





**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Overview & Scrutiny

Title:	Overview & Scrutiny Commission
Date:	14 July 2009
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: Mitchell (Chairman), Alford, Bennett, Elgood, Meadows, Morgan, Older, PeltzerDunn, Pidgeon (Deputy Chairman), Randall and Wakefield-Jarrett
Contact:	Tom Hook Head of Overview & Scrutiny 29-1110 tom.hook@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSION

- 22. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: DRAFT WORK PLANS 2009 - 2010** **283 -
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Report of the Acting Director of Strategy and Governance.
Ward Affected: All Wards;
- 23. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND ALCOHOL** **315 -
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Report of the Scrutiny Panel.
- 24. ITEMS TO TAKE FORWARD TO CABINET MEMBER, CABINET OR COUNCIL**

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For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Mary van Beinum, Overview & Scrutiny Support Officer, (29-1062, email mary.vanbeinum@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email scrutiny@brighton-hove.gov.uk

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSION

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Agenda Item 12

To consider the following Procedural Business:-

A. Declaration of Substitutes

Where a Member of the Committee is unable to attend a meeting for whatever reason, a substitute Member (who is not a Cabinet Member) may attend and speak and vote in their place for that meeting. Substitutes are not allowed on Scrutiny Select Committees or Scrutiny Panels.

The substitute Member shall be a Member of the Council drawn from the same political group as the Member who is unable to attend the meeting, and must not already be a Member of the Committee. The substitute Member must declare themselves as a substitute, and be minuted as such, at the beginning of the meeting or as soon as they arrive.

B. Declarations of Interest

- (1) To seek declarations of any personal or personal & prejudicial interests under Part 2 of the Code of Conduct for Members in relation to matters on the Agenda. Members who do declare such interests are required to clearly describe the nature of the interest.
- (2) A Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or a Select Committee has a prejudicial interest in any business at meeting of that Committee where –
 - (a) that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by the Executive or another of the Council's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees; and
 - (b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken the Member was
 - (i) a Member of the Executive or that committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee and
 - (ii) was present when the decision was made or action taken.
- (3) If the interest is a prejudicial interest, the Code requires the Member concerned:-
 - (a) to leave the room or chamber where the meeting takes place while the item in respect of which the declaration is made is under consideration. [There are three exceptions to this rule which are set out at paragraph (4) below].
 - (b) not to exercise executive functions in relation to that business and

(c) not to seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.

(4) The circumstances in which a Member who has declared a prejudicial interest is permitted to remain while the item in respect of which the interest has been declared is under consideration are:-

- (a) for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the item, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise, BUT the Member must leave immediately after he/she has made the representations, answered the questions, or given the evidence,
- (b) if the Member has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee, or
- (c) if the Member is the Leader or a Cabinet Member and has been required to attend before an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Sub-Committee to answer questions.

C. Declaration of Party Whip

To seek declarations of the existence and nature of any party whip in relation to any matter on the Agenda as set out at paragraph 8 of the Overview and Scrutiny Ways of Working.

D. 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 2 of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is confidential and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for the public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSION
4.00PM 2 JUNE 2009
COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL
MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Mitchell (Chairman); Alford, Meadows, Morgan, Older, Pidgeon (Deputy Chairman), Randall, Wakefield-Jarrett and Watkins

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1a Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 Councillor Watkins was acting as substitute for Councillor Elgood. Councillor Peltzer Dunn, now Chairman of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, had given his apologies.

1b Declarations of Interest

1.2 Councillor Meadows declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Item 3 as Chair of East Brighton Trust. Councillor Morgan declared a personal interest as trustee of the Crew Club. Councillors Randall, Morgan and Mitchell declared personal interests in Item 6 as they were local Credit Union members.

1c Declarations of Party Whip

1.3 There were no declarations of party whip.

1d Exclusion of Press and Public

1.4 In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in section 100I (1) of the said Act.

RESOLVED: That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

The Chairman reminded the Commission that the meeting was being webcast.

In line with Centre for Public Scrutiny advice on agenda planning, this meeting was planned to have been brief but to include matters worthy of in-depth scrutiny. The sustainable community strategy had been scheduled for this meeting but is now expected to be on the agenda for 14 July.

With the agreement of the Chairman Item 3 was considered after Item 4.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2. **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 April be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR CAULFIELD

3.1 Councillor Caulfield spoke to the Commission about her request for scrutiny of EB4U and East Brighton Trust which had been set up under the New Deal for Communities programme. Councillor Caulfield outlined the aims of the programme and reminded the meeting that a scrutiny review of EB4U had been completed in 2005. Action following the scrutiny panel recommendations had been reported back to the panel's parent committee, the former Overview and Scrutiny Organisation Committee in October 2007.

3.2 Ward residents were now concerned about resources and outcomes from EB4U and they wanted future work to be more open and transparent, Councillor Caulfield said. More information was needed in her view, such as: a list of all the funded projects and how much was spent on each; the criteria for rejection or support; assets acquired to fund future projects via EB4U Ltd; assets now being generated for East Brighton Trust, roles and responsibilities of East Brighton Trust and a regular update on progress.

3.3 Some projects were now struggling and the long-term sustainability of community groups had not been sufficiently taken into account, Councillor Caulfield said.

3.4 The Chairman set out a range of options for the Commission to consider and the Commission discussed the letter.

3.5 Councillor Morgan, ward councillor for East Brighton stated that no resident had contacted him about this and therefore he questioned how many residents say they are concerned. Councillor Watkins who had served on the panel said the council was responsible to ensure the EB4U funding was properly spent and accounted for, and a full report was made to the Government of the South East.

3.6 Councillor Meadows told the meeting that she had been working in this part of the City for many years and that she was disappointed to see the letter on the agenda. There were many other organisations (in addition to East Brighton Trust, which she chaired) that were built on the EB4U pilot projects and were going ahead successfully. Some examples were the two Children's Centres, the Healthy Living Centre, dedicated police team and a range of social enterprises. Councillor Meadows spoke of the successes of the Crew Club, Valley Social

Centre, Manor Road, the Bridge, Whitehawk Inn and St George's Hall and minibuses used by local schools.

3.7 After discussion and a vote the Commission did not agree to a scrutiny review. Members asked that the 2005 scrutiny report and 2007 update be circulated to the Commission and suggested that any concerned residents were welcome to contact the council via the usual channels.

3.8 RESOLVED: that a scrutiny review of EB4U and East Brighton Trust be not agreed.

4. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

4.1 Introducing the report on Round One of the Sustainable Communities Act the Acting Head Cabinet Support said future proposal rounds were expected to be arranged annually, though this timing was unconfirmed by the government.

4.2 There was a high level of enthusiasm amongst active communities, after some initial cynicism. As many as 23 proposals had been submitted to the council on a variety of subjects including business rate relief, housing, renewable energy, food growing and others. Of these 16 were eligible ideas, in line with the Act.

4.3 All eligible proposals had been considered by the 12-member Local Panel which included one councillor from each of the four political groups. The final agreement between the Panel and the Administration would be reported to 9 July Cabinet where the decision on the council's submission to the Local Government Association (LGA) would be taken.

4.4 Councillor Watkins was serving on the Local Panel and questioned the process for agreeing which proposals would be submitted.

4.5 The Acting Head Cabinet Support said that no decisions had been taken. The Administration had considered the Panel's view and had responded with several suggested amendments. Negotiations were currently underway between the Panel and the Administration via e-mail as the application deadlines under this first round did not allow for an additional Panel meeting. It was re-iterated that no formal decision had been taken. The decision would be made at 9 July Cabinet where details of the process and the proposals would be available.

4.6 Cllr. Wakefield-Jarrett thanked the officers working on the Sustainable Communities Act and recognised the problems caused by the lack of guidance and information from the Local Government Association regarding their short-listing process.

4.7 RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission notes the work being carried out by the Council and its partners under the Sustainable Communities Act.
- (2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission requests officers to generate a bank of ideas, as result of its work, which could be submitted under future rounds of the Act.

5. WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

5.1 The Head of Human Resources said the council was not yet reaching its targets for numbers of BME and disabled people in its workforce but numbers had been increasing since 2004.

5.2 Work was being undertaken on a range of initiatives to improve performance in this area, an equalities impact assessment had been completed on the recruitment and selection policy. This would come to the meeting on the 14 July along with a more general update on equalities work and the feedback report from the peer assessment.

5.3 The Head of Human Resources clarified that on Table 2, the ‘% offers’ column was based on the total number of candidates at each stage of the process which would be different.

5.4 The Commission were pleased with the gradual increase in the representation of the minority groups within the work force and acknowledged the importance of the action being taken in terms of risk and opportunity management implications.

5.5 It was generally felt that in view of the 7% proportion of economically active BME people within the local community, that the BVPI target for BME could be raised higher than 3.5% as at present. Some Members were also of the opinion that a BVPI target for sexual orientation of applicants for vacancies or employees of BHCC should be considered despite there being no legal requirement to do so.

5.6 Asked about disabled workers, the Head of Human Resources outlined what was being done to encourage disabled job candidates. The Council displayed the ‘two ticks’ disability symbol awarded by Job Centre Plus and its Disabled Worker’s Forum discussed more ideas. Further suggestions would be welcome.

5.7 Regarding blind or partially-sighted staff and job applicants, relevant work was not restricted only to telephone operations but to jobs across the whole range of opportunities. The Council collected data on disabilities but not on the nature of the disability.

5.8 The Chairman referred to report paragraph 3.5.2 and the Council achieving level 3 Equality standard following the completed Peer Review. Councillor Mitchell said the inspection report had not been circulated to Group Leaders as had been agreed, and went on to ask for the full inspection report, albeit in sketchy or bullet-point form, to be presented to OSC.

5.9 RESOLVED:

(1) that the report be noted

(2) that officers be requested to bring the unabridged version of the equalities peer inspection report, with separate dialogue and additional material to 14 July Commission meeting.

6. THIRD SECTOR RECESSION ACTION PLAN

6.1 The Communities Team Manager introduced the report that considered how to support community and voluntary sector groups through the recession and emerge strongly and more influential afterwards.

6.2 Officers were making groups aware of the help already available including the business relief package for small businesses and some charities and voluntary groups in the city. Community and voluntary groups not involved trading were being advised of other types of support to help them survive and take new opportunities in the economic downturn.

6.3 Charity shops for instance were enjoying a boom but conversely were receiving fewer gifts and less stock. Therefore officers would be working together with the third sector and LSP members on a specialist plan that extended beyond traditional types of business support.

6.4 Answering a question about discretionary grant funding for local community groups the Communities Team Manager said there needed to be a balance between smaller and larger groups, the latter being more likely to be trading. Most income into the City's third sector – around £26 million - was via contracted commissioned work whereas the council's grants funding accounted for only around £2 million. So it was important to influence procurement in the City.

6.5 Analysis by the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum indicated that some smaller groups spent a high proportion of funding on administration or accommodation. Larger groups may be to support smaller ones for example by sharing premises to cut costs.

6.6 Members congratulated the officers on the 'excellent' advice and information for this year's round of discretionary grants round. The Credit Union, and Back to work and Debt advice services were regarded as particularly important and some members stated that Housing Associations could potentially do more to support the third sector locally.

6.7 The Commission welcomed the report and the approach to the action plan. There was a level of caution about improving cost-efficiency especially of smaller local groups as in some cases this could adversely affect goals and achievements. When organisations started to grow and employ more people, this was often the stage when they needed extra help.

6.8 RESOLVED: that the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

(1) Endorses the development of a Third Sector Recession Action Plan in partnership with the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum and the LSP.

(2) Instructs officers to bring the draft Plan back to the Commission for comment and Member input prior to its agreement.

7. POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF THE RECESSION ON BUSINESS

7.1 The Head of Culture and Economy introduced the report on the potential effects of the recession on business in the City, drawing Members' attention to Appendix 1, extracted from data provided by the Brighton & Hove Business Forum.

7.2 Different studies had shown that the recession was affecting the City less badly than other parts of the country and south-east region. These are based on key data such as footfall in retail areas, numbers of people receiving job-seekers allowance, and levels of empty retail premises. The findings, which were consistent, were important for two reasons, in using as positive PR, helping boost public confidence and in launching the Business Retention and Inward Investment Strategy and as an indication of how Brighton and Hove might recover from the impact of the recession more rapidly.

7.3 The Head of Culture and Economy outlined a range of initiatives that had been undertaken in recent months to combat the impact of the recession such as the Be Local Buy Local Campaign run by the Communications team, a series of intensive advisory sessions for different business sectors under the banner Business Lifebelt run by Business Link and the Chamber of Commerce.

7.4 Looking ahead, a number of other initiatives were planned that focussed on increasing activity in the city, tourism marketing programmes and free events, artwork in empty shop premises and a local tourism 'Greeter' volunteer scheme.

7.5 A report by HSBC bank had identified Brighton & Hove as 1 of 5 most recession-proof 'Super-Cities,' where alternative business models can grow and likely to recover quickest from the recession. The current scrutiny review of environmental industries could help contribute to developing an action plan for the development of this kind of business activity.

7.6 There were active links with the community and voluntary sector. For instance the third sector is represented on the Economy Task Force and LABGI (Local Authority Business Growth Incentive) is partially funding the Social Enterprise Strategy. The Arts Council had also launched a fund called 'Sustain' for recession proofing activities for the cultural sector.

7.7 The Commission discussed the introduction of a Welcome Pack provided to business start-ups and the use of empty shops as shop fronts for cultural organisations. The latter was being coordinated between the LSP, arts organisations, Business Centre Forum and the Council. There were questions about payment of invoices and providing high quality flexible office space for small cooperatives in accessible locations.

7.8 Members were supportive of the schemes and initiatives and looked forward to tangible results from the ideas and actions.

7.9 The Chairman welcomed the report and innovative schemes and said that for a thriving economy of the future a strategic look at the physical infrastructure of the City as a whole was needed. Significant development at Sussex County Hospital was due to start later in the year and further funding was available to improve public buildings and highways, improving public space and air quality. This would further increase the attraction of the City, as a place to live and work.

7.10 RESOLVED: that the activity currently being undertaken by the Council in support of business and in response to the recession be noted.

8. ICT RISK - BUSINESS CONTINUITY

8.1 The Head of ICT Technical Services introduced the report in response to possible concerns at the February Audit Committee regarding ICT systems risks. The report was to provide reassurance on the actions that were being taken.

8.2 The business continuity plan for ICT includes annual testing of the resilience of the core infrastructure for data and telephony systems and the new Assistant Director of ICT in post since November was developing and driving through the plans previously in place.

8.3 The plans allowed for communications internally and externally in the event of disaster. For the future they were being extended to include better use of currently deployed technology to meet more of the authority's business needs in the event of different scenarios.

8.4 Members were concerned that there had been no ICT Assistant Director in post for more than a year. There was a question as to whether the public would have confidence that calls were being dealt with locally, if non-geographical phone numbers were to be introduced.

8.5 Replying to a query about staffing, the Head of ICT Technical Services said there were partnership arrangements for IT specialists to support systems across the authority in the event of a disaster. Staff training in the use of different ICT systems was important and there was provision for key staff to work remotely for example if in a disaster buildings could not be accessed.

8.6 The Commission discussed home working and the possible use of videoconferencing. The Head of ICT Services said that with the migration to 'outlook' e-mail and the availability of instant messaging there was now a unified communications framework to help support staff away from their desks.

8.7 A Member group to monitor progress on ICT developments was suggested.

8.8 RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2008 - 2009

9.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission discussed the draft annual report and agreed that the profile of O&S needed to be raised. Some members felt that the name 'scrutiny' may have negative connotations and imply that officers were under.

9.2 The Commission was pleased that the media protocol was being revised to include the needs of both scrutiny and the executive.

9.3 Members congratulated the Head of scrutiny for the report and thanked him for his work in developing scrutiny.

9.4 RESOLVED: that the report be endorsed for presentation to full Council on 16 July.

10. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION WORK PLAN 2009 - 2010

10. RESOLVED: that the work plan be noted.

11. ITEMS TO BE TAKEN FORWARD

11.1 Members noted that the Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny would be presented to full Council and the report on ICT risk would be taken back to the Audit Committee.

The meeting concluded at 6.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Agenda Item 16

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Targeted Budget Management (TBM) Provisional Outturn 2008/09		
Date of Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 14 July 2009 Cabinet 11 June 2009 item 30		
Report of:	Interim Director of Finance & Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Nigel Manvell	Tel: 29-3104
	E-mail:	nigel.manvell@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan No: CAB10181	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 7, Access to Information Rule 5 and Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act as amended (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that the completion of the report was dependent on finalising the closure of the council's accounts which, although concluded in accordance with the timetable agreed with external auditors, was too late to meet the standard publication deadline for the Cabinet meeting.

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report sets out the provisional outturn position (Month 12) on the revenue and capital budgets for the financial year 2008/09.
- 1.2 The council has delivered services well within its overall budget by taking appropriate measures to manage in-year risks and pressures, including significant unavoidable pressures on the council tax collection fund, energy costs and adult social care budgets.
- 1.3 This reflects the council's effective monitoring and control of financial performance and the measures it has taken to ensure better use of public funds. The provisional outturn includes the achievement of efficiency savings of over £5 million and the implementation of council-wide value for money reviews.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That OSC note the recommendations to Cabinet in paragraphs 2.1 – 2.5 below and the extract from the 11 June cabinet meeting (Appendix 5 to this report)
- 2.1 That the Cabinet note the significantly improved provisional outturn position for the General Fund, which is now forecasting an underspend of £2.441 million.
 - 2.2 That the Cabinet note the provisional outturn for the Section 75 Partnerships and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2008/09.

- 2.3 That the Cabinet approve the budget changes and future commitments set out in paragraph 3.5.
- 2.4 That the Cabinet note the provisional outturn position on the capital programme.
- 2.5 That the Cabinet approve the following changes to the capital programme:
- (i) The budget reprofiling as set out in Appendix 2;
 - (ii) The carry forward of slippage of £2.578 million into the 2009/10 capital programme, to meet on-going commitments on these schemes as set out in Appendix 3;
 - (iii) The new schemes as set out in Appendix 4.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The table below shows the provisional outturn position for council controlled budgets within the General Fund and the outturn on NHS managed S75 Partnership Services.
- 3.2 The provisional outturn shows that the council is managing within its available resources despite significant in-year pressures relating to the council tax collection fund, energy costs, sustainable transport and Adult Social Care placements. A number of directorate budgets were under pressure during the year but the forecast position has improved significantly since month 9, reflecting recovery actions and spending constraints, and directorate budgets overall have achieved a small underspend. The council's overall position is supported by significant underspends on Centrally Managed Budgets including savings on Insurance Contracts, lower than expected costs of the concessionary fares scheme, which have improved even further since Month 9, and good investment performance on the council's cash balances despite falling interest rates. More detailed explanation of the variances below can be found in Appendix 1.

Forecast Variance Month 9		2008/09 Budget Month 12 £'000	Forecast Outturn Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 %
	Directorate				
540	Adult Social Care & Housing	42,606	43,098	492	1.2%
247	S75 Learning Disability Services	22,761	22,780	19	0.1%
(1,246)	Children & Young People's Trust	50,502	49,194	(1,308)	-2.6%
(77)	Finance & Resources	16,328	15,889	(439)	-2.7%
(12)	Strategy & Governance	11,249	11,350	101	0.9%
216	Environment	35,212	35,821	609	1.7%
157	Cultural Services	12,969	13,175	206	1.6%
(175)	Sub Total	191,627	191,307	(320)	-0.2%
1,445	Collection Fund *	-	1,445	1,445	0.0%
(3,403)	Centrally Managed Budgets	8,854	3,636	(5,218)	-58.9%
(2,133)	Total Council Controlled Budgets	200,481	196,388	(4,093)	-2.0%
	NHS Trust managed S75 Services				
486		14,291	14,296	5	0.0%
(1,647)	Total Overall Position	214,772	210,684	(4,088)	-1.9%

1,647	Contribution to reserves as per approved revenue budget	-	1,647	1,647
0	Provisional Outturn	214,772	212,331	(2,441)

* See corporate critical budgets section for details

- 3.3 The Total Council Controlled Budgets line in the above table represents the total current forecast in respect of the council's General Fund. This includes all directorate budgets, centrally managed budgets and council-managed Section 75 services. The NHS Trust-managed Section 75 Services line represents those services for which local NHS Trusts act as the Host Provider under Section 75 Agreements. Services are managed by Sussex Partnership Trust and South Downs Health Trust and include health and social care services for Adult Mental Health, Older People Mental Health, Substance Misuse, AIDS/HIV, Intermediate Care and Community Equipment. The provisional outturn shows that a small variance of £0.005 million was achieved after accounting for the risk sharing contribution of £0.300 million agreed with the Primary Care Trust and Sussex Partnership Trust.
- 3.4 The overall forecast underspend at Month 9 (£1.647 million) was taken into consideration in setting the 2009/10 budget and council tax. The budget approved by Full Council required this underspend to be earmarked to cover projected investment income losses over the next 3 years due to falling interest rates. The table above therefore compares the final outturn position after this contribution to reserves has been accounted for. This shows the net movement from Month 9 to be an improvement of £2.441 million. The main reasons for this movement are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The increased underspend enables consideration of further prudent financial decisions and other allocations based on current economic conditions and/or business needs. The following allocations are proposed in this respect:

3.5.1 Carry Forward Requests

Carry forward requests of over £0.050 million per Assistant Director require approval by Cabinet. Carry forwards are normally only permitted where there is a clear justification setting out the reasons for expenditure being delayed to the next financial year and demonstrating that the associated funding remains available (e.g. grants). Carry forwards are also subject to both the relevant directorate and the council overall being in a break-even position or better. Two carry forward proposals relating to grants exceed this limit including carry forwards for Schools Development and Learning & Schools (£0.078 million) and the Carers Grant (£0.100 million). Details of these carry forwards are included in Appendix 1 under CYPT and Adult Social Care & Housing respectively.

A carry forward of £0.100 million is also requested from Finance & Resources. This budget was to be used to provide support to develop the Customer Access Vision. However, during spring 2009 a more integrated programme has been developed as part of a continuing approach to value for money which will include the customer experience, business processes, workstyles and accommodation. Therefore, it is proposed to add this carry forward to the VFM Initiatives Fund.

3.5.2 Financing costs (loss of investment income)

Recent Bank of England statements and projections indicate that interest rates will remain lower for longer than originally estimated when setting the 2009/10 budget and medium term financial strategy. It is proposed that a further £0.250 million be added to General Reserves to further smooth out investment losses over the 3 year period.

3.5.3 **Corporate Accommodation Strategy**

The council occupies a number of large civic buildings which are currently being reviewed in relation to the Corporate Accommodation Strategy. The lease expires on Priory House in 2009/10 and this will require the council to make good the property under the terms of the lease (known as “dilapidations”). This is expected to require an additional £0.250 million which it is proposed to add to the existing earmarked reserve of £0.150 million. It is further proposed to earmark £0.250 million to an Accommodation Strategy Reserve to meet other anticipated one-off and invest-to-save costs in support of the Corporate Accommodation Strategy.

3.5.4 **The Bridge**

The Bridge is a community education centre based in Moulsecoomb that offers a range of services including one-to-one counselling, health and substance abuse work and advice to the hardest to reach individuals within the communities of Moulsecoomb, Bevendean, Coldean and Bates Estates, as well as attracting learners from further afield. Each term the Bridge provides approximately 50 courses for those aged 16+, either free or at low cost, with 1000 enrolments annually. The courses are delivered at the bridge through existing partners including the City, Varndean and Sussex Downs Colleges, Friends Centre and the universities.

To secure its long term future, the Bridge must develop partnerships that can provide on-going revenue. Most of the potential partnerships that can be developed pay in arrears and are based on outcomes and will require further development work if they are to be fully realised. The Bridge does not have the capacity to properly develop these partnerships and since the cessation of the New Deal for Communities funding stream, neither does it have the funds to recruit to increase capacity. To avoid redundancies in 2009 and to enable an increase in capacity to develop the long term partnership working necessary for its future viability, it is proposed to allocate £0.050 million to secure the Bridge’s activities to August 2009 and enable additional work to be undertaken to secure its long term funding.

3.5.6 **Building Schools for the Future**

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a major schools investment programme that complements the Academies and Primary School Capital programmes. The council has been advised that it may be able to enter wave 7 of the programme provided it can demonstrate its “Readiness to Deliver”. Successful entry to the programme would provide access to capital funding of up to £200 million for the City’s secondary schools in addition to £28 million already secured for a new Falmer Academy under the academy programme.

The draft BSF Readiness to Deliver submission will be considered by the Cabinet in July and in order to succeed must clearly demonstrate that the council has identified necessary project

resources and funding. Project funding and resource requirements will be set out in detail in the submission but essentially there is a requirement to fund project costs of approximately 3% of the total programme, or £5 million. Funding of £2.25 million has already been identified from existing capital funding streams leaving £2.75 million to be found. Given the significant underspending achieved by the CYPT, it is proposed to allocated £1.5 million of the 2008/09 outturn underspend to the BSF programme. Further, the outturn underspend on concessionary fares is expected to generate ongoing savings of at least £0.750 million (see Appendix 1) and it is proposed to allocate £0.700 million to the BSF programme in 2009/10 conditional on the overall financial outturn in 2009/10 being on target. A further £0.550 million will be required in 2010/11 which will need to be funded from available reserves and identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The BSF programme will potentially result in a number of contracts and/or partnerships, for example a Local Education Partnership (LEP), which will require the local authority to provide an equity stake. These are repayable at the end of the contract/partnership which can range from 10 to 25 years. The anticipated equity stakes are expected to total £0.500 million and will need to be identified in the 2012/13 Medium Term Financial Strategy. Other financial implications will be identified as the programme develops, if the council is successful, including:

- CYPT/Schools capital funding support for the programme;
- Contract management arrangements and associated costs;
- Revenue implications of Facilities Management PFI contracts;
- Schools contributions to the ICT managed service provider.

3.5.7 **Royal Pavilion**

Royal Pavilion stoneworks have been planned over a number of years and phases. The Stonework for phases 1 and 2 had been funded by a combination of the Planned Maintenance Budget (PMB) and the Asset Management Fund however these sources could not support the future requirement for phases 3 to 7 totalling £1.736 million at that time. It was therefore decided that these phases, which run up to 2010/11, would be funded from unsupported borrowing and the borrowing costs would be met from the PMB. The borrowing costs would be paid over 25 years and budget would be permanently removed from the PMB to cover these costs. Over time the extent of the works and the costs have been revised upward and the latest cost estimates to complete the works in 2009/10 require a further £0.600 million to enable works to continue. It is therefore proposed to allocate £0.050 million from anticipated underspending on concessionary fares to fund the borrowing costs of an additional £0.600 million for the 2009/10 stoneworks programme.

3.5.8 **General Fund Contingency**

If approved, the above allocations, together with contributions to reserves approved in the 2009/10 Revenue Budget, will leave £0.141 million unallocated which it is proposed to add to the

General Fund Contingency to offset increased risks in relation to economic conditions (e.g. parking), pandemic flu, and children's services (Laming recommendations).

3.6 The forecast outturn on the HRA is as follows:

Forecast Variance Month 9		2008/09 Budget Month 12	Forecast Outturn Month 12	Forecast Variance Month 12	Forecast Variance Month 12
£'000	Housing Revenue Account	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
(285)	Expenditure	47,000	46,529	(471)	-1.0%
(88)	Income	(46,751)	(46,724)	27	0.1%
(373)	Total	249	(195)	(444)	

Detailed analysis of the HRA provisional outturn is also provided in Appendix 1 and in the HRA 2008/09 Outturn report.

Corporate Critical Budgets

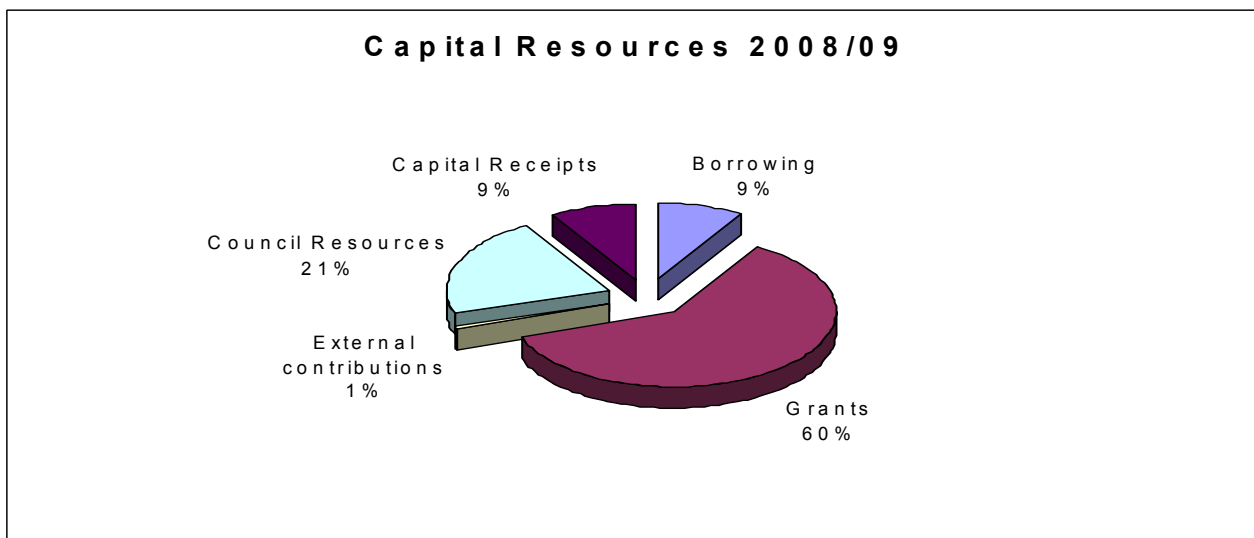
3.7 Targeted Budget Management (TBM) is based on the principles that effective financial monitoring of all budgets is important. However, there are a small number of budgets with the potential to have a material impact on the council's overall financial position. These are significant budgets where demand or activity is difficult to predict with certainty and where relatively small changes in demand can have significant financial implications for the council's budget strategy. These therefore undergo more frequent, timely and detailed analysis. Set out below is the forecast outturn position on the corporate critical budgets.

Forecast Variance Month 9		2008/09 Budget Month 12	Forecast Outturn Month 12	Forecast Variance Month 12	Forecast Variance Month 12
£'000	Corporate Critical Budgets	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
(972)	Child Agency & In House	17,150	15,968	(1,182)	-6.9%
184	Sustainable Transport	(446)	(59)	387	86.8%
(560)	Housing Benefits	154,396	153,786	(610)	-0.4%
600	Land Charges Income	(957)	(398)	559	58.4%
(1,933)	Concessionary Fares	9,158	5,757	(3,401)	-37.1%
871	Community Care	22,072	22,865	793	3.6%
247	Section 75 Learning Disabilities	19,358	19,248	(110)	-0.6%
1,445	Collection Fund *	-	1,445	1,445	0.0%
(118)	Total Council Controlled	220,731	218,612	(2,119)	-1.0%
486	S75 NHS & Community Care	14,291	14,296	5	0.0%
368	Total Corporate Criticals	235,022	232,908	(2,114)	-0.9%

*Note: This does not reflect the actual performance (deficit) on the Collection Fund, but is the planned contribution to reserves approved in the Revenue Budget 2009/10 by Full Council toward the anticipated deficit in 2008/09. Actual performance on the Collection Fund, which achieved a lower than expected deficit of £0.161 million, will therefore be reflected in the budget and council tax setting process for 2010/11.

Capital Budget 2008/09

- 3.8 This part of the report provides Members with details of the capital programme provisional outturn for 2008/09, which highlights any programme slippage and budget changes and seeks approval for carry forwards (re-profiling) to the 2009/10 programme.
- 3.9 The following pie chart shows the resources that have been utilised to fund the outturn.



Capital Forecast Outturn

- 3.10 As stated above, changes are proposed to the capital programme in the form of budget re-profile requests. These are detailed in Appendix 2. A summary of the proposed changes are shown in the table below.

Directorate	2008/09 Budget £000	Budget Reprofiles £000	Amended Budget £000	2008/09 Outturn £000	2008/09 Slippage £000	2008/09 (Savings) / Overspends £000
Strategy & Governance	110		110	117	(7)	-
Cultural Services	1,478	(161)	1,317	1,011	306	-
Finance & Resources	5,759	(187)	5,572	5,376	195	(1)
Adult Social Care & Housing	8,969	(207)	8,762	8,645	117	-
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	14,728		14,728	14,541	283	96
Children & Young People's Trust	9,853		9,853	8,839	1,014	-
Environment	18,026	(2,995)	15,031	14,361	670	-

Total Capital Programme	58,923	(3,550)	55,373	52,890	2,578	95
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The table shows that, excluding HRA schemes, the General Fund achieved a minor variance on a capital programme of nearly £53 million. A small overspend variance of £0.96 million (less than 1%) was also achieved on the HRA capital programme which will be funded from revenue underspending as detailed in paragraph 3.14 below. Given the many factors that can affect capital programme costs, the achievement of these small variances indicates that sound financial controls and monitoring are in place.

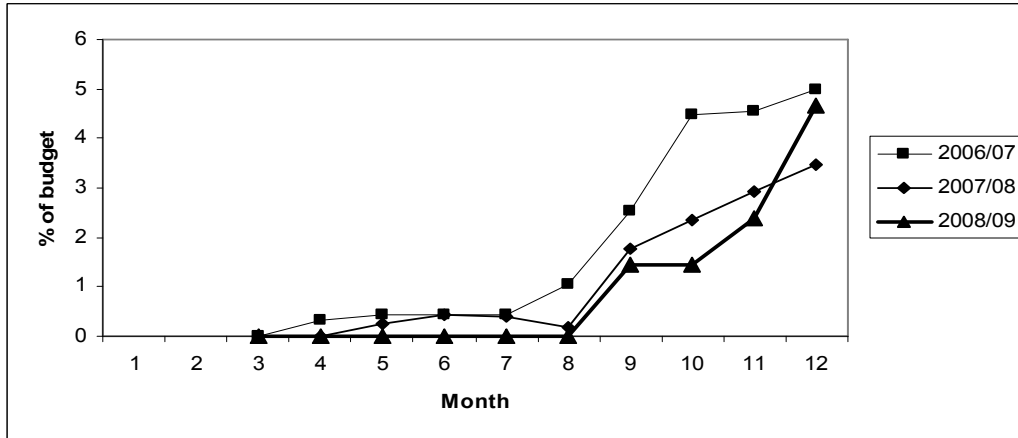
Budget Re-profiling

- 3.11 Re-profiling of a capital scheme may be required where delays have been identified due to factors outside of project managers' control. Re-profiling requests are summarised in the table above and Appendix 2 provide details of the reasons. The Cabinet are requested to agree to the re-profiling of capital budgets, which in most cases will result in the resources being moved from this year's capital programme to the next. Re-profiling requests do not result in any loss of resources to the council.

Capital Slippage

- 3.12 Project managers have identified that the net slippage on the capital programme amounts to £2.578 million, or 4.66% of the budget, as summarised in the table above. Appendix 3 details the significant projects that are included in the slippage. The graph below shows the trend over the last 3 years. Generally, the graph shows that capital programmes tend to start slipping during the winter period partly due to construction delays during periods of bad weather. Although most programmes will make some estimate for weather delays, Winter 2009 was harsher than expected. Forecast slippage also increases in the latter stages of the year where, for example, project managers will take a more prudent view of the likelihood of resolving ongoing contractual and other issues before the year-end. Late increases in slippage related to a number of ICT projects (for example, the new intranet) which it was hoped would complete by March 2009 but which for various technical reasons were ultimately delayed. Slippage on Devolved Schools capital budgets also increased late in the year by £0.433 million, however, the council has no control over these budgets which are managed by school governing bodies. The Civitas scheme, a grant funded scheme to improve sustainable transport safety and energy efficiency, also started a month late and slippage on this scheme increased significantly toward the end of the year. However, the level of slippage remains below the 5% target, which is a low level of slippage given the many and varied factors affecting capital programme completion. The slippage identified will not result in any loss or diminution of current or future resources to the council.

Slippage as a percentage of the amended budget over the last three years



Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme

3.13 The HRA Capital Programme Budget was increased during the last month of the year as some schemes accelerated their programmes by drawing funding either from previously re-profiled budgets or where funding was split over two years (this amounted to £1.644 million in total). The budgets in 2009/10 will be adjusted to reflect this. Slippage totaling £0.283 million represents 1.9% of the final budget for 2008/09, with the majority of the spend expected to be in early 2009/10. There is a small net overspend of £0.096 million which can be funded from an additional revenue contribution to capital, as reported in the HRA 2008/09 revenue outturn report. This resulted from an increase in the amount of work carried out for external repairs and damp proofing to properties through the minor works programme, as well as additional expenditure on lifts. Appendix 3 shows the significant project variances relating to slippage and the forecast overspend.

Comments by the Director of Finance & Resources

- 3.14 The provisional outturn position on the revenue budget shows a significantly improved position since month 9. The council has managed within budget despite significant financial pressures, particularly in the early part of the year. Strong financial management and controls have been a major contributing factor alongside the effective management of investments, borrowing and risk within the current economic climate.
- 3.15 Given the potential pressures in 2009/10 and beyond, including Single Status, energy costs and the impact of demographic changes and the economic climate, directorates will need to maintain control and downward pressure on costs and continually seek value for money improvements. Financial recovery plans will be prepared for the ongoing consequences of the outturn for 2008/09 in 2009/10 and reported in the Target Budget Management report for month 2 at Cabinet in July.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 No specific consultation was undertaken in relation to this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 The financial implications are covered in the main body of the report.

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 In reaching its decisions in relation to its budget, the Council needs to have regard to a number of general points. It must provide the services, which, statutorily, it is obliged to provide. Where there is power to provide services, rather than a duty, it has discretion to provide such services. It must observe its other legal duties, such as the duty to achieve best value and comply with the Human Rights Act 1998. It must act in accordance with its general fiduciary duties to its Council Tax payers to act with financial prudence. Finally, it must bear in mind the reserve powers of the Secretary of State under the Local Government Act 1999 to limit Council Tax & precepts.

Lawyer Consulted:

Oliver Dixon

Date: 26/05/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no direct crime & disorder implications arising from this report

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The council's revenue budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy contain risk provisions to accommodate emergency spending, even out cash flow movements and/or meet exceptional items. The council maintains a working balance of £9 million to mitigate these risks as recommended by the Audit Commission and Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA). The council also maintains other general and earmarked reserves and contingencies to cover specific project or contractual risks and commitments.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The Council's financial position impacts on levels of Council Tax and service levels and therefore has citywide implications.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The forecast outturn position on council controlled budgets is an underspend of £2.441 million, any underspend will be added to unallocated general reserves unless approval is given to allocate funds to specific reserves or contingencies.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Budget monitoring is a key element of good financial management, which is necessary in order for the council to maintain financial stability and operate effectively.

7.2 The capital budget changes are necessary to maintain effective financial management.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Directorate Revenue Outturn Forecasts
2. Proposed Capital Budget Re-profile Requests
3. Proposed Capital Slippage
4. Proposed new capital schemes 2009/10
5. Extract from minutes of 11 June 2009 Cabinet meeting

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

Adult Social Care & Housing

Forecast Variance Month 9 £'000	Division	2008/09 Budget Month 12 £'000	Forecast Outturn Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 %
-	Housing Strategy	4,779	4,779	-	0.0%
540	Adult Social Care	37,827	38,319	492	1.3%
540	Total	42,606	43,098	492	1.2%

Explanation of Key Variances

Adult Social Care has been under pressure throughout the year but the outturn shows a reduced overspend of £0.492 million, or just over 1%, representing an improvement of £0.048 million on the month 9 position. The main pressure has been on the demand-led corporate critical community care budget which is forecasting an overspend of £0.793 million, an improvement of £0.078 million in the last quarter. Further significant demand increases are being managed across Older People and Physical Disability Services.

The Older People Services outturn is an overspend of £0.005 million, the improved position being due to a reduction in client numbers at the end of the year.

The Physical Disability Services overspend is £0.788 million, a slight increase since month 9. Estimating demand for community care services is difficult as there are often peaks and troughs in demand. In addition, the budget process requires that demand is usually estimated around October of the previous year and commissioners will therefore base estimates on a combination of activity at that time together with an analysis of the medium term trend. If demand changes significantly during the period October to March or if planned recovery action or other measures to contain demand are not achieved in full, this can therefore mean that the budget for the following year becomes out of step with activity (demand). This situation occurred in 2007/08 where high levels of growth in demand for Physical Disabilities services meant that the budget was insufficient to cover the number of clients receiving services. A recovery plan was put in place in 2007/08 to reduce costs and contain demand. This was taken into account in assessing levels of demand for setting the 2008/09 budget. In the event, there was a shortfall in the recovery plan in 2007/08, although the budget was balanced by other measures, and there has been further unexpected growth in 2008/09 on both service areas. These two factors have resulted in the budget pressures experienced during 2008/09.

The overspend on the corporate critical budgets is partly offset by £0.200 million of grant funding being utilised for Older People Mainstream Services. A saving was also achieved on Service Strategy & Regulation, due in the main to a reduction in the forecast spend on jointly funded staff.

The provisional outturn includes a carry forward of £0.100 million in respect of the Carers Grant. Although held by Adult Social Care & Housing, this grant funds support to both adult and children's carers and support organisations. The carry forward is required in respect of children's services to meet contractual and other commitments in 2009/10 to ensure continued support for befriending services and the Aiming High programme for disabled children. In accordance with Financial Regulations, the carry forward requires Cabinet approval on the recommendation of the Director of Finance & Resources.

Children & Young People's Trust

Forecast Variance Month 9 £'000	Division	2008/09 Budget Month 12 £'000	Forecast Outturn Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 %
371	East, Early Years & NHS Comm Servs	11,525	11,756	231	2.0%
306	Central Area & School Support	(7,063)	(6,501)	562	8.0%
(97)	Learning & Schools	5,854	5,892	38	0.7%
(342)	West Area & Youth Support	8,778	8,541	(237)	-2.7%
(1,452)	Specialist Services	30,252	28,471	(1,781)	-5.9%
(32)	Quality & Performance	1,156	1,035	(121)	-10.5%
(1,246)	Total	50,502	49,194	(1,308)	-2.6%

Explanation of Key Variances

The corporate critical budget of Child Agency Placements and In House Placements underspent by £1.182 million, an improvement of £0.210 million since month 9. A key reason for the improvement has been a slight fall in the number of residential placements. These relate to underspends on Residential Agency placements¹ of £0.853 million and In-house placements² of £0.456 million. Historically this has been a challenging area to manage and remains so, particularly in light of the heightened national and local focus on Children's Services. Although the figures reflect reductions in numbers and costs, current increased activity levels indicate there will be challenges to maintain this throughout 2009/10.

Other variances within the directorate included underspends on Area Social Care Teams of £0.336 million due to some recruitment issues, currently being addressed through the Social Work Recruitment and Retention Programme, and £0.174 million on legal fees. The main overspend relates to preventative payments to homeless families of £0.212 million which continues to be under pressure. There were also additional costs of £0.196 million relating to council's project costs for the Falmer Academy development, which was planned expenditure against projected underspends.

The provisional outturn includes two carry forward amounts totalling £0.078 million. The first is for School Development (£0.037 million), which relates to the need to cover staffing costs of a direct service to individual vulnerable (autistic) children. This is funded from the Standards Fund, which straddles financial years. The second is for Learning & Schools (£0.041 million) where work is being undertaken with the school advisory teams and the CYPT Quality and Performance Team on developing a new system to record school improvement work and data about schools across the city. This work will now stretch into 2009/10. In accordance with Financial Regulations, these carry forwards require Cabinet approval on the recommendation of the Director of Finance & Resources.

¹ Forecast FTE placements of 33 which is 8 less than budgeted for but with a weekly unit cost £102 above budget

² Forecast FTE placements 6 below the budgeted level and with a weekly unit cost that is £20 below budget

Finance & Resources

Forecast Variance Month 9 £'000	Division	2008/09 Budget Month 12 £'000	Forecast Outturn Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 %
(209)	Finance	5,999	5,712	(287)	-4.8%
-	ICT	5,330	4,969	(361)	-6.8%
107	Customer Services	3,287	3,331	44	1.3%
25	Property & Design	1,712	1,877	165	9.6%
(77)	Total	16,328	15,889	(439)	-2.7%

Explanation of Key Variances

The Finance underspend of £0.287 million, which includes Strategic Finance & Procurement and Internal Audit, is due to vacancy management savings caused by higher than normal staff turnover together with savings on External Audit fees payable to the Audit Commission.

ICT underspent by £0.361 million. A number of posts within the service were vacant in the later part of the financial year, where recruitment has proved difficult. This created a saving against the employees budget and also meant that some non-critical project work was delayed creating further savings.

The Customer Services variance is made up of the following elements as follows:

- The corporate critical housing benefits budget achieved an underspend of £0.610 million due to the number of local authority errors being contained below the government's lower threshold, which attracts additional subsidy on top of any overpayment recovery for non council housing rent rebates.
- The Land Charges income budget is also a corporate critical budget and experienced a £0.559 million shortfall. The continued downturn in the housing market has dramatically reduced the overall number of searches undertaken and there is also a continuing increase in the proportion of personal searches being undertaken for which the council receives a much lower fee.
- The HM Coroner's Service overspent by £0.072 million due to a higher proportion of notifiable deaths in the City requiring inquests.

The outturn position for Property & Design is an overspend of £0.165 million; the increased variance is partly attributable to the costs of higher than usual turnover of lettings (and therefore "voids") due to economic conditions in the final quarter together with additional cleaning costs within corporate buildings.

A carry forward of £0.100 million has been included in the provisional outturn in respect of taking forward the value for money programme. This funding is proposed to be added to the Value for Money Initiative Fund as the projects are now being integrated into a coherent second stage value for money programme. In accordance with Financial Regulations, the carry forward requires Cabinet approval on the recommendation of the Director of Finance & Resources.

Strategy & Governance

Forecast Variance Month 9 £'000	Division	2008/09 Budget Month 12 £'000	Forecast Outturn Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 %
-	Improvement & Organ Devel	1,704	1,655	(49)	-2.9%
-	Legal & Democratic Services	3,127	3,231	104	3.3%
-	Policy Unit	830	1,080	250	30.1%
(8)	Human Resources	4,590	4,406	(184)	-4.0%
(2)	Executive Office	395	405	10	2.5%
(2)	Communications	603	573	(30)	-5.0%
(12)	Total	11,249	11,350	101	0.9%

Explanation of Key Variances

Significant changes in staffing were required to service the new constitutional arrangements, which the directorate planned to deliver by efficiency savings and generating income. The exceptional one off costs of recruitment, consultant costs and shortfalls on income which had not been fully anticipated led to the overspend of £0.101 million. Vacancy management and income through fees and charges offset other staffing pressures across the directorate.

The Directorate's 2009/10 budget (cash limit) was increased by £0.150 million in recognition of the full year effect of the constitutional changes. This should ensure that any other in-year pressures that arise can be more effectively managed through vacancy management and/or the use of grants and external funding.

Environment

Forecast Variance Month 9 £'000	Division	2008/09 Budget Month 12 £'000	Forecast Outturn Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 %
(200)	City Services	26,207	26,174	(33)	-0.1%
139	Sport & Leisure	1,676	1,761	85	5.1%
184	Sustainable Transport	(446)	(59)	387	86.8%
(112)	Public Safety	5,720	5,629	(91)	-1.6%
205	City Planning	2,055	2,316	261	12.7%
216	Total	35,212	35,821	609	1.7%

Explanation of Key Variances

City Services is £0.033 million under budget due to a reduction in vehicle costs and a part year saving on the Park Ranger posts. The saving has reduced during the last quarter due to additional temporary staffing costs following the recent major service changes in CityClean and additional costs arising from service disruption due to the adverse weather in February.

Sport & Leisure has an adverse variance due to continued difficulties in achieving income targets on Golf Courses and King Alfred resulting from a downturn in usage due to economic and other factors. There have also been utility and energy cost pressures at the King Alfred Leisure Centre. Expenditure constraints and a slight upturn in income receipts led to an improved position compared to month 9.

The total forecast for Sustainable Transport is an overspend of £0.387 million, a deterioration of £0.203 million since month 9. The key change has been a shortfall in income from the five former NCP car parks during the last quarter of the year. The overall variance can be analysed as follows:

- Penalty charge income came in very close to budget with a slight shortfall of £0.014 million.
- Income from all on-street and off-street parking and permit income came in under target by £0.294 million. On-street and permit income achieved break-even but a shortfall was experienced due to a downturn in patronage in the last quarter at the 5 former NCP car parks. This position will need to be closely monitored during 2009/10.
- Other expenditure exceeded budget by £0.079 million. The main pressure being energy costs from street lighting and traffic signals.

The Public Safety underspend is due to vacancy management savings, underspends on Civil Contingencies and additional licence fee income.

The City Planning overspend is in the main due to the loss of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant as a consequence of a delay in the Core Strategy to accommodate further work on the Shoreham Harbour Regeneration Project. Measures were taken to contain the pressure of £0.250 million. Other pressures included additional temporary staff in Development Control and the cost of a number of significant planning appeals.

Cultural Services

Forecast Variance Month 9 £'000	Division	2008/09 Budget Month 12 £'000	Forecast Outturn Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 %
7	City Marketing	1,834	1,863	29	1.6%
41	Libraries	3,669	3,715	46	1.3%
146	Museums	2,192	2,324	132	6.0%
-	Arts & Creative Industries	1,616	1,629	13	0.8%
(37)	Economic Devlpmnt & Regen	3,479	3,462	(17)	-0.5%
-	Major Projects & Venues	179	182	3	1.7%
157	Total	12,969	13,175	206	1.6%

Explanation of Key Variances

Pressures from rising energy costs across the directorate accounted for £0.101 million of the overall overspend, the remainder being largely due to income shortfalls in the Museums Service although this improved slightly during the final quarter.

The implementation of the Value for Money review recommendations relating to income has resulted in actions and investment to maximise income generation opportunities including a new ticketing system for the Royal Pavilion. However, uncertainty over the impact of the economic downturn on the economy and in particular on visitor numbers may have an impact on the challenging income targets set for 2009/10 and beyond. For this reason, there will also be a greater focus on segmented rather than bottom-line monitoring of income against specific targets and detailed monitoring of visitor numbers and trading activity.

Whilst energy costs remain a key issue £0.060 million has been allocated to help offset the estimated pressure of £0.150 million in 2009/10.

Other measures are in place across the directorate, including vacancy management and reviewing the cost base of services, to mitigate the effects of external factors and/or cost pressures.

Centrally Managed Budgets

Forecast Variance	Division	2008/09 Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Forecast Variance
Month 9		Month 12	Month 12	Month 12	Month 12
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	%
(350)	Bulk Insurance Premia	3,158	2,809	(349)	-11.1%
(1,933)	Concessionary Fares	9,158	5,757	(3,401)	-37.1%
(900)	Capital Financing Costs	(841)	(2,260)	(1,419)	168.7%
-	Levies & Precepts	192	192	-	0.0%
(220)	Other Corporate Items	(2,813)	(2,862)	(49)	1.7%
(3,403)	Total	8,854	3,636	(5,218)	-58.9%

Explanation of Key Variances

The bulk insurance premia underspend is due in the main to a saving on the renewal of the insurance contract. There have also been fewer insurance claim payments made than anticipated during the summer.

On Concessionary Fares, the original budget for 2008/09 was set at a time when the assessment of the risks of a successful legal challenge was relatively high and the impact of the national free travel scheme introduced on 1 April 2008 was very hard to predict with accuracy. With 9 months data now received, spending is projected to be £3.4 million below the original budget and £1.5 million below the forecast at month 9.

The main reasons for the underspend are:

- The risk of successful legal challenge by the bus operators has substantially diminished and the provision for a higher reimbursement rate was not considered necessary from August 2008 onwards.
- The forecast impact of the introduction of the national free scheme has not been as significant as originally anticipated.
- Poor weather throughout most of the year has kept the number of concessionary journeys below original forecasts.

Although spending in 2008/09 is projected to be well below budget, local council taxpayers have still had to meet an estimated £1.855 million shortfall in government funding following the introduction of the free fare scheme in April 2006 and the free national scheme in April 2008.

The concessionary fares budget for 2009/10 approved at Council in February 2009 took into account a reduction in the reimbursement rate and revised number of journeys, however since February the Council has set up the new concessionary fares scheme for Brighton & Hove only and expenditure estimates have been revised. These revised budget estimates for 2009/10 will mean a further £0.750 million can be released from this budget on a recurrent basis to corporate contingency. An allocation from these resources is included elsewhere in this report.

The "Other Corporate Items" underspend has reduced due to an additional contribution to the Sundry Debts bad debt provision of £0.150 million. This is not directly related to debt recovery performance but is an accounting provision related to an increase in the overall value of debts raised by the authority during the year.

Section 75 Partnerships

Forecast Variance Month 9 £'000	Division	2008/09 Budget Month 12 £'000	Forecast Outturn Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 £'000	Forecast Variance Month 12 %
247	Council managed S75 Servs	22,761	22,780	19	0.1%
486	NHS Trust managed S75 Servs	14,291	14,296	5	0.0%
733	Total S75	37,052	37,076	24	0.1%

Explanation of Key Variances

Council managed S75 services (Learning Disability Services) overspent by £0.019 million, which is a significantly improved position compared with the month 9 forecast. This is due in the main to the finalising of funding allocations from the Primary Care Trust for outstanding Continuing Health Care cases.

NHS Trust managed S75 services achieved an overspend of £0.005 million, which is explained below:

- Sussex Partnership Trust (SPT) – Mental Health & Substance Misuse overspent by £0.507 million with the main pressures being on Adult Mental Health due to increased demand and high cost placements within Nursing Care. This overspend is offset by an underspend on Older Peoples Mental Health services of £0.176 million which has experienced lower than anticipated demand throughout the year. The outturn position also reflects a contribution of £0.300 million from Sussex Partnership Trust in accordance with risk sharing arrangements agreed with the Trust and the Primary Care Trust.
- South Downs Health Trust – This service achieved a break-even position for the year. The final overspend on Integrated Community Equipment Store (ICES) was £0.020 million, which was offset by savings made within the integrated Intermediate Care service.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

Forecast Variance Month 9		2008/09 Budget Month 12	Forecast Outturn Month 12	Forecast Variance Month 12	Forecast Variance Month 12
£'000	Housing Revenue Account	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
(383)	Employees	9,043	8,499	(544)	-6.0%
18	Premises – Repair	11,897	11,895	(2)	0.0%
29	Premises – Other	2,923	3,165	242	8.3%
(69)	Transport & Supplies	2,160	1,929	(231)	-10.7%
20	Support Services	2,300	2,267	(33)	-1.4%
80	Revenue contribution to capital	2,242	2,338	96	4.3%
(33)	Capital Financing Costs	4,941	4,897	(44)	-0.9%
53	Subsidy Payable	11,494	11,539	45	0.4%
(285)	Net Expenditure	47,000	46,529	(471)	-1.0%
(83)	Dwelling Rents (net)	(40,479)	(40,541)	(62)	-0.2%
(2)	Other rent	(1,209)	(1,203)	6	0.5%
(100)	Service Charges	(3,428)	(3,485)	(57)	-1.7%
3	Supporting People	(550)	(566)	(16)	-2.9%
94	Other recharges & interest	(1,085)	(929)	156	14.4%
(88)	Net Income	(46,751)	(46,724)	27	0.1%
(373)	Total	249	(195)	(444)	

Explanation of Key Variances

The main variances are:

- An underspend on Salary costs of £0.544 million arising from vacancy management pending reviews to be implemented as part of the Housing Management Improvement Programme, including a £0.060 million provision for the implementation of single status.
- The premises repairs budget outturn is an underspend of £0.002m which is a reduction in the forecast of £0.020 million since month 9. Although the Repairs outturn variance is not significant, the following variances are included within the forecast:
 - There is an underspend of £0.210 million on the responsive repairs budget (3.75% of total £5.6 million budget), which was an improvement of £0.310 million compared to forecasts at month 9. The close management of larger responsive repairs and the collaborative work with partners to improve the diagnosis of repairs and performance on job completion times has delivered savings against this budget.
 - The empty property repair budget overspend is £0.332 million, an increase of £0.082 million since month 9. The overspend is due to an increase in the average cost of repair per property from £2,300 to £2,600 compared to last year. These works have been operating through the open book process since December 2008 with a move to a more transparent cost model for empty properties. This will enable officers to work with partners to use this information to achieve unit cost reductions in 2009/10.

Item 16 Appendix 1

- An underspend on service contracts of £0.230 million due to the continuation of existing contracts which have a lower specification than the new proposed contracts, the costs of which have been budgeted for and will be let in 2009/10.
 - Repairs and Maintenance expenditure on Temporary Accommodation properties exceeded the annual budget by £0.065 million.
-
- The “Premises Other” outturn is an overspend of £0.242 million, which is an increase of £0.213 million since month 9. The overspend is partly due to a provision being made in relation to outstanding gas bills at Leach Court. Officers have been investigating previous years’ low heating charges, which has resulted in the utility provider issuing correct billing going back to 2004/05. This will not affect charges to tenants, as an allowance for incorrect invoicing had been made when calculating their charges. Expenditure for electricity has overspent by £0.068 million compared to budget forecasts.
 - The underspend reported under Transport & Supplies is due mainly to a reduction in the contribution to the bad debt provision of £0.122 million resulting from a reduction in the level of tenants arrears at the end of the financial year. Also, a reduction in the use of consultants in respect of inspections to gas installation works has resulted in an underspend of £0.094 million.
 - The Revenue Contribution to Capital was increased by £0.096 million to finance increased expenditure in the capital programme.
 - Rental income for dwellings overachieved against the budget by £0.063 million due to lower than anticipated Right to Buy sales during the year.
 - The income budget for service charges overachieved by £0.057 million in respect of leaseholder service charges, due to costs for recharging being greater than anticipated at budget setting.
 - The Other Recharges & Interest forecast income has reduced by £0.062 million to £0.156 million under-achievement. This is partly due to a reduction of staff time chargeable to capital schemes as a result of less works being capitalised i.e. now being carried out as revenue expenditure, together with the re-profiling of some of the capital budget into 2009/10. The forecast under achievement of income also includes £0.056 million reduction of fees reclaimed from RTB sales income, this is offset by reduced expenditure under the supplies heading.

Summary of re-profiles of budget due to factors outside the Council's control

Directorate	Budget Change 2008/09 £	Budget Change 2009/10 £	Budget Change 2010/11 £	Budget Change Total £
Culture & Enterprise	(161)	161		-
Finance & Resources	(187)	187		-
Adult Social Care & Housing	(207)	207		-
Environment	(2,995)	2,895	100	-
Total	(3,550)	3,450	100	-

Detailed Explanations of the Reprofiles

Culture & Enterprise

Directorate: Cultural Services	Approved Budget: £125,000
Project Title: Brighton Centre	Revised Budget: £72,900
	Variation: £(52,100)

The Heads of Terms between Standard Life and Brighton & Hove City Council were exchanged and executed in December 2008. Standard Life despatched the contract notice for publication in OJEU on 13 January 2009 to initiate the procurement process to appoint a Lead Architect and the professional development team to undertake a first stage feasibility design and study. At the same time in January, the project budget was re-profiled as part of the review of Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme 2009/10 in line with the indicative timetable for the next 12 to 15 months through to March 2010. Standard Life's procurement timetable has slipped by approximately 6 to 8 weeks so a small readjustment of the budget profile is required.

Directorate: Cultural Services	Approved Budget: £142,000
Project Title: Pavilion Security Control	Revised Budget: £33,390
	Variation: £(108,610)

Expenditure on the relocation of the Royal Pavilion Security Control Room has been delayed due to a longer than expected period for agreeing the procurement process for the supply of new equipment. Enabling works to the area where the Control Room will be located have now taken place and the contract for the equipment has been awarded. We are in the process of arranging to meet with the contractor to discuss details for the start of the works and anticipate that work itself should begin in the next few weeks.

Finance & Resources

Directorate: Finance & Resources	Approved Budget: £135,000
Project Title: Asbestos Surveys	Revised Budget: £82,370
	Variation: £(52,630)

Due to the number of asbestos surveys being carried out, the company which won the tender has been unable to complete all the required surveys in the 2008/09 period, because of the QA (checking) procedure which is required to enter data onto the online asbestos register. Quality of data input is more important than speed of input, and it was therefore decided to extend the contract period by two months; hence the contractor will not be reimbursed until all the data is uploaded in 2009/10.

Directorate: Finance & Resources	Approved Budget: £125,000
Project Title: Madeira Lift Refurbishment	Revised Budget: £48,350
	Variation: £(76,650)

Phase 1 of the work to make safe the lift roof void and then undertake a full structural inspection is complete. Negotiations between Property & Design, our insurers Zurich and conservation planners were required to ensure agreement that the historic grade 2 listed lift could be adapted for safe operation to the satisfaction of the insurers. This delayed the finalisation of the specification for Phase 2, the lift works, which are now in progress.

Directorate: Finance & Resources	Approved Budget: £619,510
Project Title: DDA Access Works	Revised Budget: £560,850
	Variation: £(58,660)

Delays to this year's Disability Discrimination Act access programme have been caused by a variety of factors including awaiting Landlord's consent for proposed changes, awaiting agreement from Conservation Planners for alteration works to historic listed buildings, and clarification needed from the council's insurers Zurich regarding the change of use of a goods lift. Other alteration works at one site have also delayed access improvement works and the programme has required extensive consultation to ensure value for money and find solutions to circumvent or remove barriers. The DDA Access Works is a rolling programme of improvements to meet Council targets. Re-profiled funding will be used to further improve access to services.

Adult Social Care and Housing

Directorate: Adult Social Care & Housing	Approved Budget: £6,377,000
Project Title: Private Sector capital	Revised Budget: £6,170,000
	Variation: £(207,000)

Expenditure under this heading is dependent upon the completion of works by individual applicants following approval of applications for Housing Renewal Assistance.

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The unspent sum at year-end relates to funding assistance we have identified for a major capital project that has been held up due to unexpected delays outside of the council's control that occurred very late in the financial year. Work was due to commence in January 2009 however it has taken longer than anticipated for the landlord to obtain the necessary planning permissions. This was not anticipated at the time of reporting for month 9. The project is expected to proceed in the new financial year. The funding allocation to the Council is in the form of a grant that can be carried forward to the following financial year.

Environment

Directorate: Environment	Approved Budget: £615,000
Project Title: Communal Bins Extension	Revised Budget: £222,980
	Variation: £(392,020)

Due to the complex specification for the new communal bin vehicles, a short delay has been experienced in receiving the vehicles from the supplier. The communal bin roll out is progressing as planned.

Directorate: Environment	Approved Budget: £369,340
Project Title: Purchase of vehicles for Cityparks	Revised Budget: £228,550
	Variation: £(140,790)

A delay has followed road testing of a number of different vehicles which failed to achieve expectations and required new vehicles to be specified and acquired.

Directorate: Environment	Approved Budget: £63,250
Project Title: Cityparks Waste Compactor Composting in Stanmer	Revised Budget: £ nil
	Variation: £(63,250)

A specification for the site has been submitted to the Environment Agency but a response from the Agency is still awaited, resulting in the need to re-profile the budget.

Directorate: Environment	Approved Budget: £860,000
Project Title: King Alfred – Health & Safety Works	Revised Budget: £142,070
	Variation: £(717,930)

Elsewhere on this agenda is a detailed report on the King Alfred health and safety works.

Directorate: Environment	Approved Budget: £317,500
Project Title: Horsdean Travellers Site Improvements	Revised Budget: £150,600
	Variation: £(166,900)

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The start of works was delayed due to Travellers remaining on site for longer than anticipated and therefore no access was possible for contractors. The cold weather at the start of the year also delayed the concrete pouring process. When works started on site it became clear that an amendment was needed to the specification to ensure most effective use of the space.

Directorate: Environment	Approved Budget: £2,260,000
Project Title: Lanes and London Road Car Park Improvements	Revised Budget: £939,440
	Variation: £(1,320,560)

Delivery of these two major improvement projects was not feasible before the end of March 2009 due to fixed time processes (OJEU procurement and Cabinet Approval for additional funding) that could not be shortened. Delays in obtaining the necessary planning permission for each car park contributed to the extended timeframe. In addition, normal project processes such as design, mobilisation and implementation require more time with 18 – 24 months being the normal timeframe for this type of project. By the end March 2009 just under 12 months had elapsed.

Parking capacity was always projected to be reduced during the works and therefore the delay simply means that the reduced capacity has happened later. Staff parking and hotel parking have been re-located to Regency Square during the course of the works.

Directorate: Environment	Approved Budget: £1,384,000
Project Title: Ex leased car parks Improvements	Revised Budget: £1,189,150
	Variation: £(194,850)

The return of the ex-leased car parks happened later than expected due to legal complications during the negotiation with NCP. Improvement works (accounting for the remainder of the budget) will proceed at the Lanes and London Road and will require design, planning permission, procurement, mobilisation and implementation requiring circa 18 months overall duration.

2009/10 £	2010/11 £	2011/12 £	2012/13 £
100,000	94,850		

Slippage of budget into 2009/10

Details of slippage of £50,000 or more

Culture & Enterprise

Directorate: Cultural Services	Approved Budget: £305,000
Project Title: Contact Centre, Ticket & Web Build	Revised Budget: £134,600
	Variation: £(170,400)

The call centre element of the capital scheme was completed in March 2009 and the invoices relating to the scheme are being paid now. The ticketing system supplier has been chosen and work on installation with completion due in June 2009 when final invoices will be paid. Website work is due for completion in June 2009 with only a retainer still due for payment.

