



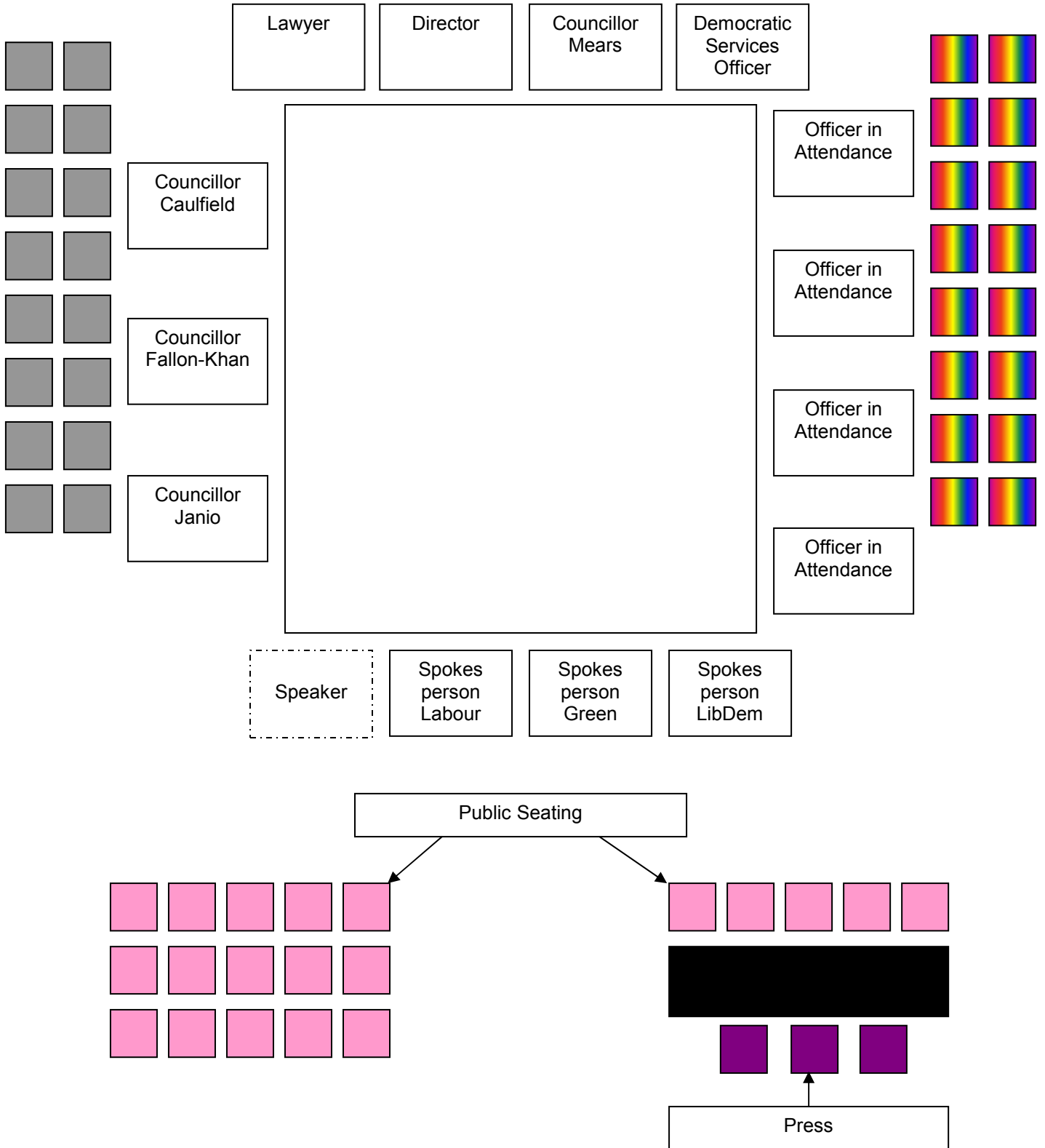
**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Cabinet Committee

Title:	Sustainability Cabinet Committee
Date:	13 October 2009
Time:	3.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	<p>Councillors: Mears (Chairman), Caulfield and Fallon-Khan</p> <p>Lead Councillor for Sustainability: Councillor Janio</p>
Contact:	<p>Tanya Massey Senior Democratic Services Officer 01273 291227 tanya.massey@brighton-hove.gov.uk</p>

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Democratic Services: Meeting Layout



AGENDA

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

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

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.

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

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 4

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2009 (copy attached).

3. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

4. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Items reserved by the Members of the Cabinet Committee
- (b) Items reserved by the Opposition Spokespeople
- (c) Items reserved by Members, with the agreement of the Chairman.

NOTE: Public Questions, Written Questions from Councillors, Petitions, Deputations, Letters from Councillors and Notices of Motion will be reserved automatically.

5. PETITIONS

No petitions received by date of publication.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(The closing date for receipt of public questions is 12 noon on 6 October 2009)

No public questions received by date of publication.

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

7. DEPUTATIONS

(The closing date for receipt of deputations is 12 noon on 6 October 2009)

No deputations received by date of publication.

8. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

No written questions have been received.

9. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

No letters have been received.

10. NOTICES OF MOTIONS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

a) **Support the 'Great British Refurb' and the creation of more eco-jobs and training in the city** 5 - 8

(i) Proposed by Councillor Turton (copy attached).

(ii) Draft extract from the proceedings of the Cabinet Meeting held on 17 September 2009 (copy attached).

11. CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT 9 - 18

Report of the Director of Strategy & Governance (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Thurstan Crockett *Tel:* 29-2503

Ward Affected: All Wards

12. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL 19 - 26

Report of the Director of Strategy & Governance (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Mita Patel *Tel:* 29-3332

Ward Affected: All Wards

13. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION 27 - 30

To note the minutes of Climate Change Adaptation Scrutiny Panel Scoping Meeting (copy attached).

14. REPORT OF THE CITY SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP 31 - 50

(a) To note the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2009 (copy attached).

(b) To note the minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2009 (copy attached).

(c) To note the draft minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2009 (copy attached).

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

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

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

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

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Tanya Massey, (01273 291227, email tanya.massey@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Monday, 5 October 2009

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

3.00PM 8 MAY 2009

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mears (Chairman), Caulfield and Fallon-Khan

Also in attendance: Councillor Cobb (Lead Councillor for Sustainability), Steedman (Spokesperson, Green)

Other Members present: Councillor Simson

PART ONE

43. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

43A Declarations of Interest

43a.1 There were none.

43B Exclusion of Press and Public

43b.1 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Sustainability Cabinet Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press or public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100I(1) of the Act).

43b.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

44. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

44.1 **RESOLVED** – The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

45. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

45.1 There were none.

46. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

46.1 **RESOLVED** - That all the items be reserved for discussion.

47. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

47.1 There were none.

48. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

48.1 There were none.

49. DEPUTATIONS

49.1 There were none.

50. PETITIONS

50.1 There were none.

51. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

51.1 There were none.

52. NOTICES OF MOTION

52.1 There were none.

53. REVIEW OF CITY FOOD STRATEGY

53.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance concerning a review of the Brighton & Hove Food Strategy and Action Plan being undertaken by Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (for copy see minute book).

53.2 The Sustainability Officer with responsibility for this area was pleased to announce that the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership had been successful in their application to the Big Lottery 'Local Food' fund for a Beacon grant of £500,000. The funding would help support 'Harvest Brighton & Hove', a partnership project co-ordinating a city-wide approach to producing and consuming food.

53.3 Councillor Steedman welcomed the review and hoped it would highlight where more work could be done. He felt that issues remained around sustainable procurement and that the staff and civic catering contract was an example of an opportunity where the council can take steps in the right direction.

53.4 In response to queries from Councillor Caulfield the Sustainability Officer explained that Harvest Brighton & Hove would include projects looking to work with Tenant Associations wishing to grow food on small areas of land. She also advised that while national legislation meant that profit cannot be made from selling surplus food grown on allotments, any money made can go back into a charity or not-for-profit organisation.

- 53.5 The Chairman requested a report to the Cabinet Committee on the specific issues around Tenant Associations growing food on housing land.
- 53.6 In response to questions from Councillor Fallon-Khan on obesity in young people the Sustainability Officer explained that the problem stretched wider than nutritional values of school meals, but working with children on cooking and growing food through the Food for Life Partnership would help to address these issues.
- 53.7 The Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy confirmed that the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership would be asked to address the issues raised during the review.
- 53.8 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the following recommendations be accepted:
- (1) That Sustainability Cabinet Committee note the review is being undertaken and encourage participation amongst council officers where relevant.

54. TAKING FORWARD THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT - PROPOSALS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 54.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance concerning arrangements for taking forward the Sustainable Communities Act (for copy see minute book).
- 54.2 The Chairman welcomed Councillor Simson to the meeting to introduce the report.
- 54.3 Councillor Simson reported that twenty proposals had been received and were currently being assessed for eligibility before the Local Panel met the following week. The ultimate decision on any proposals rested with the Secretary of State. Councillor Simson added that the council expected the Secretary of State to call for more proposals on a regular basis.
- 54.4 Councillor Steedman acknowledged the cross-party support for this initiative and was assured by Councillor Simson that ineligible proposals will be passed to the relevant Cabinet Member of department and that any proposals approved by the Local Panel will have to be ratified by the Cabinet.
- 54.5 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the following recommendations be accepted:
- (1) That the Sustainability Cabinet Committee notes the work being carried out by the Council and its partners to generate and assess proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act.

55. SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT

- 55.1 The Cabinet Committee received a presentation on Sustainability in the Comprehensive Area Assessment for the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy.
- 55.2 In response to queries from Councillor Steedman in relation to the Local Area Agreement indicator on per capita CO₂ emissions the Head of Sustainability &

Environmental Policy explained that as it was an issue concerning the city as a whole, the City Sustainability Partnership would look into it and draw up an action plan.

55.3 Councillor Fallon-Khan commented that the Administration had had some enormous challenges to face around the use of resources, but that sustainability had been at the heart of achieving the council's highest ever score from the Audit Commission.

55.4 **RESOLVED** – That the presentation be noted.

56. CLIMATE CONNECTIONS

56.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a presentation on the Climate Connections partnership project from the Sustainability Co-ordinator and representatives from the Brighton Peace and Environment Centre (BPEC).

56.2 The Sustainability Co-ordinator explained that Climate Connections was a joint project with Oxfam and the BPEC focussed on raising awareness of climate change across the world and encouraging residents to take advantage of existing initiatives within the city. The project would be funded by a successful application £183,000.

56.3 Ruth England, Education Co-ordinator for the BPEC explained that the funding would go towards a photographic exhibition, an interactive website, workshops and a new member of staff for the BPEC.

