

Cabinet

Date: **29 June 2026**

Time: **9.00am**

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

Members: **Councillors:** Sankey (Chair), Taylor (Deputy Chair), Alexander, Allen, Daniel, McGregor, Muten, Robins, Rowkins and Williams

Contact: **John Peel**
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Chief Executive
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove BN3 3BQ

Date of Publication - Wednesday, 17 June 2026

AGENDA

Part One

Page

1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) **Declarations of Interest:** Statements by all Members present of any personal interests in matters on the agenda, outlining the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- (b) **Exclusion of Press and Public:** To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

Note: Any item appearing in Part Two of the agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the press and public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls and online in the Constitution at Part 3E

2 MINUTES

To Follow

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting.

3 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

4 CALL OVER

5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

- (a) **Petitions:**
To receive any petitions presented by members of the public.
- (b) **Written Questions:**
To receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 23 June 2026.
- (c) **Deputations:**
To receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 10am on the 17 June 2026.

6 ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

To consider the following matters raised by Members:

- (a) **Written Questions:**
To consider any written questions

7 MATTERS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE

8 REPRESENTATIONS FROM OPPOSITION MEMBERS

9 COMMUNITY COHESION ROAD MAP - DEVELOPMENT 7 - 18

Contact Officer: Richard Tuset
Ward Affected: All Wards

10 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPO) 19 - 30

Contact Officer: Charlotte Farrell, Richard Tuset
Ward Affected: All Wards

11 FUTURE OF ROUNDABOUT NURSERY To Follow

Contact Officer: Vicky Jenkins
Ward Affected: Whitehawk & Marina

12 CARERS STRATEGY, "THINK CARER - BUILDING A CARER FRIENDLY CITY" 31 - 78

Contact Officer: Gemma Scambler
Ward Affected: All Wards

13 IMPROVING FIRE SAFETY IN COUNCIL HOMES 79 - 88

Contact Officer: Martin Reid
Ward Affected: All Wards

14 TARGETED BUDGET MANAGEMENT (TBM) PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2025/26 To Follow

Contact Officer: Haley Woollard, Elizabeth Griffiths
Ward Affected: All Wards

15 COVENANT ON LAND IN WEST SALTDEAN 89 - 104

Contact Officer: Jasmine Dean-Milward
Ward Affected: Rottingdean & West Saltdean

PART TWO

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Contact Officer: Jasmine Dean-Milward
Ward Affected: Rottingdean & West Saltdean

17 PART TWO MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To Follow

To consider the Part Two minutes of the previous meeting.

18 PART TWO PROCEEDINGS

To consider whether the items listed in Part Two of the agenda and decisions thereon should remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

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Further information

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact John Peel, (01273 291058, email john.peel@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 9

Subject: Development of a Community Cohesion Road Map for Brighton & Hove

Date of meeting: 29 June 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member Children, Families and Youth

Contact Officer: Name: Richard Tuset,
Email: Richard.tuset@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet agreement to develop a Community Cohesion Road Map for Brighton & Hove. The Road Map will set out a shared definition of community cohesion, a clear framework for action, strengthened governance, and an approach to measurement and accountability.
- 1.2 Brighton & Hove is a city shaped by diversity, creativity and commitment to fairness and belonging, but communities are experiencing increasing pressures linked to polarisation, online misinformation, global conflicts, the cost-of-living crisis and widening inequalities. These pressures are being felt locally through increased tensions, hate incidents and in some areas, declining trust in institutions.
- 1.3 The proposed approach is aligned with national Local Government Associations guidance (Common Ground 2026) and the Government's strategy Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive and resilient United Kingdom (2026), while reflecting the specific strengths, risks and lived experience of Brighton & Hove.
- 1.4 The Community Cohesion Road Map will support the Council Plan mission of a fair and inclusive city, where people feel safe, included and welcome.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees that officers will lead a partnership and community engagement process to develop a Community Cohesion Road Map for Brighton and Hove, using the methodology set out in Section 3 of this report, and approves the proposed scope and structure for its development, including the areas of focus and enquiry set out in this report.
- 2.2 That Cabinet agrees to request officers to explore partnership opportunities with Belong, a leading national community cohesion network, to support the development and delivery of the Community Cohesion Road Map. Cabinet further agrees to delegate authority to progress any resulting partnership

arrangements to the Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities, Public Health and Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Corporate Director for Families, Children and Wellbeing.

- 2.3 That Cabinet agrees that officers will bring a further report to Cabinet in July 2027, following completion of the engagement and development work. This report will present a draft Community Cohesion Road Map, including proposed delivery priorities, governance arrangements, and the measurement and accountability framework, for Cabinet consideration and approval.

3. Context and background information

What is Community Cohesion?

- 3.1 Cohesion describes how well people live together, including whether people feel they belong, feel safe, trust each other, and can navigate disagreement without harm. In practice, “community cohesion” is often used in two related ways:
- **Community cohesion (local / neighbourhood level):** the quality of everyday relationships between people and groups, for example whether residents from different backgrounds have positive contact, feel safe and included locally, and experience strong, trusting relationships in their neighbourhoods and communities.
 - **Social cohesion (citywide / civic level):** the wider social and democratic ‘glue’ that helps society function, including trust in public institutions and services, shared commitment to rights and responsibilities, and the ability to handle disagreement peacefully while safeguarding freedoms.
- 3.2 Brighton & Hove’s use of the term community cohesion seeks to encompass both of these elements. In this way community cohesion is understood as referring to the everyday lived reality of a diverse place: whether people from different backgrounds can live well together, build trust, and take part in local life. It is not simply the absence of conflict. It is the presence of positive relationships, inclusion, and shared confidence that everyone can belong and participate safely.
- 3.3 Community cohesion can be seen as having four core “building blocks”:
- **Relationships and trust:** the extent to which people from different groups interact positively and feel able to build trusting relationships locally.
 - **Belonging and inclusion:** whether people feel safe, respected and able to belong, and whether difference is navigated with respect rather than fear or hostility.
 - **Participation and voice:** whether people can access opportunities, influence decisions, and participate in local community and civic life.
 - **Fairness and access:** whether barriers and inequalities undermine people’s ability to participate and feel included (including for marginalised groups).

- 3.4 Where cohesion is weak, this can show up as low trust, heightened fear, growing separation between communities, increased harm (including hate incidents), and reduced confidence in local institutions and services. These pressures may be further intensified by misinformation.

National context

- 3.5 Nationally, cohesion has become an increasingly urgent public policy priority, as local authorities operate in a post-pandemic context marked by rising polarisation, increasingly confrontational “culture war” narratives, widening inequalities and sustained economic pressure, alongside increased vulnerability linked to the cost of living crisis and growing challenges to mental health and wellbeing, all of which place strain on trust, belonging and social stability.
- 3.6 Communities are also exposed to divisive rhetoric and fast-moving online misinformation, which can amplify fear, resentment and distrust and can make local tensions more likely to escalate.
- 3.7 At the same time, local government and public services face decreasing budgets and increasing service demands, including housing, community safety and mental health and wellbeing services. The combination of economic pressure, heightened social tension and digital harms has increased expectations that local places take more proactive, coordinated approaches to strengthening cohesion and resilience.

National policy direction and expectations

- 3.8 The Government’s 2026 strategy *Protecting What Matters* positions cohesion as part of democratic resilience, public safety and national security. It explicitly highlights the role of local authorities as place-based system leaders, responsible for convening partners, responding proportionately to emerging risks and tensions, and strengthening trust between communities and institutions.
- 3.9 Alongside this, Local Government Association’s ‘Common Ground’ guidance emphasises that cohesion is a core responsibility of councils, requiring visible leadership, a shared language and a consistent long-term commitment. It reinforces the importance of acting early, working in partnership, and ensuring cohesion activity is rooted in evidence and lived experience rather than short-term or isolated interventions.
- 3.10 A further national expectation running through the guidance is that modern cohesion work must address the realities of the digital environment, including misinformation, online hate and wider online harms and must strengthen local capability to monitor and respond to emerging issues quickly and sensitively, in partnership with communities.

- 3.11 Taken together, these national expectations signal a clear direction of travel: local areas are increasingly expected to have a coherent approach that is strategic, partnership-led, evidence-informed and measurable, and that can respond to both slow-burn pressures (inequality, segregation, exclusion) and rapid shocks (critical incidents, global events and misinformation spikes).

Local context: Brighton & Hove today

- 3.12 Brighton & Hove is a vibrant, diverse and creative city. It is home to large LGBTQI+ communities, diverse faith, racial and ethnic communities, strong arts and cultural networks, thriving universities, and a significant population of people seeking sanctuary. These strengths provide a powerful foundation for cohesion, but they do not remove risk.
- 3.13 The Council's Corporate Plan, A Better Brighton & Hove for All, sets out the overarching priorities for the city, including a commitment to a safe, healthy and inclusive Brighton & Hove. It emphasises partnership working, prevention and early intervention, and embeds community safety and cohesion within the council's wider ambitions for the city.
- 3.14 Brighton & Hove is experiencing increasing pressures that can affect cohesion and residents' sense of safety, belonging and trust. These pressures include polarisation, online misinformation, the local impacts of global conflicts, cost-of-living pressures and widening inequalities. They can be felt locally through heightened tensions, hate incidents and, in some areas, declining trust in institutions.
- 3.15 Evidence and lived experience shared through communities and partners (including established engagement forums), alongside staff insight, indicate particular concerns about rising community tensions linked to national and international events; increases in Islamophobia, antisemitism, racism, misogyny, ableism and LGBTQI+ hate; and heightened fear and distress reported by some communities at times of increased local or global tension.
- 3.16 Economic pressures, declining mental health and wellbeing for some and high housing costs also drive inequality and instability, with increasing demand on health, housing, social care and safety services. Young people report exposure to online hate, harassment and misinformation. Newcomers and people seeking sanctuary report facing barriers including language needs, digital exclusion and trauma. Disabled residents can face systemic barriers across services, transport and public spaces.
- 3.17 The voluntary and community sector plays a crucial role in supporting cohesion, safety and inclusion, but faces pressure from funding uncertainty and rising demand.

- 3.18 For these reasons, the case for developing a Community Cohesion Road Map now is both preventative and practical: to provide shared language, a partnership approach to risk and resilience, clearer priorities and accountability, and a more consistent approach to addressing misinformation, hate and exclusion as they affect communities locally.

Proposal: develop a Community Cohesion Road Map through a partnership and community engagement process

- 3.19 Cabinet is asked to agree a structured engagement and co-production process to develop the Road Map. The intention is that the process of developing the Road Map itself supports cohesion by strengthening relationships, shared understanding and trust across the system and our communities.
- 3.20 This report seeks agreement to the *approach* (definition, principles, governance, measurement and priority enquiry areas), rather than adoption of an action plan at this stage. The action plan will be developed and prioritised with members, partners and communities and then refined through a test-and-learn approach. Cross party input will be supported through engagement with Overview and Scrutiny. A final proposal will be brought back to Cabinet for review and agreement.

Discussions have commenced with Belong, a national community cohesion network that has worked extensively with the Local Government Association, including on the development of the Common Ground guidance, as well as with local authorities on community cohesion strategies. Opportunities for joint working are being explored, which could provide access to National Lottery funding to support the development of the Community Cohesion Road Map.

Developmental Stages and Outputs

- 3.21 Development of the Road Map will include the following stages and approach. Dates are estimates:
- **Evidence and insight phase (start September):** assemble the evidence base (national guidance including Common Ground; local demographic and social data; crime and safety trends; hate crime patterns; inequality and housing pressures; and insight from partners and existing strategies).
 - **Engagement with lived experience (October – March):** dialogue with residents across neighbourhoods; including faith communities; LGBTQI+, TNBI, disabled and racially marginalised residents; youth groups; ESOL providers; universities; and VCS networks to understand lived experience and community dynamics.
 - **Co-production of priorities (April - May):** thematic working groups, iterative drafting and structured discussions to shape the Road Map priorities and approaches with communities and partners.

- **Governance, ownership and accountability (June/July):** design strengthened roles, decision-making and accountability arrangements aligned to collective responsibility.

3.22 The intended outputs of the engagement process include:

- An agreed city definition and shared language on cohesion;
- A prioritised Road Map with a set of deliverable actions and clear ownership;
- Strengthened partnership governance and reporting arrangements;
- An approach to measuring impact, including indicators, dashboard and public reporting.

Learning – the Cornerstone

3.23 Cohesion is not a single programme but an evolving system shaped by changing communities, pressures and relationships. Our Community Cohesion Road Map will therefore be learning led and underpinned by a clear theory of change, aligned with the council’s ambition to operate as a Learning Organisation. This sets out an evidence-based pathway from activity to impact, focusing on building trust between communities, tackling inequality and exclusion, strengthening civic participation, delivering joined-up services, and using evidence and lived experience to guide decisions. Learning is also a protective function, helping the city respond early to polarisation, misinformation and emerging tensions, and supporting a more cohesive, welcoming and resilient Brighton & Hove over time.

Values and Principles

3.24 The work will also be guided by the values, behaviours and principals set out in our Corporate Plan and Learning Framework, shaping decisions, partnership working and the Road Map’s responses to change and risk: Inclusion and fairness; equity and anti-discrimination; lived-experience leadership; cooperation and shared responsibility; dialogue and respect for difference; prevention, early intervention and resilience and transparency and accountability

Partnership governance and system leadership

3.25 An oversight governance model to support the delivery of the Road Map will also be consulted on as part of the process. Based on learning from elsewhere this framework could be made up of the following elements:

- A Community Cohesion Oversight Group to oversee delivery, monitor data/tensions, coordinate incident response and publish updates. This could be the EquiP Partnership.
- A revised and strengthened role for the One Voice Partnership, including digital cohesion and misinformation response;
- The creation of thematic working groups across priority areas;

- The creation of defined internal council roles (SRO, lead officer, cohesion champions, data/insight capability);
- The development of formal mechanisms for transparency including an annual reporting and public dashboard.

Potential areas of focus and enquiry for Road Map development (to be refined with partners and communities)

3.26 Data and information from our work and communities, supported by research and national best practice, indicates the following priority areas as the starting point for engagement, enquiry and future action planning:

- Young People: Building the Future
- Safe and Inclusive Neighbourhoods
- Tackling Racism including antisemitism and islamophobia
- Restorative Dialogue and Conflict Resolution
- Tackling Misogyny and VAWG
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Celebrating Diversity and Shared Identity
- Strengthening the Community and Voluntary Sector
- Accessibility and Participation for All
- Sports for Cohesion and Inclusion
- Newcomer Integration and Welcome
- Prevent
- LGBTQI+ and TNBI Inclusion
- Disability Inclusion
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Anti-Poverty and Inclusive Growth
- Partnership, System Leadership and Learning
- Incident Response and Misinformation
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Digital Cohesion and Online Safety
- ESOL and English Language Integration

3.27 A key part of the proposed approach is culture change: ensuring that the Council and partners consistently apply a “community cohesion lens” to existing services, activities, plans and decisions, so that we avoid unintended harm to cohesion and, wherever possible, actively strengthen belonging, safety, participation and trust through what we already do. This means embedding cohesion considerations into everyday practice (including how services are designed, communicated and delivered), not treating cohesion as a separate standalone programme. Where the engagement and evidence-gathering process identifies gaps, missed opportunities or areas where current approaches may inadvertently increase tension or exclusion, the Road Map development and action planning stages will seek to identify practical, deliverable improvements and prioritise action within available resources, working with partners and communities to focus effort where it will make the biggest difference.

4 Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- **Option 1 (Recommended):** Agree the proposed engagement and co-production approach to develop the Road Map with partners and communities. This enables shared ownership, reduces the risk of top-down design, and supports a deliverable and measurable plan.
- **Option 2:** Do not proceed with the Road Map development. This risks a fragmented approach to addressing cohesion pressures including polarisation, misinformation and hate incidents, and reduces the ability to coordinate partnership leadership and transparent measurement.
- **Option 3:** Develop the Road Map internally without structured partner/community co-production. This would not align with the draft methodology's emphasis on lived experience leadership, shared responsibility, and inclusive engagement, and may reduce trust and legitimacy.

5 Community engagement and consultation

This report seeks Cabinet agreement to undertake a structured partnership and community engagement process to develop the Community Cohesion Road Map. The approach will align with recognised good practice, including the council's Learning Framework and LGA Belong, Common Ground guidance, which emphasise whole-council leadership, shared language, partnership working and cohesion as a long-term endeavour. The engagement process is intentionally designed so that developing the Road Map also contributes to building cohesion, trust and shared understanding across communities and institutions.

Work to date has focused on developing an initial, evidence-informed framework to shape the proposed engagement. This has drawn on national guidance, local data and learning from community and partner engagement, including One Voice, EquiP, and feedback from faith and Third Sector partners. Subject to Cabinet agreement, the next phase will involve wider and deeper engagement with communities and partners to co-shape priorities, governance and measures, particularly with those most affected by cohesion pressures and those holding key system responsibilities.

Engagement will be delivered through a staged, proportionate approach within available resources, combining evidence and insight, engagement with lived experience, co-production of priorities, and test-and-learn refinement. The scope will include residents across neighbourhoods and communities of interest, with a particular focus on under-represented groups, alongside faith communities, voluntary and community organisations, and statutory partners including police, health, housing and education. Existing engagement frameworks and trusted Third Sector partners will be used wherever possible, and areas where cohesion and safeguarding intersect, including Prevent, will be addressed through appropriate and proportionate partner-led engagement.

6 Financial implications

This report seeks agreement to an engagement and development process. The intention is to develop the approach within existing resources, with partnership support wherever possible, to shape priorities and feasibility. Support from existing investments in engagement and community collaboration, for example as funded through the community grant programmes, will be made.

It is estimated that costs for production of the Road Map would be as follows:

- Staff time (research, engagement consultation, project trials and Road Map production) between £15,000 and £20,000.
- Additional support costs (venue hire, equipment) are estimated at £5,000.

Name of finance officer consulted: David Ellis Date consulted (08/06/2026)

7 Legal implications

The draft Road Map links explicitly to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010), the Human Rights Act 1998, and the Prevent Duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, and sets expectations that approaches are proportionate, non-discriminatory and rooted in community trust.

Recommendation 1 above has the additional advantage of not only completing with good principals of consultation, but also reflects the basic principles of the public sector equality duty as those who will be part of the process will include groups captured by the legislation and who are often community advocates for those with protected characteristics.

Name of lawyer consulted: Simon Court Date consulted (07/05/2026)

8 Risk implications

This paper identifies key risks that cohesion work is intended to mitigate (polarisation, misinformation, escalating tensions, distrust), and it also recognises the need for adaptive learning and clear governance to avoid unintended harm.

Key delivery risks for Cabinet consideration typically include: over-commitment versus resources, inconsistent ownership across partners, and reputational risk if expectations are raised without clear prioritisation; mitigations sit in the proposed staged methodology (co-production, prioritisation, test-and-learn, transparent reporting).

9 Equalities implications

- 9.1 The development of the Community Cohesion Road Map will be undertaken in accordance with the Council’s duties under the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to have due regard to the need to: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; (ii) advance equality of opportunity; and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Cohesion work is directly relevant to all three aims, because it focuses on safety, belonging, participation, fairness and the quality of relationships across difference.
- 9.2 This report is seeking agreement to the engagement and development process rather than a final Road Map at this stage. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be completed and/or updated to accompany the subsequent report that brings the draft Road Map back to Cabinet for adoption (Recommendation 2.5). The EIA will set out the likely impacts on groups with protected characteristics, identify any disproportionate impacts, and specify mitigations and actions to avoid or reduce harm, in line with BHCC guidance.
- 9.3 The Road Map development will explicitly incorporate current and emerging EDI themes already being taken forward across the organisation, for example, including:
- **Ethnicity / anti-racism and hate prevention**, including work to address antisemitism and Islamophobia / anti-Muslim hate through coordinated learning, communications and community engagement.
 - **Migration / newcomer inclusion**, recognising barriers linked to language, digital exclusion, trauma and access to services, and ensuring lived experience from refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant communities shapes priorities and mitigations.
 - **Implications arising from the Supreme Court judgment on the definition of sex**, ensuring the Council’s approach is legally compliant, clear, and focused on reducing risk and harm. This will include proactive work to support communities affected, to build understanding, to prevent discrimination and hostility, and to ensure service approaches are communicated and implemented in ways that strengthen cohesion rather than undermine it.
- 9.4 Equalities will not be treated as a standalone “EIA add-on”. Considerations will be embedded as design requirements throughout the engagement process, including:
- Targeted and accessible engagement with communities who are more likely to experience exclusion or harm (including disabled residents, faith communities, racially marginalised communities, LGBTQI+ and TNBI residents, women and girls, carers, and newcomers), using accessible formats and trusted routes to participation.
 - Ensuring the developing Road Map addresses barriers to participation (e.g., language needs, digital exclusion, accessibility barriers, caring responsibilities), and that mitigations are specified where barriers are identified.