Finance & Resources

Directorate: Finance & Resources	Approved Budget: £86,560
Project Title: Electronic Relationship Management	Revised Budget: £14,100
	Variation: £(72,460)

Finance & Resources ICT are in the process of upgrading the electronic relationship system to the latest version and this has been delayed due to other dependencies beyond ICT's control. Furthermore, the council will be looking to integrate this system with the new GIS and a mobile working solution for CityClean. These projects will introduce new working practices and efficiencies.

Directorate: Finance & Resources	Approved Budget: £51,520
Project Title: Mobile & Flexible Working	Revised Budget: £(14,830)
	Variation: £(66,350)

This budget was intended to finance a Mobile & Flexible working project in Adult Social Care and depended on proving the business case for Mobile & Flexible working for Care Managers. This pilot has not been able to prove the business case and therefore the project will not proceed in its current form. The amount is greater than the budget as it includes a previous year carry forward. This budget is now to be linked to initiatives to support a wider corporate accommodation strategy.

Directorate: Finance & Resources	Approved Budget: £70,000
Project Title: SharePoint 2007 implementation	Revised Budget: £ 19,960
	Variation: £(50,040)

Migration from the Lotus Notes Wave (the Council's Intranet) has taken longer than anticipated. There has been a change to the Executive on the Project Board and there is now a clear direction to move forward with developments. Resources have also been limited and skills in this area are in short supply. The new Wave is scheduled to go live on 1st June utilising Microsoft SharePoint technology within the Council's enterprise agreement. Further developments in the project will be directed by the project board.

Adult Social Care and Housing

Directorate: Adult Social Care & Housing	Approved Budget: £358,000
Project Title: Adaptations	Revised Budget: £290,000
	Variation: £(68,000)

It is very difficult to accurately predict the level of funding needed for Adaptations during the financial year. This is because the service is reliant on contractors being available to carry out the installation of minor adaptations and there are often delays to major adaptations work (which is the most significant part of the budget). Demand is also very difficult to predict.

Environment

Directorate: Environment	Approved Budget: £754,000
Project Title: CIVITAS	Revised Budget: £84,760
	Variation: £(669,240)

This programme started a month later than anticipated in October 2008 and this was followed by a period where the council recruited the necessary resources to deliver the programme. Therefore, financial slippage has been experienced. An additional consideration is the over-resourcing of the original proposal compared with current cost estimates. Despite a later start, all projects within the programme are currently on or ahead of progress (if not spending) target, and therefore overall slippage is not considered a risk. Progress to date suggests that the programme will be delivered on, if not before, target.

Children & Young People's Trust

Directorate: CYPT	Approved Budget: £3,231,770
Project Title: Schools Devolved Capital	Revised Budget: £2,798,530
	Variation: £(433,240)

Devolved Formula Capital is a financial resource that is devolved to schools by the Local Authority. Schools have the option to accrue the money for a maximum of 3 years. However, accrued funds are normally retained by the Local Authority. The outturn figures represent the amount of variation schools are anticipated to request by the end of the school year.

Directorate: CYPT	Approved Budget: £2,090,390
Project Title: Varndean School Extension	Revised Budget: £1,970,900
	Variation: £(119,490)

Outstanding payments on this scheme will be due in 2009/10. In addition some initial costs were met from advanced design and savings are being identified on the final account.

Directorate: CYPT	Approved Budget: £366,680
Project Title: School Access Initiative 2008/09	Revised Budget: £269,830
	Variation: £(96,850)

This funding will form contributions to major works at Balfour Junior, Davigdor Infant and Peter Gladwin Primary Schools where there will be elements in the design to enable DDA compliance.

Adult Social Care and Housing

HRA Capital Schemes

Directorate: Adult Social care & Housing (HRA)	Approved Budget: £3,309,110
Project Title: Heating	Revised Budget: £3,236,510
	Variation: £(72,600)

Heating works are provided through an efficient five year install and maintenance programme. A small amount of slippage of £72,600 will be added to the approved 2009/10 Heating Programme budget and be spent in the 1st quarter of 2009/10.

Directorate: Adult Social care & Housing (HRA)	Approved Budget: £156,490
Project Title: Procurement Strategy	Revised Budget: £57,740
	Variation: £(98,750)

The procurement strategy budget relating to Strategic Stock Options remains partly underspent whilst the Asset Management Strategy is still in development and this unspent budget is therefore being transferred to 2009/10.

Directorate: Adult Social care & Housing (HRA)	Approved Budget: £110,000
Project Title: General Refurbishment	Revised Budget: £34,480
	Variation: £(75,520)

Somerset & Wiltshire Structural Repairs - £75,520

The majority of the budget for Somerset and Wiltshire High Rise blocks had already been reprofiled into the 2009/10 financial year, as a result of planning being granted on 3rd March 2009, with works scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2009/10 after leaseholder consultation. Due to the fact that this was so close to the end of the financial year, a further amount of budget for this project, £75,520, will now slip into 2009/10.

Explanations of overspends (and underspends) of over £50,000 within the total overspend

Adult Social Care and Housing HRA Capital Schemes

Directorate: Adult Social care & Housing (HRA)	Approved Budget: £238,750
Project Title: Procurement	Revised Budget: £132,230
	Variation: £(106,520)

It has previously been reported that due to its complexity, the procurement process for the new long term Repairs, Maintenance and Refurbishment Strategic Partnership for Housing Management has taken longer than expected. The commencement date for the contract remains April 2010, however, the contract award will now be summer 2009. A budget of £306,000 for procurement of this contract has been approved for expenditure in 2009/10 as part of the 2009/10 Housing Capital Programme. Any unspent monies from the 2008/09 procurement budget will offset other variances within the 2008/09 programme.

The underspend was used to fund other areas of the Housing Capital Programme during 2008/09 and variation reports for these are also included in this report

Directorate: Adult Social care & Housing (HRA)	Approved Budget: £521,890
Project Title: Minor capital Works	Revised Budget: £721,000
Technical Services	Variation: £199,110

This expenditure relates to the capitalisation of responsive repairs carried out during 2008/09. Over the course of the year the directorate has carried out a large amount of external repairs and damp proofing to properties, with some kitchens and bathrooms also being installed under this budget, which have contributed towards Decent Homes performance.

The overspends in the 2008/09 Housing Capital Programme have been met from underspends reported elsewhere in the Programme and from an additional revenue contribution reported in the 2008/09 HRA Revenue outturn report.

Directorate: Adult Social care & Housing (HRA)	Approved Budget: £312,210
Project Title: Minor capital Works - Planned	Revised Budget: £521,480

Variation: £209,270

Minor capital works were accelerated, within the flexibility of the works contract, to carry out minor works whilst scaffolds were in place on other schemes in the Housing Programme, an example being Philip Court. Although increasing the spend in this financial year, this reduces the costs of these minor works overall, thereby achieving better value for money.

The overspends in the 2008/09 Housing Capital Programme have been met from underspends reported elsewhere in the Programme and from an additional revenue contribution reported in the 2008/09 HRA Revenue outturn.

Directorate: Adult Social care & Housing (HRA)	Approved Budget: £140,300
Project Title: Newstead Flats Refurbishment	Revised Budget: £213,600
	Variation: £73,300

The original budget costs for the 2007/08 capital programme were based on an original estimate and tender. Additional work was identified to complete the refurbishment of these flats and a new tender and contract was entered into. The delay incurred by this resulted in slippage of the project which was identified in the final quarter of the last financial year. An additional £99,700 was identified as being required to complete the works, including consultant's fees, for the 2008/09 budget.

After the demise of the council's consultants, Erinaceous, a cost reduction was identified as the contract administration for these works was subsequently taken up by the council's in-house team.

The additional spend, amounting to £73,300, was principally made up of:

Kitchen refurbishments £30,000
 Electrical rewires £31,000

The remaining cost is spread amongst the other elements retendered.

The overspends in the 2008/09 Housing Capital Programme have been met from underspends reported elsewhere in the Programme and from an additional revenue contribution reported in the 2008/09 HRA Revenue outturn.

Directorate: Adult Social care & Housing (HRA)	Approved Budget: £471,900
Project Title: Door Entry systems	Revised Budget: £299,250
	Variation: £(172,650)

Albion Hill DES (£50,000)

This project has achieved a £50,000 underspend compared to the original estimate for the project. The same level of work has been undertaken, but the winning bidder had a very competitive price.

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A technical consultant was engaged to examine the winning bid to ensure the tender was reasonable and achievable.

Minor Door Entry Systems (£110,000)

Funds were requested at the beginning of 2008/09 for a number of replacement Door Entry Systems. Once funding was secured, a full technical survey was undertaken on each of these systems. It was deemed better value for money to fix some of these systems, rather than replace or overhaul them at this stage. This is especially relevant as the new Door Entry Systems Service Contract currently being procured, will deliver more competitive unit rates.

The underspend was used to fund other areas of the Housing Capital Programme during 2008/09 and variation reports for these are also attached in this report.

Directorate: Adult Social care & Housing (HRA)	Approved Budget: £162,200
Project Title: Lifts	Revised Budget: £22,230
	Variation: £60,030

The Lifts budget is a responsive budget and it is therefore difficult to determine the level of spend when setting the budget at the beginning of the year. The increased spend occurred in the last two months of the financial year.

The overspends in the 2008/09 Housing Capital Programme have been met from underspends reported elsewhere in the Programme and from an additional revenue contribution reported in the 2008/09 HRA Revenue outturn.

Directorate: Adult Social care & Housing (HRA)	Approved Budget: £663,840
Project Title: Major Voids – Empty Homes Team	Revised Budget: £455,930
	Variation: £(207,910)

A lower than forecast spend was achieved in the Major Voids budget as a result of the cost of the installation of kitchens and bathrooms in Empty Properties being charged directly to the kitchens and bathrooms budget since December.

The underspend was used to fund other areas of the Housing Capital Programme during 2008/09 and variation reports for these are also attached in this report.

New schemes in 2009/10

Directorate: Environment

Project Title: Playbuilder project

Budget: £1,127,840

Brighton & Hove City Council has been successful in receiving £1,127,840 over two years from the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) for play pathfinder and playbuilder capital grant related expenditure.

The DCSF is investing significant funding in play as part of a three year programme from 2008/09 to 2010/11. Brighton & Hove City Council will receive grant funding based upon three variables: deprivation, building costs and child population. The grant is to be used to develop new and existing public play areas

2009/10 £	2010/11 £	2011/12 £	2012/13 £
530,200	597,640		

**EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON THE
11 JUNE 2009**

CABINET MEETING

4.00PM 11 JUNE 2009

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mears (Chairman), Mrs Brown, Caulfield, Fallon-Khan, Kemble, K Norman, Simson, Smith, G Theobald and Young

Also in attendance: Councillors Elgood (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group), Kitcat (Opposition Spokesperson, Green Group) and Mitchell (Leader of the Labour Group)

Other Members present: Councillors Allen, Davis and Morgan

**30 TARGETED BUDGET MANAGEMENT (TBM) PROVISIONAL OUTTURN
2008/09**

- 30.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Director of Finance & Resources concerning the provisional outturn position (Month 12) on the revenue and capital budgets for the financial year 2008/09 (for copy see minute book).
- 30.2 Councillor Simson was pleased that funding had been found from inside the council to support The Bridge, a community education centre based in Moulsecoomb previously funded under EB4U, in order that it could continue its activities and secure long term funding.
- 30.3 Councillor Elgood requested more information on the carry forward proposed in respect of the Aiming High programme for disabled children. He requested a written list of the carry forward.
- 30.4 The Director of Adult Social Car & Housing explained that it was joint funding across Children's and Adult services, which had to be carried forward to develop the services in the next year.
- 30.5 The Director of Children's Services added that the funding was being transferred from the adult budget to the children's budget so it would not be lost; this was accounting mechanism.

- 30.6 In response to concerns from Councillor Mitchell regarding the increased demands on the Older People and Physical Disability Services, the Director for Adult Social Care & Housing explained that the current trend had not been expected and that future trends were difficult to predict; the financial recovery plans for the next year set out how the pressures will be managed.
- 30.7 In response to similar concerns from Councillor Mitchell regarding demand on Children's Services, Councillor Brown confirmed that the council had a higher number of looked after children and a higher number of children on the child protection register due to the national focus on this area. An analysis of figures was currently being done in order to make better predictions in the future with regard to this very sensitive area.
- 30.8 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendations:
- (1) That the significantly improved provisional outturn position for the General Fund, which is now forecasting an underspend of £2.441 million be noted.
 - (2) That the provisional outturn for the Section 75 Partnerships and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2008/09 be noted.
 - (3) That the budget changes and future commitments set out in paragraph 3.5 be approved.
 - (4) That the provisional outturn position on the capital programme be noted.
 - (5) That the following changes to the capital programme be approved:
 - (i) The budget reprofiling as set out in Appendix 2;
 - (ii) The carry forward of slippage of £2.578 million into the 2009/10 capital programme, to meet on-going commitments on these schemes as set out in Appendix 3;
 - (iii) The new schemes as set out in Appendix 4.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Agenda Item 17

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Scrutiny of Budget Proposals
Date of Meeting: 14 July 2009
Report of: Director of Strategy and Governance
Contact Officer: Name: **Mary van Beinum** Tel: **29- 1062**
E-mail: Mary.vanbeinum@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report is a summary of arrangements for overview and scrutiny of budget proposals within some of this Council's comparator Unitary Local Authorities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Commission:
- (1) Notes the update on the budget-setting process as reported to 9 July Cabinet (Appendix 2 to this report).
 - (2) Decides on any additional changes to the role of overview and scrutiny within the budget setting process and makes appropriate recommendations to Cabinet.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 An additional meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission (OSC) was convened on 3 February 2009 to consider the City Council's budget proposals for 2009/2010. OSC regularly receives targeted budget monitoring reports but this was the first time that budget proposals had been considered by overview and scrutiny prior to the Executive. The scrutiny was felt to have had been positive and constructive and the OSC's comments were taken forward to the 12 February 2009 Cabinet.
- 3.2 An update report on the budget process was presented to 2 December 2008 OSC and training sessions arranged by finance officers were praised.

- 3.3 However concern was expressed by Members that the draft budget proposals were published less than two full working days before 3 February OSC meeting date. This allowed very little time for consideration prior to the meeting.
- 3.4 Additionally information on fees and charges previously presented to Cabinet Member Meetings were not included in the report on general fund revenue budget and council tax 2009/2010 and the Commission requested that these reports be considered alongside the budget. This was not agreed.
- 3.5 OSC on 3 February requested a report on scrutiny of budget setting processes in other local authorities, and requested that future timetables allow for more timely involvement of overview and scrutiny.

4. BUDGET SCRUTINY BY OTHER UNITARY AUTHORITIES

- 4.1 The role of scrutiny in the financial process is to hold the executive to account and ensure that decision-making is efficient, transparent and accountable and supports Council priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan and the LAA.
- 4.2 How this is done is not specified in legislation and local authorities comparable to Brighton & Hove City Council approach scrutiny of budget setting and financial planning in a variety of ways. These depend on local scrutiny structures and processes.
- 4.3 Set out below are examples from 14 comparable Unitary Councils' scrutiny arrangements for the 2009/2010 annual budget proposals. Members may wish to consider which practice employed elsewhere may be appropriate for Brighton & Hove.

Structure of budget scrutiny

- 4.4 At least two authorities gave no consideration of draft Council budget proposals for 2009/10 at Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC).
- 4.5 In many authorities, including Brighton & Hove, one O&S Committee received the draft proposals for comment.
- 4.6 Others arranged for reporting of the proposals to several different Committees, sometimes followed by further discussion at a 'resources/performance' or 'coordinating' OSC, incorporating comments and recommendations from all the Committees to take forward to Cabinet.

- 4.7 Bath and North East Somerset held a whole-day panel meeting to consider Service Action Plans and to discuss reports on service and financial planning for 2009/10.
- 4.8 Comments from this Panel were forwarded to the Corporate Performance and Resources O&S Panel, who considered the Corporate Plan refresh alongside Report on Medium Term Service and Resource Planning 2011/2012 and Budget and Council Tax 2009/2010.
- 4.9 Some Councils establish a task group each year to review how to improve budget scrutiny process.

Timing and availability of information

- 4.10 A number of local authorities start budget scrutiny earlier in the financial year than Brighton and Hove; 25 November being the earliest (Medway Council) that reports were presented to Cabinet, with O&S Committees discussing them in early December.
- 4.11 The Bristol City Cabinet 2009/2010 revenue budget proposals report was sent to all Council Members on 9 December 2008. The 15 December Resources Scrutiny Commission noted the report and discussed proposed efficiency savings from the 2008/2011 medium term financial plan also setting a schedule of 3 meetings (12,16 and 19 January) for briefings by Service Directors on current and future planned spend.
- 4.12 Swindon's Leader and Deputy Leader replied to questions on the Draft Revenue Budget Proposals, Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy for 2009/10 at a 15 December Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.13 Derby City Council divides its budget proposals three ways for accessibility; by Directorate, Cabinet Portfolio and by OSC to provide information to the relevant scrutiny commission. In January and early February each of the 6 OSCs considered the budget proposals relating to its portfolio, including pressures and savings and heard from senior officers and Cabinet Members. A finance sub-committee of the Scrutiny Management Commission looks at the detail of budget proposals.
- 4.14 The 27 January Scrutiny Management Commission commented on
- Detailed Revenue Budget 2009/10-2011/12 proposals
 - Capital Budget 2009/10-2011/12 proposals
 - Environmental Services Capital Programme 2009/10 – 2011/12
 - Recommendations made by the other OSCs on the Revenue and Capital
 - Budget Proposals 2009/10-2011/12

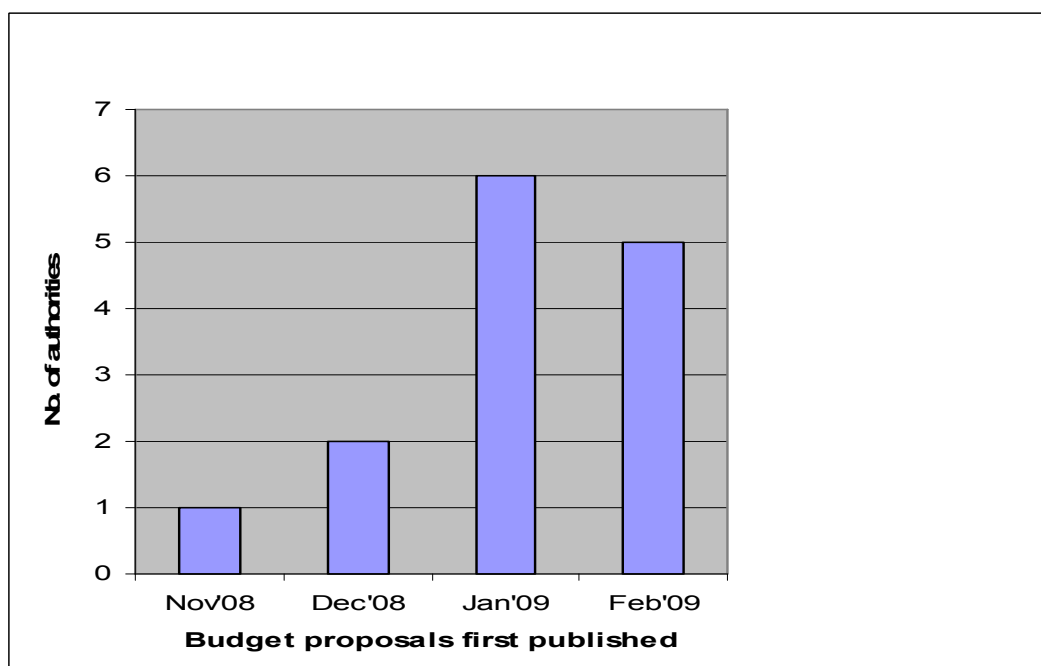
- Revised Asset Management Plan
- Corporate Plan 2008-11 Updated Action Plan

4.15 That Council on 17 February agreed to incorporate SMC recommendations in approving the Updated Corporate Plan alongside the 3-year budget proposals.

4.16 Other Councils in addition to Brighton and Hove published budget proposals less than five working days prior to the OSC meeting and allowed only a few days for comments to be forwarded for consideration by Cabinet.

4.17 Scrutiny Panels at Bournemouth Borough Council make specific proposals throughout the year, which feed into the budget scrutiny report to February Cabinet.

4.18 The chart below shows the first publication, by month, of draft budget proposals for 14 unitary authorities comparable to Brighton & Hove.



Involvement of Cabinet Members and Senior Officers in Budget scrutiny

4.18 Two full-day budget scrutiny meetings of Resources and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Panel were held by Plymouth City Council in February. The Panel made 21 recommendations having scrutinised:

- Corporate Plan 2009-2012;
- Corporate Asset Management Plan and Capital Strategy 2005-2015 incorporating the Capital Programme 2008/09-2013/14;
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment

- Strategy 2009/10;
 - 2009-2010 Revenue Budget;
- 4.19 The sessions included an overview of the corporate and financial planning process, involving the Leader and Chief Executive, with separate challenge sessions involving Cabinet members and Directors for each service area. The concluding scrutiny session involved the executive team of the Leader, Cabinet Members, the Chief Executive, the Assistant Chief Executive and the Director for Corporate Resources
- 4.20 Another Council's Scrutiny Committee held four question and answer sessions with 5 Cabinet Members including budget priorities, relevant budget books and details of consultations undertaken to support budget measures.
- 4.21 Bournemouth Borough Cabinet Member for Resources attended 8 overview Panels in the last cycle of meetings to discuss the budget update and medium term financial plan as part of the budget consultation process.
- 4.22 Many authorities have established reviews of how the Council's budget is determined. In addition to Member's specific queries Bristol City Council uses standard generic questions for budget scrutiny,
- Risk and Mitigation
 - Projected Over/Underspends and effect in 2009/2010
 - Significant 2009-2010 Budget pressure and Amelioration
 - Delivery of Efficiency Targets
 - Staffing Levels and Service Implications
 - Main Areas of Service Improvement and Prioritisation of Funds
 - Other options considered

Examples of Public consultations

- 4.23 Swindon Borough Council conducted a consultation on budget proposals for 2009/10 with residents and stakeholder from 2 December 2008 until 6 February 2009. Feedback was in the form of emails and letters to the Council and also via a website form.
- 4.24 Consultation at Blackpool on the Revenue Budget 2009/10 was undertaken with the general public via Your Blackpool website, January round of Area Forum meetings, and a joint meeting of the Audit and Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees with union representatives on 13 February .
- 4.25 Plymouth City's 14 Corporate Improvement Priorities (CIPs) were one factor in allocating resources. Officers met the 8 Area Committees and

Youth Parliament during the autumn and asked for their top 3 priorities/suggestions for new priorities. CIP were then ranked and reported to Cabinet.

- 4.26 Southend-on-Sea Executive meets annually with residents and rate-payers to discuss budget proposals.
- 4.27 Some authorities did not formally consult with residents and some are looking to improve and widen engagement during 2009/10 and for the future.

5. SUMMARY OF EXAMPLES

- 5.1 Set out below is a summary of the examples presented in the report.
 - 1. Reporting of budget proposals relevant to the portfolio of each scrutiny committee in addition to draft corporate budget
 - 2. Information for scrutiny earlier in the financial year
 - 3. Full-day scrutiny meetings, focussing on each Directorate
 - 4. Discussion of proposed efficiency savings
 - 5. Considering Budget Proposals alongside other key plans and strategies; e.g. Service plans, MTFs, Corporate Plan Refresh and Council priorities
 - 6. Question and Answer sessions with senior officers and Cabinet members
 - 7. Generic questions for budget scrutiny
 - 8. Specific proposals from O&S activity throughout the year, to go forward early into the budget –setting process
 - 9. Finance Sub-committee of Overview and Scrutiny

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Senior Finance Officers have been consulted on this report.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 These are contained in the main body of the report.

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 These are contained in the main body of the report.

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 There are no direct sustainability implications to this report.

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 There are no direct sustainability implications to this report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

7.5 There are no direct crime and disorder implications to this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

7.6 There are no direct crime and disorder implications to this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

7.7 The Council's budget impacts on levels of Council Tax and service levels and therefore has citywide implications.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendix 1 – Extracts from Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) publication 'Scrutiny of Budgets and the Budget Setting Process'

Appendix 2 – Budget Update and Budget Process 2009 – 2010 Report to Cabinet 9 July 2009

Extracts from Centre for Public Scrutiny publication 'Scrutiny of Budgets and the Budget-setting process'

Effective budget scrutiny can help to generate efficiency savings, provide better value for money to a range of stakeholders and ensure that local decision makers are accountable for decisions regarding budget allocations.

Budget Setting Process and Determining Priorities

Scrutiny Committees should have a role in helping to determine spending priorities and the determination of the local authority's annual budget.

Scrutiny Committees can be involved in discussions around overall corporate priorities at the beginning of the budget process through to the development of detailed budget proposals and the finalisation of service plans in accordance with the agreed budget.

Scrutiny Committees can also have a role in reviewing the budget setting process and assessing the extent to which it is aligned to the Council's other key plans and strategies and enables sufficient consultation with stakeholders including citizens.

Possible areas to consider

1. What are the major risks to the authority short/medium/long term financial strategies and what action is being taken to mitigate them?
2. How does the local authority's budget allocation to specific service areas compare with similar Authorities?
3. Is there evidence of funding being directed towards the local authority's priorities?
4. Is the local authority providing services above the statutory minimum standard that were not local priorities?

Budget Monitoring

Possible areas to consider

1. To what extent has spending been in accordance with the agreed budget?
2. Are there any significant underspends/overspends and if so what are the reasons behind this and is any action being taken to address this?
3. Are there areas of the budget that require more in-depth scrutiny or regular monitoring by the scrutiny committee?

4. Have additional resources been diverted to specific service areas/projects and what outcomes were generated from the additional expenditure?

Challenging the costs of service delivery

Possible areas to consider

1. How does the budget for the service compare with the budgets for similar services in other local authorities?
2. What is the annual budget spend on this service as a percentage of the council's total budget?
3. Is the service a priority for the local community?
4. Have any alternative forms of service delivery been considered such as partnership working in order to reduce costs?
5. Are financial/service plans aligned with the human resources policies plans and strategies?

Reviewing Medium and Long Term Financial Planning

Scrutiny Committees also have a role in reviewing the robustness of medium to long term financial plans. This can include an assessment of the mechanisms in place to deal with the potential financial impact of issues such as climate change, an ageing population or waste management. In doing so Scrutiny committees could review the medium to long term financial pressures facing the local authority, the current financial position of the local authority and how the local authority intends to respond to the identified financial pressures.

Possible areas to consider:

1. Does the Council have a medium/long term financial strategy?
2. What are likely to be the local authority's main medium/long term financial pressures and what is the estimated cost to the local authority likely to be?
3. How well is the local authority placed to respond to major medium/long term financial pressures?
4. Are the local authority's financial reserves sufficient to guard against medium-long term financial risks?

5. Are the local authority's medium and long term financial plans aligned with human resources plans policies and strategies?

Helping to determine and Monitoring the Capital Programme and Asset management Plan

Scrutiny Committees can perform a number of roles. These can include:

- a) Reviewing and monitoring the asset management plan/capital investment strategy
- b) Examining the approach to the implementation of the Prudential Code
- c) Examining the relationship between the asset management plan and the capital programme
- d) Reviewing the allocation of resources to capital projects
- e) Monitoring progress made in respect of individual major capital projects
- f) Reviewing the process by which the capital programme is determined
- g) Reviewing the mechanisms that are in place to ensure that capital projects are completed on time and within budget
- h) Reviewing the impact on existing and proposed capital projects on future annual revenue budgets

Possible areas to consider:

Who was consulted in the development of the current capital programme and how robust was this consultation?

How does the selection of capital projects link to the council's corporate priorities?

In what ways has good practice been sought and implemented in the management of the capital programme?

Who is responsible/accountable for the delivery and management of (a) the capital programme as a whole and (b) individual capital projects?

Budget Scrutiny and Partners

As part of the local authority's community leadership role scrutiny committees may also wish to examine the budgets of partnerships that the local authority is involved in. In relation to a specific partnership scrutiny committees may for example wish to establish the relative levels of financial contributions from partners, the budget management and accountability arrangements for the partnership and how the partnership can demonstrate outcomes as a result of its expenditure.

Tips for budget scrutineers

Establish a timetable for scrutiny involvement on the budget setting process which enables scrutiny committees to consider the development and publication of draft service plans as well as the draft council budget

Provide all scrutiny committees with an opportunity to comment on relevant areas of the budget but try to ensure that the scrutiny process can take an overall perspective on the local authority's budget

Have clear terms of reference for scrutiny activity relating to the budget

Scrutinise the budget process and timetable against best practice to ensure it encourages efficient scrutiny

Consider the management of risk in relation to the budget and how funding is allocated to mitigate against key risks.

Monitor the budget during the year against initial projections and where overspends and underspends are identified challenge the reasons behind them to ensure that spending is effectively contributing to corporate and community priorities

Make sure that scrutiny committees are provided with sufficient information to provide effective challenge. This can include comparison with other local authorities and details of how the local authority's/ service area efficiency savings compare with other local authorities/service areas.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Agenda Item 17
Appendix 2 (1)
Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Budget Update & Budget Process Report 2010/11		
Date of Meeting:	9 July 2009 Cabinet 14 July 2009 OSC		
Report of:	Interim Director of Finance & Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Ireland	Tel: 29-1240
		James Hengeveld	29-1242
	E-mail:	mark.ireland@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan No.	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The budget setting process for 2010/11 is recommended in the context of having reasonable certainty over the finance settlement as it is the final year of the 3 year settlement and the current government has confirmed that it does not propose to revise this settlement. However the council's resource position will continue to be significantly affected by the recession and the uncertainties in the financial markets, in terms of needing to provide additional services in response to increasing demand, reductions in income from fees, charges and investment interest.
- 1.2 The council's resource position from 2011/12 onwards is highly uncertain. The government's overall financial position means there will be significant reductions in national spending to meet projected budget deficits and this will impact upon the next spending round and the resources available for local government. There will also be a general election before the next spending round and the current review of grant distribution is due to be completed. This adds further uncertainty to both the timing of the settlement and the financial assumptions on general and specific grants.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To note the resource and expenditure projections for 2010/11 to 2012/13 set out in table 3 in paragraph 3.19.
- 2.2 To agree that the provision for future pay awards becomes a joint provision for both future pay awards and increased pension contributions.
- 2.3 To note the further development of the Value for Money programme set out in paragraphs 3.31 to 3.35.

- 2.4 To instruct Directors and relevant Cabinet Members to produce budget strategies to provide their services within the indicative cash limits as set out in appendix 1.
- 2.5 To instruct Directors to demonstrate 4% efficiency savings for each year within their budget strategies.
- 2.6 To note the resource projections for the capital investment programme as shown in appendix 2 of this report.
- 2.7 To agree the timetable for budget reports set out in paragraph 3.48.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

2009/10 Council Tax

- 3.1 The increase in the overall council tax for residents of Brighton & Hove was 3.6% for 2009/10 compared to an average 3.8% for existing unitary councils and a 3.0% overall average across the country. Whilst the level of council tax at band D is marginally above the national average it is significantly lower than most other councils in Sussex except Chichester and Horsham.
- 3.2 The 2009/10 budget increase for the city council was 1.1%, lower than any other unitary, county or metropolitan council and the fourth lowest in the country for councils providing education and social services. The average budget increase for unitary councils was 3.7%.

Capping Announcement

- 3.3 The Minister for Local Government, John Healey, confirmed on 13 May that 2 police authorities would be subject to capping. Derbyshire Police whose council tax increase was 8.7% have had their budget and council tax increases restricted for future years. Surrey Police whose council tax increase was 7.1% but also had their budget capped the previous year, were ordered to reduce their 2009/10 council tax and incur the substantial costs of re-billing as well as having to make significant additional savings to balance their budget.

2008/09 Outturn

- 3.4 The 2008/09 provisional outturn was presented to cabinet on 11th June 2009. The report showed an underspend of £4.1m, £1.7m had been allocated as part of the 2009/10 budget and a further £2.4m

was allocated within the report. The most significant allocation was £1.5m to support the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

General reserves position and working balance

- 3.5 The working balance is currently £9m and is planned to remain at this level over the next 3 years. The following table shows the projected general reserves position to 2012/13 assuming spending is in line with budget and all risk provisions are allocated to support each years budget. The table reflects the improved collection fund performance in 2008/09 and also includes a planned contribution to BSF. At this time the balance on general reserves should be kept as a 'shock absorber' against the risk of pressure on income during the recession and rising demand for services.

Table 1 - General Reserves	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
B/fwd	2,309	114	923	583
Budgeted collection fund deficit	-2,515			
2008/09 improved collection fund		1,009		
Projected under-spend on insurance premia	380	380		
Contribution to energy costs	-60	-30		
Contribution to BSF		-550		
Local Elections funding			-340	
C/fwd	114	923	583	583

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2010/11 – 2012/13

Resources

Formula Grant

- 3.6 The projection of grant increases beyond 2010/11 is highly speculative because 2011/12 and 2012/13 fall into the next government spending round which will be determined after the next General Election. It is absolutely clear from the prevailing economic conditions that spending will be very tightly constrained and the national focus will be on providing additional resources for those budgets such as benefits and debt repayments that are rising due to the recession whilst the national political priority spending areas are likely to remain education and health. This is likely to leave little funding for other local government services.
- 3.7 Whatever changes are made to the grant distribution formulae the council will remain at the grant floor over the period. A commitment was given by the Government to honour the provisional grant settlement figures for 2010/11. Looking at the information given in the March national budget it would seem prudent to reduce the forecast grant floor increase of 1% in 2011/12 to a cash freeze and to plan for a similar cash freeze in 2012/13. However, there remains a significant risk that there could be cash reductions in both these years. The forecast reduction in resources in 2011/12 by reducing the grant floor increase by 1% is £1.1m.

Table 2: Grant Floor assumptions					
Year	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Actual	2010/11 Provisional	2011/12 Projection	2012/13 Projection
Change	+2.0%	+1.75%	+1.5%	0%	0%

Specific Grants and Area Based Grants (ABG)

- 3.8 The level of most specific grants and ABG is known for 2010/11. The transitional funding for Stronger Safer Communities and the Working Neighbourhoods Fund ceases in 2010/11 resulting in a reduction of £0.762m compared with 2009/10. A corporate commitment of £0.25m funding on a recurrent basis has been put in place to cover part of this loss. The Supporting People Grant is combined with ABG from 2010/11 however this element of ABG will see a reduction of £0.6m or 5% compared to 2009/10. A 2 year package of support for grant ending during 2009/10 and 2010/11 was put in place which included using LPSA reward grant and the £0.25m corporate recurrent funding in each year. There is potential to receive further reward grant beyond 2010/11 for the achievement of certain Local Area Agreement targets which could be used to provide continued temporary funding but the amount of the reward will only become clearer towards the end of 2010.
- 3.9 The level of specific grants is not known for 2011/12 onwards however the government's latest estimates of funding for public services included in the budget statement suggest this funding is at risk of being reduced and in some cases might come to an end. The council receives approximately £80m in specific grants (excluding Dedicated Schools Grant and Housing Benefit & Council Tax Benefit grant), of which £24m of the £80m are Area Based Grants. If there are no inflationary increases to these grants it will add about £1.6m to council funding pressures, and each further 1% reduction in grants will add £0.8m to funding pressures. The assumption within the MTFs is an overall grant freeze and therefore there will be approximately £1.6m additional pressures from 2011/12.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

- 3.10 The level of DSG is planned to increase by 4.1% per pupil in 2010/11, this is higher than the 3.6% per pupil increase in 2009/10. The position beyond 2010/11 is unknown although funding for education is likely to have a higher priority in the next spending round compared to other local government services. The other uncertainty is the major review of DSG distribution which is described in more detail below.

3.11 In his statement to the House on 31 January 2008, Jim Knight, Minister for Schools and 14-19 Learners, launched the review of the formula for distributing DSG. The aim is to develop a single, transparent formula that will be available for use in distributing the DSG to local authorities from 2011/12. The development phase of the review started in February 2008 and will continue until late 2009, with consultation on specific proposals in early 2010. Ministers will announce broad decisions from the review in summer 2010. The Formula Review Group has met on 9 occasions to date covering a wide range of topics such as reflecting the higher costs of providing services in different parts of the country, streamlining grants into DSG, the timing of pupil counts, issues associated with small schools, the funding of academies and many more issues. The Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and PricewaterhouseCoopers are about to launch a major survey into the incidence and costs of additional educational needs to support the DSG Review.

Concessionary Fares Funding

3.12 The concessionary fares special grant was originally announced for 3 years 2008/09 to 2010/11, however, following lobbying from authorities (including Brighton & Hove) who felt they have not received sufficient additional funding to cover the extra costs of the national statutory scheme, transport ministers are reviewing the distribution arrangements for 2010/11. A consultation on options to revise these arrangements is now expected in the autumn.

3.13 A consultation paper has been issued by the Department of Transport looking only at options for the future administration of concessionary fares. All of these options will have potentially significant implications for the future allocation and distribution of concessionary fares funding for 2011/12 onwards. The council already budgets for a shortfall in Government funding of about £1.85m and at this stage it would be prudent to maintain this position. The consultation ends on 21st July but there are likely to be subsequent consultations on funding arrangements as part of the work of the grant Settlement Working Group.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI)

3.14 The LABGI scheme allows local authorities to retain a proportion of the growth in business rates income in their area above an individual threshold. The Department of Communities and Local Government consulted last year on proposals to extend the LABGI scheme for at least 2 years (2009/10 to 2010/11) and to extensively amend the distribution of a significantly reduced amount of cash. The council

has allocated all the resources it derived from the original scheme to a range of projects largely designed to help the local economy in the current downturn. There has not yet been an announcement about the final shape of the new scheme but early indications are that the council's share of a regional allocation could amount to about £0.2m for 2009/10.

Fees and Charges

- 3.15 Fees and charges are assumed to increase by a standard inflation of 2% each year. Details of fees and charges for 2010/11 will be presented to the relevant Cabinet Member Meetings and onto Council where appropriate prior to Budget Council.

Council Tax Strategy, Tax Base and the Collection Fund

- 3.16 Earlier projections of a £2.9m deficit for the collection fund, the account into which all council tax and council tax benefit is paid, assumed that the recession would have a negative impact on collection rates and require higher levels of bad debt provisions. Actual collection performance to date has been maintained and slightly improved and the closure of the 2008/09 accounts has shown that bad debt provisions can in fact be reduced. The overall impact is a significant reduction of £1.2m in the previously projected deficit of which the city council share is £1m. Early indications show that there could be a surplus on the collection fund for 2009/10 which together with the reduction in the 2008/09 deficit will be factored into the calculation of the 2010/11 council tax in January 2010.
- 3.17 Initially the downturn in the housing market was assumed to suppress the council tax base. It was assumed that there would be no growth in the tax base with any new properties being offset by increases in student exemptions. Since November 2008 the position has improved and the tax base is now expected to grow by 1% by the end of 2009/10 generating an additional £1.2m in a full year. With limited new developments in future years the prudent assumption that the taxbase will not increase beyond 2009/10 will be maintained.
- 3.18 For the future resource estimates in this report the indicative council tax strategy showing increases of 2.5% for 2010/11 and 2011/12 as set out in the 2009/10 budget report have been assumed but it will be up to all Members at Budget Council in February 2010 to agree the final level of the council tax. If a Conservative government is elected it has pledged that any council setting a council tax increase of 2.5% or less will receive sufficient additional funding to enable the council to freeze its council tax for 2 years. The same indicative increase has also been assumed for 2012/13.

Budget Estimates and Budget Process

MTFS summary expenditure estimates

3.19 The following table shows the budget estimates over the next 3 years.

Table 3. Budget Estimates	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	£m	£m	£m
Budget b/fwd	219.0	227.1	230.1
Inflation	4.2	4.3	4.4
Risk Provision	1.2	0.5	0.5
Commitments	0.3	0.8	0
Service pressures	7.5	8.5	8.5
Service pressures – specific Grants		1.6	1.6
Efficiency Savings	-8.4	-8.4	-8.4
Other savings	-0.3	-2.8	-2.8
Total	223.5	231.6	233.9
Change in contribution to / from reserves	3.6	-1.5	-0.8
Budget Requirement	227.1	230.1	233.1
Funding Projections:			
Formula Grant	109.2	109.2	109.2
Council Tax	117.9	120.9	123.9
Total	227.1	230.1	233.1

Pay award and Inflation assumptions

3.20 The pay award assumption built into the budget estimates is 2% each year for the next 3 years. The figure of 2.3% shown in the budget report for 2009/10 allows for the higher final settlement of the 2008/09 pay award of 2.75% over the earlier 2.45% offer. The national employers have made an initial offer to the unions and staff of 0.5% for 2009/10 so it is possible that the final settlement will be below the 2% provision. However, as set out later in this report it is also likely that additional resources will be needed to fund increased pension fund contributions from 2011/12, therefore, it is recommended that any surplus pay award provision in any future year is transferred into a pension fund contribution provision.

3.21 The provision for general inflation on both expenditure and income is 2% per annum. Compared to current levels of inflation in the economy this is high but inflation is expected to increase after this year. Services could choose to use any additional resources created by the higher provision to keep fees and charges increases down. Some budgets such as fuel and energy have been extremely volatile

in recent times and a separate analysis will be carried out in these areas prior to the renewal of key contracts with appropriate adjustments made to the risk provision in the budget.

Commitments and the Risk Provision

- 3.22 A risk provision to cover uncertainties within the budget is incorporated into the budget projections; £1.2m in 2010/11 and a £0.5m recurrent budget has been included in each subsequent year and added to contingency.
- 3.23 A number of commitments have been included to cover the planned changes in budgets from previous decisions. In 2010/11 these include £0.25m replacement funding for grants that have come to an end and part of the financing costs to provide a £5m contribution towards a new Historic Records Centre known as The Keep.

Single Status (Back pay & future pay)

- 3.24 Full Council in February set the budget and in doing so provided the financial framework for future pay and ensured funding was available to meet the estimated equal pay back pay liability.
- 3.25 The 2009/10 budget contains an ongoing Equal Pay Provision of £3.43m per annum including a contribution of £1m per annum from the Schools Formula Budget. In settling the back dated pay liability the council made use of a capitalisation direction available last year. £1.8m of the £3.43m has been transferred to the financing costs budget to meet the borrowing costs of using the £14.05m capitalisation. The balance of £1.63m remains in contingency to meet the ongoing costs of future pay and allowances. This provision was based on the estimated impact of job evaluation at the time of setting the budget. No further resources are planned for future years.
- 3.26 Total resources of £37.5m were identified in a specific reserve to meet the substantial one-off cost of the equal pay back pay settlement together with other one-off equal pay liabilities. Most of the back pay settlements have now been paid but there are other potential equal pay liabilities and financial risks that must be met from this reserve:
- Potential cost of settling collective or individual grievances.
 - Contingency for pension contributions on back pay offers.
 - The possible cost of resolving back dated Housing Benefit issues resulting from back pay offers.
 - Contingency for new back pay liability building up should Single Status (Future Pay) not be implemented by 1st January 2010; this is estimated to be up to £0.5m per month.

- 2009/10 and 2010/11 administrative costs of implementing future pay.
- Contingency for Business Continuity costs.
- Any potential equal pay claims (back pay) and future pay costs arising in Faith Schools, which the council has guaranteed to meet as a condition of the Schools Forum decision to contribute £1m per annum.

3.27 These potential liabilities and costs could be very substantial and will need to be monitored and re-evaluated regularly to ensure that financial risk provisions are maintained at appropriate levels.

Pension fund triennial review

3.28 Work by the Actuary will start shortly on the review of the East Sussex pension fund for implementation from 1st April 2011. Although the East Sussex pension fund has been one of the stronger performers market conditions are likely to mean that there will be a significant deficit identified on the fund and increased employers contributions will be required from 2011/12 onwards. It is purely speculative what this increase might be but as a guide the triennial review in 2004, which also identified a substantial deficit on the fund, required contribution rates to go up by 4.2% over the 3 years 2005/06 to 2007/08 to eliminate the deficit. If the pay award averages 0.5% for the next 3 years then the council would have a 4.5% provision to meet any increases or less if the pay awards are higher. Early indications of the outcome of the review will be known in Autumn 2010.

Cash Limits (% change in Budgets)

3.29 The 2009/10 adjusted budget is the basis from which percentage changes are proposed for the main service areas to generate cash limits for future years. These percentage changes are net of savings, service pressures and areas of growth and are designed to provide allocations that directorates are expected to manage within to deliver a balanced budget. Directorates are instructed to provide budget strategies for their services covering 2010/11 & 2011/12 with high level information for 2012/13. The indicative percentage changes for service areas are included in appendix 1.

Service Pressures

3.30 The cash limits are set to incorporate spending pressures. The directorates will identify their pressures over a 3 year period and base their financial strategies on managing these pressures within the allocated funding.

Savings

- 3.31 Directorates are required to identify savings to manage within their cash limit allocations. The government announced the requirement to identify 4% rather than 3% efficiency savings from 2010/11 onwards in the budget report. Directorates are tasked with identifying 4% efficiency savings within their financial strategies as well as any further savings required to manage within their cash limit. The overall efficiency savings target is therefore £8.4m.
- 3.32 Although the Council has achieved a score of 3 in value for money on the (outgoing) Comprehensive Performance Assessment Use of Resources, the council will need to maintain and step up its efforts to continue improving value for money for customers and taxpayers.
- 3.33 This is consistent with the corporate objective of achieving a better use of public money in two ways:
- improving the customer experience while reducing costs; and
 - a clear view of what is a priority and, equally if not more important, what is not a priority.
- 3.34 At the same time it is important to recognise the efficiency improvements already achieved in previous years and through the initial value for money programme which includes:
- £11.8m of efficiency savings over 2 years.
 - The cost of support services has been frozen, in cash terms, to maximise budgets for front line services and council priorities. This means that the council will continue to be one of the lowest spending (per head) of all unitary councils on its central support services such as human resources, legal and finance.
 - The Access Point for Adult Social Care was opened to provide support and assistance to a wider range of people. It is also improving value for money by making access to things like grab rails and luncheon clubs much simpler. This has and will continue to improve customer service and reduces the need for costly assessments for smaller needs that make a difference to peoples' lives.
 - The council has absorbed the loss of £650,000 in central government grant support in relation to community safety and crime reduction with the help of temporary funding from the successful implementation of the Local Public Services Agreement. All priority services will be able to continue. This includes the work with the council's partners on the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to reduce crime and the causes and consequences of drugs abuse.
 - Improving value for money of Cityclean by 17% or just under £1m by introducing new recycling and collection rounds.

- Improving value for money in Cultural Services through activities such as sharing functions, for example in marketing, web services and through cross-selling in the tourism and venues services. This includes making better use of technology; the latest example of this is the new VisitBrighton website.
- The award of a new Housing Procurement contract which has followed a long procurement process is imminent and will deliver the savings required by the service in order to enable investment in council housing improvements.

- 3.35 The medium to long term value for money programme includes:
- Continuing to implement actions from the initial value for money programme. This element remains the accountability of the relevant Director working in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Member.
 - Building on current on targeted intervention that better co-ordinates interventions and realigns services to preventive work and community support.
 - A structured programme of fundamental service reviews and corporate capability workstreams to better support business improvement.

Central Budgets

Financing Costs

- 3.36 The unprecedented level of short term interest rates has meant that investment returns will continue to be very low. As agreed in the 2009/10 budget report £2.9m reserves have been earmarked to meet expected shortfalls in this budget over the next 3 years. Opportunities have arisen to repay debt on a temporary basis to both minimise investment risk and improve investment returns. Latest projections show the interest rates are not likely to return to normal levels until 2013/14 at the earliest, so investment returns are likely to be below budget levels in 2012/13 as well.

Concessionary Fares Budget

- 3.37 The council has successfully set up a new scheme for Brighton & Hove based on data solely relating to bus operations within the City. This was published by the statutory deadline of 3rd March 2009. Discussions have been taking place with all 8 of the bus operators within the City to determine reimbursement levels for 2009/10. However, of the total reimbursement 96.7% goes to Brighton & Hove Bus Company and 1.8% to Stagecoach South so the rest are very small.

- 3.38 Based on all the reimbursement calculations made to date and making an allowance for more journeys assuming better overall weather conditions and more people holidaying at home, the projected spend is £8.9m for 2009/10 delivers a saving of £0.75m on the budget agreed at Budget Council. The allocation of the £0.75m was agreed at Cabinet on 11th June 2009.
- 3.39 Monitoring of journey numbers and average fares will be expanded so that it is carried out on a monthly and route by route basis. Payments to the bus operators will only be made if relevant data has been received by the council by the due dates.

Insurance Premia

- 3.40 The council entered into long-term agreements for most insurance cover for the period up to 31 March 2011. The insurance companies can increase rates in the interim if market conditions change but there is limited evidence to date to suggest this will occur. Insurance companies are having to make additional payments due to the recession and could be faced with significant business continuity compensation payments should a global flu pandemic have a serious widespread health impact in the future. Projections for the budget for 2011/12 and beyond have been set at higher levels to reflect potential increased pressures on insurance companies but risk management work is designed to reduce claims locally. The biennial review of the Insurance Fund has recently been completed and the fund has been increased as recommended by the actuary.

Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2012/13

- 3.41 The projected capital programme and resources are included in the table in appendix 2. The council has already received the settlement for 2010/11 and therefore the government resources available are reasonably certain, however beyond 2010/11 the resources are dependant on the outcome of the spending review and reductions in capital resources are likely to be greater than revenue. The next sections go into more detail about potential resources.
- 3.42 Over the 3 years the projections show there is a potential deficit of £1m based on current investment plans and capital receipts projections. There are additional pressures potentially facing the council including building schools for the future, maintenance to operational buildings, investment in schemes to reduce the council's carbon footprint and the seafront which could add to this deficit.
- 3.43 The potential deficit could, depending on circumstances and other priorities, be met from contributions from reserves generated by unused risk provisions and underspends in the revenue budget.

Capital Receipts

- 3.44 The capital programme in future years relies on certain receipts being generated over the 3 year period. If these do not materialise then the capital expenditure plans will need to be reviewed or alternative sources of funding identified. The capital investment plans for the HRA assume significant capital receipts generated through the LDV and these have been included within the 3 year projections.

Capital Grants

- 3.45 As with the revenue grants, capital grants have been announced for 2010/11 as part of the 3 year settlement but there is no certainty over the level of grants from 2011/12 onwards and it anticipated capital grants will reduce as the government reduces its expenditure in future years. It has been assumed within our projections the reduction will be 5% per annum. In 2010/11 the most significant grants include funding for the Falmer Academy as well as the Primary Capital programme and the Targeted Capital Fund within the CYPT programme. The 3 year capital projections assume certain capital grants will continue but at a reduced level.

Borrowing

- 3.46 The MTFS assumes the council will take up the supported borrowing allocations from government although the council receives no resources to support the financing costs of this borrowing. The government has announced supported borrowing allocations for 2010/11. The projections assume there will be no supported borrowing allocations beyond 2010/11. The council will also undertake unsupported borrowing to finance capital expenditure plans. This includes continued annual investment in social services buildings and replacement of vehicles and plant. The programme also includes borrowing £5m over 3 years to support the development of a new Historic Records Centre (The Keep) with East Sussex County Council.

Corporate Investment Funds

- 3.47 The table in appendix 2 includes the projected resources available to the Strategic Investment, Asset Management and ICT funds.

Timetable

3.48 Timetable for budget papers

2009	Budget Strategies	Cabinet	3 Dec
2010	Council Taxbase	Cabinet	14 Jan
Feb 2010	General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax	Cabinet	11
Feb 2010	Capital Resources and Capital Investment	Cabinet	11

Budget Council will be held on 25 Feb 2010.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The budget and council tax consultation process will be discussed by the cross party Budget Review Group during the summer. The conclusions from consultation will be circulated to all Members.

5 FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 These are contained in the main body of the report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Mark Ireland

Date: 11 June 2009

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The process of formulating a plan or strategy for the control of the council's borrowing, investments or capital expenditure, or for determining the authority's minimum revenue position is an executive function and thus falls to the Cabinet to discharge. The recommendations at paragraph 2 above are proper to be considered and, if appropriate, approved by the Cabinet

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon

Date: 16 June 2009

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The budget includes provisions to meet both equal pay compensation and address inequalities in pay through the implementation of job evaluation including changes to allowances package. Equalities issues will be taken into account throughout the budget setting process and the development of budget strategies for individual services.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Sustainability issues will be taken into account throughout the council's budget setting process.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The budget projections identify resources to help replace the reduction in government grants funding of certain crime and disorder initiatives.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are considerable risks to the council's short and medium term budget strategy including the impact of the recession and changes in the national economy, spending exceeding budgets, pressures on existing budgets, further reductions in grant, legislative change demands for new spend. The budget process includes the recognition of these risks in determining the 2010/11 budget

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The report is relevant to the whole of the city.

6 EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S)

- 6.1 The budget process allows all parties to put forward viable alternative budget and council tax proposals to Budget Council on 25 February. Budget Council has the opportunity to debate both the proposals put forward by Cabinet at the same time as any viable alternative proposals.

7 REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The council is under a statutory duty to set its council tax and budget before 11 March each year. This report sets out the budget assumptions, process and timetable to meet its statutory duty.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Appendix 1 | Service cash limit changes |
| Appendix 2 | Projected capital programme 2010/11 – 2012/13 |

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. Files held within Strategic Finance section
2. Government Budget Report
3. Brighton & Hove City Council Budget report, Feb 2009.

Appendix 1

Indicative service cash limits

The cash limits are at the level to deliver a balanced budget based on the assumptions set out in the report.

	2010/11	2011/12
Planned Maintenance	3.00%	3.00%
Finance & Resources	-0.25%	-0.25%
Members allowances	2.00%	2.00%
Strategy & Governance	-0.25%	-0.25%
Culture & Enterprise	1.75%	1.75%
Waste Disposal	0.00%	0.00%
City Clean	-0.50%	-0.50%
Parking income	0.00%	-1.00%
Environment other	1.15%	1.15%
CYPT – LEA functions	-0.25%	-0.25%
CYPT Children's & other services	3.25%	3.25%
Adult Learning Disabilities	3.00%	3.00%
Adult Social Care & Housing	0.50%	0.50%
Health Led services	0.50%	0.50%

Appendix 2

Projected Capital Investment Programme

Capital Programme	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Strategic Investment Fund	750	1,000	1,000
Asset Management Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000
ICT Fund	685	750	750
Brighton Centre Redevelopment	500	1,000	1,000
Children & Young Peoples Trust	21,769	5,860	5,600
Culture & Enterprise	500	4,000	500
Environment	6,299	1,689	1,350
Finance & Resources	3,399	3,250	1,750
Strategy & Governance	495	140	-
Adult Social Care & housing	17,636	15,484	15,096
Total	53,033	34,173	28,046

Resources			
Supported Borrowing	7,375	-	-
Unsupported Borrowing	3,085	6,270	2,250
Government Capital Grants	36,057	19,113	18,126
Capital receipts & Reserves	1,484	3,750	2,750
Direct Revenue Funding	5,032	5,040	3,920
Total	53,033	34,173	27,046
Projected Shortfall			1,000

Note: The above programme excludes the Falmer Academy, any investment funded through receipts from the LDV and the Building Schools for the future programme.

Projected Capital Investment Programme

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Agenda Item 18

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Equalities & Inclusion update		
Date of Meeting:	14th July 2009		
Report of:	Director of Strategy & Governance		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mary Evans	Tel: 291577
	E-mail:	Mary.evans@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Equalities & Inclusion Policy sets out policy and priorities for the next three years 2008-2011 and actions arising are set out in the Equality Scheme Action Plan.
- 1.2 At Overview & Scrutiny Commission on 15th July 2008 a six-monthly update was requested. This report contains the update and sets out work for the next six months.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That members note the achievements to date and agree proposed action

3. EQUALITIES & INCLUSION UPDATE

3.1 Equalities Standard: Achievement and Areas for Improvement

The Peer Challenge was undertaken on the 30th and 31st March and it was confirmed that we have achieved Level 3 of the Equalities Standard for Local Government. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix A showing the comments made in relation to areas of strength and areas for improvement and our plans to address them.

3.2 Equalities Framework: Next steps

- 3.2.1 The Equalities Standard for Local Government has now been replaced by a new Equalities Framework which has a greater focus on measurable outcomes and a stronger alignment to the Comprehensive Area Assessment. The new Framework has three levels; Developing, Achieving and Excellent. As we have achieved level 3 of the Equalities Standard we automatically are deemed as an Achieving authority. We propose that the authority aim to achieve Excellent status by December 2010.

3.2.2 The Improvement and Development Agency (I&DeA) describes an Excellent Authority as having the following characteristics:

- Councillors and officers have a reputation for championing equality issues and ensure that the equality issues relevant to their communities are embedded in their sustainable community strategy, strategic plans, local area agreements (LAAs) and local delivery plans.
- It works with all strategic partners and the voluntary and community sector, acting as an advocate to achieve defined equality outcomes.
- It has good evidence of the equalities profile of the community based on national and local data that is regularly reviewed.
- It is measuring progress on equality outcomes, is able to disaggregate data on relevant performance indicators and can demonstrate real outcomes that have improved equality in services and employment.
- It identifies the changing nature of its communities and their expectations and then prioritises its activities and explains its decisions.
- It provides good customer care by ensuring that services are provided by knowledgeable and well-trained staff who understand the needs of their communities.
- It has improving satisfaction and perception indicators from all sections of the community and staff.
- Equality groups are integrally involved in community engagement programmes.
- There are forums for all equality stakeholders to share experiences and evaluate the authority's progress.
- All parts of the authority can show tangible progress towards achieving outcomes which address persistent inequalities and narrow the gaps.
- It has implemented action for equal pay outcomes and demonstrates progress on under-representation, flexible working, access to training and development. It promotes an inclusive working culture based on respect.
- It reviews its equality strategy and public duty equality schemes every three years and seeks innovative improvement challenges.
- Through its achievements, it is an exemplar of good practice for other local authorities and agencies and works with others to share best practice.

3.2.3 The Council's Equalities Steering Group are in the process of undertaking a gap analysis against the new criteria and will develop an action plan to address shortfalls.

3.3 City Inclusion Partnership

The City Inclusion Partnership (CIP) has now held 3 meetings with representation from the council, a good range of other public sector statutory partners and the Stronger Communities Partnership.

The work programme is underway with sub-groups led by the different partners taking responsibility for the various actions and feeding back to the main meeting.

This includes a group led by the Council which is working towards the development

of a Single Equality Scheme for the city. All the documentation and meetings of the meetings are available via the Council's website.

Formal adoption by the LSP is still timed for September 2009 and the CIP is working with other partners to ensure that equalities and inclusion issues are addressed within the Sustainable Community Strategy refresh.

4. EQUALITY SCHEME ACTION PLAN

4.2 The Equality Scheme Action Plan contains the outstanding actions from our Race Equality, Disability Equality and Gender Equality Schemes with additional actions linked to the new Equality and Inclusion Policy 2008-2011. Attached as Appendix B is the Action Plan with updates on progress

4.3 Any outstanding areas of work will transfer into the new city-wide Single Equality Scheme as actions for the Council.

4.4 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) continues to be a priority area for action. The Council has made significant progress in this area over the last year and EIAs have been completed according to our corporate timetable. The EIA performance report is attached as Appendix C and the timetable and EIA summaries are available on the council's Internet.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 None directly in relation to this report as all costs to be met by existing budgets

Legal Implications:

5.2 Our statutory responsibilities in relation to equalities are directly addressed by the Equalities & Inclusion Policy and the Equality Scheme Action Plan.

Equalities Implications:

5.3 The equalities implications are directly addressed by the Equalities & Inclusion Policy and the Equalities Scheme Action Plan.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 None directly in relation to this report

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Partnership Community Safety Team are key contributors to equalities & inclusion work in the city and this is reflected in the Equalities & Inclusion Policy and the Equalities Scheme Action Plan

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 The implications for risk are directly addressed by the Equalities & Inclusion Policy and the Equalities Scheme Action Plan.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 The Equality Scheme Action Plan has been developed with input from all council Directorates.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Appendix A - Diversity Peer Challenge report

Appendix B – Equalities Scheme Action Plan 2009 Progress report

Appendix C – EIA Performance Report Year 1 until 1 April 2009

Diversity Peer Challenge

Brighton and Hove City Council

Report



**Diversity Peer Challenge Report
Brighton and Hove City Council
30/31st March 2009**

1. Background

This report is a summary of the findings of a Diversity Peer Challenge organised by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and carried out by its trained peers. The report satisfies the requirements of the Equality Standard for an external assessment at level 3. The Peer Challenge is designed to validate a council's own self-assessment at level 3 of the Equality Standard, by considering documentary evidence and by carrying out a series of interviews and focus groups with employees and other stakeholders.

The basis for the Peer Challenge is a benchmark which incorporates the set criteria of the Equality Standard at level 3. The benchmark focuses on four key areas: Leadership and Corporate Commitment; Community Engagement and Accountability; Service Delivery and Customer Care and Employment and Training.

The Peer Challenge is not an inspection; rather it offers an external assessment of a council's own judgement of itself against the Equality Standard benchmark, by critical friends who have experience of delivering an equality/diversity agenda in their own councils.

Peers were:

Samantha Jones – Bath and North East Somerset Council
Councillor Andrew Judge – London Borough of Merton
Nick Stephenson - Swindon Borough Council

The team appreciates of the welcome and hospitality provided by the council and would like to thank everybody that they met during the process for their time and contributions.

2. Overall conclusion

Following this Diversity Peer Challenge, we have reached the following conclusion:

Brighton and Hove City Council has completed a satisfactory self-assessment against the criteria for level 3 of the Equality Standard. Strengths and any weaknesses identified by peers are highlighted in paragraph 3.

3. Detailed findings

3.1 Leadership and corporate commitment

Strengths:

- Brighton and Hove City Council has modernised its equalities agenda in the last two years. For the first time, equalities became one of the main five priorities of the council, with cross party support. Politicians are concerned with ensuring fairness in community issues.
- Elected members actively champion areas of interest. For example the current leader of the council has a particular focus on reducing inequality through improving the housing stock.
- The acting Chief Executive is an articulate champion of a modernised equalities agenda.
- The main corporate leadership within the council is provided by the Top Management Team which has provided consistent support.
- The scrutiny commission contains members capable of making a difference on equalities. In the past scrutiny was not used to monitor progress with regard to equalities objectives. There is now an intention to enable more effective scrutiny of equalities performance.
- The City Inclusion Partnership is seen as a positive development in bringing strategic partners together as part of the LSP to discuss equalities planning and implementation across the city.
- Outreach work to capacity build third sector organisations to apply for council contracts. Procurement – Council encourages use of local subcontractors when appointing contractors.
- Some staff reported good equality impact assessment training and support in completion.
- Capacity to address equalities issues has been maintained despite financial pressures
- Work to identify and address individuals and households experiencing multiple deprivation is in the process of development.

Areas for improvement:

Peer Challenge comment	BHCC response/action
Understanding of equalities issues is perceived to be good across many services in the Council.	Equalities Steering Group to develop a Communications Plan.
There is an issue of the Council not appreciating and celebrating much that is excellent.	
Failure to communicate positive messages about achievements is resulting in a lower level of confidence around equality issues across the organisation than is justified.	
The Equalities Steering Group acts as a	A new draft Terms of Reference for the

useful network and good practice discussion board, however it has not yet exercised leadership in terms of performance management and in agenda setting, which should be the next stage in its development	Equalities Steering Group to go to ESG in July 2009
There is a need for continued focus on community mapping.	This is underway via the Partnership Data Group of the LSP and the development of the Brighton & Hove Local Information System.
Being a leading organisation in response to LGBT issues has raised the bar for work in other equality areas. The council may benefit from clearly extending its good practice to all equality areas. It was reported that there appears to be some complacency and that it is difficult to get race equality issues on the agenda.	The development of the Single Equality Scheme to ensure all strands are addressed effectively. Race equality to continue to be a focus within Equality Impact Assessments and further action to be taken where issues are identified.
Recognition as nationally leading the way on LGBT issues may be difficult to maintain and lead to increased expectation – also creating an expectation that Brighton and Hove City Council doesn't need to do any further work on LGBT issues.	Continued use of the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index.
Equality impact assessments lacked consistency across departments. There is a developing intention at all levels to improve the process. Having a consistently used and quality assured process in place will be key tool in developing and sharing further good practice.	Ongoing work needed to ensure that Equality Impact Assessments have consistent sign-off and quality control.

3.2 Community engagement and accountability

Strengths:

- The third sector representatives reported the perception that the Council genuinely recognises and values the diversity of their sector.
- The third sector representatives feel that although good mechanisms are available for consultation, it should be noted that Brighton and Hove City Council must continue to strive to feedback results of consultation to citizens.
- The Youth Council, Children's Rights Service and Citizen's Panel were all mentioned as good examples of working with citizens.
- Some third sector representatives reported that they are following the Council's lead and reviewing their web sites to ensure they are representative of the local population.