56.4 The Chairman requested that the Cabinet Committee received a regular report from the BPEC.

56.5 **RESOLVED** – That the presentation be noted.

57. REPORT OF THE CITY SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

57.1 The Cabinet Committee considered the draft minutes of the City Sustainability Partnership (CSP) held on 6 April 2009 (for copy see minute book).

57.2 Councillor Steedman queried why discussions regarding the CSP considering issues around peak oil had not been included in the draft minutes.

57.3 The Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy confirmed that he would ensure that the minutes contain all discussions before they are finalised.

57.4 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.

The meeting concluded at 4.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

NOTICE OF MOTION

SUPPORT THE 'GREAT BRITISH REFURB' AND THE CREATION OF MORE ECO- JOBS AND TRAINING IN THE CITY

"The Council welcomes the Great British Refurb that is planned across the country and the subsequent creation of jobs and training opportunities across the City.

The Council recognises that the refurbishment of Britain's schools, public buildings and council housing to improve energy efficiency has had received wide ranging support. The Renewable Energy Association has called the Government's plans 'very positive, visionary and ambitious and the Local Government Association has called the plans a 'a major step forward' and the LGA have asked that energy suppliers pay a £500m annual charge to help fund a home insulation programme that would save 10 million households £280 a year on their energy bills, and create up to 20,000 new eco jobs.

Key proposals of the Great British Refurb include;

- Finance packages to install energy efficiency measures and low-carbon heat and power sources would be offered to householders. Repayment from part of the savings on energy bills would be linked to the property, rather than residents.
- Combined with guaranteed cash payments by way of a Renewable Heat Incentive and a Feed-in Tariff for small scale electricity generation, the payback for homeowners who switch to low-carbon technologies and save energy would start from day one.
- Options for improving the delivery of energy efficiency advice and measures, including establishing a central coordinating body funded by energy companies and working to Government-set targets.
- Rolling out low-cost home energy audits, developing a qualification for energy advisers, and establishing an accreditation scheme for installers.

The Council accepts that it will also have a large role to play in developing renewable and low carbon heat and electricity, such as district heating schemes and asks:

(a) The Cabinet Sustainability Committee to consider its responsibility to ensure;

- Local schools, colleges and universities take full advantage of any future qualifications and apprenticeships linked to the instalment of environmentally friendly technology in the City's homes,
- Local people are kept informed of the benefits of the Great British Refurb, such as any paybacks for homeowners who switch to low carbon alternatives

and training opportunities in green industries, through council publications such as the website and City News,

- Work with local energy companies based in the City, as well as government departments to guarantee the best options, in terms of energy packages, training opportunities and jobs for residents and young people in the City,
- (b) The Council asks the Cabinet to consider whether there is a wish for any involvement in the roll out of the Great British Refurb, particularly with regards to any future skills and training initiatives, and
- (c) That the Acting Chief Executive write to the Department of Energy and Climate Change to outline the Council's support for the scheme."

DRAFT EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2009

CABINET MEETING

4.00PM 17 SEPTEMBER 2009

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

DRAFT MINUTES

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

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

70B NOTICES OF MOTION - SUPPORT THE 'GREAT BRITISH REFURB' AND THE CREATION OF MORE ECO-JOBS AND TRAINING IN THE CITY

70b.1 The Cabinet considered the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Turton:

“The Council welcomes the Great British Refurb that is planned across the country and the subsequent creation of jobs and training opportunities across the City.

The Council recognises that the refurbishment of Britain’s schools, public buildings and council housing to improve energy efficiency has had received wide ranging support. The Renewable Energy Association has called the Government’s plans ‘very positive, visionary and ambitious and the Local Government Association has called the plans a ‘a major step forward’ and the LGA have asked that energy suppliers pay a £500m annual charge to help fund a home insulation programme that would save 10 million households £280 a year on their energy bills, and create up to 20,000 new eco jobs.

Key proposals of the Great British Refurb include;

- Finance packages to install energy efficiency measures and low-carbon heat and power sources would be offered to householders. Repayment from part of the savings on energy bills would be linked to the property, rather than residents.
- Combined with guaranteed cash payments by way of a Renewable Heat Incentive and a Feed-in Tariff for small scale electricity generation, the payback for homeowners who switch to low-carbon technologies and save energy would start from day one.

- Options for improving the delivery of energy efficiency advice and measures, including establishing a central coordinating body funded by energy companies and working to Government-set targets.
- Rolling out low-cost home energy audits, developing a qualification for energy advisers, and establishing an accreditation scheme for installers.

The Council accepts that it will also have a large role to play in developing renewable and low carbon heat and electricity, such as district heating schemes and asks:

- (a) The Cabinet Sustainability Committee to consider its responsibility to ensure;
 - Local schools, colleges and universities take full advantage of any future qualifications and apprenticeships linked to the instalment of environmentally friendly technology in the City's homes,
 - Local people are kept informed of the benefits of the Great British Refurb, such as any paybacks for homeowners who switch to low carbon alternatives and training opportunities in green industries, through council publications such as the website and City News,
 - Work with local energy companies based in the City, as well as government departments to guarantee the best options, in terms of energy packages, training opportunities and jobs for residents and young people in the City,
- (b) The Council asks the Cabinet to consider whether there is a wish for any involvement in the roll out of the Great British Refurb, particularly with regards to any future skills and training initiatives, and
- (c) That the Acting Chief Executive write to the Department of Energy and Climate Change to outline the Council's support for the scheme."

70b.2 Councillor Turton was unable to attend the meeting.

70b.3 The Chairman explained that the Notice of Motion was timely as it coincided with a report being prepared in respect of 'Environmental Industries' and as the items were linked, it would be appropriate to consider them together. The Chairman reported that the Notice of Motion would be referred to the Sustainability Cabinet Committee on 13 October for further discussion and that Councillor Turton would be invited to attend.

70b.4 In response to a question from Councillor Mitchell the Chairman stated that she would provide written confirmation that the Acting Chief Executive had written to the Department of Energy and Climate Change to outline the Council's support for the scheme.

70b.5 **RESOLVED** – That the Notice of Motion be noted and referred to the Sustainability Cabinet Committee.

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 11

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Carbon Reduction Commitment
Date of Meeting: 13 October 2009
Report of: Director of Strategy & Governance
Contact Officer: Name: Thurstan Crockett Tel: 29-2503
E-mail: thurstan.crockett@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The City Council will be a mandatory participant in carbon trading – under the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) from 2010. This will require the development of a strategic approach to deliver carbon savings from the corporate estate, street lighting and schools.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Committee agrees that:
- (a) The City Council's Carbon Management Programme Strategy & Implementation Plan is revised to take account of the CRC, as well as Display Energy Certificates.
 - (b) Further work is done to establish how schools will participate fully in the CRC.
 - (c) The budget planning process will need to identify the required funding to purchase the CO2 emissions allowances for 2011/12.
 - (d) The officer Carbon Trading Group explores the potential to introduce internal carbon trading for directorates for 2010/11 onwards.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 A low carbon Brighton & Hove is the City Council's top new sustainability priority. This is in line with the first of its headline priorities, Protect the Environment While Growing the Economy, and on carbon, the council will be leading by example.
- 3.2 The Climate Change Act 2008 contains legally binding emissions reduction targets: the Government has committed the UK to deliver a 26% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020. In the longer term the aspiration is to cut greenhouse gases by at least 80% by 2050.

- 3.3 In May 2007 the Government announced a number of new initiatives in the Energy White Paper, including a decision to implement the Carbon Reduction Commitment. This is a mandatory emissions trading scheme for large commercial and public sector organisations, including large local authorities. From 2010 the City Council will be a mandatory participant.
- 3.4 The aim of CRC is to promote energy efficiency and help reduce carbon emissions which can save organisations money. The scheme has been designed to generate a shift in awareness in large organisations especially at senior level, and to drive changes in behaviour and infrastructure.
- 3.5 All energy other than transport fuels will be covered, such as electricity, gas, fuel and oil. All Local Education Authorities are required to report on schools and include them in the scheme. Currently the scheme excludes Fleet/transport. Housing is within the scope of the scheme where the council is the energy bill recipient.
- 3.6 It is estimated that the total benefit to all participants will be around £1 billion by 2020. This will result from energy efficiency measures encouraged by this scheme. Revenue recycled back to participants from the sale of allowances each year will also include a bonus for the best performers. In addition to financial incentives, the scheme will provide a reputational incentive as well and penalties for the worst performers. Participants will be ranked according to their performance in a league table. This will then be made available for public scrutiny.
- 3.7 An initial Carbon Footprint Report is required in March 2011 for the year April 2010 to March 2011. B&HCC should be in a good position to produce this footprint as we are already monitoring energy use for civic buildings, including schools, as part of the Carbon Management Programme for which we produce an annual carbon footprint. But there have been problems recently in gathering the data in a timely and thorough way (see Risk section 5.6).
- 3.8 As a result of the imminent completion of our programme of Display Energy Certificates for all properties in the council portfolio, we are in a position to identify where to implement the most beneficial energy efficiency measures to reduce our carbon emissions.
- 3.9 The council carbon emissions falling under CRC would mean it having to purchase just over £300,000 worth of credits per year, with 10% (circa £30,000 at risk) in the first year (see Appendix 1). Participants will pay in April 2011 for allowances to cover both the actual 2010/11 emissions and forecast 2011/12 emissions. From April 2013, allowances will be allocated through auctions with a diminishing number of credits available over time. There are also likely to be assisted certification costs and potentially some consultancy cost for pre-assessment but these have not yet been quantified.

- 3.10 Early Action Metrics are being actively explored to enhance the council's initial position in the league table, including the Carbon Trust Standard, which credits the authority for emissions reduction measures already undertaken; and the introduction of automatic meter reading, which is being explored for the whole council property portfolio and would need significant investment, so will be the subject of a separate report. A timeline setting out the initial stages of the CRC scheme is at Appendix 2.
- 3.11 An officer Carbon Trading Group has been established to co-ordinate the Council's responses and actions, with close connections to Cabinet Members (and their deputies) and the Sustainability Cabinet Committee. The actions include data gathering, cross organisation working, finance officer and legal services engagement, schools engagement, reporting, buying and surrendering allowances.
- 3.12 An internal carbon accounting scheme would penalise directorates that fail to cut their carbon emissions and reward those that do. Potentially, based on their recent performance, directorates would be assigned an annual carbon budget for 2010/11 and "fined" a fixed amount per tonne if they exceed this when carbon footprinting calculations are completed after the financial year end. Fines would be deducted from the directorate's budget in the following year (i.e. in mid-2011 for the first year) and credits added. This would provide a strong financial incentive for directorates to cut their emissions.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Performance, Street Lighting, Energy, CYPT, Housing, and Property Services have been consulted.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 Increasing energy and fuel costs together with rising consumption levels create budget pressures for the councils and schools. The introduction of a Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) may reduce both emissions and usage and consequently assist with financial budget pressures for both the council and schools. Funding will need to be identified in 2011/12 to purchase the carbon trading credits for the years 2010/11 and 2011/12 at an estimated sum of £600,000 and this will form part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The revenue raised from the sale of carbon allowances will be recycled back to participants in the CRC after a six-month period (October 2011) and trading of credits will commence after then. However, the amount of money paid back will vary depending on the performance of the organisation, as an incentive to cut emissions. Organisations that are ranked highly will receive a bonus payment and organisations ranked lower will receive a penalty. In year one the maximum bonus or penalty is 10% which means a potential risk of £60,000 to the council.
- 5.2 From 2013 the capped phase of the CRC will start with the Government capping the number of allowances available and the fixed quantity available will be auctioned. This will make the price variable and could result in significantly higher prices.