- Designing a proportionate approach to sensitive and contested issues, with a focus on safety, rights, respect, and preventing escalation of harm, supported by clear guidance and partnership working.

10 Sustainability implications

- 10.1 This report seeks agreement to a development and engagement process. As such, there are no significant direct sustainability implications arising from the decision sought at this stage.

11 Other Implications

Social Value and procurement implications

- 11.1 This report seeks agreement to a development and engagement process only and does not commit the Council to any new services, delivery models or future procurement at this stage.
- 11.2 Consideration of social value outcomes, including any implications for community capacity, participation or the community and voluntary sector, will form part of the engagement and development process. A fuller assessment of social value implications will be included in the Cabinet report seeking approval of the final Community Cohesion Road Map.

Crime & disorder implications:

- 11.3 Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must have due regard to the likely effect of its decisions on crime and disorder. This report proposes a process to develop a Community Cohesion Road Map and does not at this stage introduce new policies or interventions.
- 11.4 The development work will be undertaken in alignment with existing multi-agency community safety arrangements and will consider how cohesion-related issues intersect with community safety priorities, including hate incidents and crime, antisocial behaviour, violence against women and girls and Prevent.
- 11.5 Relevant statutory partners will be engaged as part of the development process to ensure these considerations are appropriately reflected. A full assessment of crime and disorder implications will be set out when Cabinet is asked to approve the final Road Map.

Public health implications:

- 11.6 This report seeks approval to undertake engagement and development work only and does not in itself introduce changes with direct public health impacts. Public health considerations, including the relationship between cohesion, wellbeing, inequality and sense of belonging, will be explored as part of the development process in partnership with Public Health colleagues and other relevant partners.

- 11.7 A fuller assessment of public health implications, including potential impacts on health inequalities and wellbeing, will be brought forward in the Cabinet report seeking approval of the final Community Cohesion Road Map.

12 Conclusion

- 12.1 Brighton & Hove is experiencing increasing pressures linked to polarisation, online misinformation and widening inequalities, which can undermine safety, belonging and trust. This report therefore seeks Cabinet agreement to a structured partnership and community engagement process to develop a Community Cohesion Road Map that provides shared language, clearer governance, agreed priorities and a proportionate approach to measurement and accountability.
- 12.2 The proposed approach will complement existing partnership priorities, including those of the Community Safety Partnership, and strengthen prevention and early intervention across key areas such as hate, VAWG and Prevent, alongside links to public health and wellbeing.
- 12.3 Cabinet is not asked to approve a final Road Map at this stage; Cabinet is asked to approve the development approach and agree that a further report will be brought back presenting a draft Road Map for Cabinet to consider and adopt once the engagement work is complete.

Supporting Documentation

1. Background documents

- Protecting What Matters: Towards a more confident, cohesive and resilient United Kingdom
- Common Ground; Building cohesive communities

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 10

Subject: Consultation on the Renewal, Extension and Introduction of New Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)

Date of meeting: Monday 29th June 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Youth

Lead Officer: Corporate Director for Families, Children and Wellbeing

Contact Officer: Name: Richard Tuset

Email: richard.tuset@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: Yes

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

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval to undertake public and statutory consultation in relation to:

- the renewal of existing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) that are due to expire;
- the extension of some existing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs); and
- the potential introduction of new PSPOs to address identified and emerging issues of anti-social behavior and environmental harm in public spaces across Brighton & Hove.

1.2 The Council Plan includes a mission for a city where people feel safe, included and welcome. PSPOs are an important tool, helping the council deliver services and activities that support this mission.

1.3 Public Space Protection Orders are provided for under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. They allow local authorities to impose proportionate and targeted restrictions on activities in public spaces where those activities have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.

1.4 Under the Act, PSPOs may have effect for a maximum period of three years. Where a local authority considers that the statutory tests continue to be met, an Order may be renewed following appropriate consultation.

1.5 The Council must undertake consultation before making any new PSPO. This report does not seek approval to make, renew, vary or discharge any PSPO at this stage. It seeks approval only to consult, with any final proposals to return to Cabinet for decision following consideration of consultation feedback and further evidence.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet approves the undertaking of statutory consultation in relation to:

- a) the proposed renewal of existing Public Space Protection Orders that are due to expire as set out in Appendix 1;
- b) the potential extension of some existing Public Space Protection Orders as set out in Appendix 2; and
- c) the potential introduction of new Public Space Protection Orders to address anti-social behaviours and/or activities identified through evidence and partner intelligence, as set out in Appendix 3.

2.2 Cabinet agrees that a further report will be brought back setting out:

- the results of consultation;
- the updated evidence base;
- an assessment of proportionality and necessity; and
- recommendations on whether to renew/vary, make or discharge PSPOs.

3. Context and background information

3.1 Brighton & Hove City Council currently has twelve PSPOs in place (Appendix 1) addressing issues including, but not limited to, alcohol-related anti-social behaviour, dog control, and gated public spaces.

3.2 These Orders were introduced to address specific and persistent issues which were assessed as having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those living in, working in or visiting affected areas.

3.3 If these PSPOs are not renewed, the restrictions and enforcement powers associated with them will lapse.

3.4 In addition, partners and Council services have identified emerging and changing patterns of behaviour which may warrant consideration for the extension of some existing PSPOs (Appendix 2) or the adoption of new PSPOs (Appendix 3), subject to consultation and satisfaction of the statutory tests.

3.5 The Council is required to consult with:

- the Chief Officer of Police and the local policing body;
- community representatives; and
- any person the authority considers appropriate.

3.6 Consultation is therefore a statutory requirement and a necessary step before any decision can be taken to renew or introduce a PSPO.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 Cabinet has the option of not agreeing this consultation and doing nothing. This would result in existing PSPOs expiring and the Council losing associated enforcement powers. This option is not recommended.
- 4.2 Alternatively, Cabinet can agree to this consultation proceeding, enabling the Council to meet its statutory duties, gather evidence, and ensure that any future decisions are informed, lawful and robust. This is the recommended option.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 Subject to Cabinet approval to proceed, consultation will be undertaken with:
- statutory partners, including Sussex Police;
 - ward councillors;
 - residents, businesses and community organisations; and
 - other stakeholders as appropriate.
- 5.2 The channel for consultation will be the Your Voice platform, with additional engagement activities adopted as appropriate to each PSPO.
- 5.3 The consultation will seek views on:
- whether the existing PSPOs remain necessary and proportionate;
 - the impact of the current Orders;
 - whether any amendments and/or extensions are required; and
 - whether there is support for the introduction of any new PSPOs.
- 5.4 The consultation approach will be proportionate, accessible and inclusive, and will be designed to ensure that a broad range of views can be captured.

6. Financial implications

There are no additional financial implications arising from the approval to consult. Staff time (preparing orders, consultation and review work) is estimated at £2,500. Costs associated with the consultation will be managed within existing budgets and any potential additional costs resulting from subsequent implementation, will be considered and reported as part of any future decision-making report.

Name of finance officer consulted: David Ellis Date consulted (08/06/26)

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The threshold requirements for any PSPO are clearly set out above, but it should be noted that there are a number of technical requirements which also need to be met especially if it is agreed that PSPO's will be taken forward.

- 7.2 There will be a requirement for solid evidence to justify renewal and any new matters. This is because the nature of the PSPO is restrictive. There will need to be consideration not only of evidence but impact. For instance it is not lawful to have a PSPO specifically designed to stop rough sleeping. The wording of the Orders if made has to be considered carefully to ensure it is enforceable

Name of lawyer consulted: Simon Court Date consulted (16/04/26):

8. Risk implications

This consultation process, to inform the potential renewal, extension or adoption of new PSPOs doesn't have any immediately identifiable risks.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 This consultation process, to inform the potential renewal, extension or adoption of new PSPOs does not have significant equality implications.

- 9.2 Equality Impact Assessments will be considered in relation to any recommended renewal, extension or adoption of new PSPOs arising from this consultation to identify any potential disproportionate impacts on protected groups.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 This consultation process, to inform the potential renewal, extension or adoption of new PSPOs doesn't have any sustainability implications.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

- 11.1 The consultation process to inform the potential renewal, extension or adoption of new PSPOs doesn't have any health and wellbeing implications.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

- 12.1 This activity involves no procurement, so has no procurement implications.

13. Crime & disorder implications:

- 13.1 PSPOs are one of a range of tools available to the Council and its partners to address anti-social behaviour and support community safety and cohesion. The consultation process does not have any crime or disorder implications.

14. Conclusion

- 14.1 Cabinet's agreement to proceed with this consultation will enable the Council to take a lawful, transparent and evidence-based approach to its future application of Public Space Protection Orders.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

1. Current PSPOs
2. Potential Extensions
3. Potential New PSPOs

Appendix 1: Current PSPOs proposed for renewal

Date Adopted	Expiring	PSPO	Link
04 August 2022	04 August 2025	Single-use disposable barbecues, lanterns and balloons Public Spaces Protection Order	Single-use disposable barbecues, lanterns and balloons Public Spaces Protection Order
01 October 2022	01 October 2025	Pool Passage Public Spaces Protection Order	Pool Passage Public Spaces Protection Order
19 October 2023	19 October 2026	St James's Court Public Spaces Protection Order	St James's Court Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2023
19 October 2023	19 October 2026	Oxford Court Public Spaces Protection Order	Oxford Court Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2023
19 October 2023	19 October 2026	Farman Street Public Spaces Protection Order	Farman Street Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2023
19 October 2023	19 October 2026	Brunswick Row Public Spaces Protection Order	Brunswick Row Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2023
19 October 2023	19 October 2026	Consumption of alcohol Public Spaces Protection Order	Consumption of alcohol Public Spaces Protection Order
19 October 2023	19 October 2026	Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order	Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order 2023
19 October 2023	19 October 2026	Dogs Exclusion Public Spaces Protection Order	Dogs Exclusion Public Spaces Protection Order 2023
19 October 2023	19 October 2026	Dogs on Leads (By Direction) Public Spaces Protection Order	Dogs on Leads (By Direction) Public Spaces Protection Order 2023
15 November 2023	15 November 2026	Dogs on Leads Public Spaces Protection Order	Dogs on Leads Public Spaces Protection Order 2023
22 February 2024	22 February 2027	Nelson Row Public Spaces Protection Order	Nelson Row Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2024

Appendix 2: Proposed Extensions to Existing PSPOs

PSPO	Extension of Prohibitions	
Single-use disposable barbecues, lanterns and balloons PSPO	Add an additional prohibition of lighting an unauthorised fire. To exclude Allotments that are subject to other regulations and controls.	
PSPO	Current Geographic Coverage	Proposed Geographic Extension
Dog Fouling PSPO	All BHCC land which is open to the air and which the public are entitled or permitted to have access to, except for land that is used for agriculture, woodland or Forestry Commission land.	To remove the exception of BHCC agricultural land and extend the prohibition to these areas.
Dogs Exclusion PSPO	<p>All BHCC Children's Play Areas at any time (children's play areas enclosed by fencing that contain play equipment)</p> <p>Borough Cemetery Lewes Road, Extra Mural Cemetery Lewes Road, Borough Cemetery Bear Road, The Jewish Cemetery Bear Road, Meadowview and Lawn Cemetery Bear Road, Hove Cemetery North & South Old Shoreham Road and Portslade Cemetery Victoria Road. Prohibition in force at all times except for people attending funerals, remembrance services or visiting graves, or people who reside in the premises of cemeteries, under which circumstances dogs must be kept on leads at all times.</p> <p>Parks & Gardens at any times, specifically: Brunswick Square Norfolk Square Russell Square Bedford Square Clarence Square Powis Square Pelham Square Regency Square (North End) New Steine Square Steine Memorial Gardens Kipling Gardens Rottingdean The Rockery Gardens Preston Road William Clarke Park Picton Street Saunders Park excluding the fenced dog area to the South West corner of the park</p> <p>Beaches (including the foreshore) from May to September with the exclusion of the following beaches displaying a "dog friendly" sign:</p>	To extend to Blakers park fenced area and Preston Park Velodrome and cricket pitch

	<p>The beach between Longridge Avenue and the border</p> <p>Beaches between Chailey Avenue and Arundel Drive West Rottingdean</p> <p>Beaches between West Marina Wall to Rottingdean Slope</p> <p>Beaches between the West Wall of Brighton Marina and up to the Volks Railway Station opposite New Steine.</p>	
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Appendix 3: Proposed New PSPOs

Potential PSPO	Location	Detail
Blakers Park	Blakers Park	Prohibition of Professional Dog Walking in Blakers Park
Prohibition of Unauthorised Overnight Recreational Camping	Across all council land in the city	To specifically target recreational camping and exclude any targeting/prohibition of people who are homeless/rough sleeping.
Prohibition of Unauthorised Overnight Recreational Stay in Campers or Vehicles adapted to be Lived In.	Across all council land in the city	Issue on multiple areas including Regency Square as an example. By issuing across all areas it prevents moving from one area to another.
Prohibition of the Entry of Unauthorised Vehicles	Council parks and open spaces including woodlands. Vehicles driving on parks land, risk to pedestrians, churn and compaction of grassland.	Issue on multiple parks including Hove Park as an example. By issuing across all areas it prevents moving from one park to another.
Prohibition of Unauthorised Drones	Across all council parks and public open spaces, in line with CAA guidance on the restriction on the flying of drones.	History across the country of this being an issue and unsafe in a children's recreation environment. Prohibition on take-off and landing in public spaces
Prohibition of Unauthorised/Illegal Trading	Unauthorised and/or illegal trading can both cause nuisance and impact on legitimate businesses. Prohibition to cover Parks, open spaces and the Seafront promenade.	Issue on multiple parks including Hove Park and Blakers Park as an example. By issuing across all areas it prevents moving from one park to another.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 12

Subject: Carers Strategy, "Think Carer - building a Carer Friendly City"

Date of meeting: Monday 29th June 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities, Public Health & Adult Social Care

Lead Officer: Name: Corporate Director for Homes & Care

Contact Officer: Name: Gemma Scambler

Email: gemma.scambler@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: Yes

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

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the Carers Strategy 2026-2030, 'Think Carer – Building a Carer Friendly City', continuing the Councils commitment to supporting the vital role family and friend unpaid carers provide within the City. It delivers both a clear message that carers are valued, their needs have been heard, and they will continue to be supported, additionally providing a framework to encourage services and organisations to be 'carer friendly'.

1.2 The Strategy aligns directly with the Council Plan 2023 to 2027, in particular commitments to creating a healthy city that helps people to thrive, by living and ageing well:

- Enabling people to live healthy, happy and fulfilling lives
- Providing services to ensure everyone has access to the information, advice and services they need
- Ensuring there is safe, effective, sustainable and high-quality health and care provision in the City

And, most significantly for this Strategy, it supports this commitment for a healthy city:

- Providing joined-up services for unpaid carers to ensure they have access to the information, advice and services they need.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Approve the Carers Strategy, “Think Carer – Building a Carer Friendly City 2026-2030”, draft attached in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Homes and Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Homes and Adult Social Care and the Carers Strategy Group, to make minor amendments required to ensure alignment with any relevant new legislation or policies that may come into force during the lifetime of this strategy.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 Family and friend unpaid carers (carers) make up at least 8% (20,804 carers) of the population of Brighton and Hove (Census, 2021), nationally it is estimated at 5.8 million carers, 9% of the population. Caring does not discriminate, a carer can be any age, with the youngest Young Carer registered locally at age 6 years old, and Adult Carers over 90 years old. With many carers supporting more than one person and providing over 50hrs of care a week.
- 3.2 The original Carers strategy – **Think Carer – building a Carer Friendly City** was launched in 2017, this current document is the second refresh continuing to build on the commitment to carers for creating an environment across services and organizations within the City, who wish to promote a commitment to being, or working towards being, ‘carer friendly’, through an agreed framework, developed in consultation with carers and wider stakeholders. Caring is a unique experience, however there are a range of common themes regarding the types of care provided, the amount of care provided; and adverse impact of health inequalities that carers experience.
- 3.3 Through refreshing this Strategy, the aim is to build on the successful structures created through the original work, including the partnership of support services within the commissioned Carers Hub, as requested by carers, and is a successful resource, both in terms of carer satisfaction and contract performance. It is important to acknowledge that there have been delays in refreshing the Strategy, due to a number of issues, however, there have been Better Care Fund Unpaid Carers Plans in place. Much of the Strategy work has continued, including developing new services and opportunities for carers:
 - the recommissioning of the Carers Hub (2025/26), which has provided a consistent ‘local carers offer’, including access to carers assessments; peer support groups; homebased respite to enable carers to attend health related appointments; a range of dedicated projects supporting Young Carers (under 18 years old); and Carers of people with mental health needs; dementia; and life limiting conditions. Plus, support for working carers, and for employers to be ‘carer friendly’. As well as access to the Carers Digital Offer, providing a range of free resources, including the Jointly app, to improve communication between carers sharing care.

- in addition, the Council continues to support the provision of the 'carers card', a unique local discount card for carers who are registered with either the Council, or the Carers Hub, providing discounts for carers, including local social activities; leisure services; and a reduced rate on Brighton and Hove Buses.
- the Council continues to provide the Carers Emergency Back Up Scheme, to enable carers to record a contingency plan, which is held by the Councils 24/7 CareLink service.
- successful pilot within the Royal Sussex County Hospital, to encourage the identification and support for carers within the hospital discharge process.
- promotion of the Carers Centre for Brighton and Hove Carers Champions eLearning, excellent resource for promoting carer awareness.
- continued provision of Carers Personal Budgets (for those with eligible needs under the Care Act 2014), enabling carers to purchase a range of activities and support, which enables them to access a break.

3.4 The Strategy has been shaped by:

- A variety of consultation events and activities with family and friend unpaid carers in the City
- Partnership working through the multi-agency Carers Strategy Group, chaired by Adult Social Care Commissioning, and includes membership from key Community and Voluntary Sector services; Adult Social Care Assessment Services; Public Health; NHS Surrey and Sussex; and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.
- National policy and legislation, including Care Act 2014, and the NHS 10-year Plan 2025.
- Local evidence regarding the impact of caring, and carers experience of support services; assessment services; and health care provision, completed predominately through the Councils engagement contract with Brighton and Hove Carers Centre.
- National research; guidance; best practice for reducing the known health inequalities that carers disproportionately experience.

These are specifically identified within the Strategy, under the four overarching rationales for the refresh: Population and Demographics; Legislation and Policy framework; Health Inequalities; and National and Local research.

3.4 Providing unpaid care, is often through a desire to support those we love, carers 'step up' to the challenges of either a gradual change in someone's needs, or through a sudden change due to a traumatic experience or diagnosis. Carers generally want to care, however caring takes its toll, and therefore services need to support carers to enable them to continue to care.

3.5 There is a moral, financial and often legal necessity to support carers, recently caring has been described as a 'social determinant of health', due to the significant health inequalities experienced by carers, including higher rates of long-term health conditions; increased physical strain; mental health challenges; and financial impact and insecurity. The range of negative impacts on carers, is referred to as the 'carer burden', meaning the multiple compounding issues and intersectionality which affect carers.

- 3.6 The estimated economic contribution of unpaid carers nationally has been placed at £184 billion per year (the equivalent to the total NHS budget). Within Brighton and Hove, national research by Carers UK, has calculated based on the Census data 2021, that locally the economic contribution of carers to the City is £618 million per year.
- 3.7 Caring has an impact on all areas of a carers life, however there is a growing evidence base regarding the impact of juggling caring and working, with a national estimate of 600 carers a day leaving paid employment, due to their caring responsibilities. This has a huge individual impact on carers, including loss of income and pension contributions, managing the increased costs of caring, loss of identity and contact with others, as well as the negative impact on the work force, through reduced tax and national insurance contributions, increasing access to welfare benefits, loss of expertise and experience within the workplace, and cost of recruiting and training replacement staff.
- 3.8 Carers now have a range of rights, which are enshrined in legislation:
- Care Act 2014 – legal parity of esteem for carers; information, advice; carers or joint social care assessments; and carers personal budgets
 - Health and Care Act 2022 – extended the duty of Integrated Care Boards to consult with carers strategically, and for carers to be involved in decisions and planning when discharging patients from hospital
 - Carer’s Leave Act 2024 – employees are entitled to one week’s unpaid leave per year, to take flexibly.
 - Children and Families Act 2014 – Young carers and Parent carers have the right to an assessment of their needs, and support to reduce inappropriate care provision
 - Equality Act 2010 – ensures carers are indirectly protected from discrimination, by association.
- 3.9 The Strategy provides a framework for identifying and supporting unpaid carers, which has been developed through consultation, and includes a local definition of a Carer Friendly City:

‘A ‘carer friendly’ City encourages unpaid carers to speak about their experience and how caring affects them; it recognizes their contribution; ensures they access information, advice and support, that will both assist them with their caring role and enable them to have a life outside of caring. Supporting carers is everyone’s business.