Areas for Improvement:

Peer Challenge comment	BHCC response/action
It was reported that there is little articulation of men's issues – a substantial lack of male voice in the city – it is noted that it was difficult to engage men (especially men who did not also identify as belonging to a minority group) when developing the Gender Equality Scheme.	Specific inclusion of men in consultation/engagement exercises – Single Equality Scheme and service-specific
Although the third sector representatives were complimentary of the 'Peoples' Day', some teams within Brighton and Hove City Council were unaware of the event, reflecting a lack of communication within some services.	Improved communication of Community Cohesion activities – externally and internally
The Council would benefit from improving partnership working with the third sector in order to assist in managing expectations. It was reported that the local third sector groups often have conflicting agendas; each with robust independent lobbying of the Council which dilutes their strength and can be 'distracting' for council officers.	Continued work with the Community & Voluntary Sector Forum. Clear messages within community engagement to support the management of expectations.
It was reported that Council resources don't always match aspirations an example was the Older People's Council.	The Older People's Council have expressed frustration in the level of engagement that they have had with services across the council. Further discussions to happen to explore this further and develop a way forward.
Although the Interfaith forum has been established for over 20 years it was reported that the Council does not have a strong or consistent approach to engaging the Interfaith group or local faith communities.	A number of initiatives are underway to engage with Faith communities to include support for the Health Faith Forum and a meeting with the Interfaith Forum. Equalities Steering Group to share best practice and work towards greater consistency.
Information about honour based violence has only just become available in the Community Safety Partnership.	Work now underway.
Work with BME groups is inconsistent although it was reported that the existing umbrella group has produced some good work.	Community Engagement principles to be applied to the work with BME communities.

The Prevent Strategy is becoming a priority area but has limited profile at the moment.

The Prevent Strategy Steering Group and working on the work programme to include communication issues.

3.3. Service Delivery and Customer Care

Strengths:

- The annual equality/procurement survey is a useful tool however robust equality in contract monitoring is necessary.
- The procurement top 20 (monetary value) equality monitoring survey will assist the Council to identify where there are potential risks re vicarious liability.
- Equality Impact Assessments are informing service developments in some areas.
- There is a programme of improvements for physical access to buildings with some reasonable alternative provision where physical access is still not yet possible (e.g. audio guides, interactive films etc).
- Staff fora have supported the Council in responding to public concerns.
- There is evidence of some strong partnership working re: Healthy Schools initiative.
- Work in schools regarding bullying (with particular reference to sexual orientation) is proving successful with some five schools identifying cessation of bullying.
- Robust race equality work was reported in some schools, ensuring collaborative working and responsibility being shared between teachers and parents.
- Some staff reported favourably on the work experience initiatives with schools, particularly to encourage young people who do not go on to further/higher education.
- The Youth Offending Team reported proactive and preventative work with young people at risk of offending and their parents/carers.
- Good reports of work around teenage pregnancy.
- The third sector reported that the CYPT parenting support for fathers' initiative has been well received across the city.
- Good work in children's centres with Disabled parents.
- Community Solutions develop individualised personal care packages which are clearly able to respond to needs identified from an equality perspective.
- Brighton and Hove City Council has access to use a Buddhist centre for respite care.
- Good practice was reported within Housing team – asking tenants to inform the Council of which times and days to avoid making contact so demonstrating respect for faith/belief.
- There is an allocated Domestic Violence resource and an independent DV advisor.
- Brighton & Hove City Council achieved a Traveller Liaison pilot scheme grant to employ conflict resolution staff on strength on member enthusiasm, commitment and leadership.
- Members were viewed as instrumental and inspirational leadership on traveller issues.

- The Council has refined its definition of BME citizens (in line with national guidance) to include a wider group of non-British white people who may experience discrimination on the basis of language and culture, and has begun to adapt services appropriately to their needs.

Areas for Improvement:

Peer Challenge comment	BHCC response/action
The internal and stakeholder communication response to the Pilgrim Homes issue has been poor and continues to cause concern for many Council staff and stakeholders.	Clear message to be communicated to concerned stakeholders. Development of co-ordinated corporate communication response to such issues of concern in the future.
It was reported that the Brighton Centre recognises that it needs to be proactive in engaging BME customers/users	This was a finding of their Equality Impact Assessment and various actions are being considered.
It was reported that although the Housing strategy is forward thinking there are still barriers to equality e.g. harassment/ tenancy.	Ongoing equalities work throughout housing services including the development of a LGBT Housing Strategy that aims to improve our response to tackling hate crime. Work on a BME Housing Strategy will commence later in 2009/10..
There is a policy on A boards in public areas but it was reported that it doesn't appear to be strongly enforced	Outcomes from scrutiny panel on licensing of street furniture and enforcement to be clearly communicated.

3.4 Employment and Training

Strengths:

- Brighton and Hove City Council demonstrate a positive approach to the employment of young people, borne out through work experience and apprenticeships
- Stonewall Workplace Equality Index – highest ranked Local Authority.
- Staff equality forums are functioning – Managers could actively encourage staff participation from across all service areas. It was reported that not all service areas access (or are able to access) the fora.
- Some staff gave a very confident/enthusiastic response to the question: “Would you feel confident to report bullying?”
- Work has begun on a Dignity at Work strategy being led by Human Resources team.
- The quarterly Human Resources departmental reports are beginning to identify key employment trends bringing potential for positive initiatives to be explored within specific services.
- The Council is developing a network of mentors and advisors for staff support.

- Human Resources are working with managers on early intervention strategies in instances of harassment and bullying.

Areas for Improvement:

Peer Challenge comment	BHCC response/action
The Council has not been able to meet its own employment targets other than that for disabled people.	Implementation of actions arising from Recruitment & Selection Equalities Impact Assessment
The Council needs to continue its focus on BME staff retention and would benefit from lessons learned from exit interviews.	
It was reported that there is a lack of a consistent/understood corporate response to the provision of translation and interpreting services to customers.	Corporate guidance to be developed.
Reasonable adjustments for Disabled people and interpreting/translation are currently funded through team budget; this may provide a barrier to good employment practice within areas where budgets are under pressure.	The Access to Work guidance has been updated and ongoing discussions are being held with the Disabled Workers Forum.
Concern about changes to the sickness management procedure was reported.	To be addressed within Equality Impact Assessment of Absence Management.
No transparent policy around disability leave was available.	
It was reported that support options in the job application process were not known by all managers and therefore were not made available to all job applicants.	To be addressed within Recruitment & Selection Policy Review to ensure clarity of requirements of managers in relation to reasonable adjustments. Effective communication to all managers and appropriate and timely adjustments to be made.
It was noted that there is poor application of awareness training into the work context for some people, for example “religion is not an issue at all in my service”.	Equality Impact Assessment to continue to focus on all areas and issues related to religion to be addressed appropriately.
The staff bus not accessible to people with mobility impairment.	Staff using public transport
The slow speed of consideration / provision of reasonable adjustment can be frustrating.	As above.
Responses to some requests for reasonable adjustment were institutionalised with managers assuming they knew what response was needed rather than making	

decisions with the disabled member of staff.	
The equal pay review process has been slow. The target date of completion in December 09 may be unrealistic.	Continuation of Equal Pay work.
Concern was expressed that not all posts have been considered in equal pay evaluation (with particular reference to seconded posts).	

3.5 Main Challenges

- Economic Climate – how is equality best practice going to be maintained when there is increased pressure on resources?
- Potential for breakdown of social cohesion as a consequence of a severe economic downturn.
- Failure to obtain sufficient capital resources to improve the housing stock to decent standards.
- Appointment of new Chief Executive.
- Resource strategy.
- Communication with staff.
- Consistent application of Equality Impact Assessment and ability to build outcomes into service planning.

SECTION 1 LEADERSHIP AND CORPORATE COMMITMENT				
Issue or theme	Action	Lead Department	Target dates	Progress
Leadership/Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All council managers promote equalities goals and take action to ensure equality within service areas • Business planning process to ensure that service plans set equality objectives from the outcomes of Equality Impact Assessments • Guidance and support to be provided to managers on the equalities requirement of the team planning process. 	<p>All Directors</p> <p>Strategy & Governance</p>	<p>2008-2011</p> <p>September 2008</p>	<p>Evidence of this provided for the achievement of level 3 of the Equality Std for Local Government.</p> <p>Peer Challenge suggested that further consistency across the council is required.</p> <p>Ongoing support from Equalities & Inclusion team. Completed EIA's used for Equality Objectives in team plans. EIA timetable monitored and agreed regularly at GMT/DMT's</p>

SECTION 2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Issue or theme	Action	Lead Department	Target dates	Progress
Stronger partnership working with minority communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to support community cohesion events such as Black History Month with Equalities & Inclusion Budget 	Strategy & Governance	Publicity September 2008	Funded 9 successful projects across all six events in 2008/9. Community and voluntary sector representatives were recruited to the panel assessing applications. Bidding process underway for 2009/10.
Working with key partners across the city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake an Equality Impact Assessment process as part of the development of the Community Engagement Framework to ensure our new approach addresses needs of minority communities 	Strategy & Governance	December 2008	Completed and outcomes fed into action plan.
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of the new City Inclusion Partnership (CIP) as a partnership within the 2020 Community Partnership to tackle equalities and inclusion citywide 	Strategy & Governance	CIP to be formally approved as a LSP partnership by Sept 2009	CIP will go the LSP for formal adoption in Sept 09. Feedback from members is good with additional partners joining all the time.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure strong BME community consultation as part of the City Inclusion 	Strategy & Governance	September – December 2008 and	Links with the CVS is progressing well with the development of Equalities

	<p>Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure our citizens and staff understand the council's priorities and objectives regarding equality and inclusion using the council's website (to include why we undertake service monitoring) Improve internal and external communication approaches via new Communication Strategy 	<p>Strategy & Governance</p> <p>Strategy & Governance</p>	<p>ongoing</p> <p>December 2008</p> <p>December 2008</p>	<p>Coalition. Further consultation to be planned linked to the Single Equality Scheme.</p> <p>Web pages updated with new EIA page developed. This page includes an up to date version of the EIA timetable and summaries of completed EIAs. Further improvements are planned.</p> <p>Launch of new Equality and Inclusion Policy in conjunction with Communications team. Hand on Heart Campaign (equality pledges from staff to launch new policy) with Pledge Posters sent to all council buildings. Further publicity via Staff Conferences in June.</p> <p>Equalities Steering Group to develop an internal communication strategy to ensure that messages, including positive stories, are communicated across all the organisation.</p>
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<p>Engagement and consultation with disabled people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish mechanisms for involvement and consultation with disabled people in partnership with the PCT and the Federation of Disabled People. And with children and young people with a disability and their parents and carers in a partnership between the CYPT, the PCT and aMaze 	<p>Strategy & Governance</p> <p>CYPT</p>	<p>December 2008</p>	<p>Get Involved project with the Fed and the PCT up and running.</p> <p>Disability Services review in progress completion of review due Oct 09</p>
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SECTION 3 SERVICE DELIVERY AND CUSTOMER CARE

Issue or Theme	Action	Lead Department	Target Dates	Progress
Equality Impact Assessment process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality Impact Assessments to be undertaken in line with corporate timetable and for all new policies • EIA process must consider all equality strands and consider poverty and deprivation issues • Summary results to be publicised on the Intranet and in hard copy on request 	All directorates	2008-2011	EIA timetable updated regularly with directorates agreeing and monitoring their timetable at GMT/DMT' meetings. All completed EIA's across the council have had summaries produced and are available on the council's WebPages
Effective Monitoring of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business planning process to ensure that divisional/team plans set equality objectives from the outcomes of Equality Impact Assessments • Monitoring processes to be agreed by service areas following the corporate monitoring guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service areas to publish their monitoring processes and rationale • Key services areas required to develop monitoring of disability include:- • Services for Children and Young People • Arts & Leisure 	All directorates	In line with EIA timetable	CYPT monitor via Governors and their managers - ongoing. Housing Strategy dedicated monitoring group agreed and in development – first meeting spring 2009

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety • Housing • Planning • Regeneration 			
Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that contractors comply with the council's equality and inclusion policies • Ensure monitoring systems are used to provide evidence that contractors have equalities policies and that their staff are trained in equalities. • Corporate Procurement to survey all contractors regularly. Monitoring data will be collated, analysed and reported to F&R DMT. • Areas for future action will be identified via this process and the annual review of the Corporate Procurement EIA. 	<p>All directorates</p> <p>All directorates</p> <p>Finance and Resources</p> <p>Finance and Resources</p>	<p>Ongoing in line with contract arrangements</p> <p>June 2008</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>The Procurement Team have undertaken an equalities workforce monitoring of suppliers which they are analysing against demographic data. The team are also reviewing the equalities policies of the top 20 suppliers (by value of contract). The team has produced a new Procurement Toolkit for managers which include a section on equalities in the Procurement process and are working on an update of the Workforce Matters Code of Practice. 'Managing Procurement Effectively'. Training is delivered by the team to managers and budget holders which address equalities and the need for inclusive procurement. This training is run on a quarterly basis.</p>

<p>Satisfaction & Complaints</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints monitoring report to all Directorates quarterly to feed into EIA processes and to TMT to highlight council-wide issues 	<p>Strategy & Governance</p>	<p>September, November, February, June annually</p>	<p>Quarterly reporting underway. Numbers of equality related complaints are low. Complaints are considered as part of the EIA process.</p>
<p>Access to services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make council buildings accessible against BV156 through the council's capital programme commitments 	<p>Finance & Resources</p>	<p>March 09 – 70% March 10 – 75%</p>	<p>Performance against BV156 continues to meet targets. 70% of council buildings are now DDA accessible.</p>

SERVICE DELIVERY AND CUSTOMER CARE: Directorate Actions

Directorate:

Cultural Services

Action	Service area	Target Date	Progress
<p>Cultural Service audit identifies disability equality as a high priority in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic development ▪ Tourism ▪ Major projects ▪ Disability information and guide for the City ▪ New King Alfred Sports Centre ▪ Libraries ▪ Museums ▪ Voluntary sector and external funding 	All	2006-09	<p>Equality Impact Assessments are complete for Tourism, Major Projects. Libraries and Museums and underway for Economic Development.</p> <p>A disability information guide for the city was commissioned and is in progress through the Federation of Disabled People. A number of libraries have had access improved e.g. Hove or have been re-provisioned - Coldean.</p>
<p>To promote services across equality strands to encourage take up from underrepresented groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Libraries promoting "Year of Reading" – to all ○ Libraries working to make membership process accessible to all ○ Ongoing work in libraries service to promote links with local community groups through exhibitions including BME & LGBT ○ Arts and creative industries – looking at ways of engaging excluded people in the cultural life of the city ○ Plans in place to fund/support arts projects initiated by BME groups in the city. 	All	2006-2009	<p>Library Service Equality Impact Assessment includes comprehensive monitoring and targeted actions to address identified issues e.g. Increasing links with local community groups and review of services to vulnerable people</p>

Directorate:	Environment		
Action	Service Area	Target dates	Progress
Audit identifies disability equality as a high priority in the areas of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public transport, taxis ○ Planning ○ Highways maintenance ○ Sport and recreation 	All	2006-2009	The Highway Basic Maintenance team carry out regular inspections throughout the city, to identify and repair any safety issues. Each street in the City gets inspected at least twice a year with more heavily used and prime areas being inspected every month. The team also responds to report and complaints, visiting every location to check whether any safety defects are present.
Work in partnership with train operators towards 'Secure Station' accreditation for the remaining station in the city	Sustainable Transport	March 2011	All eight railway stations within the city now have "Secure Station" accreditation.
Ensure that all safety audits carried out at the city's 26 priority road collision 'hotspots' include an accessibility and visibility assessment	Sustainable Transport	In accordance with LTP 2006 – 2011	Accessibility & visibility form a standard part of the safety audit process for engineering and road improvement schemes requiring safety audits. Work is currently being undertaken to review the 26 priority sites against the latest collision data. Work is either in progress or has been completed at the following sites: Clock Tower, Kings Rd/West St, Castle Sq/Old Steine, Dyke Rd/Western Rd, North St/Ship St, North St/East St. Work will begin at Seven Dials this year.

<p>Continue work to ensure that more bus stops are accessible to people with pushchairs and wheelchairs</p>	<p>Sustainable Transport</p>		<p>Bus Stop Accessibility is an ongoing programme. To date, accessibility improvements have been made at 250 of the city's bus stops. It is expected that a further 15 will be completed this year. There are approximately 1,200 bus stops in the city.</p>
<p>Review council policy and procedures regarding street and pavement furniture in light of the DDA. Review to include all stakeholders including disabled people.</p>	<p>Highways</p>	<p>July 2008</p>	<p>Report sent to Licensing Committee on 24th April with some proposed changes to policy/procedures. The policy/procedures are also undergoing a review at OSOC on the 21st April regarding progress on an earlier Scrutiny Panel that includes trader's objects on the pavement. As part of the equality impact assessment the Federation of Disabled People were consulted, as were several residents groups, traders and the RNIB.</p>
<p>The street cleaning contract to take into account disability issues and to give greater focus to impact on disabled people of street cleaning.</p> <p>Work to improve parks and open spaces in the city</p>	<p>City Services</p> <p>City Services</p>	<p>September 2008</p>	<p>The Street Cleaning contract is carried out In-House and will be reviewed as part of the EIA programme</p> <p>Ongoing as part of the EIA currently in being completed</p>

<p>To continue to develop community based sport and physical activity across the city to create ongoing opportunities for residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Girls football in Hollingdean ○ "Girls Getting Active Day" ○ Support County Cricket Board's development plan for disability cricket ○ Buggy Healthwalks planned for women with post natal depression ○ Develop links with BLAGGS in development of LGBT Sports Society publication and provide support to LGBT sport groups and societies. ○ Work with BMEYPP to link local BME people with training opportunities, volunteer opportunities and courses. <p>To continue to provide training programmes for individuals and clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 x junior sports leader award courses per year ○ 2 x young leader award courses per year in schools ○ 2 x equity in coaching ○ 2 x good practice and child protection courses 	<p>Sports & Leisure</p>	<p>Completed and ongoing</p>	<p>Community based activity continues across the City.</p> <p>The Healthwalks scheme delivers 13 led walks a week, run by volunteer walk leaders, with 9 being buggy friendly Healthwalks are delivering the Step to It programme for Adults with Learning Disabilities and have delivered taster sessions for local Arabic and Muslim women's group.</p> <p>The Active for Life project targets areas of deprivation in the city to empower local people. Activities include: Boccia sessions in Sheltered Housing, Tai Chi and Yoga in local venues.</p> <p>BLAGSS swim session and Tai Chi has been developed and delivered weekly. Women Only session now held at St Lukes supporting Moulsecoomb Inclusion Unit.</p> <p>Supported the Special Olympics Team who complete in Leicester in July and supported the annual Sussex Parallel Games. (for children and young people with a disability)</p> <p>Through partnership working with the School Sports Partnership and the Sussex Sports Partnership all courses have been delivered. Healthwalk Leader training course have also been delivered with a course specially being run for learning disability staff.</p>
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<p>To continue to deliver the new Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008-2011 which includes priorities and action plans to prevent and protect those most vulnerable to offending behaviour</p> <p>Continue to audit and analyse crime and incidents of crime and disaggregate data on evaluation or client satisfaction by gender, ethnicity, disability faith, age and sexual orientation</p> <p>Implement the Domestic Violence Service redesign to address gender equality issues and impact</p> <p>Develop action plan for transgender issues following the Count Me in Too survey data analysis and continue to support the drop in centre for transgender people</p> <p>Develop action plan to address harassment and hate crime against disabled people</p>	<p>Partnership Community Safety Team</p>	<p>March 2011</p> <p>Complete and ongoing</p> <p>April 2010</p> <p>Completed and ongoing</p> <p>Completed and ongoing</p>	<p>Delivery on all priority areas ongoing: includes tackling violence against women and building resilience to extremism.</p> <p>Data fields now allow for disaggregation when problem solving approach requires that level of analysis.</p> <p>All services accredited by Ministry of Justice: includes dedicated Advisor for male victims and those in same sex relationships.</p> <p>Sixteen visits to the Clare Project and significant ongoing support to drop in centre and individuals.</p> <p>Hate Crime Action plan now expanded to include crimes/incidents which are motivated by religious hatred and that perpetrated against those with disabilities. Generic caseworkers appointed and good practice casework and policies well advanced.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take action to increase female reporting by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeting the Chinese, Bangladesh and Sudanese Muslim communities • Targeting young women • Targeting the BME, LGBT community • Offer training in reporting mechanisms to BME, LGBT groups • Reach out to the Travellers and Roma people and 	<p>Partnership Community Safety Team</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 2008</p>	<p>Current gender split on reported incidents is 54% male and 38% female. However, all actions in this section aimed at reaching out to women are progressing and integrated into day to day working. Reported crimes/incidents overall have decreased, but a good increase in people coming forward to the PCST & community</p>

<p>increase service accessibility to men, women and children from their communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinise the use of interpreters and translated materials used specifically for women • Support refugee groups to provide social and learning experiences (ensure uptake of both genders) 		Ongoing	organisations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek up to 40% affordable housing on all housing schemes of 10 or more units • Review of all planning applications to identify opportunities e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute towards community facilities • Ensure access to dwelling and transport • Facilitate setting up in business at low cost • Retain local shops • Retrain existing community facilities • Support provision of childcare and nursery facilities 	Planning	Ongoing	<p>Preston Park Avenue achieved 42% on 48 flats Brighton Station block A & B achieved 48% on 67 flats.</p> <p>All planning applications are reviewed for housing to achieve lifetime homes and 10% wheelchair accessible flats are required in affordable housing. e.g. Sackville Trading Estate has both lifetime homes and wheelchair accessible flats. The Coast in New Church Road has wheelchair accessible flats.</p> <p>With all major residential schemes we negotiate for a contribution to education.</p>

Directorate:	Adult Social Care and Housing		
Action	Service Area	Target dates	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divisional Equalities Statement in development to set principles for our services • Race: BME Housing Strategy in development. • Disability: Strategy Statement on Physical Disabilities incorporated in Housing Strategy and Older People's Housing Strategy. Disability of all kinds, including physical disability, learning disability and mental health issues, are also a key feature of the Supporting People and Learning Disability Housing Strategies. • Gender and gender identity: Actions from the Gender Equality Scheme have been fed into the strategic development process. Gender Identity is also a key feature of the LGBT Housing Strategy. • Age: Older People's Housing Strategy in development. Youth Homelessness Strategy developed in 2007. Supporting People Strategy links to older people's services, youth homelessness services, and action to fund LGBT support worker for young people at risk. • Religion / Belief: The BME Housing Strategy includes community safety objectives which also cover religion and belief. • Sexual Orientation: LGBT Housing Strategy in development led by LGBT Housing & Support Working Group. Will build on findings of Count Me 	Housing Strategy	Spring 2009 Summer 2009 Spring 2009 Spring 2009 Spring 2009 Spring 2009 Spring 2009	Drafted and awaiting cabinet sign off as part of new citywide Housing Strategy BME strategy PID due spring/summer 2009 Strategy statement incorporated Gender identity is key strand in draft LGBT housing strategy, which also incorporates findings of Trans report of Count Me In Too Older People's Housing Strategy in draft form; SP strategy in review with older people as a key client group BME strategy PID due for drafting spring/summer 2009 – will include focus on religion/belief LGBT Housing Strategy in draft form ready for cabinet signoff

<p>In Too housing research</p>			
<p>Stakeholder Events: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Road show "events planned to promote the services available to older people and the equality practices within those services. ▪ Stall at Pride'08 ▪ Larger engagement event during Age Concern week in Oct 08 ▪ Longer term aim of supporting and encouraging "lay assessors" to visit older peoples services and assess their "gay friendliness", using tools such as "the whole of me resource pack". Additionally work is being undertaken to explore the development of an "equalities charter mark", combining the Supporting Peoples Equalities Framework and other related contractual arrangements ▪ Participate in BME Carers Roadshow <p>Personalisation We are redesigning our services in Adult Social Care based around promoting independence and enabling people to have more choice and control over how their needs are met.</p> <p>Key positive impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Single access point ▪ Person centred assessment and delivery of services ▪ Equal access to services ▪ Reablement model promotes user independence ▪ Development of Self-Directed Support 	<p>Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Summer 08 October 2008</p> <p>September 2008</p>	<p>Ongoing- including: Fed for Disabled events, Pride, Carers Forums, LiNK events, Staff forums, Celebrating Age events Oct 2008, BME Carers Roadshow</p> <p>Lay assessors have not been taken forward this year- due to changing nature of current services. When service re-design is complete will introduce 2009-2010</p> <p>Disability Strategy written for City in Partnership with PCT. EIA completed as part of this process.</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>4 year programme of change. Single Access Point launched May 2008- successful first year. All of the opposite achieved but part of ongoing development & improvement</p> <p>Bigword trainer has provided sessions for staff over three days on better use of interpreting services, guidance produced</p>

Directorate:	Finance & Resources		
Action	Service Area	Target Date	Progress
<p>Access to Interpreters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure continued use of Sussex Interpreting Service and Language Line are used across Revenue and Benefits, City Direct and Access Services so that interpretation is available to all customers who require it. <p>Prioritise the required changes to the customer service areas in Priory House with the Council's Access Manager and identify budgets and timescales for the work.</p> <p>Make City Direct a safer and more welcoming space for transgender clients by good security and safe place for interviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ use of the information gathered via the Count Me In Too survey and improvement of the links with local Trans community • Break down customer satisfaction surveys by gender, ethnicity, disability, faith, age and sexual orientation where appropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ address identified gaps in the information returned and seek ways to improve customer confidence in returning monitoring information. 	<p>Customer Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Sept 2008</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Sept 2008</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>BIGWORD - new corporate telephone interpreting service to replace language line. Interpreting service used when required standard working practices.</p> <p>Under review due to Priory House lease – money issue to make substantial changes to access doors on Lower Ground Floor. Continually reviewed during Health and Safety and work place inspections. Due consideration will also be given in proposals for new public service centre due to open 2011.</p> <p>010709 - Revs and Bens doing as part CSE and CAA work. Surveying and target / standard setting ongoing.</p>

Directorate:	Children & Young People's Trust		
Action	Service Area	Target dates	Progress
<p>The Children and Young Peoples Trust has audited its services and identifies disability equality as a high priority in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years provision, including children's play • Services for young people, including targeted youth support and other specialist services • Education including access to mainstream and SEN provision • Trust to develop an action plan to deliver disability equality and to set standards for their service area. <p>Through new leadership responsibilities for the SEN & Disability Strategy 2006-10 the CYPT will raise the priority of this work and strengthen the linkage between inclusion and school improvement.</p> <p>The Disabled Children's Strategic Partnership Board will implement the CYPT Joint Commissioning Strategy for children and young people with a learning disability and/or disability including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving compliance with national service standards charter • Delivery of Aiming Higher Pathfinder • Strengthening transition to further education, training and employment and, where required, to 	<p>School Improvement</p> <p>Integrated disability team</p> <p>Integrated disability</p>	<p>2006-2009</p> <p>March 2010</p>	<p>Work in progress target date Oct 09 for completion</p> <p>Equality Impact Assessment complete</p>

<p>adult services</p> <p>The CYPT will work in partnership with the PCT and NHS Provider Trusts to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to community, acute and specialist health services • Access to CAMHS services • Sustaining provision for looked after children with a disability <p>Monitor the review of the Disability Discrimination Act audit & action plan to promote fair access to schools and services through scheduled improvements and take up of new opportunities including the Primary Strategy for Change and Building Schools for the Future.</p>	<p>team</p> <p>School Support</p>		
<p>The Healthy Schools Team will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate & monitor delivery of the CYPT Partnership's anti-bullying strategies to support the equalities scheme action plan • Develop provision in light of the 2008 Safe at School and Tellus3 surveys • Continue to survey the views of children and young people 	<p>Healthy Schools Team</p>		<p>Completed with objectives now in Business Plans for 2009</p>
<p>In partnership with all maintained schools the CYPT will support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review of schools' Race Equality Policies 	<p>School Improvement Team & Partners</p>	<p>July 2009</p>	<p>Ongoing to be completed in July 09</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of termly Racist Incident Reports • Applications by schools for Equalities Standards as part of Community Cohesion Strategies • Continued monitoring of attainment by ethnicity & delivery of Ethnic Minority Achievement Services (EMAS) to support those at risk of underachieving • Through School Admissions Fair Access Protocol and Choice Advisors to ensure access to appropriate placements for children arriving, or already resident in the city • Support refugees and asylum seekers to gain access to services 	<p>Healthy Schools Team</p> <p>School Improvement Team & Partners</p> <p>EMAS School Admissions Team</p> <p>16+ team</p>		
<p>The CYPT will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to focus on educational achievement differentials between girls and boy including monitoring take of subject/vocational options by gender • Work with vulnerable young women to enable them to consider life choices other than early parenthood and to foster a positive approach to parenting among young men • Monitor the place of gender in social exclusion of 	<p>School Improvement Team</p> <p>Teenage Pregnancy Team & Targeted Youth Support</p>		<p>Ongoing during 2009-05-20</p> <p>Ongoing Project/ Business plan 09</p> <p>Disability Services review in progress</p>

<p>young people including school attendance & exclusion, take up of education, employment or training, involvement in crime and substance misuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with other agencies to improve cultural awareness of gender issues in respect of domestic violence, poverty/lone parenting and gender roles in black and minority ethnic communities 	<p>Services</p>		<p>completion of review due Oct 09</p>
<p>The CYPT will promote the participation of children and young people in decisions which affect them by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with community and voluntary sector organisations • Developing the Youth Advocacy and Participation Project, including the role of the Youth Council and its links to school councils across the city • Ensuring individual children and young people are supported to participate fully in planning their individual care including transition to adult services <p>The CYPT will continue to promote Kinship Care arrangements when children are unable to remain with birth families especially by providing support to older relatives and grandparents when necessary</p>	<p>Youth Advocacy & Participation Team Healthy Schools Team Fostering & Adoption Team</p>		<p>CVS ongoing YAP currently under review Public Health overview project action plan, Jun 09 SC action plans 09 under review post Baby P</p>
<p>The CYPT will work with SACRE and other organisations to address issues of religion and belief in schools and other provision including implementation of SEAL(Speakers of English as an additional language) and other national</p>	<p>School Improvement Team</p>		<p>Ongoing 09</p>

training and advice materials			
The CYPT will work in partnership with other organisations, including community and voluntary sector organisations to address issues to do with sexual orientation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of the CYPT Homophobic Bullying Programme • Implementation of SEAL materials in schools • The CYPT's Workforce Development Strategy, including the recruitment of foster and adoptive parents • The CYPT Parent Support Strategy 			Section 75 review and audit Reviewed and updated by Jul 09 Ongoing 09

SECTION 4 EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Issue or theme	Action	Lead Department	Target dates	Progress
<p>HR policies and procedures</p> <p>To review all HR policies and procedures to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they support the creation of, and respond to the needs of, a diverse workforce • they reflect the values of the organisation including a just and fair culture • they comply with legislative and best practice requirements 	<p>To develop a timetable for the review/development of HR policies and procedures. Priority will be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sickness Absence Management Procedure • Disciplinary Procedure • Capability Procedure • Grievance Procedure • Recruitment and Selection Policy and • to the development of a Dignity at Work Policy <p>To complete the review of other key HR policies and procedures.</p>	<p>Strategy & Governance</p>	<p>October 2008</p> <p>April 2009</p> <p>April 2010</p>	<p>A timetable for the development/ review of key HR policies and procedures has been drawn up.</p> <p>Equalities Impact Assessments (EIAs) are in the process of being completed on the policies and procedures which were prioritised for review.</p> <p>Work is underway to develop a Dignity at Work Policy. Key stakeholders including senior managers, representatives from the three Workers' Forums and the trade unions are being actively involved.</p>

<p>Workforce Diversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve HR computer systems and manual processes to improve the quality of workforce data captured and improve the timeliness with which workforce data is provided to managers. 	<p>Strategy & Governance</p>	<p>April 2009 Dec 2010</p>	<p>Equalities and diversity reporting framework agreed. New HR system design will incorporate these requirements will allow timely on line access both corporately and individually following build completion</p>
<p>Workforce Monitoring</p> <p>To ensure that employees are treated fairly and consistently both within, and across, service areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the introduction of the new HR management system to extending equalities monitoring to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employee promotions • the application of formal HR procedures such as discipline, capability, grievance, attendance management • cases of bullying and harassment • staff leaving the council 	<p>Strategy & Governance</p>	<p>April 2010</p>	<p>A new integrated HR Management Information System has been procured and a project manager appointed to oversee the implementation of the new system. As part of the implementation phase, existing HR workflow processes are being reviewed and re-engineered to improve data capture and reporting.</p>
<p>Recruitment and retention</p> <p>To develop and maintain a skilled, motivated, high performing and flexible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep the council's recruitment strategy under review to ensure that it responds to labour market and demographic trends and supports the council's objective of achieving a workforce which reflects the diversity of the community it serves 	<p>Strategy & Governance</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on the council's Recruitment and Selection Policy and the outcomes of this will be used to inform the</p>

<p>workforce that reflects at all levels within the organisation, the diversity of the city's communities</p> <p>To become the "employer of choice"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to run innovative recruitment campaigns aimed at promoting the council as an employer of choice and increasing the diversity of the council's workforce. • To continue to attend national and local recruitment events • To continue to monitor and analyse recruitment data at key stages to ensure a fair process and to identify potential barriers to employment particularly for minority or other disadvantaged groups 	<p>Strategy & Governance</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>organisation's recruitment strategy.</p> <p>There has been a move away from advertising in traditional media towards digital recruitment i.e. using job boards such as Monster, the Guardian, Argus etc. Applicants from minority groups have been targeted by advertising in relevant media.</p>
<p>Recruitment and retention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the Local Employment Partnership with Jobcentre Plus to employ local people in receipt of benefits • To continue to work in conjunction with Path National Limited to promote the positive action traineeships with the aim of increasing take-up within the council • To improve the way in which "exit" data is collected, analysed and used to inform HR strategy 	<p>Strategy & Governance</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>LEP received "Innovation in Recruitment" award from JobCentre Plus and were runners-up in two other national awards. LEP has provided 63 successful placements so far and 24 Apprenticeships.</p> <p>New PATH trainee in Housing Strategy team.</p>

				HR Equalities Group sub-group working with the staff forums to develop new approach to exit surveys.
Pay and reward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure the council has an equitable and modern pay and reward strategy that enables us to recruit and retain high calibre staff. To develop and implement a revised pay and reward structure which complies with requirements under equal pay and age discrimination legislation 	Strategy & Governance	April 2009	A considerable amount of work has already been undertaken to ensure equal pay and to develop a revised pay and reward structure. The work is expected to be completed in January 2010.
<p>Training and Development</p> <p>Ensure that managers have the knowledge, skills and confidence to manage diversity issues effectively within their teams.</p>	<p>Develop and deliver a coaching/training programme for line managers to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> managers are aware of their legal responsibilities and council policy in relation to diversity and employment they have the knowledge, skills and confidence to take the appropriate action when dealing with diversity issues in the workplace. <p>Ensure staff are clear about Council Equalities & Inclusion policy and expectations on them in relation to service delivery and working in diverse teams</p>	Strategy & Governance	April 2008 and ongoing	<p>Managing a Diverse Workplace course available for all managers and linked to the Leadership & Management standards.</p> <p>Further publicity and targeting planned.</p> <p>Ongoing communication on the Equalities & Inclusion Policy via the Performance & Development Planning Process.</p> <p>Equalities Steering Group to develop Internal Communications Strategy.</p>

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Item 18 Appendix C

Equalities and Inclusion Performance Report for Progress of Planned EIA's

October 2008 until April 2009 EIA Report				
Department	Target for period October 08 - April 09	Published EIA's for period October 08 - April 09	No of EIA's currently in progress	Direction of Travel
ASC & Housing	13	18	57	Green
Children & Young People's Trust	7	5	2	Green
Culture & Enterprise Services	5	4	5	Green
Environment	14	11	6	Green
Finance & Resources	6	1	7	Amber
Strategy & Governance	7	7	4	Green

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Agenda Item 19
Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 Update
Date of Meeting: 14 July 2009
Report of: Acting Director Strategy and Governance
Contact Officer: Name: Simon Newell Tel: 29-1128
E-mail: Simon.Newell@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Wards Affected: All

The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 23, Access to Information Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) are due to ongoing consultations.

FOR GENERAL RELEASE/ EXEMPTIONS

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 Following the publication of the Sustainable Community Strategy 'Creating The City Of Opportunities' in 2006 and its subsequent interim update in 2007, a refreshed version of the full document is required to reflect the current position of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). It is intended that this revised document will be published in early 2010.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That Overview & Scrutiny Commission:

- (1) Feed their comments on the draft refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy 'Creating the City of Opportunities' into the consultation process;
- (2) Request that the results of the consultation and the final refreshed Strategy are brought back to the O&S Commission in December 2009.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 In January 2009, information packs were distributed to all Partnerships, Partnerships Managers and lead officers from the Local Authority

requesting that they provide updates to their areas within the current version of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

- 3.2 A presentation was made at the Partnerships Managers Group in January outlining the process and the timetable for the process agreed with LSP chairs. Policy Officers have also been liaising closely with the Political assistants to ensure that changes made reflect the current administrations priorities.
- 3.3 The basic structure and core themes of the Strategy will remain consistent as this is not a re write, only a refresh. However, the detail needed to be revisited to keep the document current and up-to-date.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Originally, the consultation period was planned to run for 12 weeks, 20th April – 13th July. However, in order to obtain further updated content from partnerships and to take advantage of consultation opportunities such as those offered by the CVSF AGM on the 16th September, it was agreed that a slight delay would ultimately be more beneficial.
- 4.2 The consultation period will run for **12 weeks, 13th July – 5th October**. Within this period there will be three public information events on the 3rd, 9th & 15th September.
- 4.3 As well as general information about the LSP and Sustainable Community Strategy, the public information sessions will feature a poster exercise that will help inform the 2nd draft. This method of engagement has previously been successfully used by the Policy Team as part of the development of the Community Engagement Framework.
- 4.4 During the 12 week consultation period which is due to finish w/b 5th October, the Policy Team will be working with LSP members, Council Officers and other partners to refine the 2nd draft which will be produced by early / mid November.
- 4.5 The anticipated date for the published updated Sustainable Community Strategy is Jan / Feb 2010.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 None identified

Legal Implications:

5.2 None identified

Equalities Implications:

5.3 The updated Sustainable Community Strategy will be subject to a full Equalities Impact Assessment and the Partnerships Team will continue to work closely with the City Inclusion Partnership.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 The City Sustainability Partnership, via a dedicated working group, have provided content for the 1st draft and will be again consulted upon prior to the 2nd draft of the strategy being written.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 The Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership have provided their updates for the 1st Draft and will continue to be included within the consultation process.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 None identified

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 As the over-arching strategy of Brighton & Hove, the document has implications for the whole City.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Chapter-by-chapter key changes
2. Draft of the updated Sustainable Community Strategy

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. From 13th July – Draft of Updated Sustainable Community Strategy

Chapter by Chapter Key Changes for 1st draft.

Chapter 1 Promoting Enterprise & Learning

Updated economic figures to reflect current difficult economic climate.

The 'Be Local, Buy Local' & 'Business Lifebelt' initiatives have been incorporated into the new draft.

Significant new content within the Major Projects section providing updates for the Brighton Centre, The Open Market, Black Rock Ice Rink etc

Chapter 2 Reducing Crime & Improving Safety

New priorities – sexual violence, preventing extremism, violence against women

Updated crime figures including highlighting the fact that the CDRP are assessed as "better than our peers" in most of the priority crime areas

Reference to the updated Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 -2011 and its updated key interventions in reducing crime in the city

Much expanded 'local issues' section including reference to the Beacon Status achieved by the city for its successful management of the night time economy and also the 'Safe in the City' brand for the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Chapter 3 Improving Health & Well Being

With Annie Alexander, Public Health Programme Manager recently new in post at the time of updating, this chapter has only had a partial refresh. As such, it will receive much fuller attention during the consultation period and a comprehensive refresh will be available in time for the 2nd draft.

Substantial new input from the Sports Development Team including reference to the forthcoming Brighton Marathon and the continuing development of initiatives such as health walks & the 'Active for Life'

Input from the Food Partnership regarding their work with, among others, the PCT to improve healthy lifestyle habits

Chapter 4 Strengthening Communities & Involving People

Completely updated chapter with input from the Stronger Communities Partnership & City Inclusion Partnership who are providing content for the Sustainable Community Strategy for the first time

Chapter 5 Improving Housing & Affordability

Input reflects the new Housing Strategy 'healthy homes, healthy lives, healthy city'

Expanded sections around Homelessness & Fuel Poverty

Chapter 6 Promoting Resource Efficiency & Enhancing the Environment

Proposed chapter change to 'Living within environmental limits and enhancing the environment'.

Extensive input from the Sustainability Partnership

New content to reflect the forthcoming Waste Strategy

Chapter 7 Promoting Sustainable Transport

Completely updated although the chapter still requires updated figures that will be supplied by 2nd draft stage.

Chapter 8 Providing Quality Service

Only limited updates at this 1st draft stage. The appointment of a new officer within the Advice Services Strategy Group will provide further updates in time for the 2nd draft.

Possible chapter title change to 'Providing Quality Information & Services'

**2009 1st Draft CREATING THE CITY OF OPPORTUNITIES –
A sustainable community strategy for the City of Brighton & Hove**

Priority Areas

- Promoting enterprise and learning.....
- Reducing crime and improving safety.....
- Improving health and well-being
- Strengthening communities and involving people
- Improving housing and affordability
- Promoting resource efficiency and enhancing the environment.....
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Providing quality services

- Developing the sustainable community strategy
- The government's definition of sustainable communities
- Membership of the 2020 Community Partnership
- Members of the family of partnerships.....

DRAFT

PROMOTING ENTERPRISE AND LEARNING

Chapter Contributors:

Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership
Brighton & Hove Learning Partnership
Childrens & Young Persons Trust
Brighton & Hove City Council (Tourism, Major Projects, Planning, Libraries & Museums, Culture & Economy)

Our aim

A vibrant, socially and culturally diverse place with a wide range of job opportunities supported by accessible child care. A city that supports businesses to grow, encourages investment, innovation, and a healthy and sustainable economy, and actively promotes learning and training opportunities for people of all ages.

Employment and Economic Development

Issues of concern

Over 20% of the city's 16-74 year olds are economically inactive. While this is partly due to our many students, about 10,700 people are without work and want to work

There is a strong association between unemployment and death rates and between job loss and suicide

17% of households have incomes below £10,000 per year and 20% of dependent children live in households with no working adults

The city is over-reliant on intermediate and lower service sector employment, despite much of our population being highly qualified

A shortage of affordable housing can increase the difficulty of attracting and retaining businesses

The Employment Land Study has identified a need for an additional 20,000 sq metres of office accommodation post 2016 and a need to upgrade the quality of existing stock

What has happened over the last three years

The city council has launched a major 'Be Local Buy Local' campaign to support local jobs and the environment, in line with its first priority – "protect the environment while growing the economy".

A Social Enterprise Strategy has been developed

Our economy has performed strongly recently with falls in unemployment (from 7.5% in February 2000 to 5.8% in December 2008) and rises in earnings (average full-time pay increasing from £410.50 per week in 2002 to £480.00 per week in 2008)

Global Grants (European money, Neighbourhood Renewal funding and council grants) has enabled community and voluntary agencies to improve people's skills and employability

103 residents from disadvantaged wards were helped into jobs still held after 13 weeks

A new Local Housing Allowance has been piloted in Brighton & Hove to provide a more generous housing allowance so that more people in work should qualify for help with housing costs

The number of VAT registered businesses has grown much faster than the national rate and the growth in the number of self-employed people (7% in Brighton & Hove against less than 1% nationally) shows our local entrepreneurial culture

A Business Improvement District has been established which will bring over £1m of private sector investment into the city centre. After extensive research it was concluded that there is insufficient support for a Business Improvement District in Hove.

A new economic strategy has been published covering the period 2008 – 2016

Gross Value Added (GVA) per head has risen to £19,477, just above the national average (£19,430) but still below the regional average (£20,152)

Current position

In 2008, the local economy was estimated to be worth £4.2 billion

Unemployment is about 5%, comparable to the national rate although higher than the regional rate of 1.5%

19% of people are self-employed, 7% more than nationally

Average annual household incomes are £30,500, slightly better than the national average of £29,000

Earnings of people who work in the city are 0.2% above the national average. On average, residents who commute to work (especially to London) earn more than those who work in the city

The city has over 8,300 VAT registered businesses and more than 12,000 business units. Retail, public services, education and health are the biggest employers with financial and business services areas of high growth

One-third of our companies are "knowledge businesses", the likely key drivers of future economic prosperity

Brighton & Hove has the largest number of independent shops on the south coast and our overall retail turnover is £980 million per year (although the independent sector is fragile and needs support to face the challenges in retail over the next decade)

There is a unique opportunity for Brighton & Hove to pioneer the development of a Low Carbon Economy, which is essential if it is to achieve the medium and long term CO2 cuts it is committed to This can be achieved through exploiting our strengths in decarbonised industries (such as supporting development of secondary food processing businesses within the city in order to reduce food miles) , exploiting the growth potential of sustainable/environmental industries in the city Ensuring sustainable resource management by Brighton & Hove businesses and by building on widespread interest and commitment in business and wider communities.

Corporate social responsibility is increasingly seen as offering opportunities for a satisfied and skilled workforce by improving recruitment and retention rates, innovation and reputation

A new project at the University of Brighton is looking at addressing the support needs of social enterprise

What we plan to do

Developed in partnership between the City council, Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce and Business Link Sussex, the 'Business Lifebelt' package aims to provide recession relief to small and medium sized businesses in the City

Target business assistance to high growth and key employment industry sectors: creative, financial services, engineering and construction, ICT, tourism, health, retail, leisure, hospitality

Help entrepreneurial activity, business and social enterprise start-ups, survive and grow through business support, establish the "More than Profit" network to increase support for social enterprises across the city and increase the amount of volunteering opportunities

Promote the city's businesses and strengths in supporting a low carbon economy for the UK, Europe and the world and explore the potential of sustainable/environmental industries in the city as a key growth sector

Substantially increase the environmental / sustainability auditing and practical advice services to businesses across the city to enable widespread environmental management

Encourage new businesses to locate here, support existing businesses to stay in Brighton & Hove and encourage informal businesses into the formal economy

Examine site options for a business centre to house digital media companies

Develop high quality employment opportunities in deprived neighbourhoods and equip residents to access those opportunities

Extend opportunities for people over 50 who want to learn, work or volunteer

Use European funding through the Equal Project to help people from disadvantaged areas or groups back into employment, for instance through outreach services and welfare benefit advice

Promote the fact that people starting work may still be eligible for some benefits as part of a back to work package

Through the Local Development Framework, actively plan for growth and change in the city's network of shopping centres, foster small retail businesses and encourage retail diversity

Encourage bigger employers to develop workplace learning plans

Through the East Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership, promote the benefits, financial and environmental, to business of environmental management systems

Develop flexible affordable spaces for businesses, particularly on brownfield sites that are easily accessible by sustainable transport options

Promote mixed-use developments (e.g. mixed residential and commercial, or live/work units) in appropriate sites to create economically active neighbourhoods where people live and work in the same area, reducing the need for car use and parking

Protect existing viable employment areas

Citywide Projects

Issues of concern

It is essential to maximise the value of our key assets and ensure that developments at a number of key sites around Brighton & Hove provide jobs during this economic downturn and have a positive impact on the environment wherever this can be achieved

What has happened over the last three years

An urban design framework (part of the Local Development Framework) sets out aspirations for redevelopment of the Brighton Centre and regeneration of the surrounding area

Agreement has been reached with the owner of Churchill Square (Standard Life Investments) to explore with a selected architect the opportunities for extending the shopping centre, providing a brand new conference centre for the city and a headquarters hotel.

American Express has worked with the Council to finalise their plans to continue their longstanding relationship with the City and build a new headquarters building at Edward Street. This will protect 3000 jobs in the City and further more wholesale redevelopment of the rest of the site may bring additional employment opportunities in the future.

The Stadium at Falmer after many years is now underway and due for completion in summer 2011. This will not only deliver a 22,500 seater stadium but also provide jobs and training via the contractor and City College

Plans to redevelop the Open Market at London Road are now nearing finalisation. A brand new covered market with 44 permanent stalls and a central square is planned for completion in 2012 with the addition of approximately 87 affordable homes provided by Hyde Housing Association.

The aspiration remains to achieve a development at the Black Rock site, based upon the current plans for a multipurpose venue to deliver a public ice skating rink, provision for ice dance and ice shows and be used as an entertainment venue. A funder has now been found to replace Erinaceous

Having been reconsidered by Cabinet in March 2009, the Preston Barracks redevelopment has entered a new phase, with an agreement to working with the interested parties to fully explore development options. The aspiration remains to deliver a high quality mixed-use scheme that will benefit the surrounding communities and contribute to the wider regeneration of Lewes Road. A new process of consultation is now getting underway for the Preston Barracks site. The aspiration is to deliver a new initiative here that will add interest and value to this part of Lewes Road and accommodate student's demands and those of the wider locality.

Work is nearing completion on the regeneration of the Brighton Station site / New England quarter, our biggest brown-field site. Working with the developers has led to agreement on sustainable practices such as:

- 40% carbon emission savings;
- 30% of homes to be affordable;
- A "greenway" and funding to maintain it;
- Provision of a new community facility;
- Landscaping;
- A strategy to improve local people's skills and employability

Current position

Commercial partners are being sought to redevelop the Brighton Centre and regenerate the surrounding areas and invitations to tender for the design element of the scheme have now been published

Plans are at various stages of development for sites around the city, including:

- Making further progress with eventual replacement of the Brighton Centre – the next stage will be putting together a team who will construct a feasibility of the whole site to see what can be delivered prior to submitting a planning application
- Continue to seek a final funding solution to deliver the new arena at Black Rock;
- Regeneration of the Circus Street, Edward Street, Lewes Road and London Road areas
- A new community stadium at Falmer to include a base for the award winning Albion in the Community together with accommodation for courses delivered by City College
- Completion of the i360 project at the West Pier
- Exploring options for the redeveloping the King Alfred site and retaining the present centre until that point;
- Shoreham Harbour regeneration
- Eastbrook Farm Allotments

What we plan to do

Secure the city's conference economy by redeveloping the Brighton Centre as a successful, high profile, sustainable conference centre and examine opportunities for new leisure, retail, hotel development there

Keep Brighton & Hove a vibrant place to live with exciting and sustainable development of sites to their full potential. Sites will be identified in the Local Development Framework with Area Action Plans and supplementary planning documents developed where appropriate.

Promote and require sustainable practices such as:

- Reaching very good or excellent in the BREEAM or EcoHome standard (thus minimising ongoing CO₂ emissions) ;
- Using the construction phase to develop local skills and businesses ;
- Incorporating a high proportion of affordable housing ;
- Ensuring housing is accessible

Maximise access to and enjoyment of the South Downs

Learning and Education

Issues of concern

The number of Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) is still high.

There is a large variation of attainment rates at 16 between the city's schools

Brighton & Hove has an unusual qualifications profile. Of the city's working age population 9% have no formal qualifications and 38% are qualified to Degree level or above.

While healthy people can make positive contributions to community and economic life, poor health imposes costs on individuals, society and the economy and can contribute to poor educational attainment

Employers report that young people are not employment ready when they complete formal education.

What has happened over the last three years

A strong 14-19 Partnership, containing Headteacher or Principal representation from all Secondary and Special Schools and Colleges in the city, has been formed and a citywide 14-19 Strategy has been agreed and published.

A comprehensive City Employment and Skills Plan (CESP) has been published to provide a coherent and coordinated approach to employment and skills which will benefit the residents of Brighton and Hove and strengthen the city's economy

A comprehensive City Employment and Skills Plan (CESP) has been published to provide a coherent and coordinated approach to employment and skills which will benefit the residents of Brighton and Hove and strengthen the city's economy

Agreement has been reached to build Falmer Academy which will open in 2010/11.

The Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme started in 2008/9 to work with disengaged young people at risk of becoming NEET.

Entry to Employment (e2e) places have grown to provide 16-19 NEET young people with a wider range of learning opportunities

Responsibility for commissioning 16-18 learning will transfer from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to the Local Authority from April 2010.

Funding for 19+ learning and skills, including Apprenticeships, will transfer from the LSC to the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) from April 2010

Current position

7.78% of people age 16-18 are not in employment, education or training

The 2007-08 school attendance rate was 94.7% for primary schools (compared with 94.7% nationally) and 91.5% for secondary schools (compared with 92.2% nationally)

In 2008, 57.5% of pupils at local authority schools gained 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C, 2.3% points more than in 2007, national average for 2008 was 59.8%. The rate at individual schools varied from 19% to 75%

Educational attainment influences health outcomes as it is linked to health-related habits such as smoking, exercise and dietary choice

Our two universities are active in the city's life with about 5,000 staff, 32,000 students and 7,000 graduates each year, many of whom stay here. The city has a higher than average well-educated workforce with 29% of people age 16-74 holding a degree or equivalent

What we plan to do

Prepare a Local Authority led commissioning plan for the citywide 16-19 offer for 2010/11 and beyond

Build effective partnership arrangements with the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to ensure appropriate adult learning and skills opportunities are available to meet the requirements of residents and employers

Ensure that effective links exist with the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) which provide the broad range of Apprenticeship placements envisaged in the citywide Apprenticeship Strategy are available to residents.

Introduce 17 new Diploma qualifications for 14-19 year olds in the city to provide a strong applied pathway.

Introduce a citywide collaborative offer under the Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) for 14-19 year olds studying at below Level 2

Ensure that there are sufficient, quality learning opportunities to meet the raising of the participation from 16 to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015.

Apply for Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Capital funding to redevelop the Secondary School estate.

Support the city's Colleges to apply for capital funding to regenerate the Further Education estate.

Refresh the Adult Learning Strategy which focuses upon non-accredited learning opportunities, targeting those adults that have benefited least from the education system.

More closely link adult education non-accredited learning opportunities to accredited progression routes.

Increase the number of adults achieving nationally recognised literacy, numeracy and English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) qualifications.

Increase awareness of the world of work in 14 – 19 year olds to make them “employment ready” via engagement with Secondary head teachers and closer links between schools, especially the new Falmer Academy, and businesses. (From Economic Strategy 2008-16)
Develop more Skills For Life and ICT training, particularly in deprived areas

Develop bespoke apprenticeship, internships, volunteer and work placement schemes for key sectors of the Brighton & Hove economy in partnership with employers. (From Economic Strategy 2008-16)

Promote the Skills Pledge that commits employers to train staff to a full Level 2 qualification (5 x GCSEs at A* - C grade or equivalent) & promote Train to Gain and Skills Accounts to local employers. (From Economic Strategy 2008-16)

Increase the Employment Rate from 75.6% to 76.6%

Increase achievement of 5 or more A* - C grades or equivalent including English and Maths by the age of 19 to 82% (LAA Target)

Introduce section 106 planning agreements to increase the number of Apprenticeship and local employment opportunities on the major capital developments planned.

Increase the proportion of men aged 19-64 and women aged between 19-59 qualified to at least level 2 or higher to 79% (LAA Target)

Increase training places in retail, hospitality, catering, care and construction and prepare planning guidance about securing training through planning obligations

Schools, further education and universities to work together to develop clear vocational education pathways from levels 1 to 4

Increase recruitment and retention to learning options such as college courses and apprenticeships

Blend business support, learning brokerage and corporate social responsibility opportunities to benefit businesses

Schools to share expertise and work together to offer more variety of courses, including GCSE vocational courses

The Wilson Ave. site will be developed as a further education and skills training centre

Ensure school facilities are "fit for purpose" and develop "extended schools" – putting schools at the heart of communities*

Improve school attendance rates

Analyse pupils' assessment results by race, gender etc. to target interventions to improve attainment

Undertake a range of projects in East Brighton to improve pupils' achievements

Promote healthy lifestyles (e.g. exercise and diet) for children

Develop more Skills For Life and ICT training, particularly in deprived areas

Develop a set of local indicators concerning the contribution of overseas students to the city

Across the city, develop leadership awareness and understanding of sustainable development

Become a UN Centre of excellence in Education for Sustainable Development, ensuring every community, business, organisation and individual understands the principles and responsibilities of sustainable development.

Pilot a UniverCities approach to sustainable urban design through partnership working with academics, planners, city leaders and communities

Develop and expand a "One Planet Learning" programme of courses based on the ten principles of One Planet Living.

Work towards every school being signed up to the Eco Schools programme, with progression for schools up the scale of environmental achievement

Children's Services

Issues of concern

Children and young people should be able to:

- Stay safe;
- Be healthy;
- Enjoy and achieve;
- Make a positive contribution;
- Achieve economic well-being

Affordable, good quality childcare is central to helping parents into employment

Disabled children and children with special needs face the greatest barriers to achieving their potential

What has happened over the last three years

Brighton and Hove's Children and Young People's Trust has established a coordinated approach to all social care, health and education services for children

By May 2008 14 new Children's centres had been opened with another 3 scheduled to open in 2010.

The CYPT made a significant contribution to the council's value for money programme through its work on provision for looked after children and children with special education needs.

Current position

The Children and Young People's Trust has achieved a significant step change in delivering services for children and young people. The Trust's next phase of development will consolidate integrated and joined up services for all children and young people across the city irrespective of where they live or go to school.

The Trust will continue to focus on narrowing the gap between underachieving groups and their peers, protecting the most vulnerable children and young people from harm, increasing the range of opportunities open to all children and young people to help them enjoy their childhood and achieve their full potential.

Across the city there is about a 13% average vacancy rate in childcare places. The city has 3,274 daycare places (registered for full day care), 1,261 out of school care places, 1,392 holiday care places and 1,423 childminding places

What we plan to do

We want to ensure that all children and young people who live and grow in Brighton and Hove have access to excellent diverse services that are accessible and support them to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential.

We want children to grow to adulthood with maximum life chances and the best possible health. We plan to:

- Halt the growth in childhood obesity
- Reduce unplanned teenage conceptions
- Tackle Alcohol and Substance Misuse among young people
- Ensure that young people with poor mental health have access to services when they need them.
- Provide high quality pre and postnatal care – enhancing the experience of babies and children in their first years, including during pregnancy and setting form foundations for their future.
- Through the child Health Promotion Programme ensure issues such as speech, language and communication difficulties are picked up early including help when additional needs are identified through the CAF

We want the right balance between keeping children and young people safe and allowing them the freedom to have new experiences and enjoy childhood and teenage years. We plan to:

- Ensure that we provide robust support services to vulnerable parents and carers to ensure they are able to provide safe environments for their children.
- Make our community safe for children and young people
- Meet the needs of vulnerable children and ensuring that we protect the most vulnerable and keep them safe from harm
- Ensure that we act as good 'corporate parents' to Looked After Children and help them to achieve their full potential

We want every school to be judged good or outstanding and for all children, including those with SEN or a disability, to have access to educational and social opportunities within the mainstream system. We plan to:

- Provide access to high quality child care, early education and opportunities to meet and play with other children to develop the self –confidence and resilience they will need as they grow up.
- Raise achievement , narrow the gap in educational achievement particularly at key stage 3 and 4 and improve attendance and reducing exclusions
- Take forward a capital; development programme through Building Schools for the Future and the Falmer Academy

- Ensure that in line with Aiming High for Disabled Children and young people with SEN are a local priority and that we have a clear 'offer' which enables children, young people, their parents and Carers to be clear about the range of services and opportunities they are entitled to

Culture and Tourism

The cultural and tourism offer in Brighton and Hove is crucial to the ongoing economic success of the city; it brings both money and jobs. This range of work also provides solutions to some of the problems of inequality in the city.

The city's cultural offer already engages with a high number of its residents. According to the most recent National Indicator surveys undertaken at the end of 2008, well over half the population engage with the arts and just over half with our museum and library services. The footfall figures for our main central Jubilee library run into the millions over the course of a year. The Brighton Dome programme reached one in six households currently and the Brighton Festival audience each year is around 70% from local BN postcodes. However, there is much more that can be done, there are challenges and a need to create further targeted activity to stretch this success.

This sector also faces challenges from the recession at the point of refreshing this Strategy and needs to be forward looking in order to position itself to help the city weather and recover from the economic downturn.

Tourism

Issues of concern

Brighton & Hove faces increasing competition from home and abroad as a tourist destination both in the leisure and business tourism markets. The current economic climate, changing patterns of consumer demand, and a need to invest in infrastructure to maintain a suitable quality are significant challenges.

What has happened over the last three years

A tourism strategy has been refreshed and is being implemented. We have established performance indicators, including within the LAA, and have achieved improvements against most indicators.

Brighton was identified as the most cultural City in the UK in terms of resident involvement by the DCMS

Current position

15% to 20% of jobs are tourism-related. Eight million visitors bring £400 million into the local economy: the 18% who stay one or more nights account for 57% of that

The Cultural Quarter (North Laine, Jubilee Square, Pavilion, theatres and The Lanes) contributes to the richness of Brighton & Hove

What we plan to do

Improve facilities and cultural opportunities for visitors, maintain and enhance the environment, including the magnificent South Downs, recently designated as a National Park, ensure visitors' safety, improve transport and better market Brighton & Hove. The Strategy also highlights the need to develop an approach towards sustainable and responsible tourism practice and to strengthen partnership with local business.

Develop a Cultural Quarter Framework to enhance the area's viability and successful operation

Ensure all public sector planning considers the needs of visitors as well as residents to secure sustainable long-term benefits for tourism employees.

Arts

Issues of concern

Maintaining our reputation as a leading cultural city for both residents and visitors

Ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to engage and participate in the city's cultural offer

The effect of wider economic downturn on our arts and cultural businesses including the reduction in national and regional funding streams, reduced sponsorship and potential ticket income.

What has happened over the last three years

We established with the Arts Commission a new cultural festival for the city White Night working with partners across the city and attracting an audience of 15,000 in its first year in 2008. A further 2 annual White Nights are planned.

We established a new and successful Children's Festival for the city aimed at KS 1 & 2 and providing free events and activities and workshops across the city.

Brighton & Hove has taken a leading role in the national consortium the Cultural Cities Network.

The city's cultural offer has grown through new festivals, venues and organisations developing in or moving to the city

We developed and delivered 30 public art projects in the last 3 years ranging from permanent pieces to participatory projects

Current position

The city has the highest level of current arts engagement outside London and the 7th highest out of 150 in the country at 61.2%. Brighton & Hove is known for its colourful and interesting arts and creative industries which attract tourism and new businesses. About one in five businesses and 10% of jobs are in the arts or creative industries

The city currently hosts around 60 festivals each year including the largest arts festival in England the Brighton Festival and its Fringe which contributes annually £20million to our economy

The city is recognised as a regional cultural centre hosting a number of regional arts development agencies and significant organisations including the Arts Council England regional base, South East Dance and Photoworks.

The city is the first pilot project in SEEDA's Festival Clusters initiative, investing in our festivals and positioning the region's Festival Offer as central to the South East's 2012 strategy.

Our Arts Partnership scheme levers between £15 and £20 for every £1 the city council spends and supports a wide range of cultural activities.

What we plan to do

Work with our cultural partners inside and outside the city to maintain Brighton & Hove's position as a significant cultural leader regionally and nationally

Work with our cultural partners to increase engagement in the arts in the city, including targeted work at those currently not engaged. The target is to increase by 3% by 2010.

Work with partners to develop targeted arts projects and events that meet other wider priorities: For example, managing the night time economy, crime reduction and healthy communities

Continue to develop, with partners in education and the youth sector, arts projects and initiatives aimed at meeting the needs of children and young people, particularly those most at risk of exclusion

Make the most of the opportunities of the Cultural Olympiad and the Festivals Cluster to support and bolster our reputation for hosting significant Festivals of all types

Encourage people to value and engage with their surroundings through public art projects.

Continue to support communities and communities of interest to celebrate their cultures through festivals and projects including support through the council's grants schemes

Libraries and Museums

Issues of concern

The two issues most often raised by library users are the need for more books and other library materials, and longer opening hours.

What has happened over the last three years

Jubilee Library has become the fifth most successful public library in the country with nearly one million visits per year

Our children's services have achieved a 92% satisfaction level, the second highest rates nationally.

We have increased the opening hours in Jubilee Library to offer a seven days a week service, and are about to open Hove Library extra hours to open six days a week.

A new Library in Coldean opened in June 2008, and a Children's Gateway Centre was added to Portslade Library in April 2008.

We have increased the buying power of the bookfund by negotiating better discounts and lower fees.

The Royal Pavilion & Museums is recognised as having a regional significance receiving funding direct from MLA as one of the regional hub museums for the South East through the DCMS Renaissance in the Regions programme.

Brighton & Hove Museums and Art Galleries have been redeveloped to improve access and enhance educational and community work with 100% increase in attendance at Brighton

Current position

Our Libraries Services currently issue over 1.3 million items, receive over 1.7 million visits in person, and over 2 million website hits every year, have over 500,000 items in stock, and buy around 45,000 new items every year.

Our museums have collections of national and international significance including the iconic Royal Pavilion. The Royal Pavilion & Museums receive approximately 630,000 visitors per annum and approximately 3 million web visits.