- 5.3 The council has an existing Carbon Management Programme reserve which was funded through £200,000 from the Carbon Trust and £200,000 council match funding. This reserve is able to investment in energy reduction measures and the savings generated are reinvested back into the Carbon Management Programme reserve to fund future initiatives. The fund currently stands at £309,000 although this can fluctuate depending upon demand and financial savings that are reinvested. Additional funding may also be required through the Capital Programme to meet any new capital investment associated with carbon reduction schemes and this will need to be addressed through the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 5.4 Additional resources may be required to fund the assisted certification costs and potential consultancy cost for pre-assessment and to continue to fund the Schools Management Officer.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen

Date: 29/09/09

Legal Implications:

- 5.5 As the report makes clear, the council's participation in the CRC – currently scheduled to start in April 2010 – will be a statutory requirement.
- 5.6 Details of the scheme will be set out in the Carbon Reduction Commitment Order 2010, made under Part 3 of the Climate Change Act 2008. A draft copy was issued in March 2009 for consultation (now closed).

Lawyer Consulted:

Oliver Dixon

Date: 08/09/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.7 None anticipated.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.8 Emissions trading is a tool for incentivising improved performance and enhancing sustainability.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.9 None anticipated.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.10 The inclusion of schools is problematic because of their quasi-independent status and finances. This is currently being mitigated through the work of a Schools Carbon Management Officer working to the Energy Manager, but this post only has funding for a year and a business case to continue this post needs to be developed and approved.

- 5.11 The introduction of internal carbon accounting might be practically difficult, with a potentially significant administrative burden, so this will need to be explored accordingly. It may also prove controversial and unpopular with some directors and senior managers as most of the measures now being introduced to cut emissions are led corporately by Property Services and only behaviour change (e.g. turning off lights and computers, reducing business mileage etc.) can be done directly by directorates.

Corporate / Citywide Implications

- 5.12 The council clearly wants to cut emissions fast and efficiently, but there are also reputational issues relating to where we appear in the league table of emissions. The council wants to lead by example, so it wants to start well. Private sector “competitors” in the league table, e.g. supermarkets, are investing very heavily in energy management, so will start higher up than councils.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The council has no option about whether or not to participate in the CRC.
- 6.2 A dummy trading scheme could be established rather than real internal carbon trading, to see what the implications of trading would be for directorates, and potentially to prepare them for full trading in the future. The council adopted this approach corporately by participating in the “Carbon Trading Councils” dummy carbon trading scheme last financial year and this helped to develop officers’ understanding of the processes and issues. However, this could also be resource intensive to introduce, but potentially without real emission reduction benefits.
- 6.3 Alternatively a pilot scheme could be introduced in one directorate or service area. This would still require some additional resourcing and the selection process might prove controversial.
- 6.4 The development of strong business cases for the appointment of an Energy Data Officer and for the Schools Carbon management Officer job to be made permanent would see this work better resourced.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 There are important, corporate implications of the CRC to the council: mandatory, fines for non compliance, initial costs, budget uncertainty and impacts, schools inclusion, reputation.
- 7.2 Councillor Janio has requested that officers investigate internal carbon trading mechanisms.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. The Carbon Reduction Commitment – a summary by the London Energy Project.
2. The Carbon Reduction Commitment – Timeline (Defra).

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background information

1. The CRC Network: <http://www.controlyourcarbon.co.uk/CRC/>
2. The CRC Toolkit and guide – devised for London Boroughs but available for use by the city council and useful: http://www.haringey.gov.uk/orange_crc_downloads

The Carbon Reduction Commitment – a summary by the London Energy Project

What is the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)?

The CRC is an obligatory emissions trading scheme covering non-energy intensive users in both public and private sectors, and is a central part of the UK's strategy to deliver the emission reduction targets set in the Climate Change Act 2008. The scheme will affect up to 6,000 organisations throughout the UK and is a mandatory cap and trade emissions scheme.

Who will be included in the CRC?

Initially the CRC will target organisations that use more than 6,000 MWh (6,000,000 kWh) of half-hourly metered electricity across their organisation in 2008.

All larger councils are expected to have a legal obligation to participate in the scheme and to take responsibility for state funded schools and academies. This means that all council operations are included, administrative offices, leisure centres, social care homes, etc. It also includes *landlord tenant relationships and may extend to certain PFI and joint ventures etc.

What will councils have to do in the scheme?

Once included, CRC participants must account for 90% of their emissions from half-hourly electricity and non-half-hourly electricity and natural gas. From April 2010 the council will be required to calculate all its energy use and purchase carbon allowances to cover emissions generated. These allowances are at a fixed price of £12 per tonne of CO₂ for the first three years and then through an auction.

Revenues from the sale or auction will be returned to participants in proportion to their performance (against others' performance) in reducing emissions from energy use, which determines their league table position. Known as a recycling payment, it will not be made until October of each year. This means that 6 months will exist between paying for an allowance and obtaining a recycling payment. If the council performs well, the money it gets back may exceed the cost of buying allowances, dependent on how others fare.

The CRC league table has been designed to assess every participating organisation on an equitable basis. It includes various metrics to account for size, growth or contraction of an organisation. The league table will be publicly available and it is widely expected that it will have PR value for some participants. Importantly, league table position will also determine a bonus or penalty factor applied to a participant's recycling payment. The aim being to reward a well performing organisation while penalising those with poor performance. The bonus or penalty payment, will start at ± 10% in Year One but rise to ± 50% by Year Five. Although these performance metrics are

fixed, the actual penalty and bonus can be greater or lower than these percentages.

Importantly councils will have responsibility for state-funded schools (including Academies). This means that a constructive dialogue for sharing data and reducing energy consumption in schools should take place, along with plans to purchase and recharge schools for the cost of carbon allowances.

Impact

The London Energy Project believes that most councils will be at the lower end of the league table, due to the difficulties of dealing with such a diverse portfolio, this is partly due to the age, nature and capital investment required. It should also be noted that schools' energy consumption is rising year on year with the increasing technology deployed. These factors may have a negative impact on councils' league table position particularly compared to organisations such as Tesco, who may have an aggressive carbon reduction programme.

There is also a cashflow burden and the cost of administration of the scheme, which is likely to include additional staffing, database solutions and increased liaison with stakeholders, such as schools and leaseholders, if social housing remains included in the scheme.

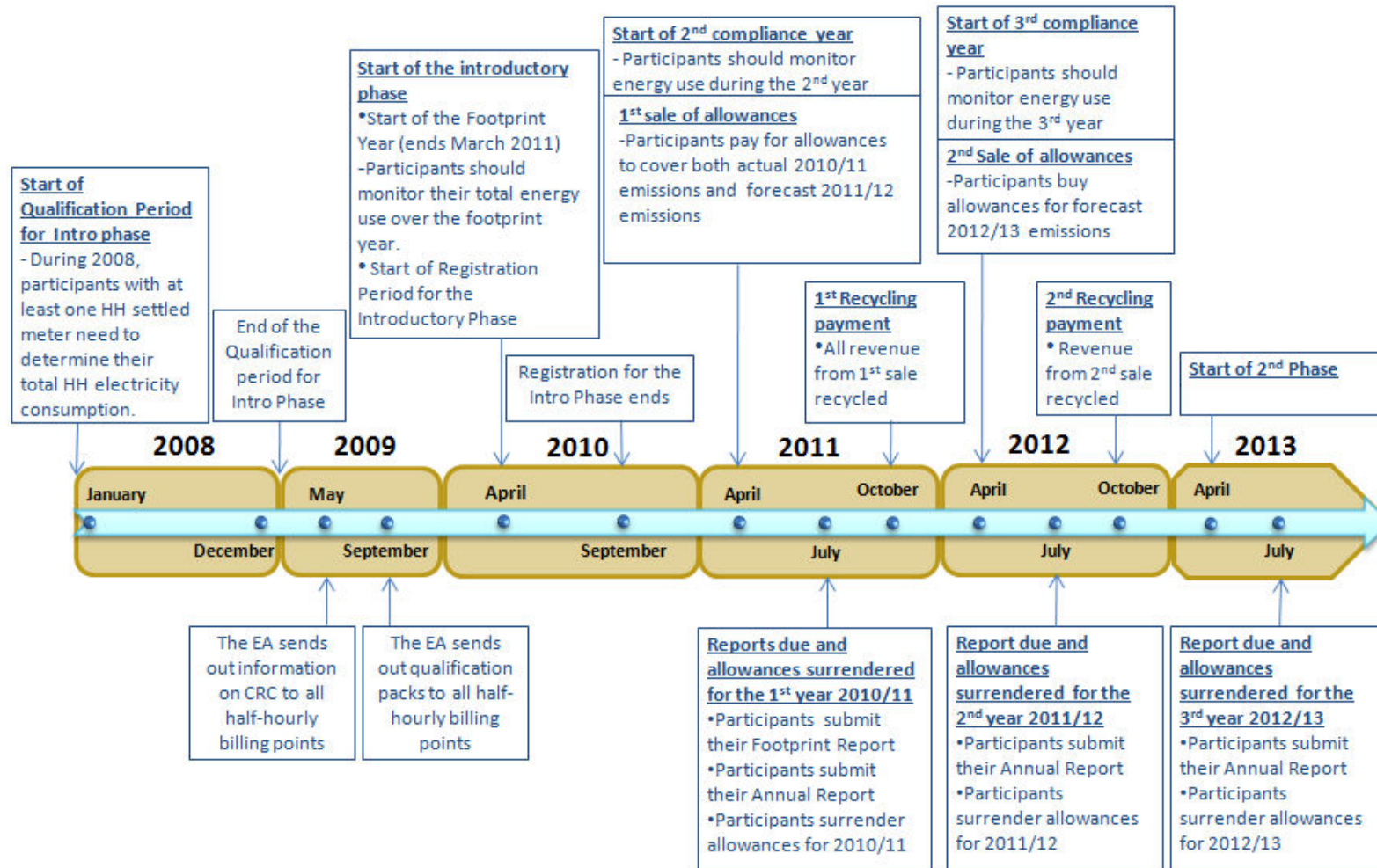
Cost of the Scheme

Councils will need to purchase their first allowances in April 2011, two years must be purchased in the first trading year. The Council will receive its first recycling payment in October 2011. The likely cost of double allowances for an average London borough in 2011 could be as much as £1 million**.

