| Council | Agenda Item 32 |
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| 21 October 2010 | Brighton & Hove City Council |

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| **Subject:** | | **Overview & Scrutiny Report: Environmental Industries** | | |
| **Date of Meeting:** | | **21 October 2010** | | |
| **Report of:** | | **The Acting Director of Strategy & Governance** | | |
| **Contact Officer:** | Name: | Tom Hook | Tel: | 29-1110 |
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| **Wards Affected:** | All | | | |

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

## 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 The Council's Constitution requires reports from overview & scrutiny panels, together with the executive response to these reports, to be submitted to Full Council for information.

1.2 This report presents the Overview and Scrutiny Commission (OSC) scrutiny panel report on the "Environmental Industries" (**Appendix 1**) and the responses to the recommendations from the Executive (**Appendices 2&3**).

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That Member's note the OSC scrutiny panel report on Environmental Industries (**Appendix 1**) and the responses to the recommendations from the Executive (**Appendix 2&3**).

## 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The panel was established to explore the growth potential of environmental industries in Brighton & Hove. It considered the economic, environmental and employment benefits to the city and what actions should be prioritised by the council and its key partners to support high growth potential existing businesses in the sector, diversification of others into the sector's work, and attract inward investors.

3.2 The Panel took evidence from 25 witnesses representing 21 organisations, among them the city council, both the city's universities, the Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership, BioRegional, the GMB trade union, the South East England Development Agency, EDF, the City College, local businesses and Transition Brighton & Hove.

3.3 Underpinning all the recommendations is the need for partnership working, sometimes beyond our city boundaries, which was advocated by everybody who gave evidence. Indeed, one early reward from the Inquiry's work has been bringing some of them closer together.

3.4 The need for the council to support environmental industries through its policies and procurement programmes is another central theme. It was also agreed that a network is needed to support this growing sector and that the council should appoint an environmental industries officer to support and promote new and growing businesses and to help retain successful companies in the city as they grow

3.5 Another critical issue raised by many witnesses is the need for work spaces to accommodate companies of all sizes – from fledging organisations to established and expanding businesses. Providing training to fill skills gaps is another area that must be addressed.

3.6 Appendix 1 is the formal scrutiny report, appendices 2&3 the executive response.

## 4. CONSULTATION

4.1 No formal consultation has been undertaken in relation to this report. The Scrutiny Review undertook extensive consultation with interested parties.

## 5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 No specific implications for this report, as this report is purely for the Council to note

Legal Implications:

5.2 As indicated in paragraphs 1.1 and 2.1 above, and in accordance with the council's procedure rules on overview and scrutiny, this report is purely for Council to note. There are no further legal implications arising directly from the report.

Lawyer consulted: Oliver Dixon Date: 07 October 2010

Equalities Implications:

5.3 No specific implications for this report, as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 No specific implications for this report, as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 No specific implications for this report, as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 No specific implications for this report, as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 No specific implications for this report, as this report is purely for the Council to note.

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

**Appendices:**

1. Report of OSC into Environmental Industries
2. The Executive Response
3. The Executive Response

**Documents in Members' Rooms:**

None

**Background Documents:**

The Council's Constitution