What we plan to do

Developing libraries as community hubs, beginning a phased programme to regenerate community libraries, reviewing opening hours and making adjustments to meet local needs

Continually add new titles to library stock

Encourage and support reading through the implementation of a city-wide reading strategy

Support early years learning and deliver a range of positive activities for young people

Modernise our Libraries Services, increasing public access to excellent online information and learning

Work more effectively with partners in delivering information, advice and guidance

Improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of our services, especially to the housebound, people with disabilities and special needs

INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Indicator	2010/11	2020 Target
Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	82%	
16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)	6.70%	
Working age people on out of work benefits	19,612	
	11.7%	
Proportion of men aged 19-64 and women aged between 19-59 qualified to at least level 2 or higher	79%	
New business registration rate	74	
Take forward the development of the Brighton Centre	TBC	
Increase GVA per head	£19,484	
Increase number of people in employment	131,632	
Improve the Visitor Economy	£440.7m	
Engagement in the arts	64.2%	
Public Libraries and Local Engagement Indicator	TBC	
Number of school age children	34,000	

Indicator	2010/11	2020 Target
in organised school visits to museums		

DRAFT

REDUCING CRIME AND IMPROVING SAFETY

Chapter Contributors:

Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership
Brighton & Hove City Council (Public Safety, Performance)

Our aim

A place in which children, young people and adults can feel safe and at ease by reducing crime and fear of crime (especially violent crime and crime in public places), anti-social behaviour, racially motivated and homophobic crime, and by tackling drug and alcohol related crime

Crime and Fear of Crime

Issues of concern

In the Place Survey carried out in the autumn of 2008, the residents of Brighton & Hove were asked to pick five aspects of a local area that make it a good place to live. Out of 20 choices, 55% of respondents ranked the level of crime in their top 5 aspects which made somewhere a good place to live. So, crime levels were the most frequently flagged issue of importance (as it was in 2003 and in 2006).

In terms of what aspects are 'most in need of improvement', crime ranked eighth within out of the twenty choices with other services such as activities for teenagers and traffic congestion ranking higher. In 2003, crime as 'most in need of improvement' had ranked second and then ranked fifth in 2006. So, the CDRP has an improved position in terms of the need to improve its services.

What has happened over the last three years

The level of recorded crimes (generally around 32,000 each year) has remained stable since 2005.

Our Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership has been assessed as "better than our peers". In the three years to 2003/04, burglaries fell by 20%, car crime by 16% and, unlike most of the country, alcohol-related violent crime reduced

New priorities – sexual violence, preventing extremism, violence against women
Drugs education in schools has improved, a specialist drug treatment and social care service for under-19s has been developed and resources have been targeted to Class A dealing hotspots
extend race to include disability

Drugs education in schools has improved, a specialist drug treatment and social care service for under-19s has been developed and resources have been targeted to Class A dealing hotspots

Successful joint police and street outreach patrols, coupling enforcement with accessing people into services, has won trailblazer status

Reporting of hate crimes (homophobic and racist crimes) has been increasing – probably because of increased reporting rates rather than increased incidence

Current position

During the first six months of 2007/08, there was a 10% reduction compared with the same months in 2006/07. A good level of reduction is also now being sustained with 8.8% fewer crimes recorded overall in 2008/09 compared with 2007/08. Within our 'family' of 15 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, we are assessed as "better than our peers" in most of the priority crime areas.

Brighton & Hove City Council helps voluntary and community groups to run staff or volunteer Criminal Records Bureau checks

The Drugs Intervention Programme provides case management for drugs offenders in the criminal justice system and treatment to maximise effectiveness and minimise relapse. Operation Reduction is targeting the treatment of users to lower demand for drugs and thus also lower acquisitive crime

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team provides a front-line operational response to dealing with street drinking, begging and other anti-social behaviour

What we plan to do

The Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 -2011 sets out our crime and safety priorities. The delivery of the detailed action plans which clearly set out the National and other Indicators which are being targeted will also achieve the overall reduction in crime and improvement of quality of life which we are seeking in the City

Reduce overall levels of crime in the city particularly:

- To reduce violent crime in public place and alcohol related disorder
- To reduce drug related offending and the harm which comes from drug misuse
- To reduce acquisitive crime (burglary, vehicle crime and shoplifting)
- To reduce crimes and incidents which are motivated by racist and religious prejudice and hatred, provide
- Increased support to those victims and communities who are most experience those incidents and achieve
- Increased reporting through increased trust and confidence
- To reduce domestic and sexual violence, including rape and assaults within relationships as well as stranger assaults, honour based violence, forced marriage and trafficking
- To reduce anti-social behaviour in the street, public places and between households
- To increase the safety of all in the city through supporting faith communities and building resilience of those most vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism
- By addressing the root causes of crime, particularly drug-related crimes through police enforcement operations, educational work, street outreach work and improvements in treatment capacity and supported accommodation capacity.
- By supporting vulnerable people including ex-offenders [with access to programmes of support, training, employment and accommodation.](#)

Alcohol

Issues of concern

Pubs and clubs play an important role in our city's culture and economy but alcohol is a factor in at least 40% of violent crime

What has happened over the last three years

Following development work with the Primary Care Trust and Sussex Partnership Trust and building on new investment by the PCT in alcohol treatment services, we have gained agreement for those new services to be initially targeted towards those whose offending behaviour is linked to alcohol misuse. The top priorities are perpetrators of domestic violence, prolific offending and violent crime. We are now developing care pathways for those and other priority groups in order that criminal justice and other CDRP services can successfully refer and help sustain people to engage and change their lives. Through Operation Athlete almost 200 parents of children who have had alcohol confiscated have been sent information about alcohol, young people and associated risks

Current position

Brighton & Hove is known as a good place to enjoy pubs and clubs but people want to be confident drunken behaviour won't spoil their enjoyment

What we plan to do

Educate young people about alcohol, increase enforcement against alcohol sales to under-18s and improve alcohol advice and treatment options

Reduce harmful levels of drinking and continue high visibility policing at recognised hotspots

Use planning policy to prevent over-concentration of super-pubs

Involve the Licensees' Association and the Business Crime Reduction Partnership to promote good practice in pubs and clubs and help prolific offenders with drug and alcohol problems into treatment

Prolific Offenders

Issues of concern

Prolific offenders are responsible for a disproportionate amount of the city's crime

Current position

About 400 prolific offenders in Brighton & Hove had 3,453 convictions in 2003/04 (8½ each). A high proportion of these offenders would be misusing drugs and be involved in anti-social behaviour

What has happened over the last three years

Exceeded challenging targets set within the LPSA programme for reducing offending by priority and prolific offenders

What we plan to do

Reduce offending by priority and prolific offenders

Children and Young People

Issues of concern

Too many young people in Brighton & Hove suffer from accidents, abuse, crime and bullying (including homophobic bullying)

What has happened over the last three years

Developed our services within the Anti-Social Behaviour Team to greater protect children and young people through co-located services within a new Targeted Youth Support Service and increased police and street outreach and youth disorder operations on a Friday and Saturday night. These achievements have brought in new money to the City (from the DCSF) enabling new initiatives such as 'Challenge and Support' (youth crime prevention), Operation Park (disrupting youth disorder) and a safe space for young people to be cared for if picked up at night on the streets. Focusing attention towards the parents of those young people identified as in trouble and working to address young peoples excessive drinking is bringing excellent results in reducing risks and escalation into more serious anti – social behaviour.

Achieved a 47% reduction in the number of first time entrants (ages 10 – 17) to the Youth Justice system due in part to the new services described above, but also to the introduction of new schemes of restorative justice and reparation -

Sustained the Family Intervention Project which works holistically with those families most at risk. We have brought in new money to extend to that work to families where crime prevention work with young children (5-10 years of age) is necessary and co-located the project with the a new Family Pathfinder programme. That programme is targeting the 50 most high risk families and working with their lead professionals to achieve systems change in the delivery of children's, family and adult social care services delivered to those families.

Current position

2,076 children under five visited A&E after an accident in the home in 2008/9.

280 children are on the Child Protection Register

There were 600 reported assaults against under 18 year olds in 2003/04

All schools in the city have adopted the anti-bullying programme with content including homophobic, transphobic, racist, religious and gender-motivated bullying

What we plan to do

Protect children and young people from risk and harm within the home, school and in the community and public places

Reduce the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system and repeat offending A Child Safety Development Officer will put the Children & Young People's Safety Strategy into action.

Educate children, young people and parents about how to protect children's right to be safe

Support and develop anti-bullying projects in all schools

Improve road safety, discourage speeding and explore ways users can share roads

Brighton & Hove's museums offer positive cultural and learning activities for participation, in particular for young people

Local Issues

Issues of concern

Surveys about perceptions of crime tell us however; that the CDRP is not doing a good enough job in terms of communicating the improved position. A survey in 2006/07 revealed half of respondents felt that crime levels had got worse over the last three years with only 7% of the view that crime levels had improved.

What has happened over the last three years

Achieved accreditation from the Ministry of Justice for all twelve criminal justice and community safety and support services within our comprehensive domestic violence programme for the City and increased the number of successful prosecutions

Sustained and further developed the joint police and street outreach patrols which target the street population, coupling enforcement with accessing people into treatment and support services. This service has won Trailblazer status as well as reducing over the years, the numbers of street drinkers and beggars

Achieved Beacon Council status for the wide range of enforcement and creative activities which manage a safe and successful night time economy. This award recognises the strength of partnership working between the police and council services together with local licensees and businesses and which extend beyond good practice management of licenses premises and police street operations into encouraging safe drinking levels. Achieving culture change is part of the

package of interventions and the 'White Night' activities are one example of the alternative approaches which helped bring the award to the City.

Sustained our neighbourhood focus and targeted work in those localities which are most at risk from harm relating to drugs activity in a neighbourhood as well as those areas where the degeneration of the physical environment can be a factor in attracting increased street crime and 'turning off' spaces for public use. Our Communities Against Drugs and Environment Improvement Teams are constantly active in those neighbourhoods which need their attention. House to house audits are regularly carried out to find out peoples concerns and check if action taken is bringing improvements for those individual households. Similarly environment audits identify necessary improvements which can make a big difference to how safe people feel and are.

Current position

What we plan to do

Improve the physical environment, infrastructure and quality of life in the City

Increase the safety of the LGBT community and the crimes and incidents they experience and to increase reporting and confidence to come forward and report.

In addition we plan to reduce fear of crime and improve perceptions and understanding of levels of crime through high profile communications explaining how we make up the multi-disciplinary teams for whom 'Reducing Crime is our job' and all the work that is behind the 'Safe In the City' brand for the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The publicity will be targeted towards:

- The City Centre – during the day and at night
- Communities and Neighbourhoods
- Parks and Open Spaces
- In the Home and in Relationships.

As well as visible and high profile work and the CDRP's delivery of priority crime action plans, services which activities the CDRP will continue its 'behind the scenes' work to ensure that we are accurately targeting those areas and individuals who are most at risk and that our interventions are bringing good results. Annual refreshes of the Strategic Assessment, crime analysis and monitoring of performance is routine and constantly informs delivery

Information, intelligence and feedback from local people are critical to success in increasing safety and reducing crime. A network of 35 Local Action Teams is being supported to enable local residents and traders to talk about what is of most concern to them and to provide the opportunity for neighbourhood police officers together with those from the Partnership Community Team, Communities Against Drugs and Environment Improvement Team to respond and identify solutions. Where solutions need further consideration or resources to be successful, the structure of Joint Action Groups and the Operational CDRP are well established to enable senior officer attention to the more serious matters. These arrangements work very well with those for Neighbourhood policing and the police 'pledges' which set out what can and will be delivered for local people

The Local Action Teams, together with many other third sector organisations and communities of interest are co-optees to the Member led Community Safety Forum, therefore the link with the democratic processes; scrutiny arrangements and the new Crime and Disorder Committees are well advanced

Other services within Public Safety and Council overall will continue to significantly contribute to the fair enforcement of the law. Environment Health and Licensing and Trading Standards enforce the law within the nighttime economy and sale of alcohol in the City. Close working with the

Children and Young People's Trust, Adult Social Care and the Local Children Safeguarding Board and Adult Safeguarding Board improve the protection of those most vulnerable in the City.

Finally, we will remain alert to respond to new priorities or safety issues that are of concern. We are expecting in 2009, to be required to extend our workplans on tackling domestic and sexual violence to address Violence Against Women and Girls' generally and to link that work with the Council's new Gender Equality duties. Guidance on these new requirements is awaited.

INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Indicator	2010/11	2020 Target
Perceptions of anti-social behaviour	TBC - 2009	
Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders	TBC - 2010	
Repeat incidents of domestic violence	No higher than 28%	
Drug-related (Class A) offending rate	TBC	
Drug users in effective treatment	1100 - 3% increase	
First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17	467 – 2% on 09 / 10 result	
People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents 3 year averages (calendar years)	123 2008/10 3yr average (14.2% reduction)	
Specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence	TBC	
Assault with injury crime	TBC	
Reducing arson incidents - primary fires	179	
Reducing arson incidents - secondary fires	284	
Number of (fire) Home Safety Visits carried out	3,015	
Number of police recorded LGBT hate crimes and incidents	TBC	
Number of police recorded racist and religiously motivated crimes and incidents	TBC	
Number of police recorded total sexual offences	TBC	

IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Chapter Contributors:

Healthy City Partnership
Brighton & Hove City Council (Sports Development)

Our aim

A place where there is a shared vision to improve health, care and well-being for everyone living and working in the city and for generations to come, by improving the conditions which influence our health, and by promoting healthy lifestyles, treating illnesses, providing care and support and reducing inequalities in health

A Healthy City

In Brighton & Hove great strides have been made in making the city a healthier place to be. In July 2004 Brighton & Hove was designated as a 'Healthy City' by the World Health Organisation, acknowledging the city's strong political and partnership commitment to reduce health inequalities and improve health for everyone.

This is being achieved by improving and developing services that: provide high quality treatment and standards of care; genuinely focus on prevention and promoting health and well-being; deliver care in more local settings; are flexible, integrated and responsive to people's needs and wishes. Work with local people is helping to design better services, giving greater choice and enabling them to live healthy independent lives.

Achieving health for all is not just about healthcare. Work with local people and partners across all sectors are improving the conditions that enable everyone to live healthier lives, such as a smoke-free city and a built environment which supports active living. These and many other developments are outlined in a City Health Development Plan.

Issues of concern

The health gap between rich and poor in Brighton & Hove continues to grow

Agencies recognise that health depends upon a range of wider factors, including employment, housing, transport, crime, education, poverty and access to healthcare

Air pollution limits are predicted to be exceeded in various locations across the city

What has happened over the last three years

Brighton & Hove's designation as a World Health Organisation Healthy City recognises progress in the city in:

- Partnership working between health trusts, the council and others;
- Giving people information and support to make choices about their health; and
- Tailoring health services to meet people's individual needs

A Health Inequalities Strategy has been developed

Reducing Inequalities Review undertaken.

Current position

Those born in Brighton & Hove today can expect to live on average 4 years longer than someone born here 20 years ago but a range of different problems still need to be overcome

Life expectancy in Queens Park (76.4 years), a deprived ward, is more than 4 years less than in Stanford ward (80.7 years) one of the more affluent wards

The City Health Development Plan and Action Plan target cross-sector action on the wider determinants of health

37 schools in Brighton & Hove currently have the silver award for healthy schools. However the award has been revised and is now a harder to achieve National Healthy School Standard, which many schools are working towards

Regular walks in green spaces reduce the risk of heart attacks and diabetes and promote longevity

An Air Quality Management Area has been created covering two main roads leading into central Brighton

What we plan to do

Implement the Health Inequalities Strategy to support families, engage communities and people, prevent illness and address the causes of ill health

Calculate life expectancy for 10 Neighbourhood Renewal areas and compare with rest of city

Promote physical and emotional health at schools through the Healthy Schools Programme

Explore innovative ways to improve health, for instance through the arts and urban environment, such as green gyms, creating greenways, providing safe routes for cycling and walking and working with local employers to improve workforce health

Through the Local Development Framework apply the principles and approaches of healthy urban planning to Brighton and Hove

Reduce traffic movements in the Air Quality Management Area using a range of strategies as set out in Promoting Sustainable Transport

Lifestyle factors

Issues of concern

Smoking is the main cause of premature illness and preventable death and in some parts of the city as many as 50% of people smoke

Poor diet and physical inactivity lead to an increased risk of coronary heart disease, certain cancers and diabetes and poor attention in children

A healthy diet in children leads to better educational outcomes. Residents want wholesome food to be widely available and affordable

Sexually transmitted infection rates continue to rise – Chlamydia now affects as many as one in 10 young people

Teenage mothers are less likely to finish their education or find a good job, and more likely to end up both as single parents and bringing up their children in poverty. Their children run a much greater risk of poor health, and have a much higher chance of becoming teenage mothers themselves

At least 40% of violent crime is alcohol related and over 2,000 people attend A&E each year with alcohol-related injuries or illness

Brighton & Hove has the second highest drink related deaths in England and Wales

There may be up to 2,300 injecting drug users in Brighton & Hove, estimated to be the highest prevalence in the UK, and the city has the highest rate of drug-related death in England & Wales

Secure future funding for the Active for Life programme (funding until March 2010) ,
TAKEPART – The Brighton & Hove Festival of Sport and the development of the skate park at the level

What has happened over the last three years

Smoking cessation programmes have targeted manual groups, pregnant women and new mothers in deprived areas. All partners in Brighton & Hove have developed and adopted the smoke-free city charter

The actions within Spade to Spoon, the cities Food Strategy are currently being reviewed

A conference for city professionals held to discuss obesity, particularly preventing childhood obesity

The Healthy Choice Award has been designed to increase the provision of healthy menu options in cafes and restaurants

A Chlamydia screening programme has been introduced for under 25s

New local enhanced services for HIV and sexual health have been introduced through general practice

New sexual health service for young people at Claude Nicol GUM service

The proportion of people drinking more than 50 units of alcohol per week has doubled in the last 10 years

Access to drug treatment services improved

Produced a Sports and Active Living Strategy with the ...'more people, more active' message.

A City Sports Forum was established bringing together voluntary, private and public providers to champion sport in the city.

The City Sports Awards were established to recognise the important role of coaches, volunteers and clubs.

Training and development opportunities were provided for volunteers, coaches, administrators and officials.

Sport Grants and TAKEPART Community grants were rolled out

In partnership with NHS Brighton & Hove and the School Sports Partnership, the Councils Sports Development team organised a Brighton & Hove Sports Festival TAKEPART. A three week programme was delivered in schools and across the City and the launch event took place at Preston Park with free taster sessions all day, including a mass participation skipping event.

With external funding being sourced free sports facilities have been developed and improved, including a multi play area in the East Brighton.

A new skate park was development on the seafront with partnership funding sourced.

Sports programmes and courses were provided for children and young people (supporting the 5 hour offer)

A 2012 Co-ordinator for Brighton & Hove has been employed.

The Active for Life programme was delivered in identified neighbourhood Renewal areas and more than 3,000 residents took part in local sports and physical activity opportunities.

The Health walks scheme celebrated their five year anniversary. There are now thirteen weekly led walks being delivered by over fifty active volunteer walk leaders.

In partnership with NHS Brighton & Hove and the Food Partnership weight management were delivered across the City

Sports & Physical activity opportunities were delivered and targeted at those people who traditionally participate less. This included the first Step to It programme.

Wellbeing officers and a Workplace Health Officer have been employed to promote and develop active Workplaces

Provided support for the Exercise Referral programme and Health trainer programme.

Promoted sports and physical activity opportunities through a range of formats, including the Active for Life Directory and website and events

Hosted sports events, including Sports Relief, International Volleyball Championships, Race For Life

Current position

Participation in sport also addresses wider social issues such as anti-social behaviour by creating a sense of belonging and social inclusion

20% of residents smoke, compared to 27% 10 years ago and 22% nationally (2004 figures)

Only 45% of residents eat the recommended 5 portions of fruit or vegetables per day. It is estimated that 7% of the population is obese, with a further 3% grossly obese

A new healthy school meals menu is being introduced

Only 15% of adult residents take the recommended amount of exercise of 30 minutes per day, five days per week

Recommendation is for children and young people to exercise one hour per day for five days in every week

New HIV infections have doubled to over 100 annually in the last five years while Chlamydia has tripled to 1000 cases per year

Implementation of Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan to 2010

Closer working between the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board and Sexual Health Strategic Partnership Board

27% of men and 17% of women drink more than the recommended amounts of alcohol

There are 33 deaths related to alcohol per 100,000 of population in the city per year

Nearly twice as many Brighton & Hove residents received drug or alcohol related treatment in 2004/05 compared with 1998/99

What we plan to do

Reduce the number of people who smoke, with a focus on deprived areas and areas where smoking rates are highest

Extend successful smoking cessation initiatives in eb4U to other Neighbourhood Renewal areas

Reduce the number of women who smoke during pregnancy by 1% annually

Improve diet and nutrition by raising awareness, educating children about healthy food, improving access to healthy food and promoting and supporting locally produced, organic or fair trade food (e.g. in school and hospital meals)

Develop a weight management strategy for the city focusing on prevention of over/underweight, weight maintenance and treatment The Food Partnership is currently contracted by the PCT to deliver a Healthy Weight Referral Scheme a one stop service for health professionals wanting to access community based weight management services for adults and children.

Review and refresh the Sport & Active Living Strategy

Develop an action plan for the Brighton & Hove Strategic Sports and Physical Activity group

Organise two City Sports Forums a year to share information and good practice with sports providers in the City.

Increase the nomination categories' at The City Sports Awards to recognise the important role of clubs, partners and individuals.

With partnership funding offer free swimming opportunities for people under 16 and over 60 years of age

Provide training and development opportunities for volunteers, coaches, administrators and officials.

Promote and administer the annual City Sport Grants and TAKEPART Community grants

Work with local sports providers to further develop and deliver annual Brighton & Hove Sports Festival - TAKEPART

Through the Active for Life programme and in consultation with local residents develop community sports provision in West and Central Brighton targeting areas of in equality.

Source external funding to develop sports clubs and facilities within the Brighton, including funding for the development of a skate park at the level

Provide sports programmes and courses for children and young people (supporting the 5 hour offer)

Re-develop the Active for Life website and produce the annual Active for Life Directory. (a – z of Sports & Physical Activity opportunities)

Work with the City s 2012 Co-ordinator to promote the 2012 Olympics and create legacy events

Further develop the Health walks scheme

In partnership with NHS Brighton & Hove and the Food Partnership further develop weight management /Healthy weight programmes across the City

Deliver and develop Sports & Physical activity opportunities were delivered and targeted at those people who traditionally participate less.

Support the pathways into community sport and physical activity from the Health trainers, Healthy weight programmes and the Exercise Referral scheme.

Support the Wellbeing officers and a Workplace Health Officer to develop active Workplaces

Support the delivery of the Physical Activity Plan 'Be Active, Be Healthy' and Physical Activity Alliance.

Promote the National 'Change For Life' Campaign

Host first Brighton & Hove Marathon in 2010 (following sign off at committee in April)

Promote walking and cycling as healthy transport options

Use clinical, social care and health promotion services to reduce transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections

Develop a new commissioning strategy for HIV, Sexual Health and Family Planning

Develop a new Gay Men's HIV and Sexual Health Strategy

Increase the proportion of people attending genito-urinary clinic being seen within 48 hours

Increase the proportion of people under 25 accepting Chlamydia screening

Educate residents, especially children and young people, about sensible drinking

Develop an Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

Increase the availability of drug and alcohol treatment, partly through establishing a treatment centre targeting parents and carers and recognising many people have joint alcohol and drug misuse issues

Suicide

Issues of concern

In Brighton & Hove there was an average of 17.3 deaths from suicide or undetermined injury per 100,000 population over the period 2001 – 2003. This is the 8th highest suicide rate of PCTs in England

What has happened over the last three years

Suicide Prevention Strategy developed

What we plan to do

Promote mental health for all and combat stigma associated with mental health problems. Reduce suicide by targeting high-risk groups and promoting research, prevention efforts and public awareness

Healthy Ageing

Issues of concern

Older and disabled people would like more independence and to be involved in decisions about their care

People are living longer. The challenge is to ensure older people live healthily and independently with appropriate support from health and social care services

Too many older people on limited incomes don't access all the public benefits they are entitled to

Falls, infections, respiratory problems and heart failure are major causes of disability and death in people aged over 75

Carers play a vital role in looking after ill, frail or disabled family, partners or friends. This can have an adverse impact on their own health and limit their opportunities

Residents want a more rounded, holistic assessment of their needs

What has happened over the last three years

Initiatives such as Direct Payments (where people organise their own care and support, paid for by public funds) and Extra Care Housing has given greater choice to people

Significant increase in the number of people receiving Direct Payments (over 350 as at March 2009) and a Self Directed Support Strategy at the heart of Personalisation Programme in Adult Social Care. Target set in LAA that 30% of all people receiving community based services will do this via SDS by 2011.

Extra Care Housing development opened at New Larchwood 2008, Patching Lodge (April 2009) and planned Vernon gardens 2010.

The LAA demonstrator sites in two neighbourhoods have evidenced positive outcomes for local people in relation to social inclusion, income maximisation, falls advice and neighbourhood care.

Three year (2005-8) commissioning strategy for Chronic Disease Management includes:

- Self care for patients with chronic disease;
- Case management focused on very high intensity users;
- A comprehensive managed care approach for patients with different levels of chronic disease progression

A good partnership developed between the Carers Centre and the council's Adult Care service Development of carers services in relation to emergency respite care, carers breaks, back care and direct payments. In 2009 there was significant improvement in the numbers of carers receiving assessments and services in their own right (18% as at March 2009).

Single Assessment Process introduced in April 2004 to reduce duplication in the questions people are asked and to ease sharing of information

Current position

Closer working between the council, health services and the community and private sectors has improved social care

In 2004/05, there were 17,652 emergency hospital admissions, a rate of 66 per1000 of population, resulting in 175,918 emergency bed days

Brighton & Hove has a significant ageing population (8.6% of residents are age 75 or over, with 2.6% age 85 or over). One in 10 households has a person with special needs.

791 people age 75 or over were admitted to hospital locally as a result of a fall last year

31% of households in the city have at least one person with a limiting long-term illness. Almost 24,000 people identified as carers in the 2001 census and the value of their care is estimated at over £220 million

What we plan to do

Increase choice and independence for vulnerable adults by focusing on preventing ill-health and postponing dependency

Introduce a "Sure Start" model of services to break down professional barriers and involve clients in decision-making.

Invest in services to help people leave hospital as soon as possible

Reduce emergency admissions for older people (over 65years) by 5% per year for the local population and emergency bed days by 1% per year

Update the Older People's Services Vision paper taking account of the healthy ageing approach and wider service issues relating to housing transport, crime etc

Help eligible people take up benefit payments

Make people aware of the risks of falls, infections, respiratory problems and heart failure and help them make changes to reduce the risk of these problems

Develop a Carers Strategy for the city

Work with carers to support their needs and the needs of the people they care for

Improve awareness of carers' needs and provide good quality support services for carers

Ensure carers get clear information about the financial benefits they could be entitled to

INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Indicator	2010/11	2020 Target
Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates	2010 per 100,000 population	
Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHs) services	4x4 = 16	
Obesity among primary school age children in year 6	17.5%	
Initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral	78%	
Proportion of children in poverty	17%	
Smoking quitters per 100,000 population aged 16 and over.	946	

Social Care clients receiving Self Directed Support	913 people	
Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information	22%	
Adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment	TBC	
Teenage pregnancy	26.4 per 1,000 = 45% reduction	
Services for disabled children	TBC	
% of people contacting the Access Point whose needs where met at the access point	90%	
Reduce % of 11-16 year olds completing the Safe at School Survey who state that they have been bullied to in 2008. Reduce % of 8 -11 year olds completing the Safe at School Survey who state that they have been bullied to in 2008.	TBC	
Reduction in suicide (VS indicator - death rate per 100,000 population from Suicide and Injury of Undetermined Intent)	12.11 Per 100,000	
Increase uptake of risk assessment and screening for hypertension and cholesterol in general practice.	72.8%	
Take up /offer of 'talking therapies'	TBC	
Adult participation in sport	TBC	

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES AND INVOLVING PEOPLE

Chapter Contributors

Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
City Inclusion Partnership

Our aim

A place where communities are strong, inclusive and involved and have opportunities to influence decision making. A place where individuals are able to take advantage of opportunities to improve their quality of life. A place where the third sector¹ is thriving to enable and support community engagement and provide services to diverse communities.

Introduction

Informing, consulting, involving, collaborating and empowering

It is increasingly recognised that engaging local people in making decisions about things which affect their lives will lead to positive outcomes. The duty to involve local people is also increasingly a policy requirement, although this community engagement comes in many shapes and sizes. There have been significant achievements in Brighton and Hove in recent years around developing opportunities for community engagement and defining good practice

Partners now need to focus their collective energies on ensuring opportunities to get involved are better promoted, that expectations around community influence are clear and that resources are better co-ordinated and used to maximum effect. With a new Community Engagement Framework in place to guide next steps, the Stronger Communities Partnership is leading on promoting newly agreed engagement standards and driving forward a cross sector community engagement action plan.

Thriving third sector

Brighton and Hove is fortunate in having a large, diverse and active third sector, developed over a number of years. The sector has a significant role to play locally, for example in facilitating community engagement and fostering active citizenship and many organisations are involved in providing high quality public services.

Changes in the external environment, particularly around commissioning structures, will present many significant challenges to groups in the near future. To ensure that the city's 1,600 groups can continue to thrive and provide unique services to local people, the sector requires ongoing support and must be proactive in adapting to change and in seeking to secure a sustainable future.

Partners involved in the ChangeUp Consortium have developed shared plans and are committed to strengthening support services available to the third sector locally and to plugging into support that is available regionally and nationally. A key challenge is to ensure that the sector is supported to ride out the recession in the months ahead.

Partners and strategies involved

A wide range of strategies and partners are linked in with the strengthening communities agenda. This strategic overview pulls together commitments and activities from different

¹ The term Third Sector is used to define non-governmental organisations that are value driven and which principally reinvest their surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives. It includes voluntary and community organisations, [non-educational] charities, social enterprises, cooperatives and mutuals, and housing associations.

partners and plans, including the Local Area Agreement Delivery Plan and Community Engagement Framework, and it embraces feedback from Community & Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) position statements.

Community engagement

What has happened over the past three years

A wide range of neighbourhood action plans and groups have been developed in partnership between local communities and service providers, defining and delivering on shared commitments to service improvements

Access to legal and advice services that tackle social exclusion has improved, following strengthened partnership working in the Advice Service Network and Strategy Group

Brighton & Hove City Council has undertaken a major review of its approach to equalities

A strong LGBT evidence base has been established from the Count Me In Too survey, which is being used to inform future action

A strategic review of youth services has been completed and young people were involved in decisions about how to spend Youth Opportunities Funding in the city

The new Youth Council has identified a number of issues which it will be campaigning on to improve the well being of children and young people in the city including a 3 in 1 discount card for local shops, leisure and entertainment facilities and to use on public transport and in libraries; provision of safer and cleaner public spaces; raising awareness about housing and homelessness; increasing awareness of different disabilities and illnesses and the role of young carers and highlighting diversity among young people

Current position

A range of participative activities, formal and informal events, structures and networks are supported at a range of levels (including in neighbourhoods, citywide and within communities of interest and identity) to help bring communities together to:

- Celebrate shared identities and build positive understanding around differences between people from different backgrounds
- Network and learn together
- Develop work plans to influence local services

The local third sector is represented on a wide range of partnerships and groups where policy and plans are developed and strategic decisions made

A new citywide cross-sector Community Engagement Framework is in place, providing a common understanding of and commitment to community engagement. This sets clear and specific standards that all LSP members are signed up to and identifies priority actions for improving engagement practices

Partners are committed to finding out the views of residents using a range of consultative methodologies, including annual surveys and focus groups

The Children and Young People's Trust and its partners are working together to provide a new Integrated Youth Support Service especially through new Connexions Hubs in local communities across the city.

Over 6,000 children and young people elected a second Youth Council to represent their views at key meetings including the Children and Young people's Trust Board

What We Plan To Do

Strengthen existing engagement structures and activities and develop new strategies, to widen and deepen involvement of local communities and promote active citizenship

Build understanding around community representation and influence, in order to define a shared policy around:

- Community involvement in agenda setting and influencing strategy and resource allocations

Good practice in reward and recognition for community representation

Develop a partnership funding strategy that recognises the long-term role of the third sector in enabling community engagement with diverse communities

Increase opportunities for people to get involved as community volunteers and develop volunteers' skills, knowledge, expertise and experience to build local social capital and transferable skills within the third sector

Develop cross-sector training and development around community engagement and a community workers' network to share information and learning

Review and refresh the Council's Community Development strategy

Support Councillors to be community champions

Disseminate information and communicate more clearly how people can get involved in their local community or with public bodies in the city, including online searchable database of consultations and promotional campaign

Ensure that equalities and contribution to community cohesion are assessment criteria used when procuring goods and services

Promote business support for community based activities and encourage uptake of 'Community Mark' (national award recognising business support for a local community)

Establish a community engagement review and evaluation process that all partners are signed up to

We want to increase the number of children and young people on the path to success. We plan to:

- Ensure that all young people have access to a wide range of positive activities and can participate effectively in decision-making processes and in growing their communities.
- Address risky behaviour among young people including reducing the numbers of young people who are first time entrants to the criminal justice system and those who re-offend.

We want to transform 14-19 provision so that children and young people have the skills to succeed and become active citizens. We plan to:

- Providing the transformed statutory curriculum by 2013
- Improving outcomes for all 16-19 year olds
- Reducing the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training.
- Reducing the number of children living in workless families and /or living in poverty.

A thriving third sector

What has happened over the past three years

The past 10 years has seen significant growth of the local third sector, with groups seizing new opportunities and developing their services in response to need and changes in the city's population

There is increased recognition locally and nationally that the sector is a key partner in helping delivery on the city's priorities, through its involvement in partnership structures, strategies and policies and as a service provider

The sector includes a diverse range of organisations. This diversity, the sector's multiple voices and cultures and its capacity to reach under-represented groups in the community is an essential resource and needs to be understood to fully appreciate the sector's value in Brighton and Hove.

Current position

Taking Account: an economic and social audit of the third sector in 2008 reported: There are approximately 1,600 third sector organisations in Brighton and Hove

The sector contributes £96 million to the local economy each year

The sector employs about 8,000 people and offers 19,200 volunteer positions giving 57,600 hours per week. If volunteers were paid the same rate as workers in the third sector their annual salary bill would be worth £24 million

33% of organisations are involved in providing service contracts, 46% of which comes from outside the city

50% of organisations stated that their number of users had increased in 2007/8

The majority of organisations stated that their main activity results in empowering people to improve the quality of their life (34%) and bringing people together (20%)

Brighton and Hove City Council has committed almost £2 million to its third sector current programme for 2010-2013

The Compact has been refreshed in 2009 and sets out expectations around partnership working between third and public sectors

What we plan to do

Strengthen the support services available to the third sector organisations, delivering on the ChangeUp plans, enabling groups and organisations to meet new challenges and ensure future sustainability

Better understand and develop local funding and commissioning programmes based on good practice, to ensure the potential of the local third sector is fully maximised. Where appropriate, this will lead to an increased role for the third sector in public service delivery, recognising the sector's expertise in providing holistic, preventative and user-focused services, often supporting people from under-represented groups with complex needs. But at the same time, it is important to recognise differences within the sector, that organisations work at varying levels and will not all engage in public service delivery or strategic partnership working

Continue to develop relationships and good practice in cross-sector partnership working, including providing training and development to build better mutual understanding

Support the development of community buildings and develop a strategy around the transfer of assets to the third sector, where they will be long-term and sustained benefit for the community

Through the provision of positive cultural opportunities including exhibitions, displays of collections and events, our museum service has been able to improve access to services and programmes for disadvantaged groups

Brighton & Hove's museum service has also been active in providing opportunities for volunteering and work placements

INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Indicator	2010/11	2020 Target
% of people who feel they can influence decision in their locality	30.6%	
Participation in regular volunteering	26.6%	
Environment for a thriving third sector	24.8%	
% of people who feel that they can get on with others from different backgrounds	TBC	
% of communities with local communication / involvement mechanisms		
% of people who are satisfied with opportunities to engage in local decision-making	TBC	

IMPROVING HOUSING AND AFFORDABILITY

Chapter Contributors

Brighton & Hove Strategic Housing Partnership
Brighton & Hove City Council (Housing)

Our aim

Enabling healthy homes, healthy lives and a healthy city that reduces inequality and offers independence, choice and a high quality of life

Housing

Issues of concern

The city has been characterised by increasing housing costs and high levels of homelessness. The continuing trend of polarisation; with some neighbourhoods experiencing inequality compared to the rest of the city in terms of access to employment, health and life expectancy will also need to be addressed. These pressures have placed an increased burden on many other public services, such as the community care and health economies.

Over the next twenty years the population of Brighton & Hove will grow by around 27,000 people. The city will experience an increase in working age residents; but also be an older and more diverse population than ever before. By 2026 the city will need to provide an additional 11,000 homes and according to trend based projections, 8,000 additional residents will need work over the next 10 years to maintain current employment rates.

In the current economic climate, some tenants are struggling to keep their rent payments up to date

There is a danger of private sector developers pricing land out of reach of affordable housing providers

Brighton & Hove has the highest overcrowding rate outside London

A significant proportion of the city's council housing does not meet the Decent Homes Standard

Too many vulnerable residents in private housing live in non-decent homes. The city has a lot of pre -1919 housing which can be damp and hard to heat

The Supporting People budget from central government is reducing

Empty properties are a waste of valuable resources, and a blight in local communities, attracting crime and anti-social behaviour

Those who have bought a home in the city since September 2006 are likely to be facing negative equity, particularly if they bought with a small or no deposit. This could cause financial difficulties for them if they need to sell or renew their mortgage, particularly if a mortgage interest discount period is due to expire.

What has happened over the last three years

Property sale values are down at least 20% overall although there are some property types (e.g. studio flats) which are down 30% or more.

Since 2000 we have seen property prices more than double in value, with smaller properties traditionally associated with first time buyers seeing the greatest increases. However, as a result of the recession property prices have been reducing over the last year.

The average house price in the city has fallen from a high of £235,844 in March 2008 to £202,191 in December 2008, a decrease of 14% back to September 2006 levels. Average prices in the city are still 27% higher than the nationally, which have fallen back to October 2005 levels.

Rental values are down 10-15% on average as there is a surplus of property caused by unwilling sellers going into the rental market

More than 1500 new affordable homes have been developed since 2001. In 2008/09, 232 new affordable homes, 80 for low cost home ownership and 152 for affordable rent.

Many of the 36,000 non-decent private sector homes are occupied by vulnerable people, with the oldest and poorest more likely to live in the worst quality housing. We are working with owners and landlords to improve more than 1,000 of these homes every year to help bring them up to standard and improve the quality of resident's lives.

7% of new affordable housing is comprised of family sized accommodation, almost 100% were to Lifetime Homes Standard and 16% were to our new Accessible Homes Standard (wheelchair standard).

Since 2001 the council has worked with owners to bring almost 1,000 empty homes back into use and the council re-launched its Empty Property Strategy in 2006, and adopted a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Policy allowing the council to acquire property in approved cases and as a last resort when owners have repeatedly refused to engage with us.

Current position

Significant number of affordable homes in development in 2008/9, through all mechanisms, i.e. a mix of s106 'windfall sites' and council or RSL owned sites coming forward. In 2008 – 9 we worked with RSL partners to deliver 232 new affordable homes of which almost 100% achieved Lifetime Homes and 37 (16%) were built to meet our wheelchair accessible standard.

Despite the falls in property prices the property market is still largely inaccessible for many of those aspiring to home ownership. One bed flats still cost 5 times median income and 3 bed houses more than 9 times median household income and problems in the mortgage market are resulting in providers increasing the level of mortgage required.

In terms of tenure mix we delivered 64% for rent, 2% intermediate rent and 34% for shared ownership of which 33 (41%) were for keyworkers

Locally, repossession claims between April and December 2008 were 21% higher than the same period in the previous year. In response to this the Council has recently launched a number of schemes to help prevent repossession and homelessness.

In terms of tenure mix we delivered a higher proportion of rented accommodation than might have been expected but largely due to the inclusion of Grand Ocean Phase 1 which delivered 48 units for rent, shared ownership to follow 2009/10, and George Williams House, HCA funded through the Hostels Capital Programme, 38 rented units for single people.

Overall, around 36% of the city's housing stock is considered to be non-decent. The highest proportion of non-decent housing is in the council housing stock; however, the largest numbers of homes that are non-decent are in the private sector, outnumbering non-decent council homes by 5 to 1.

The private sector stock condition survey recently completed highlighted how 35% of private sector homes in the city are considered non-decent in comparison to 27% nationally

In terms of increasing the supply of larger, family housing (counting 3 & 4 beds) we achieved 17 x 3 & 4 bed completions (7%), below other target 10% . This is partly skewed by the provision of the 38 one bed units at George Williams House to meet a specific need and so unusually not a mix in terms of size. However, we now link the work of the dedicated Under-Occupation Officer very closely with the provision of new affordable smaller units and in this way help free up larger family homes in the existing social housing stock for re-letting. Generally we seek to secure a *minimum* 10% of 3 & 4 bedroom properties in new developments of general needs housing and a higher proportion, 25%, on all suitable sites.

The city has one of the largest private rented sectors in the country comprised of 28,000 homes; almost a quarter of the entire city's housing (23%). However, high rental costs, poorer than average housing quality and pockets of overcrowding result in additional housing challenges for the city.

All new affordable homes for rent are advertised through the council's choice based lettings scheme, homemove, and all shared ownership opportunities are let through the HomeBuy scheme with Moat Homes Ltd acting as the Zone Agent in the city and ensuring priority given to households who live and/or work in the city

The new Supporting People Strategy sets out how over 4,000 vulnerable residents will be supported each year to maintain their independence

An extra care housing scheme for older people was completed at Coldean this year providing 6 new affordable homes with close links to the extra care scheme completed 2006 – 07 at New Larchwood, Coldean.

Adaptations target increased from 400 to 500 per year to reflect improvements in service delivery

The Housing Needs Survey 2005 and Strategic Housing Market Assessment June 2008 included specific additional research with the LGBT community, BME residents, younger people, older people, and gypsies and travellers

The Strategic Housing Partnership is looking into the impact of student housing on overall housing supply

What we plan to do

Provide an average of 230 new affordable homes each year by working with our preferred registered providers in the city and through the adoption of appropriate planning policies in the emerging Local Development Framework to ensure affordable homes form a significant proportion of all homes in major developments

Provide a range of affordable housing to meet the needs and aspirations of the city

Use the Strategic Housing Partnership to make sure the city's housing requirements form a key part of local business planning

Continue to give priority for social housing to people with a local connection to the city

Support moves towards a broad definition of "key workers" to increase access to affordable homes

Following the tenants' ballot and strong 'no' vote on stock transfer, to establish a Local Delivery Vehicle to maximise the opportunities to bring investment in to ensure all council housing stock meets the Decent Homes Standard by 2010

Continue to secure investment into the city through the private Sector Renewal funding to include improving energy efficiency ratings to ensure homes can be heated affordably and thereby reducing CO₂ emissions

Work with EU partners on the Welfare Policies for Older People project to improve accommodation for older people in the city and across Europe

Continue to work within our Empty Property Strategy 2006 – 09 to bring empty homes in the private sector back into use to increase the housing supply, improve neighbourhoods by tackling the environmental impact of long term empty properties and to develop a range of enforcement options as a last resort, where efforts to engage an owner fail

Explore opportunities for new developments that improve choice and tenure mix, for example through shared ownership, in East Brighton and the Neighbourhood Renewal areas

Homelessness

Issues of concern

High levels of homelessness in the city

Temporary B&B accommodation is often considered detrimental to well-being of families

Rough sleeping remains a visible presence, particularly in the city centre.

Over the last few years, the main cause of homelessness, resulting in almost 40% of all cases is as a result of eviction by parents, family or friends.

What has happened over the last three years

The number of households making homeless applications reduced by 53% from 2004/5 to 2007/8

Through our Homelessness Strategy we have changed the way we dealt with homelessness, moving from crisis intervention to a homelessness prevention service, helping households to find solutions to their housing needs without having to go down the homelessness route. This approach has led to a halving of homelessness since 2004 and avoided significant upheaval and distress for those affected.

Current position

393 Households were accepted as homeless in 2008/9

366 Households were living in temporary accommodation on 31st March 2009

We have ended the long term use of B&B for families with children and ensure that 16/17 are only placed in B&B in an emergency, with 3 16/17 year olds in B&B during March 2009.

Efforts by the local authority and its partners have sustained a reduced level of rough sleeping from 66 people in March 2001 to 6 in March 2009.

What we plan to do

Continue to focus on the prevention of homelessness and sustain the reduction in homelessness against the three main causes – ending of private tenancies, parental eviction and relationship breakdown.

Implement the Homelessness strategy 2008 – 2013

Work with landlords to develop access to settled homes in the private sector

Reduce rough sleeping to as near zero as possible and to zero for people with a local connection

Extend the housing options approach to address unemployment and provide a platform for economic and social inclusion

We are on track to halve the use of temporary accommodation by 2010.

Fuel Poverty

Issues of concern

Many households in the city have difficulty in paying for fuel to keep warm during the winter months

A substantial number of these households fall within the government's official definition of fuel poverty by having to spend more than 10% of their income on fuel to satisfactorily heat their homes. However, this definition takes no account of housing-related costs, and as such does not adequately encompass all households who have difficulty in achieving affordable warmth.

Fuel poverty has been shown to have significant adverse impacts. In particular, inadequately heated homes can lead to or worsen cardio-respiratory conditions resulting in increased winter deaths among older people. Cold homes have also been implicated in under-achievement by children.

What has happened over the last three years

Although there have been significant improvements in home energy efficiency, domestic energy prices have almost doubled over the last three years. This has led to a large increase in the numbers of households in fuel poverty.

Current position

The Brighton & Hove Home Energy Group, comprising a range of organisations working with Brighton & Hove City Council, has established a comprehensive Affordable Warmth Action Plan for the city. Key elements of the Action Plan involve the delivery of energy efficiency grants.

As well as continuing its support for the national Warm Front grant scheme the council has worked with its Home Energy Efficiency Managing Partner, Climate Energy, to expand its own home energy efficiency grants programme for private sector housing, enabling more people to benefit from free insulation and heating installations

A dedicated Affordable Warmth Grant has been established to ensure that households on low incomes who do not qualify for any other grant scheme are able to have essential insulation and/or heating works carried out

Other areas in which the energy efficiency grants programme has been enhanced include lowering the qualification of the 70+ Energy Innovation Grant scheme to 60 years (so that the scheme is now the 60+ EIG scheme) and establishing a Family Insulation Grant for families with young children living in smaller properties.

Fully-funded solar water heating installations are also available to householders aged 60 or over on means tested benefits

In 2008/09 the council provided grants for energy efficiency measures to 663 households in the city with a total value of more than £1.3 million

Towards the end of 2007 the Brighton & Hove Warm-Homes fuel poverty initiative was launched in partnership with Climate Energy with the aid of a government grant and funding for insulation measures provided by EDF Energy. This proactive initiative included targeted home visits and the availability of benefit entitlement checks for householders. Although the home visit programme had to be suspended when the government grant funding had been fully spent, the insulation grant programme has been successfully maintained, with more than 750 installations in total being carried out by the end of 2008/09. Of these 432 were provided to the 'priority group', i.e. those aged 70 or over or in receipt of means tested benefits.

'Keep the Home Fires Burning' (KHFB) is a service operated in Brighton & Hove by the Anchor Trust that provides support to vulnerable people in obtaining grant-aided energy efficiency improvements carried out to their homes. To deal with urgent cases an arrangement has been made for fast-tracked 60+ Energy Innovation Grants to be provided following submission of a report by KHFB indicating a clear need for rapid action

In the council housing sector, the council is implementing a programme to install cavity wall insulation and loft insulation to all relevant properties. In addition there are ongoing programmes for installing energy efficiency boilers and for roof and window replacements

What we plan to do

The current energy efficiency programmes will be maintained, and there is potential scope for further increasing the private sector grant programmes during 2009/10. It is also possible that a new cross-tenure initiative may be established under the proposed new Community Energy Saving Programme. This would entail the establishment of a 'whole house' approach in a limited number of areas within Brighton & Hove, and this would include measures to tackle hard to treat properties (such as solid wall insulation) and microgeneration technologies. The council does not have control over the implementation of such a project as it is a matter for fuel suppliers and generators to decide the locations in which they propose to discharge their obligations under this scheme. However, it is hoped that a project might be established in the city with the assistance of the council's Energy Efficiency Managing Partner, Climate Energy

INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Indicator	2010/11	2020 Target
Net additional homes provided	570	
% non- decent council homes	26%	
Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living	68%	
Numbers of households living in temporary accommodation	TBC	
Bringing empty properties back into use	153	
Reduce the numbers of rough sleepers	10	
Tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy	TBC	

efficiency rating		
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DRAFT

Living within environmental limits and enhancing the environment

Chapter Contributors

City Sustainability Partnership
Brighton & Hove Food Partnership
Brighton & Hove City Council (City Clean, City Services, Planning)

Our aim

A city leading the way on tackling climate change, which is working towards living within environmental limits and is improving biodiversity. A place that is reducing pollution, is well planned and designed, with well-managed and accessible open spaces and countryside and a clean, attractive and improving urban environment.

Cutting Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Issues of concern

There is overwhelming scientific evidence that climate change poses serious global risks; and consensus that we have as little as ten years to start dramatically cutting greenhouse gas emissions or risk catastrophic climate change. The stock levels of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere are rising as a result of human activity.

“Preventing man-made climate change is challenging. If the UK is to align itself with the requirements for stabilising global atmospheric CO₂ emissions at 450ppm (the requirement to keep global warming below 2 degrees and catastrophic climate change) then a reduction of CO₂ emissions by up to 70% by 2030 and 90% by 2050 is required. To achieve the required CO₂ reductions that mitigate the knock-on effects of climate change, it is essential that yearly targets for CO₂ reduction are set, monitored and acted upon on a regular basis” – draft One Planet Living Plan for Brighton & Hove, January 2009.

Nationally, leaders are looking to cities like Brighton & Hove to lead the way on cutting emissions and pioneering the drive towards a low carbon economy. Yet our emissions are still going up slightly; so we have a long way to go before the dramatic reductions required can be achieved. Work by Bioregional has led them to conclude that carbon emissions will continue to rise initially and can at best be stabilised, as we are “locked in” to our current infrastructure. Dramatic reductions in CO₂ and other greenhouse gases will therefore be required from 2012 to 2032 – about 9% per year. In the meantime we need to do all we can to ensure this happens.

There are also very real fears in the energy industry and more widely that global oil supply will soon fail to meet demand, putting up prices of oil and gas (the price of which is pegged to oil's) and leading to potential security of supply problems. Peak oil production is the point at which existing oil reserves can no longer be replaced by new ones. Conventional wisdom has been that the peak is many years in the future, but the International Energy Agency has warned of an oil crunch by 2013. Other authoritative voices warn of severe problems sooner than this.

What has happened over the last three years

The Government has passed the Climate Change Act, committing the UK in law to an 80% reduction in CO₂ by 2050 and a 26% cut by 2020 (from 1990 levels).

The independent Committee on Climate Change has reported to government that to achieve these levels, then the “carbon budgets” for the UK should be as follows:

An “Intended budget” (if a global climate change deal is reached) of 42% by 2020. The committee says this equates to 31% relative to 2005. Or an “Interim budget” of 34% by 2020 (21% relative to 2005) in the absence of the global deal. We believe it is vital to aim for the higher target.

There are further targets for a 20% reduction in UK energy use (through energy efficiency) by 2020 and for 20% of UK energy to come from renewable energy by 2020.

- Business carbon reduction seminars have been organised and a Low Carbon Economy on-line guide for city businesses developed.
- The city council launched a £6 million energy efficiency grant scheme over three years to help householders cut costs and carbon emissions
- Developed a city grant scheme subsidising solar hot water heating
- Planners have introduced in tough new sustainability standards for developers, including a carbon offset scheme to expand the energy efficiency grant fund
- Introduced a ground-breaking sustainability checklist for developers, winning a national planning award
- Showed thousands of local residents how to green their own homes through new “Eco Open Houses” weekends.
- A number of large public services have developed successful Carbon Management Programmes, saving energy, fuel and public money.
- The city has the highest proportion of “green tariff” renewable electricity purchasers in the UK, at 11%, as well as the highest proportion of vegetarians.
- The city has raised its short-term target for annual CO₂ reductions from 3.5% to 4%.
- The LSP prioritised climate change in 2008 and commissioned a city Climate Change Strategy

Current position

CO₂ emissions from burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, gas and petrol are the biggest contributory factor at 85%; though there are other potent greenhouse gases especially connected with food growing and disposal and refrigeration/cooling.

About 1.3 million tonnes of CO₂ is emitted by Brighton & Hove annually (as measured by direct use of these fuels) – equivalent to about 5.2 tonnes per person. The way of measuring this has changed, but the level of these emissions has remained similar for the past three years.

Long time lags in the collection and publication of data means that the latest figures available for Brighton & Hove are for 2006. These show a slight rise in overall emissions and no real change in the per capita emission level. Thus we failed to achieve the annual city target of a 3.5-4% reduction in the city’s emissions.

A more realistic consumption analysis of the city’s carbon footprint shows city per capita CO₂ emissions to be more than double this amount, at 12.8 tonnes per person per year, which is 16% higher than the average UK resident.

This takes into account the indirect carbon emissions embodied in the products and services we consume and has been produced by Bioregional using Stockholm Environment Institute data from work for WWF.

If all greenhouse gases are counted – measured in CO₂ equivalent (as they vary in climate changing strength) – we are producing 17.44 tonnes per person.

Analysis shows the following areas have most impact:

- Domestic consumption of energy, both direct fuel and electricity for heating, hot water and appliances
- Use of cars - fuel consumption, vehicle purchase and maintenance. Air travel is the other high impact area of transport
- Food, eaten in the home and provided at restaurants and other catering services
- Consumption of consumer goods, in particular household appliances, jewellery, audio-visual equipment and other high embodied energy items.

What we plan to do

Work with housing to dramatically increase the installation of home energy efficiency measures across the city, especially in poorly insulated and low income homes

Produce a 'big users' energy map of the city and develop efficient district heating scheme plans, using new developments as a catalyst

Establish an Energy Service Company or companies to support local sustainable energy developments

Install, and support the widespread installation of renewable energy

Support plans for a large offshore windfarm off the coast of Sussex

Explore the long term potential of marine renewable energy for the city – tidal, wave

Increase local food growing and procurement; promote more local, seasonal and low impact food, such as organic and lower meat diets.

The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and Food Matters are leading on a partnership project called Harvest Brighton & Hove. This aims to increase the amount of food grown within the city.

Introduce procurement policies within public institutions and local businesses which favour the use of locally produced, seasonal and healthy food which support environmental sustainability, animal welfare and fair trade.

Support the re-use and refurbishment of high impact products, such as household appliances and furniture, by supporting social enterprises and widespread purchasing

Improve awareness and understanding of the embodied energy in products and services

Reduce unnecessary car use further through modal shift, promoting shorter commutes, home working and virtual meetings to employees and employers, backed by next-generation broadband and wireless communications.

Install electric vehicle charging points in the city and promote the use of electric and other low carbon vehicles

Share with other public services the city council's work with the Carbon Disclosure Project to monitor key suppliers' carbon emissions as a first step towards reduction plans

Living with Climate Change Locally

Issues of concern

Climate change is with us here and now and will get significantly worse before (if) it gets better due to the greenhouse gas emissions already in the atmosphere and their delayed impact.

The UK Climate Impacts Programme - which leads UK scientific consensus on impacts – says the South East of England will continue to be most affected in the UK. UKCIP 09 modelling will be the most up to date, and changes modelled by 2020 include:

- Average temperature increases of 1-1.5 degrees c
- 5-15% less rainfall, especially in summer months, increasing the likelihood of drought
- More extreme weather events such as very hot days, drought, storm surges, and heavy rainfall – increasing the likelihood of flooding.

Latest sea level rise predictions for this century from the world's leading climate scientists suggest 1.1 or 1.2 metres is now probable due to polar ice melting rates, rather than the half a metre previously predicted. More frequent storms and sea surges make this an increasing issue for the city and its sea defences.

The summer heatwave of 2003 was responsible for tens of thousands of heat-related deaths across Europe, but by 2020 an average summer may well be as hot as that one locally. High temperatures and still weather can also lead to a build up in air pollution, mainly from vehicles and this poses health risks to the very young and old and to asthmatics.

The south east of England is in “water stress”, receiving only 690mm of rainfall per year compared to a national average of 897mm per year. Our water supplies are already in a delicate balance with relatively low levels of rainfall in the South East and increasing public consumption. Water resources must be managed to ensure the security of water supply and protect the environment. Brighton & Hove is especially vulnerable because 75% of its water comes from local sources – boreholes into the aquifer – so it is in our interest to start reducing consumption; not least because we already have one of the highest domestic water consumption rates in the UK. Moving water from other areas to ours is expensive and energy intensive (exacerbating climate change).

The pressures on water resources are set to increase through additional demands from population growth and new housing, and the impacts of future climate change which is predicted to reduce water availability during the summer months. Greater water efficiency, especially within existing housing stock, is essential for the sustainable management of water resources.

Flooding through torrential rainfall had a serious impact on Sussex in 2000 and continues to be a major area of concern. These fears about flood and drought are not incompatible, as one feature of climate change is disruption to usual cycles, with more frequent extreme periods of one or other.

So we need a better and sophisticated shared understanding across the city of the risks (and some opportunities) of climate change to our infrastructure and economy, our communities and our wildlife and habitats.

What has happened over the last three years

Serious flooding in England in the summer of 2007 has significantly raised the profile of this issue right across local government and emergency planning.

The Sussex Resilience Forum actively monitors climate change impact risks such as flooding and heatwave and manages the Community Risk Register for the whole of Sussex.

The Forum organised a well attended Sussex-wide conference in Brighton on flooding in 2007/8

A city Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was produced in March 2008 in line with national policy on development and flood risk. This SFRA should be regularly reviewed to ensure it contains the latest data, planning policy and legislation and will need to be reviewed when there is an update of flood risk legislation or planning policy, changes to flood risk management infrastructure or a major flood event locally.

A major incident emergency planning exercise was held in winter 2008/9 to test planning – in this case for a tidal wave hitting the coast.

Southern Water has invested £15 million over three years in replacing 35 miles of old Victorian water mains across the city with modern piping and the leakage rate is relatively low.

Following chalk cliff falls above the Marina; the University of Brighton has developed a cliff monitoring project and with the Coastal Engineer is developing trans-national project plans with similar areas on the French coast.

Water use restrictions – a hosepipe ban etc – were introduced during the 2006 drought.

The city's Hotels Association developed a water use protocol and information for guests.

The City Council's Sustainability Conference in 2006 on Water Shortage: the "Here and Now" Climate Change Issue, explored the key water resource issues and the drafting of a Water Action Plan.

A tourism stakeholders' seminar for the sector's Brighton & Hove businesses explored the threats and opportunities posed by climate change and the issue is addressed in the city's revised Tourism Strategy.

Current position

The government has developed new national indicators on preparedness/planning for flooding impacts and for climate change, under the Comprehensive Area Assessment. The performance of Local authorities and their partners will be measured on these

NI 188 Planning to Adapt to Climate Change – the city council's Head of Sustainability will lead on this. Other areas like Kent and East Sussex are ahead of us on this and we can learn from them.

NI 189 Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management – this focuses on local authority progress in delivering agreed actions in existing Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMP) and Second Generation Shoreline Management Plans (SMP2). The city council's Assistant Director, Sustainable Transport will lead on this. He has strong experience based on responding to the unprecedented rainfall leading to flooding in Patcham and Bevendean in 2000. We have done more work on flood risk and coastal protection than on wider service planning for a changing climate

The proportion of households with water meters in Brighton & Hove is relatively low and there are plans to change this rapidly. To all intents and purposes, non-household customers are all metered already.

Planning permission has been granted for a for a wastewater treatment works at Peacehaven

What we plan to do

Hold a council inquiry into the city's preparedness and planning for climate change to identify any areas of weakness and actions required

Disseminate the key findings of UKCIP 09 – the detailed climate change impact modelling – to key city stakeholders and service providers.

Encourage them to develop a detailed risk assessment and mitigation programme based on this.

Implement an Adapting to Climate Change action plan following the nationally agreed process. Incorporate this into the city's new Climate Change Strategy.

Compulsory water metering is to be introduced - Southern Water's draft water resource management plan outlines plans to achieve water metering of 90% of all households by 2015.

Continue to work with Southern Water to ensure appropriate wastewater treatment

Improve water resource management in the city's public services

Develop a joint project on chalk cliff erosion with the University of Le Havre and the local council

The draft new planning system (the LDF) incorporates requirements for climate-proofing in design and more urban tree-planting by developers to counter the "heat island" effect.

Waste, recycling and street cleanliness

Issues of concern

Landfill sites currently used by the city will be full by 2010 at current usage rates. There are no alternative landfill sites planned in the area

The European Landfill Directive requires us to reduce biodegradable waste going into landfill. Failure to do so will result in financial penalties for the council & council tax payers.

Waste in landfill can generate methane emissions which is a greenhouse gas. It also uses up valuable resources and can have negative environmental impacts.

The proportion of our waste recycled or composted must increase significantly and residents need to feel recycling and refuse collections are reliable

What has happened over the last three years

In 2008 a new Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) was completed in Hollingdean. The facility will make it easier for people to recycle as only glass needs to be separated. It will also result in efficiency savings for the service.

In 2008 a new Waste Transfer Station (WTS) was opened in Hollingdean. Waste will be hauled in bulk to other disposal sites when local landfill sites close and to the Energy Recovery Facility in Newhaven when this becomes operational in 2011.

These new facilities together with the introduction of communal bins will result in £1million revenue savings per year

To keep the city's streets clean, communal bins, binvelopes and city centre street washing have been introduced in trial areas

Seven Community Partnerships have been formed to help maintain a graffiti-free environment

The Waste Local Plan adopted which provides the policy framework for waste planning over the next three years, with supplementary planning guidance prepared for the Hollingdean Depot and Abattoir site

Supplementary planning document on construction and demolition waste prepared to help deliver more sustainable management of that waste stream and to minimise the amount of this waste sent to landfill

Work on preparing a Waste and Minerals Development Framework is underway jointly with East Sussex County Council. This will replace the East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Waste Local Plan, and the Minerals Local Plan in due course.

A Planning Advice Note was prepared to give design guidance to developers about making provision of the storage and collection of recyclable materials and waste.

Current position

Together with East Sussex County Council, the council has let a 30 year integrated waste management contract worth about £1 billion to develop new ways to manage our waste

In 2007/08, residents produced an average of 436 kg of household waste per person down from 453kg in 2004/05

In East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, construction and demolition waste accounts for over half of all waste produced

About 28% of household waste in the city is currently recycled or composted. As an urban centre, our rate would always be expected to be lower than in neighbouring rural counties where larger gardens produce much more green waste

98% of properties have a recycling service, either a kerbside collection or communal recycling bins for blocks of flats.

Following consultation on communal bins this service is now being rolled out to properties in central parts of the city. It will result in cleaner streets.

Binvelopes are being introduced to areas of Hanover following requests from local residents.

What we plan to do

Manage waste in more sustainable ways, encouraging re-use and recycling where possible. Waste should be seen as a resource rather than something that needs to be disposed of.

Consult on a feasible but ambitious strategy to reduce waste production and increase recycling rates

Build a new Energy Recovery Facility to process non-recycled waste and produce enough electricity to power 25,000 homes

Require developers to reduce, reuse and recycle construction & demolition waste to minimise the amount sent to landfill and reduce the demand on primary raw materials.

Work with traders and trade waste contractors to reduce rubbish left on streets

Improve the street cleanliness

Implement communications campaign

Ensure recycling services are accessible to all sections of the community

Continue to offer composters, at reduced prices, and continue to promote home composting

Require producers of major public events to encourage and maximise recycling

Investigate the potential for development of local-scale combined heat and power facilities in the city.

Built Environment

Issues of concern

Residents of Brighton & Hove enjoy living between the sea and the Downs but sites need to be used efficiently to reduce pressure on greenfield land. Our renowned cultural heritage in the built environment must be preserved and enhanced

Ensuring that the right infrastructure is in place in the city at the right time.

All new development needs to demonstrate a high standard of design, make a positive contribution to the built environment and contribute to health in the city

There is an under-supply of housing adaptable for the needs of disabled or ageing residents

What has happened over the last three years

In 2007/08, 100% of residential developments and new employment floorspace were on brownfield sites and 79% of new residential developments had over 50 dwellings per hectare

Recent high quality architecture and dynamic proposals for new major developments have led the city's aspirations for outstanding design

New supplementary planning documents (SPDs) are being prepared on Architectural Features and on the London Road.

The Sustainable Building Design SPD was adopted in 2008 and raises the standards for sustainability in new developments and promotes sustainability measures in existing buildings

Adoption of the Urban Characterisation Study

Planning Advice Note on Lifetime Homes prepared

A Supplementary Planning Document has been prepared to give guidance on sustainable building design, including a sustainability checklist that must be completed for most types of planning permission.

Current position

Brighton & Hove must plan positively for jobs, homes, sports, leisure, parks and green spaces, making the best use of sites which are or will become available. More than 30 conservation areas cover one fifth of the city and there are 3,360 listed buildings

A new approach to planning – the Local Development Framework (LDF) – will involve greater community input. The main Plan in the LDF, the Core Strategy, due to be adopted in November 2010 will help to deliver a number of priorities in the city around employment and training, retail, travel, housing, climate change, design, good public realm, open space and community safety.