The City needs to Think Carer – reaching out to carers wherever we can by understanding the daily reality of caring, recognizing that they are often under a lot of pressure, and tend to be hidden from view but must be involved in discussions and decisions regarding those they care for.

Through integrated, partnership working we can improve the lives of carers, assisting them to maintain a healthy lifestyle; make informed decisions regarding their caring role; maintain relationships with friends and family; balance work and caring; participate in education; access essential services for both the person they care for and themselves; and reduce the known health inequalities disproportionately experienced by carers through poorer physical and emotional health, and negative financial impact’.

- 3.10 The original Strategy provided the foundations of the Carers Hub and Carers Rights, and this Strategy has continued building those foundations with a further eight priority areas, developed through consultation:
- Carer Engagement (co-production, carers voice, peer support);
 - Carer Awareness (training and support);
 - Carer Pathway (simple pathways);
 - Integrated Services (between NHS and Adult Social Care, and the Carers Hub
 - Carer Registration (identification & carers offer);
 - Data Collection (centralized carers dashboard);
 - Tackling Health Inequalities (equitable access to respite, financial support and flexible working);
 - Carers Services (dedicated information & advice, assessment and support for carers, promoting carers rights and proactive contact)
- 3.11 The framework provided within this strategy is to encourage services to make a 'carers commitment', a document or statement that shows the service or organization actively encourages carers to identify themselves; promotes the rights of carers; and supports them. This process of identifying that the service or organization is 'carer friendly' could include staff completing the eLearning Carer Champion, carer awareness training; offering a discount or incentive for carers with the Carers Card; a clear pathway to the Carers Hub to encourage carers to register for support; or access support for employees who are carers.
- 3.12 Carers will be directly involved in the development of the 'carers commitment' process, and related potential logo/award, through co-production. Additionally, there will be a range of resources held within the Councils website to provide information and support for the completion of 'carers commitment', and to log copies of these for carers to access. To promote a 'carer friendly' City, there will be a range of local campaigns, again developed through co-production, to raise awareness of carers and caring (Think Carer); awareness of the central resource of the Carers Hub (Think Carer = Think Carers Hub); and Prepare to Care, a checklist approach for individuals and families to either discuss the gradually increasing needs of a family member or friend, or to respond to a sudden change, and raise awareness of the support that can be accessed as soon as possible.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 **Option 1** – Approve the strategy (recommended). This provides a commitment to valuing family and friend unpaid carers; provision of support for carers, to tackle the known health inequalities that carers disproportionately face; and raise awareness of carers and caring to promote a carer friendly city.
- 4.2 **Option 2** – Do not approve the strategy. This would potentially risk losing the trust with carers, and services, who have been directly involved in the development of this strategy.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 The development of this Strategy has embraced the Councils Community Engagement Framework, engaging with carers through a range of

mechanisms. It directly affects all carers and aims to improve their lives and experience; their views have informed its development; and integral to the development has been the collaboration with organizations funded to represent carers in the City, and wider stakeholders.

- 5.2 The Carers Hub (central support for carers) contract has a commitment to consulting and engaging with carers. Additionally, the Carers Centre (host of the Carers Hub) is part of the Council's Engagement Prospectus contract, and as such have completed a number of research and engagement activities, including Carer Friendly City surveys.
- 5.3 The Carers Centre/Hub has worked in partnership with the Council to facilitate a range of in person events, utilizing the two key national events per year aimed at family and friend unpaid carers: Carers Week (during June); and Carers Rights Day (November). These events included good public transport available; funded taxis offered for those who cannot use public transport; a variety of refreshments; accessible buildings/venues; plus a commitment to provide feedback summaries for all who attended. These events have aimed to involve carers, as well as empower them to inform the Strategy development.
- 5.4 Additionally, there have been related surveys and activities coordinated by the Council, including the Adult Social Care Carers Survey, and the Local Account, both activity results have been presented using the Community Engagement Framework approach of 'We asked, You said, We will do'.
- 5.5 The Strategy document has direct reference to the views of carers and their experience as part of Section 1 (rationale for strategy refresh).

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The costs associated with the implementation and delivery of the Carers Strategy are jointly funded through the Better Care Fund, which is a section 75 pooled budget with the Integrated Care Board. For 2025/26, the Integrated Care Board contribution to the Supporting unpaid carers workstream was £0.852m and the Council contribution was £0.182m. Any increase to the contract value in future years will need to be within the resources available and agreed by the Integrated Care Board and the Council. Any spend variance at outturn is subject to a risk share as per the section 75 agreement.
- 6.2 The staffing resource required to implement this strategy is projected to be £0.032m and contract spend is forecast to be £0.091m, which is funded within existing budget allocations.

Name of finance officer consulted: Sophie Warburton Date consulted: 21/05/2026

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 There are a number and range of statutory duties and protections in respect of carers that are outlined in paragraph 3.7 of this report that must be adhered to by the Local Authority.

Name of lawyer consulted: Sandra O'Brien Date consulted 22/05/26

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 Key risks identified through the strategy development process include:
- Increasing number of carers seeking support from capacity limited services – mitigated through proportionate assessment processes; regular reviews with the Carers Hub; and an escalation protocol regarding waiting lists.
 - Safeguarding adults (SR13), issues may arise regarding carers disclosing concerns regarding their own safety, and/or the person/people they care for – mitigated by the Carers Hub staff completing regular safeguarding training, and contractual arrangements regarding following the Councils Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 This Carers Strategy 2026-2030 is accompanied by a Draft Equality Impact Assessment (see Appendix 2). Carers are identified within the Equalities framework as group who experience discrimination, this Strategy aims to tackle this discrimination by raising awareness of carers and encouraging services to complete a Carers Commitment – including addressing any potential discriminatory factors.
- 9.2 The Strategy references the intersectionality of caring, and how this impacts on the health inequalities that carers experience.
- 9.3 The EIA has raised issues concerning ‘hidden carers’ resulting from assumptions made about specific communities, and cultural issues regarding defining the term carer. The Strategy work directly addresses the EIA, including:
- The development with carers of the Carers Commitment template, which will address the Equality Act requirements
 - The Carers Dashboard will collect equality monitoring data, to inform service development
 - The Carer Campaigns will include reaching out to ‘hidden carers’

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 When completing the Sustainability Implications Checklist, it has identified no negative impacts, and 3 positive impacts related to:
- Sustainable Travel and Transport – Consultation events with carers regarding the Carers Strategy have been either on-line (so no travel impact), or at venues chosen specifically to ensure that bus travel is accessible.
 - Sustainable Economy - When choosing venues for supporting consultations with carers regarding the Carers Strategy, consideration has included the use of local businesses (Open Market), to support our local economy.
 - Health, safety, wellbeing and local communities - Again when consulting with carers, we review the health and safety policy of the chosen venues, and the feedback on venues by carers attending is used to inform future events
- 10.2 The key partner is consultation and engaging with carers, is the Carers Centre/Hub, their contract includes sustainability arrangements.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

- 11.1 The Carers Strategy is central to supporting the improvement of the health and wellbeing of all carers, all ages and all needs. It is accepted, and there is a robust evidence base, that carers disproportionately experience health inequalities, therefore Carers are identified as a specific group within the Core20Plus5, NHS Health Inequalities strategy, and caring is viewed as a wider determinant of health.
- 11.2 This Strategy addresses the known health inequality impacts on carers and aims to mitigate them through the continued commitment to a Carer Friendly City. Support for unpaid carers is a specific objective within the Council Plan, under Living Well, and this Strategy is the vehicle for addressing those issues.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

- 12.1 There are no procurement implications related to this report.

13. Crime & disorder implications:

- 13.1 There are no crime and disorder implications.

14. Conclusion

- 14.1 The approval of the refreshed Carers Strategy is important to local carers, those who have been directly involved and those who will benefit from it, as it recognizes and values their contribution to our city. It addresses the known health inequalities, providing a framework to improve the lives of carers, the mechanisms within the Strategy will be developed through co-production with carers, empowering them to influence the city to see them, hear them, and support them. Services and organizations within the city will be able to show their support for carers (through Carers Commitment), and what carers can expect from their services, truly supporting the continued development of a Carer Friendly City.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

1. Appendix 1 - Draft Carers Strategy, Think Carer – building a Carer Friendly City
2. Appendix 2 - Draft Carers Strategy Equalities Impact Assessment

Think Carer – Building a Carer Friendly City

Carers Strategy



2026 to 2030

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Brighton & Hove City Council's Carer Friendly webpages
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Foreword

Introduction

This strategy aims to provide a framework for improving the lives of family and friend unpaid carers, through continuing to build a 'Carer Friendly City' – a city that sees carers, hears them, involves them and supports them.

A significant issue for supporting carers is the fact that many people don't always see themselves as a carer. They are family members, friends or neighbours, and therefore don't necessarily access assistance until they have experienced many of the negative impacts of caring. This strategy aims to reach out to carers as soon as possible to help reduce the known health inequalities carers face.

This document is aimed at 2 audiences: family and friend unpaid carers who want to see they are valued, potentially get involved in the implementation of this strategy, know their rights, and identify the support they could be accessing; and secondly, for services/ organisations who wish to show they are aiming to be 'carer friendly'.

Although this strategy is led by Brighton & Hove City Council's Adult Social Care team, mainly due to the statutory duties regarding carers being central to Adult Social Care responsibilities, the ambition is for any services within the city to adopt this strategy's framework and show their commitment to

family and friend unpaid carers, and so evolve into an 'all age carers strategy'.

Through the increasing integration of services, there will be inevitable connections with the other related service areas, and the hope is that both statutory and non-statutory services adopt the strategy framework and support all carers as defined within Section 1. As part of the original consultation for this work, carers specifically identified 4 key areas which are important to them and are the pillars of the Carer Friendly Strategy – Carer Friendly Social Care; Health services; Employers; and Education establishments.

Local carers requested that the main elements of this document are no more than 6 pages, to ensure concise information. However, for those who wish to review more detail on the key areas within this document, there are dedicated Carer Friendly City webpages on [the council's website \(ADD LINK\)](#). The core details of this strategy are within Section 2, and there are separate summary guides to the strategy for family and friend carers, and services who wish to be 'carer friendly'.



Section 1 – Why have a carers strategy:

Family and friend unpaid carers provide a vital role in our communities, and there is much evidence of the need to improve their lives and reduce the health inequalities they are known to be disproportionately facing.



Definition of a Carer:

There are many ways a person providing unpaid care can be defined, or define themselves, however for the sake of this strategy we will use the generic term, carer, as defined by NHS England:

“ A carer is a person of any age, adult or child, who provides unpaid support to a partner, child, relative or friend who couldn’t manage to live independently or whose health or wellbeing would deteriorate without this help. This could be due to frailty, disability or serious health condition, mental ill health or substance misuse.” (reference 1)

For further clarity, and definitions used within this strategy:

Adult carer – person over the age of 18 years old, providing unpaid care;

Parent Carer – caring for a child/young person with additional needs;

Young Carer – a child or young person under the age of 18 years old, providing unpaid care to an adult or child/young person; and Sibling Carer – child/young person who is affected, and/or caring for a child/young person with additional needs;

There is also increasing evidence based for:

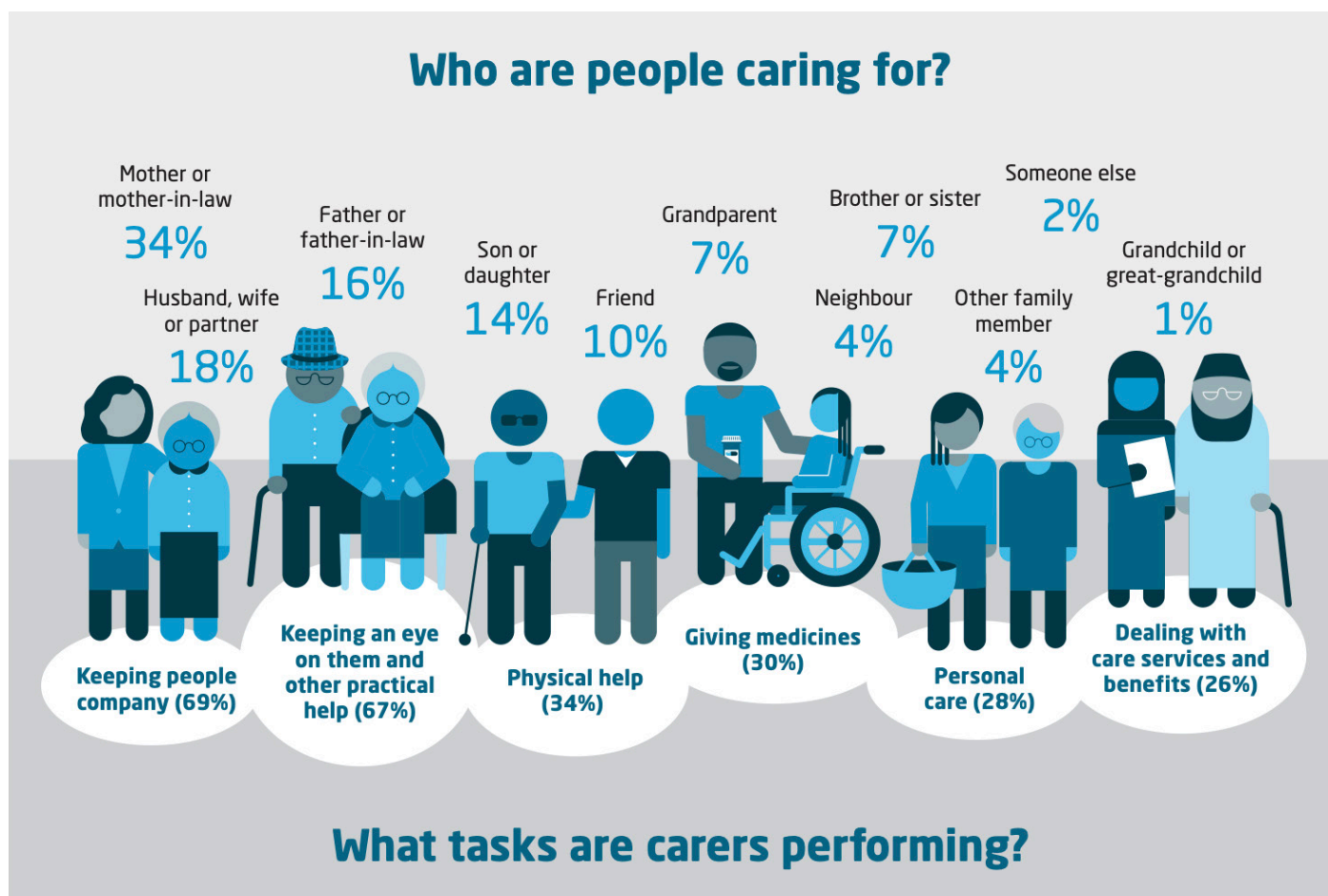
‘Sandwich Carers’ – carers supporting children with additional needs and aging parents, which can place increasing pressure on the whole family dynamics, health and financial security.

This strategy predominately focuses on adult carers, caring for adults, as reflected in much of the supporting population data, and related research. However it is important to recognise that Parent Carers and Young Carers also have rights, and experience the same disproportionate health inequalities, and will potentially go through a transitional period as they reach 18 years old, or the person they care for does (or up to 25 yrs old for specific needs/disability). Brighton and Hove City Council's, Families, Childrens and Wellbeing Directorate support Parent Carers, and Young Carers, although as mentioned there is crossover in terms of support services. There is an ambition to evolve this strategy into an 'all age' carers strategy, and this will be part of the local co-production and implementation plans.



What do carers provide?

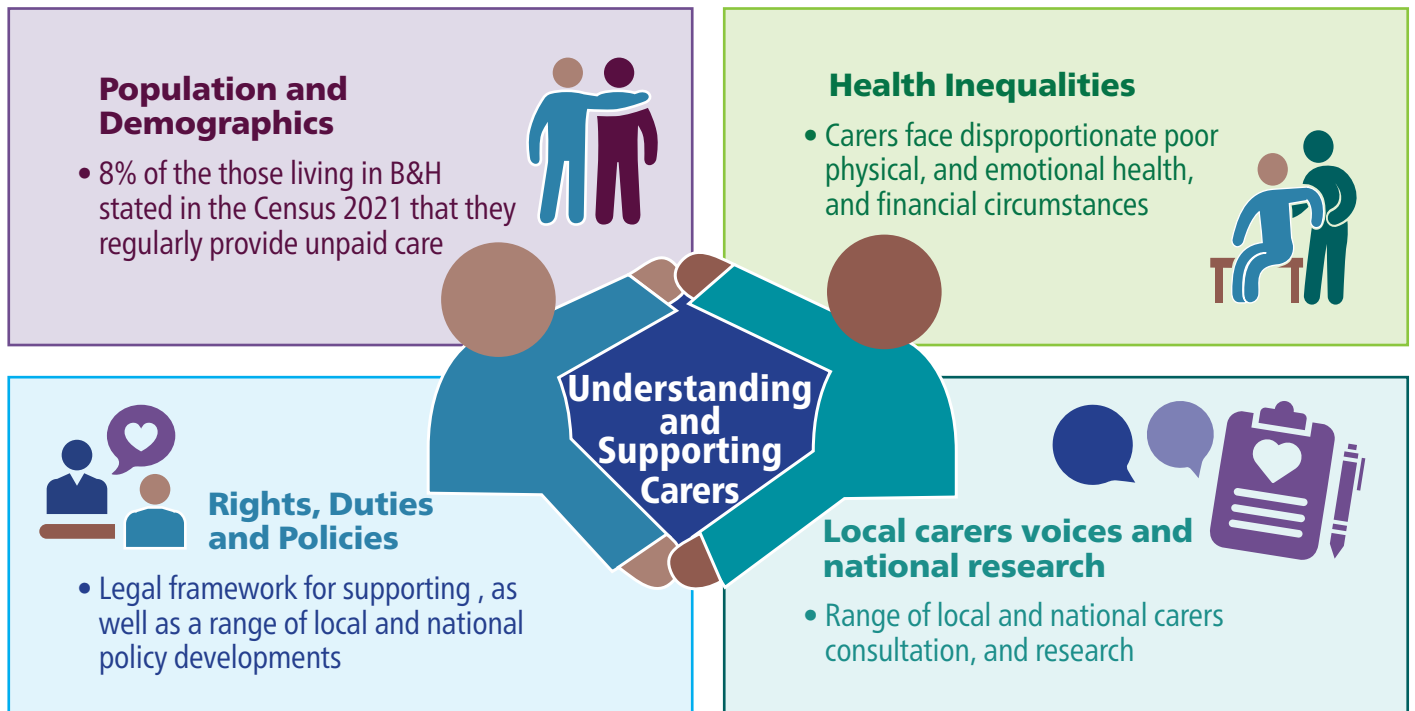
Caring is a unique experience, however for those who haven't experienced providing unpaid care, [research from The King's Fund](#) highlights the range of people being cared for and the care they provide.



Graphic from: Caring in a Complex World, Perspectives from unpaid carers and the organisations that support them. Kings Fund, May 2023, page 11

What is the rationale for supporting carers?

There is a moral, economic, and in some cases, legal duty for identifying, involving and supporting carers. This strategic framework provides the rationale for a Carer Friendly City, represented under these 4 key elements:



The above 4 areas provide the structure for an evidence base to enable services to access the relevant information for them to develop 'carer friendly' services. The detail of these themes is on the dedicated webpages BHCC Carer Friendly City, [\(add link – need to speak to Web design team\)](#), under each subject heading, which will be updated regularly.

Put simply, carers make up at least 8% of the population of Brighton & Hove and disproportionately face health inequalities. Local carers have provided an evidence base for needing to improve the identification, involvement and support required for them to continue to care (through a range of consultations), which is amplified by a wealth of national research, as well as a clear legal and policy structure regarding supporting carers – which all amounts to the need for a Carer Friendly City.

