies and a wide range of local stakeholders
 - emailed to all city councillors
- In addition, the Neighbourhood Planning Forum was 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 SDNPA during this time as the Neighbourhood Area extends within the SDNPA boundary.

- 5.7 This stage of consultation received comments from 33 respondents (excluding those from the council) before being examined.
- 5.8 Residents in the Coldean 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

- 7.1 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 claim 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: 18/06/2026

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The designation of Neighbourhood Areas, Forums, and the making of Neighbourhood Plans, are governed by 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 Coldean 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 Coldean 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 17 06 2026):

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 The Independent Examiner's recommendation is clear that this plan meets the legal requirements when his modifications are applied. While the Council is not bound by the Examiner's recommendations, a failure to accept them without good reason runs the risk of legal challenge and/or intervention by the Secretary of State.
- 8.2 Policies in this plan seek to protect open spaces, biodiversity and nature recovery in Coldean, as well as mitigate and adapt to climate change and sustainable development. This will help mitigate Risk SR38 on the Council's Risk Register: 'Failure to take effective action to increase our city's resilience to climate change, improve biodiversity and transition to net zero'. The Risk action title is 'Enhance and preserve the city's parks, trees and green spaces to keep them safe and attractive for residents and visitors, and increase biodiversity'

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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).

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 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.

11. Other Implications

Crime & disorder implications:

- 11.1 The plan includes a policy encouraging proposals to design out crime, promote safe and accessible environments and avoid features which may contribute to anti-social behaviour.

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 The Coldean Neighbourhood Plan has taken several years to reach this stage but is now nearing its conclusion. The Neighbourhood Planning Forum is to be commended on all its hard work on reaching this stage.
- 12.2 Overall, the examiner considers that the Plan as modified will meet the required 'Basic Conditions'.
- 12.3 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. Coldean Neighbourhood Plan – Council Decision Statement
- 2. Map of the Coldean Neighbourhood Area
- 3. Coldean Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2030: Submission Draft indicating the Examiner's recommended modifications as tracked changes.

2. Background documents

- 1. [Coldean Examiners Report 2026](#)
- 2. [Statement of Common Ground 2026](#)
- 3. [Coldean Consultation Statement 2025](#)
- 4. [Coldean Equalities Impact Assessment 2025](#)
- 5. [Brighton & Hove City Plan Part One 2016](#)
- 6. [Brighton & Hove City Plan Part Two 2022](#)

Brighton & Hove City Council Coldean Neighbourhood Development Plan 2021-2030

DECISION STATEMENT

1.1 Introduction

- 1.2 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) ('the 1990 Act'), 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 (as amended) (Part 6 Chapter 3) sets out the local planning authority's responsibilities under Neighbourhood Planning. The Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) ('the 2004 Act') includes relevant provisions under s.38A and s.38B.

- 1.3 This report confirms that the modifications proposed by the examiner's report have been accepted, the draft Coldean Neighbourhood Plan has been altered as a result of it, and that this plan may now proceed to referendum.

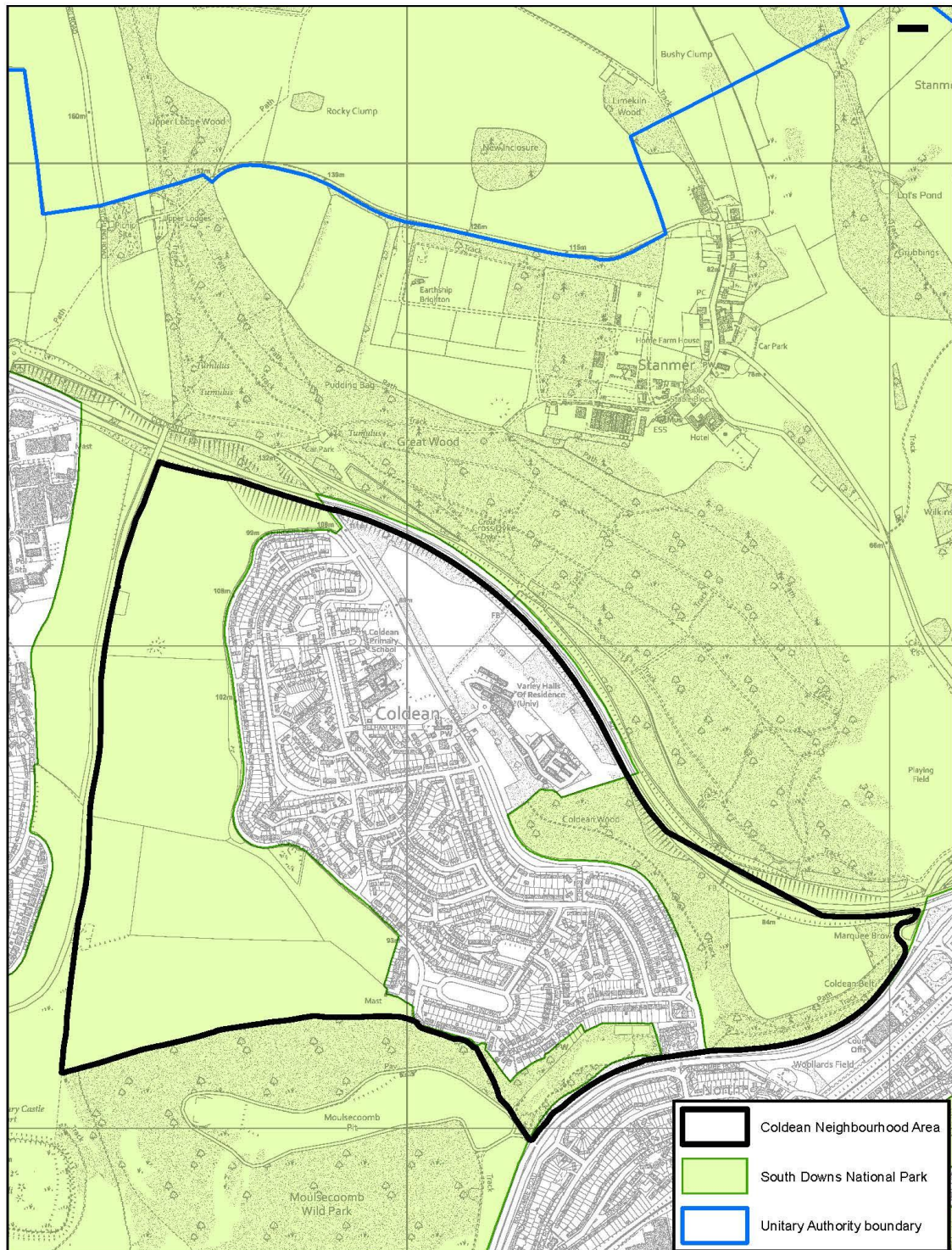
1.4 Background

- 1.5 The Coldean Neighbourhood Plan relates to the Coldean Neighbourhood area and the associated Neighbourhood Planning Forum, which were officially designated as a Neighbourhood Area and Forum by Brighton & Hove City Council on 25 November 2021 and by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) on 23 December 2021. This designated area is within the wards of Coldean & Stanmer and Hollingdean & Fiveways and includes part of the South Downs National Park. Brighton & Hove City Council is the lead authority on behalf of the South Downs National Park Authority. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum.
- 1.6 Following the submission of the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan to the Council, the plan was publicised, and representations were invited over a 6-week period from 23 October 2025 to 4 December 2025 in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Plan regulations.
- 1.7 Mr Derek Stebbing BA (Hons) DipEP MRTPI was appointed by the City Council, with the consent of Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum, to undertake the examination of the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan and to prepare a report of the independent examination. The Neighbourhood Plan examination commenced in February 2026. The examiner's report was received on 4 June 2026.

- 1.8 It concludes that the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan, subject to a number of recommended modifications, meets the Basic Conditions set out in Schedule 4B of the 1990 Act and can proceed to referendum.
- 1.9 **Decision**
- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 Having considered each of the recommendations in the examiner's report and the reasons for them, Brighton & Hove City Council, with the consent of Coldean Neighbourhood Planning 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.
- 1.12 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.
- 1.13 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 will be changed to reflect modifications.
- 1.14 **The Referendum Area and Procedure**
- 1.15 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 Coldean Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.16 **Conclusion**
- 1.17 Brighton & Hove City Council determines that the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2030, as modified in Table 1, meets the basic conditions in Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act as amended and complies with the provisions made by or under Sections 38A and 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended and may now proceed to Referendum.

23 July 2026

Coldean Neighbourhood Area



(A4) Scale: 1:10,000

© Crown copyright. Brighton & Hove City Council Licence: 100020999, 2021.



The Examiner's Report, the draft Neighbourhood Plan, and other relevant documents can be viewed on the Brighton & Hove Council website at <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/planning/planning-city/coldean-neighbourhood-area>

Hard copy versions of these documents can be viewed at Coldean and Jubilee Libraries.

Table 1: Recommendations by the Examiner agreed by Brighton & Hove City Council with consent of the Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
Throughout the Plan	PM1 Amend the Plan to take account of all proposed amendments, <u>with the exception of the amendments to Policy LGS1</u>, which are shown as proposed insertions of additional text, proposed deletions of text and corrections in: • SoCG Appendix 2 (dated 14 April 2026)¹ • The Addendum to SoCG Appendix 2 (dated 22 April 2026)² For clarification, these include amendments to the text of Policies H1, H2, T3, DC1, E1, E2, E3, E4 and E5. Further recommended amendments to the text of Policies are addressed as proposed modifications as set out below. 1 and 2 – versions as shown on yourvoice.brighton-hove.gov.uk webpages	For clarification	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
Pages 22 and 24 <u>Policy H1 -Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)</u>	PM2 Delete criterion (e) of the policy text in full. Amend criterion (f) to read as follows: “The proposals include appropriate provision for car parking.” <u>Figure 13</u> Delete the existing title and replace with: “Extracts from the adopted Policies Map of the Brighton & Hove City Plan.”	To avoid duplication with the city plan Alter wording as it covers a matter beyond planning control For accuracy	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted
Page 25 <u>Policy H2 – New Developments Within Settlement Boundary</u>	PM3 Paragraph 60 - delete first sentence of text in full. Criterion (e) of policy text – amend to read as follows: “Support Infrastructure and Community Facilities: Make provision for any necessary supporting infrastructure to meet the needs of the development.”	To avoid potentially restricting new residential developments which would be contrary to the basic conditions Focused amendment to allow a general policy concerning new development within the plan area	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
Page 35 <u>Policy LGS1– Local Green Space Designations</u>	PM4 Delete second paragraph of policy text and replace with the following text: “Sites OS1 and OS2 are within the South Downs National Park and are subject to the relevant policies within the adopted South Downs Local Plan. Development proposals in the eight designated Local Green Spaces listed above and defined on Figures 16-23 will be managed in accordance with national policy for Green Belts.”	Amended to have proper regard to Paragraph 108 of the NPPF in order to satisfy the Basic Conditions.	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted
Page 36 <u>Policy LCS1 – Local Community Spaces</u>	PM5 Add the following text as an introductory paragraph to the policy: “The following six site are identified in this Plan as Local Community Spaces. Any development proposals affecting these sites should, as far as possible, seek to protect these spaces in view of their contribution to the character of the Plan area.” Include Inset Maps (on an Ordnance Survey base to an appropriate scale)	As drafted, this does not constitute a land-use planning policy as it provides no policy guidance, nor any information. This modification adds suitable text to the policy to address this Include inset maps identifying the boundaries of the six sites.	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

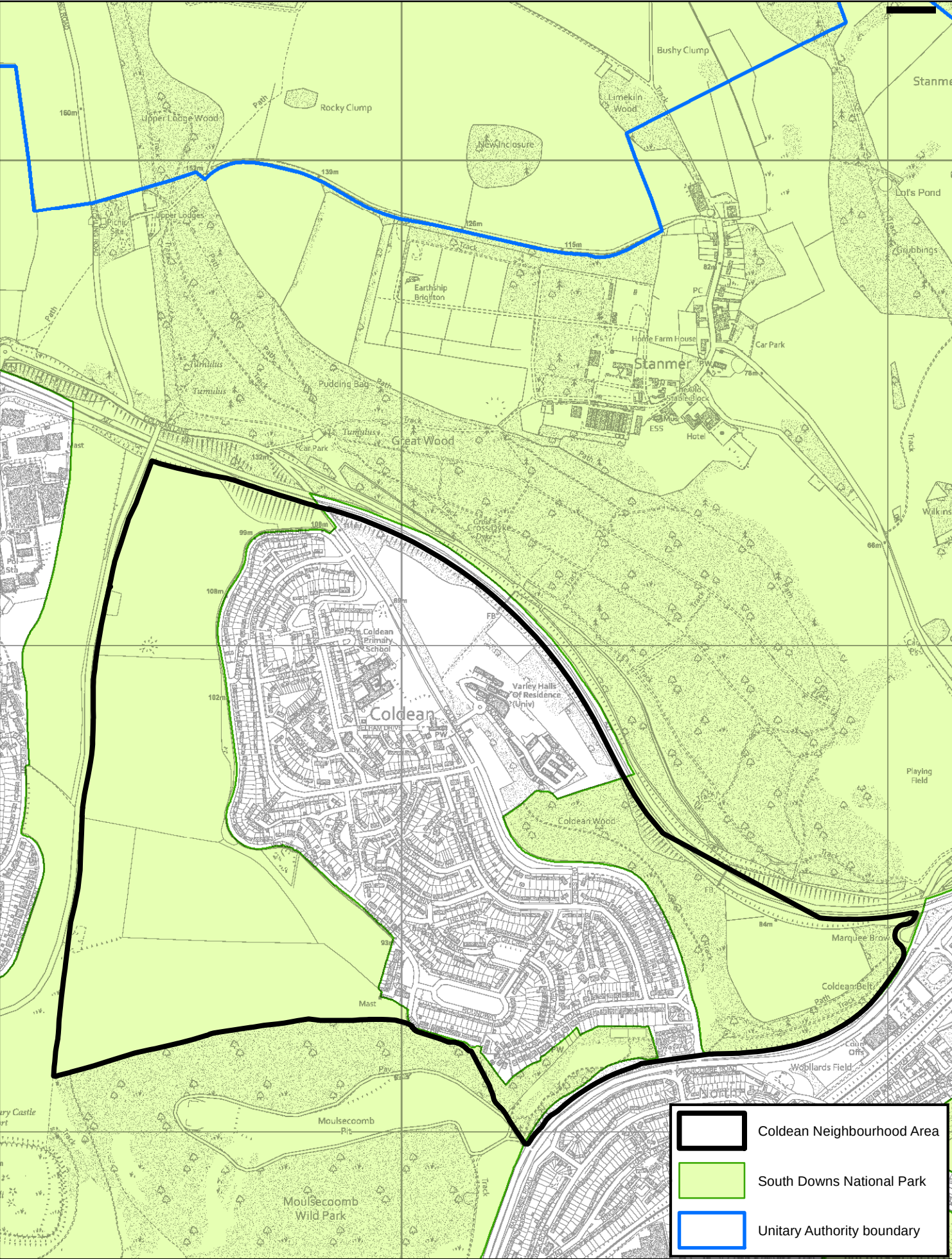
PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	for each of the six Local Community Spaces, clearly showing the boundaries and extent of each Local Community Space.		
<u>Page 37</u> <u>Paragraph 83</u>	PM6 Delete the words “under the very special circumstances set out within the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework).” in the final sentence of text.	Delete the reference to ‘very special circumstances’ which is normally related to development within designated Green Belt areas.	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted
<u>Page 39</u> <u>Policy C1 – Designing Out Crime</u>	PM7 Replace the acronym ‘DOCO’ in the Policy text with “ Designing Out Crime Officer ”.	Replace the acronym with its full title for clarity.	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted
<u>Page 43</u> <u>Policy T2 – Through Traffic</u>	PM8 Delete this policy in full, and re-number subsequent policies in this section of the Plan accordingly.	As drafted, this does not constitute a land-use planning policy, but is a traffic management policy. Such measures can only be instigated by the Highways Authority under the Highways Act 1980 and related	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
		Regulations.	
<u>Page 43</u> Policy T3 – Car and Cycle Parking	PM9 Criterion (a) of the policy text – delete existing text and replace with: “Proposals which include provision for additional short-stay parking spaces and cycle parking to meet the needs of local businesses will be supported.” Criterion (b) of the policy text – delete the words “for new off-street car parking to provide additional capacity and” and replace with: “which make provision for additional off- street car parking (for example on driveways with dropped kerb access) to”. <i>Examiner’s note – note slight amendment to PM1 text for this criterion and correct spelling of ‘kerb’.</i> Criterion (c) of the policy text – delete existing text in full and replace with: “All development proposals should take account of the BHCC Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 14 ‘Parking Standards’ or the SDNPA ‘Parking’ SPD for proposals which	To provide the necessary clarity for future users of the Plan	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
	are in that part of the Plan area that is within the South Downs National Park”.		
<u>Page 44</u> <u>Policy T4 – Accessibility for All</u>	PM9 Part (b) of the policy text: Delete the text “including but not limited to:” and the following five clauses (i)-(v) in full.	For clarity to aid the user of the plan	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted
<u>Page 45</u> <u>Policy T5 – Accessible Developments</u>	PM10 Delete existing policy text in full and replace with: “Where appropriate, proposals for new development in the Plan area should seek to provide safe pedestrian and cycle access to nearby services, community facilities, bus stops and the wider green infrastructure network. Any planned new routes or enhancements should take account of the priorities contained in the City Council’s Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) particularly for the Coldean area.”	For clarity to aid the user of the plan	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

PLAN POLICY / PARAGRAPH	RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION	REASONS	COUNCIL DECISION
<u>Page 51</u> <u>Policy E4 – Adapting to Climate Change</u>	PM11 Add the following text to clause (d) of the policy text: “or the South Downs Local Plan Policy SD50 as appropriate.”	To take account of a representation submitted by the South Downs National Park Authority.	All recommended modifications /deletions accepted

Coldean Neighbourhood Area



(A4) Scale: 1:10,000

© Crown copyright. Brighton & Hove City Council Licence: 100020999, 2021.



COLDEAN

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2021-2030

September 2025

Coldean Neighbourhood Area

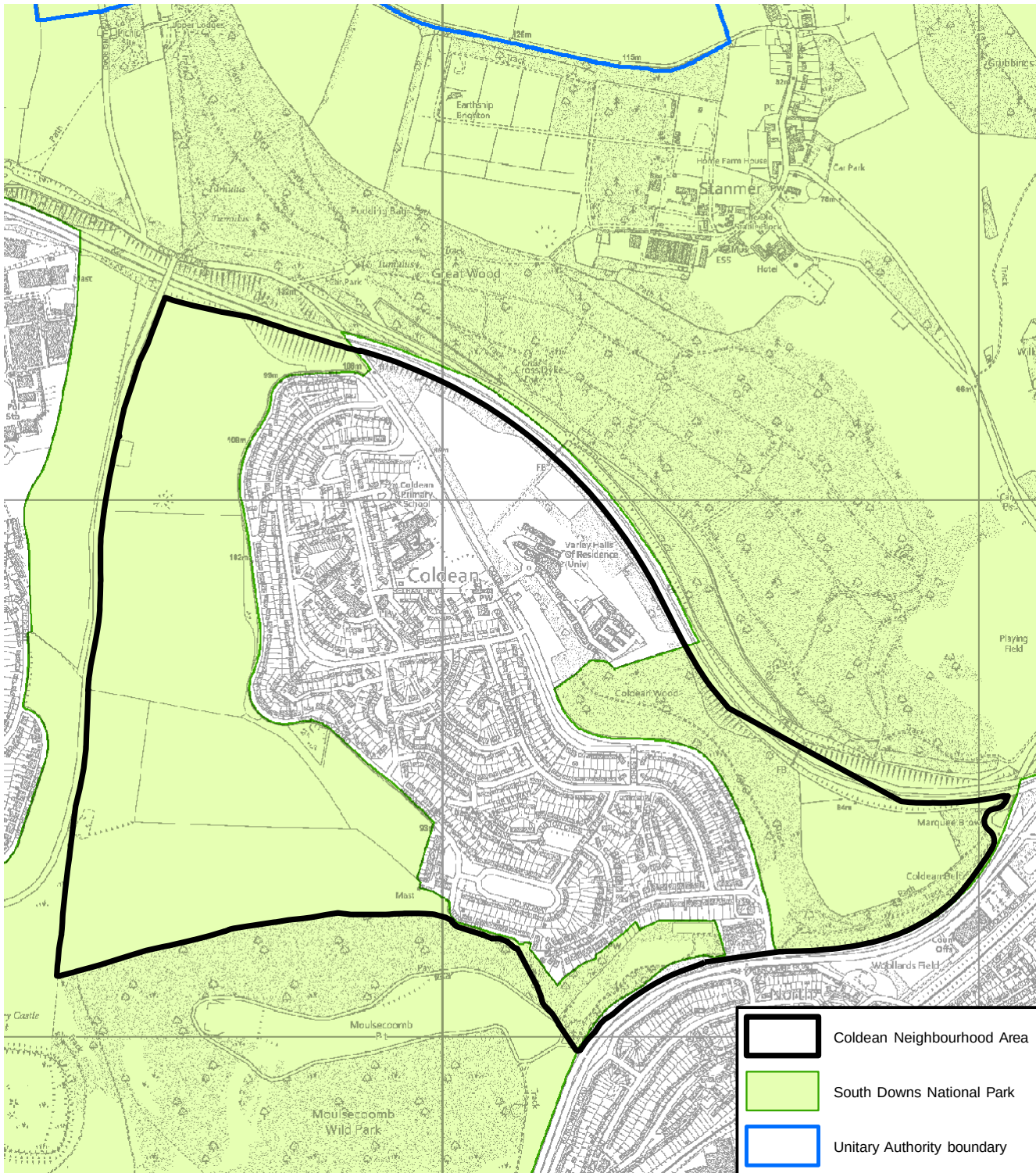


Figure 1: Map of Coldean Neighbourhood Plan Area

FOREWORD

The Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum has brought residents together to develop this Neighbourhood Plan to protect what we have and embolden inspiring planning designs to move us forward into becoming a more attractive village.

In the Plan we have Design Codes that reflect what should be in a village, a Master Planning Framework that suggests improvements covering our shopping areas: the Plan protects our open green spaces and sets out many more policies that local residents asked us to address.

Thank you to all who participated and contributed, the committee, our advisers and thanks to our positive partnership working with our key stakeholders. A lot of hard work has been put into this Plan which we hope you will support in order to have a better, protected and brighter future for the lovely area where we live.

by Patrick Lowe

Chairman of Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	INTRODUCTION	10
	1.1 Evolution of this Document	10
	1.2 How this document should be used	11
	1.3 Planning Policy Context	11
02	VISION AND OBJECTIVES	12
	2.1 Coldean in 2030	12
	2.2 Neighbourhood Plan Objectives	12
03	ABOUT THE PLAN AREA	14
	3.1 The Area	14
	3.2 Heritage	15
	3.3 South Downs National Park Authority	15
	3.4 Population	15
	3.5 Developments	17
	3.6 Future	17
04	HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES	18
	4.1 General Development	18
	4.2 Housing Needs Assessment	20
	4.3 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)	21
	POLICY H1 - HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY (HMOs)	22
	POLICY H2 - NEW DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN <u>EXISTING BUILT UP AREA OR</u> SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY	25
	4.4 Homes for older people	26
05	COLDEAN OPEN SPACES	28
	5.1 Open Spaces	
	5.2 Spaces categorisation summary – Local Green Spaces, Local Communities Spaces and Local Community Facilities	29
	POLICY LGS1 - LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATIONS	35
	5.3 Local Community Spaces (LCS)	36
	POLICY LCS1 - LOCAL COMMUNITY SPACES	36
	5.4 Local Community Facilities (LCF)	36
06	ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	38
	6.1 Anti-social Behaviour and Crime in Coldean	38
	POLICY C1 - DESIGNING OUT CRIME	39

07	TRAFFIC AND TRAVEL	40
	7.1 Traffic management review and plan	40
	7.2 Disability access assessment	41
	7.3 Sustainable and active transport	42
	7.4 Cycling Routes	42
	7.5 Accessible Buses	43
	7.6 Policies	43
	POLICY T1 - INCREASING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT <u>AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT</u>	43
	POLICY T2 - THROUGH TRAFFIC	43
	POLICY T3 - CAR AND CYCLE PARKING	43
	POLICY T4 - ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL	44
	POLICY T5 - ACCESSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS	45
	POLICY T6 - PROVISION OF CYCLE / WALKWAYS	45
08	BUILDING & DESIGN	46
	8.1 Coldean design guidance and codes	
	POLICY DC1 - DESIGN GUIDE	46
09	ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES	48
	9.1 Overview	48
	9.2 South Downs Way Ahead Nature Improvement Area	49
	ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES OVERVIEW	50
	POLICY E1 - SETTLEMENT CONTAINMENT <u>AND PROTECTION OF THE URBAN FRINGE</u>	50
	POLICY E2 - PROTECTING VALUED VIEWS <u>& VISUAL CONECTIONS TO THE SOUTH DOWNS</u>	50
	POLICY E3 - PROTECTION OF <u>PROTECTION OF</u> ALLOTMENTS	51
	POLICY E4 - MITIGATION AND <u>MITIGATION AND</u> ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE <u>& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</u>	51
	POLICY E5 - BIODIVERSITY <u>BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE RECOVERY</u>	52
	9.3 Biodiversity Findings	52
	9.4 Ancient Chalk Downlands	53
	9.5. Brighton & Hove Council's Carbon Neutral 2030 plan and tree planting	53
10	ASPIRATIONS - COLDEAN MASTERPLAN / NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENTS	54
	10.1 Overview	54
11	GLOSSARY, ACRONYMS and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	56
12	POLICY MONITORING	63

TABLE OF IMAGES

Figure 1: Map of Coldean Neighbourhood Plan Area	2
Figure 2: Coldean View	7
Figure 3: Park Road looking uphill	12
Figure 4: The Roundway	13
Figure 5: Aerial view of Coldean	14
Figure 6: Reconstruction of a structure found in Coldean, from circa BC 900	15
Figure 7: 1946 Image of Coldean Area - Courtesy of RAF106 Squadron	17
Figure 8: 2023 Google Maps Image of Coldean Area	17
Figure 9: Coldean Primary School and Bluebell Heights development	18
Figure 10: Extract from ONS dwellings data in Coldean	19
Figure 11: Rushlake Road	20
Figure 12: Aerial view of Coldean Lane	23
Figure 13: Settlement Area Map for Brighton & Hove, including Coldean Area	24
Figure 14: The Roundway	27
Figure 15: Summary of Open Spaces analysis grid	30
Figure 16: OS1 - A 270 Parkland (referred to as "The Park")	31
Figure 17: OS2 Coldean Woods Open Space	31
Figure 18: OS6 Roundway Open Space	32
Figure 19: OS12 Coldean Lane, South Side (Forest Road to St Mary Magdalen Church Hall)	32
Figure 20: OS22 Haig Avenue Open Space	33
Figure 21: OS25 Wolseley Road Southern Open Space and Play Area	33
Figure 22: OS41 Coldean Lane, South Side (No. 29 to Forest Road Junction)	34
Figure 23: OS42 Beatty Avenue Shopping Parade	34
Figure 24: Aerial View of New Larchwood	35
Figure 25: St Mary Magdalen Church. Oldest building in Coldean, originally a barn	37
Figure 26: Aerial View of Coldean Woods	38
Figure 27: Coldean Village entrance aerial photo	45
Figure 28: Front pages of Coldean Design Guidance and Codes	47
Figure 29: The nationally rare and striking Tortoise Beetle <i>Pilemostoma fastuosa</i>	53
Figure 30: The five Scarab Shieldbugs sieved from moss in the Northern Glade	53
Figure 31: TCPA 20 Minute Neighbourhood Guide	54
Figure 32: Healthy Streets indicator	54
Figure 33: Front page of the Master Planning Framework proposal	55
Figure 34: AI image of Coldean in 2039	61

Figure 2: Coldean view

TIMELINE

This shows the public involvement, consultations and processes involved in preparing this Plan. All evidence, including minutes of meetings and monthly Forum Committee meetings can be found on the website at www.cnpf.co.uk and in the Consultation Statement.

2021

July	1st meeting of the Forum - 25 Members agree to set up the Forum. Draft Constitution approved.
November	1st Open Forum meeting agrees Green Open Spaces and HMOs are key matters needing planning policies.
November	Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) agree the Coldean Neighbourhood Area boundary.
December	The Council and the South Downs National Park Authority formally approve the setup of the Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum (CNPf).

2022

January	HMO report published. Consultants appointed as advisors.
February	2nd Open Forum meeting - BHCC Planning Officer makes a presentation on Neighbourhood Planning.
April	Cash grant application is made for 22/23.
May	Lobbying of Councillors to exclude ancient chalk downland from City Plan Part Two
June	CNPf sets up a stall at Queen's Jubilee celebration in Coldean.
September	Special General Meeting held to amend CNPF's constitution to allow Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum Limited to act as an agent for CNPF's banking matters.
November	Two Forum Vision meetings held.
December	1st AGM of the Forum held, and Forum Committee formally elected.

2023

January	Consultation Statement started.
February	Bespoke 'Our Population' report for Coldean prepared with ONS team. Two Technical Support grants for the Forum approved.

April	Mapping of Green Open Spaces Report produced with the Council's Cartographer's assistance.
May	Letter received from Sir David Attenborough. Site visit by AECOM Technical Team for Design Code Guide fieldwork. Environmental Working Group formed.
June	Traffic survey questionnaire issued online. Working group on traffic management set up, including a representative from Coldean Residents Association.
July	3rd Forum meeting formally approves Vision and Objectives for the Forum and the Open Spaces categorisation of green areas. Disabled Access statement tabled.
September	AECOM issue draft Coldean Design Codes Guide. AECOM site visit to start Coldean Master Plan Framework on neighbourhood improvements. Portal opened for 23/24 cash grant applications.
October	The ICO confirms the Forum does not need to register as a 'data handler'. Cash grant for 23/24 received. 1st draft of the Neighbourhood Plan started. PMR Architecture appointed as advisors.
November	The 'Have Your Say' 4th Open Forum meeting launches consultations on Design Codes policies, HMO policies and Traffic Management findings and policies.
December	5th Open Forum meeting launches Housing Needs Assessment/Development Findings and Policies, the Master Planning/neighbourhood improvement suggestions by AECOM and the Environmental Findings and Policies consultations. Second AGM with further constitutional changes agreed. Change of Forum accounting reference date and membership provisions.

2024

January	6th Open Forum meeting addresses comments on the 6 Consultations issued in November and December 2023.
February	Strategic Environmental Assessment of draft Plan - screened by Council officers as unnecessary.
April	7th Open Forum meeting addresses informal Council comments on the draft plan.
June/July	'Regulation 14' Consultation - 6 weeks with Forum members and all Statutory Consultees.
November	8th Open Forum meeting discusses a new Water Objective.
December	9th Open Forum meeting re Water Objective vote. Third AGM. Start of the Mock Independent Plan Examination - Examiner funded by a Technical Support Grant.

2025

February/ March	Mock Independent Plan Examination. A10
<u>September</u>	<u>Submission of draft Plan and related documents to BHCC</u>

01. INTRODUCTION

1 The document provides one part of the development plan for the Coldean Neighbourhood Area to 2030. The Coldean Neighbourhood Area is within two Local Planning Authority areas, covered by Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) for the part in the South Downs National Park (SDNP). Once made, the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Development Plans for Brighton & Hove and the South Downs National Park. It sits alongside Brighton & Hove City Plan ~~Parts One and Two, which will be replaced by the emerging City Plan 2041, (and other documents such as City Plan Part One, which is being revised)~~ and the South Downs Local Plan (adopted in 2019 and currently in the early stages of review). It will be used to guide development and determine planning applications within the [Neighbourhood Plan Area](#). The Neighbourhood Plan will be used by BHCC and the SDNPA as appropriate to make decisions about planning applications. The Coldean Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) has been prepared in accordance with the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA), the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (CPPA), the Localism Act 2011 (2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (NPR) 2012. The Forum has agreed to further review this Plan once the upcoming Brighton & Hove City Plan ~~2041 Part One~~ and SDNPA Local Plan reviews are completed, so that this Plan ~~can may~~ stay in force until the revised Brighton & Hove City Plan ~~2041 Part One~~ expires, ~~which may be as late as, 2041~~.

2 The Plan covers the Plan Area (hereafter referred to as the 'Plan Area' (see Figure

~~1~~)—as formally designated by Brighton & Hove City Council and

the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) in December 2021. Since then, a Committee of the Coldean Neighbourhood Planning

1) _____ Forum (CNPF) have worked to deliver a Plan that actively responds to the Coldean communities' stated aspirations. As the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan should be approved before Brighton & Hove City Plan_ 2041-Part One will be ~~revised~~finalised, it should influence the review of ~~the~~ City Plan Part One on any future developments, large or small, in the Plan Area.

1.1 EVOLUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT

3 In December 2021 Brighton & Hove City Council and South Downs National Park Authority approved the creation of the Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum for the agreed Plan Area. The work on this Neighbourhood Plan has been undertaken by a committee comprised of local Forum members and volunteers with advice from town planning and architectural consultants, and technical support and cash grants from Locality (the umbrella body supporting and funding Neighbourhood Planning Forums nationwide in England). Details of all the neighbourhood plans in the Brighton & Hove City Council planning authority area can be found online¹. ~~at~~ <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/planning-building/neighbourhood-plans/>. The closest are in West Saltdean, Rottingdean, Brighton_ Marina and Hove Station neighbourhoods. Details of neighbourhood plans and planning policy in the South Downs National Park can be found online². ~~at~~ <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/>

¹ <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/planning-building/neighbourhood-plans/>.