*(**This figure assumes expenditure of approximately £5 million but should be verified with council energy managers).*

It should be borne in mind that as final regulations are yet to be published, any detail referred to is subject to change without notice.

The Carbon Reduction Commitment – Timeline (Defra)



Subject:	Environmental Policy for Brighton & Hove City Council	
Date of Meeting:	13 October 2009	
Report of:	Director of Strategy & Governance	
Contact Officer:	Name: Mita Patel	Tel: 29-3332
	E-mail: mita.patel@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No	
Wards Affected:	All	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report outlines the rationale for development of a corporate Environmental Policy Statement (or Environmental Policy).
- 1.2 In February 2009 members approved the implementation of an Environmental Management System. Two pilot projects were selected for implementation in two different service areas – fleet and venues. An Environmental Policy is a required document for these and would also be a first step should the council move forward with implementing the Environmental Management System across the whole council once the pilots have been evaluated.
- 1.3 In submitting evidence to the Audit Commission for the council's Use of Resources assessment (Key Line of Enquiry 3.1) the council recently said it would adopt an Environmental Policy this autumn. So this forms a timely part of the evidence base.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Committee approves the Environmental Policy for the Council as at Appendix 1.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

The Corporate Plan and Value for Money

- 3.1 In line with its prioritisation of achieving efficiency and value for money in last year's Annual Report and in the Corporate Plan 2008-2011, the council highlighted its objective for achieving a status of 'performing well' in the Audit Commission's Use of Resources assessment, by 2011. As part of ensuring this, a more comprehensive environmental footprint profile will be needed for the Annual Report than is currently provided.

CAA and Use of Resources assessment

- 3.2 The CAA process through its Use of Resources (UoR) 2009 assessment sets new, stringent requirements for the council on its environmental management. In order to achieve an 'excellent' score the council would ultimately need to have a robust performance management strategy based on a good understanding of its use of all natural resources. Furthermore, the council needs to have systems and processes in place across its operations including:
- Proof that it has a strategic and managed approach to reducing the use of natural resources and its impact on the environment;
 - Evidence to illustrate which of its operations produce most carbon and is targeting these areas as a priority.
- 3.3 The initial feedback received in July from the recent Audit Commission after assessment under section 3.1 Use of Natural Resources was that we were likely to receive a score of 3 / 4: performing well/excellent in this area. They commented that there were "elements of notable practice and that the overall arrangements for sustainability are excellent and beyond that of most other authorities". We clearly need to ensure that we not only maintain but improve on this over the coming years.

Proposals for way forward

Environment Policy – Background

- 3.4 An Environmental Policy is 'a statement of the aims and principles of an organisation in relation to its overall environmental performance, including compliance with all relevant regulatory requirements and giving rise to the organisation's objectives and targets' [source: BS EN ISO 14001/EMAS].
- 3.5 An Environmental Policy draws together all strands of environmental work across all Directorates and acts as a cohesive document that will ensure corporate working toward the same outcomes under the same objectives.
- 3.6 The purpose of the Policy document is for setting a framework for delivering good environmental performance across the organisation. By nature it should be a brief and cover the most significant areas relating to the council's environmental performance.
- 3.7 As the Policy would be a public document, it would both communicate the Council's key environmental aims and objectives to the wider city and external partners, and also demonstrate to them our commitment to continued environmental performance.

Current progress

- 3.8 A draft Environmental Policy has been developed (see Appendix 1). This has been developed in wide consultation with officers from relevant teams and departments from across the organisation.

Desirable Outcomes

- A cohesive and co-ordinated approach to environmental work across all Directorates.
- A demonstrable and transparent commitment to minimising harmful affects from Council operations and service delivery.
- Demonstrating excellence in environmental management

Monitoring and Evaluation

- 3.9 The Environmental Policy will be reviewed, and if necessary updated, annually.

Next steps

- 3.10 Integrate the Environmental Policy within the new communications campaign on environmental sustainability for the council.
- 3.11 Publish the Environmental Policy and publicise it to the wider public.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Chief Executive, all Directors and officers from the following service areas and teams have been consulted: City Parks, City Services, Sustainable Transport, Housing Strategy, Property and Design, Chief Executives Policy Unit, Audit and Business Risk, Communications, Performance, Planning Strategy, and Corporate Procurement.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications of the recommendation of the report, but it is hoped that the adoption of an Environmental Policy and associated Environmental Management System will lead to savings in waste, water and energy costs.
- 5.2 It is important to note that although in some areas (eg fleet, street lighting) there would be a need for considerable outlay in order to upgrade existing products, such as vehicles and street lights, there are likely to be considerable savings made i.e. through an improved management of fleet and use of more energy efficient alternatives.
- 5.3 In respect of the costs of monitoring the Policy, these will be met within the existing budget allocation of the Policy Unit, and any detailed work arising from the Policy will need to be met within the resources allocated to relevant teams of the council.

Finance Officer Consulted: Peter Francis

Date: 08/09/09

Legal Implications:

- 5.4 The development and, more importantly, the implementation of an Environmental Policy Statement should assist the council in contributing to the mandatory carbon reduction commitment (CRC) provided for by the Climate Change Act 2008.
- 5.5 The CRC is intended to encourage large non-energy intensive users to promote their energy and carbon emissions management skills by introducing financial incentives and penalties. The scheme will cover the council and begins in April 2010.

Lawyer Consulted:

Oliver Dixon

Date: 24/08/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.6 A formal Environmental Policy Statement provides:
- access to the public of the council's commitment to improving its environmental performance and provides evidence of its environmental objectives;
 - a clear framework for active involvement of all council staff from all areas of the council in working to improve the council's environmental performance;
 - an opportunity to engage with the public in open dialogue about the environmental objectives of the council in all relevant service areas.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.7 A corporate Environmental Policy would provide written evidence of the council's commitment to ongoing environmental improvement and clearly identify the council's overall aims and objectives with respect to its environmental performance targets. Furthermore, an Environmental Policy is a required document for implementation of the council's two pilot Environmental Management System projects in both fleet and venues.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.8 None identified.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 5.9 A formal risk assessment will need to be undertaken to fully assess the key risks and opportunities involved for having a corporate Environmental Policy. The Corporate Risk Register already recognises Corporate Risk 17 "Investing in the City's Sustainable Future". The introduction of an Environmental Policy could contribute to progression of actions to address this Corporate Risk.
- 5.10 There is a reputational risk that critics will ask why the council hasn't adopted an environmental policy before. This is not a strong argument for not adopting one now.

- 5.11 There is a risk that the Policy may be used against the council in some policy areas. This is mitigated by phrases in the context like “whilst taking into account social and economic constraints”, “where appropriate” and “where possible”.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.12 Having a corporate Environmental Policy would demonstrate city council leadership through commitment to getting its own house in order and to achieving improving environmental performance, as well identify key corporate environmental objectives.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The alternative options for an Environmental Policy as outlined in this report include the following:
- (a) An Environmental Policy focusing only on the two pilot projects that have been selected for implementation of an Environmental Management System: Fleet and Venues.
 - This would only commit action and investment of resources to a limited part of the organisation and so is not a very tenable position for achieving our corporate ambitions for the Council as a whole.
 - (b) A longer, more thorough Environmental Policy Document that would provide detailed information on environmental performance in all service areas across the organisation.
 - This option would not follow the usual format for an environmental policy, which is an over-arching framework and set of principles. It would require a substantial amount more work to be undertaken that would not be possible by the Audit Commission’s deadline.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 A drive for efficiency and Value for Money coupled with new environmental performance requirements in the UoR assessment mean that a more comprehensive and accountable environmental management approach is required.
- 7.2 The approved implementation of a formal EMS requires development of an Environmental Policy. This is required for successfully achieving ISO 14001 certification in our pilot EMS projects.
- 7.3 An Environmental Policy is an important and necessary first step for ensuring we are getting our on house in order and leading by example.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Draft Environmental Policy for Brighton & Hove City Council

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Brighton & Hove City Council recognises that its operations and service delivery have effects on the environment at a local and global level. This Local Authority is committed to reducing those effects by managing its own environmental impacts, encouraging and supporting others to do the same, and continuously improving the environment for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors to Brighton and Hove.

This policy helps deliver the council's following Corporate Priorities:

- Protecting the environment while growing the economy
- Making better use of public money
- Implementing open and effective city leadership

Brighton & Hove City Council publicly affirms its commitment to achieving the following environmental aims:

Environmental Management:

Carry out regular reviews of departments, contractors and suppliers to increase environmental performance whilst taking into account social and economic constraints and complying with all relevant regulations and legislation. The council will endeavour to reduce pollution by reviewing current activities and seeking alternative methods. Environmental impacts will be managed and monitored responsibly through the development and implementation of an Environmental Management System to ISO14001 criteria.

sustainable methods of delivering goods and services in order to help reduce Brighton & Hove's greenhouse gas emissions as well as prepare services for the local impacts of climate change.

Procurement and Purchasing:

Increase sustainable procurement when purchasing goods and services for, and on behalf of the council, and improve supply chain management. Consider whole life costs of products and services. All aspects of procurement will be assessed to help reduce significant environmental impacts, whilst also maintaining a balance between social and economic needs of the wider community. This will include, where possible, procuring energy and other natural resources from renewable sources, and procuring Fairtrade products where possible.

Energy, Natural Resources and Climate Change:

In order to support and improve upon the aims of government targets and locally set objectives, the council will promote resource efficiency, including; water, fuel and energy, and implement targets for the reduction of these resources. This will incorporate the introduction of energy efficient design, technologies and management measures and where appropriate, installation of renewable energy systems. We will seek more

Waste Management: Promote waste prevention and disposal, by reducing the amount of waste produced; recycling & composting; where appropriate, reuse materials and continue to take responsibility towards a more sustainable management of waste produced by

the organisation. Work with businesses and suppliers to do the same.

Transport and the Built

Environment: Ensure that sustainable development principles will be integral in implemented for the design and build of all future developments, including renovations, conversions and use of buildings. Reduce emissions from transport by improving the performance of our vehicle fleet and promoting the use of low-emission vehicles, supporting public transport and providing appropriate facilities and tools to encourage healthy and sustainable travel modes.