Population and Demographics

1,300 Carers
known to BHCC Adult Social Care

- reference Eclipse Assessment Database ASC, BHCC; and 5,200 Carers Hub (2025/26)
- reference Carers Centre for Brighton and Hove Charity Log Database



Brighton & Hove carers figures 2023 -

3,296 Adult Carers
registered with their GP within Brighton & Hove

- reference Brighton & Hove Health and Adult Social Care Annual Report 2023



Think Carer – Building a Carer Friendly City



5.8 Million carers in the UK,

of which **1.7 million** people are providing over **50hrs** of **unpaid care** a week; **9%** of the national population



20,084 carers in Brighton & Hove, of which



5,430 people are providing over **50hrs** of **unpaid care** a week;

8% of the Brighton & Hove population stated they provide regular unpaid care

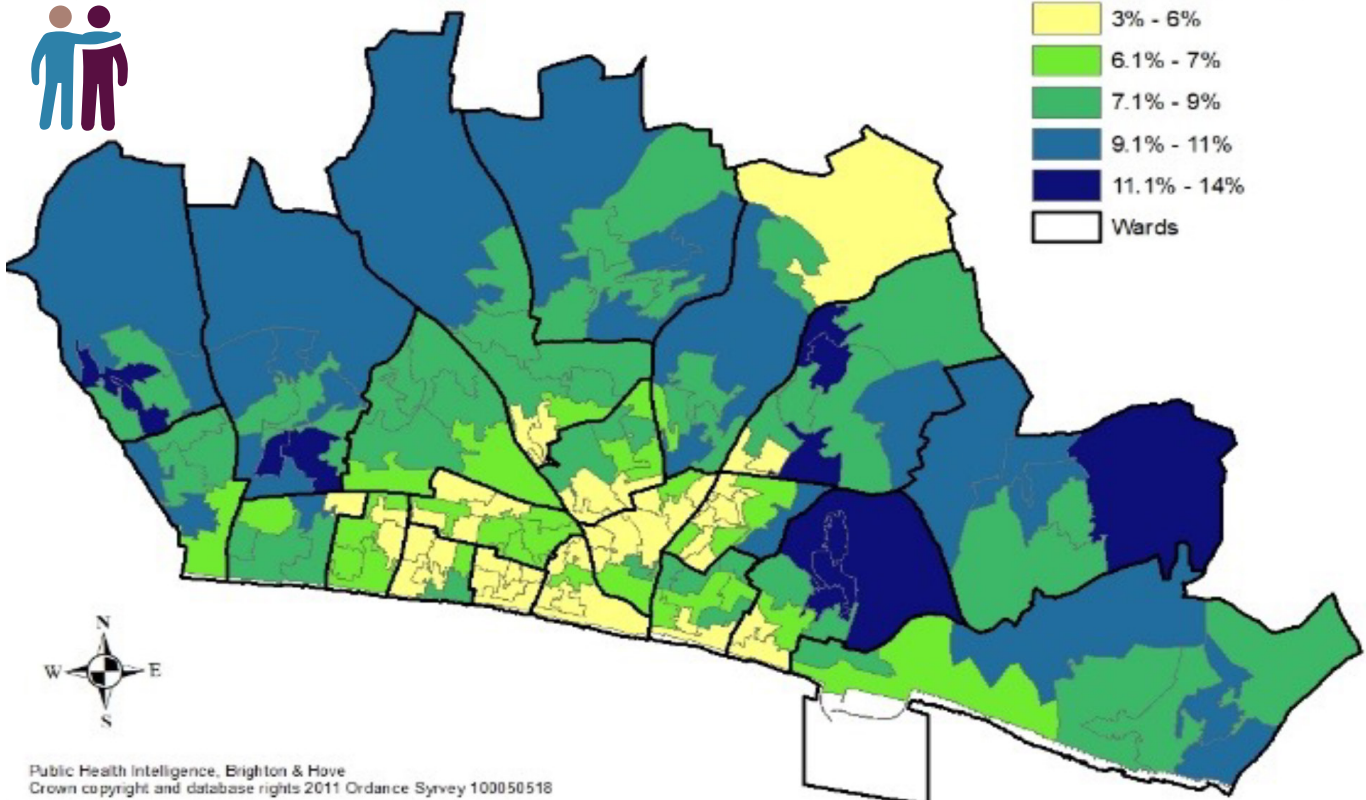


- reference, Key facts and figures | Carers UK last updated 2025

- reference, Unpaid carers in Brighton & Hove Census date 2021

Proportion of all residents who provided unpaid care

Source: 2021 Census.



Public Health Intelligence, Brighton & Hove
Crown copyright and database rights 2011 Ordnance Survey 100050518

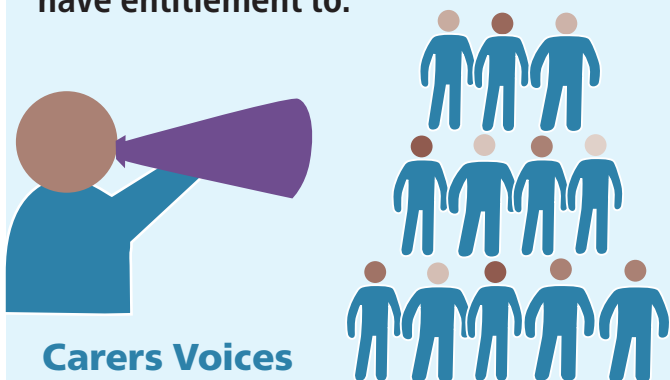
The Brighton and Hove: Unpaid Carers 2021 Census data, has been broken down by Council wards, with the highest % of residents who are carers, being in Woodingdean (11.7%), and Hangleton and Knoll (11.6%)



Legislative and Policy framework: Rights, Duties and Policies

Crucially, carers now have 7 overarching Rights

These are still not universally known and greater awareness is needed to ensure carers access the rights they have entitlement to.



Carers Voices

Recognising your Rights:

- The right to unpaid Carer's Leave
- The right to request flexible working
- The right to ask your GP practice to identify you as a carer
- The right (and choice) to request a free flu jab
- The right to protection against discrimination for harassment
- The right to request a carer's assessment
- The right to be consulted when the person you care for is discharged from hospital



In addition to the legislative framework shown in the following table, there are key national and local policies and guidance that are reflected within the remit of this strategy and aim to support carers.

This strategy incorporates the range of local and national policies and guidance related to carers, including:

- Fit for the future:
10 Year Health Plan for England 2025
- People at the Heart of Care:
adult social care reform, White Paper, 2021
- Better Care Fund framework
2026 to 2027
- Core20PLUS5 (adults) –
an approach to reducing health inequalities

Plus, locally:

- Brighton & Hove City Council Plan
2023 to 2027 –
A Better Brighton and Hove for all
- Brighton & Hove Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
2019-2030
- Health and Adult Social Care
Delivery Strategy
2023-2027
- Sussex Health and Care,
Improving Lives Together
- NHS Surrey and Sussex ICB's
5 Year Commissioning Plan
2026/27

The legislative framework for supporting Carers, includes statutory duties within:

Legislation	Importance for carers, and this strategy
The Care Act 2014	created legal parity of esteem for Carers, and those being cared for, and for Carers to be entitled to support in their own right. Additionally, it places duties on the LA to provide information and advice; carers assessments; eligibility criteria for support, including personal budgets. The Act additionally places a duty of co-operation, to increase integration with NHS partners.
The Health and Care Act 2022	created Integrated Care Boards, and extended the duty to consult and involve Carers, at both a strategic and individual level. Plus, a new specific duty to involve Carers in decisions and planning when discharging patients from hospital.
The Carer's Leave Act 2024	employees are entitled to one week's unpaid leave per year, to take flexibly, if providing or arranging care for someone with a long-term care need.
The Children and Families Act 2014	gave Young Carers and Parent Carers the right to an assessment of their own needs, and provision of support to reduce inappropriate care provision.
The Equality Act 2010	ensures that Carers are indirectly protected from discrimination, by association, resulting from the needs of the cared for person, so cannot be less favourably treated than someone else because they are a Carer.





Health Inequalities

Caring is increasingly recognised as a [social determinant of health](#), due to carers experiencing significant health inequalities compared to non-carers, including higher rates of long-term conditions, physical strain, and severe mental health challenges. These known impacts on carers have been described as the 'carer burden', covering the perceived emotional, physical and social hardships associated with caring, defining the effect of these multiple compounding issues on those who provide unpaid care.

The need to support carers, and so reduce their health inequalities, reinforces the message that carers provide a vital role. ADASS recently described unpaid caring as

“ a social infrastructure, as important as housing, transport and paid care – but it is taking too much from the carers themselves.”

[\(Unpaid caring – the hidden health inequality we can no longer ignore and why we must intervene to prevent ill-health in carers, 2025\),](#)

...and went on to say that carers


“ are the invisible infrastructure of our health and care system, enabling people to live at home and reducing pressure on hospitals, GPs, and local authority services. Yet the evidence is clear: caring itself is risking the health of those who provide it. ”

...and makes a 'call to action':


- Recognising carers as a **priority group in population health strategies**, alongside other inequality groups.
- Embedding carers' **risk assessments** into social care and discharge planning.
- Offering **proactive health checks** for high-intensity carers, especially those aged 65+.
- Providing **targeted wellbeing support** – mental health programmes, MSK/back care, sleep support and respite.
- Embedding **carer health metrics** into ICS dashboards to make carers' health visible.
- Leveraging entitlements such as Carer's Allowance to unlock wider financial and health support

In addition to the physical and emotional impacts, there is a growing national awareness of needing to address carers financial wellbeing as a known health inequality. Carers within Brighton & Hove face increasing financial disadvantage as a result of their caring role, as well as the cost of living within the city. A recent inspection report published in December 2025 by the [Care Quality Commission of Brighton & Hove City Council's Adult Assessment Services](#) stated that the local authority is a negative outlier in measures around employment and financial security, referencing BHCC annual Survey of Adults Carers 2023/24, showing that of the carers who responded to the survey, 53.68% of unpaid carers experienced financial difficulties because of caring, which is below the England average (46.55%).

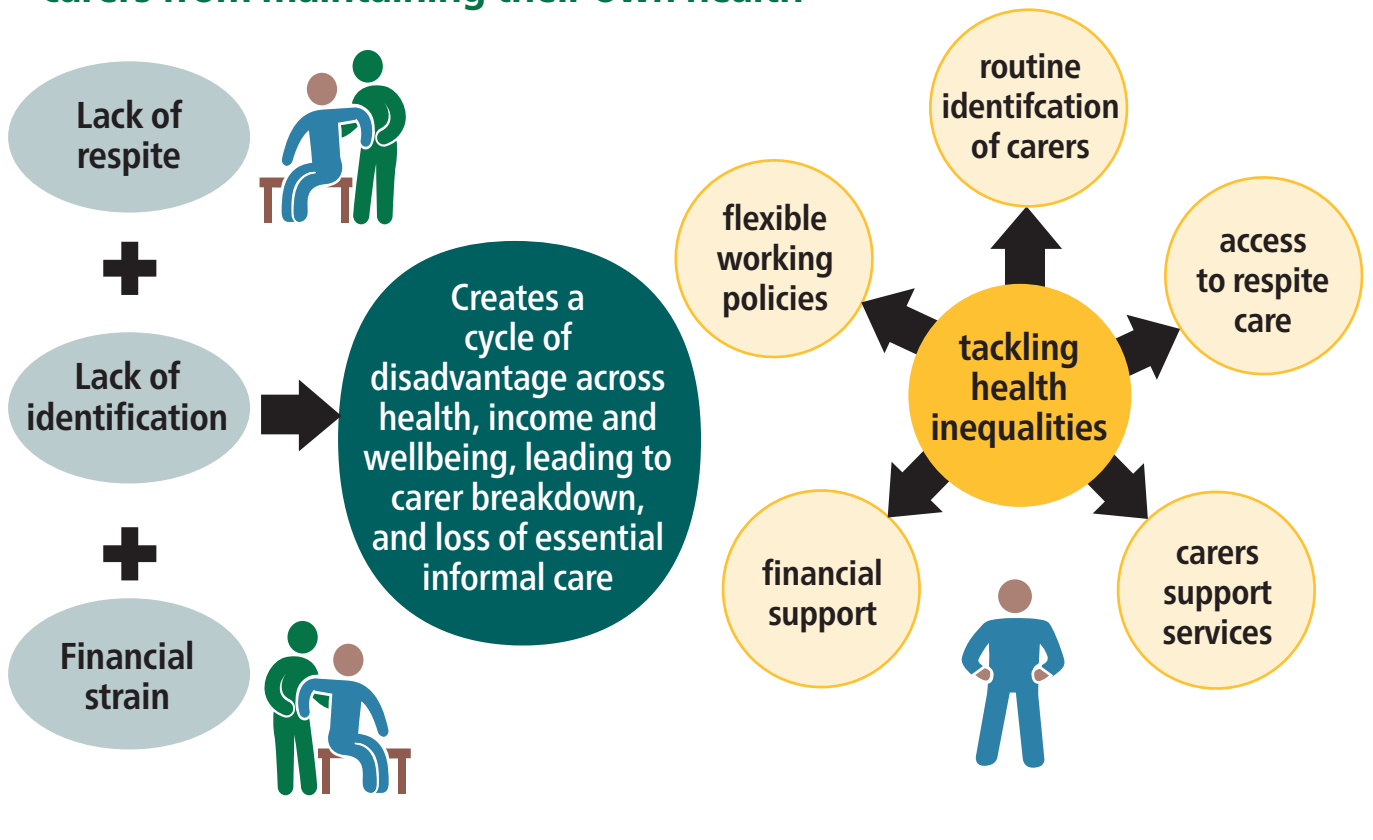
Key Areas of Health Inequalities facing Carers, through the experience of systemic health disadvantages:

Health Status	Poor Mental Health	Access to Care	Declining Poor Health	Socioeconomic Disadvantage
<p>60% of carers report a long-term health condition or disability, compared to 50% of non-carers.</p> <p>Those caring for 50+ hours per week are twice as likely to report poor health.</p> 	<p>81% report increased stress and anxiety, while 77% say their mental health has worsened due to caring.</p> <p>Loneliness and social isolation is prevalent, with 36% of carers feeling lonely 'often or always' vs. 6% of the general population.</p>	<p>40% of current carers have postponed or cancelled their own medical appointments (tests, scans, or therapy) because of their caring responsibilities.</p> <p>Difficulty navigating services while prioritising the needs of the person they care for.</p>	<p>Carers frequently experience physical strain from lifting, disturbed sleep (24%), and chronic exhaustion (33%).</p> <p>Increased risk of chronic conditions (back pain, fatigue, and cardiovascular issues).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • many carers reduce working hours or leave employment; • financial strain contributes to stress and poorer health outcomes; • greater inequalities seen in carers from lower-income backgrounds
Reference Facts about carers (last updated October 2025, Carers UK 2025)	Reference Facts about carers (last updated October 2025, Carers UK 2025)	Reference Caring About Equality, Carers UK 2025	Reference State of Caring 2023, the impact of caring on: Health, Carers UK, 2023	Reference Exploring the relationship between unpaid carers and finances, Carers Trust, 2024

Intersectional Inequalities experienced by carers:

Ethnicity -	Gender -	Socioeconomic Status -	Sexual Orientation -	Age -
<p>Some minoritised groups report lower rates of recognition by healthcare professionals.</p> <p>For instance, only 76% of Asian carers and 78% of Black carers felt their mental health needs were understood, compared to 86% of White carers.</p>	<p>Women are more likely to take on intensive caring roles and report higher rates of mental and physical health deterioration (64% for women vs. 52% for men).</p>	<p>Carers with lower qualifications or living in deprived areas face the most severe "penalties." They are more likely to live in poverty and have significantly lower physical and mental health scores.</p>	<p>LGB+ carers report significantly higher rates of mental health conditions (36%) compared to heterosexual carers (13%).</p>	<p>Young Carers, impact on education and emotional development.*</p> <p>Older carers have higher physical health risks.**</p> 
Reference Carers Health and Experience of Primary Care, Carers UK, 2021.	Reference Facts about carers (last updated October 2025), Carers UK 2025	Reference Caring About Equality, Carers UK 2025	Reference Carers Health and Experience of Primary Care, Carers UK, 2021.	Reference * Caring and classes: the education gap for young carers, Carers Trust 2024; **Caring About Equality, Carers UK 2025

Tackling the systemic barriers known for preventing carers from maintaining their own health



The national Carers Week report for 2025, provides a cautionary summary that

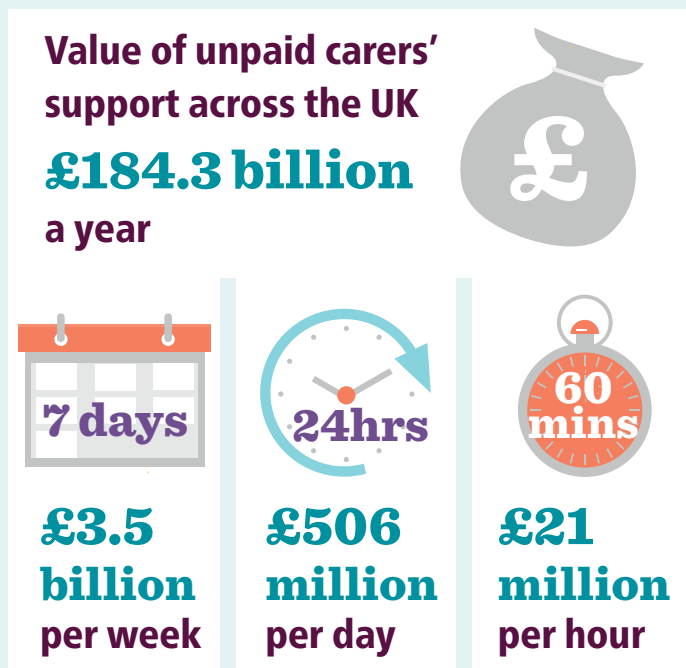
“ There is a risk, that if we do not proactively tackle the inequalities impacting unpaid carers, more people will face poverty, poor health, lower educational attainment and employment prospects, loneliness and isolation. ”

This statement echoes what local carers have told us, that proactive support must be central to services for carers.



Local carers voices and National Research

Despite the often-negative impacts of caring and the barriers carers face, national research has estimated that the annual economic contribution of family and friend unpaid carers is equivalent to the total national NHS budget per year. Carers UK, working with the Centre for Care, report [Valuing Carers 2021](#) which is based on the Census 2021 data, and calculating the average cost of paid care hours (£25) against the unpaid care hours, states:



Local carers have told us:

The views of local carers are represented throughout this strategy, and the details of specific carer engagements can be found on the dedicated webpages, including results from Brighton & Hove City Council's Adult Social Care Carers Survey (2023/24, and 2025/26), and a range of consultation reports produced by the Carers Centre Brighton & Hove (lead partner of the Carers Hub), as well as their comprehensive engagement plan, including direct contact with carers; carers responding to specific surveys and events; social media activity; use of LinkedIn for supporting working carers; quarterly publication of the Carers News newsletter; and partnership working across national and local services, including neighbourhood events.

The overarching themes include:

- Need for flexibility, cooperation and improved communication within services
- Services to take a holistic approach that considers the unique needs and challenges faced by unpaid carers, their families and those who receive support.



- Improved carer information
- Increase in respite provision
- Need for advocacy within hospital settings
- Need for a 'roadmap' of services for carers and those they care for.

The Carers Rights Day 2023 was a central event for engaging with carers regarding the refresh of the Carers Strategy. This day long event received a wealth of contributions from a diverse range of carers. The sessions focused on the **'4 Pillars' of the strategy – Carer Friendly: Health; Education; Employers; and Social Care.**

Key issues identified included the need for:

- Carer Awareness Training for professionals.
- Accessible information for carers, regarding key issues, such as education, health and care assessments, as well as carers assessments.
- Flexibility in terms of learning in school for young carers; GP appointments; assignment extensions in universities for people affected by caring; and flexibility in the workplace.
- Proactive support, reaching out to carers, support with identification and recognition, as well as ongoing support. Carers support services; social care; health services should 'check in' with carers, not wait till they make contact.
- Improved respite offer, as many carers expressed dissatisfaction with the availability of respite, both in terms of access and affordability. Having to pay for respite was a barrier to accessing it, even if it was available.

More information from the above session will be available on the Brighton & Hove City Council Carer Friendly City webpages, within the 'what local carers have told us' section.

In 2024 the Sussex Carers Partnership (made up of the 3 lead carer organisations within Sussex) published a report 'Unpaid Carers Insight – Hospital Discharge Process', which the local Integrated Care Board had requested, in order to review the hospital discharge recommendations previously identified.