² <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/>

1.2 HOW THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE USED

4 This Plan should be used by all Coldean residents, local authorities and developers and other stakeholders, alongside other Development Plan documents to understand how future development in the Plan Area should occur. For applications that require planning permission, whether proposing a scheme or assessing the acceptability of a scheme, the policies contained within this document are a key material consideration. ~~For a planning application to be considered favourably, A~~all relevant policies contained within this plan should be considered when assessing planning applications. ~~and complied with.~~ Where development does not require planning permission the community encourages adherence to the ~~would still like development proposals to adhere to the aspirations and objectives set out within~~outlined in this document. ~~It is accepted that the Policies in this Plan can only control development that requires planning permission. However, it is an aspiration of the local community that all development, including permitted developments, will have regard to the objectives set out within this Plan.~~

1.3 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

5 The Localism Act 2011 introduced new rights and powers to allow local communities to shape new development by preparing Neighbourhood Plans. A Neighbourhood Plan establishes planning policies for the development and use of land, for example where new homes should be built and what they should look like. Neighbourhood Plans allow local people to influence the type of development for their area while contributing to the wider needs of the area. The Government published the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in February 2019. The NPPF was amended by the Department for Levelling

respect 'Green Belt' designations of land or equivalents from development, and by the new Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in December 2024. The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. The NPPF confirms neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies. There is no 'Green Belt' land in the Brighton & Hove area.

6 The current documents in the Council Development Plans for BHCC can be found on the Brighton & Hove City Council website³

~~at <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/planning-building/> containing any development plan that covers their area and states that: Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area. Neighbourhood plans can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development, by influencing local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan. Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area or undermine those strategic policies.~~ The current documents for the Development Plan in the SDNP can be found on the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) website.⁴
~~at <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/>~~

7 Once a neighbourhood plan has been approved by Referendum, the

policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in a local plan covering the neighbourhood area, where they are in conflict, unless they are superseded by strategic or non-strategic policies that are adopted subsequently. The Development Plans for the Neighbourhood area ~~are currently the~~ comprise a number of documents, the principal ones being Brighton & Hove City Plan Parts One and Two, and the South Downs Local Plan, which set out the strategic and other planning policies intended to guide development until 2030/2033 respectively.

³ <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/planning-building/>

⁴ <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/>

02. VISION AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 COLDEAN IN 2030

8 From the inaugural Forum Meeting in November 2021 and then specifically the Visions Meetings in November 2022, the Forum prepared their Vision for the Neighbourhood Plan which is:

VISION

‘To remain a residential suburb of Brighton as a family friendly community with uninterrupted connection to Stanmer Park, the Wild Park and Highfields, all within the South Downs National Park.’

Figure 3: Park Road looking uphill

2.2 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN OBJECTIVES

9 The November 2022 Visions Meetings also agreed the Forum’s objectives which are:

OBJECTIVES

- (a)** To preserve from development the existing green spaces in, and surrounding, the Neighbourhood Area. (See Policies LGS1 and LCS1)
- (b)** To preserve and encourage a variety of wildlife habitats in those areas. (See Policies E1 - E5)
- (c)** To encourage families to live in Coldean by controlling the number of HMOs. (See Policy H1)
- (d)** To improve the appearance of Coldean and thereby increase community identity. (See Policies H2 and DC1)
- (e)** To work with other agencies to reduce crime and other anti-social behaviour. ~~(Added April 2024)~~ (See Policy C1)
- (f)** To encourage retail diversity by improving the appearance of Coldean. (See Policy DC1)
- (g)** To increase accessibility to Green Open Spaces by traffic management and improve access to green spaces. (See Policies T1 - T6)
- (h)** To promote sustainable development that helps Coldean to respond to the impacts of water scarcity, flooding, and climate change into the future. ~~(Added December 2024)~~ (See Policies E4 (d) & (e) and E5 (e))

Figure 4: The Roundway

03. ABOUT THE PLAN AREA

Figure 5: Aerial view of Coldean

3.1 THE AREA

10 Coldean is an area of North Brighton. It is bounded to the east by a trunk road, now designated the A270, the Lewes Road.

~~11~~—The northern boundary was formerly marked by Coldean Lane, but the most recent developments lie beyond have “jumped”

~~11~~ this and are now located to the north of the original settlement. The northern boundary is in effect the A27 trunk road, known as ‘the Bypass’ (managed by National Highways).

12 The area is bounded to the west by the ridge line of a hill, along which runs Ditchling Road. Development of Coldean stops short of this boundary partly because the topography precludes development on the upper slopes and partly because the boundary forms part

of a natural countryside gap between Coldean and the immediate neighbouring area of Patcham.

13 The South Downs s National Park runs down the field from Ditchling Road to the perimeter road, Saunders Hill and Reeves Hill, which has housing on the Coldean side only.

~~14~~—To the south, there is another natural countryside gap, separating Coldean from the rest of Brighton. This comprises an area of open ground and parkland,

~~14~~ kknown as Wild Park. These perimeters give Coldean a distinct area and identity, which this Plan aims to preserve and enhance.

15 The area is essentially a chalk valley which runs on a slightly northwest/southeast alignment, at the southern edge of the South Downs National Park.

3.2 HERITAGE

16 Coldean has been inhabited for thousands of years. For example, post holes for neolithic Round Houses were excavated in Ingham Drive and near the Varley Halls area. The neolithic Hill Fort at Hollingbury is close by the Plan Area. The majority of house building has, however, taken place postwar, from the 1940s onward.

17 A full history of Coldean can be found on the following website: http://www.bevendeanhistory.org.uk/beyond/coldean_in_ancient_times.html

18 Much of Coldean's current character derives from its topography and the rising contours of the residential estate which affords wider views on all sides. The maximum elevation is 135m above the Ordinance Datum (AOD) in the northwest of the Plan Area.

Figure 6: Reconstruction of a structure found in Coldean, from circa BC 900. These would be covered in rain resistant materials, and would be found near Round Houses, which are larger and sturdier structures.

3.3 SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

19 The South Downs National Park Authority has two purposes, the first of which is to “conserve and enhance” the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the South Downs National Park.

20 Coldean lies partly within the Southern boundary of the South Downs National Park. While the majority of Coldean is not within the South Downs National Park, the park authority plays a role in the broader management and planning for the surrounding area to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park and its setting.

3.4 POPULATION

21 Between 2011 and 2021, Office for National Statistics (ONS) Population Census data reveal that Coldean experienced an 8% population increase, primarily driven by a rise in the number of children in the village.

22 Notably, there was a more substantial increase in the male population than the female population during this period. Please see the more detailed and bespoke Population report on the Coldean Area from the ONS at Appendix 1.

23 Demographically, Coldean stands out with a higher number of children at primary school age compared to a broader sample of age data in Brighton. However, there appears to be fewer people between 25 - 30 years old than expected, possibly reflecting their lack of access to the housing in the area.

24 Marital trends in Coldean have mirrored the national pattern of fewer people getting married. The number of single individuals increased significantly by 87%, while the number of married individuals decreased by 7%. The village also saw a small rise in the number of individuals in registered same-sex civil partnerships.

25 Coldean is a culturally diverse community, with a notable presence of individuals from Continental Europe. The most significant percentage increase in ethnic groups was observed in White and Black Caribbean (336%) and Other ethnic groups (322%). However, the Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups showed a 21% decrease in population.

26 Household sizes in Coldean vary, with 2-person households being the majority at 29.7%, closely followed by 1-person households at 28.9%. This aligns with the national average of 2.4 people per dwelling. The total number of households in the village increased by 12% between 2011 and 2021.

27 Coldean is not a densely populated area, having an average of 18 dwellings per hectare; which gives rise to a spacious environment for residents. However, this was before the creation of the Bluebell Heights development; which added an additional 242 medium-rise dwellings, occupied from late 2023. Notably, during 2011-2021, detached households and purpose-built smaller blocks of flats saw substantial growth, while flats and apartments in shared houses decreased.

28 Property ownership saw minimal growth, with a 17% increase in outright ownership but a 13% decrease in properties owned with a mortgage or loan. The number of privately rented properties

surged by 54%, and rent-free living arrangements increased from 6 to 13.

29 Despite the population increase, the number of economically active individuals declined by 18%, while economically inactive individuals increased by 68%. This could be attributed to a 125% increase in retirees and a 52% rise in students, as well as an increase in children. The higher student population can be attributed to new developments in Varley Park, which added 764 student bedrooms between the 2011-2021 ONS Census data. Children are not economically active, so this is also a contributory factor, as well as parents taking on a full-time caring role whilst their children are young.

30 In terms of industries, wholesale and retail trade, along with vehicle repair, dominated at 20.5%. Other industries accounted for 38.7%, followed by human health and social work activities at 13.1% and construction at 12.6%. Agriculture and forestry were minimal contributors, as were electricity, gas, and water supply sectors.

31 Most residents aged 16 and above worked in professional occupations, showing a 96% increase from 2011 to 2021. Associated professional and technical occupations also saw growth, while administrative and secretarial roles and skilled trade occupations declined.

32 In conclusion, Coldean's population has seen shifts in demographics, household structures, and economic activity over the past decade. This summary provides a snapshot of the key trends and changes that have characterised the village during this period.

3.5 DEVELOPMENTS

33 The population figures above do not reflect the occupation of 242 new households in the Bluebell Heights development, from November 2023. This development substantially increased the number of households in the area by 18.7%. The number of residents in Coldean excluding students and Bluebell Heights residents was 2,993. The detailed Population Analyses can be found at Appendix 1. This also reveals an increase in households of only 12 between the 2011 and 2021 Population Censuses (See Appendix 1).

34 ~~It almost goes without saying that~~ Coldean cannot sustain further developments like Varley Halls or Bluebell Heights without the Village nature adversely being affected. The view is that there is insufficient infrastructure to support any more large developments, in terms of sewerage capacity (overspills already occur), or water supplies (water pressure is already lower as a result of the two developments named), and no additional facilities, ie, doctor, surgeries, etc, had been provided.

Figure 7: 1946 Image of Coldean Area
Courtesy of RAF106 Squadron

3.6 FUTURE

35 Households including residents aged 65 and over are projected to increase by 2030. Households with residents aged 55 to 64 are also projected to increase, with all other categories relatively stagnant. The data in the ~~draft~~ Neighbourhood Plan suggests that there is an under occupation of family-sized homes in Coldean due to the number of older households. These households may not downsize; and many children that have increased the population in the last decade will be moving up into secondary education or leaving home. This could affect Coldean Primary School's viability, in line with the wider picture of falling numbers of school age children across the whole of the City. Additional homes for older residents are suggested at section 4.4

Figure 8: 2023 Google Maps Image of Coldean Area

04. HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

4.1 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

36 Coldean was primarily built as a planned post-war development, during the 1940s. There is a mix of two storied terraced and semi-detached dwellings. There is relatively little scope for more building on a large scale within the village built up area (see figure 13), as is confirmed by the relatively small increase in dwellings of 12 % between the 2011 and 2021, that is 178 more regular residents. See ONS dwelling data/table below, which has been extracted from Appendix 1 to the Plan (Our Population). The ONS provided a bespoke population calculation excluding areas outside of the Coldean Area. They calculated that the population of Coldean in the 2021 Census was: “total household population of 2,933 and a communal ie including Varley Halls, establishment population of 3,562”. In 2011 the total household population was 2,759, so there was an 8% increase. In recent years, the largest developments have been on the north side of Coldean Lane. These have been the Varley Halls Student residential buildings, and the Bluebell Heights development by the Council in conjunction with Hyde Housing, which ~~has was recently been~~ completed and occupied from late 2023.

37 The Council has recently confirmed (end of 2023) that there will be a greater focus on developers seeking to carry out large scale developments to evidence public consultation and ensure they carry out a ‘Planning Performance Agreement’.

38 The Brighton & Hove City Council Housing Needs Assessment 2015 informed the City Plan Part One; this is where the objectively assessed need for 30,210 homes by 2030 was identified. The City Plan Part One (now being updated) had a housing target of 13,200 new homes to 2030. The 2024 Strategic Housing Market Assessment has recently been published and this will inform the new City Plan Part One review of housing policies and the new housing target to 2041 (Strategic Housing Market Assessment - August 2023 (<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk>)). On a pro rata basis, Coldean would need to provide 105 new dwellings. In 2023 alone, it provided 242. The Council have confirmed there is no building target for the Coldean area as at the time of writing.

Figure 9: Coldean Primary School and Bluebell Heights Development

The table below illustrates dwelling types with Coldean, and the changes in ONS Census Data statistics between 2011 and 2021.

Dwelling Type	2011		2021		Change (%)
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	
Total: All households	933	100%	1,046	100%	+12%
Unshared dwelling	933	100%			
Shared dwelling: Two household spaces	0	0%			
Shared dwelling: Three or more household spaces	0	0%			
All categories: Household spaces	933	100%			
Household spaces with at least one usual resident	923	99%			
Household spaces with no usual residents	10	1%			
Whole house or bungalow: Detached	51	5%	63	6.0%	+24%
Whole house or bungalow: Semi-detached	507	54%	532	50.9%	+5%
Whole house or bungalow: Terraced (including end-terrace)	214	23%	247	23.6%	+15%
Flat, maisonette or apartment: Purpose-built block of flats or tenement	125	13%	173	16.5%	+38%
Flat, maisonette or apartment: Part of a converted or shared house (including bed-sits)	31	3%	24	2.3%	-23%
Flat, maisonette or apartment: In a commercial building	5	1%	3	0.3%	-40%
Part of another converted building, for example, former school, church or warehouse			4	0.4%	
Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	0	0%	0	0.0%	

Figure 10: Extract from ONS dwellings data in Coldean, which does not include the Bluebell Heights numbers

39 The type of statistics and data sets in figure 10 vary somewhat between 2011 and 2021, however some comparisons can be made.

40 The number of total households has increased from 933 to 1,046 in 2021 which signifies a 12% increase. By 2023, 242 new dwellings (all flats) were provided at Bluebell Heights, increasing the number of households in Coldean by 23%.

41 The most notable change is that detached houses or bungalows ~~have~~ had increased occupancy by 24%, due to occupation of previously empty houses.

42 Most dwellings in Coldean are semi-detached and the number of these types of dwelling have increased from 507 to 532, although this ~~is was~~ a decrease from 54% to 50.9% of the total housing stock.

43 The greatest percentage increase ~~was is~~ in purpose-built blocks of flats, which increased by 38% (this figure does not include Bluebell Heights flats).

44 There has been a decrease in the number of flats, maisonettes or apartments which are part of a converted or shared house (including bedsits) from 31 to 24 (23% decrease) and a decrease in the number of flats, maisonettes or apartments in a commercial building from 5 to 3 (40% decrease).

45 It is clear that there were 113 extra dwellings in Coldean between 2011 and 2021, housing 178 extra people, based on the ONS data. The trend is less than 2 people per dwelling but it does depend on age and mix of the Coldean population. The average number of occupants per Coldean household in 2011 was 2.95 per dwelling, and in 2021, this decreased to 2.8. Since 2021, Bluebell Heights has added 242 new households to Coldean.

4.2 HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

46 As part of our Neighbourhood Plan the Committee consulted with AECOM on Housing Needs in Coldean and also with our Planning Consultant, in conjunction with the Locality Housing Needs Toolkit. The AECOM approach, and indeed the Toolkit approach were both considered quite complex and the Forum adopted a simpler methodology for assessing Housing and Development Needs. This was based on our bespoke ONS data set; it would alternatively be possible to consider Council Tax information on households, although this was much less detailed

Figure 11: Rushlake Road

and not computerised in 2011, and the comparisons data less reliable. Essentially, an assessment of housing needs in an area is based on a projection of numbers of residents expected in the Planning period, their ageing and demographic and any special housing needs, as compared with number and size of dwellings, and the space available. In general, this Plan does not envisage a significant ordinary resident population growth, after integrating residents on the Bluebell Heights development. [Coldean has more HMOs \(98 at the time the Planning Forum started\) within households of 4 or more bedrooms than the BHCC average of 16.7%](#) It is believed Coldean has more HMOs and households with 4 or more bedrooms than the BHCC average of 16.7%.

47 All Policies for Section 4 of this Plan (apart from the Policies at Section 4.3 on HMOs which were the subject of a separate Consultation) were posted on the website and publicly consulted on in January 2024. Whilst there was no adverse feedback from the Consultation we do know that nearly 150 visits to the www.cnpf.co.uk website occurred on the day after the Consultation was launched.

48 The Council will be updating its Statement of Community Involvement (which sets out the requirements for consultation on planning policy documents and with planning applications). This Plan endorses a full consultation approach by the Council before there is any future large scale development in the Area. There will be a greater focus on developers seeking to carry out large scale developments to evidence public consultation and ensure they carry out a 'Planning Performance Agreement'.

4.3 HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOs)

49 HMOs are defined by the Use Classes

Order as: 'Houses in multiple occupation - Small shared houses occupied by between

three and six unrelated individuals, as their only or main residence, who share basic amenities such as a kitchen or bathroom.’ [Larger HMOs house 7 or more individuals.](#) The number and use of HMOs in Brighton is affected by the [current](#) population of approximately 37,000 university students. This is particularly significant for the Plan Area because of the proximity of two universities, Sussex and Brighton Universities, and specifically the 764 bedrooms in the student accommodation of Varley Hall for Brighton University, which is classified as a Class C2 building or ‘Residential Institution’.

50 The potential negative impacts of high concentrations of HMOs, include noise, anti-social behaviour, the impact on the streetscape, pressure on services, change in the traditional neighbourhood of the Plan Area and reduced community cohesion.

51 There are also concerns over remote landlords not maintaining properties and additional pressures on families being unable to afford properties in the area with the increased student demand. In the Plan Area, HMOs ranked the highest amongst residents’ concerns in the inaugural and Vision meetings in November 2022, particularly regarding anti-social behaviour and social cohesion.

52 The Brighton & Hove City Plan includes policies for managing HMOs, such as restrictions on new HMO locations and supports the conversion of HMOs back into family homes. It also outlines criteria for granting planning permission for new HMOs and conversions, and licensing arrangements with landlords. There are alternative approaches to student living in Brighton & Hove [for example through the SEASALT Housing Co-operative](#), which aims to address issues related to student accommodation.

53 Using data from the 2021 Census we assess the student population of Coldean to be over 44%. This is based

on the number of bedrooms at Varley Park student accommodation a PBSA (Purpose-Built Student Accommodation) and the number of HMOs on academic year tenancies as a proportion of the 'usual residents' population of Coldean. Using the Council Tax List and excluding Varley Park, HMO's account for around 7% of dwellings in Coldean, namely 94 HMOs.

54 [The Neighbourhood Plan policies](#) on HMOs below ~~are~~[is](#) informed by criteria set out in [policy DM7 in the Brighton & Hove City Plan Part Two](#), adopted on 24 October 2022. [Policy DM7 City Plan Part Two](#) sets out conditions for one change of use to HMOs and acknowledges the potential negative impacts of high concentrations of HMOs in a residential area. At two Open Forum meetings members were asked to order their concerns. Most responses ranked HMOs as first or second priority. This was reinforced by many email messages received from Forum members regarding HMOs.

55 We are aware that other Neighbourhood Forums with a concentration of HMOs have policies limiting HMOs unless certain criteria are met. However, we have not found a Neighbourhood Forum with a comparable concentration of HMOs together with Student Halls of residence. We have found that 98 HMOs existed out of the 1,046 households in the 2021 ONS Census data for Coldean (9% of all households). Since then, we are aware that HMOs numbers have fallen to 94, a downward trend we encourage.

56 The criteria of 20% of dwellings for students in City Plan Part Two does apply to Coldean, but does not take account of the impact of the sheer number of students in Varley Park, as a PBSA building is not counted in the 20% calculation. The residents' experience (in the 764 units advised by University of Brighton) is of some 1,351 students [or short](#)

[term student tourists using student accommodation](#) in addition to their community of regular residents

POLICY H1 - HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOs)

Development involving the conversion or extension of a building to a house in multiple occupation will only be permitted provided:

- (a) The proposal would not harm the character and appearance of the building;
- (b) The use of the building would not have an unacceptable impact on neighbouring properties i.e. noise disruption;
- (c) Internal and external amenity space complying with DM1 and DM7 of Brighton City Plan Part 2, refuse storage and car and bicycle parking complying with SPD14 is provided at an appropriate quantity, to a high standard so as not to harm visual amenity;
- (d) The proposal would not cause unacceptable highway problems;
- ~~(e) The proposal would not result in an over concentration of HMOs in any one area of Coldean to reflect CPP2, and DM7;~~
- ~~(f) If parking spaces would be lost as a result of the development, this may need to be replaced elsewhere within the curtilage of the dwelling, or the change of use will need to be a car-free development with the future residents retracted from applying for parking permits.~~
- e) The proposals include appropriate provision of car parking

2,993, before the occupation of Bluebell Heights. Therefore, in consideration of the impact of student HMOs on Coldean, the population of Varley Park is highly significant.

57 The total number of HMOs in the Neighbourhood Area is more than the average number of HMOs in all other City wards. Consequently, Policy H1 has been developed, with advice from our consultants.

58 The main potential for additional development within Coldean itself is infill sites, for example those areas currently occupied by lock-up garages, ie Rusper Road and behind the Park Road shops, also in Hawkhurst Road. Developing these areas with additional housing may also be considered to be a way of improving detrimental sites within Coldean. The topography of the area may adversely affect the financial feasibility of constructing buildings in the already built-up area.

Figure 12: Aerial view of Coldean Lane

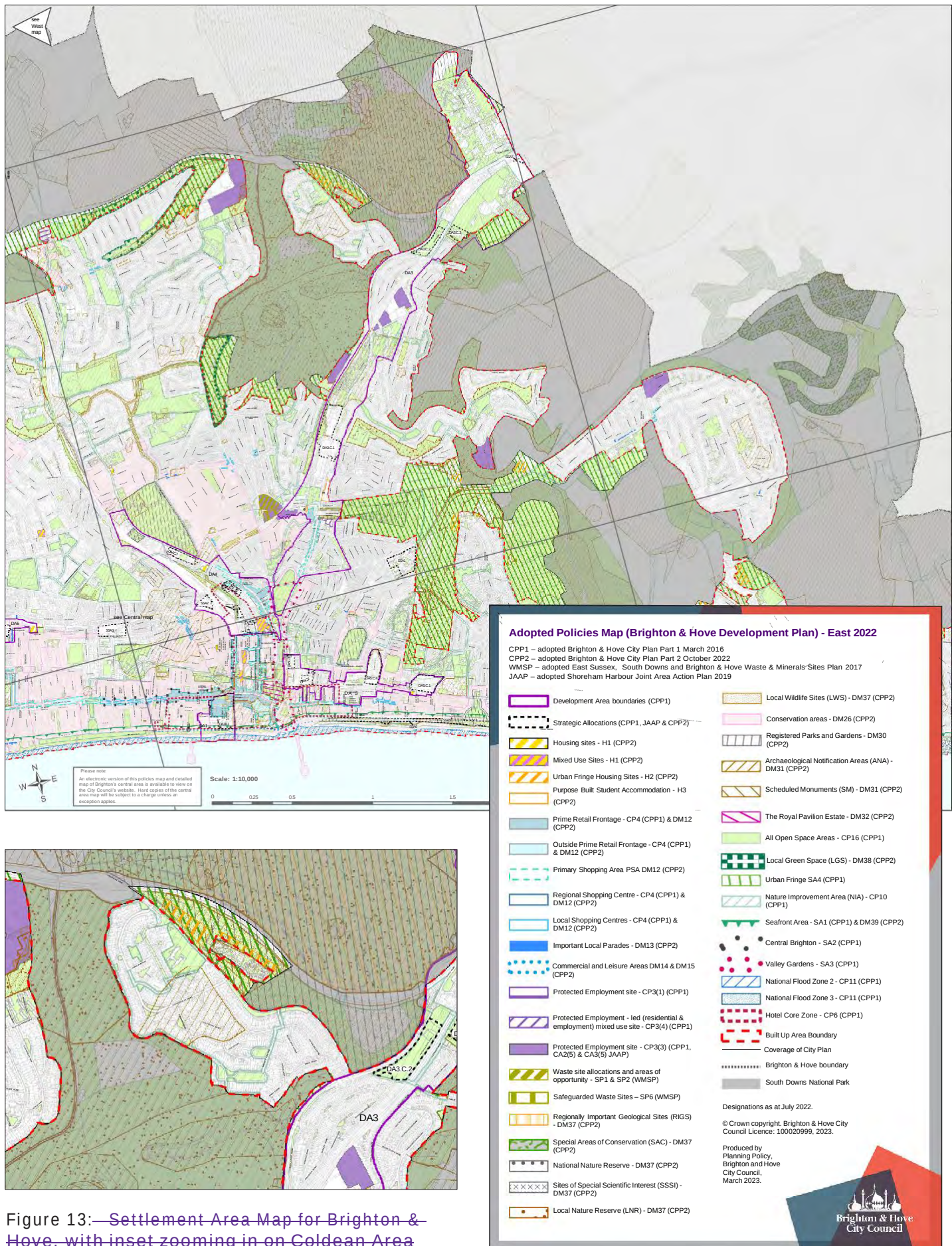


Figure 13:—Settlement Area Map for Brighton & Hove, with inset zooming in on Coldean Area. Extracts from the adopted Policies Map of the Brighton & Hove City Plan.

59 ~~We attach~~ Figure 13 shows the Map of the Built Up Area and Settlement Boundary for Brighton & Hove with an inset for the Coldean Area. We do not expect the Council to amend the Settlement planning boundary during the Neighbourhood Plan period. The main Development Policy for the settlement of Coldean is to demolish and rebuild, or refurbish and improve, existing dwellings and housing stock, as the topography of the neighbourhood provides a natural curb on building.

~~60—New dwellings will only be built in infill sites or where it improves detrimental sites.~~ We do not forecast much population growth in the area during the Plan period during the last ONS Population Census 10. year period the absolute increase in regular residents was less than 200 (see figure 10)

60

POLICY H2 - NEW DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN EXISTING BUILT UP AREA OR SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY

Proposals for new residential and mixed-use development within the Coldean settlement boundary will be supported where they are appropriately located and of a high standard of design, contributing positively to the character, sustainability, and cohesion of the neighbourhood. Development will be expected to:

(a) Respect Local Character: Reflect the form, scale, massing, and materials of surrounding buildings and respond to Coldean's distinct identity, as set out in the Coldean Design Guidance & Codes, more specifically 1.SP.01.

(b) Promote High-Quality, Sustainable Design: Incorporate

sustainable design principles including energy efficiency, biodiversity enhancement, water conservation, and climate resilience. Make use of renewable energy technologies and low-carbon construction methods wherever feasible.

(c) ~~Ensure Good Accessibility and Connectivity.~~ Provide safe and inclusive access for all users, including those with limited mobility. Connect effectively to surrounding streets, paths, and public transport networks.

(d) ~~Protect Amenity and Liveability.~~ Avoid unacceptable impacts on the amenity of neighbouring properties, including privacy, overshadowing, noise, and overdevelopment. Provide high-quality internal and external space for future occupants.

(e) Support Infrastructure and Community Facilities: Make provision for any necessary supporting infrastructure to meet the needs of the development. ~~Demonstrate that adequate infrastructure (e.g. transport, drainage, schools, health services) is available or can be provided to support the development.~~ Development proposals for 10 or more dwellings, or for non residential developments that meet these criteria and demonstrate early community engagement will be considered favourably.

4.4 HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

61 The demographic shift towards an older population (see Our Population statistics) prompts the need for specialist housing with additional care for older people. This is a nationwide issue, as well as an issue in Coldean. [There were 470 people aged 60 or over in the 2011 Census and 507 in the 2021 Census living in Coldean, an increase of 37 people.](#)

62 There are currently 54 units of specialist accommodation for older individuals in the ONS study, in Coldean, with around 90% available for social rent for those in financial need. However, there may be a gap in the market for older people who do not qualify for social rented provision.

63 Proposals that enable the sensitive and sustainable adaptation of existing homes to better meet the needs of older residents will be supported, particularly where they enable residents to remain in their own homes and within the local community as their needs change. Adaptations may include, but are not limited to: (a) The installation of stairlifts, ramps, level-access showers, and widened doorways, (b) Extensions or internal reconfigurations to provide ground-floor bedrooms and accessible bathrooms (c) The provision of step-free access to entrances or gardens (d) Energy efficiency upgrades that improve comfort and reduce running costs for elderly residents. Development should: (a) Be well integrated with the host property and surrounding streetscape. (b) Avoid adverse impacts on the amenity of neighbouring properties. (c) Where planning permission is required, demonstrate that adaptations are in keeping with local character and design guidance, including the Coldean Design Guidance & Codes. Proposals that provide shared or flexible adaptation solutions (e.g.

grouped improvements across a terrace or block) will also be welcomed.

64 Estimating the future need for specialist housing involves population projections, disability rates, and the current housing tenure of the 60 + age group. Two estimation methods using a Housing Needs Toolkit result in a range of 11 to 20 specialist accommodation units required by 2030 and 20 to 36 by 2037. These estimates assume that today's older households are adequately accommodated but may need to be exceeded if found otherwise.

65 The breakdown of care and tenure within specialist housing shows the greatest need (67%-70%) for market specialist housing, with extra-care and sheltered housing having a similar demand. Making new housing more accessible and adaptable can help meet some of [this-the needs of an ageing population](#). Location and cost-effectiveness are vital factors for providing specialist housing for older people. Coldean is considered a suitable location, and partnering with specialist developers is recommended to introduce more housing options for older individuals. Regarding care homes, it is estimated (in City Plan Part Two Policy DM4) that by 2030, there might be a need for an additional 3 care home beds in Coldean or 5 by 2037 due to the expected increase in the older population. Some of this need could potentially be met by more care-intensive independent housing options.

66 The adopted BHCC Plan Part Two policy DM1 Housing Quality, Choice and Mix sets targets for new housing to meet national standards for accessibility and adaptability, ensuring that 10% of affordable homes and 5% of market homes on sites with 10+ dwellings are suitable for mobility or wheelchair standard units (Category M4(3)).

Figure 14: The Roundway

05. COLDEAN OPEN SPACES, LOCAL COMMUNITY SPACES AND LOCAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES

5.1 OPEN SPACES

Introduction

67 In November 2022, the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan Forum conducted a Community Consultation with two events, the Vision meetings, where the community expressed a strong interest in preserving open and green spaces. The natural environment was a top priority, with 26% of participants ranking it highly. In response, the Forum prepared an Open Spaces document to identify and protect Local Green Spaces and Local Community Spaces for the Coldean community, aligning with the Neighbourhood Plan's planning policies.

68 The Local Green Space designation, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), is the highest level of protection that can be afforded to special green areas that hold local significance, including beauty, historic value, recreational use, tranquillity, or rich wildlife.

69 Local Green Spaces offer protection similar to Green Belt areas, without imposing additional restrictions on landowners. This designation is reserved for the most important green areas within Coldean.

70 Spaces that do not meet all the criteria for Local Green Space designation but are still valued by the community, can be designated as Local Community Spaces, offering some protection against inappropriate development.

71 The methodology for identifying, assessing, and validating these spaces involves considering proximity to the community, local significance, the character of the area, and current community use. Land ownership is not a deciding factor in this assessment.

72 The assessment process included evaluating the open spaces against the NPPF criteria and conducting a validation check to ensure Local Green Spaces (LGS) conform to NPPF guidelines, including planning permissions, landowner consultation, and existing protections.

73 Several Open spaces were identified through consultation, including the desire to preserve '39 Acres' field, Coldean Woods, and other green spaces within the Coldean plan area. Green Verges, while not assessed under the same criteria, were also identified and mapped.

74 For a comprehensive list of the identified spaces and Green Verges, please refer to the document listed at Appendix 2. These identified spaces play a crucial role in the Neighbourhood Plan going forwards, being protected from development if the Plan is approved.

75 This aspect of the Neighbourhood Plan is in conformity with national policy, in general conformity with Brighton & Hove City Council's development plan and the South Downs Local Plan / Development Plan for any Open Spaces referred to in the SDNPA part of the Neighbourhood Area. It also meets the aspirations of the community.

5.2 SPACES CATEGORISATION SUMMARY – LOCAL GREEN SPACES, LOCAL COMMUNITY SPACES AND LOCAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES

76 The Open spaces designations that are considered in this section of the Plan are:

Designation	About
LOCAL GREEN SPACE (LGS)	A designation set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. Can only be designated where the area is demonstrably special to the local community. Once designated as a Local Green Space, an area has protection consistent with that of Green Belt, but otherwise there are no new restrictions or obligations on landowners. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used: • where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves; • where the green area is 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), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; • where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
LOCAL COMMUNITY SPACE (LCS)	Whilst not a designation set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, communities are able to designate Local Community Spaces that do not meet the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space, but are still special to the local community and warrant some protection through a neighbourhood plan. Whilst these spaces are not protected to the same degree as Local Green Space, they may still be protected from inappropriate development that would usually diminish the public benefit that these spaces provide.
LOCAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES (LCF)	Whilst not a designation set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, these are facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open spaces, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship. National Policy, in summary, urges plan makers to plan positively in their regard and the Brighton and Hove City Plan Part Two Policy DM9 seeks to retain Community Facilities, <u>which are mapped separately later in this section, as they are considered to be separate to Local Green Spaces or Local Community Spaces.-</u>

77 Open Spaces in the Neighbourhood Area have been identified and categorised for preservation as summarised, green, yellow or red in the table and map below; the full analyses and recommendations

agreed by the Forum in July 2023 are found at Appendix 2. Subsequently it was accepted (in April 2024) that the OS4 (Site 21a) could not be designated as a Local Green Space.

Spaces OS2 (Coldean Woods), OS3 (Varley Park) and OS4 (Site 21a) fall within in the Stanmer Park and Gardens Woodland Management Plan for tree management. Sites OS1 (The Park) and OS2 (Coldean Woods) also fall with the South Downs National Park Area.