Biodiversity: By managing our assets and influencing others we will conserve and enhance Brighton & Hove's biodiversity. We will work to improve the biodiversity of all our land and property particularly our open spaces and local wildlife sites, promote natural habitats in urban development, on our downland and in the marine environment, working in partnership to serve the local community so that nature is accessible to all.

Environmental Awareness:

Support residents, schools, businesses, visitors and partner organisations to help improve the quality of the local environment by ensuring that they are aware, trained and understand this Policy and ensure the commitments are met. Improve performance of pollution prevention measures, and encourage partners to adopt sustainable practices.

This Policy was approved by:

(Signed)	(Signed)
(Print Name)	(Print Name)
Chief Executive	Leader

Climate Change Adaptation Scrutiny Panel Scoping Meeting Notes 27 July 2009.

Present:

Cllr Tony Janio (TJ), Cllr Vicky Wakefield-Jarrett (VWJ), Prof Gordon MacKerron (GMK)

Also in attendance: Thurstan Crockett (TC), Tom Hook (TH)

Apologies

Cllr Gill Mitchell (GM)

Election of Chair

GMK was nominated and duly elected as Chair.

GMK briefly introduced himself. He is currently Economic Advisor to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution which is undertaking a major piece of work on climate change adaptation. He is also Director of the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex and former director of the Sussex Energy Group.

Focus of the Panel

It was agreed:

- Focus is firmly on adaptation, not mitigation. However the panel should pick up on the relationship between the two because some adaptation measures can have negative mitigation repercussions (e.g. air conditioning).
- Criticism may also be forthcoming that by addressing adaptation the Council is 'giving-up' on mitigation. It needs to be clearly communicated that this isn't the case.
- Whilst the UKCP09 has the most up-to-date projections of climate change available they are still based on assumptions that contain a wide margin of uncertainty and as such it is hard to accurately predict what will actually happen.
- As such recommendations may end up only being implemented if specific events occur.
- The Panel should be aiming for a limited number of key/well targeted recommendations.
- Recommendations should focus on improved working practice/processes rather than major new investment projects.
- Adaptation will be an ongoing process. The panel's job is to ensure the Council and partner bodies have the plans and processes in place to respond to this.
- In relation to this the panel needs to decide how best to monitor implementation of the recommendations and progress to reaching level 4 of NI188.

- The panel needs to look at work relating to adaptation in the round, not just as it is occurring within the Council. This will involve talking to LSP partners.
- The focus should be on B&H but account will need to be taken of the actions and plans of neighbouring authorities.
- Where opportunities/benefits of climate change exist these should be highlighted.
- Meetings will be held in public and it may be necessary to create some press interest in order to encourage attendance.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were agreed as:

- 1) To gain an understanding of the climate change threats and opportunities facing Brighton and Hove and the impact these will have
- 2) To review the current preparedness of Brighton and Hove City Council and its partners to adapt to the consequences of a changing local climate
- 3) To identify through a gap analysis risks that need to be addressed through improved adaptation planning
- 4) To develop a timetable for this work to be undertaken
- 5) To consider the best means through which to monitor progress made in reaching level 4 of NI 188

Timeline of meetings and witnesses

- Meetings should be themed, with witnesses grouped together.
- Written evidence should be sought from a wider range of witnesses than are invited to give evidence to the panel.
- Should aim for relatively few but senior witnesses.

Meeting 1 – Developing an understanding of the issues

Witnesses to be invited from:

- UKCIP – Chris West, Director
- Climate South East – Graham Tubb
- Association of UK Insurers
- Environment Agency – Chris Wick
- Utilities – Southern Water/EDF

Meeting 2 and 3 – Where are we now?

Meeting 2

- Housing/Adult Social Care – Joy Hollister (Director)
- Environment/Community Safety – Jenny Rowlands (Director)

- Health – Tom Scanlon
- Fire Authority – ACFO Gary Ferrand
- Police

Meeting 3

- Council buildings – Angela Dymott
- Planning – Martin Randall/Rob Fraser
- Community and Voluntary Sector – CVSF
- Economy/Tourism – Tony Mernagh/Scott Marshall/Paula Murray/Adam Bates

Meeting 4 – Where does the Council need to be?

- Kent County Council – Caroline Mackenzie
- East Sussex County Council
- Oxfordshire County Council – Susie Ohlenschlager
- Tony Whitbread, Sussex Wildlife Trust
- Climate change motivated migration – University of Sussex

Meeting Dates

It was agreed to leave gaps on a month between meetings 1 and 2, and then again between meetings 3 and 4.

- Meeting 1 – September: 8th from 3:00, 9th, 11th
- Meeting 2 – October: 9th from 3:00, 7th
- Meeting 3 – October: 20/21
- Meeting 4 – November: TBC

Evidence Gathering

An extended list of witnesses will be written to with the attached questionnaire.

Actions:

- Confirm provisional dates with GM – TH
- Brief GMK on Scrutiny – TH
- Compile list of witnesses – TC/TH
- Invite witnesses and confirm final dates – TH
- Compile questionnaire/letter – TH/TC
- Book venues/catering – TH
- Draft press release – TH

City Sustainability Partnership Meeting - Monday 18th May 2009

Jury's Inn, 101 Stroudley Road, Brighton

Public Services:

Councillor Paul Steedman
Councillor David Watkins
Councillor Tony Janio
Councillor Ayas Fallon-Khan
Alison Hadfield, Eco Schools
Stuart Laing, University of Brighton – **Chair**

Business

Lorraine Bell – Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce

Community and Voluntary Sector

Chris Todd, Friends of the Earth – **Vice Chair**
Vic Else - Brighton & Hove Food Partnership
Angela Marlow – Brighton & Hove Wildlife Advisory Group
Phil Belden - South Downs Joint Committee
Jacqui Cuff – Transition Brighton & Hove
Mike Creedy – Brighton Peace & Environment Centre

Agencies

Chris Wick – Environment Agency

Council Officers

Mita Patel - Sustainability Co-ordinator

Partnership manager

Thurstan Crockett - Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy

Meeting notes

Sarah Costelloe - Administrator, Sustainability

1. Apologies

- 1.1 Gill Mitchell, Thea Allison, Sharon Philips and Jan Jackson send apologies.
- 1.2 New member Cllr Tony Janio, replacing Cllr Denise Cobb as member with responsibility for Sustainability.
- 1.3 Observer - Cllr Ayas Fallon-Khan.

Action - Partnership will elect a new co-chair at the next meeting.

2. Notes/Actions from previous meeting

- 2.1 LAA target paper has been circulated electronically.
- 2.2 Details of future social meeting will be circulated.
- 2.3 Chris Todd and Phil Belden report some progress regarding National Park boundaries and will keep partnership updated.
- 2.4 Sustainable Community Strategy will be ready for consultation June/July.

- 2.5 Vic Else & Mike Creedy are on the panel that will consider the 18 eligible projects submitted under Sustainable Communities Act. They report a good range of projects and are happy to brief the partnership on the forthcoming public process at a later meeting.
- 2.6 The issue of Peak Oil, raised by Cllr Steedman in the previous meeting, cannot be given justice here but will be returned to in a future meeting.
- 2.7 The Sustainability Conference, now that the theme of 'the sea' has been confirmed, should be raised at a future meeting.
- 2.8 **WAG report - actions? item 5 review**

3. Harvest presentation

- 3.1 Vic Else, from Food Partnership, gave a presentation on the successful Harvest lottery bid and current plans for implementation.
- 3.2 **[Summary]** Major launch in September, withholding of information until then.
- 3.3 Lorraine Bell raised the issue of retailer/business access to locally produced food, which has often proved more expensive and therefore not a viable option, particularly in current financial climate. Vic is keen to explore this, and will work with Lorraine to identify appropriate fora for this discussion.
- 3.4 Phil Belden put forward the farm perspective, asking how broad the approach will be and if there will be links to businesses and communities beyond the urban, in the greater South Downs area. Vic explained that the Food Partnership regards it as crucial to work with neighbouring farms.
- 3.5 Marie Harder suggested links to International Biodiversity Year and highlighted research to identify contaminated sites near roads which may present further funding opportunities, and that she would be willing to explore with Food Partnership.
- 3.6 Cllr Steedman asked about communication strategy - will Food Partnership be using tools such as the Channel 4 landshare to tell people about the project?
- 3.7 Cllr David Watkins expressed a feeling of déjà vu and suggested the timing is right for such a project, citing the emphasis on food growing at this year's Chelsea Flower Show as evidence for this.
- 3.8 Cllr Tony Janio raised the possibility that the project may lead to mini-mass production on allotments but was reassured that allotment regulations prevent this. Vic emphasised that if this kind of production were to occur outside allotments, it would be a welcome development if produce were supplying local markets.
- 3.9 Angela Marlow highlighted useful links between aims of food Partnership and mapping work undertaken by Brighton & Hove Wildlife Advisory Group.

4. LAA round table

- 4.1 Most areas in the third quarter Local Area Assessment are amber or green. Some areas in environment section do not have baseline targets established yet. Per capita CO² (p.22-23) is red. This can partly be explained by a 2 year lag in data. 2005-6 emissions remained static against a target 4% reduction. The Audit Commission will be asking if this was achieved in 2008 and, if not, what measures are being taken to address the situation. Is there a sense that the city is moving towards achieving this?