This work focused on the experience of carers (through surveys, focus group, and interviews) and identified 8 key areas of concern regarding cared for people being discharged from hospital:

- Abrupt hospital discharge
- Lack of communication with carers
- Concerns regarding the readiness of the cared for person
- Challenges regarding the coordination of the hospital discharge
- Medical oversight issues
- Inadequate support services, and post discharge support arrangements
- Transport and logistical issues
- Impact on carers – this issue very much focused on how much the carer had to adapt/rearrange in order support discharge, often without notice and the above issues.





The Carers Centre Brighton & Hove (Carers Hub) carried out a [Carer Friendly City Survey \(March 2026\)](#) with local carers, and the findings of which (from 40 responses) identified a number of issues which reinforce the commitments of this strategy. The data shows an increase on the same survey in 2023 of carers stating that the city is increasingly carer aware, from 33% agreeing in 2023 to 45% agreeing in 2026.

However, with 3 further comparable questions with 2023, carers have stated there is room for improvement in order to support them:

- 50% of respondents (2026) disagreed that health, social care and voluntary sector services are integrated well enough; only 20% agree; which reflects a slight improvement from 2023, when 55% disagreed, and 19% agreed
- 40% agreed that there is effective information/advice available, leading to ongoing support, an increase on 2023, when 31% agreed
- 42.5% disagreed that support services for carers take a 'whole family' approach, which shows an increase in disagreeing, from 31% (disagreed in 2023)

The survey addressed a number of other areas, including:

- access to a range of respite services, with 37.5% currently accessing no respite support.
- carers stated they wanted respite through a range of options from homebased to overnight/residential setting. Including comments highlighting an interest in longer funded breaks, better information, and 'everyday respite' such as café discounts - sometimes preferring breaks that don't involve carer groups.
- Areas needing improvement repeatedly include:
 - o **More consistent carer recognition in NHS/hospital/GP settings, and better communication between hospitals, GPs and social care**
 - o **Quicker assessments and less delay** (for example carers card renewals, badges, processes)
 - o **Support that fits working carers' schedules** (not assuming daytime availability)
 - o **Clearer, proactive signposting** so carers aren't finding support 'by chance'.

Refreshing the Carers Strategy:

The strategy has been refreshed to build on the successful structures created by previous strategies (originally 2017) and now concentrates on assisting in providing greater understanding of caring and carers, encompassing new legislation, policies and evidence for supporting carers.

It is important to acknowledge there has been a delay refreshing the strategy due to a number of issues. However, much of the strategy related work has continued over the past few years, including developing new services and opportunities for carers, as well as integrating the identification, assessment and support of carers across essential services. This includes:

- the recommissioning of the Carers Hub,
- piloting new approaches, including dedicated support for carers within the Royal Sussex County Hospital, to ensure the identification and support for carers within the hospital discharge process.

Additionally, through consultations with carers the 8 new priorities have been developed to support the continuation of building a Carer Friendly City. These include direct engagement events in 2023/24 and more recent surveys in 2024/25; further detail on the outcomes of these are provided in section 2.

The Carers Hub:

The Carers Hub is a central resource for delivering the strategy. It was developed through the original strategy in 2016/17, it brought together key carers services in the city, and has continued to significantly increase integrated working, including the operational pathway for carers between the Carers Hub and the dedicated carer assessment services within Adult Social Care. The success of this model has resulted in it being recommissioned for a further 4 years from

March 2025, with a greater emphasis on 4 key functions to **raise carer awareness; ensure carer representation; carers single point of contact; and dedicated support services.**

The Carers Hub delivery model, has 4 distinct functions:



Carers -

- Identified,
- valued,
- improved quality of life,
- reduced health inequalities, and
- integrated support

Carer representation

Carer awareness

Carers single point of contact

Carers dedicated services



Young Carers

Young Carers Local Offer (carers under 18 years old):

Carers Hub Young Carers Service:

- Peer support in the form of after-school clubs across both primary and secondary school ages
- Workshops and respite events, usually during school holiday periods
- Assessments and one to one support for young carers significantly impacted by their caring role. These usually take place at the child/ young person's school/college.

The Carers Hub provides a single point of contact for carers, and promotes a systematic and consistent approach for all carers through the Carers Local Offer:

Carers Hub Carers Local Offer (2026)

A **single point of contact** for all carers, who live in the city or provide unpaid care to someone in the city. **The Carers Hub** provides the local carers offer:

- **Initial carers assessment** to identify the care being provided; impact of caring on the individual; promotes discussion regarding accessing services for the carer and/or the cared for; dedicated support and rights for carer. – onward referral pathway to Adult Social Care for a full carers assessment (which if eligible, can result in a carers personal budget), or joint social care assessment with the cared for person in order to access respite provision or regular package of care
- **Information and advice** range of resources including factsheets, and access to the Carers Digital Offer – part of Brighton & Hove City Council’s membership with Carers UK enables access to the Carers Digital Offer, which includes a suite of information and eLearning, plus access to the online forum, and free access to the Jointly App (providing comms between carers of an individual) Carers Card discount card for carers, Amaze manages the development of offers available, and has developed a dedicated App.
- **Carers Emergency Back Up Plan** contingency plans for if a carer who is unable to provide care in an emergency situation via CareLink
- **My Health Matters** free homebased respite (Crossroads Care) for carers who cannot leave the person they care for alone, to enable them to attend health related appointments.

- **Peer Support** a range of activities, face to face, or online, for localities or specific needs (mental health carers, working carers, etc)
- **Dedicated Projects** providing 1:1 support, group activities and peer support – caring for someone with mental health needs (Changes Ahead); life limiting condition; dementia; and young carers.
- **Activities/Events/Surgeries** a range of events including the Carers Festival; Legal Surgeries; training opportunities; and topic specific workshops



Adult Carers

Parent Carers Local Offer (parents of children/young people with additional needs):

Parent Carers can access much of the Carers Local Offer above, with the addition of Amaze and the Parent Carers Council (hosted by Amaze), who provide specialist support:

Amaze offers information, advice and support to parent carers of any child or young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25.



This includes:

- **Special Education Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) – Parent Carers can register with Amaze to receive information and advice tailored to their needs**
- **Additional support regarding accesses disability related benefits; neurodiverse family navigation and training; parent groups and befriending; access to Carers and Compass Card.**

Parent Carers Council, is a forum for parent carers of children with additional needs who work to help improve services and support, through representation of parent carers; and connecting events.



Section 2 – What is a Carer Friendly City?

The aim of this strategy is to build on the previous Carer Friendly City work, and provide a further framework for change.

Change for carers through increased identification; greater recognition; improved involvement; more understanding of the impact of caring; and dedicated services to support them, plus change for services within the City, to be aware of carers; the impact of caring; and how they can develop their services to support and empower all local carers, through a greater understanding of their rights, and access services.

This strategy's definition of a Carers Friendly City has been agreed through both the Carers Strategy Group membership, and a range of consultation events with carers. It brings together everything that carers have asked us to do and responds to the duties many services have in respect of carers.



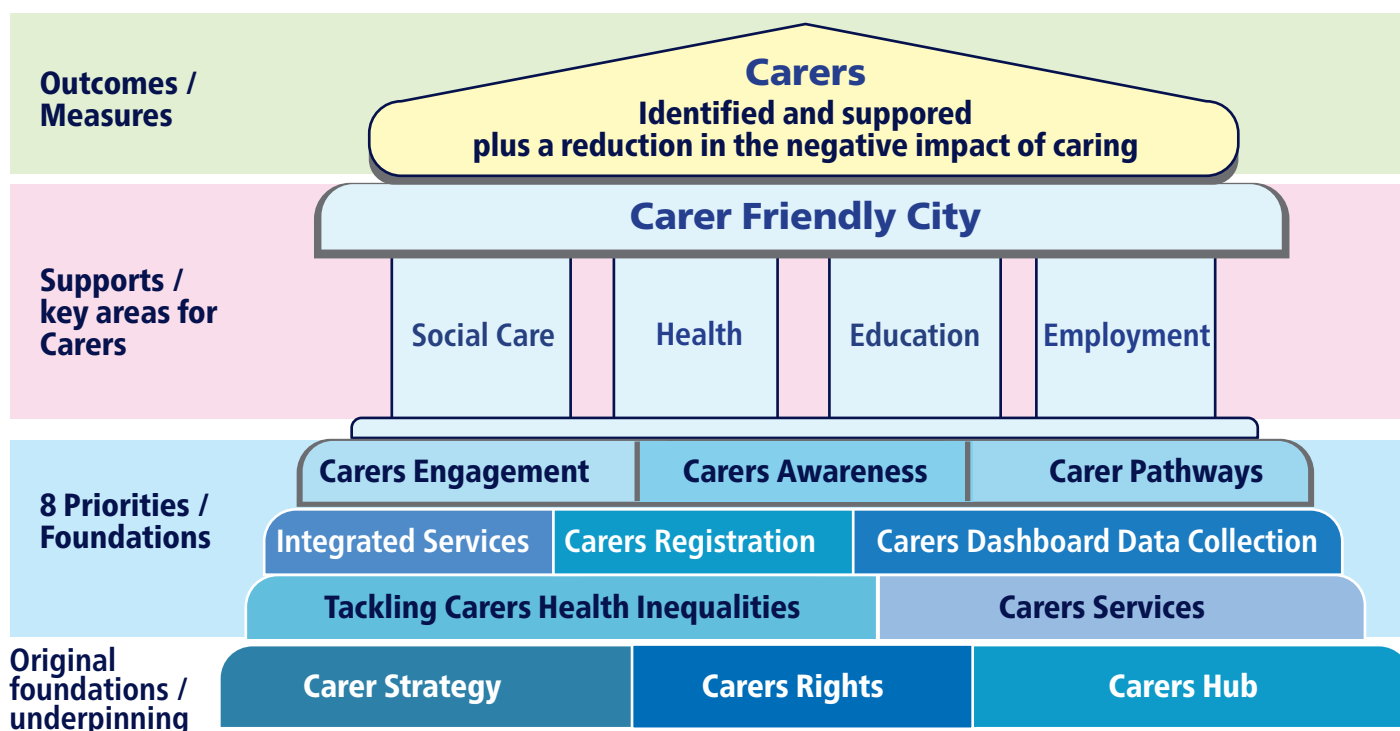
The City needs to Think Carer – reaching out to carers wherever we can by understanding the daily reality of caring, recognising that they are often under a lot of pressure, and tend to be hidden from view but must be involved in discussions and decisions regarding those they care for.

For the purposes of this strategy, the definition of a Carer Friendly City is:

A 'carer friendly' City encourages unpaid carers to speak about their experience and how caring affects them; it recognises their contribution; ensures that they can access information, advice, and support, that will both assist them with their caring role and enable them to have a life outside of caring. Supporting unpaid carers is everyone's business.

Through integrated, partnership working we can improve the lives of carers, assisting them to maintain a healthy lifestyle; make informed decision regarding their caring role; maintain relationships with friends and family; balance work and caring; participate in education; access essential services for both the person they care for and themselves; and reduce the known health inequalities disproportionately experienced by carers through poorer physical and emotional health, and negative financial impact.

A 'blueprint' for building a carer friendly city:



The definition reflects the need for an understanding of the care carers provide, the impact on the carer, and the impact on the city, particularly if carers were unable to care, the economic impact on the city would be considerable.

Underpinning and Foundations

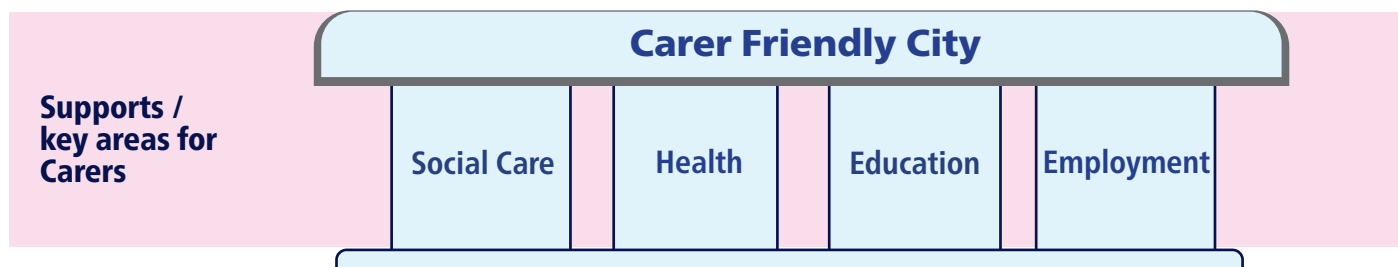
As seen from the above illustration, the Carer Friendly City is underpinned by the original **Carer Friendly Strategy; Carers Rights;** and the **Carers Hub.**

This strategy has been developed through a partnership approach, predominately through the multi-agency Carers Strategy Group; engaging with carers; key local carers organisations; health colleagues from commissioning; and adult social care assessment services, as well as drawing on national research which can support assumptions being made regarding the local carers population, in terms of impact, demographics, and best practice.

The **8 Priorities** have been developed through the above engagement and form the foundations for building a Carer Friendly City:

- **Carer Engagement** (co-production, carers voice, peer support);
- **Carer Awareness** (training and support);
- **Carer Pathway** (simple pathways, signposting and integrated systems);
- **Integrated Services** (Integrated Care System/Homes, and Adult Social Care/Carers Hub/ and related strategic and operational guidance);
- **Carer Registration** (identification and carers offer);
- **Data Collection** (including protected characteristics);
- **Tackling Health Inequalities** (system change including equitable access to respite, financial support and flexible working);
- **Carers Services** (dedicated information & advice, assessment and support for carers, promoting carers rights and proactive contact).

Pillars for Support = 4 key areas for supporting a Carer Friendly City

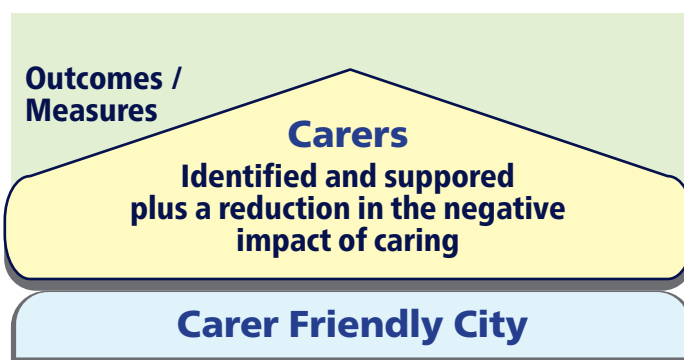


Above the 8 priorities are **4 supporting pillars** that carers have told us are the key areas which support a Carer Friendly City. Given what is known about the impact of unpaid caring and what carers have told us they want, carers have identified the 4 central areas critical for supporting them:



Each of these 4 areas are critical to identifying carers; reducing the health inequalities carers face; upholding their rights; and involving and supporting carers. Details on each of these areas will be on the council's dedicated webpages (in development).

Outcomes/Measures for a Carer Friendly City:



The outcomes measures for the Carer Friendly City reflect the 8 priorities, and these can be measured through a range of key performance indicators (KPIs), and carers lived experience.



Services can adopt a range of KPIs or develop their own. Potential examples are described below:

Priority	Examples for progressing the strategy	Potential Measures – KPIs and lived experience
Carer Registration	Increase the number of carers identified and registered, receiving the local carers offer.	% of carers identified by GP practices; number of carers registered with the Carers Hub; Adult Social Care Assessment records; number of young, and young adult carers identified within educational establishments KPI re carers offer
Carers Engagement	Continued involvement of carers, through co-production; carers voice; and peer support.	Feedback from carers involved in the strategy implementation, and co-production measure
Carers Awareness	Systematic process for encouraging the take up of the Carer Champion eLearning, and wider campaigns regarding Think Carer, and Prepare to Care	Number of Carer Champion eLearning completed (by service area); Survey measures for campaigns
Data Collection	Carer Dashboard, combining KPIs, and lived experience outcome, including equalities monitoring.	Carer registration data to be held centrally, including Brighton & Hove City Council equalities monitoring
Integrated Services/ Carer Pathway	Ensure clear pathways and communication between central services, to reduce duplication and provide a more effective response.	Referral KPIs re Carers Hub; Carers feedback survey
Tackling Health Inequalities	Understanding the known health inequalities that disproportionately affect carers, including poorer physical health; reduced emotional wellbeing, and poor mental health; and financial disadvantage.	Carers local survey, and national data from General Practice Patient Survey (GPPS) Services in place to address health inequalities
Information & Advice, Assessment and Support	Provision of dedicated, trusted, co-produced information, advice, assessment and support for carers, through proactive engagement with current or potential carers, raising awareness of carers rights, services, and opportunities. Review of accessible information.	KPIs - number of carers receiving a Carers Assessment; Number of carer reviews; Carers accessing the individual services within the Carers Hub; Carers Cards; Carers Card offers; Carers Emergency Back Up Plans; uptake of respite care services; and waiting times for support



Carers have expressed a desire to have upfront information regarding the expectations of services for family and friend unpaid carers, therefore this strategy encourages services to develop a Carers Commitment, and include performance measures, as well as details regarding support available. More detail on what should be within a Carers Commitment is covered in the following section.

The strategy builds on the national work of [Carers Week](#), a national organisation which supported Carers Week, an annual campaign focusing on building carer friendly communities. The organisation provides materials to support the annual national Carers Week, usually the second week in June, as well as developing resources to support services to be 'carer friendly'.

These include a range of dedicated resource packs developed through the national Carers Partnership (partnership of Carers Trust, and Carers UK), to improve the inclusion, support and involvement of carers, for example:

[Identifying and supporting unpaid carers in England to improve integrated system working](#) Carers Trust and Carers UK, 2025 – which covers the Legal responsibilities, and

resources to help support unpaid carers. These resources will be accessible for services to use to develop their Carers Commitments, as well as other relevant documents which will be held on the dedicated Brighton and Hove City Council Carer Friendly webpages.



Section 3 – What will this strategy do?

This strategy aims to counter the negative impact of caring on local carers, through raising awareness and increasing support within the framework of a Carer Friendly City.



The city needs to understand that carers are accessing services (for themselves and those they care for); or are working within those services, whilst juggling unpaid caring; or learning in the city's local educational institutions, therefore ensuring these areas recognise and support carers. The impact of caring knows no boundaries, anyone can become a carer, whatever their circumstances, potentially because of longer term issues related to ageing or disability of those they care for, or due to an unexpected situation, including a new diagnosis or traumatic experience, and suddenly you are a carer.

Provides a Framework for change

The framework promoted within this strategy is for services and organisations who wish to be 'carer friendly' and therefore part of the Carer Friendly City. The framework brings together the previously identified 8 priority areas within the 'blueprint' into a framework for change.



This strategy encourages services and organisations to complete a Carers Commitment. The creation of a template for these will be a priority once the strategy group has a clear mechanism for co-production.

Co-production

Carers and the Carers Strategy Group will work together to develop a robust mechanism for ensuring co-production within key areas of this framework for change. This strategy has adopted the Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) definition of co-production:



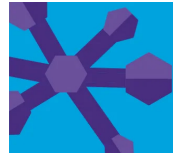
Think Local Act Personal

Co-production is when people come together as equals to make decisions or create services that work for them all. This always includes people who draw on care and support and/or carers, usually alongside people who work in care and support. It is based on the idea that those who draw upon care and support are the best placed to decide how it should work.

TLAP promotes 4 ingredients that are important for co-production:



Equality: Co-production starts from the idea that no one group, or person is more important than anyone else, and everyone has skills, abilities and time to contribute.



Diversity: Co-production should be as inclusive and diverse as possible. It is important to make sure that people from different groups are included, and especially people from groups that might not often be heard.



Accessibility: Making everything accessible is the way to make sure that everyone has an equal opportunity to work together in the ways that suit them best.



Recognition: People are contributing their time, knowledge and experience to work together, so this should be recognised and respected. This should include paying people for their time and expertise, but the respect also comes from the more equal relationships that develop between everyone involved.