Ref	Name / Location	Reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	Holds particular local and special significance	The area is local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The area is actively used by the community	Does the site proceed to the validation stage?
OS1	A270 Parkland (as referred to as "The Park")	✓	✓	✓	✓	
OS2	Coldean Woods Open Space	✓	✓	✓	✓	
OS3	Coldean Woods (Varley Park south eastwards to highway)	✓	✓	✗	✓	
OS4	Land north of Varley Park (North Glade and Long Glade)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
OS5	47 Hectares (SDNP)	✓	✓	✗	✓	
OS6	Roundway Open Space	✓	✓	✓	✓	
OS7	Roundway / Reeves Hill Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✓	
OS8	The Meadows / Reeves Hill Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✓	
OS9	Highfields Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✓	
OS10	Saunders Hill / Crawley Road Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✗	
OS12	Coldean Lane, South Side (Forest Road to St Mary Magdalen Church Hall)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
OS13	Standean Close Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✗	
OS14	Hawkhurst Place Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✗	
OS15	Hawkhurst Road / Saunders Hill Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✗	
OS16	Beatty Avenue Northern Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✗	
OS17	Wolseley Road Northern Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✗	
OS18	Beatty Avenue Southern Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✓	
OS19	Talbot Crescent Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✗	
OS20	Waldron Avenue / Hawkhurst Road Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✗	
OS21	Arlington Crescent Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✗	
OS22	Haig Avenue Open Space	✓	✓	✓	✓	
OS23	The Charltons Allotment Gardens	✓	✗	✓	✓	
OS24	Selham Close Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✗	
OS25	Wolseley Road Southern Open Space and Play Area	✓	✓	✓	✓	
OS26	Nanson Road / Reeves Hill Open Space	✓	✗	✓	✓	
OS41	Coldean Lane, South Side (No. 29 to Forest Road Junction)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
OS42	Beatty Avenue Shopping Parade	✓	✓	✓	✓	

LGS
LCS

Local Green Open Space
Local Community Space
Does not meet criteria

Figure 15: Summary of Open Spaces analysis grid

MAPS OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES

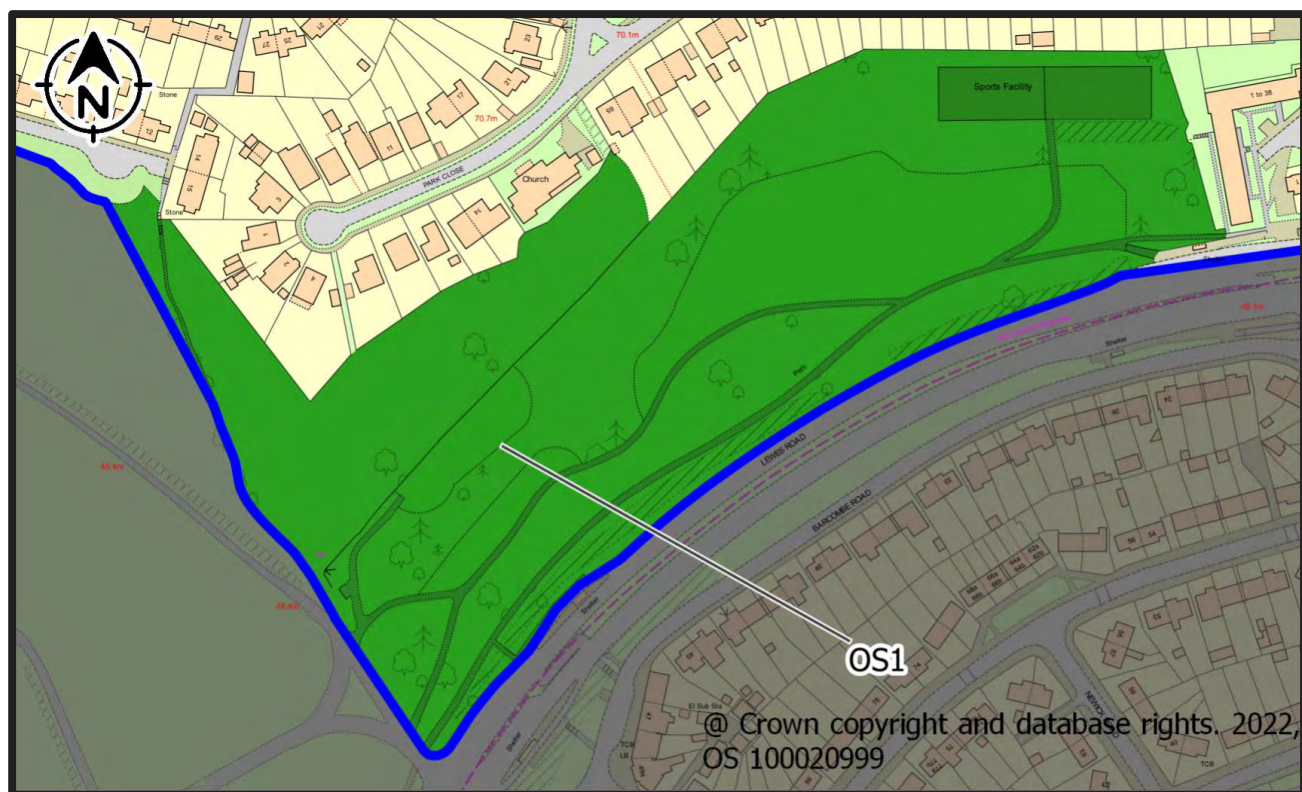


Figure 16: OS1 A270 Parkland (referred to as **“The Park”**)

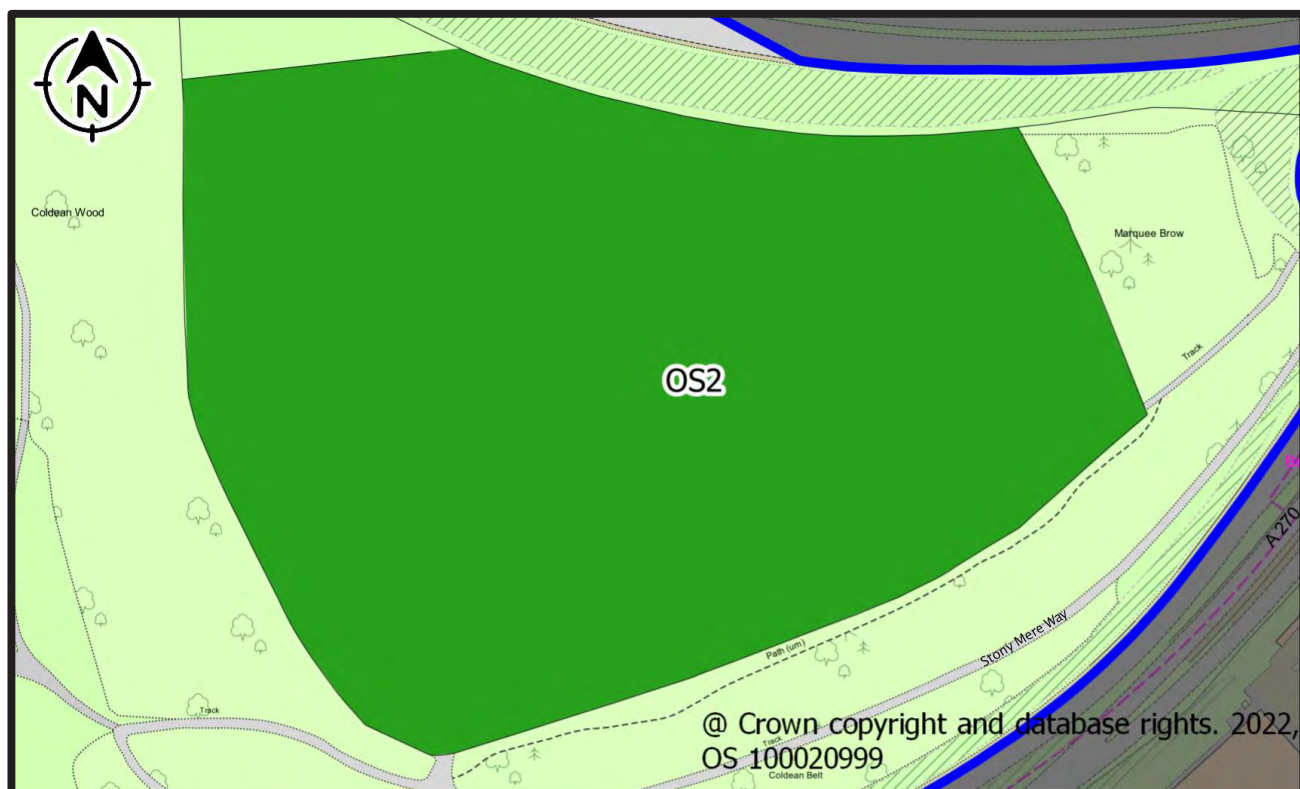


Figure 17: OS2 Coldean Woods Open Space

MAPS OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES

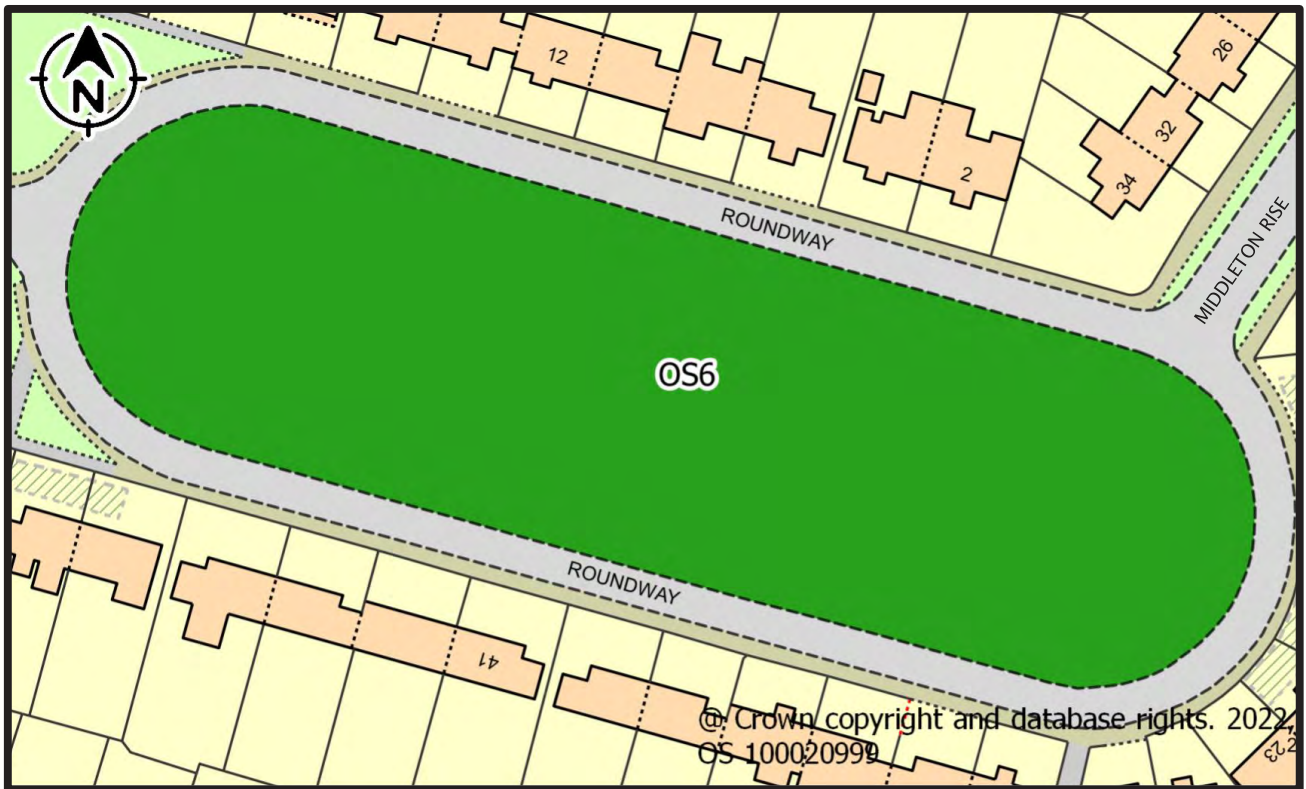


Figure 18: OS6 Roundway Open Space

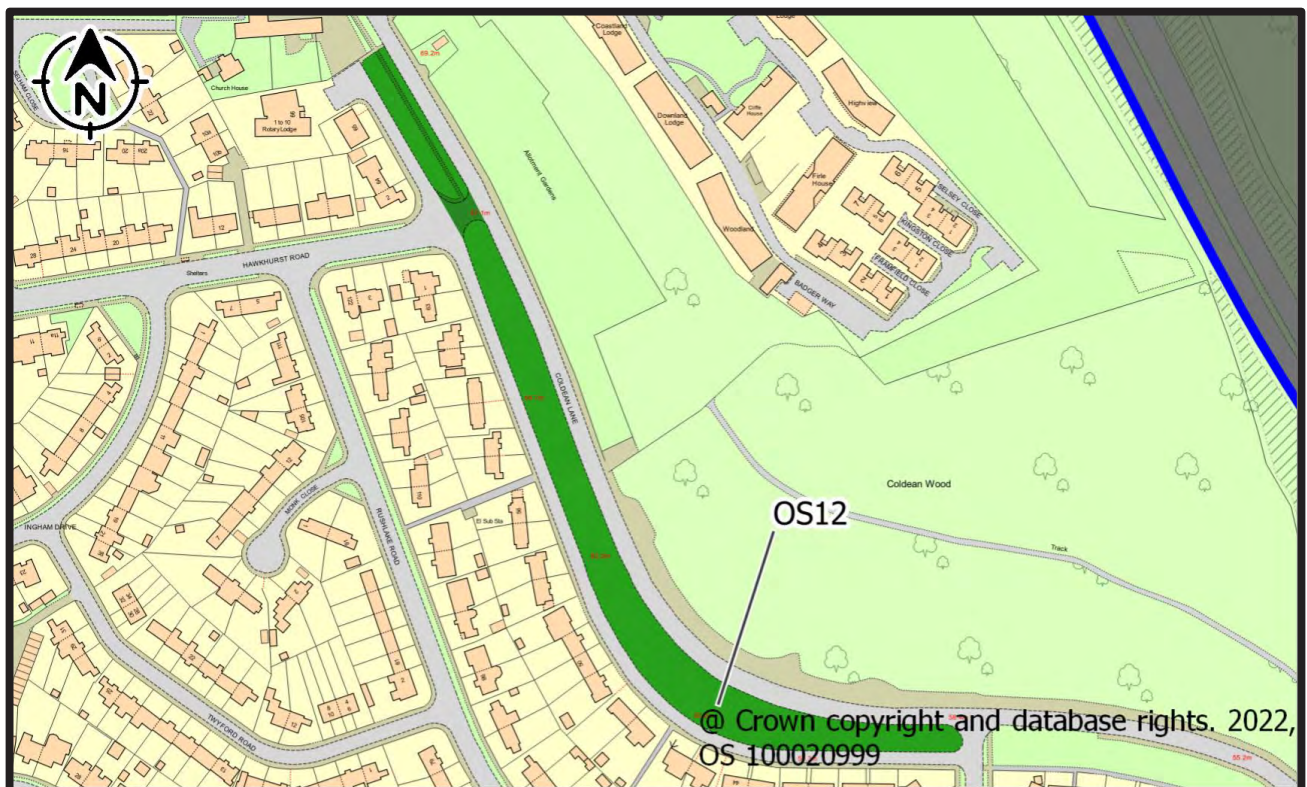


Figure 19: OS12 Coldean Lane, South Side (Forest Road to St Mary Magdalen Church Hall)

MAPS OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES

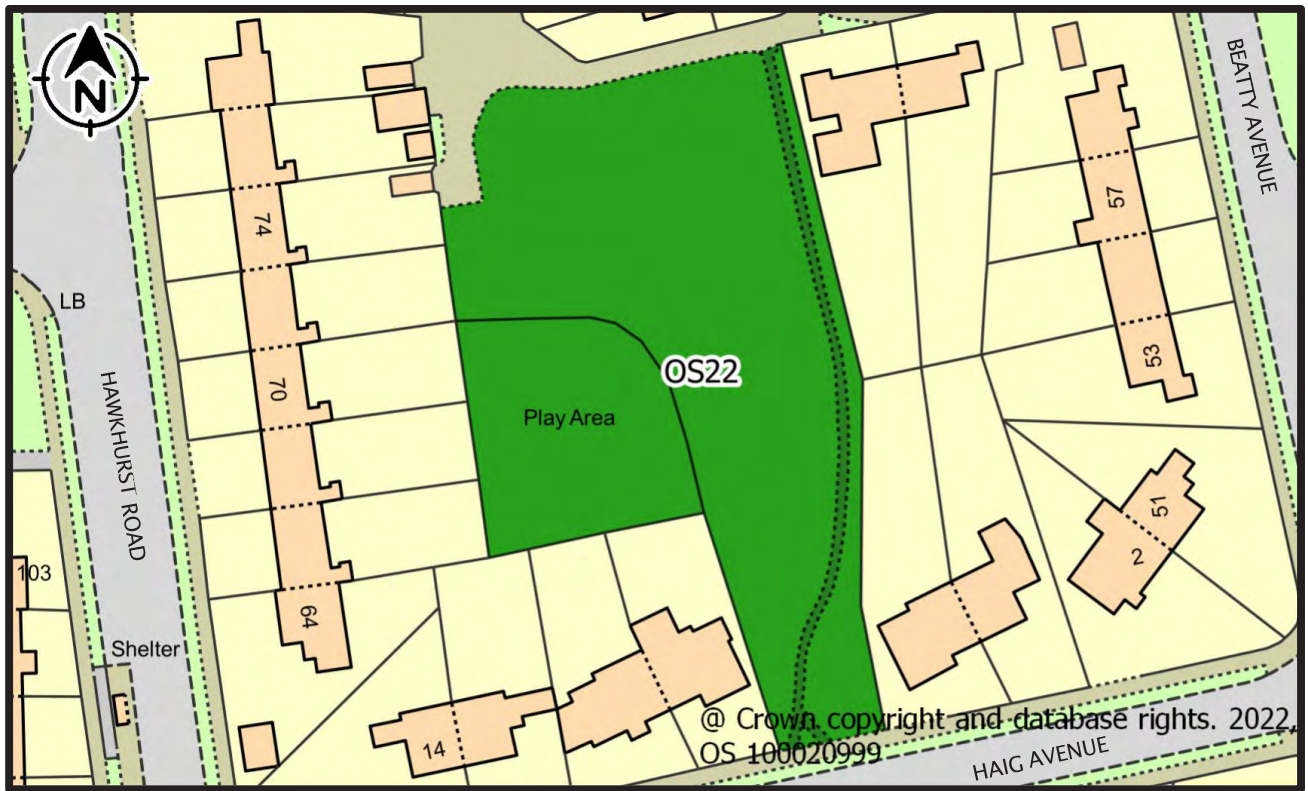


Figure 20: OS22 Haig Avenue Open Space



Figure 21: OS25 Wolseley Road Southern Open Space and Play Area

MAPS OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES

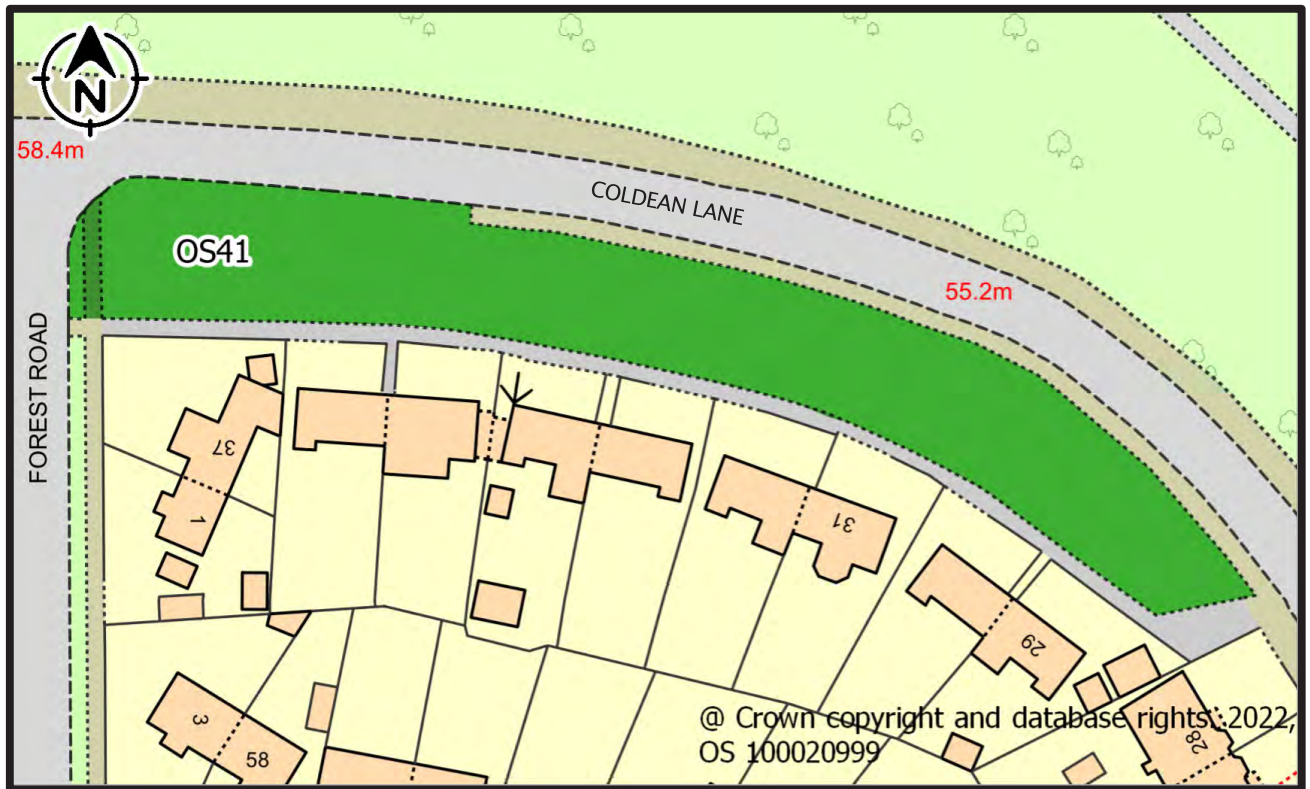


Figure 22: OS41 Coldean Lane, South Side (No. 29 to Forest Road Junction). OS41 includes a planted wildflower meadow at the western end.

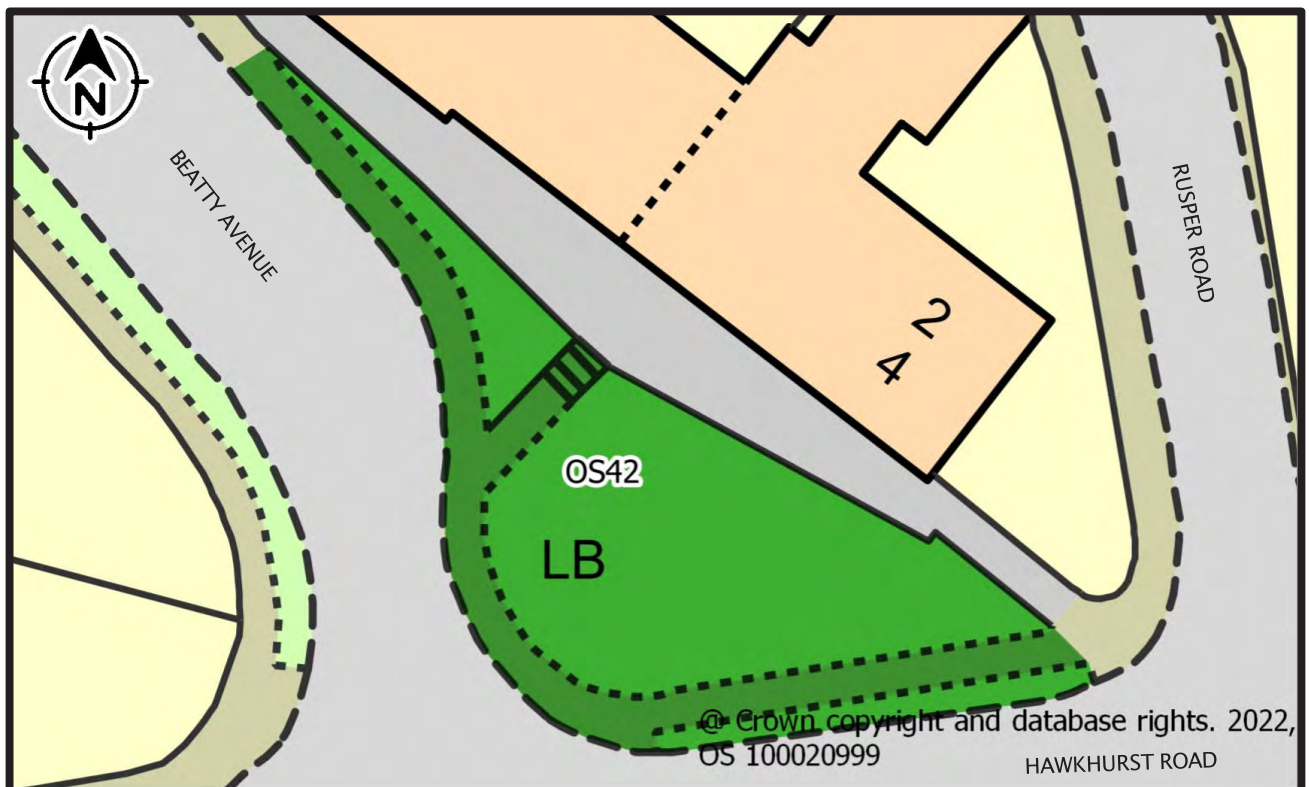


Figure 23: OS42 Beatty Avenue Shopping Parade

78 These designations of Open Spaces and Policies were approved by the Forum at the July 2023 Open Forum meeting, as amended in the Open Forum in April 2024, re site 21a.

79 ~~The pPolicy LGS1 is to protect~~ Open Spaces ~~by designating from further development by classifying~~ them under this Neighbourhood Plan as Local Green Space ~~in accordance with the under the NPPF legislation.~~

80 Areas identified in a green box in the summary (page 30) fulfil the necessary criteria under the NPPF and are designated as Local Green Spaces in this Plan. Spaces categorised in orange boxes are included as Local Community Spaces and listed accordingly for identification although this Plan does not confer any particular safeguards from Planning for them.

POLICY LGS1 - LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATIONS

Sites OS1 (The Park), OS2 (Coldean Woods Open Space), OS6 (The Roundway), OS12 (Coldean Lane South Verge), OS22 (Haig Avenue Open Space), OS25 (Wolseley Road Open Space and Play Area), OS41 (Coldean Lane South Verge No. 29 to Forest Road Junction) and OS42 (Beatty Avenue Shopping Parade) are designated Local Green Spaces in this Plan in accordance with the NPPF¹ and City Plan Part One DM38.

~~Only sites OS1 (The Park) and OS2 (Coldean Woods Open Space) fall in the South Downs National Park Area and are subject to their local plan. Developments proposed on the designated spaces will not be supported other than enhancements to improve the biodiversity.~~

~~Sites OS1 and OS2 are within the South Downs National Park and are subject to the relevant policies within the adopted South Downs Local Plan.~~

~~Development proposals in the eight designated Local Green Spaces listed above and defined on Figures 16-23 will be managed in accordance with national policy for Green Belts~~

1 Paras 106-108 of the NPPF

Figure 24: Aerial view of New Larchwood

5.3 LOCAL COMMUNITY SPACES (LCS)

81 Following the November 2022 Coldean Visions consultations which highlighted concerns about Community AssetsSpaces

the following spaces ~~and assets~~ in the Coldean area have been highlighted as special to the Area and to be retained and protected as far as possible where it has not otherwise been able to designate them as Local Green Space. As these Local Community Spaces are important to the community, by being identified in this Plan, it is contended that they will be given some weight in planning decisions in the Neighbourhood Area.

5.4 LOCAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES (LCF)

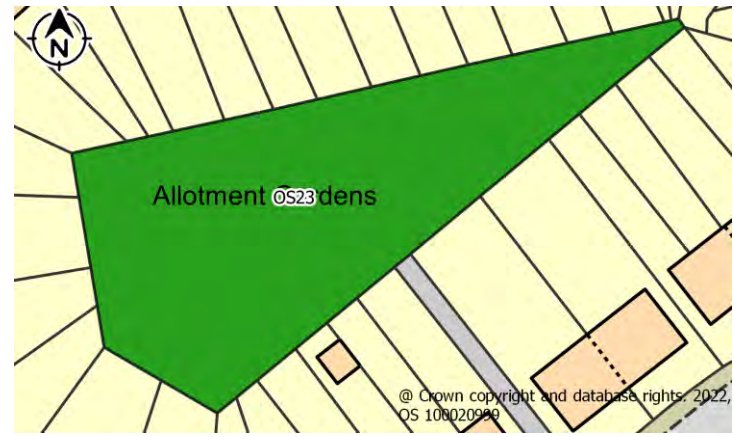
82 Within the Neighbourhood Area, two distinct clusters of retail, leisure, and community facilities cater to local residents. The first cluster is a small row of shops situated at the intersection of Park Lane and Coldean Lane. This collection includes the Ruby Pub and Hotel, a convenience store and a takeaway restaurant. These establishments are strategically positioned at corners, making them ideal for capturing passing trade.

83 The second cluster can be found along Beatty Avenue in the upper-centre portion of the neighborhood. This group consists of a chemist, a convenience store, and a charity hub. Additionally, the area has a doctor's surgery, a primary school, a small library, a play area located on Wolseley Road, a community allotment along Coldean Lane, and St Mary Magdalen Church, which stands opposite Chalvington Close.

POLICY LCS1 - LOCAL COMMUNITY SPACES

The following six sites are identified in this Plan as Local Community Spaces. Any development proposals affecting these sites should, as far as possible, seek to protect these spaces in view of their contribution to the character of the Plan area.

- OS7 - Roundway / Reeves Hill Open Space
- OS8 - The Meads / Reeves Hill Open Space
- OS9 - Highfields Open Space
- OS18 - Beatty Avenue Southern Open Space
- OS23 - The Charltons Allotment Gardens
- OS26 - Nanson Road / Reeves Hill Open Space



LOCAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES (LCF)

For clarification, these are separate to the above and are listed for completeness.

- 47 Hectare field
- Access routes and bridges to Stanmer Park
- Steps to/from Wild Park
- Access to Southdown National Park/Hollingbury Hillfort and the top and bottom of Wild Park.
- Access through Coldean Woods to the Amex Community Stadium
- Coldean Woods (which are too extensive to designate as a Local Green Space).
- Coldean Primary School and grounds
- St Mary Magdalen Church and

Memorial garden and Church Hall and grounds

- Coldean Library
- The Wild Park Multi Sport area
- The Roundway Mini Football pitch
- The Haig Road Children's Playground
- Coldean Community Hub and frontage
- Coldean Community Corner and Pantry
- Plumbers shop and frontage
- Wolseley Road Play Area
- Saunders Hill/Crawley Road Open Space
- Standean Close Open Space
- Hawkhurst Place Open Space

- Hawkhurst Road/Saunders Hill Open Space
- Beatty Avenue Northern Open Space
- Wolseley Road Northern Open Space
- Talbot Crescent Open Space
- Waldron Avenue/Hawkhurst Road Open Space
- Arlington Crescent Open Space
- Selham Close Open Space

These valued ~~spaces~~spaces, including those currently in use for Recreation, Playing Fields and Allotments will be retained for their appropriate community use until approved evidence shows they are no longer needed, or that the land is required for development, ~~under the very special circumstances set out within the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework)~~.

Figure 25: St Mary Magdalen Church. Oldest building in Coldean, originally a barn.

06. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

6.1 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND CRIME IN COLDEAN

84 One of the Objectives agreed by our Forum Visions meetings was that Coldean should work with other agencies to reduce crime and other antisocial behaviours. The Forum has contacted the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Sussex Police Designing Out Crime Officer and the local Brighton Hove Safety Partnership to formulate long term policies for dealing with antisocial

behaviour, aimed at prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour. The NPPF Chapter 8 also refers to measures to design out crime.

85—The two main problem areas identified by Forum members are trouble in relation to occupants in some HMOs and also drug dealing and similar activities sometimes observed on the streets in Coldean.

85 The Designing Out Crime Officer has suggested the following for combating anti-social behaviour by occupants of HMOs:

Figure 26: Aerial view of Coldean Woods

86 Those who manage HMOs should ensure that residents are complying with their tenancy agreements.

87 The Neighbourhood Policing Team can support with 'hotspot' patrols and the Immediate Justice Project can focus on issues to identify those who have been found guilty of low-level crime. They can pay back to the community by activities such as cleaning up graffiti and rubbish. Where appropriate, applications should be accompanied by a Crime Prevention Statement outlining how the design addresses community safety. Creating safe, secure, and inclusive neighbourhoods is fundamental to good design and community wellbeing. The integration of crime prevention principles into the design and layout of development can significantly reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour. Engaging with Designing Out Crime Officers helps ensure local crime context and best practice are embedded from the outset.

88 There are two Anti-Social Behaviour officers who work for Sussex Police and these are also involved with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Partnerships working with local outreach workers for youth or drug issues workers are often the key to supporting those in need in the community. This helps to reduce incidence of crime and the fear of crime within local communities.

89 The Police and Crime Commissioner, and Funding from the Universities Social Responsibility Funding Schemes can also provide resources for more bus services, street planting, benches, indestructible bus shelters and other crime prevention measures.

90 National Planning policy encourages the creation of safe and accessible places so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion. Well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cyclist routes and high-quality public spaces and buildings which encourage natural surveillance will be supported. The police are a statutory consultee for all planning applications, with plans scrutinised by a Designing Out Crime Officer (DOCO) who can make recommendations, as needed.

POLICY C1 - DESIGNING OUT CRIME

Proposals that demonstrate early and effective collaboration with a [Designing Out Crime Officer](#) and incorporate appropriate crime prevention principles such as natural surveillance, active frontages, defensible space, secure access, and effective lighting, will be supported.

All development proposals should:

- (a) Promote safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.
- (b) Incorporate Secured by Design principles where proportionate.
- (c) Avoid design features that may contribute to anti-social behaviour or create unsafe or underused spaces.

07. TRAFFIC AND TRAVEL

7.1 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT REVIEW AND PLAN

Introduction

91 Traffic management is a major aspect of the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan, as identified in the November 2022 Visions meetings. An on-line survey of Traffic and Transport issues was developed and conducted during June and July 2023.