- 4.2 £100k from LSP has been allocated to CSP between now and March '11 towards work focusing on emissions reduction. Some of this could be used to produce an evaluation of where we are now, within the partnership and the LSP, but it is up to the partnership to decide how this money is allocated.
- 4.3 The biggest rise in emissions during 2005-6 were in the business sector, with a slight but relatively low increase in vehicle emissions and a similarly slight increase in emissions from domestic gas and electricity sources. The business sector is an obvious area to target and there is business community interest despite the need to focus on other priorities. Lorraine suggested that while funding may be available to businesses, this isn't seen as a priority. The majority of businesses in the city are SME, making a lot of support inaccessible as it is only available to larger companies. Could the Business Rates team offer lower rates as an incentive for carbon reduction? There are also clear opportunities to work with business support organisations around training and education. There is evidence that peer education delivers strong effects compared to cash incentives, builds capacity and may attract match funding.
- 4.4 Some work around reducing carbon emissions may already have been done via the One Planet Living Plan for Brighton & Hove. This has been produced in draft form and will be finalised after consultation with the new sustainability lead member although there is not yet a clear date for this process to be completed.
- 4.5 Climate and tourism were discussed as factors affecting previous performance. There was also some discussion about the length and scope of potential evaluation work as well as the sufficiency of £100k to achieve targets. Ultimately, although fund may not be enough to achieve aims, asking businesses 'what are you doing?' to cut emissions is still a good idea, presenting value for money opportunities.
- 4.6 There is a need not to lose sight of long term goals, (e.g. 80% reduction in...), to use the opportunity to deliver a long term strategy and to avoid audit targets dictating this. Opportunities to find match funding and work with other organisations doing similar work, such as local sustainable business partnerships, should also be explored. Relating tough targets to the economy is an opportunity to get ahead; the reputation of Brighton & Hove for innovation suggests we are well placed to pick up and lead on the green technology agenda.
- 4.7 There is a need to avoid inadvertently setting other long-term problems in motion and to encourage joined up thinking, for example between planning and transport teams, to avoid ramifications such as the subsidy of car use represented by plans for 950 car parking spaces in London Road. By focusing on one thing, there is always a danger of not for-seeing other consequences. It may be that future resolutions and decisions taken by the partnership should be taken with a clear rider that they should not produce adverse consequences.
- 4.8 As we are unable to determine where main priorities for reducing emissions lie, if audit study can be completed by the end of the summer, this could be a good use of funds. It can be taken to the LSP with a duty to cooperate, the Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce can organise an SME survey, with the help of Peter Jenkins. An enquiry into the potential for environmental industries in Brighton & Hove is well underway and will soon produce a strong

sense of action priorities in this area. Thurstan can work with LSP manager to set up early July workshop and draft results by September's CSP meeting. A timeline for OPL draft was requested, as well as a brief guide to the audit process.

Action -

5. Review of previous CSP meetings

- 5.1 Partnership members were invited to share their thoughts about how well they felt the partnership was established and how they would like to see it develop.
- 5.2 The group considered the focus and role of the partnership; as a vehicle for the delivery of shared ambitions under the Sustainable Communities Strategy, as a body with the legitimacy to shape strategy and act as champion to apply moral pressure on council, as an opportunity to meet partners outside the council and build work in other organisations as well as getting the council to do the decent thing.
- 5.3 There is a need to know what the partnership has authority to do, what its teeth are. Without power/authority what is the difference between a council committee and the CSP?
- 5.4 Members felt that work carried out in sub-groups, taking something back to wider partnership, has been satisfying, although meetings seem infrequent. Resourcing sub-groups would be a fruitful use of any additional resources available. Although Thurstan's presence at these meetings is valuable it may not always be necessary.
- 5.5 Knowledge being power, the partnership has the potential to help the council increase knowledge base if resources are limited, or to act as conscience for the council, but there is a need to establish what the pressures are and what can be undertaken. There is also the need to consider the core process, knowledge and documents that should be shared by all partnership members whilst recognising that no-one really knows what 'sustainability' is yet and leaving room for evolution.
- 5.6 Terms of reference give the partnership mandate to *lead* (on OPL, Climate Change Plan), *direct* and *monitor*. Partnership can affect strategy by championing local and national priorities and has as much power as it chooses to exert.
- 5.7 The need for targets & specific outcomes to work towards was discussed. One of the reasons for the success of the sub-groups was specific outcomes. A possible approach may be to focus on one area of terms of reference at a time, eg have we got the right people at the table? This question is difficult to answer without setting specific outcomes.
- 5.8 Consultations are beginning to stack up: delays in timeframe will strain resources and sub-groups will be needed to draft meaningful responses. Stuart suggested a 45 minute full meeting followed by 45 minutes on sub-work could be more effective.
- 5.9 A semblance of an action plan exists in the form of these consultation dates. Once OPL plan and Climate Change Strategy work is completed an overview of what the partnership needs to work on will emerge.
- 5.10 Lorraine raised the idea of using technology (podcasts, social networking sites etc) to discuss ideas before meetings.

- 5.11 Jacqui highlighted the need to focus on proactive as well as reactive work, suggesting the setting up of a proactive/championing subgroup.
- 5.12 Partnership is now moving into a focused phase, with actions focusing on clear targets and Terms of Reference.

Action -

6. Any other business

- 6.1 Possible venue for future meetings was discussed in the context of resourcing issues. PSB & LSP both meet in Jury's Inn - is this being co-ordinated to maximise discount? Has the USP/ marketing advantage of the partnership meeting at the hotel been fully exploited? General agreement that it may be appropriate to look for more inexpensive venue.
Action - TC to look into alternative venue. Partnership members to forward suggestions.
- 6.2 Sustainability Team is clearly struggling to manage the partnership and there was some concern expressed about whether or not efficiency savings will be enough. Some of £100k should be used to support dedicated admin time. Some discussion took place about the feasibility of attracting sponsorship or other match funding but the partnership may not be a strong sponsorship option. Some clarity needed about how restricted this money is but, if possible, general agreement and support for use of money to provide admin support.

City Sustainability Partnership Meeting – Monday 29th June 2009

Suite 1, Jury's Inn, 101 Stroudley Road, Brighton

Public Services:

Councillor Paul Steedman
Councillor Gill Mitchell
Prof. Stuart Laing, University of Brighton – **Chair**
Alison Hadfield, Eco Schools

Business:

Thea Allison, Brighton & Hove Business Community Partnership

Community and Voluntary Sector:

Chris Todd, Friends of the Earth – **Vice Chair**
Angela Marlow, Brighton & Hove Wildlife Advisory Group
Jacqui Cuff, Transition Brighton & Hove
Vic Else, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

Government Agencies:

Chris Wick, Environment Agency
Phil Belden, South Downs Joint Committee

Council Officers:

Francesca Iliffe, Sustainability Officer, BHCC
Helen Pennington, Sustainability Appraisal Officer, BHCC
Jan Jonker, Head of Strategy, City Clean
Liz Hobden, Local Development Team Manager, BHCC
Mita Patel – Sustainability Co-ordinator, BHCC
Richard Butcher Tuset – Acting Head of Policy, BHCC
Simon Newell, Head of Partnerships & External Relations

Meeting notes

Mel North – Senior Support Officer, Policy Unit, BHCC

1. Apologies

1.1 Cllr David Watkins, Jan Jackson, Lorraine Bell, Thurstan Crockett, Michael Creedy.

2. Notes/Actions from previous meeting

- 2.1 There were no amendments to the minutes.
- 2.2 Election of co-chair was deferred to the next meeting due to Thurstan Crockett's absence.
- 2.3 The WAG Update is also deferred, as the WAG is not now meeting until September.

3. Climate Change Self Assessment

- 3.1 Simon Newell introduced this item in Thurstan Crockett's absence. He noted that this self assessment process isn't a statutory requirement but is considered to be good practice for areas to undertake (normally at instigation of LSP) to understand progress and outstanding challenges related to how areas will be affected by climate change.
- 3.2 The LSP had planned to hold a half-day workshop on this subject before the summer holidays but this didn't seem likely now. Following discussion with the Chair and Chris Todd it was decided to take it instead to the next LSP meeting on 1st October. Work would then take place to ensure that a half-day workshop involving key players was held before Christmas.
- 3.3 Gill Mitchell reported that the Overview & Scrutiny Commission (OSC) has set up a scrutiny panel to look at adaptation and mitigation with a view to fulfilling the Council's statutory responsibilities within 3-yrs, to prove that we have reviewed Council policies in relation to climate change. She noted specific challenges around this being a tourism-focused City. The first meeting of this panel will take place later this month.
- 3.4 Paul Steedman was concerned about the timeline around this and highlighted the discussion around the One Planet Living Plan at last meeting. He was concerned about work being lost and the relationship between the One Planet Living Plan and this evaluation; whether there was clarity in the relationship. He asked if the self assessment would delay the One Planet Living Plan. Phil Belden concurred and said that the mood of the last meeting had been around wanting to progress the One Planet Living Plan. He felt it was important to keep the delivery side on track in light of various strategies/self assessments, etc. He thought it was important to understand the relationship with OSC, climate change strategy, see how it all fits together.
- 3.5 The Chair felt there were three ways forward:
 - 1) For the CSP to act as a prompt for Council bodies in statutory frame.
 - 2) The CSP brings together various bodies; can we bring other organisations into play?
 - 3) As a group we have limited means to deliver these ourselves. Organisations may be wondering about their responsibilities and how that fit in to an area.
- 3.6 The Chair asked councillors what they would expect to happen. Gill Mitchell noted that regarding the OSC ad-hoc panel on adaptations to climate change, there was a requirement on all local authorities to undertake this piece of work with BHCC being a couple of years behind on this. A review of all policies had to take place to ensure changes in the earth's climate were being taken into account. This has to review that policies aren't making it worse locally and that planning takes into account things like increased rainfall and rising sea levels. It is focused on Council delivery and policy. This is a 'start and finish' piece of work, which will be sent to Government and then sent back for refining. In terms of a role for the CSP in this process, she said hope to bring scoping and criteria for ad-hoc panel to the CSP. There is a need to pull

together all the bits of work including the carbon reduction programme to see where each one has got to.

- 3.7 Paul Steedman noted that the CSP does have ownership of the One Planet Living Plan and if some of the hold-up on this is mired in Council hold-ups the role of the CSP is to help push this forward. In providing a useful evidence base and as another way of checking how sane the policies are that the Council draws up, the One Planet Living Plan provides useful pointers of where we should be. He felt it would be a failure of the partnership if this gets lost. The Chair agreed that it would be useful to bring back the One Planet Living Plan to the CSP in co-ordination with the OSC ad-hoc panel work.
- 3.8 Chris Todd hoped the self assessment would draw together what the Council was doing, and then we can then draw in the One Planet Living Plan and put a focus on it. The next CSP meeting on 7th Sept is around a month before the next full LSP meeting; it would be better to take this to a full LSP board meeting rather than a Development morning, as there would be a much higher turnout. He thought it would be useful for the CSP chairs to confer with Thurstan Crockett and try and draw a picture together of what all the elements are. **ACTION: Chairs/Thurstan Crockett**
- 3.9 Simon Newell noted that approx 2-years ago some work was done around mitigation and adaptation, which included involvement with the Police, PCT, etc, so there is a solid basis of evidence which might be useful for the OSC ad-hoc panel. It was agreed that this would be useful information and perhaps organisations should be asked what they have delivered.

