

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 13
Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	City Sustainability Partnership		
Date of Meeting:	8 October 2008		
Report of:	Director of Strategy & Governance		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Thurstan Crockett	Tel: 29-2503
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Key Decision	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 As part of the changes around the new constitution, a new partnership, the City Sustainability Partnership, is to be set up under the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). This partnership would fulfil some of the roles undertaken by the former Sustainability Commission. This paper provides information on the new partnership and seeks support from the Cabinet Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Committee notes the results of the consultation undertaken on the new City Sustainability Partnership.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Committee supports the creation of the partnership under the LSP, and notes the associated costs.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Council's adoption of its new constitution in May highlighted the need to review the council's partnerships including the Sustainability Commission. The Commission's role was both to provide a forum for discussion between councillors (with decisions reported into Policy & Resources) and, to a limited extent, to provide opportunity for stakeholder input into discussions on sustainability issues.
- 3.2 The Commission acted in part as a partnership (through the involvement of some stakeholders) and in part as a council committee (since only councillors were allowed to vote, and councillor membership was proportional to party representation).

- 3.3 It was decided at the time of the new constitution that the Commission's hybrid way of working was no longer appropriate, and that the importance of sustainability issues would be better served by bringing discussion and involvement structures in line with other policy areas. Accordingly, when the Commission was abolished, an Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) was given responsibility for sustainability issues. The Deputy Leader, Cllr Cobb, was named as the councillor with special responsibility for sustainability, and the present Cabinet Committee was established. At the same time, discussions began with the LSP on the creation of a wider partnership on sustainability.
- 3.4 Draft Terms of Reference for this new partnership were agreed by the LSP earlier this year for consultation, which ran for three months from May 1, 2008.
- 3.5 The setting up of the new City Sustainability Partnership, with slightly revised Terms of Reference and proposed membership, was agreed by the LSP at its last meeting on September 16, 2008.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Respondents broadly welcomed the establishment of the partnership. More detail on the consultation can be found at Appendix 2.
- 4.2 Questions and issues raised included: the partnership's role in relation to transport, biodiversity, and the Sustainable Communities Act; membership and representation; the extent of the partnership's remit; agenda setting and support arrangements.
- 4.3 Views varied on whether transport should be part of the partnership's remit, or not. The LSP decided that issues around transport in relation to sustainability should be within the partnership's remit, but that wider transport issues should not be, and that this distinction would be clarified by the partnership itself.

Next Steps

- 4.4 The establishment of the partnership is the responsibility of the LSP, although the support of the City Council is important.
- 4.5 Council officers are discussing external funding for partnership support with various external stakeholders.
- 4.6 Now establishing the new partnership has been approved by the LSP, the first meeting of the partnership should be in November.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 To administer the new City Sustainability Partnership will require extra resources which have not been identified at present, despite ongoing attempts to secure external funding. Indications are that resources required would be one-third of a full time post at grade M11, equivalent to approximately £12k per annum. If this funding remains unaddressed, work within the Policy Unit will need to be reprioritised.

Finance Officer Consulted: Peter Francis Date: 28/08/08

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Currently there are no funds available within Legal and Democratic Services to support meetings of the proposed City Sustainability Partnership. However, the funds to provide such support may be available from external stakeholders, as indicated in paragraph 4.6 above.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon Date: 10/09/08

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Minor. Fuel poverty is an environmental indicator in the Local Area Agreement. The establishment of the partnership will support attainment of targets on this indicator.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Major. The setting up of the City Sustainability Partnership is a positive development for city sustainability, and supports targeted work with key partners on the Local Area Agreement targets around sustainability.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 None.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are no significant financial or political risks associated with the establishment of this partnership.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The Partnership will benefit the city by providing a broad new city partnership with a focus on environmental sustainability, in the city family of partnerships.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 Not applicable.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Not applicable.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Revised Terms of Reference.
2. Summary of consultation responses.

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. None.

Background Documents

1. Original proposed Terms of reference.
2. LSP Paper on City Sustainability Partnership