92 The community identified several key issues related to traffic that need to be addressed within the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the safety, accessibility, and overall quality of life in the area. These issues have been ranked in descending order of importance based on residents' feedback, as follows, with Policies to solve these issues listed at the end of this section at 7.6:

93 Speeding – Issue 1: Speeding, particularly rat-runs along Hawkhurst Road, Rushlake Road, Coldean Lane, and Park Road, is a significant concern for residents. It poses a serious safety risk and results in regular accidents.

94 Parking – Issue 2: Parking problems in Coldean include illegal parking, such as vehicles parked on verges and pavements, and difficulty turning at junctions, especially into small Closes. Parking of commercial vehicles and the need for a parking permit scheme are also areas of concern.

95 Safe Walking Routes - Issue 3: Ensuring the safety of school children and pedestrians crossing roads is paramount. Unsafe road crossings and speeding vehicles pose threats. There are insufficient properly designated road crossings in the area.

96 Too Much Traffic – Issue 4: Excessive traffic, particularly along Coldean Lane, has negative impacts on safety and quality of life in the area.

97 Road Management – Issue 5: Issues related to road infrastructure, including the need for improved lighting at the bottom of Coldean Lane, maintenance of roundabouts, potholes, and road markings.

98 Dumped Vehicles/Commercial Vehicles/Camper Vans – Issue 6: Illegally dumped vehicles and improperly parked commercial vehicles, mobile homes and camper vans are a source of concern; especially on disused garage sites or quieter roads.

99 Overgrown Vegetation – Issue 7: Overgrown vegetation, such as hedges, trees and weeds in the pavement obstructs visibility at road corners and walking paths.

100 Bus Routes – Issue 8: Residents have expressed a need for improved and increased bus services in terms of reliability and timeliness. (See 7.5 below)

101 Pollution – Issue 9: Concerns have been raised regarding light, noise, and air pollution in the area arising from vehicles.

102 Cycle Routes – Issue 10: The lack of cycle-friendly infrastructure was noted.

103 Car Facilities - Issue 11: The need for public electric vehicle charging points and car-sharing options was raised.

104 The Coldean Neighbourhood Plan aims to address these issues as set out in policies detailed below, in collaboration with local authorities and relevant stakeholders, ensuring that traffic management solutions enhance the safety and well-being of residents while promoting sustainable transportation options.

7.2 DISABILITY ACCESS ASSESSMENT

105 The Forum also initiated a Disability Access Assessment to enhance accessibility within the area. This assessment identified the following improvements:

106 Dropped Kerbs: The City Council is actively installing dropped kerbs with ongoing monitoring.

107 Pedestrian Crossing Points: Apart from Bluebell Heights, the Neighbourhood Area has only one controlled crossing. The Forum believes that a pedestrian crossing is needed at the Hawkhurst Road junction with Beatty Avenue, at the Bluebell Heights junction on Coldean Lane, and for Varley Park over Coldean Lane.

108 Pavements - Wheelchair Access: Pavements are often obstructed by illegally parked vehicles and materials, posing a concern for wheelchair users.

109 Disabled Parking Bays: The creation of disabled parking bays outside Beatty

Avenue shops, Coldean Library, New Larchwood Medical Centre and Café are suggested.

110 Access to Open Spaces: Highfields at Highfields Road is undergoing restoration with council funding. Highfields (Ditchling Road) needs the removal of height restriction barriers for better access for disabled individuals. Access to Coldean Woods (north) and (south) were also recommended for inclusion in the Plan, especially regarding public disabled parking.

111 This Neighbourhood Plan therefore actively addresses and requires multiple aspects of disability access, including dropped kerbs, pedestrian crossings, pavements, disabled parking bays, and access to open spaces.

112 Highfields at Highfields Road. Coldean Independents' Group have Council funding and recently restored the steps to the 39-acre field, with a handrail and new benches.

113 Highfields (Ditchling Road entrance). All access points along the northern perimeter of the developed area of Coldean are elevated above street level and the car park on Ditchling Road is at a lower level than Highfields and is enclosed, in part, by an earth bund. We recommend the height restriction barrier should be removed as it prevents access for some vehicles used by disabled people. This is included as an aim of the Neighbourhood Plan and will involve agreement by the SDNPA.

114 Coldean Woods (north). Measures contained in the Bluebell Heights plans or S106 agreement do not include any provision for public disabled parking for access to the woods and Stanmer Park. Aim: This is now suggested in this plan.

115 Coldean Woods (south). Parking in Park Road Shops/Coldean Lane is an issue that was raised in our November 2022 “Vision” meetings. A designated disabled parking bay would be appropriate.

7.3 SUSTAINABLE AND ACTIVE TRANSPORT

116 Having regard to the Climate Emergency, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has advised that carbon emissions must reduce globally by at least 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels. There is a chance the worst effects of climate change can be avoided by keeping warming below 1.5 degrees and to achieve this the United Kingdom, including Coldean, must be carbon neutral (net-zero) by 2050 or earlier.

117 Recognising the significant implications of climate change on Sussex communities, Brighton & Hove Council declared a climate and biodiversity emergency in December 2018, which made a commitment as a city to become carbon neutral by 2030.

118 Initiatives such as ‘Trip Reduction Strategies’, ‘Shared Mobility’, ‘Electrification’ and ‘Public Transport & Walking and Cycling Improvements’ are key to supporting this. This traffic management plan aims to decarbonise traffic where possible.

119 Interventions which are a combination of these would offer even greater carbon saving: electric car club vehicles, sustainable travel enhancements achieved by vehicle capacity reduction, targeted travel planning alongside new public transport and cycling interventions and linking public transport enhancements with improved electric vehicle / bike

facilities. Brighton & Hove Council’s Carbon Neutral 2030 plan in full can be accessed in full on the BHCC website.

120 For example to help mitigate the issue of rat run roads and safety concerns through residential streets, the use of bollards to close off certain road entrances could help - with a focus on creating a comprehensive accessible and coherent cycle and pedestrian network that connects Coldean with other residential areas, schools, open space, transport interchanges, etc.

121 Supporting ‘green lanes’ to increase active travel from Coldean into Brighton will help reduce pollution, improve air quality and support the Council’s Carbon Neutral 2030 plan.

7.4 CYCLING ROUTES

122 These Policies are in line with the Council’s Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which includes references to Coldean Lane. The policies encourage walking, cycling and wheeling, and reduce reliance on cars; any proposals for new developments must provide for safe pedestrian and cycle connections to nearby services, facilities and bus stops. Within Coldean, pedestrian and cycle routes should be provided to enhance access to the City centre and connect into the wider green infrastructure network where possible.

7.5 ACCESSIBLE BUSES

123 The general dissatisfaction with levels of bus provision within the Neighbourhood Area in the survey have been noted.

Insufficient and often full buses, with many buses cancelled; and University Bus provision also ceasing are problems. Whilst Brighton & Hove Buses are not run by the Council, but are third party providers, the Policy of the Forum is to work with the bus providers to improve and increase services in the Area. There is currently a national shortage of bus drivers. The Council does have a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

7.6 POLICIES

124 Following the analysis of the Traffic and Transport survey results obtained in June and July 2023, the following draft Policies were released for Public Consultation on the www.cnpf.co.uk website between November 2023 and January 2024.

125 During that time there were over 1,000 visits to the website. No adverse comments were received on the following draft traffic policies.

POLICY T1 - INCREASING ACCESSIBLE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Development as appropriate to its scale and location should include proposals which enhance the use of walking, cycling, wheeling, and public transport within Coldean. Specific development proposals to enhance Coldean such as improved accessibility for disabled people, will be supported. BHCC policy DM 33 refers to enhancing active modes of travel in design.

~~POLICY T2 - THROUGH TRAFFIC~~

~~Design and highways proposals that mitigate the impact of through traffic within Coldean will be supported. Proposals as appropriate to their scale and location may include:~~

~~(a) Traffic management measures to minimise the impact of traffic on residential and community streets; and~~

~~(b)(a) Signage to direct through traffic away from and around Coldean.~~

POLICY ~~T3~~T2 - CAR AND CYCLE PARKING

~~(a) Proposals for the provision of well-located cycle and short term parking spaces to meet the needs of local businesses will be supported.~~

a) Proposals which include provision for additional short-stay parking spaces and cycle parking to meet the needs of local businesses will be supported.

—:

~~(b)b) Proposals for new off-street car parking to provide additional capacity which make provision for additional off-street car parking (for example on driveways with dropped kerb access) and to reduce on-street parking and congestion in and around Coldean will be supported where this would not detrimentally impact on amenity.~~

c) All development proposals should take account of the BHCC Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 14 'Parking Standards' or the SDNPA 'Parking' SPD for proposals which are in that part of the Plan that is within the South Downs National Park.

~~(c) Any proposals to vary the existing car parking policy in Coldean (SPD14) of one space per dwelling on the road plus one space per two dwellings for visitors needs planning permission.~~

POLICY ~~T3~~ T4 - ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL

Proposals that improve the accessibility of Coldean for all sectors of society, including the elderly and disabled will be supported.

Development proposals that improve the accessibility, usability, and inclusivity of Coldean for all members of the community, particularly older people, disabled people, and those with limited mobility will be strongly supported.

(a) Proposals should ensure routes, buildings, and public spaces are designed to be step-free, legible, and easy to navigate for all users, including wheelchair users, people with visual or hearing impairments, neurodiverse individuals, and families with young children.

Incorporate inclusive design features such as:

- (i) Dropped kerbs and tactile paving
- (ii) Clear and consistent wayfinding
- (iii) Accessible seating and rest points
- (iv) Appropriate lighting, surface materials, and gradient treatments
- (v) Prioritise safe and inclusive access to local services, green spaces, community facilities, and public transport for those with the greatest access needs.

(b) Major developments should demonstrate how inclusive design has been integrated from the outset, with reference to relevant standards and guidance, ~~including but not limited to:~~

- ~~(i) BS 8300: Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment~~
- ~~(ii) Building for a Healthy Life~~
- ~~(iii) Lifetime Homes Standards (or successor guidance)~~
- ~~(iv) National Design Guide (MHCLG, 2019)~~
- ~~(v) Manual for Streets~~

Proposals that exceed minimum accessibility standards and actively contribute to a more inclusive Coldean will be particularly encouraged.

POLICY ~~T5~~ T4 -

ACCESSIBLE

DEVELOPMENTS

~~To encourage walking, wheeling and cycling, and reduce reliance on cars, proposals for new developments must provide safe cycle and pedestrian connections to nearby services, facilities and bus stops. Within Coldean, pedestrian and cycle routes should be provided~~

~~to enhance access to the city centre and to connect into the wider green infrastructure network where possible. Where appropriate, proposals for new development in the Plan area should seek to provide safe pedestrian and cycle access to nearby services, community facilities, bus stops and the wider green infrastructure network.~~

~~Any planned new routes or enhancements should take account of the priorities contained in the City Council's Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) particularly for the Coldean area.~~

POLICY ~~T6~~ T5 - PROVISION OF CYCLE / WALKWAYS

Where possible, new residential, industrial, commercial and retail developments will be required to provide cycle facilities for residents, employees and customers, to include safe, convenient, and secure cycle parking and off-road cycle pavements which connect into the city cycle network. All proposals must demonstrate that the proposed routes and facilities will be implemented sensitively, i.e. by not removing open spaces or trees to install hard landscapes for cycles.

Figure 27: Coldean Village entrance aerial photo

08. BUILDING & DESIGN

8.1 COLDEAN DESIGN GUIDANCE AND CODES

126 Much of the existing built-up area in Coldean is low rise mainly of one and two storeys. Many of the buildings have sloped roofs. The houses themselves are mainly built of brick with portrait orientation windows. A significant large-scale development within the Neighbourhood Area, situated east of Coldean Lane and the defined settlement boundaries of the built-up area ~~has~~was recently been completed.

127 This development, known as Bluebell Heights, has introduced roughly 242 new residential units to Coldean.

128 It is characterised by six contemporary apartment brick-faced block towers, each spanning six to eight stories in height.

129 Adjacent to Bluebell Heights is another substantial development, known as the Varley Park Halls of Residence, which is associated with the University of Brighton. This development encompasses both late 20th-century and early 21st-century buildings, collectively offering 746 student units. These buildings are generally three to four stories in height. It ~~is's~~ important to note that these large-scale developments are having a significant impact on the immediate surrounding environment in Coldean. The apartment block towers of Bluebell Heights rise above the tree line and consequently affect the views within the Neighbourhood Area. This is likewise true for the Varley Park Halls of Residence, as their structures also affect the visual landscape of the community.

130 The Neighbourhood Area features two clusters of essential facilities, including retail, leisure, and community services. While these amenities serve the local residents well, the recent developments of Bluebell Heights and the Varley Park Halls of Residence are transforming the neighbourhood's skyline and affecting the views within the area. These developments signify a significant shift in the landscape and environment of Coldean, introducing new residential units and accommodation for students.

131 A Design Guide and Code, ~~has~~was~~been~~ prepared for Coldean Neighbourhood Area by AECOM, our Technical Resource consultants. The link to this document is found at Appendix 3. It was subject to a Consultation with Forum Members and the public in the period from November 2023 to January 2024.

POLICY DC1 - DESIGN GUIDE

(a) All development proposals within the Coldean ~~settlement~~Neighbourhood Area boundary are expected to be of high-quality design and must demonstrate how they have had regard to the 'Coldean Guidance and Codes' document prepared as part of this Plan and also BHCC's SPD No17 Urban Design Framework (June 2021) as well as the SDNPA's SPD 'Adopted Design Guide' (July 2022). Development applications are encouraged to submit a Design Code compliance table or checklist.

(b) Development that accords with the design principles, character guidance, and coding set out in the document will be supported, particularly where it:

(i) Reinforces the distinctive character and identity of Coldean

(ii) Responds positively to local materials, building forms, and landscape setting
Contributes to a coherent and legible street scene

(iv) Promotes inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient design.

Proposals that fail to take account of the Coldean Design Guidance & Codes, or that would result in harm to local character, will be resisted unless justified by clear and exceptional circumstances.

Figure 28: Front pages of Coldean Design Guidance and Codes.

09. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

9.1 OVERVIEW

~~132~~—From the Inaugural and Visions meetings in November 2022, the Forum identified ‘environment and green spaces’ as a top priority for the Plan. Government legislation or guidance includes the Environment

132 Act and the National Planning Policy Framework, as amended ~~in December 2023 and 2024~~, which emphasise sustainable development and environmental protection. It is a priority in the Plan for Coldean to retain, enhance and protect the high quality open space within and around the edges of Coldean, recognising that all parks, open spaces and wildlife areas make an important contribution to Coldean’s green infrastructure and quality of life.

133 The Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) is particularly relevant, focusing on nature recovery. Our research has involved key ~~bodies-~~stakeholders including, Natural England (the MAGIC maps) , the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission, BHCC, ~~SDNPA~~, Sussex Wildlife Trust and Sir David Attenborough. We wish to acknowledge ~~are also grateful for~~ the Biological Survey and assessment of land at Varley Park ~~prepared-conducted~~ by an specialist expert in 2018, and published in January 2020, ~~before-prior to the formation of~~ the Forum ~~was formed~~ and which ~~The Report~~ -was passed to the Forum by Coldean Community Organisation and has played an important role in shaping several policies in ~~which has informed some of the policies-proposed in~~ this Plan.

134 Natural England MAGIC maps⁵ ~~can be found at~~ www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk. ~~These maps~~ show data on the natural environment, habitats and species types, landscape types and environmental schemes throughout England.

135 Working with BHCC is crucial, considering their commitments to carbon-

⁵ www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk.

neutral housing, sustainable development, and planning policies. Engaging with local organisations, such as Coldean Community Organisation and Coldean Residents' Association, strengthens Coldean's community ties. Preservation efforts extend to nature recovery, with a detailed Nature Recovery Strategy already available within Coldean Community Organisation, which is to be distinguished from the Sussex Nature Recovery Strategy⁶, but also feeds into it.

136 The Neighbourhood Plan therefore aims to address climate resilience, identifying specific risks like flooding and aquifer sustainability. Coldean's heritage is not overlooked, with plans to continue to engage local experts and protect historical [ecological](#) assets such as ancient chalk grassland. Sustainable design is a key objective, adopting low-carbon, environmentally sensitive development criteria.

137 The Nature Recovery [Plan-Strategy](#) by CCOrg highlights the significance of ancient chalk grasslands in Coldean, providing a roadmap for restoration. The Stanmer-Coldean Community Land Trust Project⁷ also proposes a collaborative effort for long-term protection of biodiversity, emphasising community engagement and social value. This plan aligns with BHCC's commitment to ecological and social issues, offering opportunities for education, community involvement, and nature observation.

138 In summary, the Neighbourhood Plan for Coldean prioritises environmental protection, sustainable development, and

⁶ www.sussexnaturerecovery.org.uk

⁷ [Coldean Community Development Organisation - Brighton & Hove Community Land Trust](#)

community engagement, aligning with both government guidance and local initiatives for a comprehensive approach to planning.

~~+39—The review of Open Spaces and in particular protection of green spaces is dealt with in a separate part of this Plan, at Section 5, and has already been agreed by Forum members (in July 2023 and April 2024). Where it has been possible to designate these and other areas in Coldean as LGS areas under the NPPF framework to protect such open spaces from future development this has been done; or alternatively Local Community Spaces are also designated and the NPPF confers some protection on those, as set out in Section 5 of this Plan.~~

9.2 SOUTH DOWNS WAY AHEAD NATURE IMPROVEMENT AREA

~~+40~~¹³⁹ Much of the land in and around Coldean is situated within the South Downs Way Ahead Nature Improvement Area⁸. ~~More information regarding this can be found at <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/CaseStudy-South-Downs-Way-Ahead-NIA.pdf>.~~ This initiative has multiple objectives, however with key objectives for the Coldean Area:

~~+41~~¹⁴⁰ 'Linking the Fragments' - to achieve real improvements to conservation and management of chalk grassland at the heart of the

matrix of downland habitats. Coldean Residents are already actively improving or preserving special sites and areas in Coldean.

⁸ <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/CaseStudy-South-Downs-Way-Ahead-NIA>

~~142~~¹⁴¹ 'Town to Down' - to assess and demonstrate the benefits of ecosystem services to urban populations. Coldean is easily accessible by bus links to the whole population of Brighton & Hove, who can access South Downs National Park through and from Coldean.

~~143~~¹⁴² 'Valuing the Chalk' - clearly an environmental, economic and social value has been attributed to the benefits and services provided by chalk downland, which residents are seeking to preserve for this, and future generations

~~144~~¹⁴³ These initiatives should strengthen any arguments against future substantial development of the land in and around Coldean.

~~145~~ The Forum also references 'CP10 Biodiversity' and 'CP16 Open Space' of Brighton & Hove City Council's City Plan Part One. These policies -

~~If for some reason the Part one LGS designations in Section 4 of this Plan are ignored these~~ require any development to minimise and mitigate any negative impact on biodiversity of the wider and immediate area. In addition Council Policies 'DM37 Green Infrastructure and Nature Conservation', 'DM38 Local Green Spaces', 'DM40 Protection of the Environment

¹⁴⁴ and Health - Pollution and Nuisance', and 'DM42 Protecting the Water Environment' of the Brighton & Hove City Plan Part Two are applicable.

~~146~~ Coldean Neighbourhood Area is affected by and lies within the Brighton & Hove Urban Fringe Assessment dated June 2014. BHCC Policy H2 on Housing Sites - Urban Fringe in

¹⁴⁵ the Brighton & Hove City Plan Part Two states that planning permission will be

granted for proposals that accord with the Development Plan (having particular regard to Policies SA4 and SA5) and which address all of the site considerations. Site 21a (Land North of Varley Halls) was identified as having housing potential for a high-density scheme - approx. 50 dwellings. It is allocated in City Plan Part Two policy H2 for an indicative 12 dwellings. Site 21c (Land South of Varley Halls, ie allotments) had also been identified as having potential for housing, approx. 7 dwellings. The Forum would argue any further development around Varley Halls sets a poor precedent and would significantly harm the National Park and chalk grassland areas.

~~ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES- OVERVIEW~~

~~It is a priority in the Plan for Coldean to retain, enhance and protect the high quality open space within and around the edges of Coldean, recognising that all parks, open spaces and wildlife areas make an important contribution to Coldean's green infrastructure and quality of life.~~

POLICY E1 - SETTLEMENT CONTAINMENT

~~Proposals for development within this area of countryside will only be permitted where:~~

- ~~(a) The open space and undeveloped feel of the land is not compromised;~~
 - ~~(b) The separate identity of the settlements is maintained;~~
 - ~~(c) The landscape setting of the settlement will not be harmed;~~
 - ~~(d) It does not add to existing sporadic or isolated development;~~
- ~~It does not encourage or lead to settlement coalescence.~~

The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maintain the physical and visual containment of Coldean within its defined built-up area boundary and to protect the surrounding urban fringe and countryside setting from inappropriate encroachment. This policy applies to land outside the built-up area boundary within the Neighbourhood Plan area, as shown on the Policies Map, including land to the north of Coldean and the urban fringe between the settlement edge and the A27. Development proposals on land outside the built-up area boundary will be supported only where they:

- a) Conserve the open character, landscape quality and function of the urban fringe and do not result in the erosion of open countryside or important gaps between built form;
- b) Maintain the separate identity and setting of Coldean and avoid the perception or risk of coalescence with neighbouring built-up areas or campus-based development;
- c) Protect and, where possible, enhance the landscape setting of the settlement, including key views to and from surrounding downland and the National Park;
- d) Do not result in sporadic, isolated or incremental expansion of built development that would undermine the contained form of the settlement;
- e) Are consistent with the strategic purposes of the urban fringe as set out in City Plan Part 1 Policy SA4, and do not prejudice the comprehensive planning of any strategic site allocations identified in the Development Plan;
- f) Where relevant, conserve and enhance the setting of the South Downs National Park in accordance with national policy, City Plan Policy SA5 and the South Downs Local Plan.

Development required to meet identified strategic allocations or infrastructure needs will be expected to demonstrate how landscape setting, settlement containment and separation are retained and reinforced through design, layout and landscape strategy.

POLICY E2 -- PROTECTION OF VALUED VIEWS AND VISUAL CONNECTIONS TO THE SOUTH DOWNS

Publicly valued views of the South Downs National Park from designated Local Green Spaces within Coldean are identified for protection.

Any proposals for development that would affect long distance views should demonstrate

that design has taken into consideration publicly valued views.

The Plan recognises the importance of publicly accessible views within Coldean that contribute to the area's landscape setting, legibility and its visual relationship with the South Downs National Park.

These include:

- Long-distance views towards and from the South Downs National Park;
- Views across Local Green Spaces and other publicly accessible open spaces;
- Important views along streets, footpaths and routes that assist orientation and reinforce local character.

Development proposals that would be visible within or affect such views will be supported only where they demonstrate that:

- a) The key characteristics of the view, including openness, skyline, landmarks and visual connection with the South Downs or surrounding downland, are conserved or enhanced;
- b) The siting, scale, height and massing of development has been informed by an assessment of its visual impact on these views, including its relationship to the skyline and surrounding landform;
- c) Development does not introduce visually intrusive or incongruous built form, including excessive height, that would interrupt, block or materially diminish important views, skylines or the visual connection with the South Downs;
- d) Opportunities are taken, where appropriate, to frame, reveal or enhance views and visual connections through layout, design and landscaping.

Where relevant, proposals should have regard to:

- City Plan Part 1 Policy CP12 (Urban Design);
- SPD17 Urban Design Framework;
- The Brighton & Hove Urban Characterisation Study; and
- The setting of the South Downs National Park.

Major development proposals, and those likely to affect important views, should be supported by proportionate visual analysis where necessary to demonstrate compliance with this policy.

POLICY E3 -- PROTECTION OF ALLOTMENTS

~~Proposals that result in harm to or loss of allotments in Coldean will not normally be permitted unless:~~

- ~~(a) Replacement provision be made, of at least equivalent quality, where it would be located at reasonable convenience for the existing plot holders, or;~~
- ~~(b) They are in a dilapidated condition -- without the potential for improvement.~~

~~The loss is necessary to bring about significant and demonstrable long-term enhancements to Coldean's open spaces as a whole.~~

Coldean's allotments are valued community assets that support local food growing, health and wellbeing, biodiversity and social cohesion. In addition to the requirements of City Plan Part One Policy CP16 (Open Space), Proposals that would result in the loss of, or harm to, existing allotments within the Neighbourhood Area will not normally be permitted unless:

- a) Replacement allotment provision of at least equivalent quantity, quality and accessibility is provided within or adjoining the Neighbourhood Plan area and at reasonable convenience for existing plot holders; and
- b) The replacement provision is made available and operational prior to the loss of existing allotment land, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that a phased approach would not disadvantage existing users.

All development proposals affecting allotments should seek to: .

- retain and enhance their productive, ecological and community value;
- protect supporting infrastructure such as access, water supply and storage; and .
- where appropriate, incorporate opportunities for improved facilities or expanded provision.

This policy applies to all existing allotment sites within Coldean, including statutory allotments.

POLICY E4 - MITIGATING AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

All development proposals within Coldean ~~should seek to~~ are encouraged to achieve high standards of sustainable ~~development design and environmental performance that respond to the area's landscape setting and climate resilience objectives by improving upon the minimum standards outlined in Approved Documents Part F, Part L and Part O of the Building Regulations and/ or adopt Passivhaus design principles, and in particular, demonstrate in proposals how design, construction and operation has sought to~~

In addition to meeting the requirements of City Plan Part One Policy CP8 (Sustainable Buildings) and City Plan Part Two Policies DM43 (Sustainable Drainage) and DM44 (Energy Efficiency and Renewables), development proposals should demonstrate how design, construction and operation have been considered to:

- a) ~~Reduce the use of reliance on fossil fuels and minimise operational carbon emissions through energy-efficient layout, orientation and fabric-first design approaches;~~
- b) ~~Promote the efficient use of natural resources, the re-use and recycling of resources through a circular economy~~ Promote the efficient use of natural resources, including the re use of materials and support for circular economy principles where practicable;
- b)c) Adopt and facilitate the development with low and zero carbon energy through a range of technologies;
- d) Adopt best practice in suitable urban drainage. The requirements for future developments should also comply with City Plan Policy DM4 and Brighton & Hove City Council's Sustainable Drainage SPD or the South Downs Local Plan policy SD50 as appropriate.
- e) Implement measures to conserve and protect water resources including the preservation of sustainable water use practices, and the preservation of watercourses crucial for the ecosystem.

POLICY E5 – BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE RECOVERY

Development proposals within Coldean will be supported where they conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity and contribute to local nature recovery. In addition to meeting the requirements of national policy, statutory biodiversity net gain and relevant Development Plan policies, proposals should:

a) Protect and enhance existing habitats and biodiversity features, including priority, protected and locally important habitats and species;

b) Avoid harm to ecological networks and, where possible, strengthen habitat connectivity between green spaces, the urban fringe and the South Downs National Park;

c) Incorporate measurable biodiversity enhancements appropriate to the scale and location of development, including habitat creation, native planting and landscape-led design;

d) Retain, integrate and enhance existing green infrastructure features such as trees, hedgerows, grassland and open spaces wherever practicable;

e) All new development will be supported that:

(a) Implements measures to protect and enhance the diversity of plant and animal species, including the preservation of rare, protected, priority or notable species through habitat restoration and conservation, in line with Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021);

(b) Promotes and enforces sustainable grazing practices that maintain a balance between the ecological health of grassland and agricultural needs of livestock, preventing overgrazing and soil degradation;

(c) Develops and implements strategies to control and eradicate invasive plant species that threaten the native biodiversity of grasslands, preventing their spread and ensuring the resilience of the ecosystem;

(d) Supports the restoration of habitats, including reseeded native plant species, erosion control, and the removal of barriers that impede natural processes, such as water flow.

Implements measures to conserve and protect water resources, including the prevention of pollution, sustainable water use practices (i.e. SuDs), and the preservation of watercourses crucial for the ecosystem.

9.3 BIODIVERSITY FINDINGS

⁺⁴⁷¹⁴⁶ The Coldean Biodiversity Survey and Assessment conducted in 2018 to assess and provide recommendations for development in the Coldean area (the Biological Survey is accessible on the CNPF website at link, see Appendix 5) found several invertebrate species with conservation status in the Area.

⁺⁴⁸¹⁴⁷ The author was asked to survey, assess and provide recommendations for the different areas/habitats within the area. There were also found three England Red Listed plant species.

⁺⁴⁹¹⁴⁸ The chalk grassland open spaces were the most biodiverse for plants and invertebrates including those with conservation status. The woodland areas had a range of fungi, birds, molluscs and lower plants. There were also Song Thrushes and Mistle Thrushes recorded within the woodland areas.

⁺⁵⁰¹⁴⁹ Four Ancient Woodland Indicators were recorded, including Spurge-laurel. Unfortunately, it was in the process of being cut down, possibly due to it being mistaken for Rhododendron or Cherry Laurel. It is however native, and the most interesting species in Coldean Woods.

9.4 ANCIENT CHALK DOWNLANDS

⁺⁵⁺¹⁵⁰ As the Area contains rare Ancient Chalk downlands, especially around the Hollingbury Hillfort area, the occupation of which created these downlands and grazing areas several thousand years ago, these chalk downlands should additionally be preserved and protected. Protecting chalk grassland is an important aspiration of the Plan. This is supported by community activities including conservation work by CCorg on Site 21a which recently received funding in March 2025 from the Changing Chalk partnership, led by the National Trust and supported by BHCC, SDNPA and other organisations to continue work on these endeavours.

Figure 29: The nationally rare and striking Tortoise Beetle *Pilemostoma fastuosa* recorded from the site.

9.5 BRIGHTON & HOVE COUNCIL'S CARBON NEUTRAL 2030 PLAN AND TREE PLANTING

⁺⁵²¹⁵¹ Brighton & Hove Council's Carbon Neutral 2030 Plan can be accessed in full on the BHCC website⁹.

⁺⁵³¹⁵² The Brighton & Hove tree planting plan supports the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme. It will enable planting of a variety of species with greater resilience to pests and disease, and work with residents of planting trees in local communities. Strategically placed tree planting can make a huge impact on the character and quality of an area. It can also help to mitigate the impacts of climate change by helping cool the more urban areas. Identifying streets through community engagements to see where they would like to see more planting in their areas is an ongoing process. This is encouraged with replacement and new tree-planting in the Coldean Woods area, assisted by Friends of Coldean Woods.

Figure 30: The five Scarab Shieldbugs sieved from moss in the Northern Glade.

⁹ [Brighton & Hove City Council 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme Annual Report 2022 to 2023](#)

10 - ASPIRATIONS - COLDEAN MASTERPLAN / NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

10.1 OVERVIEW

⁺⁵⁴¹⁵³ In October 2023, the Forum was awarded a Technical Support grant to approach AECOM to review and suggest possible improvements to the Coldean Area for the Park Road and Beatty Avenue Shops areas.

⁺⁵⁵¹⁵⁴ A Coldean Masterplan Framework Document has been prepared for Coldean Neighbourhood Area by AECOM. The link

to this document is found at Appendix 5. It sets out some suggested Simple and more Complex interventions and improvements, for discussion.

⁺⁵⁶¹⁵⁵ This document forms part of the Evidence base for this Plan. It was subject to a Consultation with Forum Members and the public in the period from November 2023 to January 2024. These are aspirations for future improvements in the Coldean neighbourhood area.

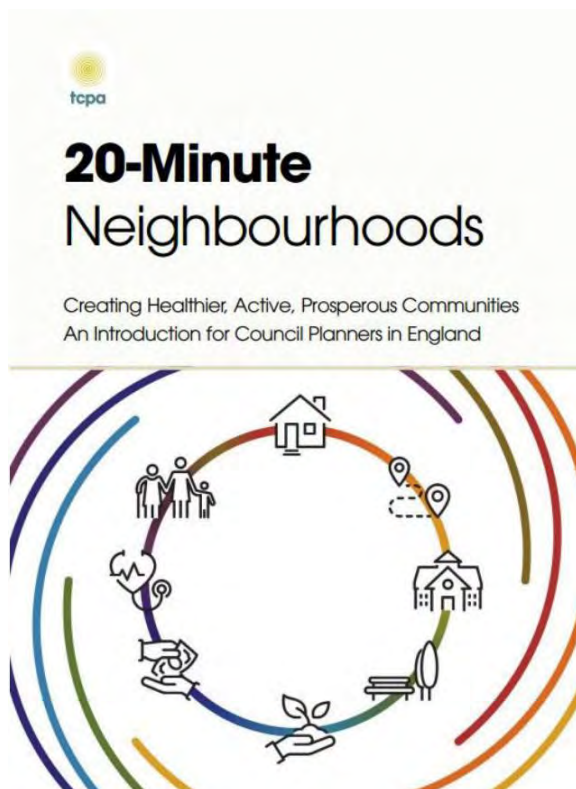


Figure 31: TCPA 20 Minute Neighbourhood Guide

HEALTHY STREETS



Figure 32: Healthy Streets indicator.

9'eYoppor-tunttle- -f0.-

tnP-Issues and const.1alrns
·sprof'l-lmity to Brighton
10,000 nc1tural assets.
ont;indtt'le ex.s.iling
urcandconnectivity all'oo
ues to overcon1e some of
·dbYpublic consultations
..visit.
TCPA'□□ 20 Minute
uiOO and LucySaunders□
di□□I.of, the m,e,sterplan
s document_<um to
u

Figure 33: Front page of the Master Planning Framework proposal

11. GLOSSARY & ACRONYMS

GLOSSARY

Accessibility.

People's capacity to navigate an area, accessing destinations and amenities, accommodating individuals such as the elderly, disabled, parents with young children, and those burdened with luggage or shopping.

Affordable Housing.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines affordable housing as housing that is available for sale or rent to people whose needs are not met by the market. This includes housing that is subsidised or for essential local workers. The NPPF's definition of affordable housing includes social rent, intermediate rent, and for-sale products.

The NPPF also states that when major development includes housing, at least 10% of the housing should be affordable home ownership. However, there is no minimum level of affordable rented housing, which is for local planning authorities to determine.

Affordable housing is for households who would otherwise be unable to house themselves, such as those who can't afford housing on the open market or need a specific type of house.