The adopted Local Plan, still in place until the Core Strategy is adopted, sets high standards for design of all new developments

The Local Plan requires accessible housing and "lifetime homes" in new residential developments

What we plan to do

Adopt and implement the Core Strategy

Prepare and Urban Design Framework SPD for the city to help deliver high quality design in the city.

Continue to make the most efficient use of previously developed land (i.e. brownfield sites). Identify through an Urban Characterisation Study areas of the city where high density development can be accommodated

Provide urban design advice on major new schemes in the city.

Plan positively for high quality and inclusive design in all developments (single buildings, public and private spaces and larger projects)

Encourage developers to undertake early consultation with local residents on major planning applications

Undertake a Sustainability Appraisal and Health Impact Assessments on the Core Strategy

Contribute to implementing the recommendations in the Public Place, Public Life Study and create a built environment accessible to all which promotes physical and social activity. All dwellings should meet the Lifetime Homes Standard with a good proportion of dwellings in major developments to be wheelchair accessible

Biodiversity and the natural environment

Issues of concern

There is no clear picture of how biodiversity is changing locally but available evidence points to a continuing loss of species and habitats. People want to experience nature as a part of everyday life but many are increasingly isolated from it in practice

What has happened over the last three years

Local authorities have a new legal duty to further biodiversity, set out in Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

More new developments have incorporated biodiversity features and a new, linear 'eco park' has been created as part of the Brighton Station development.

A detailed audit of the habitats of importance in the urban and rural areas of Brighton and Hove has been carried out. When completed it will form a baseline for the future monitoring of habitat change.

An international conference was held in the city in October 2008 to look at the potential to people and the environment of designating Brighton and Hove as the first urban Biosphere Reserve.

A draft 'green network' has been defined to link natural green space in the city with the surrounding downland. When finalised, the network will identify some sites for habitat expansion and improvement to help reverse previous declines in biodiversity and to improve people's access to nature.

A School Grounds Biodiversity Action Plan has been implemented involving schools across Brighton and Hove, including the employment of a temporary project officer with partnership funding from Natural England and the Sussex Wildlife Trust. The project has included establishment of the Heritage and Environment Festival at Moulescoomb Primary School and the 'Big Biodiversity Butterfly Count'.

The Countryside Team has been increased to include new Park Rangers with a remit to develop community involvement in green space across the city. The Team's expanded remit

includes developing new friends groups and leading on major events such as the annual 'Springwatch' festival, which attracted 15,000 people in 2008.

Current position

The city is home to a great variety of common and rare animal and plant species, including European Protected Species such as Dormouse, Great Crested Newt and several species of bat. It also has some excellent examples of unimproved chalk grassland and vegetated shingle, which are both habitats of UK and European importance. In total, one-sixth of the city's area is covered by a nature conservation designation.

Brighton & Hove's wildlife website CityWildlife.org.uk allows people to record their wildlife sightings on a public database. Over 250 people have signed up as CityWildlife 'naturewardens' and have submitted over 4,000 records

The city has 24 active "friends" groups working to conserve natural green spaces

A Wildlife Advisory Group advises the council on nature conservation

Small businesses rank green space and parks as the top priority when choosing a new location. Integrating green space into developments encourages investment and promotes recruitment

Urban vegetation lessens climate change effects by reducing a city's "heat island" effect and filtering UV rays

Brighton & Hove currently has 5 "green flag" parks (Easthill Park, St Ann's Well Gardens, Preston Park, Kipling Gardens and Hove Park).

What we plan to do

Publish a local Biodiversity Action Plan which will address important habitats and species and the steps required for the city to achieve designation as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Complete the mapping of a Green Infrastructure Network and incorporate it into the Local Development Framework, to help climate-proof the biodiversity of Brighton and Hove, to help address habitat creation targets and to make it easier for people to experience nature as part of everyday life in the city.

Publish a detailed supplementary planning document on the integration of biodiversity into development.

Improve CityWildlife.org.uk to make it easier for local people and children to record their wildlife sightings and to contribute to the monitoring of key wildlife sites.

Carry out a review of the city's Sites of Nature Conservation Importance to address new national monitoring requirements (NI 197).

Re-landscape an existing park to create a new 'natural park' for the city.

Reintroduce traditional sheep grazing across all key chalk grassland sites in the city, to safeguard their nature conservation value.

Playbuilder Programme funding of over £1 million will allow the building or renewal of 22 playgrounds across Brighton & Hove over the next two years. This will make playgrounds accessible for children with disabilities and provide innovative, stimulating equipment and landscaping whilst delivering physically active play opportunities which are attractive to all children, including 8-13 year olds.

Update Open Spaces Strategy incorporating Green Infrastructure Network and taking in to consideration findings of PPG 17. The strategy will be delivered through detailed action plans for the different types of open space

Encourage wildlife gardening in private gardens and promote Brighton & Hove 'City in Bloom'

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Issues of concern

Many of our buildings, businesses and services need to be more energy efficient and make more use of renewable energy. Achieving sustainable development is a major objective of our planning system

What has happened over the last three years

The Jubilee Library is one of the most energy efficient public buildings in the country. Information promoting its energy and water saving features and linking them to climate change will go on display to encourage others to emulate its success

Since October 2003, all main council buildings use electricity from 100% renewable sources

Supplementary planning guidance sets out a benchmark for renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Planning Sustainability Checklist challenges developers to meet 15% of energy needs from renewable or sustainable sources in major developments

Current position

All applicants for residential developments need to provide a complete a sustainability checklist demonstrating their alternative / renewable energy and energy efficiency commitments

Both Earthship (an energy self-sufficient building in Stanmer Park) and Westergate House (a highly sustainable industrial development) won awards at the 2005 South East Renewable Energy Awards for incorporating a wide range of renewables, including wind generators

What we plan to do

Work with developers to ensure best practice in energy efficiency, water efficiency, reduced waste production and the use of renewable energy. Promote and require sustainable practices such as:

- Reducing carbon emissions;
- Energy and water efficiency;
- Incorporating recycling;
- Incorporating renewable energy

Consult on planning policies to require BREEAM excellent standard in all developments, to move towards carbon neutral developments and set challenging targets for on-site renewable energy generation

Ensure sustainability issues are central to the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework

Encourage renewable energy use in existing buildings and operations across all sectors, including business, retail and householders

Work with Carbon Trust to examine energy efficiency in sheltered housing schemes and council housing blocks to identify energy conservation measures and opportunities to move to combined heat and power or renewable energy

Through the East Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership, support Business Excellence Through Resource Efficiency to help businesses reduce energy use and costs and also CO₂ emissions

Improve the quality of our public toilets and investigate increasing their water efficiency

INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Indicator	20012/13 Target	2020 Target
Level of CO ₂ emissions	Brighton & Hove CO ₂ emissions decrease by 3.5% each year to 1207 kilo-tonnes carbon equivalent *	CO ₂ emissions decrease by 3.5% each year
CO ₂ reductions from local authority operations	TBC	
Amount of waste residents produce (gross weight, including the proportion recycled)	Reduce household waste by 1% year on year	Reduce the household waste produced per head of population by 5% on 2005/06 figures to 430 kg
Proportion of waste recycled	32% by weight of total household waste is recycled by 2012/13	45% by weight of total household waste is recycled When the waste strategy is next revised this target will be re-examined to see if it is possible to raise it more in line with the regional target
Improved street cleanliness (Graffiti)	Only 6% of streets found to have unacceptable levels of graffiti	
Proportion of residential developments on brownfield sites	At least 98% of developments are on brownfield sites each year	At least 98% of developments are on brownfield sites each year
Quality of chalk habitat within Brighton & Hove	Chalk grassland stable or improving in quality	Chalk grassland achieves favourable conservation status within Brighton & Hove
Work towards achieving Biosphere status for the city	Local Biodiversity Action Plan published which addresses Biosphere Reserve designation requirements	Brighton & Hove meets the criteria required to achieve designation as a Biosphere Reserve
Proportion of bathing water samples taken off Brighton beach that meet European Guideline standards	100% of bathing water samples taken off Brighton Beach meet minimum standards for bathing water compliance and a growing proportion meets the stricter European Guideline standard	Proportion of bathing water samples taken off Brighton Beach that meet European Guideline standards continues to increase

* CO₂ emission reductions of this level would be needed nationally from 2006 for the national target to be met of reducing carbon dioxide emissions to 20% below 1990 levels by 2010

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Chapter Contributors

Brighton & Hove City Council (Sustainable Transport)

Our aim

To provide the city with an integrated transport system that is accessible and sustainable and offers people transport alternatives and choices which will ensure our city is a healthy and vibrant place to live, work and visit.

Issues of concern

In developing and implementing solutions to tackling transport problems in the city, there are number of key priorities that we will contribute towards. These include:-

- Protecting the environment while growing the economy by :-
 - Keeping our city moving
 - Preserving and improving our urban and natural environments
 - Growing our economy and supporting people into work
- Reducing inequality by increasing opportunity by :-
 - Giving our children the best start in life
 - Improving the health of our residents

When delivering these priorities through improving the transport system transport, we will also ensure that we:-

- make better use of public money
- ensure fair enforcement of the law and
- demonstrate open and effective city leadership

Keeping our city moving

Congestion threatens the efficient movement of people and goods and therefore the economic prosperity of the city. Information and innovation are key to ensuring people can make informed choices about how they travel.

What has happened over the last 3 years

Average traffic speeds in the city, measured by the Department for Transport, show that is moving more freely

Current position

Almost half of these journeys are less than 5 km

Car ownership is below the national average

About 70 businesses have signed up to the newly established B&H Business Travel Plan Partnership/ Network

There are 23 km of cycle routes in Brighton & Hove.

Continued to support and provide for car club operations in the city

What we plan to do

Provide safer and better roads and transport routes by delivering the LTP investment programme

Make rush hour journeys shorter (in time)

Start work on a new capital transport scheme to speed up cross-city public transport

Improve transport links to jobs, leisure opportunities, healthcare, education and food stores by working with partners such as the PCT, universities and commercial retailers

Increase the use of Intelligent transport System such as variable message signs and cameras to manage traffic and movement more efficiently

Improve Park & Ride by providing more purpose-built sites

Increase the number of people using train services locally by improving station accessibility

Encourage greater use of car club schemes and promote home / local working, for example by promoting mixed-use developments

Introduce personal travel planning: working with residents to identify instances when they could walk, cycle or use the bus as an alternative to their car for some journeys

Improve and manage our car parks to provide appropriate and adequate facilities for those that need or choose to drive

Provide information to inform travel choices and promote changes in travel behaviour through a transport campaign and associated events, activities and initiatives

Ensure new developments have adequate transport provision and safely designed infrastructure to ensure that they provide for the demand for travel that they create

Develop a new Integrated Transport Strategy and Local Transport Plan

Continue to roll out real-time bus information

Preserving and improving our urban and natural environments

Transport affects our current lives in many ways. We want to maximise its benefits and minimise its impact on our city by ensuring that we tackle problems now that will benefit future generations. Reducing emissions from transport is a key factor.

What has happened over the last three years

Real time bus information displays has been rolled out at over 70 major bus stops across the city and the information is also available on the city council's journeyon website

The Legibility or 'Public Space Public Life' Strategy was approved and will help guide new innovative schemes to enhance our streets and turn 'spaces' into 'places' where people can enjoy our city even more

Invest greater levels of funding into maintenance than the government calculates is needed

More significant funding has been invested into improving street lighting

Completed and opened the award-winning urban real improvements in New Road as part of the development of the city's Cultural Quarter

Substantially completed the North Street Mixed Priority Route scheme (combined road safety and street enhancement measures)

Current position

About 18% of Brighton & Hove's carbon emissions derive from road transport, so cutting traffic is key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Some pollutant levels are still unacceptably high

Traffic is the main source of poor air quality within parts of the city

In 2008, 141 people (13 of which were children) were killed or seriously injured in road accidents in Brighton & Hove

What we plan to do

Encourage more efficient use of private vehicles and fleets and work with business and schools to help them do the same

Reduce carbon emissions and deliver energy and financial savings through Carbon Management Programmes.

Support the roll-out of car clubs across the city

Continue investment in footway and road maintenance

Improve public spaces with better signposting and a more welcoming street scene for all road users

Develop a Coastal Transport System jointly with neighbouring authorities, particularly to support planned regeneration proposals in the Shoreham Harbour area.

Giving our children the best start in life

What has happened over the last three years

Safer walking and cycling routes to schools have been developed

Current position

In 2009, of children's journeys to local authority schools:
53% were by foot; 2% were by cycle; 18% were by public transport and 27% were by car

What we plan to do

To ensure all schools across the city have developed and implemented Travel Plans to minimise the impact of cars on children's' journeys to schools

Improving the health of our residents

The main way that transport can help improve the health of our local communities is to reduce traffic fumes to make air quality better and make our roads safer

What we plan to do

The original Air Quality Management Area that was declared for Brighton & Hove has been widened to encompass the south-west corner and central area of the city. The area helps to identify where air quality targets are unlikely to be met without additional action.

The Brighton & Hove Council Staff Travel Plan has provided improved alternative travel options for employees both during, and on the way to, work. It includes a bicycle allowance rate to encourage officers to cycle when on council business

Growing our economy and supporting people into work

What has happened over the last 3 years

Bus passenger numbers have steadily increased each year, still well above the national average

Maximising the availability of affordable housing and jobs within the city to reduce the need for people to commute into or out of the city

The Government has launched the Kickstart initiative to increase bus patronage, and develop bus services to help reduce congestion, benefit the environment, and improve accessibility and social inclusion.

Current position

Nearly 40 million passenger journeys are made on local buses every year

What we plan to do

Increase the number of people using local buses by improving punctuality, promoting bus use and improving systems such as bus lanes

The council has submitted a Kickstart bid for late night extensions of core city bus routes, which will complement the council's Beacon Authority status for the city's night time economy in the city

Get more people into work by removing barriers to accessing jobs

Increase the level of local employment opportunities to reduce the need for people to travel out of the city for work

Exploit the city's wired city / broadband coverage strengths to reduce the need to travel, but be aware of the dangers of an "e-divide" developing between residents over ease of access to services

Facilitate home working but also joint work offices for freelancers / homeworkers such as The Werks in Hove

Create more attractive streets to encourage regeneration of the economy

Increase the number of people using local buses by improving punctuality, promoting bus use and improving traffic flow in the city

Brighton & Hove has established itself as a Cycle Demonstration Town, which secured an additional £1.5 million over 3 years to encourage cycling, and has enabled the city to become a Cycling Town for a further 3 years.

Improve air quality with a particular focus on the Air Quality Management Area by reducing traffic and encouraging people to walk, cycle or use public transport

Assist in the promotion of environmentally-friendly vehicles

Require green travel plans for all new non-residential developments and encourage existing businesses to develop travel plans

Improve transport interchanges e.g. Pool Valley Coach Station

Develop an Urban Freight Management Plan to assist the movement of goods and to promote economic growth

Increase accessibility to services by public transport and walking and cycling

Improve road safety through changing road layout, speed management and road safety training, especially for children to reduce the number of people that re killed and seriously injured in road traffic accidents

Ensure enforcement of traffic regulations discourages speeding, illegal parking and improper bus lane use

Deliver the Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Retain and build upon our status as a Cycling Town.

Introduce electric vehicle charging points across the city

Promote walking as part of a healthy lifestyle by :

- Improving walking corridors ;
- Created shared spaces where pedestrians have greater priority;
- Using greenways to link green spaces with attractive, safe pedestrian routes ;
- Better signage ;
- More safety features

Promote cycling as part of a healthy lifestyle by :

- Completing a coherent cycle route network, making cycling easy and safe and improving existing cycle lanes;
- Increasing cycle parking ;
- Encouraging cycle training ;
- Enforcing road regulations to improve cycle movement

INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Indicator	2010/11	2020 Target
Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak	3 minutes per mile	
No increase in the average journey times (+/- 10 seconds) compared to a 2007 baseline measured in minutes per mile using a combination of 5 key strategic routes into Brighton & Hove city centre between 7.00 am and 10.00 am, Monday to Friday excluding school holidays		
Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling	95%	

The proportion of the population in B&H within 10 minutes access of a GP surgery by PT and walking in the off-peak period (i.e. 10:00-16:00 hours)		
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DRAFT

PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICES

Chapter Contributors

Brighton & Hove Advice Services Strategy Group

Our aim

A place where residents, workers and visitors receive high quality customer-focused services

Issues of concern

People sometimes find public sector service providers big and unwieldy and can find it hard to reach someone who can deal with their issue

Among the service providers in the city it can be hard to know who is best placed to help

People need up-to-date information to make informed choices

Services can be fragmented and people passed from one service provider to another

People want to have more of a say in how services are delivered in their neighbourhood

Most people prefer to return to their own home after medical treatment

In a 2003-04 survey, 47% of residents were very or fairly satisfied with the local authority generally

Public services' response to needs should be based on evidence

Service providers need to be able to communicate fully with service users

What has happened over the last three years

Residents can access a range of council services at CityDirect walk-in offices, through the call centre or by using free computers at the city's libraries

A partnership of public, private and community agencies has established a Brighton & Hove specific internet search engine to allow residents to find out about services in the city: see www.p2b.net

The council's website has consistently been given the top grading for local authority websites by the Society of IT Managers

Children's services have already been significantly streamlined and the first four Children's Centres have been established in Hollingdean, Ivory Place (Tarnar), Moulsecoomb and Portslade

Several area-based initiatives have helped shape service delivery in Brighton & Hove, including eb4U, the Hollingdean Programme, Brighton & Hove Sure Start and Neighbourhood Renewal in Tarnar

The NHS has done surveys of patient opinion and the general health needs of the population

Over 20 organisations in the City that provide independent advice to residents on social welfare law issues such as housing, debt, welfare benefits and tax credits and employment have come together as the Advice Services Strategy Group to look at ways of maintaining and improving services to residents. The partnership, which includes the Citizens Advice Bureau, Brighton Housing Trust Advice and Immigration Service, Age Concern, RISE, MACS, Hove YMCA and Martin Searle Solicitors have recently secured investment from the Big Lottery Fund that will

ensure improved access for residents to quality advice services over the next three years. In addition Brighton and Hove City Council has responded to the recession by agreeing additional funding to improve access to independent advice and information for residents with debt related problems.

Brighton & Hove's museum service has made improvements to customer care and relationships through the development of web based communication systems

Current position

About a dozen city council services ** can be accessed through CityDirect

The local NHS Trusts and Brighton & Hove council's websites contain a great deal of information which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with easy to use guides to services

Non-emergency crimes, hate crimes and hate incidents can be reported via the police website at www.police.uk

Public services are increasingly being delivered under contract by community and voluntary organisations

Real time information is increasingly available in the city – covering bus times, parking availability and traffic congestion. See www.citytransport.org.uk

A new Children & Young People's Trust in Brighton & Hove is responsible for ensuring co-ordinated services are available for children and their parents

Consultation is underway to find out how mental health services can be better integrated in Sussex

The council is trialling a pilot Neighbourhood Forum in Brunswick & Adelaide

Over 60% of Brighton & Hove operations are carried out as day case surgery

Five council services (Bereavement Services, Building Control, Registrars, Revenue Services and Cashiers) have achieved Charter Marks for customer service – an independent accreditation of high quality customer-focused services

The Citizens Panel, organised jointly by the NHS, council and police provides an effective approach to public consultation

The health trusts and council provide free-to-user interpreting for non-English speakers, users of British Sign Language and users of Deaf / Blind Communication Support Workers

What we plan to do

Use "mystery shoppers" to assess and plan improvements to signage and how visitors are welcomed to the city

Put new computer systems in place to link up existing council services and databases and enhance access to services. Examine how to link in health information with CityDirect

The health trusts' and council's websites will expand the number and type of interactions it can support, with 100% of council services to be available on-line

Have British Sign Language translations available on health trust and council websites

The ChangeUp consortium will work to support quality service provision, information and signposting in the community and voluntary sector

The City's independent advice providers will work in partnership through the Advice Services Strategy Group to integrate and develop the provision of independent social welfare law advice. The Group will improve customer access to independent advice by 25% over the next three years, achieving positive outcomes in at least 50% of cases, engaging and supporting volunteers and developing city-wide quality & monitoring standards. Those providers that operate with Legal Services Commission funding (Legal Aid) will collaborate to ensure the continued development, delivery and integration of these Services.

Providers of advice and information a range of areas including social welfare, adult advancement and health will work together to share skills, co-ordinate services and ensure there is 'no wrong door' for residents seeking information and advice in the City.

Improve the provision of real-time information and find new ways of putting it to use, for instance in transport modelling

Further streamline children's services, ensuring links with health services; build more multi-disciplinary Children's Centres and establish extended schools. Ensure care services for vulnerable adults are co-ordinated between the council, health services and others

Evaluate neighbourhood forum pilot and explore options to increase resident involvement in decisions about their neighbourhoods

Consult on creating a Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund

Develop ways for police to recognise and respond to locally identified needs

Shift non-specialist hospital services into community settings such as local surgeries

Work towards having the independent Charter Mark awarded to all "front-facing" council services: those services which interact directly with residents

Develop a strategy for all public services to be subject to an appropriate quality accreditation system

Use research methods such as surveys and the Citizens Panel to improve service delivery by knowing our customers

Increase the number of documents translated into community languages

INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Indicator	20010/011 Target	2020 Target
Access to council services		
Number of Children's Centres		
Number of "front-facing" council services awarded Charter Mark for customer service		
Number of tourism businesses working within a national quality scheme		

** The CityDirect services currently are:

environmental health abandoned vehicles Cityclean street licensing
street enforcement highways maintenance street lighting community safety
planning building control housing and homelessness private sector
housing

BRIGHTON & HOVE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Business Sector

Simon Fanshawe, Economic Partnership

Trevor Freeman, Economic Partnership

Roger French, Economic Partnership, Chair of the 2020 Community Partnership

Tony Mernagh, Economic Partnership

Local Authority (Brighton & Hove City Council)

Councilor Mary Mears (Leader of the Council)

Councilor Dee Simson

Councilor Gill Mitchell (Vice-Chair of the 2020 Community Partnership)

Councilor Paul Steedman

Alex Bailey (Chief Executive)

Richard Tuset (Head of Policy)

Community & Voluntary Sector Forum

Paul Bramwell, CVSF Elected Representative / ChangeUp Consortium (Working Together Project)

Geraldine Des Moulins, CVSF Elected Representative / Stronger Communities Partnership (Brighton & Hove Federation of Disabled People)

Mike Holdgate, CVSF Elected Representative (Novas Scarman Group)

Steve Lawless, CVSF Elected Representative (Brighton & Hove Impetus)

Chris Todd, CVSF Elected Representative / CVSF Environment Network (Brighton & Hove Friends of the Earth), Vice-Chair of the 2020 Community Partnership

Doris Ndebele, CVSF Elected Representative / LINK

Jannet Cooke, CVSF Elected Representative / Stronger Communities Partnership

Simon Lewis, CVSF Elected Representative / CVSF Trustee Board

Public Sector

Darren Grayson, Brighton & Hove City Teaching Primary Care Trust

Michael Nix, Learning & Skills Council Sussex

Chief Superintendent Graham Bartlett, Sussex Police

Grahame Widdowson, JobCentre Plus

Chris Wick, Environment Agency

Partnerships

Paul Bonett, Strategic Housing Partnership

John Holmstrom, Advice Services Strategy Group

Jackie Lythell, Brighton & Hove Arts Commission

Vanessa Brown, Children & Young Peoples Trust

Stuart Laing - City Sustainability Partnership

Councillor Dee Simson, Vice-Chair of the 2020 Community Partnership - City Inclusion Partnership

One vacant position - Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership

One vacant position - Learning Partnership

One vacant position - Healthy City Partnership

Observers

Richard Emmens, Government Office for the South East (GOSE)

Gilly Bartrip, South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)

Caroline Wood, South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)

MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF PARTNERSHIPS

Brighton & Hove Learning Partnership

Healthy City Partnership

Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership

Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership

Brighton & Hove Strategic Housing Partnership

Sustainability Commission

Arts Commission

Brighton & Hove Children's Trust

Public Service Board

Area Investment Framework Board

Sub-Groups of the 2020 Community Partnership

Neighbourhood Renewal Review Group

Transport Sub-Group

Local Development Framework Sub-Group

You can visit our website at www.2020community.org for more information or write to the Secretariat at :

Room 139
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS

Subject:	Annual progress update on the Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008/09		
Date of Meeting:	14 July 2009		
Report of:	Interim Director of Strategy & Governance		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Barbara Green	Tel: 29-1081
	E-mail:	barbara.green@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No	Forward Plan No	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 There are 2 main parts to this report:

- LAA Summary Scorecard Report in **Appendix 1** provides performance information up to the end of March 2009.
- The Exceptions Report contained in **Appendix 2** provides information only on indicators that are significantly off target at the end of the 08/09. These include:
 - NI 004 - % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
 - NI 30 – prolific & priority offenders
 - NI 39 – rate of alcohol related harm admissions to hospitals
 - NI 116 – child poverty
 - NI 112 – teenage pregnancy
 - NI 152 – number of working age people claiming out of work benefits
 - NI 158 – decent homes
 - NI 186 –per capita reduction of CO2 emissions in local authority area
 - L2 – gross value added per head

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Commission notes the good progress against the LAA outcomes in Appendices 1 & 3.
- 2.2 That Overview and Scrutiny Commission notes the actions outlined in the Exception Report in Appendix 2 to address areas not meeting the agreed targets.
- 2.3 That Overview and Scrutiny Commission agrees to ask the Chairs of relevant Scrutiny Committees to review any areas of poor performance in greater detail and consider any relevant work the Scrutiny Committee could initiate to help improve performance in the future.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- 3.1 The LAA is a 3 year plan; 2008-2011. The agreement contains 35 National Indicators and a number of local indicators, selected because they highlight particular areas of improvement identified in our local needs assessments; including the Reducing Inequality Review and Joint Service Needs Assessments of children and adults.
- 3.2 The report tracks progress against key actions and milestones to provide TMT and elected members with a fuller picture of progress Cabinet and Scrutiny are invited to use this information to check progress and, where necessary, recommend additional action or reporting. Colours provide the direction of travel at the time of reporting:

●	GREEN	Performance is at or better than target
●	AMBER	Performance is off target and progress against delivery plan milestones unknown or uncertain
●	RED	Performance is significantly off target
●	GREY	No judgement possible (targets may be missing or it is the baseline year for an indicator)

- 3.3 The LAA contains the newly introduced National Indicator Set as such many of the indicators are still establishing baselines and so this year the actual performance outturn is provisional. In many cases the national data sources are still unavailable, in some others there is long time lag e.g. some of the economic and sustainability indicators.
- 3.4 The action plans that support the delivery of the Local Area Agreement outcomes sit in the organisations' business plans and Directorate Plans. These plans are established in line with budget proposals and are monitored at Directorate Management Teams and in one to one appraisal meetings with lead officers.
- 3.5 There is a well established partnership performance management framework, that regularly reviews progress in the thematic partnership meetings, the Partnership Data/Managers Group and the Public Service Board.

4. CONSULTATION:

- 4.1 The Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 priorities were set in negotiation with the Local Strategic Partnership and the Government Office South East (GOSE).

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

Successful performance against agreed LAA improvement targets 2008-2011 will attract performance reward grant payable in 2011/12 and 2012/13. The details of potential grant entitlement subject to performance are awaited from central government.

Anne Silley 23rd June 2009

5.2 Legal Implications:

The LAA targets have been developed in accordance with the statutory requirements set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The framework requires authorities to keep the progress against targets under review.

Elizabeth Culbert 23rd June 2009

5.3 Equalities Implications:

The proposed new performance management framework aims to incorporate monitoring of progress against equalities and inclusion outcomes in the city.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

The proposed new performance management framework aims to incorporate monitoring of progress against sustainability outcomes in the city.

5.5 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

The management of performance is important and contributes to avoiding the risk that the council's improvement priorities will not be delivered. Progress against performance indicators informs our risk and opportunity management assessments.

5.6 Crime & Disorder Implications:

Reducing crime and disorder is a central theme of the Corporate Plan and the Local Area Agreement and monitoring progress against these outcomes is a key element of the proposed new performance management framework.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

Cabinet and The Management Team will continue to have a Performance Focus session each month, this is recognised as good practice and allows for both a quarterly overview of the organisation performance against the LAA and more spotlighted discussions on areas that require additional

discussion. These discussions will feed into the service planning timetable and establishment of a new corporate plan in the future. This is an essential part of the council's performance management framework, providing the link between the new 3 year Corporate Plan and the annual Directorate and Team plans.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The monitoring of the Local Area Agreement is part of the performance management framework. This framework is a corporately defined process; as such no alternative options are appropriate.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The report provides information on progress against the LAA priorities ensuring close monitoring for continuous improvement.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - LAA Summary Scorecard Report

Appendix 2 - The Exceptions Report

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None



Brighton and Hove

Brighton and Hove 2020 Community Partnership

LAA Summary Scorecard Report

Period: 08/09



SCORECARDS

Improving health & well being

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	UNIT	TARGET	ACTUAL	STATUS
L11 (NI054) - Services for disabled children This is the baseline year for this indicator	No.	0.00	60.00	
L12 - Percentage of people contacting the access point whose needs were met at the access point	%	90.00	90.40	
L13a - Reduce the number of 11-16 year olds completing the Safe at School Survey who state that they have been bullied in 2008	%	24.00	22.00	
L13b - Reduce the number of 8-11 year olds completing the Safe at School Survey who state that they have been bullied in 2008	%	26.00	22.00	
L14 - Reduction in suicide per 100,000 population Rolling average 2005-2007	No.	13.69	13.84	
L15 - Increase uptake of risk assessment screening for hypertension and cholesterol in general practice This measures the % of patients on the hypertension register with blood pressure of 150/90 in last 9 months	%	72.80	71.70	
L16 - Take up/offer of 'talking therapies'	No.	553.00	380.00	
NI039 - Rate of Hospital Admissions per 100,000 for Alcohol Related Harm Projected result for 2008/09 is 1809 per 100,000 This estimated actual, if confirmed by the end of year figures, represents a failure to meet the target. The increase for 2008/09 is currently 15.4% from the projected 2007/08 figure rather than the 10.1% projected. If the admissions continue to increase at this rate, the 2010/11 target will be difficult to achieve.	No.	1,750.00	1,809.00	
NI051 - Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services	No.	16.00	16.00	
NI056d - Obesity in primary school age children in year 6 - part 4 percentage of children measured this year who are obese This year is a baseline year for this indicator	%	17.70	0.00	








SCORECARDS

Improving health & well being

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	UNIT	TARGET	ACTUAL	STATUS
NI059 - Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral	%	76.00	89.80	
NI112 Under 18 conception rate per 1000 population of 15-17 year olds	No.	38.68	43.20	
NI116 - Proportion of children in poverty	%	19.00	21.00	
NI119 - Self-reported measure of peoples overall health and wellbeing Place survey. First year of reporting so target = result	%	80.40	80.40	
NI123 - Stopping smoking The number of people per 100,000 population aged 16 or over who have given up smoking for over 4 weeks while receiving support through the NHS Stop Smoking Service	No.	944.00	923.60	
NI130 - Social care clients receiving Self Directed Support per 100,000 population	No.	147.06	189.60	
NI135 - Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information	%	16.00	18.20	
NI150 - Adults receiving secondary mental health services in employment This result is the baseline year, it represents 57 people out of 642	%	0.00	8.90	

SCORECARDS

Improving housing & affordability



PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	UNIT	TARGET	ACTUAL	STATUS
L23 (BV064) - Private sector vacant dwellings returned into occupation or demolished	No.	153.00	168.00	
L24 - Reduce the number of rough sleepers The count of rough sleepers took place in February and is a drop from 9 counted previously in November 2009.	No.	10.00	6.00	
L25 - Number of (fire) Home Safety Visits carried out Q3 Result	No.	2,131.50	2,172.00	
NI141 - Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living This is 1230 planned moves out of a total of 1708.	%	66.00	72.00	
NI154 - Net additional homes provided Final results for this indicator will be available in September.	No.	570.00	0.00	
NI156 - Number of households living in temporary accommodation 2008/09 target exceeded and on track to exceed 2009/10 target early.	No.	385.00	366.00	
NI158 - % non-decent council homes Significant improvement now showing. 08/09 result was 48.89%, from 56.65% in 07/08.	%	46.00	48.89	

SCORECARDS

Promoting enterprise & learning

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	UNIT	TARGET	ACTUAL	STATUS
L1 - Progress towards the development of the Brighton Centre	%	0.00	0.00	
No data - Following the exchange and execution of Heads of Terms with Standard Life Investments in December 2008, Standard Life despatched the Contract Notice for publication in OJEU in January 2009 to initiate the procurement process to appoint a Lead Architect and the professional development team to undertake a first stage feasibility design and study.				
L2 - Gross Value Added Per Head	£	20,185.00	19,477.00	
Baseline - 18,833 (2005 data). The result relates to 2006 - it is the latest result available for this measure.				
2006 was a good year for the UK economy as a whole, but growth in Brighton & Hove was at a slower rate than all other comparators (absolute and per head). The city has a higher GVA per head than the UK, but lags behind the South East and selected cities.				
L3 (NI151) - The percentage of the working age population who are in employment	%	74.50	74.60	
Baseline - 71.9% (06/07 data). This data relates to Oct 07 - Sept 08 - it is the latest data available to show progress against this measure. It is lagged by 8 months to realtime.				
The latest LAA data of employment numbers shows that currently we are already above our target for 2008/09. The problem is that the 2008/09 target is based upon data that will be released later this year and with numbers in employment clearly going to drop by reference to the claimant count, it is unlikely we will meet this target.				
L4 - Improve the visitor economy (£ million)	£	427.80	0.00	
There are no results available for this indicator at present				
NI079 - Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	%	78.00	76.00	
Academic Year 2008				
NI117 - 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	%	7.60	7.80	
The progress against the NEET target is measured annually as an average for November, December and January. Compared to the 2007 figure of 9.3%, a significant improvement was made in 2008 with the figure of 7.8%. March 09 figure is 7%. The latest available national figures for March 09 suggest that B&H is the most improved local authority in the South East compared to March 08.				
NI152 The number of working age people claiming out of work benefits	No.	20,630.00	21,135.00	
Baseline - 21,702 (average of 4 quarters up until May 07). This data relates to an average of 4 quarters up to September 08. Release of data is lagged by around 8 months to realtime. To give an indication of the number of working age people on out of work benefits in the city, Job Seekers Allowance claims were at 4.3% of the working age population in April 09. The same measure was at 2.6% in April 08.				
Up until May 08 we were on target with reducing the number of residents claiming working-age benefits. There has been a pronounced up-turn in the rate of key benefit claimants across Britain, making it unlikely any local authority will hit their target against NI 152.				

SCORECARDS**Promoting enterprise & learning**

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	UNIT	TARGET	ACTUAL	STATUS
NI163 - Proportion of working age people qualified to Level 2 or higher	%	76.90	77.50	
NI171 - New business registration rate per 10,000 of the population (VAT and PAYE)	No.	71.80	72.80	

The latest result relates to the outcome in 2007 - data is lagged by 2 years. New business registration rate has been consistently higher in Brighton & Hove than in the South East and GB since 2002.

SCORECARDS

Promoting resource & enhancing the environment

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	UNIT	TARGET	ACTUAL	STATUS
L26 (NI185) - CO2 reduction from local authority operations 2008/09 will be the baseline year - no data is available at this time	%	0.00	0.00	
NI186 - Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area This result shows a change from 5.19 to 5.186 kilotonnes CO2 per capita. The trend for rising emissions in commerce and industry is a risk for CO2 emissions. The lag between improvement action and data publication also presents a risk in that there has been little time to materially affect the overall performance against this measure during the lifetime of the LAA. The Audit Commission has said it is more interested in measures taken and demonstrable commitment to reductions than in achievement against the target per se.	%	4.00	0.01	
NI187a - Tackling fuel poverty - % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating Annual surveys have been commissioned. Currently B&H exceeding targets proposed for LAA	%	13.00	12.94	
NI187b - Tackling fuel poverty - % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a high energy efficiency rating Annual surveys have been commissioned. Currently B&H exceeding targets proposed for LAA	%	30.80	30.82	
NI195c - Improved street and environmental cleanliness - levels of graffiti Result at quarter 4 of 08/09	%	8.00	5.00	

SCORECARDS

Promoting sustainable transport

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	UNIT	TARGET	ACTUAL	STATUS
NI167 - Congestion - average journey time per mile during the morning peak No data available	No.	3.00	0.00	
NI175 - Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling No data available	%	92.00	0.00	

SCORECARDS

Reducing crime & improving safety

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	UNIT	TARGET	ACTUAL	STATUS
L5 (NI026) - Specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence	No.	0.00	0.00	
No data available to measure this indicator – deferred until 2010/11				
L6 (NI020) - Number of 'Assaults with less serious injury' (including racially and religiously aggravated) offences per 1,000 population (as a proxy for alcohol related violent offences)	No.	8.21	7.40	
The total number of assaults with less serious injury in 08/09 was 1,875 (Target of 2,081)				
L7a (NI033a) - Arson incidents - Primary Fires per 10,000 population	No.	8.72	7.85	
The total number of primary fires in 08/09 was 198 (Target of 221)				
L7b (NI033b) - Arson incidents - Secondary Fires per 10,000 population	No.	13.85	13.76	
Total number of secondary fires in 08/09 was 348.8(target of 351)				
L8 - Number of Police recorded LGBT hate crimes and incidents	No.	193.00	129.00	
The aim of this indicator was initially to see an increased level of confidence in reporting these crimes. Although discussions are underway regarding the decrease in numbers and whether this actually reflects positive performance - for that reason it is 'amber'.				
L9 - Number of police recorded racist and religiously motivated crimes and incidents	No.	526.00	316.00	
The aim of this indicator is to see a reduction in the number of racist and religiously motivated crimes.				
NI017 - Perceptions of anti-social behaviour	%	32.50	19.60	
Results taken from the 2008 Place Survey				
NI030 - The number of convictions for Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPOs) over a 12 month period	No.	247.00	262.00	
This data shows the number of convictions over a 12 month period (of a specific cohort of 83 offenders), the latest result being 262 and a target of 247 convictions for quarter 2 (target in Q2 to see a 14% reduction, actual reduction was 8.1%).				
NI032 - Repeat incidents of domestic violence	%	0.00	0.00	
No data available in 08/09				

SCORECARDS

Reducing crime & improving safety

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	UNIT	TARGET	ACTUAL	STATUS
NI038 - Drug related (Class A) offending	No.	0.00	0.69	
<p>This indicator measures the volume of proven reoffending in a follow-up 12 month period by (Class A) drug misusers identified in the course of their contact with the criminal justice system – reporting the rate of offending of a specific cohort.</p> <p>Latest result Dec 08 – emerging baseline of 0.69 No target set for 08/09 due to it being a baseline year. Final baseline data will be available July 2009.</p>				
NI040 - Number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment	No.	1,164.00	1,196.00	
<p>Results are lagged by 3 months - this result is the outturn for Q3 (Dec 08)</p> <p>The target for 2008/09 has been exceeded and Brighton & Hove is one of the best performing areas for this measure.</p>				
NI047 - The number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents in the calendar year	No.	159.00	141.00	
<p>This result is provisional and is awaiting confirmation.</p>				
NI111 - First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17	No.	487.00	246.00	
<p>This is an indicative figure from the Youth Offending Team. This will be validated using the Police National Computer data source in November 09.</p>				

SCORECARDS

Strengthening communities & involving people

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	UNIT	TARGET	ACTUAL	STATUS
L17 (NI001) - % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area Cityviews survey	%	86.00	86.30	
L18 (NI008) - Adult participation in sport and active recreation Although the 08/09 result for NI 8 (22.7%) suggests that participation in sport has dropped from the previous survey result of 25.4%, this is not the case. Due to the sample numbers changing and the confidence intervals the result is statistically no different.	%	25.40	22.70	
L21 - Community engagement in local libraries For latest results and progress see the results of the individual Libraries Indicators for the Local Area Agreement. Based on the % completion rates in the performance targets set, Libraries have achieved a 93% of the targets set for 2008-09.	%	90.00	93.00	
L22 - Number of school age children in organised school visits to museums Higher than expected achievement due to demand for school loans, outreach sessions and early years sessions	No.	32,700.00	40,023.00	
NI004 - % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality The 'actual' figure is taken from the Place survey and represents a baseline, which is compared with a figure taken from the previous years City Views. While the question is the same, the sample selection may be variable. Perception targets are notoriously difficult to measure. It is widely acknowledged that any number of external factors may impact on a persons perception regarding their ability to influence decision making. Therefore, a programme of activity is being delivered under this indicator which focuses on supporting a culture and opportunities for people to engage in their community, and in local and citywide decision making. This means that outcomes and outputs of this activity can be monitored and measured at a local level and in ways that have a meaning and context for local people to provide supplementary information.	%	29.40	27.80	
NI006 - Participation in regular volunteering Data source is the 2008 Place survey, this is the baseline year	%	0.00	23.90	
NI007 - Environment for a thriving third sector Data source - National Survey of Third Sector Organisations 2008. Nationally the result achieved 16.2%, as this is the baseline year no target was set, in this instance the national result has been set as the target to put the Brighton & Hove result into context.	%	16.20	19.80	
NI011 - Engagement in the Arts Result from Active People Survey 2, Brighton & Hove has a current engagement level of 61.2%, the highest level nationally outside London and the highest of all of the 24 Local Authorities that selected Ni 11 within their LAA's. As this was the baseline year the target of 45.2% refers to the National result achieved.	%	45.20	61.20	

SCORECARDS

Strengthening communities & involving people

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	UNIT	TARGET	ACTUAL	STATUS
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CREATING THE CITY OF OPPORTUNITIES

A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR THE CITY OF BRIGHTON AND HOVE



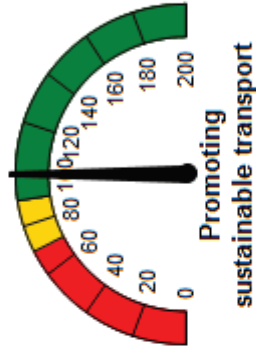
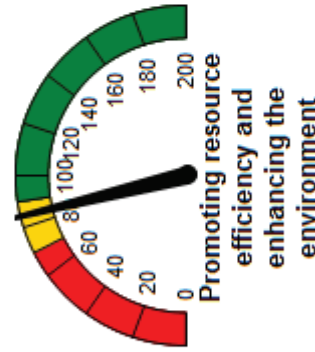
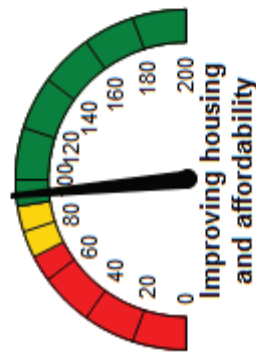
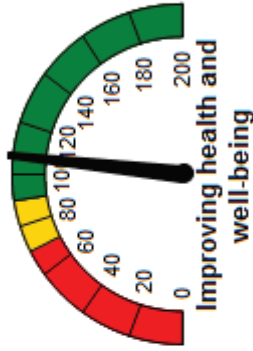
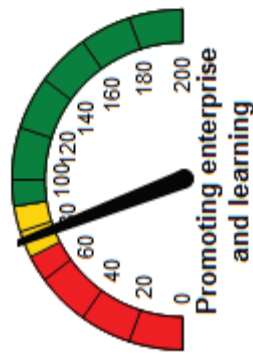
Local Area Agreement Delivery Plan

Exception Report – Scrutiny Commission 14th July 2009



2008 - 2011

Executive Summary Performance Indicators per Theme



Goal Area	Number of Performance Indicators on Target	Number of Performance Indicators Inside Variable range of Target	Number of Performance Indicators Outside Variable range of Target	Total Number of Performance Indicators
Promoting enterprise and learning	3	2	4	9
Reducing crime and improving safety	10	1	2	13
Improving health and well-being	10	5	3	18
Strengthening communities and involving people	6	1	1	8
Improving housing and affordability	5	0	2	7
Promoting resource efficiency and enhancing the environment	3	0	1	4
Promoting sustainable transport	1	0	1	2

Promoting enterprise and learning

NI152 The number of working age people claiming out of work benefits											
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Indicator</th> <th>Target</th> <th>Actual</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No.</td> <td>20,630.00</td> <td>21,135.00</td> <td>● ● ●</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Indicator	Target	Actual	Status	No.	20,630.00	21,135.00	● ● ●
Indicator	Target	Actual	Status								
No.	20,630.00	21,135.00	● ● ●								
<p>Comments Baseline - 21,702 (average of 4 quarters up until May 07). This data relates to an average of 4 quarters up to September 08. Release of data is lagged by around 8 months to realtime. To give an indication of the number of working age people on out of work benefits in the city, Job Seekers Allowance claims were at 4.3% of the working age population in April 09. The same measure was at 2.6% in April 08. Up until May 08 we were on target with reducing the number of residents claiming working-age benefits. There has been a pronounced up-turn in the rate of key benefit claimants across Britain, making it unlikely any local authority will hit their target against NI 152.</p>											

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1.3.1 : Commission the City Employment and Skills Plan (CESP) Evaluation Report to monitor the success of the City Employment and Skills Steering Group in making progress against the CESP strategic priorities.			
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When
1.3.1.1 : CESP - Final mid-term evaluation report completed	● ● ●	The mid-term evaluation has been completed. A new action plan with priorities for 2009/10 has been developed. A new evaluation framework to monitor the progress of the Action Plan has been identified and will be developed with the assistance of the Council's Performance team.	Mar/2009
			Lead Partner
			City Employment and Skills Steering Group
1.3.2 : Breakthrough Programme, which assists workless city residents back into the labour market			
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When
			Lead Partner



1.3.2 : Breakthrough Programme, which assists workless city residents back into the labour market

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.3.2.1 : 'Breakthrough Programme' - 300 workless residents engaged, of which 60 to secure work placements, 50 to secure employment and 20 to partake in volunteering		345 residents have been engaged, of whom 48 have secured employment, 87 have gained voluntary work, 57 have been offered work placements. The project has been very successful and it's an excellent case of good partnership working. The project has secured funding to run for at least one more year.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

1.3.3 : Part-fund, support and monitor delivery of the Futures Programme

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.3.3.1 : 'Futures Programme' - 45 workless residents engaged, receiving training and work placements in the hospitality sector, of which 30 secure employment		40 residents have been trained, 6 have entered into employment, 38 have successfully completed work placements. The employers who offered work placements have been impressed by the quality of participants. Job outputs have been low due to the economic downturn.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

1.3.4 : Part-fund the Housing Benefit "Back to Work" Project, which provides discretionary payments to support benefit claimants in making the transition to employment

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.3.4.1 : 'Back to work project' - 40 claimants to secure employment		18 residents have been helped into work since the beginning of the project. LABGI funding for this project was approved by the CESSG in late July 08 and the project didn't start before August 08.	Jul/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

Promoting enterprise and learning

Indicator	Target	Actual	Status
£	20,185.00	19,477.00	
<p>Comments Baseline - 18,833 (2005 data). The result relates to 2006 - it is the latest result available for this measure.</p> <p>2006 was a good year for the UK economy as a whole, but growth in Brighton & Hove was at a slower rate than all other comparators (absolute and per head). The city has a higher GVA per head than the UK, but lags behind the South East and selected cities.</p>			

Category	Value
Actual	19,477.00
Target	20,185.00

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1.7.1 : Part-fund the East Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership in delivering energy audits and green action grants to local firms (BHCC funding will be spent on Brighton & Hove Businesses)			
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When
1.7.1.1 : Sustainable Business Partnership - 40 local businesses receiving Green Action Grants		Business Link began offering a new grant to enable local businesses to make environmental improvements in January 2009. To avoid duplication of services the East Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership agreed to defer delivery of council-funded grants until July 2009, when funding for the Business Link grant ends.	Mar/2009
			City Employment and Skills Steering Group
1.7.2 : Part-fund the City Business Clinics offered, offered by Business Link to local SMEs that are more than two years old			
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When
1.7.2.1 : Business Link - 32 business clinic slots filled		46 City Business Clinic sessions filled from July 2008 to end-March 2009, exceeding target by 14.	Mar/2009
			City Employment and Skills Steering Group



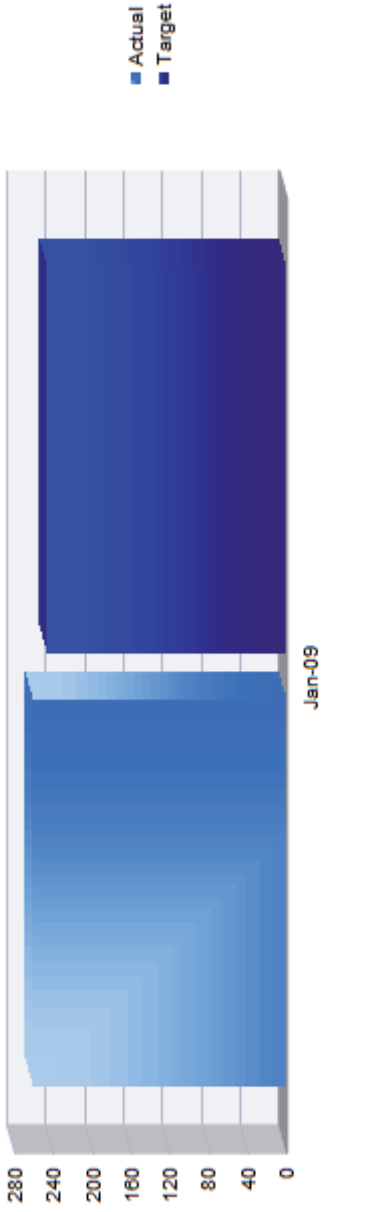

1.7.3 : Provide funding to support the Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce in offering expanded services to new and existing members

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.7.3.1 : Chamber of Commerce - New Chamber website and 33 business events/training sessions engaging 1450 local businesses		Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce website is complete and live. 1500 businesses were engaged at 33 business events and training sessions, exceeding the project-end target.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

1.7.4 : Ensure B&H benefits for the new SEEDA funded Innovation & Growth Teams (IGT) to be established in 2009

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.7.4.1 : SEEDA funded Innovation and Growth Teams - Brighton & Hove actively involved in the preparation of the business plan for the city.		Partners who will be delivering the Brighton & Hove & East Sussex Innovation Team services submitted a bid to SEEDA in February 2009, which resulted in the partners being asked to work with SEEDA in developing the bid further. The project is ongoing, with four meetings a month between partners, and a final bid to SEEDA is expected in summer 2009.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group
1.7.4.2 : SEEDA IGT - Meaningful presence of IGT established in the city		The new IGT will operate in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, meaning many delivery partners are stake-holders and in some cases will be working together for the first time. Given the complex project development process, SEEDA has been receptive to the delivery partners' ambition for the new IGT, and it is anticipated that the team will be established and operating in early 2010.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

Reducing crime and improving safety

<p>NI030 - The number of convictions for Prolific and other Priority Offenders (POs) over a 12 month period</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Actual</td> <td>262</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Target</td> <td>247</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Value	Actual	262	Target	247	<p>Indicator</p> <p>No.</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>247.00</p>	<p>Actual</p> <p>262.00</p>	<p>Status</p>  <p>Comments This data shows the number of convictions over a 12 month period (of a specific cohort of 83 offenders), the latest result being 262 and a target of 247 convictions for quarter 2 (target in Q2 to see a 14% reduction, actual reduction was 8.1%).</p>
Category	Value									
Actual	262									
Target	247									



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<p>2.2.1 : Provide a full range of protective and preventative interventions to reduce risk factors of young people re-offending, specifically to those meeting 'Deter' criteria (as defined by the Youth Justice Board)</p>	<p>By When Lead Partner</p>
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<p>Actions</p> <p>DOT Comments</p>	<p>By When Lead Partner</p>
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
2.2.1 : Provide a full range of protective and preventative interventions to reduce risk factors of young people re-offending, specifically to those meeting 'Deter' criteria (as defined by the Youth Justice Board)



Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
2.2.1.1 : Undertake evaluation of interventions through service user group		<p>Q1 A service user group has been created and is being managed by a YOT caseworker. It has met twice with up to six young people attending each meeting.</p> <p>Q2 Service user group met a further time and one young person attended the YOT management meeting to pass on the thoughts of the group.</p> <p>Q3 This group is currently being run by a YOT caseworker and proving to be too onerous a task on top of usual case management duties. A non YOT mediator has been sought from YAC but they are not currently able to supply anyone. Group to be re-formed and progressed once a suitable mediator is found.</p> <p>Q4 There is continuous service evaluation of the YOT by young people via the 'What do You Think' evaluation form which is completed on each order.</p> <p>Although the service user group is not currently operational, we are continuing to access feedback from service users via other means.</p>	Mar/2009	Crime Reduction & Community Safety Partnership
2.2.1.2 : Include those meeting deter criteria in the monthly Management of Serious Harm (MoSH) meeting agenda		<p>Q1 Those meeting deter criteria (Asset of 21 or above) are now being brought to the MoSH meeting.</p> <p>Q2 No further update.</p> <p>Q3 No further update.</p> <p>Q4 The YOT will be moving from a monthly to a weekly risk meeting where young people from the deter cohort and group (high risk of re-offending) will be discussed and monitored as well as those assessed as having a medium or high risk of harm (to themselves or others). Practice managers and the newly appointed project worker will sit on this group to ensure that project work is targeted at deter young people.</p>	Mar/2009	Crime Reduction & Community Safety Partnership

2.2.1 : Provide a full range of protective and preventative interventions to reduce risk factors of young people re-offending, specifically to those meeting 'Deter' criteria (as defined by the Youth Justice Board)

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
2.2.1.3 : Agree aftercare package with TYSS for high risk young people ending an order with the YOT		<p>Q1 TYSS to become functional in September so action not started.</p> <p>Q2 No further update.</p> <p>Q3 An after-care package for high risk young people has not yet been agreed with TYSS due to limited resources which are targeted at preventing young people from entering the youth justice system (rather than at known offenders re-offending).</p> <p>Q4 After care package still to be agreed and finalised but YOT will be offering support via voluntary packages (hopefully in conjunction with TYSS) and work of the newly appointed Project Worker. It should be noted that these are not a statutory requirement of the YOT and will be offered on a case by case basis resources permitting. Young people would participate on a voluntary basis only.</p>	Mar/2009	Crime Reduction & Community Safety Partnership

2.2.1 : Provide a full range of protective and preventative interventions to reduce risk factors of young people re-offending, specifically to those meeting 'Deter' criteria (as defined by the Youth Justice Board)

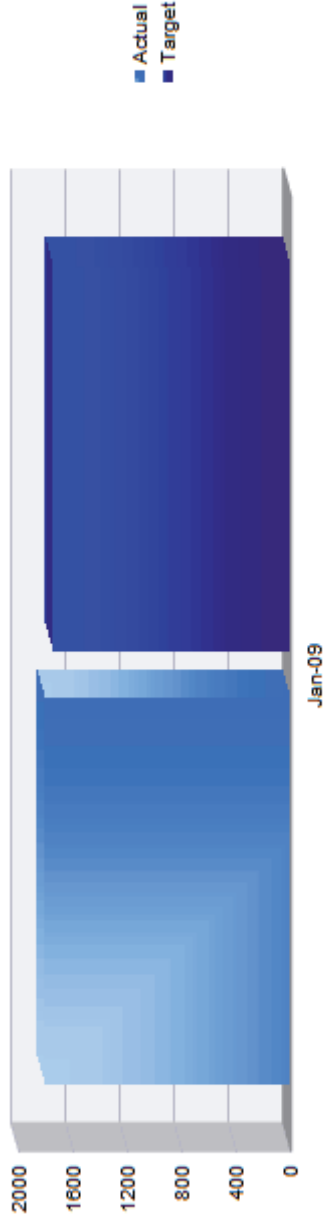
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
2.2.1.4 : Explore use of a risk matrix to identify additional support provided to Deter cohort		<p>Q1 The Deter strand (re-offending) will focus on those young people who are at high risk of re-offending via intensive casework and developing project work (arts and music) to better engage those young people.</p> <p>Q2 The YOT is exploring the employment of a full time project worker to support the deter cohort and group by developing positive activities which can act as a protective measure.</p> <p>Q3 Project worker JD finalised and to be advertised internally to current YOT staff. Post will initially be for a six month trial period.</p> <p>Q4 Project worker employed to work intensively with deter cohort and others identified as benefiting from positive activities. Whilst the risk matrix idea has not been carried forward, the use of a dedicated project worker and bringing deter young people to the monthly (soon to be weekly) MOR (management of risk) meeting has satisfied the need to provide additional support to this high risk group.</p>	Mar/2009	Crime Reduction & Community Safety Partnership
<p>2.2.2 : Sustain delivery of the Priority & Prolific Offender Project against national good practice, incorporating work which: deters young first time offenders, prevents young people from becoming repeat offenders, provides prompt and effective investigation of adults and swift recall to prison upon re-offending. Seek to rehabilitate and resettle through improved status and personal circumstances of offenders in the areas of housing, health (including drug treatment), education, training and employment</p>				
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner

2.2.2 : Sustain delivery of the Priority & Prolific Offender Project against national good practice, incorporating work which: deters young first time offenders, prevents young people from becoming repeat offenders, provides prompt and effective investigation of adults and swift recall to prison upon re-offending. Seek to rehabilitate and resettle through improved status and personal circumstances of offenders in the areas of housing, health (including drug treatment), education, training and employment		By When	Lead Partner
Actions	DOT	Comments	
2.2.2.1 : PPO Steering Group to reallocate resources in response to any feedback from operational managers around barriers to progress. (Indicator: % of PPOs with named keyworkers)		Scheme now extended to include a wider group of priority and prolific offenders than the defined cohorts who were included within the original LPSA funded scheme. Savings within agreed budget for this year have been allocated to a Restorative Justice scheme aimed at reducing re-offending by young people who are already within the youth criminal justice system and to a rent in advance and deposit scheme for those adult offenders for whom homelessness upon release from prison is most likely to cause re-offending. Some resources also to fund communications work about successes in order to help reduce fear of crime and improve perceptions.	Crime Reduction & Community Safety Partnership
2.2.2.2 : Extend PPO Project to include all prolific offenders who commit crimes other than acquisitive crimes and establish delivery arrangements across CDRP partners.		Important factors in reducing offending by PPOs relate to their having an assigned keyworker and them engaging in drug treatment where drug use is a motivator in their offending. (In December 08 there were 57 PPOs currently being worked with. 56 of these PPOs had a named keyworker assigned. Of these 57 PPOs, 38 were in need of drug treatment, 76% of whom were actually engaged in treatment)	Crime Reduction & Community Safety Partnership

Improving health and well-being

Indicator	Target	Actual	Status
No.	1,750.00	1,809.00	
<p>Comments Projected result for 2008/09 is 1809 per 100,000. This estimated actual, if confirmed by the end of year figures, represents a failure to meet the target. The increase for 2008/09 is currently 15.4% from the projected 2007/08 figure rather than the 10.1% projected. If the admissions continue to increase at this rate, the 2010/11 target will be difficult to achieve.</p>			

NI039 - Rate of Hospital Admissions per 100,000 for Alcohol Related Harm



3.1.1 : Commission additional community based specialist alcohol treatment services to treat those with alcohol dependency providing additional 240 places per year from April 2009


Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
3.1.1.1 : LGBT work – development of materials and identification of keys partners		Completed.	Sep/2008	Primary Care Trust

3.1.2 : Promote access to alcohol interventions for perpetrators and victims of domestic violence, those involved in public place violent crime and alcohol related offending


Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
3.1.2.1 : Dual diagnosis work – indentifying training provider and contracts agreed Development of Community Alcohol Service which is targeted towards the at risk groups		Action plan to be agreed as part of strategy, based on Scrutiny review recommendations.	Dec/2008	Primary Care Trust



3.1.3 : Promote uptake of the alcohol Local Enhanced Service for GPs to offer brief interventions to patients drinking in a hazardous or harmful way, following opportunistic screening

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
3.1.3.1 : LGBT work – recruitment of Health Trainers		Proposed provider delivered too slowly, so alternative provider sought.	Nov/2008	Primary Care Trust

3.1.4 : Reduce the number of alcohol related hospital admissions against trajectory by 0% (2008/09), 3% (2009/10), 6% (2010/11) by commissioning a brief intervention service to 23,000 people drinking at hazardous levels and who may be at risk of hospital admission over 3 years

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
3.1.4.1 : Improve capacity and care pathways between RSCH and SPT		Care pathway specified in tendering document and contract awarded. Implementation plan being rolled out.	Jun/2009	Primary Care Trust

Improving health and well-being

NI112 Under 18 conception rate per 1000 population of 15-17 year olds		Indicator	Target	Actual	Status
		No.	38.68	43.20	
		Comments			
<p>Legend: Actual (light blue), Target (dark blue)</p> <p>08/09</p>					

224

3.5.1 : Ensure post-birth sexual health appointments provided to all

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
3.5.1.1 : All young parents provided with post natal contraception assessment within one month of delivery.		Contract is in place for 100% post natal contraception services to be provided from BSUH and specialist midwife role. A total of 104 deliveries are recorded for 2008, of which 75 (72%) were within the offered appointment with the midwife and contact was made with 47 (63%).	Mar/2009	Children & Young People's Trust

3.5.2 : Ensure post-termination support to further reduce repeat terminations

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner



3.5.2 : Ensure post-termination support to further reduce repeat terminations

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
3.5.2.1 : Contract arrangements in place with BPAS to provide referrals to east Brighton		Contract arrangements are in place with BPAS and East Brighton with an agreed performance target of 80% of U19's accessing BPAS for a termination against total referrals, set by the PCT. Q1-Q3 Out of 54 termination's in under 19s, 36 (67%) consented to a referral from BPAS to east Brighton. Out of these 19 (53%) took up the offered service. A review of commissioned activity confirmed that the process of referring from BPAS to an external and unknown provider for the young person appeared to be the reason for low outputs. Service improvement were included in the successful business case application for additional funding to the PCT.	Mar/2009	Children & Young People's Trust


3.5.3 : Improve targeted youth support to young women aged 15-17 with multiple risk factors

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
3.5.3.1 : Screening tools to be developed and implemented across all partners working with vulnerable young people.		Targeted Youth Support Model agreed and implemented across IYSS which includes a risk factor check sheet.	Mar/2009	Children & Young People's Trust
3.5.3.2 : SLA's and contracts in place		100% in place	Mar/2009	Children & Young People's Trust
3.5.3.3 : School based school nurse targeted service in place across 4 schools		4 school nurse leads identified from April 08 and 3 schools / 1 PRU site delivering targeted school nurse role, screening years 10 and 11 using the IYSS check sheet. Target: each carry a case load of 10 young women. To date 123 young women have been referred to the school nurses and contact has been made with 65 (53%).	Mar/2009	Children & Young People's Trust

3.5.3 : Improve targeted youth support to young women aged 15-17 with multiple risk factors

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
3.5.3.4 : Targeted sexual health service in place as part of delivery of the targeted youth service		<p>Central and West post in place from June / July 08. In the west 158 contacts have been made with young people and in the central 85 contacts have been made demonstrating effective outcomes with contraception use.</p> <p>Gap identified in the east for the targeted posts as the Choosing health funding post had evolved into a specialist post.</p>	Mar/2009	Children & Young People's Trust
3.5.3.5 : Action plan agreed for school based sexual health services		<p>School based health services action plan was agreed with the TP/SM partnership board. The funding was secured with jointly PCT and SHA monies. The first three schools have successfully been engaged and have completed consultation exercises with students, schools communities and parents. The delay in recruiting round two schools in Q4 resulted as a school nurse review was initiated and completed. This was achieved and identified the delivery of the teenage pregnancy agenda and the health drop-ins / targeted work / TP3 group work as areas of priority. Round two schools received initial discussions and have all agreed to work with the CYPT / IYSS / school nursing service to scope the potential for delivery in Q1 2009/10</p>	Mar/2009	Children & Young People's Trust
3.5.3.6 : Contract performance reports submitted that are RAG rated against agreed targets across all contracts	No Target	<p>Quarterly reporting structure is in place with flows of information per month being implemented across 80%. Latest report produced in March for April 08 - February 09. Future quarterly reports are due in July and October.</p>	Mar/2009	Children & Young People's Trust

3.5.3 : Improve targeted youth support to young women aged 15-17 with multiple risk factors

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
<p>3.5.3.7 : Comprehensive sexual health and contraceptive assessment and review package highlighted. Screening tool for vulnerable young people developed.</p>		<p>Cross reference with point 1. Outreach services have been developed across young peoples services and colleges / training providers. Mid year the performance level was below expectation and a review was held. Service Improvement agreement were put in place but data collection remains a factor within southdowns sexual health services. It was agreed that an options paper be produced in the Teenage Pregnancy Action paper to explore alternative delivery models. Outputs for 2008/09.</p> <p>There are 12 different outreach sessions which have been accessed by the under 19s 1568 times; there are 2 youth sessions offered which have been contacted 750 times. The target proportion of under 19s accessing outreach and young people's sessions is 80%; in the last year 71%(2318/3253) was achieved.</p> <p>The target proportion of under 19s in outreach and young people's sessions issued with contraception which is LARC was graduated rising from 8% in April 08 to 12% by March 09; in the last year overall 10% (76/770) was achieved and in the last quarter this was 14% (21/152).</p>	Mar/2009	Children & Young People's Trust

Improving health and well-being




NI116 - Proportion of children in poverty		Indicator	Target	Actual	Status
		%	19.00	21.00	
		Comments			
<p>Actual: 21.00, Target: 19.00</p>					

28

3.6.1 : Build empowerment activities, volunteering opportunities and training offers into the offer of the Children's Centres to prepare families to enter the workplace at a higher trained level once children start school		By When	Lead Partner
Actions	DOT	Comments	
3.6.1.1 : Delivery of a Citywide volunteering strategy for all Children's Centres		Volunteering Policy now in place and signed up to by all Centre managers The numbers of parents volunteering in the CC's is increasing with clear volunteering roles in place and links with SDH volunteering services to widen the range of opportunities.	Children & Young People's Trust
3.6.1.2 : Children's Centres participation in the delivery of the Family Learning Impact Fund project (see NI 152)		Work has just started – will update for the next report. 'We have to date run 10 FLIF Courses and another 21 are scheduled to run this term. We have just applied for further funding to expand this provision in 2009-10; these courses are in addition to the 60 Family Learning courses funded through the LSC in 2008-9.'	Children & Young People's Trust



3.6.2 : Promote take-up by low income and disadvantaged families of the free early year's entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds.