Carers Commitments

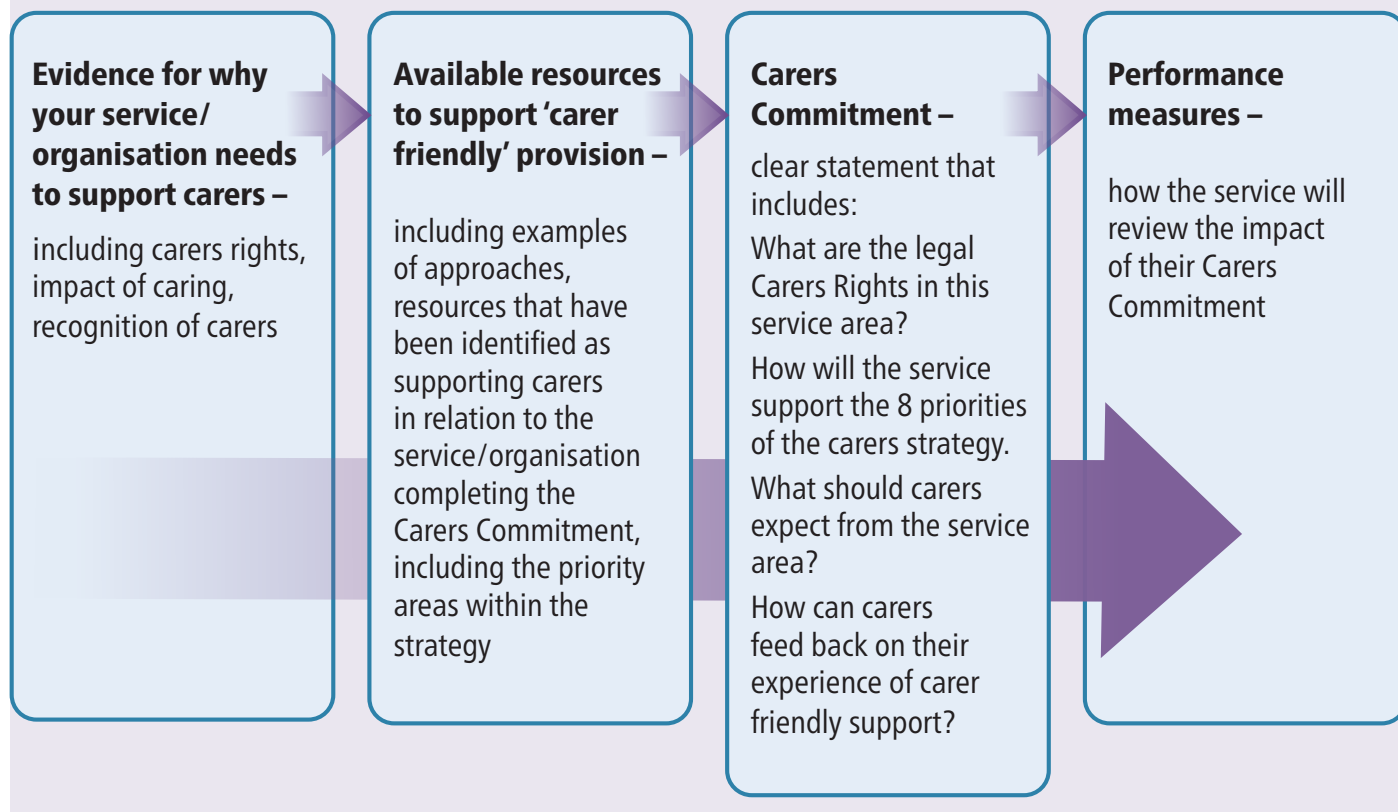
The mechanism for bringing together the 8 identified priorities and 4 key areas of support, to provide a Carers Friendly City, is through encouraging services and/or organisations to develop a 'Carers Commitment'.

The 'Carers Commitment' document, as suggested by carers, should include:

- ✓ easily accessible for those potentially using the service
- ✓ inform carers of what they should expect from the service
- ✓ identify any carer rights that the service is responsible for
- ✓ any carers card offers that are available
- ✓ a clear pathway to either direct support from the service, or indirectly via the Carers Hub
- ✓ data that maybe collected regarding carers, and why
- ✓ resources available that relate to the service and carers
- ✓ measures for identifying progress (KPIs and lived experience)
- ✓ feedback opportunities to enable carer involvement and potential links to future commissioning

Key areas to include in a Carers Commitment

a blueprint for building a carer friendly service/organisation, the final template will be developed through co-production, and may include a 'carer friendly award' process



The suggestion of 'Carers Commitments' is directly due to consultations with local carers, stating that they wanted evidence that a service recognises them, and has a clear process for supporting them, and working with them. The final template for the Carer Commitment will be developed within the first year of this strategy, through co-production with carers.

Additionally, services will be encouraged to publish Carers Commitments on the dedicated Brighton & Hove City Council Carer Friendly City webpages, and they will be requested to review them annually. This will enable the service to identify its progress regarding supporting carers, see how that feeds into the overall progress of the strategy, and identify if there are any new resources, research or legislation that needs to be embedded within a revised Carers Commitment.

Carers have also suggested the possibility of a 'Carer Friendly' award/logo that can be given to services who have a Carers Commitment. Examples of the diversity of services who could access this award include:

- A local coffee shop who provides a discount for carers through the carers card; makes a commitment for their staff to complete the Carer Champion eLearning; has a Carers Hub poster/information available; and potentially a mechanism for identifying how many carers use the coffee shop.
- A GP practice that commits to identifying carers (which is a carers right). Register/code carers; refer to the Carers Hub; offer priority vaccinations; and incorporate the Carer Quality Standards (NHS England)

The Carer Friendly City survey 2026, referenced in Section 1 of this document, made a number of suggestions from carers, including:

- **A visible, citywide “Carer Friendly” logo/ marker** (stickers in windows, clear signage) indicating that the Carers Card will be accepted for a discount.
- **A carer-friendly accreditation / rating scheme** (likened to food hygiene ratings)
- **Training** for frontline staff across venues/ services (cafes, transport, hospitals, banks, etc.) linked to the Carer Friendly Logo/Marker to enable carers to choose venues that understand their needs more effectively.



Three Carer Campaigns -

**Think Carer;
Think Carer = Think Carers Hub;
Prepare to Care**

This strategy will support the aim of a Carer Friendly City through a range of public information campaigns which will raise awareness of carers and the support they can access.

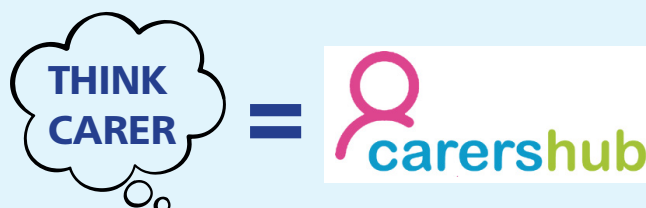
The Think Carer campaign references the need to view supporting carers as everyone’s business using the term **Think Carer**, first promoted by NHS England. Think Carer means always considering whether someone is a carer and what support they might need. Many carers don’t identify themselves as a carer and therefore miss out on essential support and remain invisible to services. Through missing out on support, their risk of facing health inequalities is increased. The Think Carer campaign supports the agenda of reducing health inequalities through making carers more visible.

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THINK CARER = THINK CARERS HUB

campaign takes the concept of Think Carer further by raising awareness of the central services of the Carers Hub, a simple way of promoting how to support carers once they have been identified.



Carers Dashboard

At the point of launching this strategy, there is already a range of data collected (KPIs and qualitative outcomes/lived experience of carers) that supports the ability to evaluate the impact of this strategy. The Adult Social Care Carers Dashboard provides a central resource for complying data from both the Carers Hub and Adult Social Care Assessments Services; bringing these together reflects the journey of support for carers.

The Carers Dashboard comprises of key KPIs from the Carers Hub contract, including monthly number of 'contacts' (interactions where information and advice are provided to carers); monthly Assessments completed by the Carers Hub; Carers Hub Assessments Outcomes, including Carers Emergency Back-up Plans; Carers Cards; referral to My Health Matters; and referral to Adult Social Care Assessment Services.

Adult Social Care Assessment Services data within the Dashboard includes referrals into the service; carers assessments; carers reviews; waiting times for assessments and reviews; and joint social care assessments. This data is then broken down further to reflect the specific carer activities by teams.

The Carers Dashboard can be built upon to provide a central data set for supporting the Carer Friendly City strategy, collating data from services' Carers Commitments, reflecting not only the number of Carers Commitments across the city, but also the relevant activity data. For example, an Integrated Community Team (ICT) could complete a Carers Commitment and share data related to the number of carers identified; referred to the Carers Hub; provided dedicated support from the ICT, and then the ICTs 'satisfaction or feedback' process which evaluates the experience of the service.

Additionally, NHS Surrey and Sussex use Sussex Integrated Dataset (Population Health Management tool) to count the number and proportion of carers registered with



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Thirdly, the **Prepare to Care** campaign focuses the fact that the numbers of carers will increase (due to the demographics of the population), and that carers have told us that once they are aware of the support available, it does make a positive difference to them. This strategy also promotes the concept of **Prepare to Care**, the need to provide information and advice to individuals who may become carers, potentially developing a 'checklist' approach, enabling individuals and families to consider the needs of those within their families and how best to support their needs, and ensuring that the potential carers look to 'protect' themselves from the known health inequalities carers face.

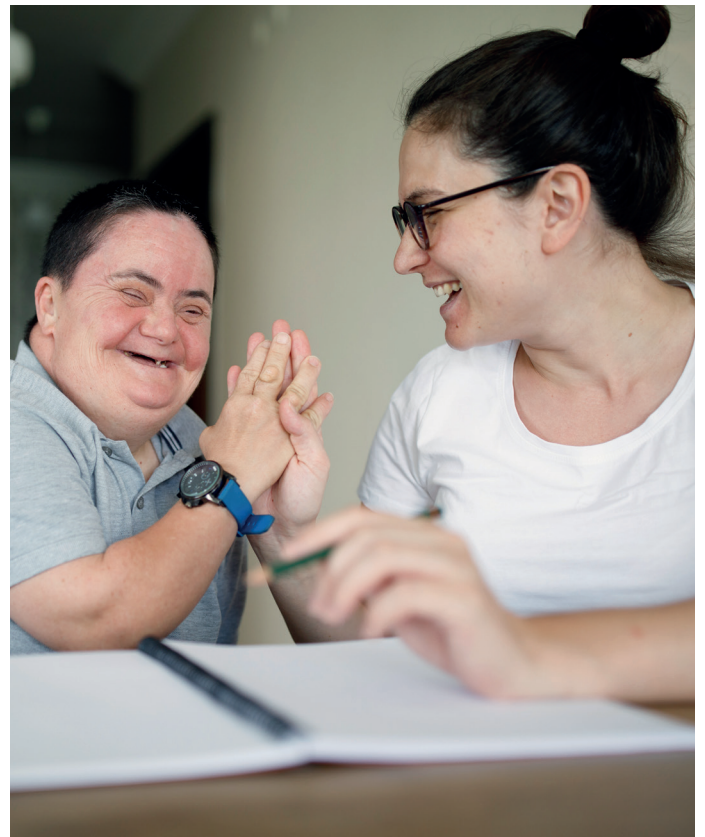
GP practices and Primary Care Networks in Brighton & Hove. This data could be used in the dashboard, alongside other population health data and insight to target resources to improve outcomes. For example, in 2025/26, in Brighton & Hove there has been a 16.9% increase in the number of unpaid carers registered with GP practices.

Also, wider services within the council could contribute to this data in order to target support for carers. For example, Brighton & Hove City Council's Housing Services have identified that they currently do not ask residents if they have a caring role. If this information was requested, then those carers who identify themselves could be referred to the Carers Hub to ensure they are receiving support, and the data could be held in the dashboard.

Future commissioning of carers support

The strategy will enable carers to be involved in the future development of services, through direct consultation, and via the data/evidence collected as a result of the Carers Commitment activities. The framework provided through the strategy (promoting the use of Carers Commitments by services to identify they are Carer Friendly) encourages services to seek feedback from carers. This strategy will provide a central resource (dedicated Brighton & Hove City Council webpages) to collate and theme relevant outcomes of consultations, both at a local level in terms of surveys and other feedback mechanisms, and national research where local assumptions can be drawn. This information will be publicly available for services to review as they develop or update their service provision.

In addition to the above information, the strategy endorses the development of a robust co-production approach, ensuring local carers are consulted effectively. The development of the co-production approach will be the



first priority for the Carers Strategy Group and will aim to work with current local structures, such as Parent Carers Council and Carers Voice Group.

The majority of services within Brighton & Hove which support adult and young carers are commissioned jointly by Adult Social Care (Brighton & Hove City Council) and NHS Surrey and Sussex, using the Better Care Fund (BCF). Additionally, some of the BCF is used for homebased respite for parent carers, however the main respite/short breaks services are funded through Children's Services.

Initially the BCF replaced the Carers Grant, which consisted of ringfenced funding from central government to the local area to support unpaid carers. The original aim of the BCF was to ensure all local areas had a plan for supporting carers which funded access to respite and dedicated support, as well as ensuring that the local authority complied with the carers statutory duties under the Care Act 2014, and the health system complied under the Health and Care Act 2022.

Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund Framework, identifies 'specific factors to consider during planning' for the local Better Care Plan, these include: Supporting unpaid carers - Unpaid carers provide vital care and support for people. Carers should be actively involved as partners in planning care and support for those they care for, with their consent. In developing BCF plans, ICBs and local authorities should consider how pooled funding can help the NHS and local authorities meet their duties in relation to unpaid carers and help ensure that partners work together to: systematically identify unpaid carers and their responsibilities; and provide carer's assessments as required and support unpaid carers (for example, through respite support and peer support)

Although the Better Care Fund (BCF) has evolved year on year, its current aim is to "support integrated care boards (ICBs) and local authorities in designing and delivering more integrated and preventative care, particularly for people with more complex health and social care needs, helping people stay independent for longer". (Better Care Fund Framework 2026 to 2027). Unpaid carers clearly provide a critical role in preventative care, as well as needing to access preventative services to tackle the health inequalities they face.

Current carers services, funded via the Better Care Fund

The Supporting Unpaid Carers programme within the Brighton & Hove Better Care Plan funds several services and opportunities for carers:

In house provision	Spot Purchase	Commissioned Services
<p>Dedicated Carers Assessment Workers, now Assistant Social Workers (8), based across the ASC Assessment Services, to provide knowledge and experience of supporting carers within the teams, and supported increase in carers assessments and joint social care assessments.</p> <p>Carers Personal Budgets (Direct Payments) funding for carers with eligible needs under the Care Act to receive funding for a range of activities and breaks.</p>	<p>Funding for events including the Carers Festival; training opportunities for carers; membership of Carers UK (and related resources)</p>	<p>BHCC and NHS Sussex jointly commissioned services Carers Hub.</p> <p>Crossroads Care - homebased respite for carers, and parent carers</p> <p>Amaze - carers card development</p>

NHS Sussex Commitment to Sussex's unpaid carers 2026 provides a summary of the key duties for NHS Sussex under the Health and Care Act 2022, and identifies three central outcomes for carers:

- Carers physical and mental health is supported and carer breakdown is avoided through access to timely information and support
- Carers are actively included as part of 'public engagement' or involved with 'people and communities'
- Carers experience being treated as full partners in decision making about health and care services.

It is also important to recognise that Brighton & Hove City Council is part of the wider Integrated Care System working collaboratively with other local authorities, carers services and NHS colleagues, for example as part of the Sussex Carers Forum.



Integrated Community Teams (ICTs)

ICTs are central to the delivery of a new 'neighbourhood health service' set out in the NHS 10 Year Health Plan. In Sussex they are a key part of Brighton & Hove City Council's long-term shared ambition with the NHS: "joining-up ('integrating') health, social care, and health-related services across local communities in a way that best meets the needs of the local population, improves quality of services and reduces inequalities".

ICTs are made up of professionals working together as a 'team of teams' across primary care, community, mental health, local authority partners, voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations and other local partners.

Integrated Community Team, locality carer population

- West ICT has 16% of adults who are unpaid carers, 7% young carers
- Central ICT has 15% of adults who are unpaid carers, 7% young carers
- East ICT has 17% of adults who are unpaid carers, 10% young carers

Section 4 – How will the progress of this strategy be measured?

The aim of the Carer Friendly City strategy framework is to provide a system which incorporates progress measures.

This will be embedded within the development of Carers Commitments, as well as through the interface with other strategies, policies and duties, via the centralised Carers Dashboard.

This new data set will measure progress in terms of both KPIs and lived experience of carers, including the 8 Priority areas, the 4 pillars of support, and the Carers Commitments. The final 'dashboard' will be agreed through co-production with carers and the Carers Strategy Group. The aim is for the data set to be published annually and presented as part of Carers Rights Day (November). Suggested areas to record include:



Outcome	Measures/KPIs/lived experience
Identification and Visibility of Carers	% of carers identified by GP practices; number of carers registered with the Carers Hub; number of carers identified within the Adult Social Care Assessment records; number of Carer Champion eLearning completed (by service area); number of young, and young adult carers identified within educational establishments
Carer Wellbeing and Quality of Life	self-reported well-being (including Adult Social Care Outcome Framework); GP Patient Survey; My Health Counts survey; annual Adult Social Care carers survey; Carers Hub survey; any surveys completed via services 'carers commitments' and focus groups/interviews

Outcome	Measures/KPIs/lived experience
Access to Support Services	number of carers receiving a Carers Assessment; number of carer reviews; number of carers accessing the individual services within the Carers Hub; number of Carers Cards; number of Carers Card offers; number of Carers Emergency Back Up Plans; uptake of respite care services; and waiting times for support
Employment and Financial Stability	% of carers in paid employment; retention rates of working carers; employer participate in carers-friendly schemes; number of carers receiving Carers Allowance, and related benefits
Carer Friendly Health Services	% of GP practices with a carers register; carers receiving flu jabs or priority appointments; carers primary care quality markers; hospital discharge processes, how involved have carers felt.
System-level impact	Reduction in crisis situations (e.g. emergency hospital admissions), delayed need for formal care services, and overall cost savings to health and care systems.

Integrated Community Teams (ICTs)

ICTs are central to the delivery of a new 'neighbourhood health service' set out in the NHS 10 Year Health Plan. In Sussex they are a key part of Brighton & Hove City Council's long-term shared ambition with the NHS: "joining-up ('integrating') health, social care, and health-related services across local communities in a way that best meets the needs of the local population, improves quality of services and reduces inequalities".

ICTs are made up of professionals working together as a 'team of teams' across primary care, community, mental health, local authority partners, voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations and other local partners.

Alternatively, the use of 'I statements', which the Care Quality Commission use, may be considered as an option for this strategy, including possible statements:

- 'I feel recognised'
- 'I can get help when I need it'
- 'I'm able to live my own life too'

Or, use of a Carers Scorecards, collating KPIs and lived experience, targets, and RAG ratings to evaluate the Carer Friendly City strategy.

The data received can then potentially be measured or benchmarked against comparator Local Authorities, or across the Integrated Care System.

The decision regarding the approach to be used will be negotiated with key partners and carers through the Carers Strategy Group.

Examples of potential progress measures for Carer Friendly Social Care

Within Adult Social Care there are a number of current priorities that interconnect with this strategy and will be supported through the Carer Friendly Social Care workstream. These include:

Outcome	Measures/KPIs/lived experience
Adult Social Care (ASC) Carers Survey Action Plan	Emerging themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to Respite • Improve access to accurate Information for carers
Brighton and Hove City Council ASC Care Quality Commission Inspection Outcome 2026, 'requires improvement'. Action Plan.	Areas for improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers Assessment waiting times • Published Carers Strategy • Respite commissioning, review current provision and improve access
Commissioning led review of respite provision and policy development.	Areas for consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Adult Social Care Carers Survey data • Including specific respite questions within the Carers Hub Survey • Survey Assessment and Commissioning colleagues regarding current respite offers, and process for allocation • Draw on other local authority policies and approaches
ASC Annual report, Carers section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a respite resource for consultation Carers Week
Carers Support Digital Development	Stated We Will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards delivering our priorities in the new Carers Strategy • Develop simple and accessible pathways for supporting carers • Improve assessment and review processes, to enable carers to access support more effectively • Launch new digital resources for carers, which will build on the new carers card platform and app. • Acceleration Reform Fund development – Carers Card digital platform, end date of project Nov'26
ASC Programme of learning from practice reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments/Reviews are audited through practice learning, focusing on carers experience, Care Act compliance and the wellbeing outcomes. • The learning from these reviews will provide a qualitative measure of impact and inform ongoing practice improvement.