AOD (Above Ordinance Datum).

A national ground level, and the basis for all heights found on Ordinance Survey Maps. It is based on the mean sea level at Newlyn in Cornwall.

Ancient Chalk Grassland.

A semi-natural plant community that has continuously been managed as grassland since at least 1840. Site 21a within the Neighbourhood Area is designated Site 21a within Coldean is classified as ancient chalk downland or grassland by Nature England.

Biodiversity.

The complete array of life, spanning genetics, species, ecosystem diversity, and comprising both plants and animals.

Change of Use.

A change in the way that land or buildings are used, from one use to another. Some use classes benefit from permitted development rights, allowing them to change from one use class to another without the need for a planning application, as set out in the Town and Country [Planning \(use classes\) \(amended\) \(England\) Regulations 2020 as amended \(General Permitted Development\) Order 2015 as amended](#).

~~Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).~~

~~A levy charged by the Local Planning Authority on certain new types of development, up to 25% of which can be spent annually within the community, where an approved Neighbourhood Plan is in place.~~

~~Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO).~~

~~An order issued by the government or a local authority to acquire land or buildings for public interest purposes. For example, for the construction of a major road or the redevelopment of certain brownfield.~~

~~Conditions (or 'planning condition').~~

~~Conditions are applied to a planning permission to limit or regulate the development approved - e.g. by limiting the hours of opening, approving plans, or requiring the submission of information.~~

~~Contaminated Land.~~

~~Contaminated or damaged land that requires remediation before it can be safely developed and used.~~

Conversions.

In general, "Conversions " refers to the physical efforts required to alter the purpose of a building from one specific use category, as defined in the use classes order, to a different purpose. It can also involve transforming residential properties

into individual self-contained flats.

Detailed Planning Application/Permission.

Making a detailed planning application and obtaining a detailed permission is a crucial step in land development and constructing new structures.

This process involves submitting comprehensive plans to local planning authorities, who review them to ensure compliance with zoning regulations, environmental considerations, and community needs. The duration of the evaluation process varies

depending on project complexity, and input from local residents and stakeholders is often sought. If approved, developers receive planning permission, but this can be a complex and time-consuming process, demanding adherence to local regulations and consideration of environmental and community impacts

Elevation.

The physical front of a structure, or a blueprint depicting the design of its exterior face.

Enforcement Action.

Local planning authorities implement procedures to enforce compliance with planning decisions and to regulate unauthorized development.

Environment Agency.

A governmental organisation with a mission to mitigate environmental pollution effects which issues permits to regulate and monitor activities related to waste management, offering current information on waste-related matters and addressing issues like water management and flood protection guidance.

~~Full Application.~~

~~See 'Detailed application'.~~

~~General Permitted Development Order (GPDO). The Town and Country (General Permitted Development)(England) Order 2015 (as amended) regulations providing approval for specific, minor development projects or change of use.~~

Green Lane.

Allows legal driving on unsealed public highways at lower speeds. Many are ancient routes.

Greenfield Land.

Generally, land that has not been previously developed and is often used for farming.

~~Habitable rooms.~~

~~Any space designated or meant for sleeping, cooking, living, or dining, excluding enclosed areas like bathrooms, toilets, service rooms, corridors, laundries, hallways, utility rooms, or similar spaces.~~

~~Home Zone.~~

~~A shared space in a residential area where the quality of life is prioritised over traffic movement.~~

~~Housing Corporation.~~

~~The Government agency responsible for financing new affordable housing and overseeing housing associations in England.~~

Infill development.

The creation of a modest space amidst pre-existing structures.

Infrastructure.

Essential infrastructure and services required for fostering development includes roads, electricity, sewage systems, water supply, educational institutions, and healthcare facilities.

~~Landscape Appraisal.~~

~~An approach to evaluating the visual and fundamental attributes of a landscape.~~

~~Layout.~~

~~The arrangement of buildings, pathways, and open areas on the ground in relation to each other.~~

~~Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).~~

~~An overall partnership of people that brings together organisations from the public, private, community and voluntary sector within a local authority area, with the objective of improving people's quality of life.~~

Local Transport Plan.

A Local Transport Plan [LTP] is a statutory document that sets out a local authority's priorities for transport and how these relate to, and help deliver, the objectives of other national, regional and local plans and strategies. It includes a long term strategy and short-term (up to 5 years) delivery plan to deliver a safe, accessible, sustainable and resilient transport network. The LTP enables local authorities to bid for and receive government funding.

MAGIC maps.

Free resources made available by Natural England providing environmental information for planning purposes.

Master Plan.

A planning document that delineates land use preferences and the developer's layout strategy, offering comprehensive guidance for future planning applications.

Material Consideration.

An important factor to consider when determining a planning application or when appealing a planning decision

National Park.

The Government has provided two statutory purposes for National Parks in England. The National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949, as amended by Section 245 of the Levelling Up & Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023, requires all relevant bodies – including Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) – to seek to further the purposes. The Government also places a corresponding social and economic duty upon National Park Authorities themselves – to be considered when delivering the two purposes.

Purpose 1: To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.

Purpose 2: To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.

Duty: To seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of the purposes.

National Highways.

An executive branch of the Department of Transport, is tasked with managing, upkeeping, and enhancing England's strategic road network, which includes the A27.

Nature Conservation.

Conserving, overseeing, and advocating for wildlife habitats to benefit both wild species and the communities that utilize and appreciate them.

Open Spaces.

Any publicly valuable space, whether it be public parks, recreational areas, bodies of water like rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, and serves as both a recreational asset and a refuge for wildlife, enhancing the visual environment

~~Outline application.~~

~~A standard planning permission application seeks initial approval for a development's acceptability in principle, pending detailed matter approval, and doesn't pertain to changes~~

Passivhaus Design.

A complete low energy building system.

Permitted development.

Authorisation to conduct specific types of development without requiring an application to a local planning authority, as provided for in the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order.

Planning Condition.

Condition attached to a planning permission.

Planning Gain.

Planning obligations, often established as a part of planning approvals, serve to secure benefits or safeguards for the community, typically funded by the developer. These may include features such as affordable housing, community amenities, or measures for mitigating various issues.

Planning Permission.

Formal council approval is typically sought for a proposed development, and it may be granted with specific conditions. This permission can be sought in two ways: either in principle through outline planning applications or in detail through full planning applications.

~~Public Realm.~~

~~Those parts of a village, town or city (whether publicly or privately owned) available for everyone to use. This includes streets, squares and parks.~~

Public Right of Way.

A public right of way is a route that the public has the legal right to access, typically in the form of a highway.

~~Regeneration.~~

~~Revitalising and enhancing both rural and urban areas economically, socially, and environmentally.~~

Section 106 Agreement.

A Section 106 agreement, as defined in the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act, is a legally binding contract between a planning authority and a developer, or unilateral commitments made by a developer. These agreements ensure that specific additional tasks associated with a development project are carried out.

~~Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).~~

~~A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a designated area in the United Kingdom that holds significant ecological, geological, or other scientific value. These areas are chosen due to their unique and irreplaceable features, which could include rare~~

~~or endangered plant and animal species, exceptional geological formations, or vital habitats. SSSIs are legally protected to conserve their natural and scientific importance, often serving as outdoor laboratories for research and education, as well as offering opportunities for public enjoyment while ensuring the preservation of these valuable ecosystems and geological sites.~~

Special Needs Housing.

Providing housing solutions for various disadvantaged groups, including the elderly, individuals with disabilities, students, young singles, rough sleepers, the homeless, those in need of hostel accommodations, essential workers, travelers, and residents of mobile homes and houseboats.

Statutory Undertakers / Statutory Utilities.

Entities performing public functions under legal authority can exist in either public or private ownership, including organizations like the Post Office, Civil Aviation Authority, the Environment Agency, water and electricity undertakers, and public gas transporters.

Sustainable travel / sustainable transport.

Frequently involving walking, cycling, wheeling, and the use of public transportation (and, in certain cases, “carpooling”), which is generally seen as more environmentally friendly and results in reduced traffic congestion compared to solo car trips.

~~Townscape / Cityscape.~~

~~The overall look of an urban area, such as a street, town, or city.~~

Topography.

The detailed physical characteristics or features of the surface of a place or object, including its elevation, contours and the distribution of natural and artificial elements such as mountains, valleys, rivers, buildings and roads.

Transport Assessment.

Transport Assessments are part of the planning process and assess and mitigate the negative transport impacts of development in order to promote sustainable development. They are required for all developments which generate significant amounts of movements.

Travel Plans.

Travel Plans are long-term management strategies for integrating proposals for sustainable travel into the planning process. They are based on evidence of the anticipated transport impacts of development and set measures to promote and encourage sustainable travel (such as promoting walking or cycling).

Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

A system to ensure the protection of individual trees or clusters with recognised aesthetic significance. Trees covered by a preservation order typically require approval from the local planning authority before any pruning, topping, or removal is permitted.

Unauthorised Development.

Unplanned development, occurring without proper planning permission; may be at risk of facing enforcement actions.

Use Classes Order.

~~[The Town and Country Planning \(use classes\) \(amended\) \(England\) Regulations 2020](#)~~ ~~[The Town and Country Planning \(Use Classes\) Order 1987](#)~~ categorises land and building uses into different groups. Changing the use within the same class doesn't require planning permission.

Wildlife Corridor.

Wildlife conservation areas, such as those bordering hedgerows, are preserved and supervised to connect and enhance broader wildlife ecosystems.

Windfall/Infill Site.

A “windfall” typically refers to a site that was not originally designated for development in a planning framework but unexpectedly becomes available for development within the plan's duration. These windfalls are often associated with housing and typically involve very small parcels of land suitable for one or only a few homes.

Zero-carbon Home.

Please see pages 38 and 39 of the Coldean Design Codes guide for Whole of Life building/net zero carbon design which comprises many elements. These are detailed at the following link: Source: Whole Life Carbon Assessment for the Built Environment, 1st edition (2017). Available: <https://www.rics.org/profession-standards/rics-standards-and-guidance/sector-standards/building-surveying-standards/whole-life-carbon-assessment-for-the-built-environment>

ACRONYMS

~~AAP Area Action Plan~~

AOD Above Ordinance Datum, the height above mean sea level at Newlyn in Cornwall, usually specified in metres.

AECOM Technical support group provided, free of charge, by Locality to help Neighbourhood Planning teams nationwide

BHCC Brighton & Hove City Council

CCO~~rg~~ Coldean Community Organisation

~~CIL Community Infrastructure Levy~~

CNPF Coldean Neighbourhood Planning Forum

CRA Coldean Residents Association

~~CS Core Strategy~~

DLUHC Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

DOCO Designing Out Crime Officer

~~GDPO General Permitted Development Order~~

~~ICO Information Commissioners Office~~

LCF Local Community Facilities

LCS Local Community Space

LCWIP Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan

~~LDF Local Development Framework~~

~~LDS Local Development Scheme~~

LGS Local Green Space

~~LTP Local Transport Plan~~

~~LSP Local Strategic Partnership~~

MHCLG Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

NPPF National Planning Policy Framework

ONS Office for National Statistics

PBSA Purpose-Built Student Accommodation

~~SA Sustainability Appraisal~~

~~SCI Statement of Community Involvement~~

SDNP South Downs National Park

SDNPA South Downs National Park Authority SEA Strategic

Environmental Assessment SPD Supplementary Planning

Document SPG Supplementary Planning Guidance SUDS

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems TCPA Town & Country

Planning Act 1990 or Town & Country Planning Association

All evidence documents can be found in full in the Consultation Statement and on-line.

APPENDIX 1 COLDEAN POPULATION ANALYSIS IN FULL

<https://cnpf.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan>

APPENDIX 2 - OPEN GREEN SPACES REPORT IN FULL

<https://cnpf.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan>

APPENDIX 3- DESIGN CODES REPORT PREPARED BY AECOM

<https://cnpf.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan>

APPENDIX 4 – ECOLOGICAL REPORT

<https://cnpf.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan>

APPENDIX 5- MASTERPLANNING FRAMEWORK/NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

<https://cnpf.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan>

Figure 34: AI image of Coldean in 2039

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Coldean Neighbourhood Plan 2021 - 2030

With thanks to all who helped to create and draft this Plan since December 2021

Unless otherwise indicated, contributors are current or former Committee members

Anant Suchak
Andrew Metcalfe (Town Planner - Squires Planning)
Arthur Smith
Ashley Harrison (Architect - PMR Architecture)
Ben Castell (AECOM Director)
Ben Lancaster (AECOM Technical Support- Graduate Planning Consultant)
Dave Chapman (Locality Director)
Deborah Annells
Deborah Yuill
Enrico Ripamonti (Graphic Design)
Graeme Lyons (Biological Survey in Coldean 2020)
Helen Nevitt (Assistant to Stephen Lawrenson)
Ian Trevett (Graphic Design)
Madeleine Gonin (Locality Neighbourhood Planning Officer)
Jean Thomas (Old Maps)
Jack Moxley
James Halls (Squires Planning)
Laura Graham (Master Town Planner)
Nicholas Pascalli (AECOM Technical Support- Graduate Planning Consultant)
Nicola Thomas (Architect, retired)
Nicky Walters
Manish Suchak
Mark Thew Lis (Drone Photography)
Patrick Lowe
Rose Bateman (AECOM Technical Support - Principal Planning Consultant)
Stephen Lawrenson (Town Planner, retired)

We thank all consultees in Coldean and elsewhere - including Brighton & Hove City Council, Southern Water, South Downs National Park Authority personnel, and personnel from the Office for National Statistics who pulled out data for the Coldean Area for our analysis.

12. POLICY MONITORING

Policy	Usage	Issues Addressed	Issues Not Addressed Satisfactorily	Comments
H1 - HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY (HMO)				
H2 - NEW DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY				
LGS1 - LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATIONS				
LCS1 - LOCAL COMMUNITY SPACES				
C1 - DESIGNING OUT CRIME				
T1 - INCREASING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT <u>AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT</u>				
T2 - THROUGH TRAFFIC				
T3 T2 - CAR AND CYCLE PARKING				
T4 T3 - ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL				
T5 T4 - ACCESSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS				
T6 T5 - PROVISION OF CYCLE/ WALKWAYS				
DC1 - DESIGN GUIDE				
E1 - SETTLEMENT CONTAINMENT <u>AND PROTECTION OF THE URBAN FRINGE</u>				
E2 - PROTECTING VALUED VIEWS <u>AND VISUAL CONNECTIONS TO THE SOUTH DOWNS</u>				
E3 - PROTECTI <u>ON</u> <u>OF</u> ALLOTMENTS				
E4 - MITIGATING AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE <u>AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</u>				
E5 - BIODIVERSITY <u>AND NATURE RECOVERY</u>				

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 24

Subject: Appointment of Independent Persons pursuant to the Localism Act 2011

Date of meeting: 23 July 2026

Report of: Director of Governance & Law

Contact Officer: Name: Victoria Simpson, Senior Lawyer – Corporate Law
Email: 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 Council's approval for the appointment of two new Independent Persons to exercise the standards functions prescribed by the Localism Act 2011.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council approve the appointments of Mr Dean Spears and Mr Paul Cummins as two of the Council's three Independent Persons; and
- 2.2 That Council agree that each of the above appointments shall be for an initial period of 4 years (subject to review after the first 6 month period), further giving the Monitoring Officer delegated authority to implement a 2-year extension thereafter at her discretion after consulting with the Chair of Audit, Standards & General Purposes Committee; and
- 2.3 That the appointment of both of the Independent Persons come into immediate effect, on the date of the decision of full Council.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 Section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 requires the council to appoint at least one Independent Person, whose views are to be sought in relation to Member Code of Conduct issues. The Independent Person (i) must be consulted, and their views taken into account, before the council makes a decision on any allegation relating to a breach of the Member Code of Conduct it has decided to investigate; (ii) may be consulted by the council in other circumstances related to standards issues; and (iii) may be consulted by a Member against whom an allegation of misconduct has been made.
- 3.2 The Independent Person has an important role in relation to complaints made about members of this Council. They are consulted at key points in the complaints process. In addition an Independent Person must be appointed to chair (in a non-voting capacity) any Standards hearing convened to determine a complaint against a member of the council following a formal investigation.

- 3.3 While this Council normally has three Independent Persons, the resignation of one of the appointees at the start of 2026 has meant that currently only two remain in post. Moreover the tenure of David Bradley KC expires in October 2026. Members will wish to acknowledge the contribution which Mr Bradley has made, and to give their thanks for the consistency and clarity with which he has discharged his role and for the impact he has had.
- 3.4 An external recruitment process was initiated by the Council, working alongside the East Sussex Fire Authority (which was also recruiting) to maximise efficiency and publicity. The recruitment involved publicly advertising the vacancies and also sharing information about the role via a range of professional networks, the aim being to ensure that the opportunity attracted applicants from a range of sectors and backgrounds.
- 3.5 The calibre of applications from individuals who met the statutory criteria (including the expectations of independence) was exceptionally high. The Panel's decision to select Dean Spears and Paul Cummins as preferred candidates was unanimous.
- 3.6 Dean Spears' professional skillset includes strengths in the area of governance and he is currently appointed as independent person for another local authority. He resides locally and was able to demonstrate a strong public service ethos as well as a nuanced understanding of the Nolan principles.
- 3.7 Paul Cummins is a qualified solicitor who has had significant experience, acting as a Monitoring Officer at different local authorities. He is currently employed at a senior level by a regulatory body and is also appointed as an independent person to more than one other local authority. He has very considerable experience and expertise of relevance, including of the current legal framework which governs member conduct. As a result, he is considered to be very well-placed to provide the independent and impartial input required by this statutory role.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The appointment by the Council of at least one Independent Person is a legal requirement. No alternative options are proposed.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 No consultation has been undertaken in view of the nature of the appointments, which required public advertisement and a formal recruitment process.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. All member and Independent Persons allowances are set by the Independent

Remuneration panel and provided for within the general fund revenue budget.

Name of finance officer consulted: Haley Woollard

Date consulted: 17/06/26

7. Legal implications

7.1 These are dealt with in the body of the report.

Name of lawyer consulted: Victoria Simpson Date consulted 17.06.2026

8. Risk implications

8.1 Failing to appoint any independent persons would result in non-compliance with legal requirements.

9. Equalities implications

9.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this Report.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 There are no sustainability implications arising from this Report.

11. Other Implications

No other significant implications arising from this Report have been identified

12. Conclusion

12.1 The recommendations are proposed for the reasons outlined in this report.

Supporting Documentation

None

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 25

Subject: Review of Political Balance 2026/27

Date of meeting: 23 July 2026

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

Note: Urgency

By reason of the special circumstances below, and in accordance with section 100B(4)(b) of the 1972 Act, the Chair of the meeting has been consulted and is of the opinion that this item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: Reasons for urgency

The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that ongoing discussions with the Groups were not concluded in time for the report to be included in the agenda.

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 by-election in Goldsmid ward in June 2026.
- 1.3 The report also seeks Council approval to appoint Members to the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority's Audit & Governance Committee and Overview & Scrutiny Committee, having regard to the guidance issued by the Strategic Authority on the skills, independence, experience and relevant committee background required for those appointments.

2. Recommendations

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

- 2.2 That Councillor Nadia Barton Ahmad be appointed to the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.3 That Council appoints three Members to the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority Audit & Governance Committee and three Members to the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee as set out at Appendix 2
- 2.4 That Council notes the in-year changes to appointments following consultation with the Leader, made under delegated powers as set out at Appendix 2.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 In June 2026 Councillor Nadia Barton Ahmad (Green) was elected as a member for Goldsmid ward. The political composition of the Council is therefore now Labour (33 Members), Green (11 Members), Conservative (5 Members), Brighton & Hove Independents (2 Members), 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 a 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) Subject to the above two principles that the number of seats on the total of all the committees/sub-committees allocated to each Group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the Full Council, and
- d) Subject to (a) and (c), that the number of seats on each committee/sub-committee allocated to each Group bears the same proportion to the proportion 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	Members on the Council	Post by election Allocation (rounded)	Initial Allocation
Labour	33	38.50 (39)	39
Green	11	12.83 (13)	13
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 39 seats,
 - b) The Green Group's overall allocation equals 13 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 will leave all Groups represented on the Council with allocations in accordance with their initial calculations. The 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.

Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority

- 3.9 At the Annual Meeting of the Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority on 1 July 2026, it was agreed that each constituent council would appoint three members to the Audit & Governance Committee and three members to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. It was also agreed that appointments should have regard to the guidance set out below.
- 3.10 Constituent councils are advised to appoint members who can demonstrate the skills, independence and commitment needed to strengthen the effectiveness of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and provide robust, constructive challenge in support of better decision-making. As the intention is to develop a Sussex-wide approach to Overview and Scrutiny, requiring close working with scrutiny arrangements in each constituent council, councils are advised to appoint members from their own scrutiny functions.
- 3.11 The Audit & Governance Committee requires members who can provide independent challenge and support the effective governance of the Strategic Authority. Constituent councils are therefore requested to appoint members who serve on their own audit committee functions, or who have relevant interest or expertise in financial affairs and governance.
- 3.12 The Political Balance calculations have been undertaken by the Strategic Authority and this requires the appointment of 2 Labour Councillors and 1 Green Councillor for each Committee referred to above. The proposed appointments are set out at Appendix 2.

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 impacted Political Groups have been consulted and provided their nominations.

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:13/07/2026

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: 14/07/2026

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
Appendix 2 - Appointments to Council, Outside Bodies and Partnerships

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	6	2	1	1	
Health Overview & Scrutiny	10	6	2	1		1
People – Scrutiny	10	6	3	1		
Place – Scrutiny	10	6	2	1	1	
Total	63	39	13	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	3	1	1		
Licensing Panels	3	2	1			

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

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 26

Subject: Review of the Council's Constitution

Date of meeting: 23 July 2026

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

Contact Officer: Anthony Soyinka, Head of Democratic Services
Anthony.Soyinka@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 the deadlines for public questions for Full Council set out in the report and in Appendix 1, with immediate effect.
- 2.2 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 the deadline for public questions to Full Council in line with the Council Plan priorities to ensure good governance and ways of working that meet the needs of staff, residents and customers.

Extended time for submission of public questions to Full Council

- 3.2 It is proposed that the deadline for public questions to Full Council 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. The intention behind this change is to support public engagement in Council decision-making processes,

- 3.3 The proposed change would align the public questions deadline with Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny Committees where the deadline for public questions is already four working days before the meeting.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The option of retaining the current deadline of eight working days before the Full Council meeting has been considered. This would preserve the current level of time available for officers and members to process questions, prepare responses and manage the overall volume of public engagement items. However, this option would continue to require questions to be submitted before publication of the agenda, limiting the ability of residents to frame questions by reference to the reports and items of business that are due to be considered by Council.
- 4.2 A further option would be to adopt a different intermediate deadline, for example six working days before the meeting. This would provide a modest increase in time for the public to submit questions while retaining more preparation time than the proposed approach. However, this would not fully address the underlying concern that members of the public should have a meaningful opportunity to consider the published agenda before deciding whether to submit a question to Full Council.
- 4.3 The recommended option is therefore to amend the deadline for public questions to Full Council to four working days before the meeting. This aligns the deadline more closely with the arrangements for Cabinet, supports greater transparency and public engagement, and enables questions to be informed by the published agenda. The revised deadline will reduce the time available to coordinate responses, particularly where a high volume of questions is received which may impact response rates. The operation of the revised deadline will therefore be monitored and kept under review to assess its impact and ensure the process remains effective and proportionate.

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.

Name of finance officer consulted: Ishemupenyu Chagonda Date consulted: TBC 14/07/26

7. Legal implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Name of lawyer consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date consulted: 130726

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 Full Council, 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.

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

[..]

Public Questions

Procedural Requirements

9.15 A public question shall be put at a Council meeting provided that:

- (a) a copy of the question has been delivered to the office of the Chief Executive (see Procedure Rule 1.5) by not later than 10am ~~eight~~ **four** working days 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 (or if not available, their nominated substitute) 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. [..]

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 27

Subject: Youth Justice Plan 2026-29

Date of meeting: 23 July 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member, Children, Families & Youth

Contact Officer: Name: Tania Riedel
Email: tania.riedel@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 Youth Justice Partnerships have a statutory duty to submit a youth justice plan relating to the provision of youth justice services as set out in Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is the duty of each local authority, in consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual Youth Justice plan, setting out how Youth Justice Services in their area are to be provided and funded, how they operate, and how the functions will be carried out.
- 1.2 The 2026/29 Youth Justice Plan addresses how services work to prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending by young people. It delivers on the Council Plan priorities of a fair and inclusive city and a healthy city where people thrive.
- 1.3 The Youth Justice Board are prescriptive on the structure of the plan and what needs to be included – this results in a very detailed document. It has been agreed with the YJB (Youth Justice Board) that the city's Adolescent Partnership Board can submit a 3-year plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Full Council notes and endorses the city's Youth Justice Plan and supports the activity detailed therein.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The local youth justice arrangements are agreed and owned by the Brighton and Hove Adolescent Partnership Board. This partnership fulfils the statutory functions of a youth justice partnership. The statutory partners are Brighton & Hove City Council, Sussex Police, the National Probation Service and NHS Surrey & Sussex. Voluntary sector and school representative also form part of the Partnership Board.
- 3.2 The city's Youth Justice Team is integrated into the Specialist Adolescent Service. An Adolescent Strategy outlines the work and priorities for adolescents in the city. It covers the full spectrum of support from universal and prevention to targeted and the more intensive complex offer. The annual Youth Justice Plan sits beneath this strategy.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The development and submission of an annual Youth Justice Plan to the national Youth Justice Board is a statutory requirement. There is a prescribed template that all Youth Justice Plans must adhere to.
- 4.2 The Youth Justice Partnership arrangements are well established and the YJB grant is now three-year funding. Given this a three-year Youth Justice Plan has been developed.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 There was a local review of the youth service landscape commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport as part of the Young Futures developments. This was undertaken by the National Youth Agency (NYA) in November 2025. It found the following:

5.2 Overview of Findings

Youth participation is a rights-based approach that ensures young people influence decisions affecting lives and communities and is essential to meaningful youth provision design.

Brighton & Hove has a developing but increasingly clear understanding of the needs of its young people.

Young people consistently value trusted adults, safe spaces, creative outlets, social connection, and practical support with financial literacy and life skills. There is good collaboration with Voluntary, Community, and Faith Sector (VCFS) partners to deliver a comprehensive and diverse youth offer.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The Youth Justice plan is fully funded within the agreed Youth Offending Service budget which includes grant funding of £0.33m in 26/27 from the Youth Justice Board (YJB)

Name of finance officer consulted: David Ellis Date consulted (19/06/26):

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 Local authorities have a legal duty to produce and publish an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services (YJSs) under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is the duty of each local authority, in consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how YJSs in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out. The plan should address the functions assigned to a YJS, including how services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending, and set out the direction and strategy of youth justice services (YJSs), describing how in particular, quality services will be provided to ensure positive outcomes for children and improvements in performance. The scope of the plan must follow the *Youth justice plans: guidance for youth services* (Updated 19 march 2026).
- 7.2 The plan must be submitted to the YJB by 30 June each year to ensure timely payment of your Youth Justice Grant. Youth Justice Plans, in England only, must be signed off by the full council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the

'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'.

Name of lawyer consulted: Natasha Watson. Date consulted: (19/06/26)

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 The activity detailed in the Youth Justice plan falls within allocated budgets. A proportion of the service offer is funded through short term year on year funding, such as the Violence Reduction Partnership intervention money and Home Office grants. Details of future years funding is often received after the next financial year has begun. The majority of this funding is used for staffing cost. This therefore creates a risk as it results in the loss of good staff we have invested in and create issue with recruitment.
- 8.2 The success of the arrangement relies on strong partnership working. Therefore, change of policy or issues within partner agencies can potentially create a risk. This is mitigated by strong governance arrangements and partnership agreements.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 There is a Children's Safeguarding and Care Anti Racist Action Plan in place, which the Youth Justice Team is part of. The plan has three workstreams - staff support; practice with children and families; the voices of families, children and carers. Staff are becoming more confident about talking about race and significantly more examples of good practice is being seen in quality assurance audits. This is a journey and there is still more work to do.
- 9.2 Joint training between the Police and the Adolescent Service has supported the difficult conversations required to challenge and address examples of racism and to encourage better joined up work in this area. Performance data is regularly scrutinized by the Brighton and Hove Adolescent Partnership Board. There is disproportionality within the cohort of mixed heritage boys coming to the attention of youth justice professionals and this is an area of focus for the partnership.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 no implications

11. Other implications

Crime & disorder implications:

- 11.1 The annual Youth Justice Plan outlines the how the youth justice services are delivered in Brighton and Hove City Council. It focuses on preventing youth offending, reducing offending, and ensuring positive outcomes through the partnership arrangements. It is a statutory duty of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

12. Public health implications

- 12.1 Having suitable arrangements in place to divert children away from crime and anti-social behaviour and prevent reoffending will likely have a

positive impact upon their emotional health and wellbeing. A reduction in youth crime and anti-social behaviour will have a positive impact on community wellbeing.

13. Conclusion

- 13.1 The 2026/29 Youth Justice Plan has been agreed by the Brighton and Hove Adolescent Partnership Board. The Board fulfills the statutory functions of a Youth Justice Partnership. There is a statutory requirement to submit the plan to the Youth Justice Board and for this to be presented to Full Council.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices
- 1.1 Brighton and Hove Youth Justice Plan 2026-29

Brighton & Hove Youth Justice Plan 2026-2029

Introduction

Brighton & Hove is a city defined by energy, creativity and opportunity a place where young people can grow, contribute and shape their futures. Recognised as one of the UK's most vibrant and inclusive cities, it offers a rich cultural life, strong communities and an environment where diversity is championed and individuality thrives. For many children and young people, it is a place full of possibility.

However, not all young people experience these opportunities equally. Alongside affluence, the city faces deep-rooted inequalities that continue to shape the lives of some of our most vulnerable adolescents. Too many young people are growing up in the context of substance misuse, poor mental health, domestic abuse and exploitation. These factors increase the risk of harm, involvement in crime and contact with the youth justice system.

Youth justice in Brighton & Hove sits at the heart of this challenge and the opportunity. We know that contact with the criminal justice system is often a symptom of unmet need, trauma and vulnerability. Preventing offending, reducing reoffending and keeping children out of custody is not just a statutory responsibility; it is a shared ambition across the partnership to improve life chances and protect our young people from harm.

Our response is rooted in a strong and evolving partnership. The multi-disciplinary Adolescent Service, which includes the Youth Justice Service, brings together expertise across safeguarding, exploitation, substance use and edge of care to provide a coordinated response to those with the most complex needs. This integrated approach recognises that children involved in offending are often also victims and require a system that is collaborative, responsive and child-centred.

As a Young Futures Hub pilot area, Brighton & Hove is strengthening its commitment to early intervention and prevention, creating a more joined-up pathway from universal and targeted youth provision through to intensive support. This end-to-end model ensures that we intervene earlier, respond more effectively to risk, and sustain positive change for young people and their families.

This Youth Justice Plan sits within the wider Adolescent Strategy, owned by the Brighton & Hove Adolescent Strategic Partnership Board. Together, we are united in our ambition to:

- Prevent children from entering the criminal justice system
- Reduce reoffending through high-quality, trauma-informed practice
- Minimise the use of custody and support children to remain safely in their communities
- Address disproportionality and embed anti-racist practice across the system
- Ensure that the voices, experiences and strengths of children and young people shape everything we do

Fundamentally, this strategy is about more than reducing offending is about creating the conditions in which all young people can thrive. By working together, listening to young people and focusing relentlessly on what makes the greatest difference, we will continue to

build a youth justice system that is ambitious, inclusive and focused on hope, safety and opportunity.

Deb Austin, Corporate Director and Adam Muirhead, Director of Youth Work, Co Chairs of the Brighton & Hove Adolescent Partnership Board.

Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

The Adolescent Service, incorporating Youth Justice, is situated within the Children's Safeguarding and Care division of the Families, Children & Wellbeing Directorate, enabling strong operational and strategic alignment with the wider system supporting children, young people and their families. The service is underpinned by a clear relational principle: to demonstrate consistent care and commitment to young people, even where their behaviours are challenging, and to maintain persistent efforts to engage those who are often the most disengaged. This is supported through reflective group supervision, enabling practitioners to explore and adapt approaches where progress is limited. The model promotes a child-centred, integrated approach that reduces the number of professionals involved with each young person, minimising repetition of their experiences and fostering stronger, trusted relationships. A welcoming and youth-oriented environment further supports engagement, with young people encouraged to spend time in the service and build positive connections with staff.

The service works proactively with the wider community to address contextual risks, including exploitation, for example through partnership work with local businesses such as hotels to provide advice and training. Recent developments have expanded the service's remit to include youth provision across the city, including leadership of the Young Futures Hub, enabling a more cohesive continuum from prevention and early intervention through to intensive support for complex adolescents. This approach strengthens collaboration with the voluntary and community sector and aligns with wider reforms, including Family First, to create a more joined-up and responsive system.

Governance and strategic direction are provided through the Adolescent Partnership Board, which has evolved from the former Youth Offending Service Management Board to reflect a broader focus on complex adolescents. The Board meets quarterly, is co-chaired at senior level, and includes representation from all key statutory partners, the voluntary sector and education. It retains a strong focus on youth justice, setting priorities, overseeing performance and ensuring continued development, with the Youth Justice Plan embedded within a wider Complex Adolescents Strategy. Leadership is further strengthened through representation at key strategic partnerships, including criminal justice, community safety, violence reduction and safeguarding boards, ensuring that the needs of this vulnerable cohort are championed and consistently framed through a 'child first' lens.

Partnership working is a core strength, with well-established and effective relationships across Police, Probation, courts and community organisations, enabling a coordinated and robust response to risk, public protection and safeguarding. Collaborative work with targeted

youth provision and outreach services supports prevention, desistance and positive outcomes. As a result, the Youth Justice Service is well regarded both internally and externally, benefiting from its structural integration within social care and alignment with social work practice, and is well positioned to respond to the dual demands of welfare and justice for children and young people.