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
3.6.2.1 : Increase entitlement to 15 hours per week for all children		Consultation underway. Paper going to the CYTB in January. The CYPTB agreed a strategy of funding all children in those early years settings with the highest proportion of children who live in the worst 30% of Super Output Areas as defined by the Index of Deprivation Affecting Children and a range of maintained, private and voluntary providers have agreed to take part in the pilot from September 2009. All providers have been informed that the funding for the extra hours will be available from September 2010.	Mar/2009	Children & Young People's Trust
3.6.2.2 : Family Information service Arabic speaking officer has undertaken visits to BME community and faith groups to promote use of childcare and early education. Initiating a service from the Family Information Service, in consultation with EMAS, to BME and EAL parents offering co-ordination and support for visits to early years settings.		Family Information Service Advisors and the FIS School Preference Officer undertake regular outreach to universal and targeted groups with promotional literature and the offer to support visits and introductions to early years services	Jun/2009	Children & Young People's Trust
3.6.2.3 : Deliver targeted promotion, advice and information to BME communities on the 3 and 4 yr old entitlement and on the CEWTC.		Family Information service Arabic speaking officer has undertaken visits to BME community and faith groups to promote use of childcare and early education. Initiating a service from the Family Information Service, in consultation with EMAS, to BME and EAL parents offering co-ordination and support for visits to early years settings. Family Information Service Advisors and the FIS School Preference Officer undertake regular outreach to universal and targeted groups with promotional literature and the offer to support visits and introductions to early years services	Jun/2009	Children & Young People's Trust

3.6.3 : Improve take up of the Childcare element of the Working Tax Credit and provide information and advice on this to families of children aged 0-15years with particular emphasis on ethnic minority groups

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
3.6.3.1 : Thereafter a 2 % increase year on year		Brighton and Hove Childcare Element uptake 22.6% at Sep-Dec 08 (HMRC figs) Up 1.6% on 2006/7 (21%) against national take up figure of 17% 2006/7 and 19.23 Sep-Dec 08 N.B. No 2007/8 average percentage available as yet	Mar/2009	Children & Young People's Trust
3.6.3.2 : A 2% increased take up of the childcare element of the working tax credit		Family Information Service officer promoting take up as part of visits to BME community and faith groups Brighton and Hove Childcare Element uptake 22.6% at Sep-Dec 08 (HMRC figs) Up 1.6% on 2006/7 (21%) against national take up figure of 17% 2006/7 and 19.23% Sep-Dec 08 N.B. No 2007/8 average percentage available as yet	Mar/2009	Children & Young People's Trust
3.6.3.3 : Promotional information on the childcare element of the working tax credit to all schools as part of the FIS Links in schools programme For BME see below		FIS links induction to Special Schools. Initiating Links induction for all other schools Family Information Service early education and childcare leaflet detailing the route to Working Tax Credits and the childcare element due to go out to all parents via schools April 09 Family Information Service early education and childcare leaflet detailing the route to Working Tax Credits and the childcare element due to go out to all parents via schools FIS links person inducted for each Special Schools June 09 Initiating Links induction for all other schools. May 09 24 links inducted April 09 Remaining links induction for each school to be completed Nov 09	Mar/2009	Children & Young People's Trust


Strengthening communities and involving people

<p>NI004 - % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Actual</td> <td>27.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Target</td> <td>29.40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Category	Value	Actual	27.60	Target	29.40	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Indicator</th> <th>Target</th> <th>Actual</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>%</td> <td>29.40</td> <td>27.60</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Comments The 'actual' figure is taken from the Place survey and represents a baseline, which is compared with a figure taken from the previous years City Views. While the question is the same, the sample selection may be variable. Perception targets are notoriously difficult to measure. It is widely acknowledged that any number of external factors may impact on a persons perception regarding their ability to influence decision making. Therefore, a programme of activity is being delivered under this indicator which focuses on supporting a culture and opportunities for people to engage in their community, and in local and citywide decision making. This means that outcomes and outputs of this activity can be monitored and measured at a local level and in ways that have a meaning and context for local people to provide supplementary information. South East result - 28.2%. UK result - 28.9%</p>	Indicator	Target	Actual	Status	%	29.40	27.60	
Category	Value															
Actual	27.60															
Target	29.40															
Indicator	Target	Actual	Status													
%	29.40	27.60														


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4.2.1 : Elect CVSF representatives			
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When Lead Partner
4.2.1.1 : 30 representatives elected (30 individuals / 20 organisations) and active on 20 partnerships, attending regular partnership meetings		58 CVSF reps in 71 seats on 33 partnerships, attending regular meetings and developing dialogue between public and third sectors. Significant growth in CVSF representation during 2008/9 resulted in increased influence of the third sector on citywide decision-making.	Mar/2009 Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.10 : Develop a communications plan for local involvement opportunities			
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When Lead Partner

4.2.10 : Develop a communications plan for local involvement opportunities

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
4.2.10.1 : Communications plan developed and adopted		Community Engagement Framework communication plan In draft	Mar/2009	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership

4.2.11 : Undertake annual satisfaction survey of CVSF members to measure perception of ability to influence citywide decision-making and evaluate impact of SCP activities

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
4.2.11.1 : % CVSF members who feel: Informed Networked Represented Able to influence Satisfied about opportunities to influence Satisfied with accessibility / quality of CVSF services		<p>From CVSF members' survey Mar 09: 75% feel well informed about local/regional/national policy and strategy affecting the third sector 78% feel well networked (third sector organisations communicate and are able to work effectively together) 67% feel that CVSF is good at involving them in consultations/developing position statements 65% feel that statutory agencies are good at involving them in decision-making processes and take account of their views 59% feel they can influence decision-making 87% are satisfied with the accessibility and 88% with the quality of CVSF services</p> <p>These statistics all demonstrate the significant extent to which third sector organisations are working effectively to strengthen partnership and therefore influence around decision-making, and they set useful baselines for subsequent improvement.</p>	Mar/2009	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership

4.2.12 : Undertake satisfaction survey (planned in conjunction with CVSF) focused on neighbourhood representatives			
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When Lead Partner
4.2.12.1 : BHCC satisfaction survey		This activity is now planned for delivery in September 2009	Jun/2009 Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.2 : Provide support programme including networking activities, learning and training and briefings			
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When Lead Partner
4.2.2.1 : Events: 8 networking and 4 support events held		12 networking events (483 Participants), 11 reps' support events (77 participants) Engaging CVSF member organisations and supporting CVSF's elected representatives has strengthened joint working and therefore perceptions around ability to influence decisions	Mar/2009 Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.3 : Ensuring the views and experience of local communities (from neighbourhoods and communities of interest in particular) feed into decision-making, through the development of position statements			
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When Lead Partner
4.2.3.1 : 4 position statements on LSP themes / discussions		4 CVSF position statements developed and used by reps. 11 E-Briefings to CVSF reps. 12 E-Newsletters to CVSF members. All information focused on policy news / strategic citywide issues to better engage the sector and fed back from CVSF reps' input at strategic meetings. Gathering and feeding in CVSF members' views and expertise through CVSF reps has informed and influenced decision-making in the city, evidenced in 6 case studies.	Mar/2009 Stronger Communities Programme Partnership

4.2.3 : Ensuring the views and experience of local communities (from neighbourhoods and communities of interest in particular) feed into decision-making, through the development of position statements

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
4.2.3.2 : CVSF members' satisfaction survey completed measuring % people who feel they influence decision-making		Mar 09: from CVSF members' survey (513 organisations) 59% feel that they can influence decisions affecting service delivery and policy development	Mar/2009	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.3.3 : Satisfaction Survey to be repeated Spring 2009		Turner and Eastern Road survey - completed, final report being presented to local partnerships in the coming months.	Mar/2009	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership

4.2.4 : Provide community development support to sustain and develop groups or fora that are representative of a neighbourhood (eg Neighbourhood Action Groups)

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Facilitate consultation and research around community issues and priorities and develop community plans

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
4.2.4.1 : Number of neighbourhoods with action plans		12 - includes one new neighbourhood action plan produced in the last 6 months. This illustrates commitment to continue the neighbourhood action planning and prioritisation process developed under Neighbourhood Renewal	Mar/2009	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.4.2 : Number of neighbourhood fora supported		12 - continued support in 12 areas to develop community led forums responsible for identifying and addressing community priorities. The forums provide a place for service providers to engage with communities	Mar/2009	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.4.3 : Number of people involved in representative fora		495 - average year total of number of attendees at 12 neighbourhood forums. New community members, groups and service providers are continually supported to attend forum meetings, raise issues and come up with creative solutions	Mar/2009	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership



4.2.5 : Provide service providers with support to address service priorities identified in Neighbourhood Action Plans and the Local Area Agreement			
Actions	DOT	Comments	Lead Partner
4.2.5.1 : Number of service provider priorities supported		30 - includes priorities such as Playbuilder (Parks), S106 (Planning), Local Action Teams (Police), Cluster working (CYPT). This is a smaller figure than at 6 months as it is believed that people rather than priorities were counted.	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.6 : Engage neighbourhood activists in citywide representative activity			
Actions	DOT	Comments	Lead Partner
4.2.6.1 : 5 neighbourhood representatives standing for election to citywide bodies		11 neighbourhoods reps elected, 16 stood for election and further 3 reps co-opted onto new Stronger Neighbourhoods Group. Good involvement of neighbourhood groups in CVSF representative activity, ensuring neighbourhood views are reflected and influencing decision-making at citywide level.	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.6.2 : 10 neighbourhood referrals by CDWs to SCP/CVSF		Monitoring of referrals has not been possible other than anecdotally, which is hard to prove. Activity varies widely and might involve passing on a leaflet or providing support to attend SCP meetings. This measure has been removed from future plans	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.6.3 : 10 new neighbourhood CVSF member orgs		28 neighbourhood groups new to CVSF, ensuring good involvement of neighbourhood groups in citywide networking activity, enhancing joint working and perceptions of influence on decision-making.	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.7 : Develop the Stronger Communities Partnership to be the lead on strategies to engage communities and reduce inequalities by increasing opportunity			
Actions	DOT	Comments	Lead Partner

4.2.7 : Develop the Stronger Communities Partnership to be the lead on strategies to engage communities and reduce inequalities by increasing opportunity			
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When Lead Partner
4.2.7.1 : Development of Community Engagement Framework Action Plan		Community Engagement Framework for Brighton and Hove, including Action Plan, developed and signed up to by all members of the Local Strategic Partnership	Mar/2009 Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.7.2 : 4 SCP meetings attended by 50% of membership		5 SCP meetings with 70%+ attendance, plus a number of task and finish group meetings. All partners engaged in moving forward the joint work programme (LAA delivery plan and Community Engagement Framework action plan) and developing the Partnership's achievements around strengthening communities.	Mar/2009 Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.8 : Provide neighbourhood management support to strengthen public service delivery.			
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When Lead Partner
4.2.8.1 : Number of service providers attending NAG (or similar) meetings		100 - individual officers supported to attend NAGs in a meaningful way that supports residents priorities.	Mar/2009 Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.8.2 : Service provider satisfaction survey		This piece of work has been extended to cover the whole city	Mar/2009 Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.8.3 : Deliver neighbourhood action plan in Tarnar		NAP running until 2010. Refresh planned in line with city-wide review	Mar/2009 Stronger Communities Programme Partnership

4.2.8 : Provide neighbourhood management support to strengthen public service delivery.

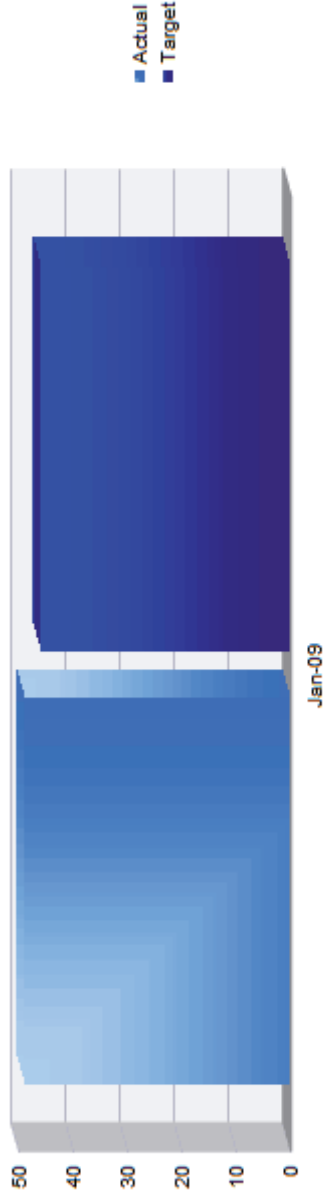
Actions		DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
4.2.8.4 : Number of statutory providers supported		250 - approaches to the NMT by statutory providers requesting information, advice or support	Mar/2009	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership	
4.2.8.5 : Number of services provider issues identified and supported		50 - identified through forums / partnerships	Mar/2009	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership	
4.2.8.6 : Number of third sector organisations supported		30 - eg Novas Scarman, BMECP, Brighton Youth Centre, Hove YMCA	Mar/2009	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership	
4.2.8.7 : Deliver neighbourhood charter in Eastern Road		Charter distributed to all houses in Eastern Road. Evaluation in progress, including consideration for refresh.	Mar/2009	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership	
4.2.9 : Support for community newsletter projects and initiatives					
Actions		DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner

4.2.9 : Support for community newsletter projects and initiatives

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
4.2.9.1 : 40 community newsletter groups involved in newsletter network		51 community newsletter belonging to CVSF newsletter network, ensuring those people co-ordinating communication with communities across the city received regular information and support to develop their service. Facilitating information provision at the local level is a basic measure of regular community engagement which has been effectively sustained throughout the year (although some newsletters continue to struggle with resources), which will have indirectly strengthened perceptions around local influence on decision-making.	Mar/2009	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
4.2.9.2 : Number of community newsletter groups supported		11 - groups receive varying levels of support depending on capacity. Service providers often support community newsletters as they are an effective way of communicating with communities. Volunteers are recruited to deliver to every household in each area.	Mar/2009	Stronger Communities Programme Partnership

Improving housing and affordability

NI158 - % non-decent council homes



Indicator	Target	Actual	Status
%	46.00	48.89	
Comments Significant improvement now showing. 08/09 result was 48.89%, from 56.65% in 07/08.			

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5.4.1 : Reduce unit repair and planned maintenance costs and consultancy fees, saving an estimated £156 million over 30 years

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
5.4.1.1 : Analyse tender for long term agreement		Pre qualification questionnaire (PQQ) returned from interested companies and being evaluated currently.	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council
5.4.1.2 : Appoint contractor and develop works programme	No Target		Mar/2010	Brighton & Hove City Council




5.4.3 : Prioritise the capital works programme over 30 years to meet, as far as possible, Decent Homes Standard

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
5.4.3.1 : Set indicative programme for tender		Completed	Jun/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council
		Work to appoint contractor currently in progress – presently evaluating PQQ's as below.		

5.4.3 : Prioritise the capital works programme over 30 years to meet, as far as possible, Decent Homes Standard

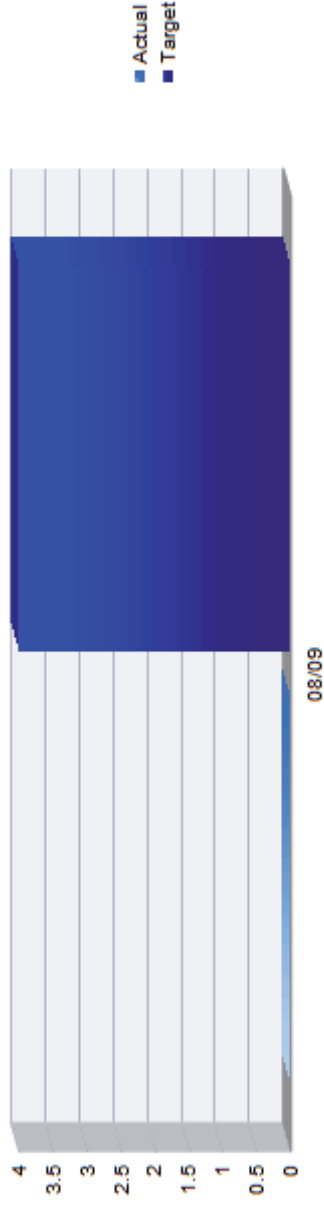
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
5.4.3.2 : Appoint Contractor		Work to appoint contractor currently in progress – presently evaluating PQQ's	Jun/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council
5.4.3.3 : Develop indicative programme into works programme for appointed contractor		Work to appoint contractor currently in progress – presently evaluating PQQ's	Jun/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council

5.4.5 : Ensure tenants and leaseholders are at the heart of the decision-making process on all maintenance and improvement works to the stock

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
5.4.5.1 : Asset management panel to be set up.		All completed. Terms of reference agreed and several Asset Management Panel meetings have taken place.	Sep/2008	Brighton & Hove City Council
5.4.5.2 : Terms of reference to be agreed.		Agreed.	Sep/2008	Brighton & Hove City Council
5.4.5.3 : First meeting 27/08/08			Aug/2008	Brighton & Hove City Council

Promoting resource efficiency and enhancing the environment

NI186 - Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area



Indicator	Target	Actual	Status
%	4.00	0.01	
Comments This result shows a change from 5.19 to 5.186 kilotonnes CO2 per capita. The trend for rising emissions in commerce and industry is a risk for CO2 emissions. The lag between improvement action and data publication also presents a risk in that there has been little time to materially affect the overall performance against this measure during the lifetime of the LAA. The Audit Commission has said it is more interested in measures taken and demonstrable commitment to reductions than in achievement against the target per se.			

6.1.1 : Implementation of key sustainable transport measures: Personalised Travel Planning, Business Travel Club (staff travel schemes), cycleway infrastructure improvements.

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
6.1.1.1 : No. of residents signed up to PTP / CO2 savings in modal shift		30,000 households	Jun/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council
6.1.1.2 : Km of cycle ways / total no. of users		21k of cycle lanes	Jun/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council
6.1.1.3 : No. large employers in Club/ travel Plans developed / CO2 savings		The council has continued to expand the newly established Business Travel Plan Partnership in 2008/09 and 40 of the city's employers, including some of the largest such as Legal & General and Lloyds Bank, are now participating. Through the partnership the council has provided match funding for a number of businesses to improve sustainable transport choices for their workers.	Jun/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council

6.1.2 : Extensive marketing and implementation of the Brighton & Hove Warm-Homes scheme to make homes warmer, more energy efficient and cheaper to heat.				
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
6.1.2.1 : Marketing plan actions		Newspaper advertisement target fully achieved Energy Guide distribution completed – sample survey to check distribution in progress 3,000 households have received mailshot to date	Jun/2009	Strategic Housing Partnership
6.1.3 : Widespread grants for loft and cavity wall insulation and more efficient heating - 8,000 households assisted, 2,000 with loft insulation, 900 with cavity wall insulation, and 1,200 with improved heating all over 3 years.				
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
6.1.3.1 : Grants allocated/measures implemented by type and CO2 saved		Delivery of Brighton & Hove Warm-Homes was maintained throughout 2008/09 (including promotion through a benefits mailshot in early 2009). The programme will continue during 2009/10.	Jun/2009	Strategic Housing Partnership
6.1.4 : Partnership working with business organisations to promote and assist implementation of energy/carbon management programmes by city employers; focus on 25 major employers (with £50,000+ p.a. energy bills - Carbon Trust, with SEEDA/Economic Partnership support); Medium sized businesses with £20,000-£50,000 bills; and smaller employers (below 20K p.a) through Ecosys / betre programmes, Business Link and Future Business support.				
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
6.1.4.1 : 10 Businesses receiving energy audits		Target achieved; Business Link Sussex is now funding Energy Efficiency Grants of £500 for sme's with an energy spend between £1,500 and £30,000 provided they undertake an audit; Ecosys is also providing an energy auditing service and some free support under the BETRE programme for the Sustainable Business Partnership.	Mar/2009	City Sustainability Partnership

6.1.4 : Partnership working with business organisations to promote and assist implementation of energy/carbon management programmes by city employers; focus on 25 major employers (with £50,000+ p.a. energy bills - Carbon Trust, with SEEDA/Economic Partnership support); Medium sized businesses with £20,000-£50,000 bills; and smaller employers (below 20K p.a) through Ecosys / betre programmes, Business Link and Future Business support.

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
6.1.4.2 : No. of large employers with Carbon Management Programmes.		Reluctance of large employers to provide further information; Carbon Trusts has been approached to provide this information without naming companies, but has not yet been able to do so.	Mar/2009	City Sustainability Partnership
6.1.4.3 : CO2 savings identified/achieved (NB businesses are not readily sharing this data)		Partners representing the local business community are exploring best ways to assess CO2 impact of business, building on baseline information from the Climate Change Strategy Workshop held in November 2007. Some businesses are also able to use environmental audits they have received and others are using monitors loaned by Business Link. They aim to have an Action Plan in place by September 2009.	Mar/2009	City Sustainability Partnership
6.1.4.4 : No. of businesses advised		Consultation is being undertaken through representative organisations within the local business community.	Mar/2009	City Sustainability Partnership

6.1.5 : New energy manager network established for public services and implementation of display energy certificates

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
6.1.5.1 : Network set up: number of members		Establishing an Energy Manager Network is a recommendation from the Public Services Climate Change Strategy workshop; yet to be established. 115 sites within the council portfolio have been identified as requiring a Display Energy Certificate. A total of 70 Certificates have now been lodged, with a further 10 sites receiving a provisional grade. The remainder of the certificates are on course to be lodged by the beginning of July 2009.	Jun/2009	City Sustainability Partnership





CREATING THE CITY OF OPPORTUNITIES

A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR THE CITY OF BRIGHTON AND HOVE

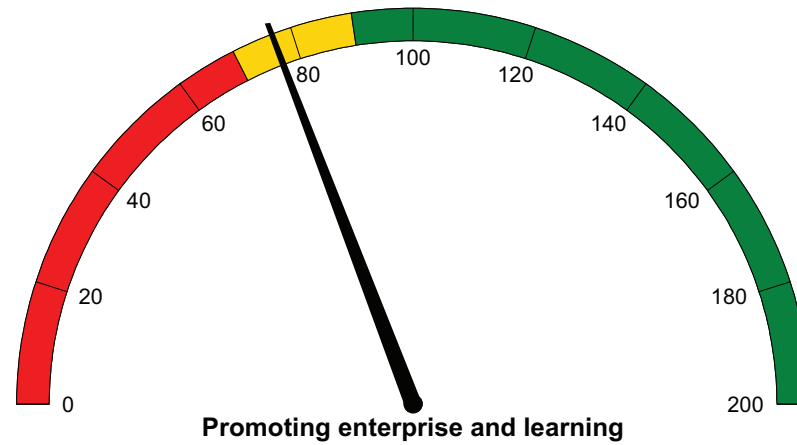
Local Area Agreement Delivery Plan

Brighton and Hove 2020 Community Partnership



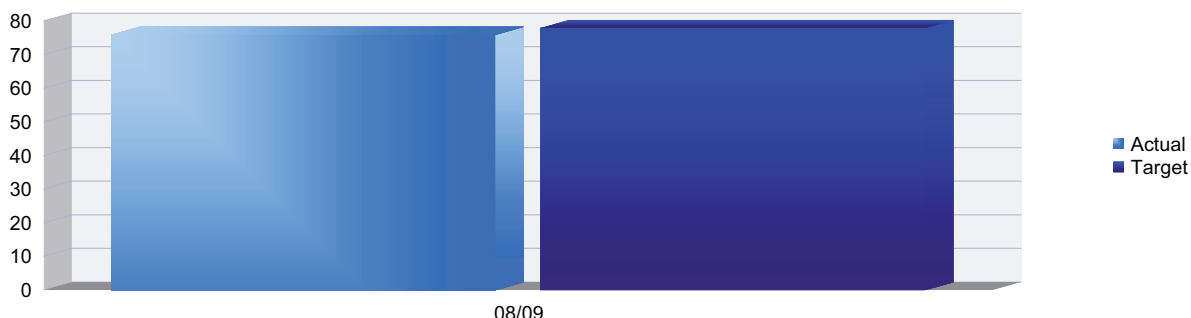

2008 - 2011

Executive Summary Performance Indicators per Theme





Goal Area	Number of Performance Indicators on Target	Number of Performance Indicators Inside Variable range of Target	Number of Performance Indicators Outside Variable range of Target	Number of Performance Indicators With no Targets or Actuals Set	Total Number of Performance Indicators
Promoting enterprise and learning	3	2	4	0	9

Promoting enterprise and learning

NI079 - Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	Indicator	Target	Actual	Status
 <p>08/09</p> <p>■ Actual ■ Target</p>	%	78.00	76.00	
<p>Comments Academic Year 2008</p>				

1.1.1 : Implement curriculum change and broaden the routes at levels 1, 2 and 3 through which young people can access further education including through work with Sussex Learning Network and Aim Higher

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.1.1.1 : Recruit 70 young people in 2008/9 onto Fast Lane project providing personal development opportunities and supported progression into further learning or employment for 16/17 year olds		Fast lane begins in Nov 10 young people recruited in Jan 09 On track to achieve these targets (May 09)	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.1.1.1 : Ensure information on progression routes through the 14-19 and beyond into employment and Higher Education is fully accessible to young people and is regularly updated in an accessible format via the Area Prospectus and Sussex Learning Network (SLN) website.		Oct 08 progression routes updated on Sussex Area-wide Prospectus (AWP). The three Sussex local authorities have now jointly employed a manager for the AWP who is tasked to update and refresh the prospectus and the data required. This is ongoing in 09-10.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

1.1.1 : Implement curriculum change and broaden the routes at levels 1, 2 and 3 through which young people can access further education including through work with Sussex Learning Network and Aim Higher

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.1.1.2 : Provide an additional 108 Entry to Employment (e2e) training places in 2008/9, available to 16-18 year olds, to prepare them for work or further study		45 young people enrolled on new e2e programme in autumn with the remainder expected to be filled in Jan 108 Young people recruited by May 09.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.1.1.3 : Produce a citywide implementation plan for Foundation Learning Tier in place for 2010 to provide young people studying below Level 2 with a defined pathway into work or other training.		Implementation plan meetings have begun	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.1.1.4 : Submit Diploma Gateway Application to introduce four additional Diplomas (Public Services; Sport & Active Leisure; Retail Business and Travel and Tourism) across the city from Sept 2010		Submitted Gateway 3 application November 2008, for Engineering, IT, Sport and Active Leisure, Travel and Tourism, Retail Business. This was graded 3B and will be developed in 2010-2011 and implemented from September 2011.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

1.1.2 : Increase the number of entry to education points available to 16-19 year olds in the city

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.1.2.1 : Develop Entry to Employment (e2e) provision to offer a wider range of options from an increased range of providers, to include Blatchington Mill School, BHASVIC, Varndean College and private providers who will provide January start dates.		108 places offered in year by providers highlighted above. Entry to Learning Pilot began to target NEET young people who see College as a progression route. 27 people from target of 150 recruited to date (May 09). (Also see under Aim: 'Work with national Apprenticeship Service, colleges and Sussex Council of Training Providers (SCTP) to increase the number of apprenticeships places for 16-18 year olds' & NI 117.)	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

1.1.3 : Work with national Apprenticeship Service, colleges and Sussex Council of Training Providers (SCTP) to increase the number of apprenticeships places for 16-18 year olds.

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.1.3.1 : Implement the recommendations contained in the Sussex Council of Training Providers (SCTP) research on Apprenticeships in the Public Sector to increase the number of Apprenticeships B&HCC, PCT, Universities and other public sector employers' offer.		First meeting of Apprenticeship Steering Group held (27th May 2009) Draft citywide Apprenticeship Strategy produced for consultation (May 2009)	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.1.3.2 : The LSC will roll out the new National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) from April 2009. A project team is in place from Sept 2008 to establish the Vacancy Matching Service (VMS) for apprenticeships which will form part of NAS. VMS provides a portal for employers to register apprenticeship places and for potential apprentices to register their interest.		Delayed roll out till April 09 Fully operational (April 2009) Training for staff on NAVMS delivered in citywide Apprenticeship event (Feb 09)	Jun/2009	Learning Partnership
1.1.3.3 : Public Sector employers agree planned Apprenticeship placement numbers for 2009 – 11 period		First Public Sector steering group meeting held 27/5 with initial ideas shared about the process by which public sector employers will increase Apprenticeship numbers	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.1.3.4 : Develop citywide Employer Engagement strategies with BHCC Economic Development team and Economic Partnership in the Creative and Media; Business, Administration and Finance and Public Sectors		TBA	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.1.3.5 : Develop Entry to Employment (e2e) provision to offer a wider range of vocational options from an increased range of providers, to include Blatchington Mill School, BHASVIC, Varndean College and private providers.		108 places developed and an additional 100 applied for in 2009/10 (Also see under Aim: 'Increase the number of entry to education points available to 16-19 year olds in the city' & NI 117.)	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

Promoting enterprise and learning


<p>NI117 - 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)</p> <p>08/09</p>	<p>Indicator</p>	<p>Target</p>	<p>Actual</p>	<p>Status</p>
	<p>%</p>	<p>7.60</p>	<p>7.80</p>	
	<p>Comments</p> <p>The progress against the NEET target is measured annually as an average for November, December and January. Compared to the 2007 figure of 9.3%, a significant improvement was made in 2008 with the figure of 7.8%. March 09 figure is 7%. The latest available national figures for March 09 suggest that B&H is the most improved local authority in the South East compared to March 08.</p>			

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1.2.1 : Implement the September Guarantee (SG) initiative to ensure all young people have opportunities to engage in learning for at least two further years when they leave compulsory education.

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.2.1.1 : £417 k of European Social Fund funding used to provide summer programmes to keep young people engaged and support them to access post-16 provision		Summer programme planned in B&H and East Sussex with target of 57 young people engaged in 2009/10	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.2.1.1 : Learning & Skills Council are informed of reasons if no suitable offer was available for any young people so that they can commission appropriate courses		SG progress reported to LSC and 14-19 Partnership Board. Required actions for 08/09 are now complete. All year 11 pupils have recorded their intended destinations and this information has been passed to LSC and 14-19 partnership Board to inform commissioning of appropriate provision for 09/10 and beyond. The September Guarantee process will be ongoing into 09/10	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

1.2.1 : Implement the September Guarantee (SG) initiative to ensure all young people have opportunities to engage in learning for at least two further years when they leave compulsory education.

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.2.1.2 : All young people in the SG cohort have appropriate SG status recorded.		September Guarantee process for 2008/09 completed. For Year 11 cohort, for 0.8% young people, SG status was not recorded. For Year 12 cohort, SG status was not recorded for 5.2% young people. This was the first year of SG process for Year 12 cohort. Areas for improvements have been identified and actions will be taken based on this to ensure necessary improvements in 2009/10.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

1.2.2 : Provide appropriate EET and personal development opportunities for young people:

- Diplomas
- Additional E2E courses
- Fast lane project

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.2.2.1 : 108 additional Entry to Employment (e2e) training places available to 16-18 year olds		45 young people enrolled on new e2e programme in autumn with the remainder expected to be filled in Jan 108 recruited by April 2009 100 additional places applied for in 2009/10 (academic year)	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.2.2.1 : Diploma courses available and publicised on Area Prospectus		1 Diploma began in 2008/9 with a further 5 currently being advertised for Sept 09 start. The 09/10 Diploma offer is on the Area prospectus.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.2.2.2 : 70 young people on Fast Lane project providing personal development opportunities and supported progression into further learning or employment		Fastlane begins delivery in November 10 young people recruited in Jan	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

1.2.3 : Increase the availability of Apprenticeships for young people in the city


1.2.3 : Increase the availability of Apprenticeships for young people in the city

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.2.3.1 : Implement the recommendations contained in the Sussex Council of Training Providers (SCTP) research on Apprenticeships in the Public Sector to increase the number of Apprenticeships B&HCC, PCT, Universities and other public sector employers' offer.		1st Apprenticeship steering group meeting held 27/5 Apprenticeship Strategy in draft format (May 09)	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.2.3.1 : Public Sector employers agree planned Apprenticeship placement numbers for 2009 – 11 period		1st Apprenticeship steering group meeting held 27/5 Apprenticeship Strategy in draft format (May 09)	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.2.3.2 : Maintain futureworkforce.co.uk website and highlight this resource to employers and employers groups		website updated (Jan 09) Website updated (May 09)	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.2.3.3 : Develop citywide Employer Engagement strategies with BHCC Economic Development team and Economic Partnership in the Creative and Media; Business, Administration and Finance and Public Sectors			Mar/2009	Learning Partnership


1.2.4 : Find innovative ways to engage 'in-active' NEETs so that more NEETs are supported by personal advisers to find appropriate EET opportunities

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
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1.2.4 : Find innovative ways to engage 'in-active' NEETs so that more NEETs are supported by personal advisers to find appropriate EET opportunities

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.2.4.1 : Improved ratio of active to in-active NEETS (from current 50% to 75%)		The current ratio of active to passive NEETs is 53%. NEET Caseload Process which outlines ways to engage with passive NEETs is now in place. However this has not resulted in better outcomes. An engagement event is planned for NEETs in the East area. As soon as the outcome of this is available, a review of the existing NEET Caseload Process will need to take place.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

1.2.5 : Monitor reasons why young people drop out of the post 16 learning courses before the end date in order to put in place processes for NEET prevention

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.2.5.1 : Report available giving drop out reasons and appropriate processes put in place		Process for monitoring reasons why young people drop out of the post 16 learning courses before the end date is now in place. Integrated Youth Support Service/Connexions database (Aspire) has necessary fields to record this information and related crystal report is set up on the system. Connexions personal advisers are working with schools/colleges so timely support can be provided to 'early leavers'.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

1.2.6 : Improve quality of the data related to NEET young people to inform service improvements

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.2.6.1 : Reports available from the new Youth & Connexions Service database (Aspire) enabling analysis of characteristics of NEET young people and why they are NEET.		Reports on NEET characteristics and reasons are already available from Aspire. Analysis is being undertaken and is used as part of needs assessment for ongoing improvement of services. Additional reports are set up on the system as required to inform in-depth analysis.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

1.2.7 : Key Stage 4 (KS4) Engagement Programme to support young people identified by schools as at risk of disengaging

1.2.7 : Key Stage 4 (KS4) Engagement Programme to support young people identified by schools as at risk of disengaging

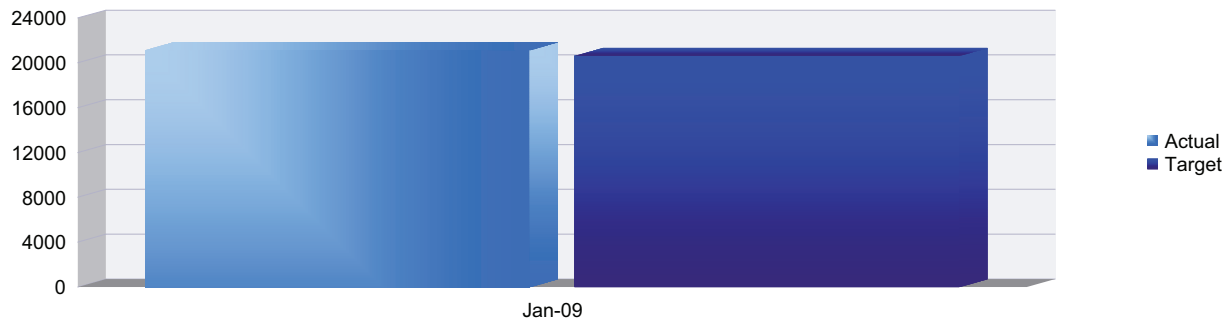
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.2.7.1 : Citywide implementation plan for Foundation Learning Tier in place for 2010. FLT will provide young people studying at below Level 2 with a defined progression pathway into work or other training.		Planning underway for this and first citywide meeting planned for Jan 09	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.2.7.2 : 300 Young people accessing the programme finding sustainable EET opportunity after leaving compulsory education		150 young people enrolled on Engagement Programme so far.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.2.7.3 : Sustainability plan for KS4 Engagement programme developed.		Comments to follow	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

1.2.8 : Establish 9 Connexions Plus centres across the city from where integrated area teams can provide advice, guidance and support to young people.

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.2.8.1 : Number of young people accessing the new centres to increase over time from the current Connexions Plus footfall of approximately 500 per month		Information to date shows between 300 and 400 young people accessing Connexions Plus centres across the city. There is still some way to go the attain the previous levels prior to the delivery of Connexions PLUS services in area-based teams.	Jun/2009	Learning Partnership
1.2.8.2 : Connexions Plus centres to be operational by January 2009		All Connexions Plus centres are now established with IT and other resources for young people. A timetable of opening times for drop-in and area phone numbers has now been published. Integrated teams are in place and working with young people.	Jun/2009	Learning Partnership

Promoting enterprise and learning

NI152 The number of working age people claiming out of work benefits



Indicator	Target	Actual	Status
No.	20,630.00	21,135.00	
Comments			
<p>Baseline - 21,702 (average of 4 quarters up until May 07). This data relates to an average of 4 quarters up to September 08. Release of data is lagged by around 8 months to realtime. To give an indication of the number of working age people on out of work benefits in the city, Job Seekers Allowance claims were at 4.3% of the working age population in April 09. The same measure was at 2.6% in April 08.</p> <p>Up until May 08 we were on target with reducing the number of residents claiming working-age benefits. There has been a pronounced up-turn in the rate of key benefit claimants across Britain, making it unlikely any local authority will hit their target against NI 152.</p>			

1.3.1 : Commission the City Employment and Skills Plan (CESP) Evaluation Report to monitor the success of the City Employment and Skills Steering Group in making progress against the CESP strategic priorities.


Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.3.1.1 : CESP - Final mid-term evaluation report completed		The mid-term evaluation has been completed. A new action plan with priorities for 2009/10 has been developed. A new evaluation framework to monitor the progress of the Action Plan has been identified and will be developed with the assistance of the Council's Performance team.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

1.3.2 : Breakthrough Programme, which assists workless city residents back into the labour market


Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
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1.3.2 : Breakthrough Programme, which assists workless city residents back into the labour market

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.3.2.1 : 'Breakthrough Programme' - 300 workless residents engaged, of which 60 to secure work placements, 50 to secure employment and 20 to partake in volunteering		345 residents have been engaged, of whom 48 have secured employment, 87 have gained voluntary work, 57 have been offered work placements. The project has been very successful and it's an excellent case of good partnership working. The project has secured funding to run for at least one more year.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

1.3.3 : Part-fund, support and monitor delivery of the Futures Programme

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.3.3.1 : 'Futures Programme' - 45 workless residents engaged, receiving training and work placements in the hospitality sector, of which 30 secure employment		40 residents have been trained, 6 have entered into employment, 38 have successfully completed work placements. The employers who offered work placements have been impressed by the quality of participants. Job outputs have been low due to the economic downturn.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

1.3.4 : Part-fund the Housing Benefit "Back to Work" Project, which provides discretionary payments to support benefit claimants in making the transition to employment

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.3.4.1 : 'Back to work project' - 40 claimants to secure employment		18 residents have been helped into work since the beginning of the project. LABGI funding for this project was approved by the CESSG in late July 08 and the project didn't start before August 08.	Jul/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group




Promoting enterprise and learning

<p>NI163 - Proportion of working asge people qualified to Level 2 or higher</p>	Indicator	Target	Actual	Status
	%	76.90	77.50	
	Comments			


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1.4.1 : Increase awareness amongst employers and employees across the city about the availability of in-work training entitlements				
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.4.1.1 : Increase the number of city-based employers who have signed the Skills Pledge from 21 (September 2008) to 400 in 2010.			Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.4.1.2 : Increase the number of city based employers to sign Local Employment Partnerships (LEP) with Jobcentre Plus from 50 (July 2008) to 250 in April 2009.		400 LEPs had been signed by Aprill 2009.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

1.4.1 : Increase awareness amongst employers and employees across the city about the availability of in-work training entitlements

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.4.1.3 : The LSC will roll out the new National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) from April 2009. A project team is in place from Sept. 2008 to establish the Vacancy Matching Service (VMS) for apprenticeships which will form part of NAS. VMS provides a portal for employers to register Apprenticeship places and for potential apprentices to register their interest.		The LSC has rolled out the new National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) from April 2009 and the Vacancy Matching Service (VMS) for apprenticeships which forms part of NAS. VMS provides a portal for employers to register Apprenticeship places and for potential apprentices to register their interest. At May 2009 for Brighton and Hove there are 9 live adverts and 13 vacancies on the VMS, plus 30 candidates who have applied for an apprenticeship.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.4.1.4 : Use LSC Skills for Growth funding to complement national Train to Gain marketing campaign and encourage an increase take-up of Skills for Life, Level 1, 2 & 3 in-work training opportunities.		Initiative ran from Oct 08 - April 09 with a successful focus on the Community and Voluntary Sector and the Children's workforce.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.4.1.5 : Use LSC Public Sector Skills Challenge funding within BHCC to enhance capacity to meet the council's commitments under the Skills Pledge		Updated Skills for Life Action Plan completed and target of 151 starts on training met in full.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

1.4.2 : Delivery of additional programmes to increase achievement of Level 2 qualifications which provide progression into further study or employment

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.4.2.1 : Sustainability plan for Integration of Local Skills and Employment pilots developed and agreed.		Tba	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership




1.4.2 : Delivery of additional programmes to increase achievement of Level 2 qualifications which provide progression into further study or employment

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.4.2.2 : Deliver 70 additional Skills for Life qualifications over the lifetime of a Family Learning led European Social Funded programme that enable progression onto full L2 qualifications in Childcare, Play and Learning Support Assistants.		Project begins in January 2009 but on track	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.4.2.3 : Ensure that 25% (980) of Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL) funded provision is classified as First Steps provision that provides participants with a direct, accredited progression route.		Curriculum Planning discussions arranged for Jan 09 - completed March 09. Additional LSC funding for B&H providers and partnership working has enabled a 'Recession Busting' programme of course to be offered from April - July 2009.	Jun/2009	Learning Partnership

1.4.3 : Agree a citywide collaborative learning offer for adults that encourage and enables progression onto qualifications at Level 2 or above.

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.4.3.1 : Develop implementation plan for the Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) to provide adults studying at below Level 2 with a defined pathway into work or other training.		An agenda and action item for February 2009's Adult Learning Group	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.4.3.2 : Implement Foundation Learning Tier Implementation Plan		In progress	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.4.3.3 : Implement a citywide Numeracy strategy to increase the number of adults undertaking Numeracy Entry level 3 qualifications to 500 in 08/09 (from 320 in 06/07).		In progress	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

1.4.4 : Work with Local Authorities, JobCentre Plus and other agencies, including the Community and Voluntary Sector, to integrate local skills and employment strategies and promote social cohesion by implementing pilot projects for delivering Entry Level and pre-engagement programmes in Hangleton & Knoll (2008/9) and East Brighton (2009/10).

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.4.4.1 : Implement citywide education outreach strategy that aims to provide a minimum of 700 residents with 1:1 advice and support.		On track.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.4.4.2 : Application to develop an Adult Advancement and Careers Service (AACS) pilot submitted.		Sep 08 bid to develop prototype for the Adult Advancement and Careers Service was successful, 200k each year for 2 years 08-10.	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership
1.4.4.3 : Quarterly operational steering groups held in Hangleton and Knoll and East Brighton		From January 2009, this group has become the operational steering group for the Adult Advancement and Careers Service hub in Hangleton and Knoll	Mar/2009	Learning Partnership

Promoting enterprise and learning

<p>NI171 - New business registration rate per 10,000 of the population (VAT and PAYE)</p> <p>08/09</p>	Indicator	Target	Actual	Status
	No.	71.80	72.80	
	<p>Comments The latest result relates to the outcome in 2007 - data is lagged by 2 years. New business registration rate has been consistently higher in Brighton & Hove than in the South East and GB since 2002.</p>			

1.5.1 : Develop the city's business offer in order to attract more investment from external companies

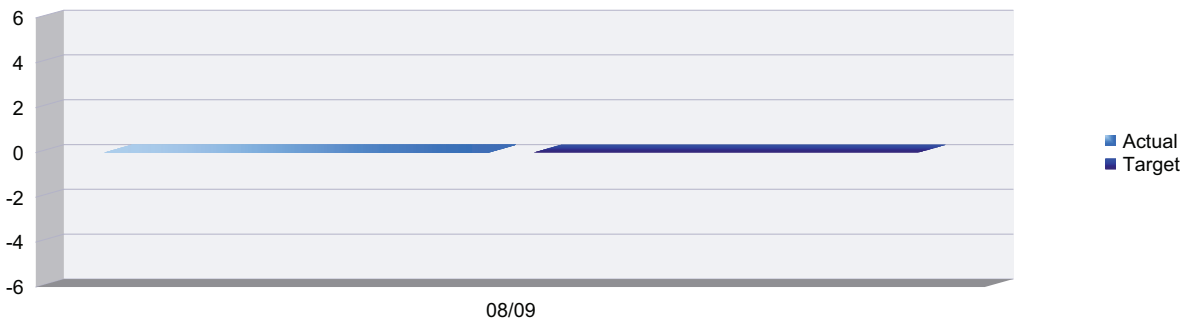
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.5.1.1 : Complete the Business Retention and Inward Investment Study		The city council formally approved the BRII at the Enterprise Employment and Major Projects CMM on 23rd March 2009 and work is now underway in developing the short term action plan	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

1.5.2 : Assist businesses in finding suitable commercial premises in the city

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.5.2.1 : Achieve 5000 hits on the council commercial property database for the 2008/09 financial year		In the financial year 2008/09 there were 5157 hits on the councils commercial property database for businesses looking for a range of commercial and retail space within the city.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

Promoting enterprise and learning

L1 - Progress towards the development of the Brighton Centre	Indicator	Target	Actual	Status
		%	0.00	0.00
<p>Comments No data - Following the exchange and execution of Heads of Terms with Standard Life Investments in December 2008, Standard Life despatched the Contract Notice for publication in OJEU in January 2009 to initiate the procurement process to appoint a Lead Architect and the professional development team to undertake a first stage feasibility design and study.</p>				



1.6.1 : To agree a Funding Strategy with Standard Life

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.6.1.1 : Exchange and execution of Heads of Terms with Standard Life Investments		Heads of terms exchanged and executed on 22 Dec 08	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council


1.6.2 : Initiate the procurement process to appoint a professional development team

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.6.2.1 : Issue the OJEU Notice		Contract notice despatched 13 Jan 09	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council
1.6.2.2 : Appointment of Lead Architect and Design Team		Procurement timetable now shows contract award as Jun/July 09	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council

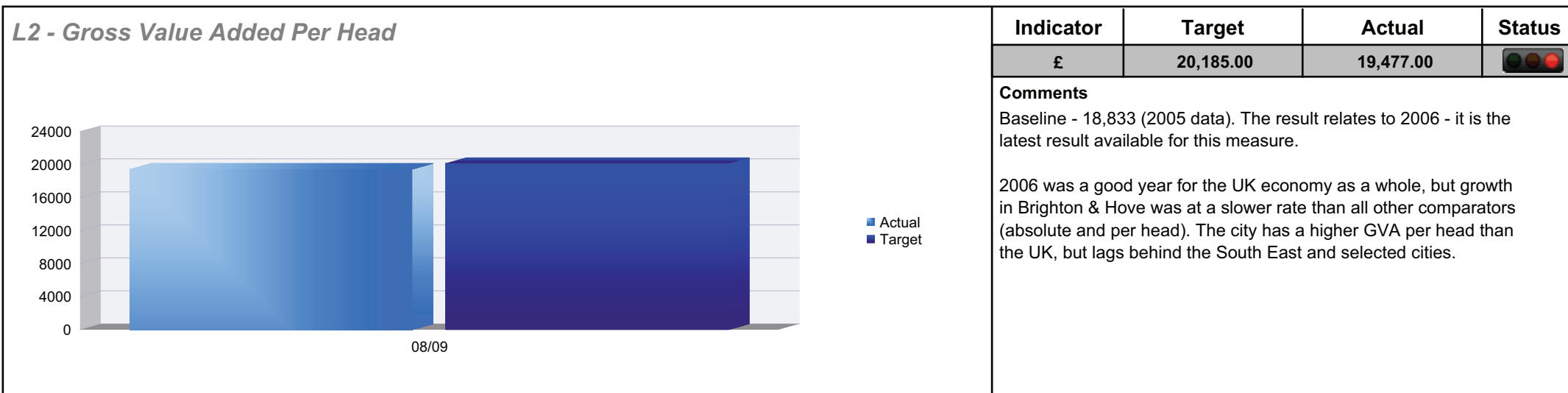
1.6.3 : To identify and define a viable scheme

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
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1.6.3 : To identify and define a viable scheme

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.6.3.1 : Completion of the first stage feasibility study and design		Due to be completed March 2010	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council

Promoting enterprise and learning




1.7.1 : Part-fund the East Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership in delivering energy audits and green action grants to local firms (BHCC funding will be spent on Brighton & Hove Businesses)

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.7.1.1 : Sustainable Business Partnership - 40 local businesses receiving Green Action Grants		Business Link began offering a new grant to enable local businesses to make environmental improvements in January 2009. To avoid duplication of services the East Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership agreed to defer delivery of council-funded grants until July 2009, when funding for the Business Link grant ends.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

1.7.2 : Part-fund the City Business Clinics offered, offered by Business Link to local SMEs that are more than two years old

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.7.2.1 : Business Link - 32 business clinic slots filled		46 City Business Clinic sessions filled from July 2008 to end-March 2009, exceeding target by 14.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

1.7.3 : Provide funding to support the Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce in offering expanded services to new and existing members

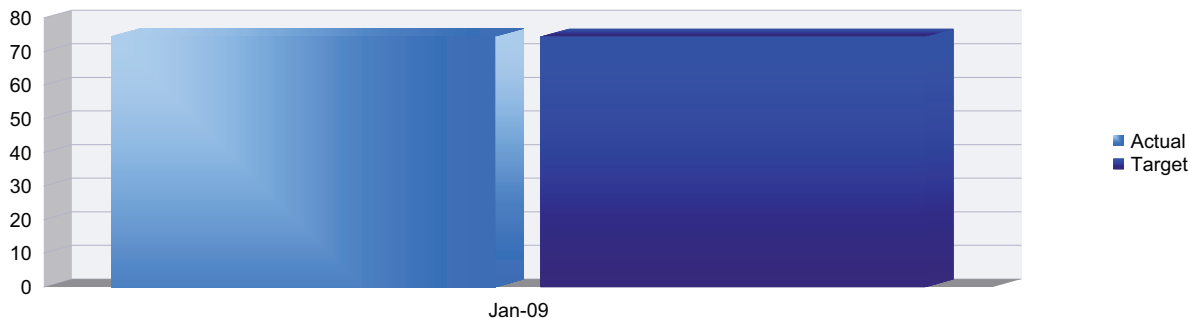
Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.7.3.1 : Chamber of Commerce - New Chamber website and 33 business events/training sessions engaging 1450 local businesses		Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce website is complete and live. 1500 businesses were engaged at 33 business events and training sessions, exceeding the project-end target.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

1.7.4 : Ensure B&H benefits for the new SEEDA funded Innovation & Growth Teams (IGT) to be established in 2009

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.7.4.1 : SEEDA funded Innovation and Growth Teams - Brighton & Hove actively involved in the preparation of the business plan for the city.		Partners who will be delivering the Brighton & Hove & East Sussex Innovation Team services submitted a bid to SEEDA in February 2009, which resulted in the partners being asked to work with SEEDA in developing the bid further. The project is ongoing, with four meetings a month between partners, and a final bid to SEEDA is expected in summer 2009.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group
1.7.4.2 : SEEDA IGT - Meaningful presence of IGT established in the city		The new IGT will operate in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, meaning many delivery partners are stake-holders and in some cases will be working together for the first time. Given the complex project development process, SEEDA has been receptive to the delivery partners' ambition for the new IGT, and it is anticipated that the team will be established and operating in early 2010.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

Promoting enterprise and learning

L3 (NI151) - The percentage of the working age population who are in employment



Indicator	Target	Actual	Status
%	74.50	74.60	
Comments			
Baseline - 71.9% (06/07 data). This data relates to Oct 07 - Sept 08 - it is the latest data available to show progress against this measure. It is lagged by 8 months to realtime.			
The latest LAA data of employment numbers shows that currently we are already above our target for 2008/09. The problem is that the 2008/09 target is based upon data that will be released later this year and with numbers in employment clearly going to drop by reference to the claimant count, it is unlikely we will meet this target.			

1.8.1 : Commission the City Employment and Skills Plan (CESP) Evaluation Report to monitor the success of the City Employment and Skills Steering Group in making progress against the CESP strategic priorities.


Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.8.1.1 : Final mid term evaluation		The mid-term evaluation has been completed. A new action plan with priorities for 2009/10 has been developed. A new evaluation framework to monitor the progress of the Action Plan has been identified and will be developed with the assistance of the Council's Performance team.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

1.8.2 : Part-fund, support and monitor delivery of the Futures Programme, which provides training and work experience


Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
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1.8.2 : Part-fund, support and monitor delivery of the Futures Programme, which provides training and work experience

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.8.2.1 : 45 workless residents engaged, receiving training and work placements in the hospitality sector, of which 30 secure employment		40 residents have been trained, 6 have entered into employment, 38 have successfully completed work placements. The employers who offered work placements have been impressed by the quality of participants. Job outputs have been low due to the economic downturn.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

1.8.3 : Fully-fund the Wired Sussex Internship Programme, offering graduates six weeks of work in the digital media sector

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.8.3.1 : Wired Sussex Internship - 25 Graduate internships, of which 8 secure employment		600 graduates applied for the Internship programme. 25 graduates have completed the internships provided by 21 local digital media companies. 13 have moved into employment (total target was 8). The project has been very successful. It has secured funding to run for at least one more year.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group


1.8.4 : Map the profile of the city's available employment space

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.8.4.1 : Mapping the profile of employment space - Complete the Business Retention and Inward Investment Study		The city council formally approved the BRII at the Enterprise Employment and Major Projects CMM on 23rd March 2009 and work is now underway in developing the short term action plan	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group


1.8.5 : Part-fund, support and monitor delivery of the Breakthrough Programme, which assists workless city residents back into the labour market

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
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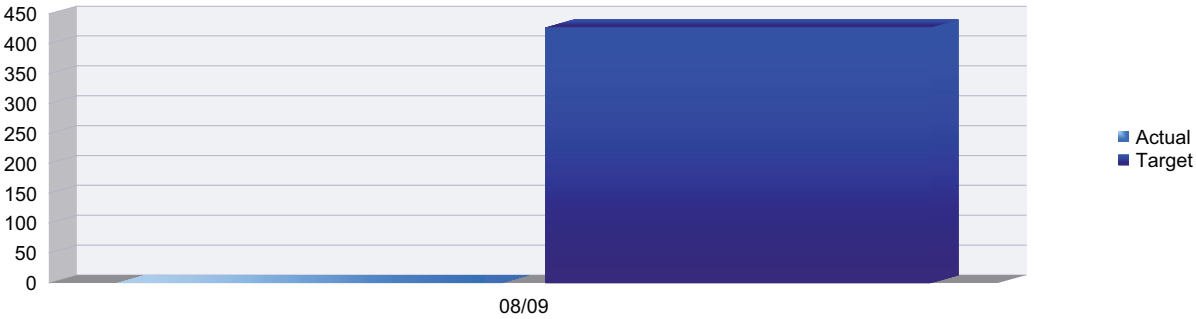
1.8.5 : Part-fund, support and monitor delivery of the Breakthrough Programme, which assists workless city residents back into the labour market

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.8.5.1 : 300 workless residents engaged, of which 60 to secure work placements, 50 to secure employment and 20 to partake in volunteering		345 residents have been engaged, of whom 48 have secured employment, 87 have gained voluntary work, 57 have been offered work placements. The project has been very successful and it's an excellent case of good partnership working. The project has secured funding to run for at least one more year.	Mar/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group

1.8.6 : Part-fund the Housing Benefit "Back to Work" Project, which provides discretionary payments to support benefit claimants in making the transition to employment

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.8.6.1 : 40 claimants to secure employment		18 residents have been helped into work since the beginning of the project. LABGI funding for this project was approved by the CESSG in late July 08 and the project didn't start before August 08.	Jul/2009	City Employment and Skills Steering Group


Promoting enterprise and learning

L4 - Improve the visitor economy (£ million)	Indicator	Target	Actual	Status
 <p>08/09</p>	£	427.80	0.00	
<p>Comments There are no results available for this indicator at present</p>				


1.9.1 : Investment in infrastructure and physical environment e.g. Improve Gateways to the City and implement the findings of the Public Space Public Life Study and deliver the regeneration of the Brighton Centre

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.9.1.1 : Recruit Destination Manager		Destination Manager recruited and started on 03/11/08	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council
1.9.1.2 : Introduce Greeter scheme		The scheme has been approved at CMM and a further report will follow in September. We have a number of interested volunteers and the channel web site is in development. Launch date October 09	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council

1.9.1 : Investment in infrastructure and physical environment e.g. Improve Gateways to the City and implement the findings of the Public Space Public Life Study and deliver the regeneration of the Brighton Centre

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.9.1.3 : Support introduction of pedestrian signage scheme		<p>Pedestrian wayfinding project on target to start roll out of new signs September 09. VisitBrighton commencing work on 'walking' campaign for launch in early 2009. Spring Campaign Completed – Summer campaign to also focus on outdoor activities including walking.</p> <p>VisitBrighton to amend marketing materials in line with new pedestrian signage / mapping scheme in 2009.</p> <p>Initial meetings held to ascertain potential applications / uses of new mapping and signage scheme – more to be held throughout year.</p>	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council

1.9.2 : Sustainable and responsible tourism e.g. Support the Federation of Disabled People in the provision of information to disabled visitors and support the expansion of Futures providing employment opportunities in Tourism for residents from disadvantaged backgrounds

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.9.2.1 : 20 accommodation & attraction records on Fed Access website		There are 31 accommodation & attraction records, and 93 records in total on the site by the end of March	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council



1.9.2 : Sustainable and responsible tourism e.g. Support the Federation of Disabled People in the provision of information to disabled visitors and support the expansion of Futures providing employment opportunities in Tourism for residents from disadvantaged backgrounds

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.9.2.2 : Grow traffic to Visitbrighton.com – 1.9m unique visitors in 2008		<p>VisitBrighton developing range of 'podcast' trails to encourage visitors to explore all areas of the city on foot – launch scheduled Feb 09.</p> <p>Six podcast trails completed in Spring 09 – launched as part of Summer campaign: June 09</p> <p>New stat package to re-launched website means old unique stats figure no longer relevant. New growth targets to be set for 2009/2010.</p> <p>VisitBrighton has developed full section on 'Green' tourism in Brighton on new VisitBrighton.com website – Nov 08.</p> <p>VisitBrighton.com unique visitor numbers for period 1 Jan - 31 Sept 2008 = 1,534,871. On target to reach 1.9m by end of year.</p>	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council
1.9.2.3 : Achieve 20 new conferences with an Economic Impact Assessment of £61m		For Jan 08 – Dec 09 we achieved 32 conferences with economic impact of £52m so didn't reach £62m target unfortunately	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council

1.9.3 : Improving quality and raising standards e.g. Retain an 'Inspected Only' policy among the visitor accommodation providers in the City and support other quality schemes such as 'Scores on the Doors' and 'Best Bar None'.

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.9.3.1 : Launch Sussex breakfast and have 10 businesses signed up		We achieved 6 businesses signed up by the end of March.	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council
1.9.3.2 : Achieve 75% bed space in accommodation inspection scheme		We achieved 77.45% bedspace	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council

1.9.4 : Partnership and consultation e.g. Carry out annual visitor surveys

Actions	DOT	Comments	By When	Lead Partner
1.9.4.1 : Have 280 partners joined with Visitbrighton		We had 271 partners by December 2008, which is the end of our Partnership year	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council
1.9.4.2 : Visitor Survey Complete		TSE Commissioned and working on brief for survey to be carried out in September	Mar/2009	Brighton & Hove City Council

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Subject:	Relationship between Overview and Scrutiny and the Local Strategic Partnership		
Date of Meeting:	14 July 2009		
Report of:	Director of Strategy and Governance		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Tom Hook	Tel: 29-1110
	E-mail:	Tom.hook@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report presents a recommended model for developing the relationship between the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function and the Local Strategic Partnership.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) That Members agree the proposed ways of working as set out in paragraph 3.26 of the report.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Increasing importance is being placed on partnership working in the delivery of Council and city-wide priorities. The opportunity therefore exists to move the Council's O&S function away from being essentially inward looking to becoming a 360 degree tool that looks at issues as they affect the City, rather than as the council delivers services. Put another way O&S needs to be place, not just service, based.
- 3.2 This necessitates improved coordination between O&S and partners in the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and increased involvement in monitoring the associated Local Area Agreement (LAA). Similarly O&S can have a key role relating to the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

Legislative Framework

- 3.3 Sections 121 and 122 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 establish new powers for overview and scrutiny in

relation to partner organisations.¹ In essence Council Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be able to:

- Scrutinise LAA targets
- Require information from partner organisations involved in delivering LAA targets
- Require partners to 'have regard to' scrutiny recommendations

3.4 Consideration therefore needs to be given as to how best O&S and local partners and partnerships can work together. The Council and its partners have an opportunity to consider the best way in which these powers can be implemented locally prior to national regulations and guidance being published.

3.5 Agreed ways of working should be applicable to all partners and build upon the good working relationships that already exist in Brighton and Hove, rather than national legislation.

3.6 It should be noted that scrutiny of NHS organisations and the Police is covered by separate legislative provision and is the remit of HOSC and ECSOSC respectively.

The Local Strategic Partnership

3.7 The LSP is a multi-agency body that brings together representatives from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. The LSP is not an executive body but exists to liaise between partners and coordinate the agreement of local priorities that form the LAA.

3.8 The LSP has a number of thematic groups:

- Advice Services Strategy Group (ASSG)
- Arts Commission, Brighton & Hove
- Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)
- Children & Young People's Trust Partnership (CYPT)
- Economic Partnership, Brighton & Hove
- Healthy City Partnership
- Learning Partnership, Brighton & Hove
- Strategic Housing Partnership (SHP)
- Stronger Communities Programme Partnership
- City Sustainability Partnership
- City Inclusion Partnership

3.9 The LSP is responsible for developing the Sustainable Community Strategy. This sets out the long term vision for Brighton and Hove, backed by action plans to achieve it.

¹ Regulations and guidance on the implementation of Section 121 and 122 of the LGPIHA 2007 have not yet been published.

- 3.10 O&S needs to respond to the increasing importance of partnership working and develop an approach that includes examination of LSP/LAA/Sustainable Community Strategy issues.

Comprehensive Area Assessments

- 3.11 The introduction of Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAA) presents similar opportunities and challenges to Overview and Scrutiny.
- 3.12 The process for CAA is very different to the CPA inspection regime it replaces with the focus being on-going dialogue about priority areas for improvement and performance monitoring published in an annual report. The CAA will pay particular attention to the achievement of the ambitions set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the LAA
- 3.13 The Centre for Public Scrutiny identifies key stages of the CAA where O&S could potentially provide a key role:
- CAA asks how well the council and its partners understand the area and community's needs in defining the goals of public services: an understanding to which scrutiny reviews can contribute
 - It assesses how well these goals are being delivered by a range of public services: an assessment to which new LAA scrutiny powers are central
 - It involves a regular dialogue about the area's achievements: this may raise issues of concern which scrutiny enquiries could investigate
 - It will take into account the self evaluation which Councils and LSPs are encouraged to carry out: a self evaluation which overview and scrutiny is well-placed to support
 - The CAA report will highlight problem areas which need attention: follow-up work by O&S could investigate possible solutions ²
- 3.14 Targets on issues such as climate change, health inequalities, worklessness, need new ways of thinking about solutions, which good scrutiny reviews are able to provide. It is important to encourage partners to understand the potential benefits of scrutiny: as a tool of improvement, and a means to generate ideas and solutions.
- 3.15 Examples of O&S looking at these crosscutting issues already exist. An ad hoc panel is investigating Climate Change Adaptation in relation to National Indicator 188, an issue that will need to be addressed across the LSP partnership not just by the Council. Similarly the review of Environmental Industries – Capturing the potential and economic benefits for Brighton & Hove is another example of this work.