Examples of Carer Friendly Social Care:

Dedicated Carers Information reviewed and developed with carers	Continue Sussex Carers Forum, to ensure carers remain a priority for the Sussex & Surrey integrated Care Board	Statutory and non-statutory services to complete Carer Champion eLearning	Develop digital options for carer support, including Carers Card
Increase carers assessments, and joint social care assessments, and improve waiting times for review	Review Respite provision and improve access to respite options	Develop updated guidance and processes for identifying and supporting carers within the Assessment Services, with carers	Revise pathways between the Carers Hub and statutory services, including Integrated Care Teams
Commissioned social care services to have a 'carers clause' how to identify carers and carer pathway	Ensure themes from the Adult Social Care Carers Survey, and the Adult Social Care and Wellbeing report are addressed through related development work	Continue to ensure the views of carers are represented within both strategic and operational development	Increase the number of carers registered with the Carers Hub, and accessing the Carers Local Offer

Phased implementation approach:

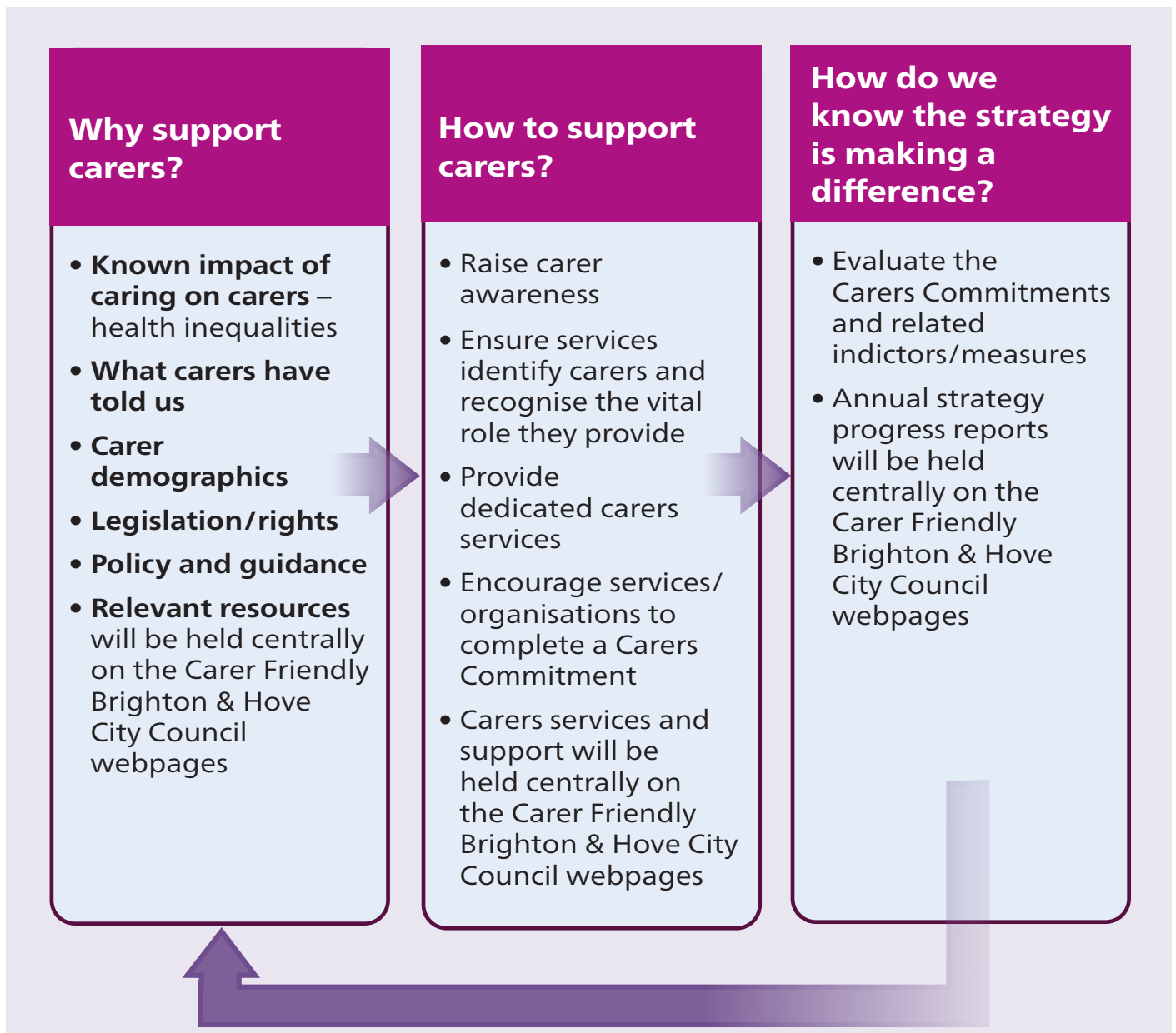
- ✓ Year 1 (July'26 to June'27):
 - ✓ Carers Strategy Group to agree co-production methods for the strategy implementation
 - ✓ Carers Strategy Group and carers to agree Carers Commitment template
 - ✓ Carers Strategy webpages go live
- ✓ Carers Strategy to agree working group for Carer Friendly Pillars of Support, and related progress measures
- ✓ Review Carers information across the Carers Hub and Adult Social Care, with carers
- ✓ Campaigns of carer awareness – Think Carer; Think Carer = Carers Hub; and 'Prepare to Care'
 - ✓ Explore the feasibility of developing this strategy into an 'all age' carers strategy



Conclusion:

This strategy's framework approach to creating a Carer Friendly City is building on and galvanising the success of the current carers services while also recognising there is a lot to be done to ensure carers are identified, recognised and supported. By creating a simple framework, the hope is that all services will aim to be 'carer friendly' and so assist in reducing the health inequalities that carers face, and enabling them to continue to care, if they wish to.

Pathway to building a Carer Friendly City:



ADD ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Carers within Brighton & Hove

The membership of the Carers Strategy Group

The staff team at the Carers Hub

Appendix for BHCC Carer Friendly City webpages:

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 13

Subject: Improving Fire Safety in Council Homes

Date of meeting: Monday 29th June 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Housing

Lead Officer: Name: Corporate Director for Homes & Adult Social Care

Contact Officer: Name: Martin Reid, Edward Yeo

Email: martin.reid@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the expenditure of the City Council's budget, namely above £1,000,000 and is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards)..

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 The safety of those who live in, visit, and work on our council homes is our key priority. As part of our ongoing programme to improve the safety of our homes, we have successfully applied to the government for building safety grant funding. This funding will support any work required to the exterior façades of our buildings to ensure they meet enhanced fire safety standards under the Building Safety Act and Fire Safety (England) regulations. This national Homes England Cladding Safety Scheme (CSS) supports an assessment, through specialist surveys, of whether any improvement work is required to the exterior of our buildings. To date the Council has received pre-tender financial support of £4.7m from Homes England for 7 of our high-rise buildings, with a further building also now confirmed as eligible, to enable the next phase of remediation. This includes appointing a team, design the works and obtain quotes / tendering in order to submit a works package as soon as possible. The Council is currently anticipating funding being received for 9 of our high-rise buildings.
- 1.2 The report also seeks approval to establish a Brighton & Hove City Council Fire Safety Framework Contract to be tendered competitively for fire safety works already in our Housing Revenue Account Budget, to ensure best value for council tenants and leaseholders.
- 1.3 Improving the Fire Safety in Council Housing supports delivery of the Council Plan 2023 to 2027 outcomes Homes for Everyone and A fair and

inclusive city. The Plan aligns to core priorities in the Housing Strategy 2024-29, including to: Improve housing quality, safety and sustainability; Deliver the homes our city needs. It utilises Homes England funding to improve safety for residents in council homes and supports the council's aim to be a Great Landlord and supports our regulatory improvement journey.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet delegates authority to Corporate Director for Homes & Adult Social Care, in consultation with Lead Member for Housing, to utilise allocated Homes England Cladding Safety Schemes funding for improvements to fire safety in Brighton & Hove for all buildings with successful future bids.
- 2.2 Cabinet approves a HRA capital budget of £6,007,500 (funded entirely by Homes England CSS funding) to be allocated to the fire safety improvement works.
- 2.3 Cabinet approves the procurement and award of a team of consultants (as set out in 3.15 below) to carry out the design works and the preparation of the tender documentation for the procurement of construction contractors to undertake the works, as set out in 3.3 below.
- 2.4 Cabinet delegates authority to the Corporate Director for Homes & Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to enter into the contracts with the consultants for the 7 blocks that we have currently been allocated funding, the block where funding has been approved but not yet received and for any further blocks where Homes England Cladding Safety Scheme funding may be awarded in future.
- 2.5 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Corporate Director (Homes & Adult Social Care), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to procure and award a Brighton & Hove City Council Fire Safety Framework Contract with increased scope to the approval given to the Procurement Forward Plan in March 2026, with an increased value of £11.5m over a 4-year contract length.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 In line with our Council Plan and Housing Strategy priority of Improving Housing Quality, particularly to '*Invest in building and fire safety to meet new duties under the Building Safety Act*' our Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget proposals include continued significant investment to keep our residents safe in their homes. The investment required is a result of the implementation of the more stringent Building Safety Act and Fire Safety (England) Regulations. This includes work required to ensure compliance across the council's stock and will impact on both HRA revenue and capital budgets over the medium term, reflecting our additional fire safety survey work on compartmentation, fire doors and external wall insulation and other works.

- 3.2 The council does not have any type of cladding on any of our blocks that was on Grenfell Tower. We have bid to the CSS to fund remediation works where we have some high-rise blocks with elements of facade or curtain wall material that may be deemed to pose a high-risk of fire spread. This includes in some cases, spandrel and balcony infill panels and some panelling that may encompass some stairwells. CSS funding will mitigate the costs of related fire safety measures to the Housing Revenue Account and leaseholders.
- 3.3 The council has been successful in bidding for pre-tender funding under the CSS to take forward appointments of a specialist project team, formed from external specialist consultants. The team will undertake design of the works and put together the necessary documents for the tender for substantive works required to the façade of blocks where fire safety remediation work may be needed to the exterior of the building. The sole purpose of this funding is to support the early-stage mobilisation and pre-tender activities required to progress façade remediation works. It cannot be used for any other purpose.
- 3.4 In awarding the funding, Homes England are clear that it is imperative that we progress with the appointment of our project team as soon as possible, with the mandatory roles expected to be fully formed within a very tight timescale, within 1 month of the first grant payment being made.
- 3.5 In order to progress these requirements to set up of pre-tender project team as soon as possible in compliance with the terms of the Homes England funding, Cabinet approval is sought for the use of Homes England Cladding Safety Scheme (CSS) funding received for all buildings with successful bids. The council anticipate 9 buildings in Brighton & Hove will be allocated pre-tender financial support under the Homes England CSS. The council has received pre-tender financial support funding for 7 buildings to date and confirmation of funding approval for a further block. It is envisaged that there will be one specialist project team undertaking design and completing tendering to be ready to submit our Works Package for substantive works required to the façade for each of the blocks for which we receive CSS funding. In addition to Livingstone House, for which we have an Individual Cabinet Member Decision to commence spending the funds received, to date of CSS pre-tender funding of £667,500 per block has also now been received for a further 6 blocks as follows: Hazel, Hollyhock, Viscaria, Damson and Cherry blocks on the Bristol Estate. We have also received CSS funding for St James House. Notwithstanding future regeneration plans, pre-tender financial support funding for St James House aligns with our commitment to ensure Large Panel System blocks remain safe to occupy while we have residents living in these homes. Pre-tender financial support funding has also been approved for Normanhurst, a high-rise building on the Albion Hill estate. Homes England Grant Funding Agreements are received on a block-by-block basis as funding is agreed by Homes England and are signed off by the Corporate Director, Homes & Adult Social Care and Director, Homes & Investment.

- 3.6 It is important to note that: this funding is being rolled out nationally across local authorities. The market for expert consultants is expected to rapidly reach capacity, particularly for fire engineers, façade engineers and other specialist consultants. Early engagement and appointments of the professional team are therefore critical to securing capability and maintaining programme certainty.
- 3.7 Notwithstanding this CSS funding bid, the existing fire safety and mitigation measures the council has already put in place in our buildings, including where required waking watch and fire alarm systems, remain in place to ensure our residents continue to remain safe in their homes. East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, Regulator of Social Housing, and where appropriate Building Safety Regulator, have been informed and kept updated on this funding and related matters as part of our ongoing regulatory engagement.
- 3.8 As outlined in the Housing Revenue Account Budget & Capital Investment Programme 2026-27 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy report approved at Budget Council, where possible we are applying for Government and Homes England funding to mitigate the costs of works, including from the Waking Watch Replacement Fund and Cladding Safety Scheme.
- 3.9 The Homes England Cladding Safety Scheme (CSS) is the national government grant programme for funding the remediation of unsafe cladding and external wall systems on residential buildings in England. The CSS is part of the wider Building Remediation Portfolio whose objectives include ensuring that residents are safe from risks associated with fire safety. Funding is available towards eligible costs that would be borne by residential or commercial leaseholders whether they benefit from protections against having to pay service charges towards equivalent works. The CSS funding relates to all residents in the blocks.
- 3.10 The Council welcome the availability of this funding to support social landlords with the cost of remediation of work now required to the external wall systems in some of our blocks to meet new more stringent building safety standards. This is in line with the letter Cllr Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing, wrote to the then Secretary of State for Housing & Communities, dated 10th July 2024, requesting specific funding, policy changes and powers to increase housing supply and standards. This included a request for *'Separate funding for health & safety and regulatory programmes, as well as works resulting from new legislation and other issues to ensure compliance as standards in social housing'*.
- 3.11 The Council does not have any type of cladding that was on the Grenfell Tower within our housing stock. We have bid to the CSS to fund remediation works where we have some high-rise blocks with elements of façade or curtain wall material that may be deemed to pose a high risk of fire spread. Where we have such situations, the Council has also put additional fire mitigation measures in place as required, such as a waking watch or upgraded fire alarm system.

- 3.12 To date Brighton & Hove City Council has been successful in relation to our applications for pre-tender funding for 8 blocks across the city.
- 3.13 There was a Cabinet Member Decision that covered the cost of pre-tender works at Livingstone House published on the 14th May 2026. This enabled the council to commence setting up the pre-tender specialist delivery team.
- 3.14 A key contractual Homes England obligation is for submission of monthly progress reports, with HE being clear on funding award that *'it is imperative that you now progress with the appointment of your project team; the mandatory roles are expected to be fully formed within 1 month'* HE are also clear that *'Our expectation is that most projects can appoint their team, undertaken design and complete tendering and be ready to submit your Works Package within 6 months (9 months if your buildings is subject to BSR, 18m+/7 storeys or more)'*.
- 3.15 The funding received will be used to put in place a specialist delivery team and progress façade remediation works at pace. The specialist team will include fire engineers, façade engineers and specialist consultants. Given that this is a national scheme we are anticipating high demand for these specialist services and authorisation will allow us to start agreements with these specialists. Our proposed specialist project team is proposed to include the appointment of the following consultancy roles:
- Project Director.
 - Project Managers x 2.
 - Lead Designer.
 - Fire Safety Engineer.
 - Quantity Surveyor.
 - Resident Engagement Lead.
 - Client Technical Advisor.

The blocks for which we have CSS funding approved are listed below, with their current Homes England status outlined. We are currently forecasting up to 9 blocks in total will be funded, but this could increase. We anticipate that this is going to be a substantial project where we are successful in achieving funding, with work funded as pre-tender for 6-12 months, with works to blocks following from month 12-24 should further funding be made available, should this be required, for works delivery:

Funding approved and received:

- Livingstone House – Funding approved Grant Funding Agreement Signed (£667,500 inc. VAT)
- Hazel (Bristol Estate) - Funding approved, Grant Funding Agreement Signed - (£667,500 inc. VAT)
- Hollyhock (Bristol Estate) – Funding Approved, Grant Funding Agreement Signed (£667,500 inc. VAT).
- Cherry (Bristol Estate) – Funding Approved, Grant Funding Agreement Signed (£667,500 inc. VAT).
- St James House (LPS block) – Funding Approved, Grant Funding Agreement Signed (£667,500 inc. VAT).

- Damson (Bristol Estate) – Funding Approved, Grant Funding Agreement Signed (£667,500 inc. VAT).
- Viscaria (Bristol Estate) – Funding Approved, Grant Funding Agreement Signed (£667,500 inc. VAT).

Funding approved

- Normanhurst – eligibility for funding confirmed and Grant Funding Agreement signed.

Brighton & Hove City Council Fire Safety Framework Contract

- 3.16 In line with the council’s commitment to invest in the safety and quality of our homes, the Procurement Forward Plan approved by Cabinet in March 2026 included an initial approval of £3.5 for “Qualifying long-term Fire Safety Equipment Servicing, Repair and Replacement”.
- 3.17 Since then, staff in Housing have been working to further scope and develop the specification and requirements, This has included working to bring other areas of fire safety under a new proposed framework contract, to ensure both a seamless approach to the management of fire safety, better quality of work and best value for the Council.
- 3.18 To that end, approval is now sought to establish a framework contract with increased scope for an increased value of £11.5m over a 4-year contract length. This does not represent additional HRA Budget spend, rather a consolidation of separate spend areas into a single framework contract for the reasons mentioned above.
- 3.19 The Framework Contract will be tendered competitively in line with the Councils Contract Standing Orders to ensure best value for residents of council homes.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The funding awarded by Homes England is by block and therefore cannot be used for any other property or scheme by Brighton & Hove Council. Therefore, the alternative option would be to not authorise use of the funding and this would be a missed opportunity to fund improvements to fire safety in the block.
- 4.2 A further alternative would be to fund the works from Council Housing Revenue Account for these essential works. This would come at a significant cost to Brighton & Hove City Council.
- 4.3 As set out in paragraph 3.8, where possible we are applying for Government & Homes England funding to mitigate the costs of works to the Housing Revenue Account budget which includes significant investment to keep our residents safe in their homes.

4.4 Consideration has been given to other available frameworks using large national contractors. However, given the safety critical nature of this work, creating our own framework will allow for the use of more local contractors and better enable the service to ensure the quality of work and deliver the bespoke service our residents require.

5. Community engagement and consultation

5.1 The council have many ways we currently engage and communicate with residents over fire safety in council homes, this includes:

- Dedicated engagement which continues at high-rise blocks as well as other blocks where issues and works may be identified, including the 10 Bristol Estate high rise blocks and our 8 high rise Large Panel System blocks. Residents are updated and kept informed through letters, notices, regular LPS newsletters, drop-ins and on-site tenancy visits. These activities support access for inspections and works, explain changes to evacuation strategies where relevant, and provide a route for individual concerns to be resolved quickly.
- The council continues to engage residents on fire safety and other health & safety progress through Quarterly Housing Area Panels which receive updates on safety and quality, performance, and planned next steps, with questions captured and fed back into service delivery. These sessions provide a standing forum for scrutiny and for tracking progress against the themes highlighted by the Regulator of Social Housing, including in relation to fire safety.
- The council uses the tenant newsletter Homing In to provide regular citywide updates, including on fire safety, compliance and planned programmes. This includes plain-English explanations of what residents can expect before, during and after inspections or works, and signposts to further support.
- Via the annual fire safety letter sent to residents of our 46 high rise residential blocks by the council.
- Via the High-Rise Building Safety – Resident Engagement Strategy, [Brighton & Hove City Council – High-rise building safety resident engagement strategy](#). This is BHCC’s formal resident engagement strategy for high-rise buildings, produced to meet duties under the Building Safety Act 2022. It explains: how the council will engage and communicate with residents in high-rise (higher-risk) blocks; what building and fire safety information residents are entitled to receive; how residents can raise concerns and make complaints; and how the strategy will be monitored and reviewed. It is available on the council website and has previously been distributed to all residents of council high-rise residential buildings.

5.2 As part of our reporting, Homes England will ask the council to submit evidence of the communication we have sent out to leaseholders and residents in the building. Homes England advise *that ‘It is essential that you ensure that leaseholders and residents are kept informed of progress’*. Homes England recommend that at this stage we provide information including the following:

- That we have signed the Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) for the CSS received PTS (if applicable) and will be progressing work to prepare works and costs.
 - Explanation as to works we expect the CSS to cover.
 - Identification of how costs for any ineligible works will be met.
 - Indicative timeframes for next steps (including submission for building control or BSR approval)
- 5.3 Homes England will review our communications *‘to ensure that these are helpful and informative and will be actively escalating cases where communication is not occurring or meeting the standards we expect to see’*. Homes England advise *‘At this point in the process, it is crucial that leaseholders understand the progress that has been made and the next steps’*.
- 5.4 Residents in buildings where we have been successful in applications for Homes England Cladding Safety Scheme funding will be advised and kept updated on progress.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 CSS pre-tender funding of £4,672,500 for 7 blocks has been received to date (as at 16/06/26) and has been allocated against the HRA balance sheet. The funding will be drawn down from the balance sheet to cover the cost of setting up the specialist project team during 2026/27.
- 6.2 The total sum expected for pre-tender support, based on 9 blocks will be £6,007,500. This will need to be added to the HRA capital programme as part of the TBM02 report and a new capital cost centre will be created to allocate funding and allow monitoring of spend. The funding will need to be profiled accordingly, as the funding will far exceed costs when this project gets started. If there are any changes in the number of blocks awarded funding, then this will be reported as a variation as part of the TBM process.
- 6.3 The framework contract costs referred to in the report will be met from within the overall Fire Safety capital budget allocation, £7.994m budget approved for 2026/27 and provisionally £12.842m across the next 4 years.