5.1 Update on the previous year:

Progress on priorities in previous plan:

The Youth Justice Team is fully integrated into the Adolescent Service. The Adolescent Strategic Partnership Board has set 3 main priorities for 2023-2026:

- To increase participation and the voice of the child;
- To continue the anti-racist journey and address disproportionality; and
- To continue to develop contextual safeguarding practice to better meet the needs of this cohort.

In addition, there were Youth Justice specific outcomes, reducing First Time Entrants (FTEs), reducing reoffending and reducing the use of custody.

- **To increase participation and the voice of the child**

In 2025, the Adolescent Service completed a survey of young people around their ideas, thoughts and experiences of transitioning to adult services. Some of the young people surveyed had been open to YJS. This information will be used to inform conversations about planning to make adult drug and alcohol services more responsive to this population.

In the YJS, we are collecting feedback from children and their parents/ carers about their experiences of the Youth Justice system and the intervention/ support they have received from the service. A simple online questionnaire is linked to a QR code, so that children and parents/ carers can immediately access this via their phones and complete a response via email or text anonymously. Unfortunately, we have not had many responses from children, despite encouragement from their YJ workers to provide feedback. Children tend to provide verbal feedback during sessions but we wanted to provide an anonymous route for them too.

We seek children's views throughout and at the end of their disposals. In almost all cases, children express that the relationship with their Youth Justice worker is the most important aspect of their experience, and especially that they can trust their Youth Justice worker. To date, feedback from children about their YJ workers has continued to be very positive and they have shared that they feel listened to, supported and respected.

We continue to encourage children to participate by being part of interview panels for practitioners and managers. Children are provided with advice and guidance, are asked to write their own questions for candidates and encouraged to take a full part in the interview process. They contribute to scoring and discussions about candidates at the end of interviews.

Below are some quotes from young people and parents received in the last year, with all except one being collected from the anonymous online survey:

Child:

"its been helpful having someone to talk to outside of the home, especially with everything that has happened with my mum's health.... sessions have helped me to think about my responses a bit more. It was helpful to talk to someone about my moods and self- harming, even though it was uncomfortable".

Parent:

"[worker] consistently showed excellent insight, rapport and understanding. She built a genuine connection with our son, who takes a long time to trust new people and her calm, respectful manner made a real difference to him and us as a family. She has a rare ability to see the whole picture and to relate authentically to neurodivergent young people and their parents"

Parent feedback o YJ worker via email:

"[worker's name], you are one of a kind, you went above and beyond for my girl you listened to her and made her feel like her side of the ongoing issue was valued. For [daughter], this was key as the school was not listen to her when she was reporting what was going on and this is why she ended up lashing out and hitting the other pupil. Your time spent with [daughter] was very helpful. [MH practitioner] spent little time with [daughter] but also got her engaged and has helped massively. You are both a credit to your teams. I wish you both all the best."

Parent:

"My child has been lucky to have such an amazing YJ worker [name]. Its impossible to do justice to how life changing this has been for my son's outcomes. At a time when he struggled to see a future for himself, she gave him consistency, safety, enabled him to build trust in an understanding adult over a prolonged period...she has always gone above and beyond in being there for him and also help guide me as his mum supporting him."

Parents:

[To YJ worker from parent via text] "In the 4-5 years this has been going on, I can honestly say, you're the only one I have fully trusted and you've gone above and beyond"

From survey regarding YJS:

"very good, clear and consistent communication and support"

"staff members are helpful and explain anything you might not understand"

- **To continue the anti-racist journey and address disproportionality.**

The Youth Justice Service is part of the Children's Safeguarding and Care Anti Racist Action Plan. The plan has been produced by the project board, including senior managers and practitioners and has three main workstreams, staff support, how we are working with children and families and the voices of families, children and carers. We have seen significant improvements in practice in the last year, including staff feeling more confident talking about race and the impact of discrimination, as well as significantly more examples of good practice seen in audits.

Following, joint training between the Police and the Adolescent Service to support the difficult conversations required to challenge and address examples of racism, we have continued to have open conversations with Police colleagues about the use of language, adultification and children's experiences of the CJS. We continue to share concerns about racism and disproportionality at strategic and operational levels. For example, we scrutinise the performance data, which is shared and discussed at the Adolescent Strategic Partnership Board. Where we see disproportionality within the Youth Justice cohort, we look at ways to examine and address this.

As part of the BHCC Anti-racist pledge, the Adolescent Service are committed to learning and development of best practice in anti-racism to improve outcomes for children and families and to creating a diverse workforce that feel safe and supported. Anti-racist practice is a regular agenda item for reflection and learning. The learning continues through the monthly Anti-Racist Forum, which involves learning across wider Children's Services, sharing best practice and discussions of topical issues affecting staff and local communities. More detail on disproportionality and measures to address this are included in the Performance section below.

- **To continue to develop contextual safeguarding practice to better meet the needs of this cohort.**

The Safeguarding Children Partnership (bhscp.org.uk) continues to have Safeguarding Children from Violence and Exploitation as one of its strategic priorities. Our model of Relationship Based Practice, shared across the partnership, aligns with our focus on Contextual Safeguarding. We have systems in place, such as Contextual Safeguarding Strategy Meetings to help provide structure to the work alongside AVRMs and our specialist Adolescent Services. BHSCP has completed recent thematic audits on exploitation and children who go missing which has helped drive best practice in these areas and acknowledged the good systems and joint working already in place. This has seen further developments of our work with the NRM Pilot and work with the Police to disrupt and support investigations into perpetrators of exploitation in the city. This activity is overseen by the Exploitation Sub Group that sits under the BHSCP safeguarding arrangements.

The multi-agency thematic audit conducted by the Brighton & Hove Children's Safeguarding Board (BHSCP) identified some key strengths around partnership practices, effective systems and processes to safeguard children and the use of contextual safeguarding. It was acknowledged that even though the multi-agency arrangements and practice was strong, there remained inconsistency in the improvement of the lived experience for some of these

children. The findings of this were shared through a learning event. We will use these findings to inform and continue to develop the work in this area.

There is ongoing partnership work with Police in relation to ASB, vulnerability/ exploitation and children at risk of perpetrating serious violence and/ or carrying weapons in the city. For example via the Focussed Deterrence programme funded via the VRP. This uses the habitual knife crime index to identify children at risk of carrying knives and causing harm and ensuring they have appropriate intervention in place. There is a dedicated youth engagement worker who uses assertive outreach and positive activities to engage this cohort. All children are discussed in a multi-agency meeting, involving the Youth Justice Service, Police and key partners, such as Trust for Developing Communities (TDC), Access to Education, Community Safety and the Police Exploitation team.

Brighton & Hove city council is part of a joint National Referral Mechanism (NRM) decision making panel with East Sussex County Council. The panel has been established for over two years now and we are seeing more timely decisions being made in respect for the vulnerable cohort of children. Another positive outcome is that this has enabled the voice of the child to be heard as part of the process.

- **To reduce First Time Entrants**

In the last year we have continued to strengthen partnership work with police and both statutory and voluntary partners to divert children away from the youth justice system. There has been a significant focus on prevention to improve the offer to children and their families and prevent the harmful impact of criminalisation. The results are starting to show in the performance data, with significant reduction in the number of FTEs in B&H.

The Adolescent Service is designed to enable appropriate support and intervention for vulnerable children and those coming to notice, and their families, with a range of services delivered by skilled and experienced professionals. The Youth Justice Service has established diversion pathways that respond to the needs of the child and family. Police referrals are triaged, with diversion pathways including specialist drugs diversion via ru-ok? substance misuse service, Turnaround and Reboot mentoring (further details below).

Children open to Youth Justice have direct access to services such as Family Functional Therapy, support from Psychologist & MH practitioners and Engagement & Support service (bespoke mentoring). We have continued to develop and strengthen the OOCR offer in partnership with Police (see section on diversion below).

There are regular pan -Sussex meetings with the local YJ areas and Sussex Police to ensure alignment of the Child Outcome Pathway across Sussex and share and develop best practice. We also conduct regular reviews of OOCR decision-making through the pan - Sussex Multi-Agency Scrutiny Panel, which brings local partners together to moderate decision-making across the county.

The Early Intervention monthly meeting brings together local partners involved in crime prevention, including Youth Policing team and NPT, Community Safety and Exploitation team, Trust for Developing Communities and Youth hubs, BCRP (Brighton Crime Reduction Partnership) and YJS to identify children involved in ASB and offending and ensure there is an appropriate response.

- **To reduce re-offending**

Our core aim is to reduce re-offending, to protect victims and communities from harm and to improve outcomes for children within Youth Justice. As noted above, the integration of Youth Justice into Children's Services and as part of the Adolescent Service provides a sound basis for a ChildFirst approach, enabling joined up multi-agency intervention suited to meeting children's complex and diverse needs. The co-location of services facilitates close collaboration between professionals and children's networks. There is similarly close connection between service managers, joint planning and development of the service.

The Trauma Informed model is embedded into practice across the service, with specialist CAMHS practitioners attending reflective group supervision to support staff. In house MH practitioners also provide individual consultation, clinical supervision and advice. Youth Justice practitioners use the five Ps case formulation for assessing young people and have a good understanding of the children they work with. We have a strong partnership with the local F-CAMHS team, who provide forensic assessment, clinical consultation for staff and networks and direct intervention when violence and risk to others is a particular concern.

There is multi-agency oversight of young people who present a significant risk of re-offending and harm to others via the Adolescent Vulnerability and Risk Meeting. There is a strong partnership with local Police, with an experienced Police Officer embedded in the YJS and good relationships with the local Youth Policing team, which facilitates excellent information sharing and joint working.

In the last year, we have continued to develop the offer to victims and increase victim safety, in line with HMIP guidance and standards. Restorative practice is central to our practice and we strive to ensure victim's perspectives are included in planning and decision- making.

We continue to develop Transitions work in close liaison with the probation service. The current arrangement of a seconded Probation Officer in a split role, partly in YJS and partly in VERU (18-25 adult team) has significantly improved transitions for young people turning 18, providing continuity of relationships and access to adult services.

We have a full time Education Advisor, who works directly with schools and the B&H Inclusion Support Service (BHIS) with the aim that all children open to Youth Justice are offered suitable education provision where their needs are met.

- **To reduce the use of custody**

We have continued to work in partnership with local courts to embed a ChildFirst approach whereby custody is only used as a last resort. There is a high congruency rate with PSR proposals and disposals, which demonstrates the credibility the YJS holds with magistrates and judges.

Custody cases are discussed with the Strategic Management Board and deep dives of the data completed when issues are highlighted. Where children reach the custody threshold, there is consultation with the HoS regarding PSR proposals, to consider public protection concerns, risk management and the YJS offer to children at this level. Children and young people are offered robust community disposals in all cases unless the risk to the public is considered to be unacceptably high (i.e. could not be safety managed in the community) and/ or all other options have been tried.

Children identified as at risk of custody are offered an enhanced multi-agency package via the provisions of Youth Rehabilitation Orders, which can include a range of specialist adolescent services, such as Engagement and Support (mentoring), specialist Adolescent Social worker, Ru-ok? (substance misuse); FFT (Functional Family Therapy); support with emotional & mental health via seconded CAMHS practitioner and 1:1 support with education, training or employment. Programmes are bespoke, tailored to individual needs and wishes, with a balance of statutory appointments and activities to enhance engagement. This includes ISS programmes as part of a YRO or Bail Support programme.

Youth Justice practitioners are experienced, qualified and highly skilled, providing a daily service to the local courts to reduce the use of custodial remand.

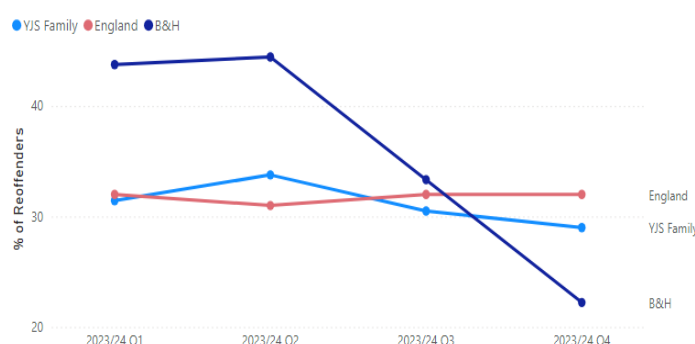
In respect of children being held overnight in custody, there is a protocol in place to prevent this wherever possible, which is monitored and upheld by Police.

Performance over the previous year:

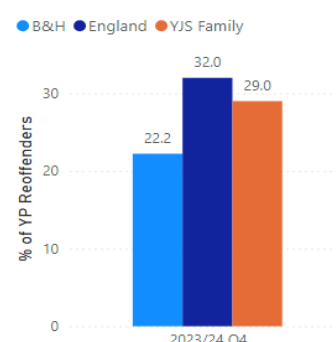
1. Re-offending rate

a) YJB quarterly comparative data:

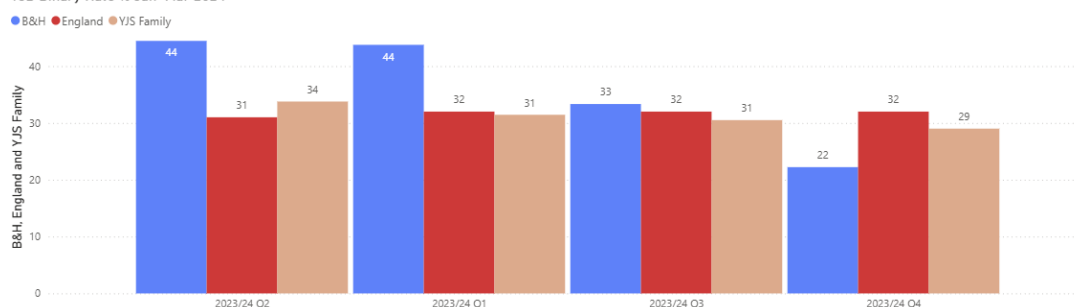
YJB Data B&H / England & Wales / YJS Family Average % of cohort who reoffen...



YJB Binary Rate % Jan-M...

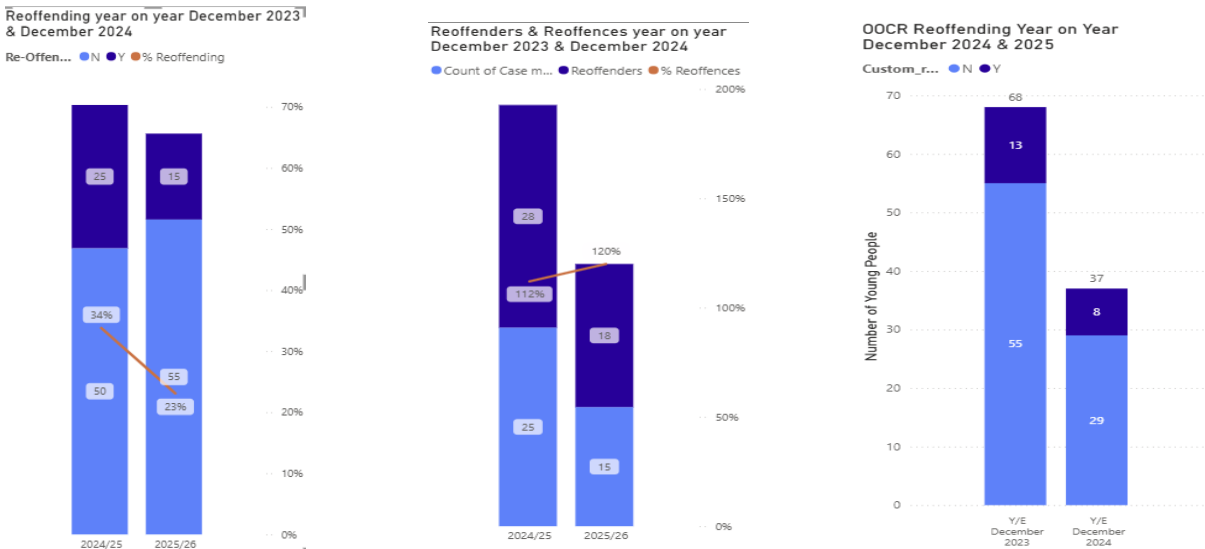


YJB Binary Rate % Jan-Mar 2024



The YJB data shows B&H re-offending rates have dropped below the national and family groups in Q4. The small cohort in B&H tends to produce vary variable re-offending rates, as a small group of re-offenders can have a disproportionate impact. However, the average rate for the whole year suggests a more sustained change, below:

b) Annual re-offending rates for B&H 2025-2026 (local data)

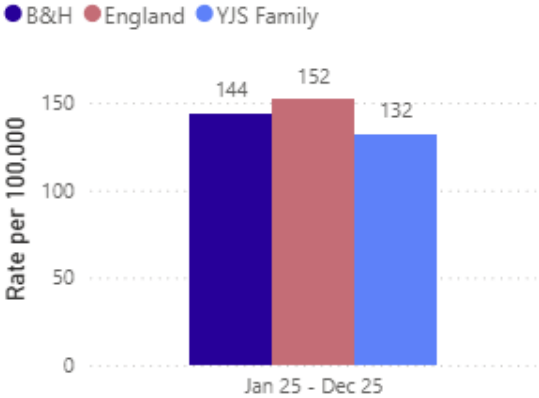


The re-offending (binary rate) for B&H (substantive outcomes) has significantly reduced compared to the previous year, from 34% to 23%, albeit the frequency rate has slightly increased from 112% (1.12 offences) to 120% (1.2 offences). The third chart above shows re-offending rates for Out of Court Resolutions (including cautions), which has slightly increased from 19% in 2025 to 21% in 2026.

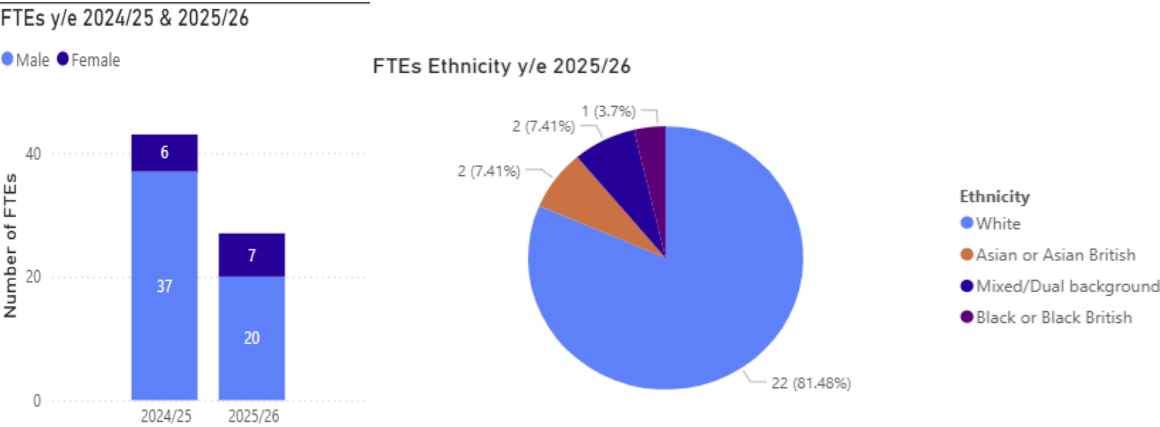
2. First Time Entrants

a) FTE rates: YJB comparative data

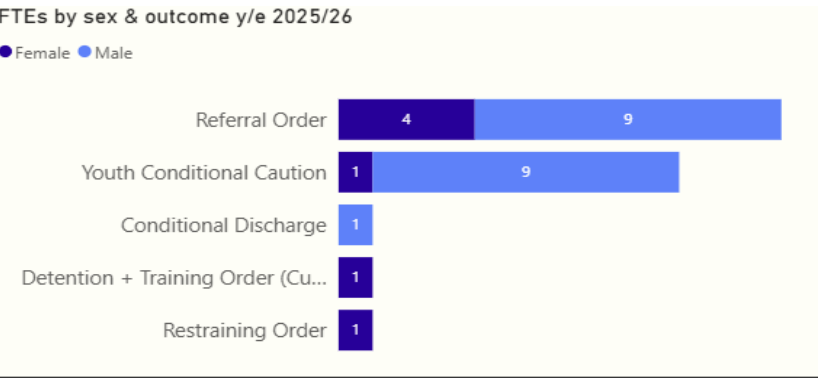
FTEs B&H / England & Wales / YJS Family
Average (rate per 100,000) for 12 Month
period ending 31st December 2025



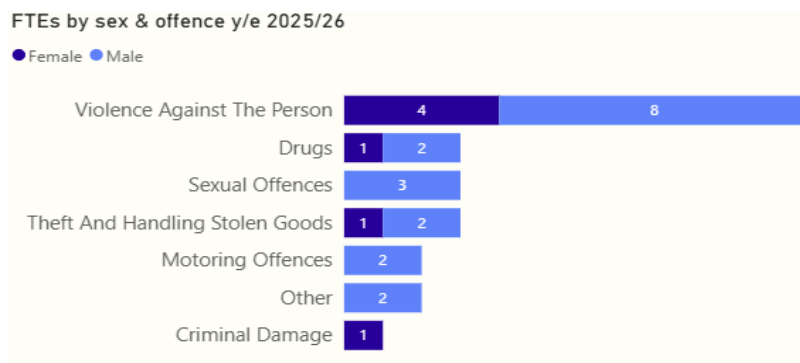
b) FTEs: Local data (annual) showing **gender and ethnicity**



b) Local FTE data: **Outcomes** with gender



c) FTEs offence type



There has been a significant reduction in FTEs in B&H over the past 3 years (over 50%), from 58 in the year ending 2024, to 41 in the year ending 2025, a reduction of 17. This has since dropped further, to **27 in 2025-2026**. Comparative data from December 2025, shows B&H is now below national numbers for FTEs but slightly above YJS family, however, the B&H rate has reduced further in Q4.

In terms of outcomes, 10 of the FTEs were **YCCs** and 14 were **Referral Orders**. Comparing the data to 2024-2025, the number of Referral Orders has reduced from **22 to 14** and the number of YCCs has reduced from **18 to 10**. FTEs also included a Restraining Order (this child not otherwise cautioned or convicted), a DTO (GBH S 18) and a conditional discharge.

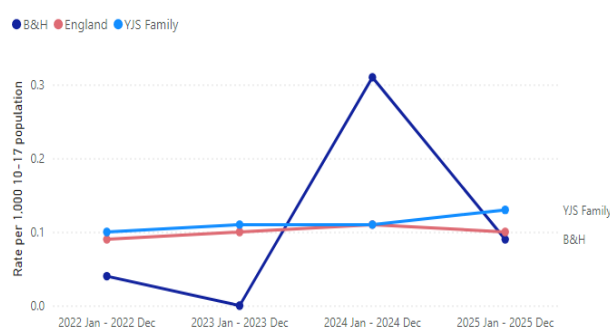
From chart (b), we can see that 22 (78%) of these children were white British and that Black and mixed heritage children are not over- represented in FTEs (mixed race children make up 10.4% of the school age population and Black children make up 2.1% of school age population from 2025 school census). Three of the children were dual heritage (10.71%), two were Asian British, with one being Black.

Chart (d) shows that Violence against the Person (including knife crime) remains the largest percentage in terms of offence types. Of these offences, five were knife related, including one for GBH with intent, one Threaten with a knife and three being simple possession. This is a significant reduction compared with 2024-2025, where there were 13 knife related crimes out of 21 violent offences.

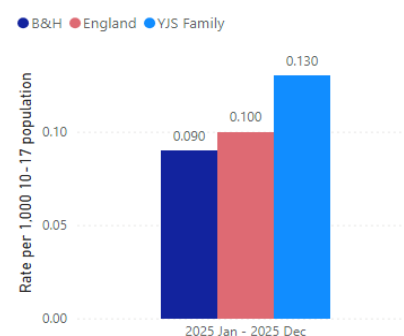
3. Custody

a) Custody rates per 1,000 of child population comparison:

YJB Data Custody Rates B&H, England & Wales and YJS Family Averag...

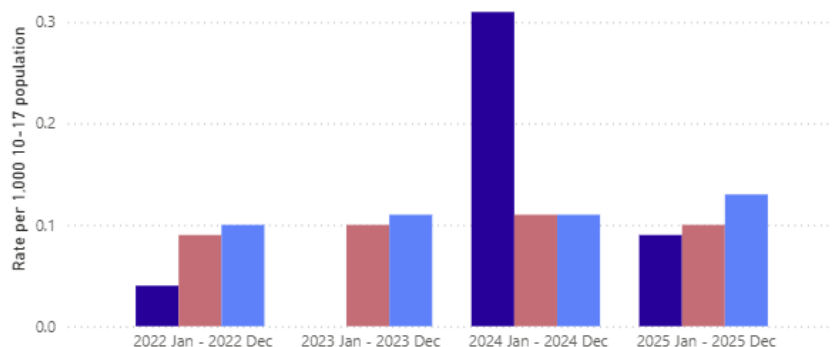


Custodial Sentences B&H/England...



YJB Data Custody Rates B&H, England & Wales and YJS Family Average (rate per 1,000 of 10-17 population) by rolling Year

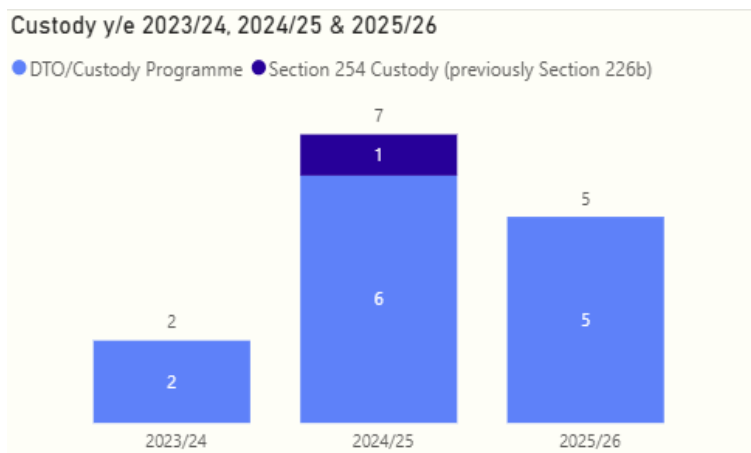
● B&H ● England ● YJS Family



https://app.powerbi.com/MobileRedirect.html?action=OpenReport&groupObjectId=116f54eb-b452-4d85-acc3-60100880afc4&reportObjectId=b5b50d2f-88c2-4e6e-8bd9-86d5168df4d0&ctid=989675fa-45e6-4b52-aa27-062757ad292d&reportPage=d8811cd2098d443df36a&pbi_source=copyvisualimage

As shown above, the B&H rate shows significant variations, which can be explained again by the small cohort. We have seen very low custody rates in 2022 and 2023, followed by a spike in 2024 and then a sharp reduction in the rate in 2025-2026. The custody rate is currently lower than national and YJS family averages, showing a decrease since 2024/25. This can also be seen in the local numerical data below:

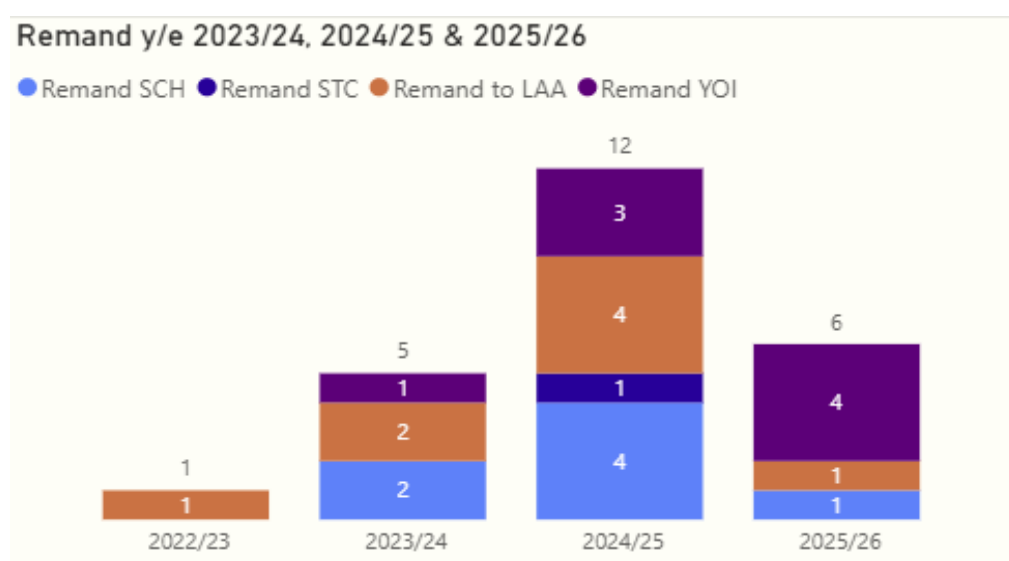
b) Local data: B&H custodial sentences over 4 years (there were *no custody cases in 2022/23*)



In the year ending March 2026, four children were sentenced to custody and one child was recalled due to breach of licence conditions. This compares to 9 custodial sentences (including one recall) relating to 7 children in 2025. Of the five children, one was a white female, one a black (African) male, one mixed race male and two white males. This shows significant disparity in the custody cohort, albeit the numbers of black and mixed- race children are very low (2). The children received custodial sentences for serious violent crime, such as GBH S18, ABH and repeated knife crime and in all cases, the risk to the public was considered high or very high.

The average use of custodial sentences in B&H remains low, well within our local target of less than 7 (children) per year being sentenced to custody.

b) B&H Remand data



Compared to 2025, there has been a reduction in the use of secure remands in the past year, with 5 Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation (RYDA) and one RLAA. The RLAA and secure remands relate to the same children that are in the custody cohort above, with one exception. They include one white female, one black male, 2 mixed-race males and one white male. In this cohort, the disparity is also stark, albeit relating to a small number of children being securely remanded.

All of the children remanded were assessed as posing high levels of serious harm to the community due to offences of GBH S 18, knife crime and violent crime (e.g. Robbery), in two cases, this was alongside repeated breaches of court bail conditions (the female was initially RLAA but repeatedly breached conditions). Four of these children were subject to a gang injunction and part of a particularly high- risk group of boys known to the YJS. There were also significant vulnerability and exploitation concerns around this group.

Of the 5 secure remands, all five resulted in custodial sentences.

Risks and issues

The main risks to the delivery of Youth Justice services relates to funding. Any reduction in the level of funding to the service would result in a reduction in the level of service provision

for this cohort. Reductions to funding to key voluntary sector partners is also likely to have an impact on this cohort as they provide additional support and provide desistance related activities. Families are also struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, causing more pressure on families. This management board is cognisant of these pressures and this is regularly discussed at Board in order to work together to find solutions, rather than retreating into silos.

The sufficiency concerns regarding residential placements for those that require it can also be a potential risk to Youth Justice service. This is particularly relevant where secure placements are required from police custody or where a robust care package is required to avoid a custodial sentence for children. The integrated model helps support this challenge, as the Youth Justice services works in partnership with social care to find creative solutions where possible.

There are times when a lack of understanding between the different partners can create some tension in the system, for example frontline Police being so concerned about particular children that they cannot understand why social care do not seek welfare secure placements for them. It may in fact be that this would not be the best long-term plan for the child, or they may not meet the criteria. The relationships at a senior level are robust enough to have challenging conversations about these cases and agree on a plan on how to resolve such issues.

Plan for the forthcoming year

Child First

The Brighton & Hove Adolescent Partnership Board are fully committed to the Child First principle. The multi-disciplinary model of the Adolescent Service, in which the Youth Justice Service is fully integrated supports this principle. Under this model, children's needs are considered in a holistic way, with Youth Justice being one of the teams in the service and not treated as a separate service. This means that each child's particular needs, strengths, skills and potential are recognised and their best interests are prioritised. The model fully supports the treatment of children coming to the attention of Police as children first and offenders second, with their behaviour viewed through a trauma informed lens, as a symptom of unmet need. Some elements of the Youth Justice work sit within the wider Adolescent Service, for example, including family work, substance misuse, mentoring, mental health and wellbeing.

Partner agencies have committed to the child first approach and work hard to keep children out of the criminal justice system. We try to involve children and young people and work with them to develop and improving the service. We regularly hear the child's voice through their workers or through them attending the board.

The partnership is keen to work collaboratively with children and are seeking a young person to co-chair the board meeting. There are arrangements in place locally in which the Corporate Parenting Board is chaired by young people. This is working well, and we plan to learn from this model. The key partner agencies have also demonstrated a commitment to this, for example Sussex Police has Youth Ambassadors, supporting and promoting child centred policing. There have been specific pieces of work commissioned to ensure we gain the views and experiences of children and young people from global majority communities.

The Youth Justice team are trained in and practice the ChildFirst approach. For example, trauma informed practice is embedded in Youth Justice work. Assessments include a case

formulation and young people and their families are discussed through the trauma -informed lens in group and 1:1 supervision. This facilitates exploration of the underlying issues and structural barriers affecting children, with a strong focus on supporting the practitioner and network to manage children's complex needs. Mental health specialists (seconded from CAMHS) provide oversight and clinical supervision, consultation and advice to the Youth Justice Team to support best practice. We also work closely with the Forensic CAMHS team, who offer case consultation, support and direct involvement where required. F-CAMHS offer oversight of SAVRY assessments and consultation where violence/ risk to others is a particular concern.

Resources and services

The Youth Justice Service is integrated into the Adolescent Service. This provides value for money as it ensures that the children and young people get the right support from the right professionals. The YJS budget is a pooled budget; the Youth Justice Board grant provides approximately 10% of the total budget. This grant is sent in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant and is used to achieve the outcomes and priorities as detailed within this plan.

In addition to this we have received funding for specific areas of work. This has included Turnaround funding from the MoJ and PCC funding for Immediate Justice and Reboot mentoring. Whilst these funding pots are used to deliver discrete areas of work, this contributes to the delivery within this plan.

The majority of the funding goes on staffing which is our biggest resource. Any reduction in funding would result in a reduction in post, and therefore a reduction in service offer. In addition to this funding there are some contributions in kind, such as the seconded Probation Officer and the seconded Police Officer. We have attempted in the past to compare the resource allocation with local or similar demographic Youth Justice Service. This however has proved impossible, as every area has a very different set up and model.