² <http://www.cfps.org.uk/news/scrutiny-news/local-government/?id=78>

- 3.16 There are various levels in which scrutiny could contribute further: by reviewing the needs of the City; in-depth reviews on particular issues and targets including asking more forward-looking questions; supporting Members in reviewing performance data relating to specific LAA targets; reviewing the needs of particular sections of the population.
- 3.17 O&S Committees should consider the CAA report and utilise its findings to identify issues requiring in-depth reviews: both in the work of the Council and partners. This would demonstrate a constructive local response to criticism, with the Council taking in the lead in driving improvement.

Working Better Together

- 3.18 In April 2009 the Audit Commission published a short paper that posed six key questions relating to the role of O&S in LSPs:
- How well do elected members communicate back to their executives, councils, and party groups?
 - How well do elected members on overview and scrutiny challenge your LSP and its partners?
 - How effective is the policy development role of overview and scrutiny in influencing joint working through the LSP?
 - How robust is your LSP's (and partners') approach to delivering performance against LAA targets?
 - How does the LSP ensure there is accountability, through its member organisations, for its actions?
 - How well are elected members involved in challenging LAA performance through the scrutiny process?
- 3.19 Response to these questions and the issues outlined in the previous sections are contained in the section below and in the final recommendations.

Developing the Relationship

- 3.20 Partner agencies need to be aware of the new powers afforded to O&S and how they can engage with the Committees. There are real benefits to developing a successful relationship between the Council's partners and the O&S function, not least an increased local democratic accountability of partnerships and partner organisations.
- 3.21 It is also necessary to ensure that areas of work that are identified as priorities within O&S are not already being looked at by other partners. Coordination and avoiding duplication of effort can be easily achieved through improved information flows both internally within the Council and with the LSP.

- 3.22 Understanding by partner organisations of the O&S function will allow the LSP to suggest areas where O&S could undertake forward looking policy development work for the LSP or one of its themed groups, or if a problem area is identified a scrutiny review of the issue. There should be a synergy between O&S work programmes and Council and LSP priorities.
- 3.23 Care should however be taken that O&S does not negatively impact upon the good relations currently enjoyed with our local delivery partners. Building relationships and shared understanding of the role of O&S with the individual partners and partnerships should go a long way to achieving this.
- 3.24 O&S Committees already receive Local Area Agreement performance data. Thought needs to be given as to how best to tie this monitoring role with a wider scrutiny role with the LSP.
- 3.25 Whilst the performance of the LSP could be a topic for scrutiny there seems to be limited utility in this approach, rather the focus should be on specific issues or policy areas. Similarly O&S should not be looking to scrutinise the performance of partner organisations, this would be unhelpful and counterproductive.
- 3.26 Set out below are a number of recommendations that should help to develop the role of scrutiny within the LSP:
1. Overview and Scrutiny Committees continue to receive quarterly performance reports on the LAA.
 2. The Chair of the LSP is invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission once a year to provide an overview of the priorities and achievements of the LSP.
 3. The Chairs of each of the Thematic LSP Groups are invited to attend the relevant O&S Committee once a year.
 4. That the LSP be invited to suggest items for the O&S work programme including in-depth reviews into specific areas of work.
 5. When undertaking work-planning O&S Committees take into account the work of the relevant LSP themed groups and actively consult with them. This is especially relevant when looking to establish a scrutiny panel.
 6. That the possible roles of O&S in relation to the CAA be considered.

7. That the Head of Overview and Scrutiny attends the Partnership Managers Group and provides regular updates to that group.
8. O&S undertake a desk based review of good practice with regard to LAA/Scrutiny as part of a wider study of the O&S function.

4. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission. This paper has also been tabled at the LSP meeting on the 15th July.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

The changes proposed are not expected to increase resource requirements and can therefore be met within the existing budget.

5.2 Legal Implications:

One of the responsibilities of the O&S Commission is to scrutinise the effectiveness for partnership working including the LSP, specifically in relation to the Local Area Agreement. (Part 6.1, section 2.1.7 of the council's constitution refers)

The legislation referred to in 3.3 above came into effect on 1 April 2009. The equivalent legislation in relation to crime and disorder matters is section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006; and in relation to health matters is section 244 of the National Health Service Act 2006.

5.3 Equalities Implications:

Equality issues fall under the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission. Regular updates on equality issues are included on the Commission's work plan. Improved coordination with the LSP will help the Commission look at work undertaken on equalities across the City.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

Sustainability is a key theme for both the LSP and O&S; ensuring improved working links will help promote the sustainability agenda.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

ECSOSC and the Community Safety Forum have an agreed protocol as to how and when crime and disorder issues are dealt with.

5.6 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

Developing the relationship between O&S and the LSP presents real opportunities to help drive improvements within the Council and across the LSP. Failure to do so will limit the importance of O&S.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

O&S has an important role in supporting the Council and the LSP deliver their key objectives. The issues that O&S looks at should seek to improve the quality of life for people across the City; the LSP can help O&S identify which issues it should focus on.

Subject: Work Programme Report
Date of Meeting: 14 July 2009
Report of: The Acting Director of Strategy and Governance
Contact Officer: Name: Tom Hook Tel: 29-1110
E-mail: Tom.hook@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report contains general information on Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programmes.
- 1.2 Also included are draft work programmes for all of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees to be discussed by members (see **Appendices**).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members:
 - (1) Note the general information on Overview & Scrutiny work programmes;
 - (2) Agree to standardise the presentation of work programmes as outlined in paragraph 4 below;
 - (3) Comment on the work programmes as in the **Appendices**.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Each Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) committee is required to have its own work programme, setting out the committee's schedule for the current council year (Constitution Part 6.1, para 3.2). Setting a work programme

in advance in this way facilitates effective planning by council officers, and should ensure that all reports to O&S Committees are delivered on time and are of a high quality.

- 3.2 One of the duties of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission (OSC) is to “co-ordinate the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees” (Constitution Part 6.1, para 2.1.1) so as to ensure that “there is efficient use of the Committees’ time and that the potential for duplication of effort is minimised” (Constitution Part 6.1, para 3.1). In order for the OSC to carry out this task effectively, it is important that each individual O&S committee maintains its own coherent, readily comprehensible work programme.
- 3.3 O&S committees are essentially autonomous bodies, responsible for determining their own work schedules (Constitution Part 6.1, para 12.2), providing these accord with the Committee Terms of Reference; and subject to co-ordination and monitoring by the OSC (as detailed in point 3.2 above).
- 3.4 However, it is incumbent upon O&S committee members to ensure that Overview & Scrutiny is as effective as possible. To this end, members should seek to ensure that items placed on committee work programmes are:
- (i) significant issues;
 - (ii) issues where there is a genuine opportunity for O&S to make a positive contribution;
 - (iii) dealt with at the appropriate time (i.e. when there is the greatest opportunity for O&S to ‘add value’);
 - (iv) aligned with the council’s corporate priorities;
 - (v) coordinated with work being undertaken with the Council’s partners.
- 3.5 O&S committees are, as noted above, free to develop their own work programmes. However, members may also wish (and may in some instances be obliged) to consider work programme ideas from other sources. These sources include:
- 3.5(a) **Plans or strategies which comprise part of the Council’s Budget and Policy Framework.** The council’s constitution requires the Executive to consult with O&S before formulating its final proposals for these plans and strategies. The Executive must take account of any O&S response in drawing up firm proposals to be submitted to Full Council (Constitution Part 4.4, para 2(b)).
- 3.5(b) **Other plans and strategies.** Members of the Council’s Cabinet and senior officers in the council’s directorates may choose to consult with

O&S concerning the development of plans and strategies which do not form part of the Budget and Policy framework, but are nonetheless considered to be of particular importance (including, but not limited to, items which feature on the Council's Forward Plan).

- 3.5(c) **Items put forward by other members.** Any member of the Council may place a written question to the Leader of the Council, Cabinet members or Chairmen of any Committee or Sub-Committee (including O&S committees). Such questions should be included on the agenda of the next suitable committee meeting, where members will determine how best to deal with them (Constitution Part 3.2, rule 9.2).
- 3.5(d) **Public Questions.** Members of the public may submit questions to O&S committees no fewer than 5 working days before a scheduled committee meeting. Providing a question is relevant to the work of the committee, is not vexatious, and is not substantially similar to a question which the committee has recently debated to its satisfaction, it will be added to the agenda for the appropriate meeting (Constitution Part 9.9).
- 3.5(e) **Referrals from other Council bodies/committees.** Any Council body or committee may choose to refer items to the appropriate O&S committee for consideration.
- 3.5(f) **Referrals from Outside Bodies.** Other organisations (e.g. The Older People's Council, the Youth Council, LAA partners, neighbouring Local Authorities etc) may refer items to O&S committees for consideration.
- 3.5(g) **Referrals from Outside Bodies with statutory powers of referral.** In some instances, external bodies may have a statutory power/obligation to refer items to O&S committees for consideration. These include:
- (i) **Local Involvement Networks (LINKs).** LINKs were granted powers of referral by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. LINKs can refer items to any local O&S committee responsible for aspects of adult health and social care and/or children's health issues. In the context of Brighton & Hove, this means that the Brighton & Hove LINK has a statutory power of referral to the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), the Adult Social Care and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ASCHOSC), and the Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC).
 - (ii) **NHS trusts.** NHS trusts are required by regulations made under the National Health Service Act 2006 to refer plans for 'substantial variations or developments' of local healthcare services to the appropriate HOSC(s).

- 3.5(h) **Councillor Call for Action.** This is a power which was introduced in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. It enables ward Councillors to bring items of local concern, which could not be resolved via other avenues, to the appropriate O&S committee for investigation.
- 3.5(i) **Councillor Call for Action in relation to Crime and Disorder.** The Police & Justice Act 2006 introduced a power for ward Councillors to refer crime and disorder matters to a Crime and Disorder Committee (CDC). In Brighton & Hove, the Environment and Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC) has been designated the council's statutory CDC. Councillors may therefore refer crime and disorder issues to ECSOSC in cases where previous attempts to resolve the matter through standard channels, including the Community Safety Forum, have not succeeded.
- 3.5(j) **Scrutiny of Petitions.** The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, as currently drafted, would require the council to deal with petitions from local people in prescribed ways. This includes the option of referring the petition to an overview and scrutiny committee, which can then make a report or recommendation in the usual way. Further, a petition organiser may request an overview and scrutiny committee to review the adequacy of steps taken or proposed to be taken in response to a petition. Officers will report separately to the O & S Commission on these provisions once they are confirmed and the timescale for implementation is known.
- 3.6 The above list is not intended to be prescriptive; Overview & Scrutiny has an important role to play in encouraging closer working between various parts of the council; between the council and its key city partners; and in fostering better relationships between the council and local residents. Any suggestion for the work programme which may help achieve these goals should therefore be given serious consideration, whether or not it accords with the formal means of referral listed above.

4. THE FORMAT OF WORK PROGRAMMES

- 4.1 O&S work programmes should:
- (a) List all items for scrutiny in the current council year;
 - (b) Indicate the date when an item is to be considered;
 - (c) In instances where an item has not been requested by committee members, indicate where the item originated (e.g. referral from Cabinet, public question etc);

- (d) Indicate a mode of enquiry (e.g. ad hoc panel, workshop, report for information etc);
 - (e) Indicate why the O&S committee is looking at a particular item – e.g. pre-decision policy development, performance monitoring, scrutiny of area of concern.
- 4.2 An updated copy of the work programme should be included in each committee agenda for information. (There should generally no need for members to agree the work programme at each meeting.) Items which have already been dealt with should remain on the work programme, with an indication of the date they were addressed and any action agreed. Therefore, anyone consulting an O&S committee work programme should be able to tell at a glance what work the committee has already undertaken in the current year and what work it is planning to undertake.
- 4.3 There is an obvious utility in committees agreeing and keeping to an annual work programme. However, it may well be necessary to add items to the work programme throughout the year (e.g. in response to unanticipated events etc). In general it should be possible to add individual items at the Chairman’s discretion. However, if very significant changes to the work schedule are required, it may be necessary to ask committee members to agree a revised work programme.

5. WORK PROGRAMMES

- 5.1 A copy of the work programmes from all Committees are attached as **Appendices** to this report.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 No formal consultation has been undertaken in compiling this report.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no financial implications to this report. Issues relating to O&S committee work programmes may impact upon the allocation of resources within the Scrutiny team, but this will relate to the existing Scrutiny budget and will not involve additional funding.

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The O & S Commission's authority to co-ordinate the work of the council's O & S committees is detailed in paragraph 3.2. Relevant parts of the council's constitution and any relevant legislation or government bills are referred to at appropriate points in the report.

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 O&S committee work programmes should be formulated with equalities issues in mind.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 Members should consider whether the draft committee work programme adequately reflects the importance of sustainability issues to the committee's Terms of Reference.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 7.5 Members should consider whether the draft committee work programme adequately reflects the importance of crime and disorder issues to the committee's Terms of Reference.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 7.6 Members should consider whether risk and opportunity management issues have adequately been addressed in formulating the draft committee work programme.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 7.7 O&S committee work programmes should reflect corporate and citywide priorities.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

O&S Committee Work Programmes

Documents in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

None

Draft Overview and Scrutiny Commission Work Plan 2009 - 2010

Issue	Overview & Scrutiny Activity	Outcome & Monitoring/Dates
2nd June 2009		
Sustainable Communities Act	Information on the legislation and its relevance to O&S. Ad hoc panels may generate suggestions for future submissions.	
BME/Disabilities	Report requested by Cllr Elgood on BME workforce statistics.	
Recession Information	Item on the Council response to the recession and its impact upon the City. Will be possible for OSC to contribute to the future development of Third Sector Relief Package.	
ICT Risk	Referral from Audit Committee.	
Annual Report	OSC is required to submit Annual report to Council. Committee to agree content of report.	
OSC Work Plan	To discuss/agree OSC work plan for the year.	

14th July 2009

Issue	Overview & Scrutiny Activity	Outcome & Monitoring/Dates
LAA Annual Performance Report	O&S performance management; opportunity to review LAA targets and ask for in-depth information of areas of concern.	
Equalities Update	To include Equalities Peer Review. Commission has a remit to scrutinise equality issues and has 6 monthly updates.	
Good Practice Budget Scrutiny	Report on arrangements within other local authorities to scrutinise the budget/budget setting process. Members will have the opportunity to recommend changes to the manner in which budget scrutiny is undertaken within the Council.	
Budget Provisional turn-out 2008/09	Ongoing budget monitoring.	
Work Plan and work plans of all O&S Committees	OSC has remit to coordinate the work of all the O&S Committees. Chairman of each O&S Committee to present the work plan for 2009-10.	
Sustainable Community Strategy	O&S chance to feed views into the consultation process in developing the Strategy.	

8th September 2009		
Corporate Plan	For information	
Place Survey	For information	
Young People and Alcohol Related Harm	Scrutiny Panel report for information	
Best practice scrutiny examples	Council resolved as part of the 6 month review of the constitution to look at best practice re O&S from around the Country.	
20 October		
Corporate Plan 6 month progress report		
Targeted Budget Management Month Four	Ongoing budget monitoring.	
Climate Change Scrutiny Panel Report	OSC to endorse the report.	
Street Accessibility Scrutiny Panel Report	OSC to endorse the report.	

15 December		
Targeted Budget Management Month Six	Ongoing budget monitoring.	
6 monthly update from OSC Chairs		
Dignity at Work scrutiny panel report	OSC to endorse the report.	
LAA 6 month progress report		

26 January 2010		

16 March 2010

27 April 2010

Agenda Item 22 Appendix 2

ASCHOSC Draft Work Programme 2009/2010 – June 2009- Jan 2010

Issue	Date	Referred by	O&S Activity	Progress	Outcomes
Valuing People	May 2009		Whole Committee to be focussed on the Valuing People Learning Disability agenda		
Short Term Care/ Commissioning	June 2009		Member training session		
Adaptations	June 2009		Update report along with the original November 08 paper.		
Extra care Housing & Choice Based Lettings	June 2009		Report		
Carer's Strategy	June 2009		Update report		
Councillor Maria Caulfield	June 2009		Presentation		

Agenda Item 22 Appendix 2

Issues	Date	Referred by	O&S Activity	Progress	Outcomes
New Performance Assessment Framework	September 2009		Member training session		
Performance reports from ASC and Housing	September 2009		Six-monthly update		
Financial Inclusion Policy	September 2009		Discussion paper on new policy (**updated following discussion with Nick Hibberd, report has been delayed)		
Reablement progress	September 2009		Update on how scheme has been introduced		
Learning Development Partnership Board Action Plan	September 2009		Added in following May 2009 meeting-ASCHSOC to feed comments in to Action Plan		
Resource Allocation System	October 2009		Member Training Session		

Agenda Item 22 Appendix 2

Approach to Wellbeing for Older people	October 2009		Report		
Housing rents & Equity	October 2009		Report - to look at rent increases; some Anchor Housing Association rents have risen by £30 per week. Maybe think about inviting partners, and Housing Associations along? Should the committee also look at private sector rents?)		
Annual Safeguarding Report	October 2009		Report for information – added in at Brigit Day’s suggestion, agreed by Anne Meadows 15-6-09		
<i>To be decided</i>	January 2010		Member Training Session		
Resource Allocation System	January 2010		Report - B&H Federation for Disabled People to be invited, as they are the brokers for the system.		

Agenda Item 22 Appendix 2

Future Funding of Adult Social Care	January 2010		Report		
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OUTLINE CULTURE, TOURISM AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2008 - 2009

Issue	Date	Referral from?	Overview & Scrutiny Activity	Progress And Date	Outcome And Monitoring /Dates
Ad-hoc panel - Environmental Industries Inquiry	Scrutiny panel report to 7 October 09		Scrutiny panel held 4 public sessions in May – June 2009		
Directorate Performance data	Regular agenda item Annual data to 7 October 2009				
Sustainable events	Verbal Update on work in this area to 5 February 2009. Draft guidelines to April 2009.		Commented on draft guidelines	Report with CTEOSC comments went to CMM on 5 May and was agreed.	An update at a later date was requested at the April meeting.

OUTLINE CULTURE, TOURISM AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2008 - 2009

Issue	Date	Referral from?	Overview & Scrutiny Activity	Progress And Date	Outcome And Monitoring /Dates
Major projects update (formerly Delivering Major Projects in the Current Economic Climate)	5 February 2009 update in Part 2 2 July update in Part 2 10 September update				Regular updates to CTEOSC.
Business Retention and Inward Investment (BRII)	2 April 2009 Regular updates have been requested.		Scrutiny workshop 15 January 2009		
Creative Industries Workspace study.	25 September 2008		CTEOSC commended the plan and asked to receive regular reports on the implementation of the recommendations	Aim to report back to the October 2009 meeting	
London Road draft SPG.	Update on 2 July 2009		Joint workshop with ECSOSC Cllrs 28 April 2009.	Agreed by CMM on 7 May - out for consultation	

OUTLINE CULTURE, TOURISM AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2008 - 2009

Refresh of the Museum's Forward Plan	5 February 2009 verbal update. 2 July 2009 final report to CTEOSC.		Scrutiny workshop 27 January 2009	Report with CTEOSC comments agreed by CMM on 9 June and Cabinet on 12 June 2009.	
Refresh of the Cultural Strategy for the city	2 July 2009		Scrutiny workshop 26 March 2009	Draft with CTEOSC input to CMM in June 2009.	
Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan	Report for noting to 2 April 2009		CTEOSC members to be invited to a ECSOSC meeting in the future.		

OUTLINE CULTURE, TOURISM AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2008 - 2009

Issue	Date	Referral from?	Overview & Scrutiny Activity	Progress And Date	Outcome And Monitoring /Dates
Sports facilities in the city – report of the audit of facilities.	13 November 2008 Update on Sports Development to 7 October 2009		Wrote to the Cabinet Member to draw it to his attention.		
2012 Olympics	13 November 2008 Update to 7 October 2009				
Future Management of the Council's golf courses	Report to 2 July 2009				
Foredown Tower – new proposals.	Special CTESOC meeting held on 10 September 2008. Verbal update 2 July 2009. Update to 7 October 2009		Special meeting scrutinised the plans, supported the recommendations with two amendments and made an additional recommendation.	CTEOSC's amended and additional recommendations were agreed at the Cabinet Member Meeting on 16/09/08.	Regular verbal updates to CTEOSC and written report for 05/02/09 CTEOSC.

OUTLINE CULTURE, TOURISM AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2008 - 2009

ENTERPRISE ITEMS					
Potential effects of the recession	Report to 7 October 2009				
<i>Forthcoming reports</i>					
Royal Pavilion and Gardens Strategy	Workshop to be arranged followed by report to CTEOSC				
Pride – the Business Case	19 November 2009				
Open Houses	4 February 2010				

Agenda item 22 Appendix 4

Draft Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny (CYPOSC) Work Programme 2009-2010

Issue	Date	Reason for agenda item	Outcome and Monitoring/Dates
Update on the Falmer Academy	17 June	Opportunity to receive an update and identify whether future issues need to come to CYPOSC	To come back to CYPOSC 18 November 2009
Sure Start Children's Centre's Self Evaluation City Wide Summary	17 June	Information on early years equalities	Noted and further information requested on breastfeeding and IT issues
Ad-hoc Panel report- reducing alcohol related harm to children & young people	17 June	Feedback to CYPOSC and the Committee to endorse the report	Report endorsed to go to CYPT Board, Cabinet, Council & Licensing Committee
Consultation on the CYPP proposed workshop	17 June	The Committee to submit its comments to the Plan (1 of the 10 budget and policy framework items)	Workshop to be arranged
Draft Work Programme	17 June	To be agreed by the Committee	Work Programme agreed
4 th Quarter PIR	16 September	Standing item- CYPOSC to review underperforming items	
Ofsted Inspection reports	16 September	Standing item – Portslade CC to be reviewed	
Safeguarding	16 September	Updating CYPOSC on the national and local changes	
Corporate Parenting	16 September	Information requested on Councillors responsibilities	
SEN/special schools-a major change strategy	16 September	Proposed by Directorate- for information	
Universal Free School Meals	16 September	Report requested – 17/6/09, from Cllr. question	
St. Mary's School Closure	16 September	Report requested – 17/6/09, from Cllr.	

Draft Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny (CYPOSC) Work Programme 2009-2010

Issue	Date	Reason for agenda item	Outcome and Monitoring/Dates
1 st & 2 nd Quarter PIR	18 November	question Standing item- to review underperforming areas	
Teenage pregnancy including teenage conception action plans	18 November	Directorate (1 of 10 PCT priorities)	
Childhood Obesity	18 November	Directorate (1 of 10 PCT priorities)	
Building schools for the future	18 November	Directorate	
Changes & improvements of the Child Development & Disability service	20 January	Committee asked for this item to return to CYPOSC (25/3/2009)	
3 rd Quarter PIR	20 January	Standing item- to review underperforming areas	
Standards report	20 January	Standing item- to review underperforming areas	
Equalities- charter on the Rights of the Child	20 January	CYPOSC agreed (25/3/2009)	
Child Poverty	20 January	CYPOSC agreed (25/3/2009)	
Ofsted Inspection reports	24 March	Standing item- to review underperforming schools	
Update on Traveller Education Service (TES) in B&H with reference to the Achievement Programme Model	24 March	Committee asked for this item to return to CYPOSC (25/1/2009)	

Draft Work Plan 2009 – 2010: Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Issue	Overview & Scrutiny Activity	Outcome & Monitoring/Dates
22 June 2009		
Grass mowings; question from conservation groups	Consider question and officer briefing	
Night time economy	Overview with representatives of Sussex Police, taxi and licensed trades.	
Draft waste management strategy	Pre-decision policy development	
SPD London Road Joint Scrutiny Workshop	Noting comments from the workshop that were taken forward to Cabinet Member meeting	
Crime and Disorder Committees	Noting ECSOSC responsibilities as a Crime and Disorder Committee	
ECSOSC Draft Work Plan	For discussion and monitoring	

Issue	Overview & Scrutiny Activity	Outcome & Monitoring/Dates
14 September 2009		
Performance reporting; Full Summary for 2008/2009	Noting last year's performance	
Local Development Framework - Shoreham Harbour Area Action Plan: Joint Area Action Plan Preferred Option	Commenting on preferred options for consultation	
East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Core Strategy: Draft Preferred Strategy Document for Consultation		
Scoping report on key issues for in-depth scrutiny		
9 November 2009		
Report from Community Safety Forum		

Issue	Overview & Scrutiny Activity	Outcome & Monitoring/Dates
Joint working with Executive - Cabinet Member Councillor Geoffrey Theobald invited for discussion		
Local Development Framework – Brighton and Hove Core Strategy	Considering LDF Core Strategy	
Older People and Community Safety – report of the scrutiny panel	Receiving report of findings and recommendations for endorsement	
8 February 2010		

Performance reporting – third quarter

Issue	Overview & Scrutiny Activity	Outcome & Monitoring/Dates
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19 April 2010		
Report from Community Safety Forum		
East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Core Strategy		

Plus other matters to be scheduled including:
Roadworks

Agenda Item 22 Appendix 6

HOSC Work Programme 2009/2010

Issue	Date to be considered	Referred By?	Overview & Scrutiny Activity	Progress and Date	Outcomes and Monitoring
Sussex Partnership Trust: changes to B&H services (inc. reconfiguration of Mill View hospital)	20 May 2009	SPFT	Monitor progress of changes/determine whether planned changes constitute "significant variations in service"	Debated at 20.05.09 HOSC	SPFT will return with plans for city acute dementia beds at a later date
Re-provision of healthcare services in community settings	20 May 2009	HOSC members	Overview	Scheduled for 20.05.09; deferred until 08.07.09	
South Downs Health NHS Trust – integration with West Sussex community services	20 May 2009	SDH	Overview (possibility of more HOSC involvement throughout the year)	Debated at 20.05.09 HOSC	SDH will report back as integration progresses
Dual Diagnosis ad hoc panel report	20 May 2009		Report of OSC ad hoc panel (for information only)	Debated at	None.

				20.05.09 HOSC	
Issue	Date to be considered	Referred By?	Overview & Scrutiny Activity	Progress and Date	Outcomes and Monitoring
Breast cancer Screening	08 July 2009	HOSC members	Qs from Cllrs to PCT and acute trust		
Working Age Mental Health (WAMH) Commissioning Strategy	08 July 2009	NHS BH	HOSC asked to approve partner plans to re-vamp WAMH commissioning strategy		NHS BH will bring its revised WAMH commissioning strategy to the HOSC at a later date
Ad Hoc Panel on GP-led health Centre	08 July 2009	HOSC members	Ad hoc panel report for HOSC approval		Monitoring report in 2010?
Providers in the LHE	08 July 2009	HOSC members	Report for information on range of healthcare providers in local health economy		
Care Quality Commission	08 July 2009	NHS BH	Briefing on new NHS quality audit regime		
Local Involvement Network (LINK) update	02 Dec 2009		Update on progress of BH LINK	22 April 2009	6 monthly update for information
SOTC	?	HOSC members	Update on performance of Sussex Orthopaedic Treatment Centre update	05 Nov 2008	
Dentistry	?	HOSC	Update on performance of city	March	

		members	dental contract	2009	
Issue	Date to be considered	Referred By?	Overview & Scrutiny Activity	Progress and Date	Outcomes and Monitoring
'3T' development of RSCH	?	BSUH	HOSC to monitor development of 3T programme	22 April 2009	
Immunisation (esp. MMR)	?	HOSC members	Consider immunisation, esp. in light of citywide uptake of MMR jab		
Public Health	?	HOSC members	Possible ad hoc panel on aspect of public health agenda		
Swine flu	Sep 30 2009?	Dr Tom Scanlon	Update on swine flu pandemic by Director of Public Health		

**Children and Young People Overview and
Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC)**

**Reducing Alcohol
Related Harm
To Children And Young
People
Ad Hoc Panel**

Overview and Scrutiny

Brighton & Hove City Council

June 2009

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A Introduction

This section explains the decision to establish an ad hoc panel, as well as providing general background to issues relating to underage drinking (in both national and local terms) and to the 2003 Licensing Act.

1. Establishment of the Ad Hoc Panel

1.1 At its 24 September 2008 meeting, the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC) considered the 2008 Annual Report of the Brighton & Hove Director of Public Health: "Brighten Up! Growing Up in Brighton & Hove 2008". The 2008 report (which doubles as a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for city services) focuses on children's health issues.

1.2 CYPOSC members decided that the committee should investigate some aspect of this public health agenda in greater depth, and after discussion it was determined that the committee's focus should be on the subject of young people and alcohol.

1.3 More specifically, it was proposed that an ad hoc should be established to:

"Examine the costs of, social and economic outcomes of, and reasons for the higher than average, and worsening, levels of alcohol related harm suffered by children and young people in Brighton and Hove.

Such a panel will specifically, but not exclusively, examine the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on the availability to and consumption of alcohol by those aged under 18 in the city and, seeking evidence from, amongst others, Sussex police, premises license holders, the council's own public safety officers and our partners in the NHS, will determine what steps the council could take to reduce levels of alcohol-related harm to children in the city.

Further, the Panel will examine reasons why the problems of alcohol-related harm appear to be worst in the east of the city."

1.4 Committee members agreed to adopt this wording as the ad hoc Panel's Terms of Reference.

1.5 Councillors Juliet McCaffery and Ann Norman agreed to sit on the Panel alongside Councillor Duncan. Councillor Norman was subsequently appointed as Chairman of the Panel.

1.6 Panel members held a scoping meeting, where they were advised by the Director of Public Health and by officers from the council's Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT).

1.7 The Panel subsequently held a series of evidence gathering meetings in public. Witnesses included police officers, Trading Standards officers, officers representing the council's Licensing team, CYPT officers, public health professionals from NHS Brighton & Hove, a consultant paediatrician, head-teachers, and representatives of the major supermarket and off-licence chains.¹ The Panel also invited a number of independent alcohol retailers to give evidence. However, none of these potential witnesses agreed to appear before the Panel.

1.8 Panel members also met on two occasions with members of the Brighton & Hove Youth Council in order to elicit young people's views on this issue.

2. The 2008 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health

2.1 The 2008 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health makes several references to alcohol-related issues. In particular the report states that:

“It appears that children in Brighton and Hove drink slightly more than their national counterparts and some key alcohol indices among 14-15 year olds in Brighton and Hove show high levels of drinking. Drinking is on the increase and a substantial number of children drink more than fourteen units, the recommended weekly maximum for adult women.

While boys drink more than girls, the culture of binge drinking appears to be more common among girls who are much more likely than boys to get drunk. Overall a quarter of boys and a third of girls report getting drunk in the previous week and in the east of the city the figures for drinking and getting drunk are much higher.

Mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol were the highest cause of admission to hospital compared to other mental health disorders in 2005/6 and 2006/7.

The number of ambulance calls related to drinking among young people has been steadily increasing and between 10 and 25 children and young people aged less than 18 years attend A&E with alcohol related problems every month.”

2.2 In an attempt to address these problems, the Director of Public Health proposed that:

“The CYPT and the PCT [i.e. NHS Brighton & Hove] should take further action to tackle the increasing levels of drinking among young people, especially the apparent culture of binge drinking among young girls. This should be explored as part of the Joint Strategic Alcohol Needs Assessment currently underway.

¹ A full list of witnesses is contained in Appendix 1 to this report.

The CYPT should work with the ambulance service and A&E Services in order to ensure appropriate treatment and referral for children and young people presenting with alcohol related conditions. This work should be coordinated with the Joint Strategic Alcohol Needs Assessment.”

3. Background

3.1 Population statistics

- Brighton and Hove has a rather lower proportion of children aged less than 16 years (16.65%) than the average for the South East (19.93%) and for England and Wales (20.16%).
- In mid-2005 there were an estimated 255,022 residents in Brighton and Hove, of whom 53,500 were aged between 0-19 years.
- Population trends and projections suggest that the proportion of children in the city is set to rise somewhat in the next few years, with a concomitant increase in demand for children’s services.
- The east and central areas of Brighton & Hove have proportionately more children and young people than the west.
- Brighton and Hove has relatively high levels of deprivation, higher than both regional and national averages. In the more deprived parts of the city (e.g. in parts of East Brighton) up to 45% of children live in families with parents/carers who are out of work.

3.2 Alcohol statistics and further information

- Nationally the proportion of pupils aged 11-15 years who had drunk alcohol in the last seven days fell from 26% in 2001 to 21% in 2006.
- However, those young people who did drink were generally drinking more than hitherto: boys drank an average of 12.3 units per week and girls 10.5 units per week. Girls are more likely to get drunk than boys.
- Of the young people who did drink, 49% consumed more than four units on the days they drank; 22% consumed three or four units; and 28% consumed an average of two units or fewer.
- Half of the young people who drank claimed that they purchased their own alcohol.
- 20% of young people said they had been drunk in the last four weeks and 35% had deliberately tried to get drunk.

3.3 Local statistics

- In Brighton & Hove, 11% of boys and 14% of girls claim that they purchase alcohol from off licences. Children in the east of the city are most likely to purchase alcohol from an off license and drink it in a public place².
- Underage drinking in public spaces (e.g. parks) is very common across Brighton & Hove. Young people who consume alcohol in public spaces are often implicated in anti-social behaviour. They are also at risk of becoming victims of crime, physical injury (i.e. via accidents or assault) or of being exposed to other harmful substances (e.g. illicit drugs). Young people drinking in public spaces often do so in large groups, and this increases the risk of anti-social behaviour and poses serious problems for policing.
- It is estimated that there are 12-20 young people who present at Brighton Accident & Emergency (A&E) each month with overdoses or injuries directly caused by alcohol, and of these, 4-5 young people are consequently admitted for treatment³. The number of young people presenting at A&E with conditions indirectly related to excessive alcohol consumption (e.g. people who engage in risky behaviour and consequently suffer injuries because they are drunk) is almost certainly far higher than this, although these statistics are not necessarily collated.

4 The Licensing Act (2003)

- 4.1 The ad hoc Panel Terms of Reference proposed by Councillor Duncan (see **point 1.3** above) make reference to the 2003 Licensing Act. It may therefore be helpful to give a brief explanation of aspects of the Act and of how it has been incorporated into local licensing policy.
- 4.2 The Licensing Act (2003) represented a major revision and rationalisation of licensing law, replacing the 22 existing Acts which determined licensing issues (including the 1964 Licensing Act – the principle vehicle for alcohol licensing).
- 4.3 The 2003 Act introduced flexible opening hours for licensed premises (subject to their impact upon local residents), simplified the licence application process (by replacing the existing six types of licence with one general licence), and transferred the responsibility for granting licences from magistrates to local authority Licensing Committees.

² This information has been extracted from the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health, Brighton & Hove City NHS Teaching Primary Care Trust (Chapter 2 & 5).

³ This information is from the Health Impact Assessment (April 2009)

- 4.4** In addition to simplifying a previously very complex area of law, the 2003 Act sought to make significant changes to national licensing policy. In essence, the architects of the Act argued that the *status quo* position of tight restrictions on the number and opening hours of licensed premises was generally ineffective in controlling problems associated with the excessive consumption of alcohol, and in some instances might actually exacerbate the difficulties it sought to mitigate. For example, it can be argued that imposing an 11pm closing time on pubs and bars effectively creates ‘flash-points’ in town centres where several thousand people leaving premises at the same time can overwhelm local services, police etc. Staggering closing times may mean that some people spend longer drinking, but it also means that the police, taxi services etc. are required to cope with a regular trickle of people coming and going rather than with an 11pm deluge.
- 4.5** Similarly it can be argued that restricting the number of licensed premises does little to limit drinking, as people will readily travel to purchase alcohol. Restrictions therefore inconvenience the public and local retailers whilst doing little to mitigate the impact of excessive drinking.
- 4.6** These arguments are by no means universally accepted, with critics contending that extended opening times may reduce flash-points, but only at the expense of prolonging noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour (e.g. instead of having an hour or so when people noisily returned home from a night’s drinking, there are now people creating a disturbance all night long, as groups of drinkers come and go throughout the night). Similarly, whilst some aspects of the growth in licensed premises may not impact upon drink-related problems, others (such as the increase in late night off-licences) may have a deleterious effect (i.e. people who might formerly have stopped drinking when they ran out of alcohol can now continue drinking for as long as they please, with obvious consequences for themselves and their neighbours).
- 4.7** Brighton and Hove City Council’s response to the 2003 Licensing Act is embodied in the council’s “Statement of Licensing Policy 2003”⁴. This sets out the council’s licensing objectives in light of the 2003 Act. The Licensing Authority objectives are:
- (a) the prevention of crime and disorder;
 - (b) public safety;
 - (c) the prevention of public nuisance; and
 - (d) the protection of children from harm.
- 4.8** The revised Brighton & Hove Licensing Policy came into force in January 2005, and will be under constant review until January 2011.

⁴ See the Licensing Act 2003, Brighton & Hove City Council, Statement of Licensing Policy, Environmental Health and Licensing Service.

- 4.9** The Licensing Committee is limited in its ability to consider the impact of the granting of new licences, being authorised to consider any potential impact upon the very local vicinity, but not broader issues of harm (e.g. impact on a wider or more distant geographical area).
- 4.10** In terms of the current ad hoc panel, the obviously pertinent licensing objective is: Protection of Children from Harm. The Licensing Policy addresses this by:
- Including the moral, psychological and physical harm which may be connected with licensed and club premises (e.g. exposure at a young age to strong language and adult entertainment and films) as a factor to be considered in relation to license applications.
 - Insisting that licensees show awareness that under 18s are frequently involved in drink related disorders, and have a robust policy for checking customers' ages in place.
 - Demanding that all staff responsible for selling alcohol receive information and advice on the licensing laws in relation to children and young people in licensed premises.
- 4.11** In order to limit underage drinking and related problems, the Licensing Committee supports the following measures:
- a) (Under powers established by the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997) the Police acting to remove alcohol from young people on the street;
 - b) The Police and Trading Standards using Police Cadets to carry out test purchasing (e.g. employing U18s to attempt to purchase alcohol from on and off-sales);
 - c) The promotion of proof of age schemes;
 - d) The development of in-house, 'mystery shopper' schemes carried out by businesses (i.e. to check whether staff are willing to sell to U18s);
 - e) Possible CRB checking of staff providing catering for events with unaccompanied children.
- 4.12** Licensing enforcement entails close partnership working involving Sussex Police, the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and Brighton & Hove City Council.
- 4.13** Where licensees are found to sell consistently to U18s (or to serve intoxicated people etc.), the licensing authority will take action under its statutory powers. In general, offenders are not prosecuted; the Licensing Committee has the power to attach conditions to, to suspend

or to revoke licenses, and typically employs these measures rather than using the courts (prosecution is time-consuming, expensive, and often less effective than revocation/suspension). Any action taken against licensees must be proportionate; balancing the undesirability of selling to U18s with the need to support local businesses.

B Recommendations

This section of the report describes in more detail the particular problems faced by Brighton & Hove in relation to young people and alcohol, and makes some recommendations in terms of how city services might be improved.

5 On-sales and Off-sales

5.1 The majority of adults probably associate underage drinking with evenings spent in on-sales premises: pubs and bars. However, in recent years this has changed considerably, with fewer under 18s (U18s) drinking in pubs and many more drinking in public places or at home. There has been a particularly noticeable growth in the phenomenon of ‘park drinking’ – with often very large groups of teenagers gathering in parks on Friday and Saturday nights to socialise and consume alcohol, with consequent problems of anti-social behaviour.⁵ There are several possible explanations for this shift:

5.1(a) Better on-sales enforcement. Recent years have seen the introduction of ‘test purchasing’ by the police working in partnership with Trading Standards Officers (TSO). Test purchasing involves employing U18s (police cadets) to attempt to buy alcohol from licensed premises. This method of enforcement is often more effective than alternatives (which may essentially consist of observing premises in the hope of witnessing staff serving or refusing to serve customers who are clearly U18). Test purchasing for alcohol is a relatively recent development as, until 2003, it was illegal to employ people under the age of 18 for this purpose (as it is against the law for U18s to buy alcohol, not just against the law to sell it to them). If fewer U18s are drinking in pubs and bars then, it may be because bar staff are more reluctant to serve them than they were a few years ago, as there is a far greater risk of being caught out.⁶

5.1(b) Pricing. There has always been a difference between on and off-sales (off-licence and supermarket) pricing of alcohol. However, recent years have seen this gap grow to the point where it is almost invariably

⁵ To a degree this shift is seasonal, with park drinking very popular in the summer months and drinking in on-sales more popular over the winter.

⁶ See evidence from Tim Nichols (point 23.9, 16.02.09).

considerably more expensive to drink in a pub or a bar than to purchase alcohol from off-sales. Since U18s are, on average, fairly unlikely to have very much disposable income, this price differential may be a significant factor in determining where they choose to drink.

5.1(c) 'Fashion'. In addition to pressures 'pushing' young drinkers out of pubs and bars, it may be the case that other locations for drinking have attractive elements which act as a 'pull'. For instance, the phenomenon of park drinking may be influenced by high on-sales prices or a decreasing tolerance for U18s in pubs, but it may also be a product of active choice: young drinkers simply prefer congregating outside in large groups to using pubs and bars.

5.2 Whatever the reasons for the change in drinking habits, it seems to be the case that most of the alcohol that U18s drink is not now obtained from on-sales.⁷ But, if they are not purchasing from pubs and bars, where do young people get alcohol? The Panel heard that the principle sources are: U18s purchasing from off-sales; 'proxy-purchase' (over 18s buying from off-sales on behalf of U18s); theft (from off-sales or from the family home); and parents (i.e. parents knowingly providing their children with alcohol).⁸

5.3 In terms of the role the statutory agencies play in enforcement, the key factor here is probably U18 purchase from off-sales.⁹ Is the shift of underage drinking from on to off-sales a significant one? It can be argued that it is, and that there are some worrying implications to such a move:

5.3(a) Traditionally, U18s drinking in pubs would be informally 'monitored' by bar staff and by adult drinkers, with young drinkers who were disruptive being refused service. There need be nothing particularly altruistic

⁷ It is estimated that approximately 5% of U18 drinking is via on-sales purchase by underage drinkers; 15% via off-sales purchase by underage drinkers. The remaining 80% of alcohol consumed by U18s is not purchased illegally – i.e. it is supplied by parents, by over 18s 'proxy-purchasing', or by theft. (Evidence from Inspector Andrew Kundert, Licensing Inspector, Brighton & Hove Police: point 4.15, 27.02.08). See also evidence from Tim Nichols and Cllr Carol Theobald: points 23.2 and 23.3, 16.02.09. Not everyone working in the field would regard these estimates as accurate.

⁸ It is difficult to be sure where alcohol consumed by U18s originates, as inebriated teenagers (the obvious source of this information) may not be very lucid, and may also be inclined to lie in order to protect friends or family (evidence from Andrew Kundert and Anna Gianfrancesco: point 5.2(b), 27.11.08).

⁹ 'Proxy-purchase' is also an enforcement issue, but this is very difficult to regulate as the obvious targets for enforcement here are the adults who agree to buy alcohol for children rather than the on or off-sales retailers (although retailers do have a duty to be observant and to refuse sales where it is apparent that proxy-purchase may be taking place). The group of potential proxy-purchasers is obviously much larger and more diffuse than that of retailers. Neither is it really possible to do anything equivalent to test purchasing here – i.e. by employing U18s to ask adults to buy alcohol on their behalf – as, legally speaking, this would be considered to amount to entrapment: meaning that no adult caught in such a 'sting' could subsequently be prosecuted (see point 5.2(a), 27.11.08).

about this monitoring – it would generally just be a case of adult drinkers only tolerating U18s who kept a low profile and did not annoy them; but the effect may well have been to provide quite a powerful lever to moderate alcohol consumption and behaviour amongst young drinkers in pubs. In contrast, young people drinking in parks or other public places are not monitored in any way, save by their peers.

5.3(b) Large groups of U18 drinkers would not typically have been tolerated in pubs as such groups are bound to be noisy and attract unwanted attention (i.e. from TSO and the police). Thus even publicans who were willing to sell to U18s would probably balk at selling to large groups. Again, there is no such lever to control the size of groups gathering in parks – and there are clear links between the size of a group of drinkers and the likelihood of public disorder.

5.3(c) On-sales prices have always been higher than those in off-sales, particularly so for spirits. Since U18 drinkers are not, on average, likely to have a lot of spare cash, drinking in pubs may mean that young drinkers consume with a degree of moderation and that they drink beer, cider etc. rather than spirits (generally seen as less risky behaviour as it is rather harder to drastically over-consume beer than it is vodka etc). Off-sales prices can be much cheaper, particularly for spirits (which are also far more portable than large volumes of relatively low alcohol beer), thereby encouraging greater and more hazardous consumption.

5.3(d) U18s drinking in pubs would be exposed to the behaviour of adult drinkers, and (assuming that the adult behaviour they saw was relatively benign) might therefore learn to drink sensibly by observation. U18s drinking with their peers have no such role models to draw upon.

5.3(e) Pubs and bars and the areas around them are generally relatively heavily policed, both by the police force and by bar security staff, council officers etc. Clearly, this degree of policing is in reaction to the dangers inherent in adult drinking environments – pubs would not warrant this level of security if they were safe places to be. However, it can certainly be argued that on-sales are still much safer places to congregate than parks or the beach, which have no comparable networks of security in place.

5.4 In a number of ways then, it can be argued that U18 drinking in on-sales may be preferable to U18s obtaining alcohol from off-sales (or from the parental home etc.) and congregating in large groups in parks or the like.¹⁰ Given that a certain level of U18 drinking is probably

¹⁰ These arguments do rather assume a relatively civilised pub environment - the traditional 'local' where adults meet to drink in a sensible manner. Whether or not such pubs ever formed the majority of on-sales, it's certainly questionable whether they do so in the present day; and the argument for the civilising influence of city-centre 'vertical drinking establishments' is perhaps not quite so clear-cut as that for backstreet 'locals'.

inevitable, it might in fact be preferable if this drinking took place in pubs rather than other, objectively more risky, environments.

- 5.5** Clearly, U18 drinking is illegal in most contexts, and it would not be possible at a local level, even if it was considered desirable, for underage drinking in pubs and bars to be officially tolerated. However, licensing enforcement inevitably involves prioritising certain elements of the licensing regime over others, as with any service which is required to manage finite resources. Panel members believe that the dangers posed by U18 drinking in relation to off-sales (and subsequent consumption of alcohol in public places) considerably outweigh the typical dangers of U18 drinking in on-sales, and that licensing enforcement should be prioritised accordingly.¹¹
- 5.6** However, enforcement of off-sales is led by TSO, whilst on-sales enforcement is, in the most part, carried out by the police. It would therefore be difficult, if not impossible, to switch focus and resources from one type of enforcement to the other in a wholesale manner. The point is rather that, when working in partnership to develop strategies around U18 drinking, TSO and the police should take into account the differential impact of off and on-sales drinking as set out above, and plan accordingly.
- 5.7** In fact, there is considerable evidence that this is already happening, with, for instance, the recent concentration on park drinking via the 'Operation Parks' initiative.¹² The Panel commends this forward thinking and effective partnership working and trusts that city licensing enforcement agencies will continue to focus on the aspects of U18 drinking which are of most pressing concern.
- 5.8** **RECOMMENDATION 1: The Panel welcomes and commends the increased emphasis of Licensing enforcement on off-sales (and on public place drinking), as it shows a commitment to identifying and tackling current problems rather than simply adhering to traditional modes of enforcement. The Panel hopes that this will provide a platform for the further development of Licensing enforcement, both in terms of closer partnership working, and in terms of a continuing concentration on the actual rather than the popularly perceived problems of underage drinking.**

¹¹ This assumes that on-sales premises tolerate moderate levels of U18 drinking rather than that they permit U18s to drink and act irresponsibly. On-sales which effectively facilitate anti-social behaviour by U18 drinkers (by allowing large groups to congregate, by serving people who are already drunk etc.) should remain a licensing enforcement priority.

¹² See evidence from Andrew Kundert: point 4.11, 27.11.08.

6 Best Practice in Off-Sales

- 6.1** During the course of the Scrutiny review, Panel members spoke with Trading Standards officers, with the council's Head of Licensing, with police officers responsible for licensing and with representatives of some of the city's largest alcohol retailers. The Panel learnt of a number of initiatives designed to ensure that U18s are unable to purchase alcohol from off-sales.
- 6.2** Measures in place include comprehensive training of till staff; systems for recording incidents when customers have been refused service; store by store analysis of refusals to identify potential discrepancies¹³; the deployment of security guards to support and reassure till staff; close co-working with TSO and the police; support for voluntary I.D. card schemes; and support for initiatives which require till staff to request identification from customers who appear to be younger than 21 or 25 (depending on the scheme in use).
- 6.3** Whilst there may sometimes be a significant gap between the theory and the practice of some of these measures, it is clear that a great deal has been done to try and avoid selling alcohol to U18s. The retailers who adopt these types of safeguards should be commended for their responsibility, as should TSO and the local police force who have done a considerable amount of work in terms of persuading and requiring city retailers to adopt best practice.
- 6.4** However, it seems to be the case that those firms adopting the measures outlined above are generally the large regional and national off-licence chains and supermarkets. Whilst these firms are responsible for a very significant part of the city off-sales market, this market also includes several hundred independent retailers.
- 6.5** Indeed, it would seem that independent off-sales have proliferated since the Licensing Act (2003) relaxed the terms under which alcohol licences are granted.¹⁴ Many of these retailers are not specialist off-sales, but rather generalist shops which sell alcohol as a sideline alongside newspapers, groceries etc. This may mean that independent retailers are not always as well-trained about, or as focused on, issues of underage selling as might be wished.

¹³ See evidence from Sue Dixon and Chris Denman (Area Manager for Threshers): points 17.3 & 17.5, 10.02.09, points 18.1 to 18.4 from David Solomon and Tony Rickwood, point 12.1 from Eric Price.

¹⁴ In essence the 2003 Licensing Act demands that Local Authority Licensing Committees work on the presumption that a licence should be granted unless there is good reason to oppose it (and members of the public willing to protest). Therefore, applicants for licences do not have to prove that their business will not damage the community; rather, anyone opposing a licence application has to 'prove' that there will be damage.

- 6.6** Whilst there is no doubt that the great majority of independent off-sales retailers are honourable businesses which do not set out with any intention of selling alcohol to U18s, it is also clear that it can be very difficult for small business to adopt and enact the best practice evolved by the large off-sales chains. The kind of systemised approach which seems to have worked very well for Somerfield or Tesco may not be readily adopted by a small family concern, with limited capacity to pay for training, extra security, CCTV etc.
- 6.7** The Panel recognises that TSO is very active in this area, working in partnership with independent retailers to improve their practice, rather than simply assuming the role of licensing enforcer. However, Panel members believe that there would be value in taking an extra step here by compiling a best practice guide on how to avoid selling alcohol to U18s. This guide could then be distributed to all new licence applicants and could also become an important tool for the Local Authority Licensing Committee – e.g. when considering what action to take against retailers who have sold to U18s, the Licensing Committee might request that a licence holder adopted some or all of the recommendations contained within the best practice guide.
- 6.8** Although all the information contained in such a guide might already be transmitted to independent retailers via a number of avenues, there is considerable value in having it compiled and available in one place, as this would mean that retailers could not then plead ignorance of any elements of the best practice advice. A best practice guide would therefore be a tool to complement the work of TSO and the local Licensing Committee; it would not be a substitute for the face-to-face work with retailers that TSO excels in, but would augment this work.
- 6.9** **RECOMMENDATION 2 – City partners (co-ordinated by TSO) should draw up a Best Practice Guide on avoiding selling alcohol to U18s with a view to the guide being disseminated to independent retailers.**

7 ‘Think 21’ and ‘Challenge 25’

- 7.1** It is evident that relatively few off-sales retailers deliberately sell to U18s. Ethical issues aside, the potential downsides of doing so outweigh any benefits in terms of increased sales.¹⁵ However, the issue is not quite as simple as resolving not to sell to U18s, as it can be very difficult for staff to determine which customers are underage and which are not.

¹⁵ This is perhaps particularly the case for the national chain retailers, which risk attracting adverse publicity if they are found to have sold alcohol to U18s. (See evidence from Sue Dixon, Head of Security, First Quench Retailing [Thresher]: point 17.4, 10.02.09; and evidence from Tony Rickwood, Tesco Store Manager [Portslade]: point 18.5, 10.02.09.)

- 7.2** In consequence, a number of measures have been adopted by retailers (see **point 6.2** above). Perhaps the most interesting of these are the 'Think 21' and 'Challenge 25' initiatives. Under the 'Think 21' scheme, till staff are instructed to challenge any customer who they believe may be under 21. When challenged, customers must show I.D. before being allowed to proceed with their purchase. Think 21 is heavily advertised in participating stores, with prominent checkout notices explaining that the scheme is in operation. Think 21 is designed to remedy a common problem in dealing with U18 alcohol sales: the fact that staff often struggle to accurately identify customers' ages. By setting the 'bar' at several years above the legal drinking age, the Think 21 scheme should ensure that only customers who look 21 or over will be served without an age check. The assumption is that, whilst many younger teenagers may pass for 18, relatively few will pass for 21, and that the number of inadvertent sales to U18s will consequently be reduced.
- 7.3** 'Challenge 25' is essentially Think 21 but with a higher age bar. Again, the intention is to counter ambiguities associated with making visual assessments of customers' ages, and setting a bar at 25 means that even fewer U18s are likely to get served. The introduction of Challenge 25 is perhaps testament to how difficult it can be to assess customers' ages, as it was seemingly felt that Think 21 allowed for too much ambiguity, with staff still struggling to differentiate between 16 and 21 year olds.
- 7.4** Panel members consider that these age-based schemes are an excellent idea, particularly Challenge 25. Retailers adopting this scheme should be in a position where they rarely if ever inadvertently sell alcohol to an U18.¹⁶ These initiatives may also make it easier for staff to challenge customers who are under age, since they make it less likely that individuals will take offence at being singled out by till staff (i.e. it's not just you who's being asked for I.D.; it's everyone who looks under 25).
- 7.5** Almost all the major chain off-sales retailers now employ or are planning to adopt the Challenge 25 scheme.¹⁷ However, it is still not widely used by independent retailers, even though it is arguably smaller businesses (or at any rate those that genuinely wish to avoid

¹⁶ Since Challenge 25 and Think 21 rely upon customer I.D., there is an issue of the integrity of I.D. schemes to be considered here. Passports and driving licenses provide a very secure proof of identity, but few young people would wish to carry passports around with them at all times, and not everyone is a driver. This means that it is often necessary to fall back on less formal I.D. schemes. These schemes can be excellent, but people are much more likely to tamper with or forge this kind of I.D. than they are driving licenses or passports, and the police are often reluctant to prosecute this type of fraud (see evidence from Tim Nichols, Head of Environmental Health and Licensing, Brighton & Hove City Council – point 23.4, 16.02.09).

¹⁷ See evidence from Sue Dixon: point 18.6, 10.02.09.

selling to U18s) which stand to benefit most from the initiative. Panel members therefore believe that Challenge 25 should be more widely encouraged, particularly in the context of the Licensing Committee granting new licences and reviewing existing licenses (i.e. in circumstances where a licensee has been found to have sold to U18s). Whilst it may not be possible for the Licensing Committee to impose the adoption of this or similar schemes, there might be considerable value in encouraging licensees to adopt this best practice.

7.6 RECOMMENDATION 3 – Encourage (particularly via the Brighton & Hove Licensing Committee) all off-sales to adopt the ‘Challenge 25’ scheme.

8 Discounting

- 8.1** It may be possible, through good partnership working and effective licensing enforcement, to limit the amount of alcohol U18s obtain from off-sales. However, it seems inevitable that under age drinking, including U18 purchasing from off-sales, will continue to be a problem to some degree. It is therefore necessary to enquire whether there are other factors relating to off-sales which may encourage U18s to use them or to indulge in particularly hazardous drinking practices?
- 8.2** One factor that Panel members were particularly interested in was the price of alcohol (which is typically much cheaper in off than in on-sales), and whether price and various discounting practices affect the amount that young people drink.
- 8.3** In terms of price, some witnesses argued that pricing makes little difference to levels of consumption or to alcohol-related anti-social behaviour. One witness pointed out that France and many other European countries have very low alcohol prices, but also relatively few difficulties with excess underage drinking or alcohol-related behaviour problems. There is therefore no simple and universal correlation between the cost of alcohol and its negative impact¹⁸.
- 8.4** Other witnesses argued that price is an important factor in determining levels of consumption.¹⁹ This seems to be a view which is gathering strength nationally, with several recent calls for a national minimum (per unit) price for alcohol to combat drink related problems.
- 8.5** This argument is a complex one, but perhaps rather simpler in terms of U18s than for adult drinkers. Since U18s may be assumed, on average, to have relatively little disposable income, it seems reasonable to suppose that they will be particularly sensitive to drink

¹⁸ See evidence from Sue Dixon: point 18.10, 10.02.09.

¹⁹ See evidence from Tim Nichols: point 23.18, 16.02.09.

pricing – i.e. with relatively little money to spend on alcohol, higher pricing is likely to see them buy less, and lower pricing more, alcohol.²⁰

- 8.6** Off-sales also commonly practice discounting on multiple sales: for instance offering ‘2 for 1’ or ‘2 for £10’ deals. The obvious risk here is that these offers encourage customers to buy and then drink more alcohol than they actually require. Of course, this type of discounting need not inevitably lead to excessive drinking: an adult customer might take advantage of a 2 for 1 offer by putting aside some of their purchase for a later date. However, U18 drinkers are unlikely to have anywhere to store unneeded alcohol; everything they buy, they are going to drink. It seems likely therefore, that discounting on multiples may encourage excessive drinking in young and under age drinkers, even if it does not do so for most adults.
- 8.7** There are few if any local levers in relation to drink pricing, as alcohol duties are set nationally.²¹ However, the local Licensing Committee can request that applicants for new licences or licensees whose licences are being re-considered following incidents of underage selling should consider voluntarily adopting certain measures.²² These might include some or all of the following:

(i) retailers agree not to discount sales below cost (‘loss-leading’)²³

²⁰ A potential complicating factor to bear in mind here is the type of alcohol which people purchase. If alcohol is made more expensive in an attempt to curb drinking, there is a danger that drinkers with little money will opt to buy very strong cider/lager or cheap spirits rather than purchasing average strength beer, ‘alco-pops’ etc (i.e. that they will switch to drinks which offer the best value in terms of units of alcohol). However, there are particular problems associated with consuming these very potent drinks (i.e. that it is much easier to drink excessive amounts of spirits/strong lager than it is of weaker drinks), and these risks need to be born in mind when considering the relationship between the price of alcohol and its consumption by young people.

²¹ The only context in which minimum prices could be set locally would be if it were possible to prove a “clear causal link” between pricing/drinks promotions and anti-social behaviour. However, it is almost impossible to legally prove such a link (see evidence from Tim Nichols: point 23.10, 16.02.09).

²² It appears that the Government is considering granting Local Authorities some powers to compel licensees to adopt more responsible pricing policies. (See point 23.17 from Tim Nichols, 16.02.09. Clearly, the Panel would encourage the use of such powers when and if they become available. In the meantime, the Licensing Committee should seek to persuade licensees to voluntarily adopt good selling practices.)

²³ ‘Loss-leading’ in a strict sense refers to the practice of retailers discounting a line below its actual cost in order to attract customers (who then buy other products in addition to the discounted ones, and/or remain loyal to the retailer after prices have risen again). However, it is not clear that many major retailers actually loss-lead alcohol, instead preferring to negotiate deals with suppliers which guarantee them a supply of some products at a heavily discounted price and others at the standard commercial rate (i.e. the supplier rather than the retailer takes the ‘loss’; suppliers are often willing to do this if the retailer agrees to buy enough additional products at full price, as this allows them to off-set a loss on one line with profits on others). Although this might have the same end result as loss-leading, this practice does not actually involve retailers selling anything at a loss and would therefore not be subject to any

(ii) retailers agree not to discount for multiples²⁴

(iii) retailers agree not to stock certain types of drink²⁵

8.8 RECOMMENDATION 4 – Licensing Committee to request assurances that new and re-assessed licensees will not discount sales below cost, engage in irresponsible multiple discounting or sell products strongly associated with hazardous drinking practices.

9 Drugs and Alcohol issues

9.1 Alcohol is often linked with drugs in terms being a health problem, often under the umbrella of ‘substance misuse’. This grouping is quite understandable, and may often make good sense. However, it can be argued that the drugs element of substance misuse has received a disproportionate degree of attention over the past few years, to the detriment of alcohol services.

9.2 In part, any over-emphasis of drugs issues has been a reaction against their under-emphasis for very many years – recent improvements in drugs services have often been the result of professionals and campaigners working tirelessly to create an understanding of the damage that drugs can do and the legitimacy of seeing them as a social problem requiring public solutions rather than a minority issue which should elicit censure rather than sympathy. This has led to a number of measures, including the ‘ring-fencing’ of funding for some drugs projects, which were necessary to ensure that drugs-related issues were adequately addressed in the face of a good deal of institutional and public scepticism.

9.3 However, now that there is a broad recognition of the value of doing drugs-related work, this prioritising of drugs issues may, in some instances, be of detriment rather than of value, particularly when it means that local substance misuse budgets are inflexibly geared towards drugs issues when there might be greater value in moving some funding into alcohol based projects. This may be of particular

informal agreement on loss-leading. (Smaller retailers probably do very little loss-leading of any type, as they are unlikely to be able to balance the loss with a profit from other areas of their business. This is obviously particularly the case for dedicated off-licences, which cannot sell alcohol at a loss when they do not stock a range of other products to be sold at a profit.)

²⁴ Such an agreement would have to be sensibly applied, as some discounting of multiples is established practice for off-sales retailers not associated with U18 drinking – i.e. for wine merchants who typically offer a discount for customers buying 12 bottles or more. There seems no reason for intervening in this practice, unless it is considered likely that U18 drinkers are abusing fine wines.

²⁵ Most obviously, strong lager and cider (i.e. 6% plus) and very cheap spirits.

relevance to preventative educational projects, where there may be as much to be gained in warning people of the dangers of excessive drinking as of warning about drug use.²⁶

- 9.4** Whilst there may have always been an argument for better funding of alcohol services, the issue has moved up the agenda in recent years, as the health and social impacts of excessive drinking from an early age have become clearer.²⁷ However, there may still be something of a lag between recognising the gravity of alcohol-related harm and funding services designed to ameliorate this harm.
- 9.5** In some instances, there may be little which can be achieved at a local level, as ring-fencing has been imposed nationally (particularly in terms of NHS budgets). However, where there is a degree of local autonomy in terms of substance misuse budgets, Panel members believe that serious consideration should be given to whether alcohol services are being funded as well as they could or should be. Since the Panel's remit is to consider the impact of excessive alcohol on children and young people, this recommendation is directly addressed to children's rather than adult services, although the issue is just as relevant for adults.
- 9.6** The Panel is not necessarily proposing any general shift of budgets from drugs to alcohol. In most instances, continuing support for drugs-based education or treatments may be absolutely vital. In many cases, it may be that what is needed is better central funding for drugs and alcohol services (perhaps particularly in terms of public health/preventative services). In some other cases though, it may be that an inflexible approach, either due to structural inflexibilities (i.e. ring-fencing) or for attitudinal reasons, means that substance misuse funding is not spent in the most effective possible manner.
- 9.7** **RECOMMENDATION 5 – CYPT should consider its substance misuse services in terms of a potential re-deployment of resources from drugs to alcohol-related projects in instances where drugs issues may have been advanced to the detriment of similarly serious alcohol-related problems. CYPT should also consider whether there is value in lobbying NHS Brighton & Hove and central Government to review their resource allocation in regard to alcohol-related services for children and young people.**

10 Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)

- 10.1** The Licensing Act (2003) introduced a presumption in favour of granting licenses to sell alcohol (as well as relaxing opening time restrictions). The reasoning behind this is essentially that excess

²⁶ See evidence from Tim Nichols: point 23.12, 16.02.09.