4. Waste Strategy – Jan Jonker, *Head of Strategy, City Clean*

- 4.1 Jan Jonker gave a presentation on the Municipal Waste Management Strategy Consultation (MWMSC).
- 4.2 With regard to the powers that Trading Standards have regarding over-packaged goods, Jan said it has to be proved that something is overpackaged and that it is not a necessity, so a test case would have to be brought, as this is difficult to prove. Paul Steedman commended the overpackaging aspect of the draft and felt that making a test case on European laws would put us ahead as a leader in this field.
- 4.3 Phil Belden questioned whether the Council as a major employer pays for waste to be removed. He suggested incentivising departments to recycle more. Jan said that recycling within Council buildings is done by contractors, with the contract set up to encourage recycling; this cost is met centrally. Schools have their own budget so they pay for it individually.
- 4.4 Gill Mitchell asked if divided communal bins, one side for refuse, one side for recycling, had been considered. She noted this would also take up less road space. Jan said different types of bins had been looked at but that split bins were quite difficult; if you don't get the partition right it can be problematic. This will continue to be looked into though.
- 4.5 Phil Belden asked whether communal bins reduced people's willingness to recycle. Jan said there was not reliable data on what effect the communal bins have had on recycling, but noted that the black bag

- system also didn't necessarily encourage recycling. He noted though that City centre recycling rates were still quite poor.
- 4.6 Jan noted that food waste accounts for 35% of what is thrown away; there is a specific campaign in the action plan to reduce food wastage. The consultation deadline might be extended past 7th August.
- 4.7 Paul Steedman had concerns around targets, in that by focusing on achievability and deliverability the strategy is less ambitious than it might be. On the issue of food waste we haven't looked through detail about the lifecycle analysis and would be interested to know about assumptions in there. Does it assume anaerobic digestion? Jan said it did, as well as home composting and energy recovery? Paul Steedman said that if it tentatively suggests that food waste with energy recovery is the best option, are we not thinking of doing food waste collections? Jan said it is a model but that more work and more testing needed to be done on it.
- 4.8 Vic Else noted that if 35% of waste was food waste then that was a real problem and where the effort should be. She felt that now would be a good time to address this as people were watching their spending. The Chair agreed but said that this is not something that waste strategists could solve; there were bigger issues around overall consumption.
- 4.9 Chris Wick was concerned around the effort on waste minimisation; that there were only 3 bullet points dedicated to this issue. Jan said they wanted to do a lot more work around food waste and noted that general waste minimisation it is the hardest thing to tackle, with a statutory requirement to collect what householders produce.
- 4.10 Paul Steedman asked if there was any intention to engage (possibly via the CSP) with big businesses around the issue of reducing packaging. Jan said this was a difficult thing to do and no detailed proposals had been included in the strategy. This would have to be done with partners.
- 4.11 Paul Steedman suggested a small sub-group be convened to draft a response to the consultation on behalf of the CSP. Jan said that there could be an extension to the consultation deadline by a couple of weeks. *(See point 4.25)*
- 4.12 Gill Mitchell suggested that as a partnership further drilling down could be done on the issue of food waste, particularly with it accounting for 35% of waste. She asked if the Lifecycle Analysis could be brought back to a meeting.
- 4.13 Gill Mitchell asked if tonnage payments for landfill and fines for overuse of landfill applied to trade and hospital waste. Jan said this was not a level playing field. Local Authorities have to comply and reduce biodegradable waste year-on-year; there is a need to compost and recycle or incinerate biodegradable waste. Fines don't apply to the private sector; they pay a landfill tax but there is no threat of fines if they landfill biodegradable waste. It is a grey area around hospitals, language schools, etc. DEFRA have acknowledged that and are looking into it.
- 4.14 Chris Todd said that with regard to targets on reducing overall amounts of waste per person aiming to be reduced by around 12% if the amount had been a lot higher he could understand percentages being lower. He said there was a need to cut organic kitchen waste by 50% - to be ambitious. Recycling rates would then go up anyway; this in turn would

then make recycling rate less ambitious. There's a lot more we should be doing and should be aiming for higher recycling rate. Would like to see targets going both ways.

- 4.15 Chris Todd asked with regard to poor recycling take-up in the City centre, whether City Clean worked with estate agencies to get people on board when they move into properties. There was a need to work with other sectors. Jan said they have worked with estate agents in the past and a mailing had just been done to private landlords in the City.
- 4.16 Chris Todd said he had raised at the last LSP meeting the idea of promoting the recycled market to boost use of recycled products and increase recycling. We could be delivering that message alongside other messages we are delivering.
- 4.17 A member of the public asked which landfill sites the Council is considering using. Jan said there is no facility in the City. Chris Wick said he thought most waste was going to Horton.
- 4.18 Phil Belden agreed that more ambitious targets were needed. Because this is long term that is another reason we should be ambitious rather than the vagaries of political targets.
- 4.19 Chris Wick wondered how compatible this strategy is with the One Planet Living Plan (which might indicate that this is incompatible).
- 4.20 Francesca Iliffe, Sustainability Officer, BHCC asked about community composting; she noted that members of the Sustainability Commission did look several years ago at one initiative in Hackney. There are problems with this as you need members of the community/caretakers to stay involved. However, it helps reduce food waste, brings communities together, and stops waste rotting in bin stores, which attract vermin. She wondered if this could be trailed on estates. Jan said this hasn't been looked at in depth as options are needed that can be rolled out on a large scale; there needs to be the right community and circumstances.
- 4.21 Gill Mitchell noted the huge increase in recycling from 2003 over the last 4-years and the forced behaviour change with the introduction of wheelie bins and availability of lots of recycling boxes. Now we have reached a plateau, another set of behaviour change has to be forced. This is where politics come in; will the Administration upset people in order to bring this in. She asked if there were any details about areas of the City where most food is thrown away. Jan said that some work had been done on this.
- 4.22 Marie Harder said that community groups want to be involved; there is a desire for behaviour change in the City and there is a need for the CSP to bring this together. She noted that the economic recession would probably result in less food waste anyway. She noted also that energy cannot be obtained from wet waste.
- 4.23 Richard Scott (member of the public) acknowledged Francesca's earlier point. Aspect that a lot of beneficial employment and training was provided. We have a lot of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS) in the City. Composting around council estates was used to improve gardens so people participating in work training gradually became trained as municipal gardeners. It was a great initiative.

- 4.24 The Chair said there was potentially enough interest in seeing if CSP members would be prepared to come to a sub-group meeting to draft a response from the CSP. He suggested sending names to Mita Patel in the Council's Sustainability Team by the end of the week. Jan would advise how much of an extension could be given pass the 7th August consultation deadline. The Chair also noted that people could perhaps email in with points for drafting up a response. The issue of food waste and its associated issues could lever some other things. Mita would email all CSP members, as a number of people were absent today. Jan would email Mita the Lifecycle Analysis Report. **ACTION: Mita Patel/Jan Jonker/ALL**
- 4.25 Vic Else noted that a review of food waste strategy was also being undertaken so that will link back into waste strategy discussions.
- 5. Core Strategy Consultation – Liz Hobden, LDF Team Manager, Local Development Team Manager, BHCC & Helen Pennington, Sustainability Appraisal Officer, BHCC**
- 5.1 Liz Hobden gave a presentation on the LDF and Core Strategy update. She noted that a sustainability appraisal had been carried out on the 8 revised policies.
- 5.2 Jacqui Cuff asked for info on the main findings of the sustainability appraisal on policies rather than the core revised document. The Chair noted that housing, transport and the urban fringe might be areas to comment on. Liz Hobden said that a summary of this would be made available for the CSP. **ACTION: Liz Hobden**
- 5.3 Chris Todd noted that with regard to the overall document there had been concern previously about a lot of duplication between policies for each development area. He said it would be better to have a set of strategic overarching policies for all areas and then the site specific policies would be shorter and more focussed. Liz Hobden said that hopefully this document will have a very different feel to the last one. It was clearer about sites that will be identified for development and that these policies were now more focused and a lot more specific.
- 5.4 Chris Todd also expressed concern that park & ride would not deliver city centre benefits in terms of reduced traffic congestion unless measures were taken to deter cars from entering the city centre, such as removing car parking. Liz Hobden hoped that the whole plan did come across as joined-up. A loss of employment space at Preston Road would be replaced elsewhere in the City; with more employment in more central locations. A study on employment land has been done. She noted Chris's concerns about Park & Ride.
- 5.5 Gill Mitchell noted the use of the urban fringe as a contingency (from 2020 could be considered for housing if city is not reaching its housing targets as these numbers of houses are being reduced all the time). She noted for example that Cabinet had made a decision to reduce housing from 10k to 6k at Shoreham Harbour. Housing is being refused on brownfield and windfall sites and being forced onto urban fringe because numbers are not stacking up. Approvals are not being made. Have always met housing targets up to now. Liz Hobden noted the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), which sets out sites

where we think housing will be delivered, to demonstrate that we can meet housing targets. Windfall allowances are sites we aren't able to allocate. Very modest allowance. Confident that we can meet housing targets. Need to monitor and update the SHLAA. It was prudent to have urban fringe as a contingency.

- 5.6 Gill Mitchell felt there was a lack of a clear transport policy. She was disappointed that the Local Authority was stepping back from a capital transport scheme as there was a need to try for all available money in the City. She was disappointed that there wasn't a clearer shape around this. Liz Hobden said the whole plan is based on sustainable transport.
- 5.7 Paul Steedman asked about the relationship between this and other key documents, e.g., the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy. He asked how the changes that are sure to come through that refreshed strategy would be reflected. With One Planet Living Plan the opportunities for this plan to reflect some of those things may be adopted or not fit with that timescale. Will we end up with core strategy that doesn't reflect policies in other strategies because of timings? Liz Hobden said that there is a Partnerships Sub-Group and work is being undertaken to ensure there will be consistency between the Core Strategy and the Sustainability Community Strategy refresh, and that work is ongoing with the Partnerships & External Relations Team. She confirmed there was a sustainable building policy within the Core Strategy. This has not significantly changed but will include targets for sustainability in new development.
- 5.8 Phil Belden said there was concern about what is happening to the urban fringe, but that comments were needed by mid-August, even though some things won't have happened or been resolved by that date. There would be some major bits missing.
- 5.9 A member of the public asked about plans for nature conservation. Liz said that with this document they will be publishing a number of studies, including the Green Network Study and Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study which have been finalised and will go to Environment Cabinet Members Meeting at the end of July. The studies will be available from end of the week. Liz also confirmed the council is consulting on the Nature Conservation SPD which is due to be adopted in the autumn.
- 5.10 Jacqui Cuff asked about the implication on affordable housing quotas for mixed use developments. Liz replied that this is up to 40%.
- 5.11 Gill Mitchell, with regard to a green infrastructure network and the need for one, asked if the Valley Gardens project had been removed from the Core Strategy. Gill Mitchell said that with regards to a test of soundness where you have to demonstrate that policies are backed up by finance, the money for the Valley Gardens scheme would fail as funding has been removed. Liz said that it is intended to retain the Valley Gardens policy in the Core Strategy however there will be a change in emphasis towards regeneration of the area.
- 5.12 In response to a question from Chris Wick, Liz confirmed that all new properties will have the highest standards in terms of energy efficiency and that there is a checklist for what developers have to submit.