Board development:

The Strategic Adolescent Management Board incorporates the functions of the Youth Justice Management Board. The board is well attended, and Board members play an active role in setting direction and vision for the Youth Justice Service. The Board meets quarterly, and in addition to this there is a yearly extended meeting to review progress and set priorities for the upcoming year. All Board members receive an induction, so they are clear on their roles and responsibilities. Membership is reviewed regularly.

We have recently held a board development workshop to review the priorities and develop this plan. We also reviewed the arrangements and functioning of the board. It was agreed that going forwards the name of the board will change to the Adolescent Partnership Board. The meetings will have themed sessions each quarter, along with a case study which reflect the issues in the themes.

The Board also now provides the governance arrangements for the Young Futures Development. Going forward we will hold further planning opportunities to ensure the Board Members are clear on the expectations that this brings. We will also review regularly to ensure the delivery is joined up, while the focus on youth justice is not lost.

Workforce Development

Brighton & Hove is committed to the continuous development of staff through training, supervision, mentoring and coaching, to support staff progression and retention and continue to offer a high-quality service to children & families.

Youth Justice staff have mandatory BHCC training as part of their initial induction to the service and continuous development is tailored to individual needs via the Personal Development Plan. There are further opportunities for staff to learn through consultation, shadowing and co-working with partnership staff in the Adolescent Service. Learning is disseminated at team meetings, whole service events, from thematic audits and feedback from children, parents/ carers and victims and stakeholders.

A wide range of training courses are accessible to Youth Justice staff, volunteers and partnership staff via the Brighton & Hove City Council Learning Zone. This includes courses specific to working with children & families & social work CPD modules. The Brighton & Hove Children's Services Training Plan includes Youth Justice practitioners.

Staff Induction

New staff have an induction for the first 4 weeks, including mandatory training, shadowing, peer mentoring, meeting partners and learning about the service. Senior workers take on the role of mentoring new staff, alongside their line manager, to provide additional support and practical guidance about the role. The induction will involve attending Adolescent Service team meetings, such as ru-ok?, EAS, Family Therapy team and the Adolescent social work team as well as visits to the wider service (FDFF, Family Hubs, local youth services), shadowing Youth Court and Diversion Panel and other relevant multi-agency meetings. New staff will have an induction programme organised by their manager, with a clear list of objectives and learning.

Ongoing Professional Development

The B&H Learning Zone provides the core training for practice with children & families and supports continuing professional development of staff. Youth Justice staff can request additional bespoke training relevant to their role or career progression.

The Adolescent Service practices the trauma-informed approach. All Youth Justice staff have received training & consolidation to embed the approach. Seconded MH practitioners and Forensic CAMHS practitioners offer consultation and advice.

Staff can refer to Partners in Change (PiC) for consultation, learning and advice. Through PiC, we also provide consultation and learning for social workers regarding children with sexually harmful behaviour.

The AMBIT model has been embedded across the service, with continuous training and development of staff and managers. Youth Justice staff have started to be involved in delivering AMBIT training and supporting others in the wider service to practice the model.

Below are some of the CPD inputs for the Youth Justice Team completed in 2025-2026 delivered through training events, group supervision, forums, service days and conferences:

- AMBIT within Adolescent Service
- Neurodiversity and ADHD

- Forensic CAMHS input: the nuances of neurodiversity, trauma and MH presentations.
- Child to Parent control & abuse
- Supporting parents of neurodiverse children
- Emotion coaching
- Substance Misuse and Young People
- Supporting Trans and gender
- Anti-racist Practice & Allyship (conference)
- Anti-racist forums
- Trauma informed practice for practitioners/ managers
- Motivational Interviewing
- Coaching for managers (senior workers)
- Working with refugees and migrant families

BHCC aims to become an anti-racist council and a core part of the anti-racist plan is to increase awareness through training, consultation and open forum discussion. Families, Children & Wellbeing provides a monthly forum on Anti-Racist practice, which includes seminars led by the Anti-Racist Lead Practitioner. These sessions are designed for all staff and managers to reflect openly on the issues and improve practice with black, Asian and dual heritage children & families. This learning is included in PDPs as part of ongoing professional development.

Supervision & Support

The Youth Justice Service provides weekly reflective group supervision as part of the Relationship -Based model to facilitate reflection and peer support. Individual line management supervision is also provided for each staff member every 4-6 weeks. Group supervision uses a reflective practice model to enable staff to explore issues, reflect on the impact and develop creative solutions. Discussions focus on stuck cases, immediate concerns or themes emerging from Youth Justice work (e.g. exploitation, working with girls & misogyny, peer relationships, MH complexities, etc.).

The trauma informed approach is used, including consideration of secondary trauma on staff working with children and victims. Individual supervision is focussed on staff development and support, with space for case discussion and oversight of complex or high- risk cases as required.

Managers have an 'open door' policy, whereby they are available to staff at all times for support and guidance. The senior YJ practitioners provide mentoring and support to less experienced staff and line manage the RJ and prevention workers.

Knife possession guidance

The knife crime policy is well established in Brighton & Hove, with close liaison and joint decision-making between Police and the YJS. There is a strong partnership with Sussex Police; we have built good relationships with the Youth Policing Team locally, with regular communication and contact through our seconded Police Officer and Youth Sergeant.

In respect of Out of Court Resolutions, knife possession guidance as outlined in the Child Gravity Matrix is followed, with a clear escalation route for any cases where deviation from the knife crime policy is recommended by the panel. All children referred to the YJS for knife crime are discussed at the joint decision-making panel, with oversight from the YJS manager and Police Sergeant. Where there is a recommendation for an informal disposal, the case is reviewed by the Youth Inspector, who will make the final decision. In line with the new knife crime guidance from April 2026, children will receive either a YCC or, in selected cases where it would be disproportionate to issue a Caution, an Outcome 23 would be given. The basis of decision-making is recorded in the panel notes, distributed to all relevant parties and recorded on the child's file.

Since the 2026 knife possession guidance, we have been working closely with Police to implement the new measures. The YJS is being notified directly by Police within 24 hours of a child coming to notice for knife crime and the consultation process is in place. For children being arrested for knife possession out of working hours, Sussex Police have opted to take appropriate action, such as making charging decisions, rather than bail to avoid unnecessary delays in processing children. Sussex Police have issued the following:

Knives and offensive Weapons

Sussex Police strictly follow NPCC guidance in relation to knife crime and offensive weapons [Knives and Offensive Weapons – See Pages 8 & 9](#)

Youth Justice service will accept offences where the following criteria is met

- Under 16 years old- unless exceptional circumstances exist for consideration of a YCC for 16/17 year olds
- No previous convictions or OoCR for knife/weapons
- No previous violent offending
- Offence fully admitted

All other cases that meet the evidential threshold must follow NPCC guidance and be charged or CPS advice sought

No comment but police found/witnessed- charge GAP

Admission- charge GAP

Denial regardless of who found- CPS NGAP

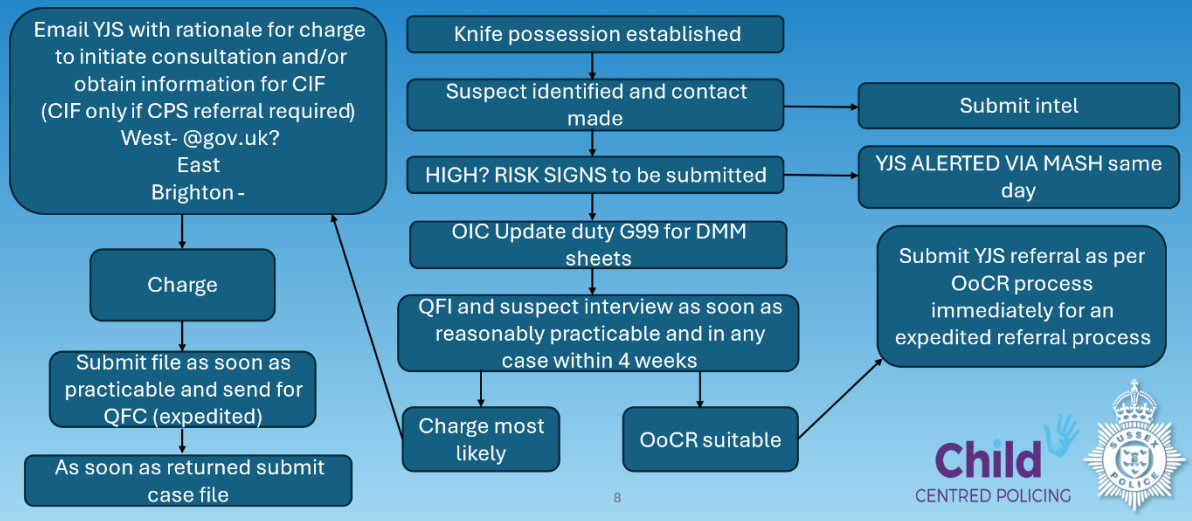
No comment and not police found/witnessed found CPS NGAP

No comment pathway is not available for knife or weapon offences



Knife crime- mock

The government introduced guidance that informed the following process which is mandatory for ALL knife possession only offences (excludes knife enabled crime). The main aim is to expedite investigations for the appropriate services to have intervention in place as soon as possible to maximise the reachable teachable moments and reduce further offending



Process issued to be followed from 1st April 2026:

- Initial notification from when child is identified and spoken to- SIGNS (which will have additional information boxes added) to be sent by MASH to the YJS group emails
 - Initial circumstances
 - Child's previous with police
 - Any relevant intel on child
 - Living circumstances if known
- Police to match 4 weeks action time to 4 week intervention time, which starts from point of OoCR referral or charge.
- OoCR referrals as per current process but to be sent immediately after interview- the YJS PCs will know to expedite referrals for knife crime.
- Immediately after interview, email to be sent to YJS inbox with child details and updated circumstances, which evokes consultation with OIC- to either discuss further and/or if matter for CPS, assist with Child Information Form.
- If still charge, Sussex Police expedite file building and checking to submit for court date.

Quarterly External Child Scrutiny Panel for Knife Crime and Out of Court Resolutions.

Sussex Police and the Youth Justice partnership have agreed that Out of Court decisions will be subject to formal external scrutiny on a regular basis through a new Multi-Agency Child Scrutiny Panel, formed in accordance with national guidelines (April 2026). The Child Scrutiny Panel will include an External Stakeholder group to promote transparency, consistency and accountability, where both knife crime outcomes and other Out of Court Resolutions will be reviewed. Terms of Reference have been developed for this child-focussed panel and meetings (starting July 2026) will be led by an experienced Independent Chair.

Cases are selected through a process where the Independent Chair chooses from a larger list covering the quarter. In each meeting, 12 cases, will be reviewed, with a 6/6 split between knife crime and broader Out of Court Resolution cases.

Evidence-based practice and innovation:

VR Knife Crime programme

The YJS delivers a structured knife crime programme to all children and young people referred for knife or weapons offences, as well as those committing other forms of violence, who are suspected to have carried weapons or associate with peers known or suspected to carry weapons. The Virtual Reality knife crime programme includes a short film developed by a London filmmaker with lived experience. The structured programme includes the legal framework, the VR film and a follow up session to reflect on learning and decision-making. The programme focusses particularly on the impact and consequences of knife crime from different perspectives, including the victim, perpetrator, parents, police, medical staff and friends. It has been designed to be accessible to children who are neurodiverse or have learning needs and is delivered in a way that is tailored to individuals.

We are currently reviewing the VR knife crime programme, through encouraging children and young people to provide feedback and participate in developing our knife crime intervention. A number of children and young people have expressed their views about the programme, with the majority feeling that it is a useful prompt for discussion. This is increasing engagement in the programme, as children and young people are asked their views and encouraged to think about what would work in preventing other children from carrying knives.

In previous evaluation, it was found that 75% of those completing the knife crime programme stated that they carried weapons due to fear of being seriously harmed in the community, believing that having a knife would protect them. The remaining 25% (15+ group) stated they carried a knife to prevent conflict or targeting by their rivals, believing if they had a knife that would de-escalate the situation. We have therefore placed specific emphasis in the programme on safeguarding, with the aim of re-educating children about the increased risk to themselves when carrying weapons.

Knife crime makes up a relatively small proportion of all offending in Brighton & Hove and in line with the national picture, the vast majority of weapons related crimes being simple possession. The number of crimes involving serious violence with weapons remains low.

VRP & Brighton Streets Project

Brighton Streets is a citywide, coordinated detached (street-based) youth work project providing 6 sessions per week across Brighton & Hove in an effort to provide contextual safeguarding to thousands of young people. It is delivered by a partnership of three local charities, who are all long-term providers of local youth work. The project links closely with different parts of the local system in support of young people who are at-risk of coming to harm, or engaging in criminal activity. For example, it delivers joint operations with Sussex Police, attends and informs Adolescent Vulnerability Risk Meetings (AVRM), targets provision with intelligence from Joint Action Group (JAG) meetings (assessing crime/anti-social behaviour hotspots), and supports the local Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) by targeting interventions to those young people identified as engaging in risky

behaviour through their intelligence gathering. In the external evaluation of the Brighton Streets project, evaluators heard directly from children and young people on how they had changed their behaviour as a result of the intervention.

Hospital Youth Work has been delivered in the Children's A&E at the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital since May 2023. In that time, Hospital Youth Workers have supported hundreds of children and young people who attend A&E where there is social harm as a factor in their attendance (e.g. fights/violence, substance misuse, poor mental wellbeing).

Other developments:

The Focussed Deterrence Programme

The Sussex Focussed Deterrence programme, launched in 2025, is a multi-agency violence reduction programme that aims to reduce serious violence by identifying and directly engaging with a small group of children who are at risk of current or future involvement in knife carrying or knife-related harm. It combines clear, consistent communication about the risks and consequences of continued knife involvement with intensive, tailored support to encourage children to take up healthier and safer activities and opportunities. The overall aim is to reduce knife carrying, prevent harm, and strengthen protective factors like positive relationships, safety and engagement in education.

Brighton & Hove YJS have a full-time experienced Focussed Deterrence worker, supported by a senior YJ worker, who offers assertive outreach to children within a trauma-informed framework that focusses on positive activities and developing strengths and skills. They work alongside YJ practitioners and other professionals, as part of the network, to provide bespoke support to children as part of their multi-agency plans.

Children are identified predominantly using the Sussex Police Habitual Knife Carrier matrix and also via police intelligence, YJS practitioners, contextual safeguarding intel, etc. and discussed at monthly multi-agency meetings, such as AVRMS as well as via regular case management reviews to track progress. Each child will have a personalised support plan which can include mentoring, education/ training support, mental health, family support, substance misuse and safe recreation. Police involvement includes information sharing, and fair and timely enforcement if violence continues.

The project has been running for 6 months, so it is early days in terms of quantitative outcomes. However, so far children's engagement has been positive.

Sussex Custody Navigators Programme:

The Sussex Custody Navigators programme is a pan-Sussex initiative, involving Sussex Police and the three Sussex Youth Justice areas (East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove) funded by the Violence Prevention Partnership. This will support children and young people aged 10 to 17 who are brought into police custody suites across Sussex (Worthing, Crawley, Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne & Hastings).

Navigators engage with young people at moments when circumstances may feel overwhelming, at a 'reachable, teachable' moment. These moments offer opportunities for guidance and support when young people may be most receptive to positive intervention. Navigators prioritise the welfare, rights, and safety of each child, ensuring that they are treated fairly and supported to learn, grow, and move forward.

Support is offered flexibly, either at the police station or afterwards in a safe, comfortable environment chosen by the young person. Navigators also coordinate with parents, carers, and existing professionals, such as YJS workers, social workers, or key workers, to ensure a joined-up approach to safeguarding and positive outcomes.

Through early engagement and targeted support, Navigators play a vital role in preventing further involvement with the justice system, promoting wellbeing, and enabling young people to make constructive choices.

Brighton & Hove YJS is currently recruiting for this post, which will be embedded in the YJS.

Priorities for the coming year:

The priorities of this plan align with those of the Brighton & Hove Adolescent Strategy 2026-2029. These were agreed at the Strategic Adolescent Board, and are 3 year priorities, as it was agreed that focus of these needed to be for a three-year period in order to have the time for the achieve the desired change.

The aims of the Adolescent Strategy are to:

- Support for all young people, ensuring they receive the right support at the right time.
- Provide an accessible universal offer for all young people including opportunities to participate and influence.
- Ensure all support and services are inclusive, LGBTQ+ affirming and anti-racist.
- Deliver targeted support for young people at particular risk of substance use, offending behaviour, mental health challenges, or barriers to employment and education.
- Support young people experiencing extra-familial harm through a contextual safeguarding informed approach.
- Work collaboratively with partners to disrupt individuals or groups who exploit children and young people.
- Provide an intensive offer for the most vulnerable young people experiencing extra-familial harm.

Alongside this, the core values are relevant. We believe that children and young people should:

- Receive care, guidance and support whilst being allowed to make mistakes and learn in a safe, nurturing environment.
- Be heard and able to participate fully in their communities.
- Have a range of places where they feel safe and have a sense of belonging.
- Be empowered to be involved and included in planning and decision making around their safety and the safety of others.
- Have access to people who encourage safety, kindness and commitment in both their homes and communities.
- Be free from discrimination, be treated with respect and have equitable access to inclusive and representative services.
- Be able to safely access, enjoy and realise their aspirations through their education.
- Deserve to be happy and have fun.

In addition, there is a strong commitment to anti-racist work, reducing disproportionality across the system and increasing meaningful participation, including the voice of the child. Delivery will therefore all be considered through these lenses.

The key priorities for 2026-2029 are as follows:

Priority 1 Build a connected, preventative Youth System that provides accessible, joined-up support and growth opportunities for all young people.

Priority 2 Promote young people's wellbeing and strengthen safety, belonging and protection across home, community and wider environments

Priority 3 Provide youth focused services that actively reflects and responds to the diverse identities, cultures, and needs of the children and young people in our city

Alongside these objectives, reducing re-offending, reducing first time entrants and reducing the use of custody will continue to be key priorities for the Youth Justice Service.

Delivery Plan Overview

The following activity will be focused on delivering the key strategic priorities:

Universal

- City wide open access youth clubs, groups, services, youth voice forums, that form a core function of the externally commissioned youth offer, including Young Futures Hubs and Local Youth Transformation programmes

Prevention and Targeted support

- The Youth Justice Service Diversion Pathway provides Out of Court resolutions for children, including Outcome 22 (deferred prosecution).
- Reboot and Turnaround provide voluntary interventions for children identified by Police due to anti-social and offending behaviour.
- The Liaison and Diversion Service (LDS) practitioners work with children in police custody to assess their individual needs and offer support and signposting.
- Hospital Youth Work offer support for children admitted to hospital where there are concerns around exploitation, violence and harm from drugs and alcohol.
- Adolescent Service key workers in schools offer support to children at risk of experiencing extra-familial harm.
- SHIFT (AudioActive) As part of our early intervention offer, our partnership with AudioActive provides access to SHIFT, a six-month music mentoring programme for young people aged 11–17 at risk of serious youth violence and peer exploitation.
- Drug Alcohol and Sexual Health (DASH) Workers provide drop ins and 1:1 support in schools and colleges, offering advice on sexual health and substance use.

- Engagement and Support (EAS) Workers offer one to one support to children who are at risk of exploitation, youth custody or coming into care.
- Externally commissioned Youth Service provide targeted clubs, groups, case work and mentoring opportunities. This includes Young Futures Hubs which will develop services with a focus on Health and Wellbeing, Opportunities and Youth Crime and Violence.
- Youth Support and Advice services, groups and drop-ins, including Young Futures Youth, Information, Advice, Counselling Services, (YIACS).
- The development of transition age clubs, groups and services for children aged 10-12 years who are transitioning from primary to secondary school.
- Young Futures Brighton Streets Detached city-wide youth work and youth bus offering youth work where young people spend time in the city.
- Development of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) youth voice clubs, groups and youth voice pathways.
- Development of Integrated Care Board Health services within youth provision.
- Increased out of hours- after school and weekend youth provision via externally commissioned youth service.

Intensive and complex support

- Tailored support for vulnerable children experiencing exploitation and youth violence, provided by skilled practitioners who work with children and families in a relationship and trauma informed way.
- Youth Justice practitioners provide intensive supervision, support and holistic management of children subject to out of court and court disposals including community and custodial sentences.
- Skill Mill - provides children in youth justice with paid employment, working on local environmental projects, along with personalised support and training to help them build better prospects.
- Adolescent Social Work specialise working in a trauma informed and relationship-based way with children and families impacted by extra-familial harm.
- RUOK provide 1-1 support and guidance to young people at risk because of their drug or alcohol use.
- Advice, guidance and training for professionals working with young people affected by extra-familial harm.
- AudioActive Shift mentoring music focused programme for young people.
- Local decision -making National Referral Mechanism (NRM) panel for children affected by exploitation.
- Development work with East Sussex to prevent remand to custody

- Adolescent Mental Health workers offering support and intervention to address young people's mental health needs.

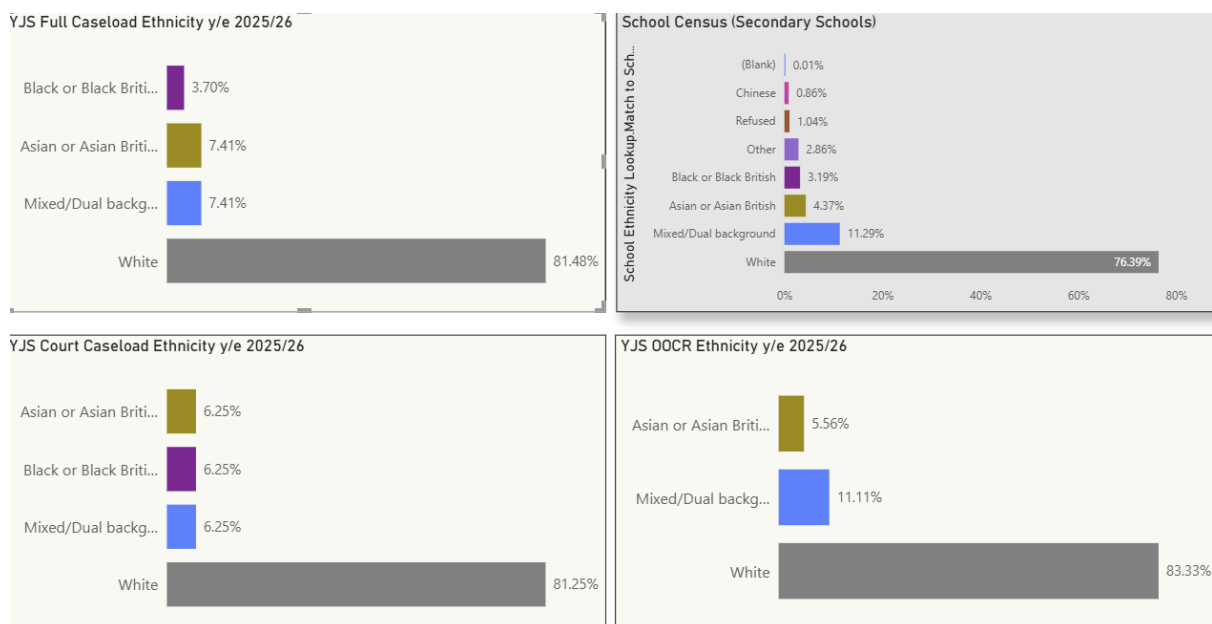
Youth Voice and Participation

- Citywide youth voice pathway development, providing accessible opportunities for all young people to lead on change, ensuring connected, clear routes from youth voice to decision-makers.
- Youth Participation Planning Tool (Lundy Model) implementation across Local Authority services working with children and young people.

5.3 National priority areas

Children from groups which are over-represented:

The 2025-2026 caseload data shows improvements in respect of disparity for B&H compared to the latest school census. 78% of the YJ cohort are white (76% in census), with no disparity showing for mixed race children and only very slight disproportionality for black children and Asian children. There is also less disparity for black and mixed-race children showing in the court cohort compared to the previous year.



Tackling disproportionality in the Youth Justice Service is one of our key priorities, as outlined in the Adolescent Service Strategy, fully endorsed and supported by the Board, partners and senior leaders in the council. An analysis of caseload data in respect of ethnicity is shared on a quarterly basis with the Management Board.

Practice measures in place include the non-admissions diversion pathway, whereby children can be diverted without admitting to offences, where this is in line with the Child Gravity

Matrix for OOCR. Provided the child engages with the assessment process and are willing to complete intervention, they will receive an Outcome 22 (informal disposal). This is monitored by Police in terms of effectiveness and numbers of referrals across Sussex. Furthermore, The Outcome 23 deferred prosecution (Caution) pathway has been in place since January 2026. This further supports all children, including those with global majority backgrounds, to be diverted from the formal justice system.

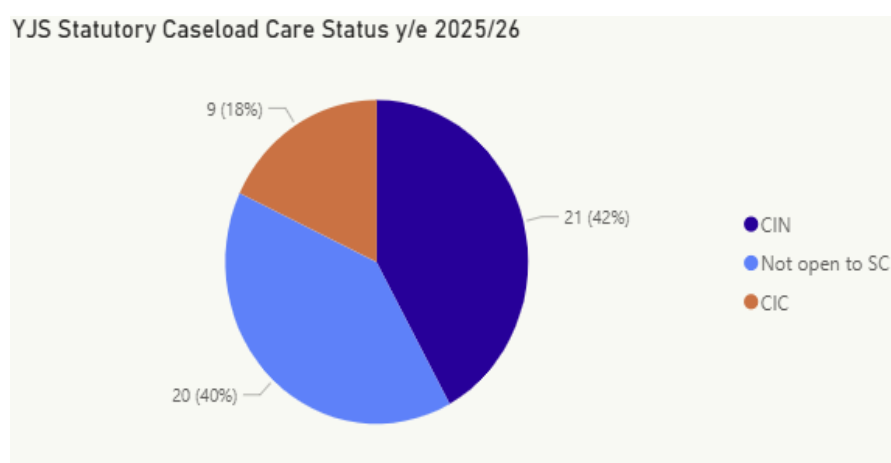
The anti-racist pledge includes challenging racism/ discrimination when this is experienced either from partners, staff, children or families in a way that is constructive, non-confrontational and facilitates learning. Any concerns and issues around racism can be referred for consultation to the PiC (Partners in Change) hub and / or the Anti-racist lead practitioner. This strategy is designed so that children who are within the Adolescent service receive a high-quality service and feel safe to talk about their experiences, that they are supported to be empowered and develop their skills and confidence. We seek feedback from Black, Asian, Arabic and mixed- race children on their experiences within the Youth Justice System and their views on what would improve things for them.

We are committed to increasing understanding and awareness of racism and discrimination to ensure that the child's experiences and impact on their social and emotional development can be taken into account in decision-making and plans. There is good management oversight via supervision and a QA process in place, with an emphasis on anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice, with attention to language and outcomes.

In terms of recruitment, we have pledged to have at least one person from a black or mixed-race background as part of the interview panel across the service. Selection processes include anti-racist practice as part of the essential criteria, for example on application forms and interview questions.

Children in Care

The chart below shows 9 Children in Care in the Youth Justice cohort for 2025-2026 including OOCR and court disposals. Two of these children were remanded to custody and one was RLAA, with the rest S 20 accommodation.



In B&H we remain committed to reducing the numbers of Children in Care (CiC) entering the Youth Justice and continue to work jointly with Police to ensure that CiC are not unnecessarily criminalised. We have an agreement with Sussex Police via the pan- Sussex

Joint Policy to Reduce Criminalisation of Children in Care and CiC status is taken into account in decision-making at Police level, the OOCR Diversion Panel and at Court (highlighted in Court reports). CiC in the Youth Justice caseload data is regularly monitored and shared with the Board, which unfortunately continues to show some disproportionality for this very vulnerable cohort.

Policing:

Sussex Police are key members of the Youth Justice Partnership locally. We have senior level representation on the Adolescent Partnership Board, and at other relevant partnership boards such as the Brighton & Hove Children's Safeguarding Board, The Sussex Criminal Justice Board, The Combatting Drugs Partnership Board, The Prevent Board and the Community Safety Partnership Board. The Head of Service for Adolescents attends the Police led Children and Young People Board. These governance arrangements promote a strong and well-established partnership. The effective partnership at both strategic and operational level has enabled joint working and appropriate challenge to resolve potential issues where required, for example to joint cultural competence training.

In the past year, we have continued partnership work with Sussex Police through the Joint Action Group, AVRMS and the Early Intervention Meeting. The Youth Justice Service is active in submitting Partnership Intel forms and this has enabled our Police colleagues to recognise the importance of relationship-based practice.

Following a joint Review of the Gang Injunctions with the Adolescent Service and senior Police decision-makers relating to a particularly high risk group of young people, close communication and regular meetings have been established for information sharing, planning and joint safety management in relation to serious youth violence in the community. This process has been a development of partnership work and effective safety planning by learning from previous experiences and identifying missed opportunities. This has facilitated the development of relationships and greater understanding and trust between partners, involving frontline YJ practitioners, Police and social workers.

The Youth Justice Service has a full time Police Officer seconded to the Youth Justice, with a split role focussing on Out of Court work as well as oversight of children whose offending is prolific and high-risk to others. We have a dedicated and experienced Police Sergeant (not seconded) who oversees decision-making at the OOCR panel and promotes child centred policing in the force. There is also a Youth Inspector for Sussex OOCRs and a B&H appointed Youth lead inspector, who has oversight for Focussed Deterrence. The Police sergeant manages the Youth Policing team in B&H and there is close working and communication between the YJS PC, sergeant and Youth Policing team, who advise of daily arrests and share information about children coming to notice.

Prevention

The integration of Youth Justice within the Adolescent Service and sitting under the umbrella of Families, Children and Learning in BHCC means that we are well positioned within children's services, with strong links to Family Hubs and access to relevant information databases.

The Early Intervention Meeting has continued to bring together local partners involved in crime prevention, including Youth Policing team and NPT, Community Safety and

Exploitation team, Trust for Developing Communities and Youth hubs, BCRP (Brighton Crime Reduction Partnership) and YJS to identify children involved in ASB and offending and ensure there is an appropriate response.

Reboot

Sussex Police have commissioned the three Youth Justice services, Brighton, East Sussex and West Sussex to deliver prevention work via Reboot mentoring. The success of this work from 2024 has led to increased targets and PCC funding for Brighton YJS to deliver the project. Reboot is delivered to increased numbers of children via experienced EAS (Engagement & Support) workers. This partnership arrangement brings crime prevention services under the Adolescent Service, so that children can access services appropriate to their needs.

Drugs diversion via ru-ok?

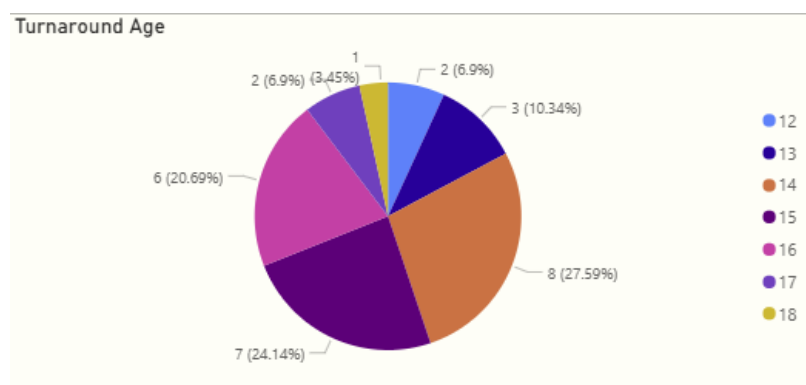
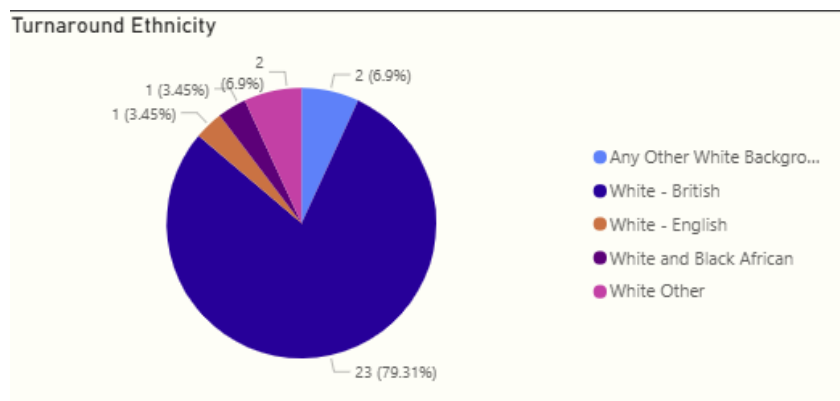
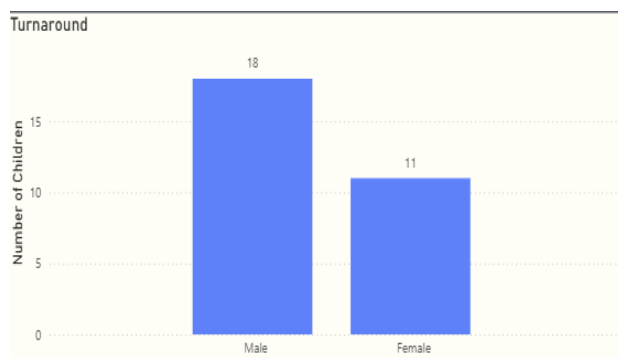
Within the Adolescent Service, the ru-ok? substance misuse service offer a point of arrest pathway via Police and Sussex Liaison & Diversion Service. ru-ok? also have skilled practitioners based in secondary schools in B&H, who offer a more informal drop-in service to children with advice about drugs and sexual health. Referral pathways have been established via the NHS A&E departments, paediatric hospital, Youth Justice Service, Front Door For Families (FDFF), Social Work teams, GPs and via self-referrals.