Name of finance officer consulted: Mike Bentley Date consulted (18/06/26)

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The procurement of a team of specialist consultants will need to be made in accordance with procurement legislation and the Council’s Contract Standing Orders. Procurement will advise on the appropriate route to market to secure appointment of these consultants based on the value and scope of their services.
- 7.2 Legal Services input will be required to support the tender for the works contracts for the work on the blocks as set out at 3.15 above. The tender for

the works will need to be made in accordance with procurement legislation and the Council's Contract Standing Orders

- 7.3 In respect of the setting up of a new Council fire safety framework (referred to in 2.5 above), this will need to be procured in accordance with procurement legislation and the Council's Contract Standing Orders. Support will be required from legal services with this new procurement.

Name of lawyer consulted: Eleanor Richards Date consulted (19/06/2026)

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 In order to qualify for funding within this scheme, the property will need to have been assessed as having enough combustible material in its structure to pose a risk to residents. Whilst there is no immediate risk, other mitigations are in place. The work completed will improve fire safety for those residents, and it is important to minimise the associated risks.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 Not applicable.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 Not applicable.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

- 11.1 Implementing this scheme will demonstrate council commitment to improving fire safety for residents in Council properties around the city and will give reassurance that they are safe in their homes.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

- 12.1 Procurement of a team of specialist consultants will need to be made in accordance with procurement legislation and the Council's Contract Standing Orders. Procurement will advise on the appropriate route to market to secure these consultants based on the value and scope of their services.
- 12.2 We support this approach, provided that our Procurement Service either leads or informs the procurement aspects of this project. This will help ensure consistency, oversight, and compliance with BHCC Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) and relevant national legislation.
- 12.3 The procurement implications concerning the Brighton & Hove City Council Fire Safety Framework Contract are set out in paragraphs 3.16 to 3.19.

14. Conclusion

- 14.1 This report seeks approval to use funding from successful bids to the Homes England Cladding Safety Scheme (CSS) to complete the design and tender preparation needed to progress any external wall remediation works at sites in Brighton & Hove. Approval will enable the Council to meet Homes England timescales, maintain programme certainty, while ensuring procurement and governance requirements are followed. Throughout the pre-tender phase the Council will continue to keep residents and leaseholders informed and will maintain existing fire safety mitigation measures as required, reinforcing our commitment to resident safety and compliance with the Building Safety Act and Fire Safety (England) regulations.
- 14.2 The proposed Fire Safety Framework Contract will consolidate separate areas of expenditure activity across fire safety, including equipment servicing, repair and replacement, into a single competitively tendered arrangement, improving consistency, quality and value for money while supporting the council's commitment to safe, well-maintained council homes. The increased contract value reflects a broader scope of existing planned HRA spend rather than additional budget requirement.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet

Agenda Item 15

Subject: Covenant on Land in West Saltdean

Date of meeting: Monday 29th June 2026

Report of: Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration

Contact Officer: Name: Jasmine Dean-Milward
Michael Harris

Email: jasmine.dean-milward@brighton-hove.gov.uk
mike.harris@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: Rottingdean & West Saltdean

For general release

Key Decision: No

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This report seeks a decision from Cabinet not to exercise its ability to take over two separate parcels of privately-owned Land, known as “Plot 2” and “Plot 3” of the Mount Estate in Saltdean (“the Land”), for use as public open space. This right is set out in Clause 4 of an Agreement dated 25 July 1938 between (1) Saltdean Estate Company Ltd and (2) the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Brighton (“the 1938 Agreement”).
- 1.2 Regard has been given to the Council Plan 2023-2027, which emphasises the need to make best use of council resources and assets, to ensure financial sustainability.
- 1.3 This report provides further information to Cabinet pursuant to a Notice of Motion passed in Full Council on 13 October 2025 to "request that officers prepare a report to be presented to Cabinet about the processes, timescale and costs of invoking Clause 4 of the Covenant [1938 Agreement] for plots 2 and 3 of The Mount Estate".

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet agrees not to seek to take over/acquire the Land for the purposes of public open space at this time.
- 2.2 Cabinet is asked to note the contents of Part 2 of this report.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The Land which is the subject of this report comprises two privately-owned plots of land located in West Saltdean, a site plan has been provided in Appendix 1. Each plot has a different status, as set out below.

Plot 2

- 3.2 This was previously listed as an Asset of Community Value (“ACV”). Following the expiry of the appropriate moratorium period to enable community bids to purchase the land this property was removed from the ACV register in February 2024.
- 3.3 Following removal from the Council’s ACV register, a further application was made on 21 August 2024 to register Plot 2 as an ACV but that application was unsuccessful. In its decision not to list the property as an ACV dated 23 October 2024, the Council determined that the site was deemed to be “overgrown and inaccessible” and that the Council as Registration Authority “could not realistically foresee any future community use promoting social wellbeing or interests of the local community”. The freehold interest was then sold to the current owner, a private company, on 26 March 2025.
- 3.4 The current owner of Plot 2 has confirmed that they first submitted a pre-application to the Council’s planning department and have now progressed to an outlined planning application. Their proposal sets out a mixed-use scheme that combines low-impact eco homes with accessible local green space and allotments.
- 3.5 Prior to this property being purchased by the current owner, local residents had access to it; however, whilst there is some evidence of historic use by residents, the nature and extent of that use is unknown. The owner has indicated they would be willing to discuss a potential disposal of Plot 2 either to the Council or to local residents at market value which we estimate to be £65,000 plus the costs they have incurred to date including the planning applications which is estimated to be £10,000. Local residents are aware of the landowner’s intention to develop part of the site for housing but are keen for the site to be used as amenity space for the benefit of the community.

Plot 3

- 3.6 This is currently owned by a private owner. The site has been listed as an ACV since 29 November 2021. The owner has confirmed its intention to submit a planning application for a residential development of not more than 3 houses to be constructed at the southern entrance to the site. At the date of this report a full planning application has not yet been submitted for this proposed development.

Covenant

- 3.7 Both plots are subject to a covenant set out in Clause 4 of the 1938 Agreement which allows the Council to serve notice on the Owner to take over (which is taken to mean “acquire”) the Land as “public open spaces”.
- 3.8 In accordance with Notice of Motion agreed, the implications of invoking the covenant in respect of the Land have been explored. If the Council was to proceed to acquire Plot 2 and/or Plot 3, in addition to the costs associated with the acquisition of the Land (details of which are set out in Part 2 of this report), the Council would become responsible for managing and

maintaining the site/s. At present the potential costs of owning and maintaining the land as open space are unknown but would include:

- (1) Immediate costs to survey the site(s) to identify any issues
This would include a tree survey, soil check and a Health and Safety Risk Assessment. The cost of this is unknown but estimated to be circa £5,000.
- (2) Rectification of any issues identified
This could include tree safety works, removal or cutting back of vegetation; removal of fly tipping; removing or regularising incidences of adverse possession/trespass claims (there is evidence on Google Maps this may have taken place) and removal of any invasive species if present (e.g. Japanese Knotweed). The cost of this is unknown until surveys can be carried out but assuming minimal issues this is estimated to be £25,000.
- (3) Investment to improve public amenities and standard of provision
This would be dependent upon the scope for the open space. A natural green space would be most cost effective with minimal work needed. If formal paths, planting schemes and infrastructure were needed this would require further capital expenditure. As no direction has yet been provided the cost is unknown. However, if kept as is, there would be no additional cost.
- (4) Ongoing maintenance of the site(s)
This would include ongoing tree surveys and maintenance, grass cutting, maintenance to vegetation, potentially maintenance of boundary walls and fences and supporting community engagement. Parks and Leisure are unable to accommodate maintenance of these site(s) within their existing resources and therefore their acquisition would require the employment of an additional member of staff, the acquisition of an additional vehicle and the purchase of additional equipment. This would mean a capital cost initially as well as ongoing annual costs for staffing, plus vehicle and machinery repairs and replacements in further years.

3.9 The maintenance costs cannot be accurately quantified at this stage; however, it is anticipated to be significant and would place additional pressure on the Council's already constrained revenue budgets, and therefore this is not considered a viable option for the Council.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

4.1 The alternative options outlined below would apply to each of Plots 2 and 3:

4.2 Option 1: Council negotiates the removal of the 1938 Agreement open space provisions from each of the Land Registry titles for the Land
The Council could negotiate with each of the current owners of the Land to release the 1938 Agreement open space provisions in return for the payment of a premium to the Council. The amount of premium payable for

this release would be subject to negotiation and would typically reflect the uplift in value arising from the removal of the provisions.

4.3 Option 2: Council exercises the 1938 Agreement clause 4 provisions and acquires the Land for the purpose of Public Open Space

This would require the Council to purchase the Land for open space purposes by negotiation and agreement with each of the current owners. There would be the legal and acquisition costs together with survey, rectification and ongoing costs associated to this option.

4.4 Option 3: Council Purchases the Land for housing

Acquisition of the land by the Council for the purposes of housing would need to be by negotiation with the current owners. The owner of Plot 2 has indicated a willingness to dispose of the land to the Council at market value plus the costs they have incurred to date (costs of which have been estimated in paragraph 3.5 above). However, there is risk in achieving planning consent and viability of a development has not been tested. The Council is not aware that the owner of Plot 3 would be willing to dispose of their land.

4.5 Option 4: Residents Purchase the Land Directly

The residents could approach and negotiate and agree the purchase price of Plot 2 and Plot 3 respectively directly with each of the current owners. The current owner of Plot 2 has already advised that they would be open to such an approach. It is unclear whether the current owner of Plot 3 would be open to such an approach.

4.6 Option 5: Council takes enforcement action against the current owners in respect of the covenant in clause 2 of the 1938 Agreement

Clause 2 of the 1938 Agreement contains a positive covenant by the original party to that Agreement to: '*...cause the open spaces delineated and coloured pink on the said plan to be kept in good order and condition the turf thereon duly mown and when necessary reseeded weeded and generally kept in good order and clear of all debris and rubbish.*' The drafting of the 1938 Agreement is such that further legal consideration would be needed to assess how and if the Council could proceed with enforcement action for any breach of this covenant.

5. **Community engagement and consultation**

5.1 The current owner of Plot 2 held a meeting with the community on 26 April 2025 to answer any questions or concerns the residents had regarding developing the land. At the meeting residents expressed their opposition to the landowner's development proposals.

5.2 Ward Councillors have been briefed and consulted on the recommendations of this report.

6. **Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendation as set out in paragraph 2 of this report.
- 6.2 The option set out in paragraph 4.2 (“Option 1”) of this report is likely to result in additional capital receipt for the Council. Until terms are formally agreed for removal of the restrictive covenant from Plots 2 and 3, the financial implications of this option are not yet known.
- 6.3 The full financial implications of the options set out in paragraph 4.3 (“Option 2”) and in paragraph 4.4 (“Option 3”) of this report are not yet known. However, such costs are likely to be significant given that they will include legal fees, acquisition costs and will carry the risk of rectification works and ongoing maintenance/management costs (highlighted in 3.8 and 3.9).
- 6.4 There are no direct financial implications arising from the option set out in paragraph 4.5 (“Option 4”) of this report.
- 6.5 There are likely to be significant legal and surveyor costs associated with the option set out in paragraph 4.6 (“Option 5”) of this report.
- 6.6 Currently, no budgetary allowance has been made for the cost of acquisition or additional ongoing revenue costs of activities to support the options outlined in this report.

Name of finance officer consulted: James Hengeveld

Date consulted: 14/05/2026

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.
- 7.2 If the Council were to seek to acquire the Land, Section 120 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives power to Local Authorities to acquire land for the purpose of their statutory functions or for the benefit, improvement or development of their (administrative) area, which could include the negotiation and agreement with the owners of Plot 2 and of Plot 3 of terms for the for acquisition of the freehold Land.
- 7.2 Local authorities also have the power under section 9 of the Open Spaces Act 1906 to acquire any open space, such as plots 2 and 3 and to undertake the care, management and control of any such open space.
- 7.3 The definition of Open space under section 336(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 includes any land laid out as a public garden or used for the purposes of public recreation. This definition is used across various statutory provisions governing the disposal and use of open space by public authorities.
- 7.4 In addition, Section 26 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1932 (1932 Act) provides that a local authority may acquire land for the purpose of open

space where a relevant scheme has been made under the provisions of that Act and approved by the Minister of State. The 1938 Agreement refers to the 1932 Act and not section 26 itself, however given that the 1932 Act has been repealed, it is unclear whether this compulsory purchase power remains available to the Council and expert legal opinion should be sought before deciding whether to proceed with such an approach. Again, it should be noted that the 1938 Agreement is silent as to which specific provision of the TCPA 1932 is to apply to that Agreement.

- 7.5 The legal position is complex and full advice in relation to the 1938 Agreement is contained in the Part 2 report.

Name of lawyer consulted: Hannah Bassett

Date consulted: 21 May 2026

8. Risk implications

Loss of public open space

- 8.1 By not exercising its rights under Clause 4 of the 1938 Agreement, the Council will forgo the opportunity to guarantee that the Land is brought into public ownership and secured for use as public open space. Once alternative uses are established, this opportunity is unlikely to arise again.

Future development of the sites

- 8.2 The Land is in private ownership and may be subject to future planning applications. While such applications would be determined in accordance with the development plan, there is a risk that development could be permitted which changes the character of the sites and limits potential future community access

Reduced influence over future land use

- 8.4 Without ownership or control of the Land, the Council's ability to directly influence how the sites are used and managed will be limited to its role as local planning authority. This reduces the Council's ability to secure specific outcomes relating to open space provision, accessibility, or community use.

Equality and wellbeing impacts

- 8.5 As set out in Section 9, not securing the Land as public open space may limit the potential health, wellbeing and social benefits typically associated with accessible green space.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 The provision of open green space can have positive equality impacts. Access to green space is associated with physical and mental health benefits and can support social interaction and community wellbeing. As such, the decision not to enact the covenant to secure the land as green space may limit these benefits. However, given the uncertainty around the extent to which the space was previously used by residents, the equality impact is considered limited.

- 9.2 The provision and location of green spaces, together with the investment required to support them, requires careful consideration to avoid creating inequalities in access. Access to green space is often unevenly distributed and can be influenced by socio-economic factors, with some communities benefiting more than others. Ensuring equitable distribution of investment is therefore important so that all demographic groups can benefit.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 Green spaces provide critical habitats for urban wildlife, helping to maintain ecological balance within densely populated environments. These spaces also assist drainage by providing natural drainage systems (SUDS) to manage flood risk and stabilise the soil substrata.
- 10.2 If the land were to be acquired by the Council for the purposes of public open space this would support physical activity and social interaction, improving mental and physical wellbeing. Green landscaping enhances air quality and reduces noise for the local residents. The Sustainability Implications Checklist is attached at Appendix 2.
- 10.3 Where the Council's decision is not to enact the covenant, the future status of the Land will be determined by future planning applications

11. Social Value

- 11.1 Public open space can deliver social value by supporting physical activity, mental wellbeing, and social interaction. While these benefits are recognised, the Council's decision not to enact the covenant means it will not be securing or managing the land as public open space, and therefore these benefits will not be delivered through this site as a result of the decision.

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 As highlighted in this report, the only mechanism by which the Council may guarantee the enactment of the covenant contained in Clause 4 of the 1938 Agreement to make Plot 2 and Plot 3 public open space would be for the council to acquire the Land through agreement with the current landowners.
- 12.2 In the absence of agreement, the Council could choose to assess further the legal position around the acquisition of the Land through the use of compulsory purchase powers. If the Council decides to pursue this approach, such a process is likely to incur considerable time and expense on the Council's part and there is no guarantee that such a scheme would ultimately result in a successful application for the relevant Minister's approval.
- 12.3 There may be a possibility that the Council could take external legal advice about how any enforcement action against the current owner of Plot 2 and Plot 3 respectively for the breach of the covenant to keep the Land clean

and tidy (Clause 2 in the 1938 Agreement). Such an approach is also likely to incur considerable expense and time in the Council obtaining expert advice and then carrying out pre action and then enforcement proceedings. There is no guarantee as to whether such an enforcement action would ultimately prove to be successful.

- 12.4 Given the Council's current financial constraints, and the uncertainty surrounding acquisition costs, long-term upkeep of the Land, as well as the uncertainty as to the extent of public benefit of the Council acquiring the Land, it is not considered proportionate or appropriate to pursue acquisition of the Land or to enforce the covenant in the 1938 Agreement.

Supporting Documentation

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 - Site Plan
2. Appendix 2 – Sustainability Implications Checklist



Brighton & Hove Sustainability Implications checklist for report writers

This guidance is to support project managers when assessing their projects for sustainability and climate impact and to ensure projects are supporting the wider goals of the city's Carbon Neutral 2030 commitment.

Proposal/advice title:	Directorate:	Date:
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Sustainability theme	Consideration	Relevant Yes/No?	If 'Yes', is impact positive or negative?	Briefly describe	If negative, briefly describe mitigation measures
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use renewable sources of energy (renewables that are alternatives to combustion), including clean energy providers ✓ Consider potential for generating renewable energy ✓ Minimise energy consumption 	No			
Sustainable travel and transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Travel is kept to a minimum but where necessary active and sustainable travel is prioritised for people and deliveries/freight, meaning walking and cycling, public transport, car sharing, electric or low emission vehicles including e-cargo bikes and sustainable logistics solutions ✓ Consider use of shared mobility scheme options, like BTN BikeShare, car clubs, vehicle leasing 	No			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consider practices that eliminate or minimise the need to travel, like homeworking and local co-working hubs, remote access to services, like education, health ✓ Any new Controlled Parking Zone should consider the provision for electric vehicle charging infrastructure 				
Sustainable procurement	<p>The council requires its suppliers to conduct their operations in a sustainable manner, in line with our own priorities and commitments. These can be found in our Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy. To ensure that our suppliers share our commitment to reducing the impact of the products and services they provide you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ read the council's Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy ✓ have a look at the council's Social Value Framework on p13 to 15 which lists Environmental Sustainability examples in the last column ✓ detail any sustainability requirements you want the winning bidder to follow and/ or deliver as part of the contract in your specification ✓ include a sustainability quality question in your tender ✓ consider adding a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) that is linked to reducing environmental impact 	No			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ if you're buying food for the council or procuring a catering contract, read the council's Buying Standards for Catering Contracts; and include these requirements in your specification For further help and advice, please contact the Sustainability and Social Value procurement manager 				
Circular waste management practices and procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consumption and use of virgin materials is eliminated or kept to an absolute minimum ✓ Consider leasing of equipment, materials, resources and property rather than purchasing or building new ✓ Use of 100% reused / repurposed materials ✓ Packaging and wasted materials are eliminated, kept to a minimum and made from renewable materials ✓ Ensure food waste is minimised or re-distributed to benefit local communities 	No			
Sustainable economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support local economy and local employment ✓ Consider impact to local businesses and high streets ✓ Consider opportunities for quality green skills development and training ✓ Consider circular principles that are outlined in the BHCC Circular Economy Route Map 	No			

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Health, safety, wellbeing and local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Promote healthy, safe and secure environments in which to live and work ✓ Consider impact of noise, stress and air quality to local residents, building occupants and communities 	Yes		Public open space supports physical activity and social interaction, improving mental and physical wellbeing. Green landscaping enhances air quality and reduces noise for the local residents.	
Sustainable water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Minimise water consumption and ensure water efficiency measures are in place ✓ Consider water harvesting and reuse ✓ Consider impact to water pollution from chemicals use, particularly in relation to vehicle use, cleaning and maintenance ✓ Consider use of sustainable urban drainage for minimising impact of water pollution and surface water flooding, in particular, permeable surfaces ✓ Use drought tolerant, native planting schemes to minimise irrigation requirements 	No			
Biodiversity and nature conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Seek to protect, enhance and create natural habitats to support local species and wildlife ✓ Ensure pesticides and herbicides are not used unless in exceptional circumstances ✓ Consider ecosystem service impacts and appropriate mitigation ✓ Consider use of nature-based solutions 	Yes		Current use of both plots are open green space. Green spaces provide critical habitats for urban wildlife, helping to maintain ecological balance within densely populated environments. These spaces also assist drainage by providing natural drainage systems (SUDS) to manage flood risk and stabilise the soil substrata.	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Support the ambitions and aspirations of The Living Coast Biosphere✓ Consider how local communities can be engaged and benefit from improvements to their natural environment				
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