²⁷ See evidence from Dr Oli Rahman, Barbara Hardcastle and Inspector Andrew Kundert: points 5.5-5.6, 27.11.08.

alcohol consumption is not generally causally linked to the number of on and off-sales premises in an area (i.e. people will still buy as much alcohol if the number of licensed premises is restricted, it will just be more inconvenient for them to do so), and that artificially restricting the supply of alcohol is likely to have little positive effect on drinking behaviour, but may have a negative impact (e.g. having an 11pm closing time creates a 'flash-point' for anti-social activity).²⁸

- 10.2** However, even if this argument generally holds true, there are local circumstances which may contradict it. This is especially the case for urban areas, where particular localities may become the focus of local and even regional drinking activity. Brighton is a prime example of such a special case – the city is a magnet for tourists visiting the night time economy (pubs, clubs, restaurants etc.), as well as having an unusually young demographic, bolstered by the city's two universities (lots of residents in their twenties and thirties – the people most likely to binge drink in pubs and bars). Furthermore, as Brighton is a seaside resort, it is inevitable that people will tend to gravitate towards the beach and its environs for their entertainment rather than utilising the wider city.
- 10.3** The result is that there is an extremely high concentration of licensed on-sales premises around Brighton sea-front, with lots of additional public drinking from a proliferation of off-sales in and around the beach area.
- 10.4** Although the night time economy is hugely advantageous to the city in terms of the income and the employment it generates, there are also very major problems associated with such a massive concentration of drinking in such a small area. These problems most obviously relate to public order and anti-social behaviour as there is a well established correlation between having very large groups of drunk people in one place and experiencing problems with disorder. In such circumstances, the concentration of on and off-sales can be said to 'cause' crime and disorder problems, with any increase in the number of licenses likely to exacerbate the problem. Thus, although a concentration of drinking in one part of a city may not lead to any absolute increase in alcohol consumption (as people might have drunk just as much had they done so in other areas of the city), it can lead to an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour (as drunk people concentrated in very large groups tend to create many more problems than drunk people dissipated over a larger area).
- 10.5** In response to these particular issues, the council established a 'Cumulative Impact Area' – CIA (sometimes known as a 'Cumulative Impact Zone'). A CIA is essentially an area in which the normal

²⁸ The Panel heard evidence from the council's Head of Environmental Health and Licensing that the 2003 Licensing Act had been effective in facilitating better management of the city's night time economy. With the potential for closing-time 'flash-points' reduced via more flexible licensing, the police and the council have been able to significantly reduce incidents of public place violent crime (evidence from Tim Nichols: point 23.13, 16.02.09).

presumptions of the 2003 Licensing Act are reversed, so that new applicants for licenses must prove that their premises will not adversely impact upon the local community (rather than having their licence granted unless a detrimental impact can effectively be argued). The intention is to limit the creation of new licensed premises within this area and thus maintain some control over alcohol and public order associated problems.²⁹

- 10.6** The Brighton & Hove CIA extends from Rock Gardens in the east of Brighton to Preston Street in the west, and stretches north to Western Road/Edward Street. Areas abutting selected CIA boundaries may be subject to some, but not all the CIA controls.³⁰
- 10.7** Clearly, it would run counter to the intentions of the 2003 Licensing Act to have a CIA that extended over a very large part of the city (unless there was a very high concentration of licensed premises throughout), but this does not mean that the current boundaries of the local CIA are, or should be, set in stone. Panel members believe that the large number of licensed premises in the Hanover/Elm Grove and London Road areas, together with the increasing problems of public drunkenness, noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour in these localities, may justify the extension of the CIA northwards to Elm Grove to include the Hanover and London Road areas south of this line.
- 10.8** Furthermore, the serious problems posed by park drinking and its associated anti-social behaviour (in addition to a rapid growth in off-sales premises in the area) justifies extending the CIA to include Preston Park and potentially other city parks.
- 10.9** The problems in these areas may not always be as acute as in the current CIA (although in terms of say, serious drink-related anti-social and criminal behaviour in the London Road area, it can be argued that they are just as serious), but it would not be necessary to employ all the powers of the CIA in every instance to gain a considerable benefit from extending the CIA boundaries in the ways suggested.
- 10.10 RECOMMENDATION 6 – CIA boundaries to be re-examined with a view to extending them to other areas of the city which might benefit from CIA powers (e.g. extension around Preston Park and up to Elm Grove).**

²⁹ See evidence from Councillor Carol Theobald, Chairman of Brighton & Hove Licensing Committee: point 23.6, 16.02.09.

³⁰ For more information see: The Licensing Act 2003 – Brighton & Hove City Council: Statement of Licensing Policy (available to download at: http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/licence_applications/Licensing_Policy_A4_2008.2.pdf)

11 Policing Underage Drinking

- 11.1** Fewer underage drinkers frequent pubs and bars than was the case a generation ago, but this does not necessarily mean that U18 drinking has decreased. Rather, there seems to have been a displacement of activity to other locations, most notably to parental homes and to parks and other public places.
- 11.2** U18s drinking in parental homes should have their behaviour observed and moderated by adults (although clearly a good deal of drinking goes on when parents are away or otherwise unaware of what is happening). Drinking in parks and other public places is a more pressing problem, in part because it involves U18s consuming alcohol without adult supervision or intervention (unlike much home drinking and drinking in on-sales – see **points 5.3(a)** through **5.3(e)** above). In part also, park drinking tends to involve very large numbers of young people congregating in one place to get drunk, with obvious public order implications.
- 11.3** There are two issues of concern here: the danger posed by young people acting in an anti-social manner; and the potential risk to young people themselves (e.g. that they may accidentally hurt themselves, or that they may be targeted by other U18s or by older people – inexperienced drinkers who are intoxicated in a public place are an obvious target for assault etc.).
- 11.4** Policing park drinking also poses specific challenges for the police force. U18 drinking is, of course, illegal in most contexts, but in practical terms it may not always be possible or even desirable for the police force to stop all such drinking. The degree to which the police do intervene, and the point of intervention, are key to managing park drinking effectively.
- 11.5** The specific problem here may be described as the escalatory nature of drinking in large groups, which means that gatherings which are entirely peaceable when everyone is sober are almost certain to become disordered when drink is involved. From a policing perspective, this means that it may be necessary to intervene pre-emptively before trouble starts, rather than reactively once problems emerge – particularly as it is generally easier to communicate with sober people than drunk ones.
- 11.6** However, this may mean that teenagers who are drinking illegally, but are not otherwise engaged in any risky or anti-social behaviour, find themselves targeted by police officers and ordered to disperse etc. This can obviously cause resentment, particularly if young people do not understand why they are attracting police attention when they are not themselves acting anti-socially.

- 11.7** It is clearly undesirable for young people to develop a bad relationship with the police force, perhaps particularly in terms of teenagers who might not otherwise be negatively involved with the police (as is presumably the case with many park drinkers); but it also is evident that the police cannot permit very large groups of young people to congregate and get drunk without taking some sort of pre-emptive action in mitigation of the problems which are likely to arise as the drinking progresses.
- 11.8** There may not be any easy solution to this problem, but young witnesses to the Panel did point out that it was as much the attitude of police officers as their intervention *per se* that young people often found disconcerting, with needlessly aggressive or confrontational approaches adopted in situations where a friendly attitude might have been more appropriate and effective.³¹
- 11.9** Young people's perception of events are important, but they do not necessarily provide an objective evidence base, and Panel members have no actual evidence that police interventions with young drinkers are typically needlessly confrontational or aggressive (clearly there are situations when police interventions will quite properly be very assertive).³² However, given the circumstances surrounding park drinking, it is obviously important that policing is conducted with a degree of sensitivity, and that, whenever possible, pre-emptive action is explained and contextualised in a friendly and non-confrontational manner. If this is not done, the danger is not only that young people may become needlessly alienated from the police force in general, but that very vulnerable young people may be reluctant to use the police force as a resource when they feel threatened by the behaviour of others (particularly in the context of U18 drinking in parks etc.).
- 11.10** Clearly, it is far easier to recommend in the abstract that the police act in a friendly manner than it is in actuality, when the situation may require that a robust attitude to potential disorder be taken. One partial solution may be to encourage the police force to reach out to young people – most obviously via schools – in order to explain why they manage park drinking as they do. This type of explanation may be a good deal more effective in the context of a classroom than at the point where a crowd is being dispersed, and might make at least some park drinkers more amenable to taking directions from the police.

³¹ See Appendix 2 -Notes from the Brighton and Hove Youth Council meeting on the 31.1.09 for evidence from Youth Council representatives.

³² The Panel heard that the police adopt a variety of approaches to park drinking, and may sometimes choose not to intervene in situations where young people are not engaged in anti-social behaviour (evidence from Andrew Kundert: 4.13, 27.11.08). One problem here may be that some young people define anti-social behaviour rather differently than do older people (particularly in terms of what constitutes an unacceptable level of noise), so that teenagers may feel they are doing nothing wrong in situations where their behaviour is actually causing a nuisance to local residents.

11.11 RECOMMENDATION 7 – When engaged with young drinkers, police officers need to ensure that they are not over-confrontational and that the rationale for their actions is widely understood. This may best be achieved by engaging with young people in contexts other than those of front-line policing (particularly by visiting schools).

12 Education on the Health Risks of Underage Drinking

12.1 The police and the licensing authorities have an important role to play in combating excessive underage drinking by limiting the retail supply of alcohol to U18s and by ensuring that when young people do drink in public, they do not get in situations which are risky for themselves or for others. However, other groups of people may have just as much influence on what young people do – these include schools and, perhaps most importantly, parents.

12.2 The Panel heard that U18 drinking is not generally a very high profile issue for schools. Although schools do provide some education and training on alcohol-related issues, there is relatively little drunkenness in and around school premises, so the issue is not one of direct concern to most head teachers. Similarly, whilst some students do have serious issues with alcohol which intrude upon their school lives, such students are very likely to drink as a reaction to serious emotional problems: these are therefore best characterised as behavioural issues which manifest in drinking rather than drink problems *per se*. Most students, even if they are involved in alcohol-related anti-social behaviour outside school hours, are unlikely to show the effects in school to any great degree.³³

12.3 The issue of hazardous drinking by young people who have serious emotional or other problems is an important one, but is largely beyond the remit of this ad hoc panel. Schools should monitor attendance and achievement records so as to be aware of pupils who may fall into this category (pupils with serious drink problems are likely to do poorly in school and to attend on an irregular basis).

12.4 Panel members do believe that more could be done in terms of schools educating young people about the implications of excessive alcohol use. As noted in **point 11.10** above, there may be an opportunity for the police to engage with pupils in schools to explain in strategic terms why they manage U18 drinking in public places as they do. It may also be the case (as argued in **Part 9** of this report), that some of the time and resources which schools currently devote to drugs issues might be better allocated on alcohol-related education.

³³ See evidence from Tim Barclay, Head Teacher, Hove Park School: point 11.2, 22.01.09.

- 12.5** The strand of alcohol education which might most usefully be developed relates to the health impact of U18 drinking. This is not an area which is currently very comprehensively covered, with the focus of alcohol-related education falling on the legal status of U18 drinking and the risks posed by hazardous consumption in terms of safety (accidents, criminal behaviour, teenage pregnancy etc.).
- 12.6** However, several witnesses made the point that there should be a greater focus on the long term health impact of excessive drinking. One health sector witness pointed out that if alcohol was a drug it would be banned due to its harmful side effects.³⁴ There is a growing body of evidence on the damage that alcohol can have on the developing body (i.e. excessive drinking is always problematic, but it can be far more so for adolescents than for adults, as teenagers' bodies are still in the process of developing the systems necessary to safely process alcohol).³⁵ Long term health problems associated with teenage drinking include an increased risk of early onset dementia³⁶, serious liver damage, some cancers, heart disease, and foetal alcohol syndrome (as a result of excessive drinking in early pregnancy).
- 12.7** Clearly, effective public health education is not quite so straightforward as informing people about the dangers of the activities they indulge in and then watching their behaviour change. In particular, people do not always link their current behaviour with long term health risks, which is why it may sometimes be more effective to flag up relatively minor issues (i.e. that smoking gives you bad breath rather than that it gives you lung cancer). However, the situation with underage drinking seems to be rather different, as it is readily apparent that some of the long term health risks of excessive drinking are not very well known at all. There might therefore be considerable value in establishing these risks, even if it were unlikely that increased knowledge would necessarily lead to reduced risk taking in the short term.
- 12.8** There are also considerable short term problems with excessive U18 drinking. These can include the direct effects of over-consumption of alcohol (i.e. 'alcohol poisoning'), as well as indirect consequences of drinking, such as an increased likelihood to have accidents, to become injured in fights, to have unprotected sex, become pregnant etc.
- 12.9** It is not necessarily always clear what effect U18 drinking has on pregnancy rates, attendance at Accident & Emergency (A&E) etc. as statistics may not be collated or may not be particularly reliable.³⁷

³⁴ See evidence from Anna Gianfrancesco, Service Manager, RU-OK: 5.6(b), 27.11.08.

³⁵ See evidence from Dr Oli Rahman, Consultant Paediatrician, Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust: point 5.5(a), 27.11.08.

³⁶ See point 5.5(b), 27.11.08.

³⁷ Traditionally, A&E attendances were only fully recorded if they resulted in an admission/treatment, and only then in terms of the actual admission criteria. Thus, someone

However, the Panel did hear that a significant number of young people do present at A&E with alcohol-related problems, placing an additional strain on an already over-stretched system.

12.10 RECOMMENDATION 8 – Alcohol education should address the long term physical impact of U18 alcohol use, not just safety/legal issues.

13 The Role of Parents

13.1 It is evident that parents and carers play a key role in combating excessive teenage drinking, not least because parents appear to be the source of so much of the alcohol that U18s consume. In some instances, drink may be taken from the parental home without parents' permission or knowledge, but it seems often to be the case that parents are complicit in their children's drinking. There may be several reasons for this:

13.1(a) Parents may see little or no harm in their children drinking – either because they are unaware of the health and public order impact of U18 drinking, because they feel the risks are exaggerated, or because they feel the risks are not really applicable to their children (who, they believe, drink and act with relative moderation).

13.1(b) Parents have their concerns, but would rather their children socialise with their peers (even if this involves alcohol) than risk them becoming socially isolated.³⁸

13.1(c) Parents have concerns, but recognise that they cannot effectively bar their children from drinking, and would prefer to maintain some control over consumption rather than have none at all (e.g. parents may give their children a moderate amount of alcohol rather than risk them obtain an unregulated quantity from off-sales or friends; parents may chaperone parties at which U18 drinking is permitted rather than have their children drink without being monitored etc).³⁹

13.1(d) Parents are unsure what common practice is with regard to U18 drinking, so may not know how to deal with children who tell

who had fallen down and damaged their leg whilst drunk might not have their attendance recorded as alcohol-related, whilst someone who had passed out as a result of drinking heavily would (assuming that both patients received treatment rather than being diagnosed as not requiring urgent attention). This is now changing, with a greater emphasis on recording more information about A&E admittances (although not necessarily attendances), particularly from 'at risk' groups (such as U18s, people with disabilities, mental illnesses etc.). See point 5.4(b), from Dr. Oli Rahman, 27.11.08. Panel members welcome this move to a more thorough recording system.

³⁸ See evidence from the Youth Council representative point 25.3, 11.03.09

³⁹ See evidence from Chris Owen, Healthy Schools Team Manager: point 11.5, 22.01.09 and evidence from the Youth Council representative points 25.4 and 25.5, 11.03.09.

them that their friends are permitted to drink and that they risk being 'the odd one out'. (The ambiguous status of U18 drinking is a key factor here, as parents have always been complicit in U18 drinking to the degree that they were effectively aware that their children were frequenting pubs, even if they never overtly granted them permission to do so. What may have changed in recent years is the degree to which parents are actively complicit in their children's drinking – i.e. actually buying them alcohol rather than tacitly permitting them to drink in pubs.)

- 13.1(e)** Parents may be willing to accept the risks (as they understand them) of U18 drinking since it provides them with respite from their teenage children, particularly in situations where alternative social activities are limited.
- 13.2** Some of these problems seem rooted in a lack of information – parents can feel very isolated, particularly when the modern environment is very different to the situations that they have personal knowledge of (e.g. parents who grew up experiencing relatively moderate U18 drinking in pubs may not have much understanding of the problems caused by binge drinking and drinking in parks).
- 13.3** There is therefore an obvious need for information specifically targeted at parents, information which objectively sets out the actual dangers of U18 drinking – in terms of long and short term health risks, public disorder, teenage pregnancy, safety etc. As well as providing this basic information, any pack should include links to be more detailed resources and should also link to organisations which provide long term support to children and families with serious and ongoing alcohol-related issues.
- 13.4** There is an equally obvious need for advice to parents and carers on how to deal with the (considerable) pressure that children can bring to bear to allow them to drink, and on what a sensible approach to U18 drinking should actually look like (i.e. whether it ought to proscribe alcohol entirely, or allow teenagers to drink moderately in chaperoned situations etc). Rather than consisting of prescriptive advice from the authorities, this support might be better arranged by encouraging parent forums and similar representative bodies to develop their own resource packs, thereby utilising 'on the ground' knowledge of the current manifestations of U18 drinking.
- 13.5** There may be an opportunity to involve some of the city's various community groups, residents' associations etc. in such work
- 13.6** **RECOMMENDATION 9 – Develop and deliver an information pack on alcohol targeted at parents and carers, and facilitate the involvement of parents/carers in creating and maintaining this material.**

14 Activities For Young People

- 14.1 Part of the problem that parents and the authorities face in terms of discouraging U18 drinking is that there may be relatively few alternative outlets available to young people, particularly at the times (e.g. Friday and Saturday nights) when they are most needed. Therefore, U18 drinking may be as much a reaction to there being nothing to do as it is a 'positive' choice.
- 14.2 Clearly, it is possible to overstate this argument: drinking alcohol is a central aspect of British culture, and many young people will surely choose to get drunk even if there are alternative activities available. However, the availability of alternatives to park drinking must surely have some impact on the numbers of young people engaged in these activities, particularly as it seems to be the case that park drinking, for many of the young people involved, is actually as much about having a shared space to socialise as it is about getting drunk.
- 14.3 It is important that activities are developed as direct alternatives to U18 drinking. There is relatively little point, for instance, in offering things to do if they are not available on Friday and Saturday nights when the great bulk of park drinking takes place, or in offering activities which appeal to an entirely different 'market' than does park drinking (e.g. activities which appear very structured and controlled by adults, when a good deal of the appeal of park drinking seems to be that it is unregulated and 'controlled' by young people).
- 14.4 One way of ensuring that these activities actually match what young people want is to ask teenagers for their opinion. This could take the form of a poll/survey of 13-18 year olds (or similar) organised via schools. This would also have the benefit of explicitly involving young people in the design of services, and could form part of an educational programme aimed at explaining the democratic process and local decision making.
- 14.5 **RECOMMENDATION 10 – Survey teenagers for their views and seek to develop alternative activities for young people to engage with as alternatives to illegal drinking in public places.**

15 East Brighton

- 15.1 When the Scrutiny Panel was established, an element of its remit was to establish whether the problems of excessive under age drinking were a constant across the city or whether they were concentrated in any specific areas. The Director of Public Health's Annual Report (2008/9) had stated that there was a higher level of problems in East Brighton than in other parts of the city, and it was determined that this warranted further investigation.

- 15.2** Witnesses were asked about this issue, but no one thought that there was anything singular about the east of the city which might explain a higher incidence of U18 drinking problems, save for the generally higher levels of deprivation in this area.
- 15.3** It was however noted that East Brighton alcohol-related problems do not just impact upon this area of the city, as both the perpetrators and the victims of alcohol-related crime in the city centre are disproportionately likely to live in East Brighton.⁴⁰
- 15.4** Panel members debated whether to include a recommendation for better funding for U18 alcohol services in East Brighton in recognition of the particular problems faced in this part of the city. However, whilst some members argued for such an approach, others felt that area based funding had not been an unqualified success in past years, and that although the allocation of funding might fruitfully track deprivation, this should be on a targeted basis rather than an area level.
- 15.5** Therefore, whilst the Panel notes the higher incidence of problems involving young drinkers in the east of the city, and Panel members recognise the correlation between alcohol problems and family deprivation, the Panel has not chosen to make a recommendation in this instance.

16 Scrutiny Panel Recommendations and the Sustainable Communities Act

- 16.1** The Sustainable Communities Act (2007) seeks to make the statutory framework of government more amenable to local and community influence, by encouraging local authorities (via the Local Government Organisation) to report back to Central Government in instances where it is felt there would be value in introducing new statutory powers or varying existing powers.
- 16.2** When compiling this report, panel members were initially minded to recommend that the local Licensing Committee sought to impose certain conditions on licensees in instances where a licensee had been shown to have sold to U18s, or where an application for a new license was made in an area with particular alcohol-related problems (e.g. in the vicinity of a city centre park; in an area with many existing licensed premises etc.).
- 16.3** The conditions envisaged by the Panel included licensees being required to refrain from selling alcohol below its cost price (loss-leading), from discounting multiples (e.g. '2 for 1' offers), and from selling certain drinks strongly associated with hazardous drinking (e.g. strong cider, cheap spirits). They also included requiring licensees to

⁴⁰ Evidence from Tim Nichols: point 23.14, 16.02.09.

adopt best practice in terms of under age drinking (e.g. adopting the 'Challenge 25' scheme).

- 16.4** However, on taking advice, it became clear that it is generally not the case that local Licensing Committees are able to impose such conditions on aspirant licensees, and not always the case that they can impose this type of condition on licensees facing suspension/revocation.
- 16.5** In this report, the Panel has therefore recommended that the Licensing Committee asks for a commitment from licensees that they follow the types of best practice enumerated above.
- 16.6** However, panel members believe that local problems with young people and alcohol could be much more effectively managed if Licensing Committees had the ability to compel licensees to adopt sensible approaches to selling in situations where there was an established problem – either with the particular premises itself or in the local area.
- 16.7** Therefore, the Panel would like to recommend that a proposal to allow Licensing Committees considerably more latitude in terms of imposing conditions on licensees be included amongst this council's submissions to the Local Government Association in relation to the Sustainable Communities Act (2007).
- 16.8** **RECOMMENDATION 11 – The council should request changes to statute relating to the powers of local Licensing Committees (as detailed in point 16.3 above) in line with the powers granted by the Sustainable Communities Act (2007).**

Appendix 1: Dates of public meetings and witnesses who attended plus dates of private meetings (witnesses are employed by Brighton & Hove City Council unless otherwise indicated)

Monday 27 October 2008

Private Scoping meeting with the following officers:

- Dr Tom Scanlon – Director of Public Health
- Lydia Lawrence - Public Health Development and Improvement Manager
- Anna Gianfrancesco – Service Manager, RU-OK
- Chris Owen – Healthy Schools Team Manager

Wednesday 26 November

Private meeting – to plan the questions for the witnesses

Thursday 27 November 2008

- Barbara Hardcastle – Brighton & Hove City Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT)
- Andrew Kundert – Brighton & Hove Licensing Inspector, Sussex Police
- Dr Oli Rahman – Consultant Paediatrician, Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust
- Anna Gianfrancesco – Service Manager for RU-OK

Monday 15 December 2008

Private De-brief meeting

Thursday 22 January 2009

- John Peerless– Head of Trading Standards Office
- Tim Barclay – Head Teacher, Hove Park School
- Chris Owen – Healthy Schools Team Manager
- Eric Price –Trading Standards Licensing Manager, Somerfield

Saturday 31 January 2009

Brighton & Hove Youth Council meeting

Tuesday 10 February 2009

- David Soloman – Store Manager, Tesco Express (Droveway, Hove)
- Tony Rickwood –Store Manager, Tesco (Portslade)
- Chris Denman- Area Manager for Threshers and the Local
- Sue Dixon - Head of Security for First Quench Retailing (formally known as the Thresher Group)

Monday 16 February 2009

- Cllr. Carol Theobald- Chairman of Licensing Committee
- Tim Nichols – Head of Environment & Licensing

Wednesday 11 March 2009

A private meeting was arranged with Youth Council representatives

Friday 20 March 2009

Private meeting to discuss the recommendations.

Tuesday, 12 May 2009

Private meeting to discuss the first draft of the report.

Tuesday 26 May 2009

Private meeting to discuss the second draft of the report.

Appendix 2: Minutes of the meetings

- a) Thursday 27 November 2008: 2-4pm, Committee Room 1, Brighton Town Hall
- b) Thursday 22 January 2009: 2-4.30pm, Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
- c) Saturday 31 January 2009: 12pm, Brighton Youth Centre (the Chairman was invited to speak at the Brighton & Hove Youth Council Meeting and to listen to Youth Council representatives' views)
- d) Tuesday 10 February 2009: 9.30-12.30pm, Banqueting Suite, Hove Town Hall
- e) Monday 16 February 2009: Committee Room 2, Hove Town Hall
- f) Wednesday 11 March 2009: 5pm - Private meeting the Chair and a Youth Council Representative

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY AD-HOC
PANEL - REDUCING ALCOHOL RELATED HARM TO CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE**

2.00pm 27 NOVEMBER 2008

COMMITTEE ROOM 1, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mrs Norman (Chairman), Duncan and McCaffery

Other Members present: Councillors

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1A Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 Substitutes are not permitted on Ad-hoc Scrutiny Panels.

1B Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were none.

1C Exclusion of Press and Public

1.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A, Part 5A, Section 100A(4) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

1.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

2. MINUTES

2.1 This was the first panel meeting and there were therefore no minutes from a previous meeting to be approved.

3. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The Chairman welcomed the witnesses giving evidence at this meeting, and noted that the panel's Terms of Reference were:

To make practical recommendations by examining the costs of social and economic outcomes of, and reasons for the increasing levels of alcohol related harm suffered by children and young people in Brighton and Hove.

To examine the impacts of the Licensing Act 2003 on the availability to and consumption of alcohol by those aged under 18, in the city.

These recommendations will be made by inviting and gathering evidence from Sussex Police, Council Officers, PCT, NHS and off sales licensed premises.

4. EVIDENCE FROM WITNESSES

- 4.1 The Chairman asked the witnesses to introduce themselves and explain how their work connected with the issue of alcohol use and young people.

- 4.2 Members then asked each witness a series of questions.

- 4.3 Barbara Hardcastle (BH), Brighton & Hove City Teaching Primary Care Trust: PCT told members that she was employed by Brighton & Hove City Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT), and was responsible for developing and compiling a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for alcohol services, covering both adult and children's services.

- 4.4 BH noted that Brighton & Hove's performance lagged behind national/regional averages in many aspects of alcohol related health, including having one of the worst performances in England in terms of male deaths from chronic liver disease.

- 4.5 In terms of children and alcohol, BH told members that national trends showed that the numbers of young people drinking were stable or declining slightly, but that those young people who did drink tended to be drinking more.

- 4.6 In Brighton & Hove, BH noted that young people's drinking rates are slightly above the national averages. It seems that more girls than boys are engaged in 'binge-drinking', and that drinking rates are highest in the east of the city (and lowest in the west).

- 4.7 Dr Oli Rahman (OR), Consultant Paediatrician, Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust informed members that he was a consultant

paediatrician working at the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital. Dr Rahman also works closely with colleagues in the Royal Sussex County Hospital Accident & Emergency (A&E) department.

- 4.8 OR told members that it was difficult to gauge the proportion of young people attending A&E with alcohol related conditions, as, whilst admissions obviously linked to alcohol use would be coded as such, other admissions might not be, even if alcohol was probably a contributory factor (e.g. an alcohol-related fall resulting in injury might just be recorded as a fall).
- 4.9 In addition, OR informed the panel that the great majority of A&E attendances do not result in admission to hospital (i.e. patients are discharged without treatment or are treated without requiring admission as in-patients). Recording the role of alcohol in attendances which do not result in admission can be very challenging.
- 4.10 Inspector Andrew Kundert (AK), Licensing Inspector, Brighton & Hove Police told the panel that he was the Licensing Inspector for Brighton & Hove, and that the Brighton & Hove police force was committed to reducing levels of public place violence and anti social behaviour – both of which were alcohol (and licensing) related matters.
- 4.11 AK noted that, whilst in previous years the police had concentrated on the city's 'night time' economy, there had been a more recent focus on other areas where alcohol related disorder was an issue, particularly in terms of the effective policing and management of young people drinking and socialising in parks and green spaces.
- 4.12 AK told the panel that three localised initiatives had recently been combined to form 'Operation Parks' which sought to address problems associated with the phenomenon of groups of young people meeting up to drink in city parks (particularly on Friday and Saturday nights).
- 4.13 AK noted that effective policing of this issue required a variety of approaches: if young people were not engaging in anti social behaviour, there might be no police intervention; if there was anti-social behaviour, the police might seek to disperse those on the periphery of incidents and to target 'ring-leaders' (e.g. to escort them home to their parents/guardians).
- 4.14 AK informed the panel that it was not always clear whether groups of young people were drinking or not, as young people would typically 'disguise' alcoholic drinks in soft drinks bottles.
- 4.15 AK told members that (in very approximate terms) around 5% of underage drinking involved underage drinkers purchasing alcohol in pubs and bars; approximately 20% involved alcohol purchased by underage drinkers from shops and off licenses. However, around 75% of alcohol was not purchased illegally – i.e. it was bought by parents,

by 'proxy buyers' (over 18s buying alcohol at the request of under 18s), was stolen etc.

- 4.16 AK informed the panel that a good deal of work was done to try and ensure that under 18s were not able to purchase alcohol from either on or off sales. The police work closely with Trading Standards to arrange 'test purchasing' (under 18s will try to purchase alcohol in closely monitored operations). Test purchasing is not at random; it is targeted at businesses where there is intelligence of selling to minors.
- 4.17 AK told members that the citywide 'fail' rate for test purchasing was currently around 20% (i.e. one in five test purchasers was actually served alcohol). This is a very encouraging rate.
- 4.18 AK informed members that if business do fail test purchasing, they will be re-tested. Persistent offenders may have their alcohol licences suspended or revoked.
- 4.19 Anna Gianfranceso (AG), Service Manager, RU-OK? told the panel that she was the Service Manager for RU-OK?, the Children & Young People's Trust specialist substance misuse service, and that she was also heavily involved in the local implementation of the new national alcohol strategy.
- 4.20 AG informed members that she worked closely with the police, and had developed a Care Pathway for young people referred from the police. She is currently seeking to develop a similar pathway to channel referrals from A&E, and eventually hopes to combine the pathways.
- 4.21 AG noted that targeting alcohol use amongst young people was a fairly recent initiative, as drugs misuse had traditionally been prioritised.
- 4.22 AG told the panel that Operation Parks had been very successful in terms of reducing young people drinking in public. However, it was not clear whether this reduction in public drinking actually indicated lower levels of drinking (i.e. it might be the case that young people were simply drinking at home rather than in public places).
- 4.23 AG noted that there had been recent national guidance on alcohol education in schools and that she would pass this guidance on to the panel members.
- 4.24 AG told members that Operation Parks had not identified a large number of 'repeat offenders' in terms of young people drinking and behaving anti-socially in public: fewer than 20% of people escorted home by police are subsequently picked up again.

5. FURTHER QUESTIONS

5.1 Panel members then jointly asked the witnesses a series of questions. The witness responses are detailed below.

5.2(a) In answer to a question as to whether action was taken against adults supplying children with alcohol, members were told (by AK) that Operation Parks had tried to address the issue of 'proxy purchasing'. For example, an operation had been arranged in which under 18s tried to persuade passing adults to purchase alcohol from off-licenses on their behalf. However, such an initiative could not realistically lead to prosecution, as the act of encouraging adults to purchase alcohol for under 18s would probably be viewed as a form of entrapment by the courts.

5.2(b) AK and AG added that it was often difficult to ascertain where an underage drinker had obtained alcohol, as drunk people might not be very lucid, and might lie to protect friends or retailers. However, there was now more focus on tracking back the supply of alcohol, and city partners would share this type of information if they were successful in obtaining it.

5.2(c) John Peerless (JP), Head of Trading Standards, Brighton & Hove City Council, told members that an initiative had been planned for under age drinking in Moulsecoomb, which would have included trying to ascertain the origin of the alcohol being consumed – possibly via an analysis of litter.

This scheme would also have sought to encourage off-licenses not to sell to people who looked under 21.

The council failed to get Government funding for this initiative, but does still intend to undertake it at some point.

5.2(d) AG noted that schemes seeking to restrict sales to under 21s had been effective in other localities.

5.3(a) In response to a question about whether the recent proliferation of off licences had led to an increase in drink-related problems, AK replied that the city Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) assumed that there was indeed such a causal link.

AK noted that the CIZ had been very successful, particularly in terms of empowering local communities (i.e. individuals felt that their representations were taken seriously and could have a practical effect).

5.3(b) BH added that there had in fact been a very large increase in the number of off-licenses in recent years.

- 5.4(a) In answer to a question regarding repeat A&E attendances, OR told members that very few young people repeatedly attended A&E for alcohol-related issues (unless they were self-harming).
- 5.4(b) OR also noted that A&E record keeping was not perfect in this respect, and that whilst incidents where drink was the primary cause of injury would almost certainly be recorded as alcohol-related, incidents where drink was only a potential contributory factor might not be recorded. Efforts were being made to improve recording, although this needed to be carefully handled as there were issues of patient confidentiality to take into account.
- 5.5(a) In response to a question regarding the physical damage caused by excessive drinking in young people, OR told members that teenagers' bodies were still developing which might mean that they were less able to process alcohol than adults.
- 5.5(b) BH noted that there was growing evidence that excessive drinking from an early age would lead to an increase in alcohol related-dementia in the future.
- 5.6(a) In answer to a question regarding the relative threat posed by alcohol or drugs, OR told members that a significant number of teenage drink or drug hospital admissions were drink related (unless self-harm was a factor).
- 5.6(b) AG added that alcohol could be very dangerous and certainly would not be licensed if it was not so socially established.
- 5.6(c) AK noted that alcohol was a major contributory factor in most public disorder offences, as well as many Domestic Violence incidents.
- 5.6(d) OR added that drunkenness also created major problems for A&E services, particularly at weekends.
- 5.7(a) In answer to questions concerning prosecution of licensees, JP told members that prosecution was rare, as it was a relatively ineffective method of taking action. This was generally the case in Brighton & Hove and across Sussex, where a consistent strategic approach had been adopted by a number of authorities.
- 5.7(b) AK added that the police in Brighton & Hove would generally seek to take action through the city Licensing Committee (e.g. seeking suspension or revocation of a license) rather than via prosecution.
- 5.7(c) JP also noted that most local businesses do not wish to sell to under 18s and are keen to work together with the police and the local authority. Suspension or revocation of the licenses of co-operating businesses is rarely a sensible option.

5.7(d) AK noted that suspension was quite rarely used, and questioned whether the Licensing Committee would welcome attempts to employ this power more widely, particularly in situations where a premises had only failed one or two times.

5.8 In response to a query about supermarkets, JP told members that supermarkets could be a source of alcohol for under 18s. Supermarkets have a specific problem in that their scale means that it can be difficult for them to properly train and monitor staff (in contrast with small off-licenses where the person making sales may well also be the licensee). Trading Standards have done a lot of work with large local alcohol retailers such as Somerfield and Threshers and are now involved in these organisations' staff training.

5.9(a) Asked what could be done to improve the situation in Brighton & Hove, AK noted that one possibility was to take action against under age drinkers buying alcohol rather than focusing entirely on those selling alcohol (as both selling and buying are offences).

AK also told the panel that it was important to recognise that Brighton & Hove was much safer than formerly – much has been done to tackle alcohol-related anti social behaviour and violence.

5.9(b) AG noted that young people replicate adult behaviour, and that children are bound to see adults drinking to excess. This is particularly so given the effects of the smoking ban in pubs and a general modern attitude amongst adults of not being ashamed of being inebriated in public. Adult attitudes to drinking need to change if there is to be any realistic hope of changing children's behaviour.

5.9(c) JP added that messages to children about alcohol harm needed to be consistent – which they currently are not.

5.9(d) OR suggested that children should be given much more credit for being able to understand information about how their own behaviour might impact upon their health, and that providing an honest assessment of the risks associated with excessive drinking might be effective.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 There was none.

The meeting concluded at 4.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY AD-HOC
PANEL - REDUCING ALCOHOL RELATED HARM TO CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE**

2.00pm 22 JANUARY 2009

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mrs Norman (Chairman), Duncan and McCaffery

Other Members present: Councillors

PART ONE

7. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

7a. Declaration of Substitutes

7.1 No substitutes are permitted on Ad-hoc Scrutiny Panels

7b. Declarations of Interests

7.2 There were none.

7c. Declaration of Party Whip

7.3 There was none.

7d. Exclusion of Press and Public

7.4 In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in section 100I (1) of the said Act.

7.5 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 8.1 RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on the 27 November 2009 be agreed.

9. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATION

- 9.1 The Chairman announced that Mark Whitby (Head of Advisory Centre for Education - ACE) had been obliged to send his apologies for this meeting. Mark Whitby will be invited to attend the next meeting of the panel.
- 9.2 John Peerless (Head of Trading Standards) kindly agreed to give evidence at this meeting at late notice.

10. EVIDENCE FROM JOHN PEERLESS (JP)- HEAD OF TRADING STANDARDS OFFICE (TSO)

- 10.1** JP told members that the council was currently being evaluated on its approach to regulating alcohol sales to children. A copy of the report would be forwarded to the panel when it was published.
- 10.2** JP informed the panel that work on limiting alcohol sales to under 18s altered significantly in 2001, when changes to licensing law permitted 'test purchasing' (using under 18s to try and purchase alcohol).
- 10.3** JP noted that the TSO has a very broad remit and limited resources (amounting to 15 Full Time Equivalent officers). The Brighton & Hove TSO considers under-age drinking to be a city priority and has allocated its resources accordingly. In the past few years the local TSO has developed initiatives such as 'Too Young to Buy' and 'Think 21', and has promoted the use of an identity card scheme for young people.
- 10.4** JP told members that a major piece of work had been undertaken in 2004 in which local authorities, working together with the Home Office Alcohol Standards Unit, had developed a campaign to encourage co-working between regulators of licensed premises. Test purchasing conducted as part of this work showed very high levels of non-compliance for both on and off licences. Partly as a result of this, local authorities have subsequently been strongly encouraged to incorporate work to limit under-age drinking as part of their core business, rather than relying upon time-limited initiatives. Experience suggests that a good rate of compliance is reliant upon constant reinforcement: as soon as a time-limited initiative ends, rates of non-compliance soar.
- 10.5** Non-compliance rates are still around the 35% mark. Problems are particularly associated with newly licensed premises or those with a very high turnover of staff, managers or licensees. The TSO attempts to 'risk assess' newly licensed premises, offering advice on how best to train staff so as to minimise sales to under 18s.

- 10.6** JP told members that eliminating off sales to under 18s would not stop under-age drinking as there are several sources of alcohol: co-ordinated action from other services is required for any initiative to be successful.
- 10.7** TSO initiatives to counter under age drinking are not always effective, as targeting a particular location can result in displacement of drinking activity to neighbouring areas. Informal intelligence networks used by teenage drinkers (via texting, Face Book etc) are often very efficient. To some degree this may be a resource-related issue, as displacement might be less of a problem if a greater geographical area could be targeted by TSO, although better planning and co-working between agencies rather than extra resources *per se* might produce good results.
- 10.8** JP confirmed that prosecution of licensees is very rarely considered, as the licence review/revocation process is far more effective. JP stressed that this approach is intended to help retailers sell alcohol responsibly: it is not meant to be punitive.
- 10.9** In answer to a query about the spread of problems across the city, JP told members that the TSO had not encountered any particular problems in East Brighton. However, if there was a spike in figures in the East of the city, it probably reflected other problems encountered here, as problematic under age drinking could often be a symptom/result of other problems.
- 10.10** JP informed the panel that the way forward for his work may well lay in encouraging local partners to work together to tackle under age drinking. JP referred to ongoing work in Moulescoomb, which he identified as embodying good practice in this area.

11. EVIDENCE FROM CHRIS OWEN (CO)- HEALTHY SCHOOLS TEAM MANAGER & TIM BARCLAY (TB)-HEAD OF HOVE PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL

- 11.1** CO presented to the Panel “A summary of the learning opportunities delivered by schools and local data about school age children and young people”

TB explained what is done in his school in terms of drug and alcohol education, how this programme is reviewed in the light of emerging data from students, surveys etc.

- 11.2** TB noted that there are two distinct groups of underage drinkers: the first group can be characterised as ‘risk takers’ – individuals who use alcohol (and who may display other types of risky behaviour) due to underlying emotional/social problems. The second, much larger, group uses alcohol as a way of bonding with their peers/in a celebratory

manner etc. Many young people feel a sense of empowerment and safety in large groups, and this includes groups of people sitting in parks etc. drinking. This is not necessarily about a lack of facilities, youth clubs etc.

- 11.3 CO noted that the behaviour of young people frequently mirrors that of their elders, and that adult culture currently features many patterns of drinking which are reflected in teenage behaviour.
- 11.4 Recent years have seen a reduction of young people drinking in licensed premises, and this drinking has been displaced to parks etc where it can be much more visible and can lead to problems of disorder.
- 11.5 CO told members that many parents were uncertain how to deal with the issue of underage drinking – e.g. unsure whether the best approach was to try and proscribe their children’s drinking or to supply a limited amount of alcohol in the hope that this would encourage a relatively sensible approach to alcohol.
- 11.6 In answer to a question on the impact of alcohol on educational attainment, TB told the panel that there was not necessarily a link between ‘Friday night drinking’ and attainment, but that people with more serious drink problems could see their attainment fall (however this is a complex issue as excessive alcohol use is often a ‘symptom’ of other social or emotional problems rather than a discrete problem).
- 11.7 TB added that schools do lots of work with students in terms of advising on how best to deal with the stress associated with exams, and this may include advice on sensible drinking.
- 11.8 CO noted that schools may simply not be aware of problems associated with their students’ drinking as very few students actually attempt to drink in the school environment, and contact with students out of school is generally limited.

CO informed members that children of parents with problematic drinking are another group the Panel needs to be mindful of.

12. EVIDENCE FROM ERIC PRICE(EP) -SOMERFIELD TRADING STANDARDS LICENSING MANAGER

- 12.1 EP told the panel that almost all Somerfield stores (859) have an alcohol license, and that the company is committed to implementing licensing law. Somerfield uses comprehensive training and re-training; till prompts for staff, maintains a ‘refusal record’ for under age sales, has a ‘three year rule’ (i.e. staff will ask for ID from anyone who doesn’t look 21), and supports ‘citizen cards.’

- 12.2** EP noted that, prior to 2003, retailers were less aware of the level of their sales to under 18s, as it was not legal to conduct test purchasing. Very few if any complaints were received from the general public about sales being made to under age persons. Since test purchasing became widespread, it became clear that there was an industry wide problem with staff failing test purchases. An industry group, the Retail of Alcohol Standards Group was formed to seek ways to drive down under age sale. Great improvements were then made.
- 12.3** In recent years retailers have had to think very hard about how best to deal with this problem – this is far more involved than simply having a policy in place. Issues to be dealt with include: staff problems with identifying under 18s; staff reticence Re: challenging customers; dealing with groups of under 18s.
- 12.4** Somerfield does a lot of data analysis, looking at situations where staff actually challenge customers, and at the results of its own internal test purchasing (although it cannot use 18s for this).
- 12.5** Larger stores tend to be better performers; perhaps because young people buying alcohol are more conspicuous in this type of environment (most customers in big stores tend to be doing a large weekly shop, whereas smaller stores tend to have a higher percentage of shoppers buying only a few items).
- 12.6** In terms of the London Road, Brighton store, there are obvious problems associated with the siting of this store: on a very busy bus route, near to the level and to several nearby housing estates etc.
- 12.7** Measures introduced at the London Road store include: an increased use of door supervision (particularly reassuring for counter staff); only using over 18 counter staff; marking alcohol so that it can be traced back to the shop (although none ever has been); employing a new store manager who has a track-record of supporting staff; collaborating with TSO on training of staff. These measures have turned the situation around in this store – the store has passed its last three test purchases, and the working culture has significantly improved.
- 12.8** In response to a question regarding alcohol sales to adults, EP told members that Somerfield was increasingly concerned with facilitating sensible drinking via providing information on units, safe drinking practices etc.
- 12.9** In answer to a question about what more could be done locally to tackle the problem of underage drinking, EP told the panel that the key was to involve all elements of the community in initiatives – including police, schools, TSO etc.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 13.1 It was agreed to contact St. Neots for further information on their partnership working, as mentioned by Eric Price.
- 13.2 Members agreed to find out young people's views through attending a school or sixth form college

The meeting concluded at 4.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

Notes from the Brighton and Hove Youth Council meeting on the Saturday, 31 January 2009

1. Present: Councillor Ann Norman (Chair) and Youth Council Representatives (YCR), Superintendent Grenville Wilson (from Sussex Police) and Youth Council Officers.
2. Councillor Ann Norman was asked to speak at the Youth Council meeting and was present to here Superintendent Grenville Wilson speak too.
3. Questions were asked by the YCR's why the Police disperse small groups of youths in parks when they are not being disruptive or loud. The Superintendent explained that the Police tend to work on dispersing small groups early on in the evening before any anti-social behaviour can start; working on prevention rather than waiting for situations to escalate and then dealing with the issues then.
4. A YCR privately told Councillor Norman that young people enjoyed meeting up in groups, as they felt safer and by dispersing the groups they felt more vulnerable and that young people did not see anything wrong with sitting around in small groups. They felt the dispersal technique was unfair especially when they are not causing any trouble.
5. Another YCR privately said that when she was at a party, where lots of additional young people turned up to the party (than previously planned); a Police van came to the location with dogs to disperse the large crowd and that this was seen as a very heavy handed approach and they had been dealt with unfairly.
6. Another YCR privately said that the Police do ask young people to empty their drinks. Some young people take offence to this as some young people do not drink alcohol and therefore have to empty out their soft drinks.
7. A YCR privately said how young people who do not drink alcohol tend to look after their friends that do drink alcohol.
8. A YCR privately said about a positive experience she had with the Police and how she and her friend, (who had been drinking alcohol,) had been treated as individuals and how the policewoman showed that she was concerned for their safety.
9. What upset young people the most was how most of the Police approach these situations by not explaining what they are doing and why they are doing it and not treating each young person as an individual but as a group as a whole.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY AD-HOC
PANEL - REDUCING ALCOHOL RELATED HARM TO CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE**

10.00am 10 FEBRUARY 2009

BANQUETING SUITE, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors , Duncan and McCaffery

Other Members present: Councillors

PART ONE

14. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

14a. Declaration of Substitutes

14.1 No substitutes are permitted on Ad-hoc Scrutiny Panels

14b. Declarations of Interests

14.2 There were none.

14c. Declaration of Party Whip

14.3 There was none.

14d. Exclusion of Press and Public

14.4 In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in section 100I (1) of the said Act.

14.5 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

15. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

15. That the minutes of the meeting held on the 22 January 2009 need to be approved and signed by the Chairman.

16. CHAIRMAN' S COMMUNICATIONS

- 16.1 Apologies have been sent from the Councillor Ann Norma (Chairman).

17. EVIDENCE FROM WITNESSES

- 17.1 Evidence from **Sue Dixon (SD), Head of Security for the First Quench Retailing** (formally known as the Thresher Group) and **Chris Denman (CD), Area Manager for Threshers and the Local**

- 17.2 SD told members that there were 1500 branches with 4 different brand names: Threshers, Wine Rack, the Local & Hadows in Scotland; of which there were 30 stores in Brighton & Hove.

- 17.3 SD informed the panel around a million people were challenged annually and a third of these were refused. All refusals were recorded on the tills and in books and this information was collated and analysed to identify anomalies.

CD explained that any anomalies were investigated and compared with company and store averages. A “compliant” Store Manager generally meant that refusals would be lower in these stores, as young people would not shop at these branches.

- 17.4 SD informed members that the company derives no benefit from under 18 sales as it would damage their reputation which would not exceed potential income.

- 17.5 SD told members that new staff completed an induction, filled out a booklet, watched a DVD which covered mechanisms to prevent underage selling of alcohol and had to be signed off by their Manager before being authorised to use the tills. These inductions and training materials were developed by working with Trading Standards.

- 17.6 SD informed members that identification is asked for, when any customer looks younger than 21: “Challenge 21”. This is being moved to “Challenge 25”. This makes identification of under 18’s easier for staff. Accepted forms of ID are Passport, Driving Licence and any other accredited ID. Test purchases are carried out with over 18’s and over a 100 test purchases are carried out nationally per month; from this the company can identify problem areas and target their work on these.

CD confirmed that all Brighton and Hove stores were working to Challenge 25 already

- 17.8 It was advised that Partnership working with local authorities, the Police and Trading Standards was the best way forward. It was noted that enforcement has a role but dealing with issues at an early stage is better and to act on any intelligence to deal with the matter swiftly worked best.
- 17.9 In answer to a question as to how many challenges Brighton and Hove had, it was estimated at around 25/30 per store, per week and challenges were higher in the summer. The exact figures would be forwarded onto the panel.
- 17.10 In relation to a question on what happens to the information about refusals, it was explained that the District Manager and Licensing Manager collate and investigate the information on a store basis.

CD added that store visits are arranged to stores that have anomalies and an investigation would take place by speaking with staff. All stores within each area are visited on a 6 weekly basis.

- 17.11 In response to a question as to where under 18's were sourcing their alcohol and whether proxy sales were the problem, it was advised that staff are trained on proxy purchasing by looking at unusual buying patterns and that staff shouldn't sell if they are suspicious of proxy sales being undertaken.

The Panel were informed that shoplifting was an issue and it was thought that 60% of alcohol consumed by underage drinkers came from homes.

- 17.12 In answer to a query about what information in stores is available for parents, it was noted that stores have been involved in local area schemes where leaflets were put into customers' bags. However it was noted that more education was required.
- 17.13 Tony Rickwood - Portslade Tesco's Store Manager commented that there were many instances of staff overhearing parents asking their children what alcohol they would like their parents to purchase for them. In these experiences the retailer would refuse these sales.
- 17.14 CD informed the panel that refusals do vary from store to store. Stores with higher footfall have higher refusals and smaller "community" stores have lower refusals. Under 18's do not shop at their local stores as there is more chance that they will be refused as the Retailer will probably know their parents.
- 17.15 In response to a question as to whether there are more refusals in the east of Brighton (as underage drinking is worst in the east of city), it was noted that this hadn't been identified.

17.16 In response to a question from a Youth Council representative as to whether it would be possible to scan an universal ID card which could total up the amount of alcohol purchased and flag up if the individual was over a guidance level and the possibility that proxy sales may be occurring, TR explained that technically it would not be possible to collate this type of data from the different retailers.

18. Evidence from **David Solomon (DS), TESCO Express, Store Manager -Droveaway, Hove** and **Tony Rickwood (TR), TESCO, Store Manager – Portslade**

18.1 DS informed members that TESCOs had a vigorous induction training programme, which included “Think 21”, a buddy system, plus training updates, refresher training, till prompts (with the date of birth information), a DVD and also regular team meetings.

TR handed out training materials that all staff including managers had to complete and noted that there was more comprehensive training for the Licensees at each store. There were “Quarterly Due Diligence Reviews” that a Designated Premises Supervisor completed which reviewed their stores compliance.

18.2 The panel noted how managers backed staff with the “you say no and we say no policy” when a transaction was refused.

18.3 DS informed the panel how the non-compliance is identified with test purchases, and explained how these stores are targeted for up skilling. It was also very important to work with the Police, Trading Standards and the community and advertise the no selling of alcohol to under 18’s policy around the store.

18.4 TR explained how there were very robust systems in place and that he had worked hard to engage with the local Police, to increase store visits which had an impact on reducing theft.

18.5 TR told members how it was not in TESCO’s interest to sell alcohol to under 18’s.

18.6 In answer to a question on how young staff challenge under 18’s, TR informed the panel that staff under 18 had to have a supervisor authorise any alcohol sales they made. This then prevents under 18 store staff selling to their under 18 friends. TR explained how TESCO is moving to the “Think 25” scheme.

SD informed members that all retailers were moving to the “Think 25” scheme, expect Waitrose. However independents would not necessarily follow.

18.7 In response to a question as to whether there was an increase in sales since the Licensing Act 2003 was implemented, SD told members that

the Act had meant that a tighter regime was in operation and it was hard to determine as this is a very high profile topic and is in the press regularly.

- 18.8 TR informed the panel how there had been a significant improvement in compliance since legislation made individual staff vulnerable to prosecution as well as the retail company.
- 18.9 In answer to a question whether cheap alcohol had increased the levels of drinking, TR felt that people weren't buying more cheap alcohol.
- 18.10 TR informed the panel that by increasing the cost of alcohol it would not have any affect as customers wouldn't trade down to cheaper drinks and that when the VAT had been reduced recently; there wasn't an increase in alcohol sales.

SD noted that alcohol was cheap in France and there were no major issues there.

- 18.11 In answer to a question why young people were drinking more, TR informed the panel that alcohol is increasingly difficult for young people to get from retailers and that more adults were purchasing it for them.

SD questioned whether young people were drinking more or whether anti-social behaviour had increased.

- 18.12 In response to questions as to whether shoplifting was an issue, SD told members that it was a problem as there was little legal deterrent (fixed penalty notice for a first offence). Retailers find it challenging to balance attractive store layouts with crime prevention measures.

Shoplifting varies with different areas and different products.

TR informed the panel how alcohol is purchased with weekly shopping on a regular basis.

- 18.13 In answer to a question on whether there is information for parents about not purchasing alcohol for their underage children, TR responded he could not recall any such information and that parents had a lack of understanding on the subject.
- 18.14 In answer to a question on what recommendations would they make TR responded that the local Police are the key and their support to retailers was invaluable.

Members noted that SD recommended partnership working as retailers were committed to eliminating sales to under 18's and that any intelligence could be dealt with swiftly. Additionally direct links with the retailers Central Office would be useful for more proactive working. It

was also pointed out that enforcement does have a negative impact on retailers.

TR informed members that Trading Standards could do with engaging with Retailers more in the future.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 No other business was discussed.

The meeting concluded at 11.00am

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY AD-HOC
PANEL - REDUCING ALCOHOL RELATED HARM TO CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE**

2.00pm 16 FEBRUARY 2009

COMMITTEE ROOM 1, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mrs Norman (Chairman), Duncan

Other Members present: Councillors C Theobald

PART ONE

19. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

20a. Declaration of Substitutes

20.1 No substitutes are permitted on Ad-hoc Scrutiny Panels.

20b. Declarations of Interests

20.2 There were none.

20c. Declaration of Party Whip

20.3 There was none.

20d. Exclusion of Press and Public

20.4 In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in section 100I (1) of the said Act.

20.5 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

20. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 21.1 That the minutes of the meeting held on the 10 February, 2009 need to be approved and signed by Chairman.

21. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 22.1 Chris Parfitt (Youth Lead on Alcohol) and Mark Whitby (Head of Advisory Centre for education (ACE)) send their apologies.

22. EVIDENCE FROM WITNESSES

- 23.1 Evidence from **Councillor Carol Theobald (CD), Chairman of the Licensing Committee** and **Tim Nichols (TN), Head of Environment and Licensing**

23.2 CT informed the panel that there was ongoing work in schools educating pupils on the affects that alcohol has and that generally, under 18's do not obtain their alcohol from licensed premises.

23.3 TN told members that this was a national problem and that most of the alcohol is obtained from homes, off sales and proxy purchasing.

23.4 TN informed the panel that the Council supports proof of age schemes, but levels of fraud are very high. Police are also reluctant to prosecute under 18's for using false ID. The Licensing Committee is currently enacting the recent national guidelines to deal with problem licensees.

23.5 CT informed the panel that Challenge 25 was very useful, as were out of school activities. She also stated that refusal log books should be kept as evidence relating to underage sales.

23.6 CT confirmed that the Cumulative Impact Area (CIA) had also been introduced to stop further new drinking establishments from opening.

23.7 TN told members that under age drinking is a national priority and a Health impact Assessment (HIA) is being funded by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and being undertaken by the Council. It was noted that Licensing was not to blame for this problem, and that marketing, pricing and availability were more the reason.

23.8 TN informed the panel that there was a 40% failure rate for test purchasing and it was difficult to decrease this (Subsequently TN said the current rate was 20%).

23.9 TN advised the panel that underage drinking in on licences has moved to parks in recent years as the on licenses are regulated heavily. In the past when Licenses were less heavily regulated publicans tended to tolerate underage drinking providing they didn't drink to access.

- 23.10 In answer to a question as to whether there was a case to charge above a minimum level for alcoholic drinks, TM told members this would be unlawful. For any action to be taken it needs to be demonstrated that there was a “clear causal link” between price promotions and antisocial behaviour. It was noted that it was particularly difficult to establish that link and also to word such restrictions. TN referred to the “*Guidance: Department for `Culture, Media & Sport, sections 10:38 & 10:40 of the Licensing Act 2003*”
- 23.11 TN advised the panel that it was important to be mindful of economic conditions and that most licensees were trying to earn an honest living, however it maybe useful to publicise revocations and suspensions in the future.
- 23.12 TN told members that he was looking forward to the publication of the Health Impact assessment (HIA) and possible changes to the NHS drinking and drug budgets. It was suggested that spending on preventative education might be better allocated on alcohol rather than drugs.
- 23.13 In answer to a question as to whether the Licensing Act 2003 had any impact on the worsening health figures, TN responded that the reverse was true; there had been a long term rise in consumption and disease relating to alcohol and the Licensing Act 2003 was a reaction to the situation rather than a cause. Since the Licensing Act 2003 there were declining rates of public place violent crime. The Police should also be credited for this. The Licensing Act 2003 has given city centres the ability to spread out “closing time” public disorder.
- 23.14 In relation to a question why binge drinking amongst young people was worst in the east of the city, TN responded that the analysis of information from the Police show a disproportionate volume of the postcodes from offenders and victims are in the BN25 and BN26 areas.
- 23.15 In response to a question whether it was possible to restrict the proliferation of off sales premises, TN responded that the Licensing Act 2003 assumed that most of these off sales premises are operating an honourable business; applications are granted automatically unless representations have been made. The Review Panels have more power than the initial License and have a choice of options which are to suspend/revoke the license, remove the premised licensee or take no action. Residents, Trading Standards Officers and the Police can be heard and it is more likely that the Panel would make a more effective decision based on evidence than refuse a new application.
- 23.16 In answer to a question whether smaller stores were selling to under 18’s, CT responded that there was a case where by a non-english speaking relative, who had received no training was covering a shop when the store failed a test purchase. The shop had been to the Review Panel before with a similar problem and the Owner had not

acted upon the advice given by the Review Panel in the first occasion; at the next Review Panel the decision was taken to revoke the license.

TN told members that sales to underage drinkers was spread out throughout different off and on sales as there were national off licences, franchises, single operators, pubs and bars have all been subjects for reviews.

23.17 In answer to a question how Licensing laws could be tightened TN answered that the recently issued government guidance gave the Review Panel power to restrict the trading hours, or even use CCTV to record sales.

23.18 In response to a question on whether increasing the tax on alcohol would reduce underage drinking TN advised that this would reduce access for young people, should focus on off sales, stores and supermarkets and Government could hypothecate the money to alcohol treatment services and out of school activities.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24.1 It was agreed to contact any Representatives from the Youth Council who had given their contact details.

24.2 It was agreed to collate written questions for Chris Parfitt (Youth Lead on Alcohol) and Mark Whitby (Head of ACE) and ask them for written statements.

24.3 The meeting with the youth offender is arranged for Thursday, 19 February and the Chairman will be attending this.

The meeting concluded at 3.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY AD-HOC PANEL - REDUCING ALCOHOL RELATED HARM TO CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

4.00pm 11 MARCH 2009

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mrs Norman (Chairman),

Other Members present:

PART ONE

24. EVIDENCE FROM WITNESS

25.1 Evidence from a Youth Council Representative (YCR)

25.2 YCR told the Panel Member how the view of not being able to drink needs to be changed, as it makes young people want to drink and break the rules.

Her experience of her first alcoholic drink was that it was “not an amazing thing”, and she still didn’t enjoy the taste of it and would drink wine with a sweet fizzy drink to make it more palatable.

The YCR told how there was alcohol always in her parent’s house and how her parent would give wine with a mixer to drink on occasions.

25.3 It was confirmed that peer pressure was one of the reasons why young people drank.

25.4 The YCR told how house parties are popular places for young people to drink. There were varying amounts of alcohol at these parties, more being available if parents were not present. If parents were present they did supervise these parties and tended to water down the alcoholic drinks by providing punches.

At a recent party, the YCR informed the member how some young people arrived already drunk.

The YCR informed the member how at her next party her father will invite his friends to the party to help supervise. Some young people

regularly sleep at certain friends' parents' houses as these parents do not "tell" on them. The next morning the young person has slept off most of their hangover and "is not that much of a wreck" when they return home.

- 25.5 YCR informed the member how teenagers copied adults, parents and their older friends and how they had seen parents having a drink of alcohol after they had a stressful day and copy this; or it's the weekend and they learn how alcohol is consumed to celebrate this. As a result of this, young people get stressed over their exams and can turn to alcohol to relax.
- 25.6 In answer to a question whether parents are aware how much their children drink, the YCR answered, that they say to their parents they drank "smart" levels of alcohol, but didn't mention the additional amounts consumed on top of this too.
- 25.7 When asked where else young people were getting alcohol from other than parents supplying it, the YCR informed that their 18 year old friends purchased it for them.

The YCR told how she could remember that last year her friends bought bigger bottles of spirits but this year, due to the credit crunch parents have less disposable income to give their children and as a result of this, young people were purchasing smaller bottles of spirits as they found the bigger bottles too expensive to purchase.

- 25.8 The YCR recommended that adverts similar to the smoking ones would be affective, showing how it could ruin young people's lives in different ways, for example how it can "mess up your exams".
- 25.9 In response to a question whether young people were aware of what the adverse affects of underage drinking were, the YCR said she wasn't aware of these and she would recommend that these be advertised. She confirmed that in schools there is some Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) which touches on the safety issues when drunk, but not information on the negative affects of drinking alcohol.
- 25.10 The YCR advised the member that she felt it was very dangerous to be drinking on the streets and that more controlled places would be suitable, such as clubs perhaps?
- 25.11 YCR confirmed that a friend had problems at home and some young people did not want to discuss these experiences with anyone so they tended to deal with these on their own, without asking for help and drank alcohol to forget these problems. However, the YCR informed how she had a supportive group of long standing friends and they would try and help anyone they could and have been successful in

doing this, by guiding their friend away from alcohol, studying more and getting them to mix with the right crowd.

25.12 The YCR informed the member how teachers did not understand the pressures that young people were under.

The meeting concluded at 5.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

Appendix 3: Digest of recommendations

- **RECOMMENDATION 1-** The Panel welcomes and commends the increased emphasis of Licensing enforcement on off-sales (and on public place drinking), as it shows a commitment to identifying and tackling current problems rather than simply adhering to traditional modes of enforcement. The Panel hopes that this will provide a platform for the further development of Licensing enforcement, both in terms of closer partnership working, and in terms of a continuing concentration on the actual rather than the popularly perceived problems of underage drinking.
- **RECOMMENDATION 2** – City partners (co-ordinated by TSO) should draw up a Best Practice Guide on avoiding selling alcohol to U18s with a view to the guide being disseminated to independent retailers.
- **RECOMMENDATION 3** – Encourage (particularly via the Brighton & Hove Licensing Committee) all off-sales to adopt the ‘Challenge 25’ scheme.
- **RECOMMENDATION 4** – Licensing Committee to request assurances that new and re-assessed licensees will not discount sales below cost, engage in irresponsible multiple discounting or sell products strongly associated with hazardous drinking practices.
- **RECOMMENDATION 5** – CYPT should consider its substance misuse services in terms of a potential re-deployment of resources from drugs to alcohol-related projects in instances where drugs issues may have been advanced to the detriment of similarly serious alcohol-related problems. CYPT should also consider whether there is value in lobbying NHS Brighton & Hove and central Government to review their resource allocation in regard to alcohol-related services for children and young people.
- **RECOMMENDATION 6** – CIA boundaries to be re-examined with a view to extending them to other areas of the city which might benefit from CIA powers (e.g. extension around Preston Park and up to Elm Grove).
- **RECOMMENDATION 7** – When engaged with young drinkers, police officers need to ensure that they are not over-confrontational and that the rationale for their actions is widely understood. This may best be achieved by engaging with young people in contexts other than those of front-line policing (particularly by visiting schools).
- **RECOMMENDATION 8** – Alcohol education should address the long term physical impact of U18 alcohol use, not just safety/legal issues.

- **RECOMMENDATION 9** – Develop and deliver an information pack on alcohol targeted at parents and carers, and facilitate the involvement of parents/carers in creating and maintaining this material.
- **RECOMMENDATION 10** – Survey teenagers for their views and seek to develop alternative activities for young people to engage with as alternatives to illegal drinking in public places.
- **RECOMMENDATION 11** – The council should request changes to statute relating to the powers of local Licensing Committees (as detailed in point 16.3 above) in line with the powers granted by the Sustainable communities Act (2007).

Appendix 4: Background papers

'Brighten Up! Growing Up in Brighton & Hove 2008': Annual Report of the Director of Public Health (and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Children and Young People. Brighton and Hove City Council and Brighton & Hove City Teaching Primary Care Trust, 2008.

'Are the kids driving you mad?': Positive Parenting Programme leaflet. Brighton & Hove Children & Young People's Trust.

Draft Alcohol Needs Assessment for Children and Young People: Brighton & Hove City Primary Care Trust (Draft 4), November 2008.

'Drug Education: An Entitlement For All': A report to Government by the Advisory Group on Drug and Alcohol Education, 2008.

Government Response to the report by the Advisory Group on Drug and Alcohol Education: Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Health Impact Assessment of the introduction of flexible alcohol hours in Brighton & Hove: Brief for consultants 2007 v2. Brighton & Hove City Council, 2007.

Licensing Act 2003: Statement of Licensing Policy. Environmental Health and Licensing Service, Brighton & Hove City Council.

Report of stakeholder responses to the Health Impact Assessment of the Introduction of Flexible Alcohol Hours in Brighton and Hove, 6th April 2009.

Setting Targets for Core, Enhanced and Intensive Services (presentation on drug use among vulnerable young people): from 'Crime & Drugs Analysis & Research,' Home Office, September 2007.

"Safe, Sensible, Social: the next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy." Department of Health, Home Office, Department for Education and Skills and Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2007.

Scrutiny Review of Alcohol Misuse amongst Children & Young People. East Sussex County Council, March 2008.

Sustainable Communities Act 2007 : A Guide for Communities and local Government.

Young People and Alcohol, Overview and Scrutiny Review, Lancashire County Council, February 2008.