There has been discussion with Police to consider drugs diversion referrals in B&H. A concern has been raised formally with senior Police that 16 and 17 year olds are being referred to an online course Druglink instead of being referred to ru-ok? where they would receive 1:1 support from an experienced and qualified ru-ok? worker. The ru-ok? manager is liaising with Police to promote referral to ru-ok? for 16 and 17 year olds. He is also working with police as part of the local Combatting Drugs Strategy, which seeks to disrupt local drug supply chains and drug related crime. The need for police to refer via drugs diversion into ru-ok? will be promoted within these strategy meetings. This has also been highlighted through the Youth Policing and Neighbourhood teams, including Sergeants, Inspectors and up to senior levels in operational and strategic divisions, as well as via Training sessions delivered to response teams.

Turnaround

The partnership with TDC (Trust for Developing Communities) has continued into 2026 following the confirmation of MoJ funding in March 2026. Given the longer- term funding commitment, we have plans to develop the Turnaround programme, with a full- time dedicated youth worker from TDC who will be embedded in the YJS. The partnership with TDC, FDFF, Reboot and Police has enabled us to identify and target children at risk of offending and ASB, gain a better understanding of particular localities where children are at risk and offer bespoke programmes. Below is a breakdown of the Turnaround cohort by gender, age and ethnicity.

Children opened to Turnaround April 2025 to March 2026



Diversion:

Brighton & Hove YJS operates under the pan-Sussex Joint Out of Court Resolution (OOCR) protocol. The Child Outcome pathway is well established in B&H and there is consistent partnership and joint working with Police to divert children from prosecution wherever possible and appropriate. The Child Gravity Matrix has been fully implemented across Sussex and adherence to policy and guidance.

All children referred via this pathway are screened and assessed using the YJB Prevention & Diversion Assessment Tool prior to decision-making at the joint panel. Victims' perspectives are a key part of decision-making as far as practically possible, with a clear restorative offer (see RJ section).

Children subject to both formal (YCC) and informal (CRs/ Outcome 22) out of court disposals are offered a comprehensive programme of intervention based on the assessment including safety concerns. They can access wrap around support and provisions of the Adolescent

Service, including intensive family therapy, 1:1 emotional & mental health support, tier 2 or 3 substance misuse service and outreach support from the Engagement and Support Service (EAS), which specialises in working with children affected by exploitation. In addition, they can access support with their education/ schooling via the Adolescent Education Advisor, or advice with Education, Training & Employment through the local Youth Employability Service (YES). Engagement with OOCRs is high, with very few cases being returned to Police for enforcement.

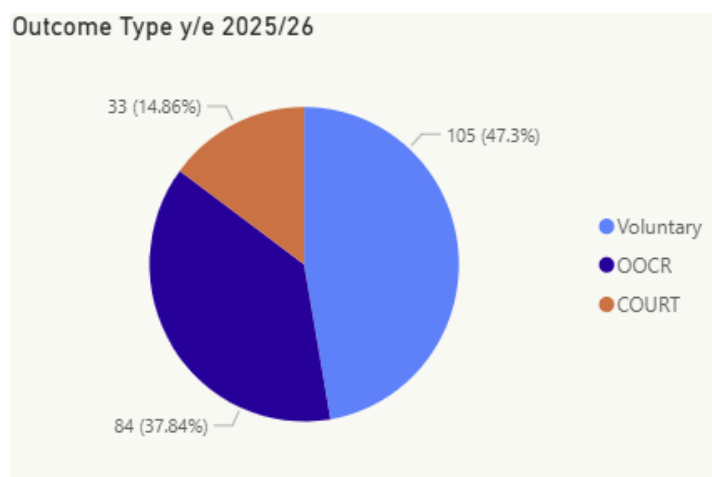
Outcomes for children are overseen via the pan- Sussex Multi-agency Scrutiny Panel, which is being developed with Police to focus solely on outcomes for children, as opposed to being part of the adult process.

The drugs diversion pathway is well established and involves direct referrals from Police or custody suites to Ru-ok? substance misuse service (point of arrest). Children referred by Police for simple possession of Cannabis/ Class B drugs are diverted directly to the Ru-ok? substance misuse service for assessment and focussed intervention. Ru-ok workers are sufficiently trained and qualified to work with children with all levels of risk and vulnerability, including those vulnerable to exploitation.

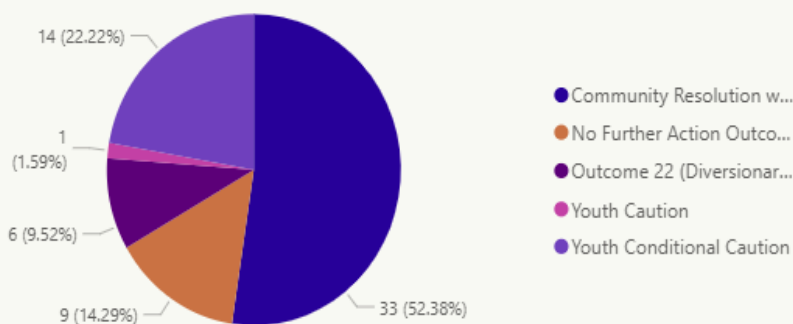
As shown in the charts below, children accessing prevention and diversion programmes make up a large proportion of the B&H Youth Justice cohort. Almost two thirds (62%) of all Out of Court Resolutions are informal outcomes, including CRs (52%) and Outcome 22/23. Since the previous year, we have seen an increase in the use of informal disposals compared to Cautions (previously 50% of all OOCRs). The data demonstrates that children are receiving better outcomes through the OOCR process.

Voluntary programmes shown in the chart below include Reboot, Turnaround and Immediate Justice (Police CR + Reparation).

Prevention and Diversion local data 2025-2026



OOCR y/e 2025/26

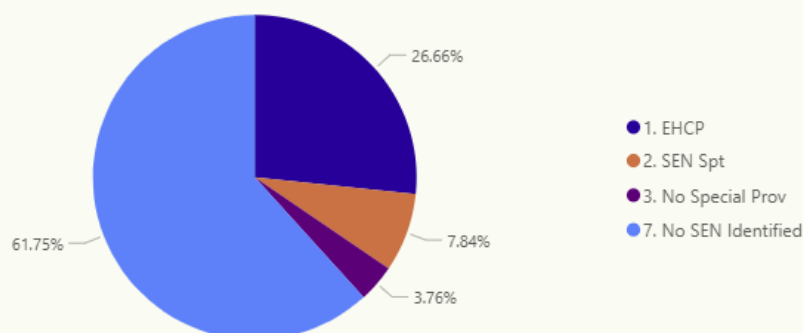


Education

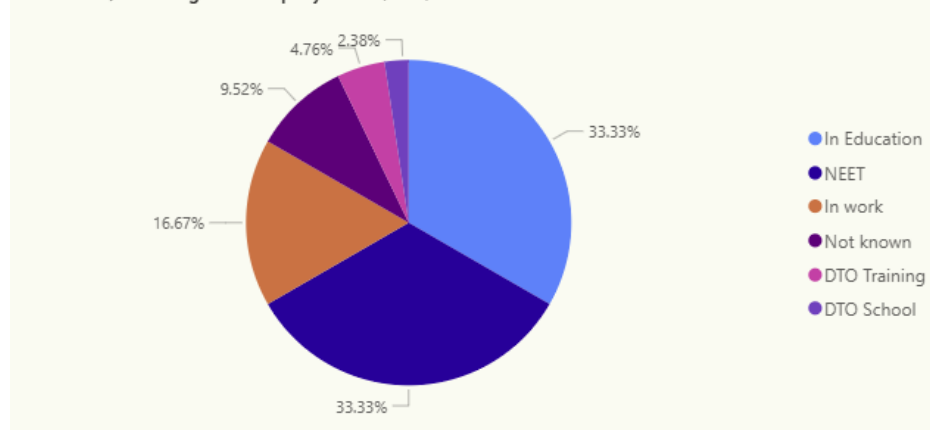
The Youth Justice Service has strong links with Education providers in the city through representation both on the Adolescent Strategic Management Board and at the Adolescent Vulnerability and Risk Management (AVRM) meeting. The former has both the Access to Education Manager and a Secondary School Headteacher as key members and the latter includes regular attendance from an Education Lead who chairs the local Behaviour & Attendance Partnership (BAP) meetings, with representation from all Secondary schools (including Academies) the Police, and key Primary schools. The Access to Education Manager is responsible for the prevention of school suspensions and exclusions, school attendance, those who are electively home educated, as well as children with health needs not in school, Children Missing Education (CME) and the regular monitoring of all the children on part time timetables in the city and challenge to all schools regarding their use.

The Adolescent service includes an Education Advisor role, who acts as a conduit to all secondary schools in the city, meets regularly with the Education Adviser for all children with a Social Worker from the Virtual School and is part of the BAP which meets twice monthly. They also attend the joint agency suspension and exclusion meetings which strategically manages the reduction of suspension and exclusion across the city.

SEN 2025/26



Education, Training and Employment (ETE) 2025/26



Data taken from ChildView Youth Justice cohort 2025-2026, including court and out of court disposals, shows that 34% of children in the YJ cohort have special educational needs identified. This continues to be closely monitored at quarterly board meetings. The data also shows that a third of 16-17 year olds (relating to 13 B&H young people) were NEET, which is an area we are focussing on for 2026-2029. It is perhaps relevant that the current cohort of 16-17 year olds are the year groups particularly affected by the Covid lockdown in 2020-2022, with some children not returning to school at all, missing their whole secondary education. This, along with austerity, has compounded the difficulties of attaining ETE for our most vulnerable young people.

Plans to address this include the commissioning of Skill Mill in Brighton & Hove, a programme that provides paid employment with coaching and intensive support for NEET 16-17 year olds in the Youth Justice cohort alongside their intervention programmes. Young people will also receive personalised support from employment and education advisors for up to 9 months where needed to support them to attain paid employment or further training following the programme. It is hoped that this will provide accessible opportunities for young people who may otherwise struggle to attain employment. We also have strong links to the Youth Employability Service (YES) who work with young people from 16-19 years and provide flexible and pro-active support to young people around further education, training and employment.

Restorative approaches and victims

The YJS has a strong commitment to Restorative Justice practice and ensuring the victim's voice is heard. The partnership with Police at strategic and operational levels supports Youth Justice work in this respect, for example, commitment of a full time PC embedded in the YJS, a quarterly multi-agency OOCR scrutiny panel and close links to the Restorative Justice Police team. All Youth Justice staff are trained in Restorative Justice practice and there is close management oversight of RJ and victim work. In 2025, we recruited a Restorative Justice Co-ordinator, who is overseeing the continued development and improvement of restorative practice in the YJS. We have a victim liaison worker and a reparation worker who are both experienced and trained in RJ.

In the past year, we have focussed on developing the RJ offer, using feedback victims, community reparation projects, staff and young people. We are currently reviewing the offer

to victims to ensure our practice is in line with the HMIP standards. There is oversight of victim work and data from the PCC.

We deliver RJ within a ChildFirst and Trauma Informed approach, keeping in minds the best interests of both children and victims of crime. We are committed to listening to children's experiences but also ensuring that they are held to account for harmful behaviour. This is particularly important because many of the children we work with are victims in their own right, whether due to adverse childhood experiences or being victims of crime in their communities. A high proportion of violent crime for example, is perpetrated against children and young people.

There is a clear process in place to ensure that all identified victims of youth crime are contacted where possible, offered support and consulted about their wishes in respect of involvement in restorative justice. Victims are contacted at the earliest opportunity, prior to the joint decision-making panel, Referral Order panel or where possible prior to PSRs being completed. For all young people subject to disposals, a Restorative Plan is created based on the victim's wishes and any risk or safety considerations. This may include direct or indirect mediation, letters of apology and/ or community reparation. We seek feedback from victims, especially those involved in direct mediation or reparation.

The Youth Justice Service is committed to making Community Reparation meaningful to young people, by having individualised plans and matching children to community placements based on their offence and strengths or interests wherever possible. Projects include the Forest Garden, where young people maintain the allotments and pick and prepare for local community groups. We work with charities, community cafes and local food banks, helping to organise donations and prepare food for vulnerable or elderly people. AQA's have been attached to community projects, to develop skills and portfolios for young people.

Serious violence, exploitation and contextual safeguarding

There is currently a 3 year Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) strategy in place that builds on previous annual VRP strategies. It uses evidence from our strategic needs assessment to set out the current picture of serious violence in Sussex and what collective action partners are undertaking.

The strategy includes an explanation of our Public Health approach and our model of delivery, which is a devolved structure, allowing each of our three VRP areas to make their own decisions on where funding and resources are best placed.

We explain how we use and share data to understand the risks and drivers for serious violence and how this, combined with robust evaluation, also helps shape our intervention activity. Our performance indicators and how we continually measure our success are also included.

Central to our approach is our commitment to engaging and consulting with the individuals and communities most affected by serious violence. Our forward plan includes more work to ensure that their voices are represented in our VRP, and that they are informing everything that we do.

Our delivery plan will be reviewed and revised annually, and this highlights the breadth of activity going on across Sussex aimed at reducing individual and community vulnerability to serious violence, exploitation, and other criminal behaviour.

Much progress has been made in the five years since the inception of the VRP, and sustaining this momentum remains a priority for the partnership. This involves all partners

working together to embed the response to serious violence in their day-to-day organisational delivery.

This is already happening through the creation of dedicated officers, teams, and structures and through additional funding sources. Over the next 12 months we will be collectively developing our plans to mitigate against the potential 'cliff edge' of intervention for those individuals and communities most at risk, ensuring that they continue to receive the support that they need.

Detention in police custody

The Pan Sussex Protocol on Transfer of Young People to Local Authority Accommodation from Police Custody is well established. We have seen a significant decrease in the numbers of young people being held overnight after charge. The process is scrutinised on a quarterly basis with senior members of the police, the HoS and the EDS duty Manager. There is also a process to discuss any cases more immediately where appropriate.

Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation (RYDA) & Remand to Local Authority Accommodation (RLAA)

Avoiding the use of secure remands unless absolutely necessary for reasons of public protection remains one of the Youth Justice Service core aims and priorities.

We have a joint protocol with local magistrates courts (pan- Sussex Courts Agreement 2024), which details operational guidelines for Youth Justice Services and Courts. For example, children at risk of remand are dealt with as a priority by courts and consideration for RLAA is given prior to secure remand, as per legal guidelines. The agreement covers provision of services to the local courts (including Saturday & Bank Holiday courts) to ensure children's welfare and rights are maintained and reduce unnecessary remands. This agreement highlights the child's right to Bail and the principle that all children at risk of secure remand are assessed for bail and offered a robust bail programme unless the risk of harm to the community/ victims is deemed unacceptable. This principle is supported by Senior Leadership Teams and Management Boards.

Brighton & Hove have a dedicated, experienced and highly skilled team of YJ officers who share the court duty. The co-location of the Youth Justice service within the Adolescent hub enables provision of intensive wrap around individually tailored programmes for children subject to bail as an alternative to custody. Supporting this, there is a strong partnership between Youth Justice and Children's Services and arrangements in place with Children's Placement Team (CPT). For example, all children at risk of remand are notified immediately to the Social Worker and CPT. B&H YJS holds credibility with the courts in terms of assessments, risk management planning and the offer to children & families, and there is a high congruency rate with Youth Justice proposals. Across Sussex, we have developed relationships and lines of communication with youth leads for Legal Advisers, CPS, magistrates and district judges and there are regular pan Sussex courts meetings where court issues and YJ developments can be discussed. This provides a forum for feedback between the Courts and YJ services and oversight of emerging court issues.

Use of custody and constructive resettlement:

It remains a key priority to minimise the use of custodial sentences. In principle and practice, we will offer community disposals (including bail supervision and support) to all children, even those committing serious violent offences, where we believe that the safety of the child and others can be effectively managed in the community by appropriate intervention, monitoring and controls.

There is a strong strategy in place to support this commitment to preventing children from entering secure settings. Rates of custody are regularly monitored by the Board as part of quarterly performance data and deep dive analysis completed where custody rates increase. Through the use of Intensive Referral Orders, ISS or alternative intensive programmes, the Youth Justice Service offers individualised wrap around programmes for children at risk of custody, based on their needs and abilities. This may include intensive social work support, mentoring constructive activities (via Engagement and Support team), substance misuse work, family therapy, MH & wellbeing support, community reparation and support with education, training & employment (via partner agency YES).

The YJ workforce are qualified and highly skilled, with the expertise to manage children presenting a high level of risk to others in the community in liaison with partners. There is good collaboration with Police and regular multi-agency oversight via Op Safety and AVRМ. For example, all children assessed as presenting a high level of risk to others are discussed at the Adolescent Vulnerability and Risk Meeting (AVRM), a weekly multi-agency forum with a focus on Exploitation. Risk management and safety plans receive multi-agency and HoS oversight.

The YJS has a strong relationship with wider Children's Services, who recently received an Outstanding Ofsted rating for the service to children and families in B&H. There is close collaboration and joint working with Children's Services, given the Youth Justice Service integration within Children's Services, and lines of accountability being direct to the AD and director via the Head of the Adolescent Service.

In respect of Resettlement, there is also good partnership work with the Probation Service and Children's Services (including Leaving Care team) to optimise opportunities for children on release from custody and those transitioning to adult services. The Probation Lead (Advanced Practitioner for Youth Justice) manages the seconded probation officer and attends regular meetings regarding transition. The seconded Probation Officer is the allocated PO for 17-18 years olds transitioning to probation. The PO has a split role between the Youth Justice and in VERU (18-24 team). This promotes relationship-based practice and continuity for young people transitioning to the adult estate or to probation when subject to Licence.

Youth Justice practice follows YJB case management guidance, using constructive resettlement and the identity shift model, focussing on developing pro-social identity, identifying and building on the young person's strengths and skills, with a strong desistance focus. YJ practitioners are well sighted on evidence based practice in resettlement in respect of the above models of practice. There is a strong focus on relationship-based work and maintaining a high level of contact with young people via regular visits to secure facilities, phone calls and virtual contact. Youth Justice workers prioritise the child's safety and wellbeing throughout their detention.

There is close management oversight of all custody cases, with escalation processes in place for safety concerns. We have good connections with the leads for resettlement and safeguarding at YOIs (e.g. Feltham), STCs (Oakhill), SCH (e.g. Vinney Green) and Oasis Secure School.

Working with families

It has been emphasised in the plan that the integration of the Youth Justice Service within the Adolescent Service and wider Children's Services provides strong strategic and operational links to the Family Hubs (Early Help) and enables the YJ team to work closely with partners, particularly around ensuring a joined up working with whole families. All YJ workers and managers have direct access to Children's Service database (which is the same as Family Hubs- Early Help). With the Transformation of Children's Services, this will improve further connections between early help and statutory services. The Head of Adolescent Service is part of the Senior Leadership Team in the Safeguarding and Care branch of the Families, Children and Wellbeing Directorate. On strategic and operational levels, whole Family working is therefore embedded in Youth Justice practice in Brighton & Hove. These working arrangements are further supported through the developments of the AMBIT model of practice, which has been rolled out throughout the Adolescent Service and wider Children's Services with ongoing service wide training and practice workshops.

Within the Adolescent Service, there is an experienced and trained team of family therapists, who offer Family Functional Therapy (FFT) to all families in need. This offer is focussed on preventing children entering care or custody by strengthening parent-child relationships and building resilience within families. The model is proven to help reduce offending behaviour by giving children more stability and attachment to their families. The pathway to FFT is via Front Door for Families or Children's social work, with families screened for specific criteria, which include children coming to notice of police, exploitation concerns and family breakdown. The FFT team have been co-located with Youth Justice since prior to the 2018 restructure of the service, so there are well established relationships between Youth Justice and FFT, at both management and practitioner level. The FFT manager attends weekly AVRMs (exploitation & risk) meetings and Adolescent Service manager's meetings, so has oversight of the most vulnerable children and young people in B&H. FFT practitioners have attended YJ team meetings to provide training and advice. Overall, this ensures that family therapy is well understood in the service and accessible to families meeting the criteria.

Signed

Designation

Date

Glossary

ABH- Actual Bodily Harm
AMBIT- Adaptive Mentalisation Based Integrative Treatment

AQA

ASB- Anti-social Behaviour
AVRM- Adolescent Vulnerability and Risk Meeting
B&H- Brighton & Hove
BAP- Behaviour & Attendance Partnership
BHCC- Brighton & Hove City Council
CAHMS- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CiC- Child in Care
CME- Children Missing Education
CPD- Continuing professional development
CPR- Childrens Placement Team
CR- Community Resolution
CSE- Child sexual exploitation
CV- Childview
DJ- District Judge
DTO- Detention and Training Order
EAS- Engagement and Support

EDS

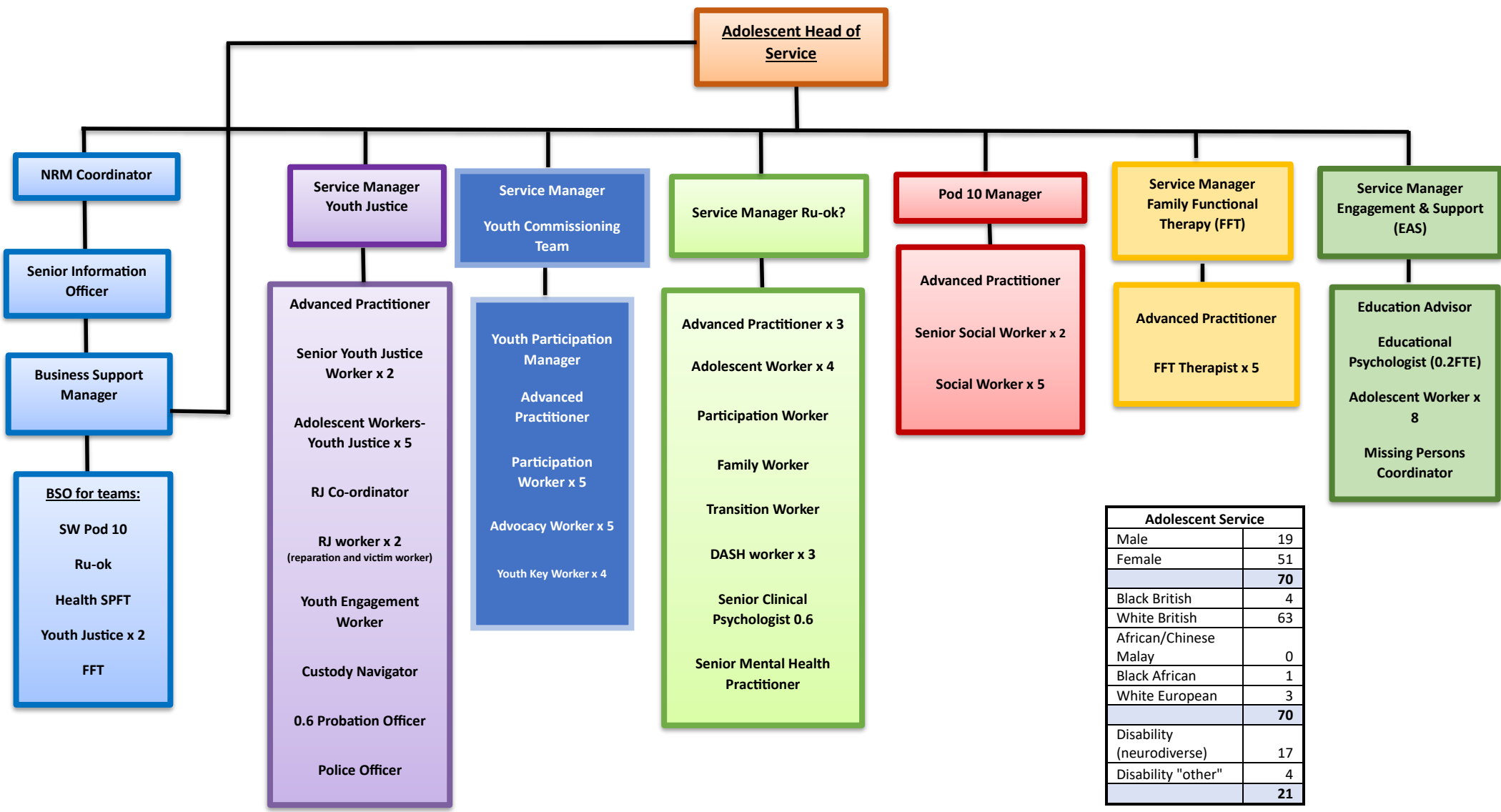
ETE- Education Training Employment
FCAHMS- Forensic Child and Adolescent
MH - Mental Health Services
FCW – Families, Children & Wellbeing
FDFF- Front Door For Families
FFT- Functional Family Therapy
FTE- Full Time Equivalent
GBH- Grievous Bodily Harm
HMIP- His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons
HMYOI- His Majesty's Young Offender Institution
HoS- Head of Service
JAG- Joint Action Group
KPI- Key Performance Indicators
LGBTQ+ - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and more.
MASH- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
MH- Mental Health
NEET- Not in Education Employment Training
NHS- National Health Service
NRM- National Referral Mechanism
OOCR- Out of Court Disposal
OPCC- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
PACE- Police and Criminal Evidence

PC- Police Constable
PDP- Personal Development Planning
PiC- Partners in Change
PO- Probation Officer
PSR- Pre-Sentence Report
PTSD- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
QA- Quality Assured
RJ- Restorative Justice
RLAA- Remand to Local Authority Accommodation
RO- Referral Order
ROTL- Release on Temporary Licence
RYDA- Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation
SAVRY- Structured Assessment of Violence Risk
SV
SW- Social Worker
TDC- Trust for Developing Communities (
VR- Virtual Reality
VRP- Violence Reduction Partnership
YC- Youth Caution
YCC- Youth Conditional Caution
YCS- Youth Custody Service
YES- Youth Employability Service
YJAF- Youth Justice Application Framework
YJS- Youth Justice Service
YOS- Youth Offending Service
YRO- Youth Rehabilitation Order

Appendix 1: Staffing Structure

Brighton & Hove Adolescent Service Structure Chart June 2026

187



Adolescent Service	
Male	19
Female	51
	70
Black British	4
White British	63
African/Chinese Malay	0
Black African	1
White European	3
	70
Disability (neurodiverse)	17
Disability "other"	4
	21

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 28

Subject: Save our Buses

Date of meeting: 23 July 2026

Proposer: Cllr Alistair McNair
Seconder: Cllr Anne Meadows

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Conservative Group

This Council notes that:

- 1) It is seeking government funding for a feasibility study into bus franchising which would give the council greater control over fares, timetables and routes;
- 2) Despite the fact there may be the new Strategic Authority from 2028 that will decide whether our buses are franchised, there are concerns that council time and money will be diverted from more pressing issues;
- 3) Brighton & Hove Buses are among the best and most heavily used bus networks outside of London. The network has scored 90% overall for passenger satisfaction because of the frequent service, a modernising fleet and easy payment options;
- 4) Due to policies of the current Administration, buses are expensive, especially since the decision to phase out the 50p unaccompanied child fare; short-hop fares have increased by 30% because subsidies have been cut by the Council for most areas;
- 5) Manchester is used as a reason for franchising, but the Bee Network has only increased the service by 19.4% while the privately controlled bus service in Bristol is up 33.1% over the same two years;
- 6) Franchising may expose the council to high costs at a time of severe budget constraints, leading to a worsening service.

This council therefore resolves to request a report to Cabinet

- 1) Which explores the option and implications of postponing any feasibility study until the elected Mayor for the new Strategic Authority is in place in May 2028;
- 2) Which sets out, if the feasibility study does continue, how all Parties will be involved in the study and the mechanism to ensure a widespread public consultation whose findings are adhered to.

Supporting Information:

[Brighton and Hove council wants public control of buses | The Argus](#)
[Passenger satisfaction continues to grow across Brighton and Hove - Brighton & Hove Buses](#)
[Burnham's buses show why he will probably fail as prime minister | The Spectator](#)
[Under-18s travelling in Brighton and Hove now face higher bus fares | The Argus](#)

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 29

Subject: Extreme Heat

Date of meeting: 23 July 2026

Proposer: Councillor Hill

Seconded: Councillor Earthey

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Green Group and Brighton and Hove Independent Group

This Council notes:

- 1) The rising frequency and intensity of heatwaves, with Met Office projections suggesting the UK could experience 45°C by 2056. In June, France recorded 2,025 excess deaths primarily amongst those over the age of 45.
- 2) Our housing, schools, care homes and other indoor spaces are maladapted to support vulnerable people in extreme heat. Many outdoor areas lack sufficient shade and water fountains.
- 3) Extreme heat was a barrier for some people being able to vote in the Goldsmid By-election and is an increasing risk to the democratic process.

This Council resolves to:

Request:

- 1) That the Leader of the Council considers writing to the Minister for Labour to lobby for legislation mandating maximum workplace temperatures.
- 2) A Cabinet report on a council wide heatwave strategy using the TUC's Too Hot to Work Guidance to guide our responsibilities to Council staff and to consider a recommendation for the Council to formally endorse the Trades Union Congress's Campaign for a Maximum Workplace Temperature. Other areas for consideration in a proposed Cabinet strategy include:
 - Installing cooling units such as air conditioning or air source heat pumps, especially in care homes and local schools. These could be supported by solar panels to reduce their carbon emissions impact and integrated into wider retrofitting work.
 - Working with the local bus network operators to ensure the safety of both their staff and passengers during heatwaves
- 3) That consideration is given by officers to the potential for inclusion in our Council's City Plan extreme heat and how to integrate adaption to this into urban and spatial planning.

Supporting Information:

[UK could see 45°C by 2056, scientists reflect on 1976 heatwave anniversary - Met Office](#)
[Europe heatwave: France records 2,025 excess deaths as Europe braces for more extreme weather - BBC News](#)
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/may/25/uk-urgently-install-air-conditioning-in-schools-care-homes-climate-campaigners-say>

TUC: Heat – The case for a maximum temperature at work

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/Temperature.pdf>

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/it-too-hot-work>

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/guidance/there-maximum-temperature-workplaces>

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 30

Subject: Resisting Hostile Immigration Policies

Date of meeting: 23 July 2026

Proposer: Councillor Barton Ahmad

Seconder: Councillor Goldsmith

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Green Group

This Council notes:

1. The current government's immigration strategy, which represents a regressive and callous shift that targets vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers, many of whom are fleeing war, persecution and climate destruction.
2. The recent counter-protests, which demonstrate that the vast majority of our city reject the far-right hate that drives these hostile immigration policies.
3. Brighton and Hove's longstanding status as a City of Sanctuary, recently recognised by the Council of Sanctuary award.

This Council resolves to:

1. Officially condemn the increase in immigration raids and the regressive settlement and asset-seizure policies put forward by the current Government, which can function as a form of State intimidation, dividing communities and instilling fear amongst our residents.
2. Request a report to Cabinet which:
 - a. outlines the council's legal obligations when it comes to immigration enforcement;
 - b. explores situations in which the Council can legally refuse to provide assistance to the Home Office or Immigration Enforcement teams - including via Council licensing and environmental health - to avoid council resources being used to facilitate raids wherever possible;
 - c. outlines any data-sharing or service agreements with the Home Office that are in place, reviewing them wherever legally possible to reduce our complicity in creating a digital hostile environment and creating a clear firewall around Council services where this is in line with the Council's legal obligations; and
 - d. considers partnership working with organisations like Voices in Exile and local anti-raids groups to support migrant businesses and those targeted by raids to ensure they are aware of their legal rights in relation to immigration enforcement and raids.

Supporting Information:

[Immigration raids - Guide for local councillors](#)

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 31

Subject: Net Zero & Climate Adaptation in Brighton & Hove

Date of meeting: 23 July 2026

Proposer: Councillor Rowkins

Seconded: Councillor Guilmant

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Labour Group

This Council notes:

- 1) The work undertaken to accelerate the city's progress to Net Zero, including large scale rooftop solar generation, nation-leading EV charging, the development of a Strategic Energy Partnership to fund and deliver the decarbonisation project pipeline.
- 2) That city's leadership in the establishment of Sussex Energy to achieve zero carbon energy for the whole of Sussex by 2040 and the importance of this work continuing.
- 3) That the UK recently recorded its hottest June day on record, with temperatures reaching 37.3°C, and that heatwaves are becoming more frequent, longer-lasting and more intense as a result of climate change
- 4) That climate change is already affecting residents in Brighton & Hove through overheating, pressure on health and care services, disruption to transport and public services, impacts on schools and workplaces, and increased risks to vulnerable people.
- 5) The work done to date on climate adaptation, including the Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment and the Climate and Nature Action Plan.

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Request officers to explore creating and maintaining a publicly accessible "Cool Spaces" map, identifying libraries, community hubs, parks, public buildings and other locations where residents can find respite during periods of extreme heat;
- 2) Requests officers to review actions from the Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment and Climate & Nature Action Plan and consider whether a standalone action plan focused on increasing resilience to heat is required;
- 3) Request officers to explore the establishment of a Heatwave Partnership, bringing together the council, NHS, universities, schools, housing providers, emergency services, community groups and businesses to coordinate preparedness and response.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 32

Subject: Seafront Safety & Investment

Date of meeting: 23 July 2026

Proposer: Councillor Amanda Grimshaw

Seconder: Councillor Mark Earthey

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Labour Group & Brighton and Hove Independents Group

This Council notes:

- 1) That Brighton and Hove is known for its vibrant, award-winning beaches and attracts millions of visitors each year
- 2) Our beaches often appear on the list of best beaches in Sussex and the South-east
- 3) Seafront safety is of paramount importance to residents and visitors alike
- 4) There have been a number of tragic incidents and near misses along the coastline this year which are still subject to investigation
- 5) The Blue Flag status requires the highest degree of safety standards
- 6) The shameful criticism directed at the RNLI and other marine emergency services carrying out their duty to protect life at sea irrespective of the circumstance.
- 7) The return of the seafront patrol boat
- 8) The review of seafront safety which has already resulted in improved CCTV and lighting

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Reaffirm the Council's commitment to working in partnership with RNLI to promote seafront safety and support its lifesaving work protecting people along our coastline out without fear or favor.
- 2) Thank the excellent seafront team and other colleagues who have performed professionally and with compassion under difficult circumstances.,
- 3) Welcome the further investment in our iconic seafront as set out in the Seafront Development Prospectus and as recently announced by the Department for Transport to protect our seafront arches and support independent businesses.
- 4) Reaffirm the Council's commitment to maintaining Blue Flag status for all beaches that are so accredited.