- 5.13 Chris Wick said that with regards to windfall sites this seems to consist of people building in back gardens, etc, which affects wildlife habitation. He asked what controls were in place for this. Liz confirmed that this was a concern as it changes the character of areas. It is hoped that this would be tackled through the Sustainable Neighbourhoods policy and informed by the Urban Characterisation Study.
- 5.14 Richard Scott (member of the public) said he would like the CSP to get to grips with 'right-sizing' and that there has to be recognition of an optimum population size and correct employment mix, etc. Theoretically the LSP should join everything together.
- 5.15 Chris Todd was concerned about the Valley Gardens scheme; and felt that it had to deliver a lot more than be seen as a tourist-focused scheme as it is a major transport corridor and has to work for local people in terms of air quality and the environmental quality of the area.
- 5.16 Chris Todd expressed concern about the transport impact of new development. We are already 'red-lighting' on CO2 emissions targets so any new development would be adding to that and make it harder to achieve the necessary reductions. We need to be promoting car free developments and he asked whether these were being planned. He also felt that it might not be enough for the CSP to just be given a non-technical summary of the sustainability impact report; he felt access was needed to the full appraisal.
- 5.17 The Chair said that this was something that the CSP would want to return to and take a view on. He noted the impact of macro and micro politics on this.
- 5.18 Liz Hobden emphasised that this was the last chance to get amendments to the document.

6. WAG Update

- 6.1 Deferred (see Item 2.3)

7. AOB

- 7.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the CSP would be held at:
5.30pm – 7.30pm, Monday 7th September at the Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton.

City Sustainability Partnership Meeting - Monday 7th September 2009

Brighthelm Community Centre, North Road, Brighton

Public Services:

Councillor Tony Janio
Councillor Paul Steedman
Councillor David Watkins
Councillor Gill Mitchell
Stuart Laing - Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) University of Brighton – **Chair**
Alison Hadfield - Eco Schools

Business

Jan Jackson - Sussex Enterprise/Business Link

Community and Voluntary Sector

Chris Todd, Friends of the Earth – **Vice Chair**
Angela Marlow – Brighton & Hove Wildlife Advisory Group

Council Officers

Anthony Pope - Policy Development Officer
Mita Patel - Sustainability Co-ordinator
Simon Newell - Head of Partnerships & External Relations
Richard Butcher Tuset - Acting Head of Policy

Partnership manager

Thurstan Crockett - Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy

Meeting notes

Sarah Costelloe - Administrator, Sustainability

1. Apologies

Vic Else - Brighton & Hove Food Partnership
Thea Allison – Brighton & Hove Business Community Partnership
Phil Belden - South Downs Joint Committee
Lorraine Bell – Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce
Chris Wick – Environment Agency
Sharon Philips - University of Sussex
Tony Mernagh - Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership

2. Minutes and Actions from the previous meeting

- 2.1 Notes agreed, with some amendments which will appear in the online version.
- 2.2 Paul expressed concern that there appears to be nothing on the agenda about One Planet Living Plan. It was explained that this would be covered under item 7.

3. Comprehensive Area Assessment: Environmental Sustainability performance

- 3.1 Simon Newell gave a presentation on environmental sustainability performance in the Comprehensive Area Assessment.
- 3.2 Issues around transport performance were raised & members looked forward to the resurrection of a forum to tackle these. Simon explained that the Audit Commission has reinforced this view that a sub group is important if we are to understand where we are and what needs to be done. Stuart said that the CSP should comment on the proposals for a working group. Chris asked if this would be a working group of the LSP or an independent, inclusive transport partnership, bringing in all key players and facilitating real debate. It was agreed that CSP should press for the latter, broader forum.
- 3.3 Mike took the opportunity to offer a brief update on the Shoreham development, where transport infrastructure is also an issue. Money has been made available to develop transport links, WSCC are leading.

Action - wait for the LSP Transport sub group proposals to be made and comment accordingly.

4. Climate Change self-evaluation & CSP funds

- 4.1 Thurstan presented a short paper on proposals to allocate some CSP funds to resource the Climate Change self-evaluation and enhance CSP support.
- 4.2 Recommendation 2 should be amended to read '*up to* £30,000' as final costs of this appointment were likely to be lower.
- 4.3 Gill commented that resourcing the self-evaluation work is extremely important and this would be money well spent, but was less clear about the value of the £9,500 being allocated to support the development of the CSP. Paul shared these concerns. Thurstan explained that there is currently no dedicated officer time or resources to help with administration, development and planning the CSP's work. This is a 'stop-gap' solution which would enable stronger support of CSP over the next six months. Long-term admin support may need to come from another sector/ organisation. Tony added that the Sustainability Team are currently 'maxed out' and that this 6 month proposal would guarantee the CSP has appropriate support until improved arrangements can be developed.
- 4.4 Chairs both commended the recommendations to the partnership. Stuart pointed out that if the posts were in place it would create an obligation to perform better. Chris agreed but had some reservations about what happens to the momentum generated by 6 months of good admin support if this does not continue longer term. Further more it could take some time to recruit into the more substantial post. Thurstan confirmed that there is no obligation to use all the money in this period, that it can be carried over past April, and that this would be the first allocation from the £100k (notionally £50k this fiscal year and £50 next year).

Action - It was agreed that the funds be allocated to the council for the proposed posts.

5. Waste Strategy Working Group submission - feedback on process

- 5.1 Several members praised the Waste Strategy Consultation response. Particularly given the rushed time frame it was felt that the group had done a very good job, producing a suitably challenging response which fulfils a key function of the partnership and may be a good template for future working, once a support officer is in place. Tony didn't agree with every point in the response but said it was exactly the sort of challenge that the partnership should be providing.

Action - TC to find out waste strategy time-table so Chairs and working group can consider next steps. Point of info for next meeting.

6. Sustainable Community Strategy consultation

- 6.1 Anthony Pope presented a summary of progress on the Sustainable Community Strategy refresh. He thanked the CSP for their input. The consultation period runs to 5th October. Public consultation events are currently taking place at Jubilee Library; the next two sessions will take place Wednesday 9th and Tuesday 15th September.
- 6.2 The document lacks the 'big vision' introduction which is important for context, it was felt. The chapter on *Promoting sustainable transport* seems to have too little general background information, *Living within Environmental Limits* too much. There will be a foreword at 2nd draft stage. The final document is intended for a partnership audience; there will be an additional, shorter document written for a public audience.
- 6.3 It was noted that the chapter on *Living within Environmental Limits* is very long. Can it be streamlined without losing impact? There was general agreement with content but it was felt that the way it is presented could be improved.
- 6.4 Regarding the chapter on *Promoting sustainable transport*, a lack of integration of LAA targets across all partnerships was noted, e.g. links between sustainable transport and improving health and well-being. It was further noted that the chapter is of poor quality, with many typos, and in need of simplifying. There seems to be a lack of understanding about some of the issues. For example, the key priority *giving our children the best start in life* is addressed exclusively in terms of the journey to school, with no reference to other uses of sustainable/ public transport by children.
- 6.5 A lack of reference to the uses of ICT was also noted. The text service now offered by Journey On was cited as an example of ICT enabling transport services to be used more regularly, appealing particularly to the young (see

6.4). It was generally agreed that more reference needs to be made to the potential applications of environmentally sustainable technologies.

6.6 It was noted that there is little explicit focus on equalities issues.

6.7 It is important that the final edit does not lose anything important. A key function of the reconvened working group should therefore be to significantly edit the chapter for clarity.

Action - reconvene working group (for 2 sessions if possible) before October 5th.

7. Plans and strategies

7.1 Cllr Tony Janio gave a presentation on new immediate council priorities relating to sustainability. He outlined three new priorities:

- A Low Carbon Brighton & Hove – the top priority
 - Going for Urban Biosphere status for the city
 - Sustainable Development Education for all
- ... backed up by improved communications

7.2 The first priority refers to both the city as a whole and the council in particular, which needs to lead by example.

7.3 There was some discussion about the second priority, going for *Urban Biosphere status*. Paul asked if the Action Plan was going to include a Biodiversity Action Plan for the city. Chris noted that the council's Core strategy doesn't mention Urban Biosphere status as a key aim. Thurstan explained that the Sustainable Community Strategy contains a commitment to develop the city BAP. The Urban Biosphere Action Plan would be specific to UNESCO accredited status but would not be incompatible with the BAP. Angela suggested that a BAP could drive the UNESCO status bid, sharing the objective to create quality habitats. The bid would require a working group, which would direct the forming of the action plan. Questions included whether forming a creditable Action Plan was enough to meet the criteria for this status, or if it needed to be successfully actioned - i.e. what is the extent of the commitment required to put in a bid? Would this be a council or city-wide bid? Who would group report to? How will it be funded? Tony explained that it doesn't rely on external funding, although that would be desirable. He emphasised that this is seen as a city-wide, partnership project.

7.4 There was some discussion regarding the third priority, *Sustainable Development Education for all*. Paul stressed that education must be accompanied by policy changes as young adults quickly lose enthusiasm because society is not set up for a sustainable lifestyle. There was some interest in examining the extent to which sustainable practice, e.g seasonal food, is embedded in the management of schools. What is the success of the Food 4 Life award discussed at a Sustainability Commission meeting? School food providers suggest that the Food 4 Life standards cannot be achieved under current contracts while meeting recently introduced statutory nutrition

requirements. Tony suggested that the best approach was to persuade rather than impel sustainable practises, citing the example of a reduction in plastic bag use across the city, which he attributes to good education. Chris made the point that good education needs to be supported by good infrastructure and that, unless the Waste and Transport strategies support the right choice, education may not be effective.

- 7.5 The administration will not be pursuing the OPL plan, although it will be taking the best ideas from it. The plan is too aspirational and many of the targets (e.g. organic food shop within 400m of everyone in the city, 75% of residents on a low-meat diet) are simply unachievable. The plan is now wholly owned by the CSP who now need to influence decisions re: which targets are adopted, which left out. Jan noted that it seems strange to reject the aspiration of OPL but adopt a bid for Urban Biosphere status when there seems to be much uncertainty about what the criteria actually are.
- 7.6 Thurstan said council officers felt that the Sustainability Strategy has been superseded by the Sustainable Community Strategy, and the focus needed to be on action plans.

Action: Urban Biosphere bid to be raised again in future CSP meeting now it has the support of the administration.

Action: further discussion needed on way forward for OPL at next meeting.

8. Wildlife Advisory Group update

- 8.1 Angela Marlow gave a brief update on WAG work, including talks with Gillian Marsden regarding conservation issues within the city and how the WAG can get involved.

9. Any other business

- 9.1 Next meeting:
Monday 19th October
5.30pm - 7.30pm
The Brighthelm Centre
North Road
Brighton
(tbc)

