

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>One Planet Living – Sustainability Action Plan</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>March 21, 2013</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Strategic Director - Place</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Thurstan Crockett</b>	<b>Tel: 29-2503</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 The One Planet approach is the adopted model of sustainability for Brighton & Hove City Council as set out and agreed in the authority's Corporate Plan. This is to address the council's priorities to create a more sustainable city and to modernise the council. It is being used as the sustainability framework for the City Deal round one bid to government, and for key strategies such as the City Plan and the revised Economic Strategy.
- 1.2 There is an opportunity now to strengthen this work through an independent endorsement process that would give Brighton & Hove 'One Planet City' status. This status is a stamp of recognition reserved for exemplary communities, businesses and councils. The endorsement process is carried out by an independent sustainability charity and starts with the agreement of a Sustainability Action Plan for both the council and the city as a whole.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That Policy & Resources Committee –

- 2.1 Approves the Sustainability Action Plan (at Appendix 1)
- 2.2 Instructs the Chief Executive –
  - (i) to implement the council actions in the Sustainability Plan;
  - (ii) to submit the Plan to BioRegional with a view to endorsement for Brighton & Hove as a "One Planet City";
  - (iii) to submit the Plan to Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership, for their approval;
  - (iv) after 18 months, to submit a report of plan implementation progress to BioRegional for independent review.

### **3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**

- 3.1 The Council's agreed Corporate Plan 2011-15 says: "We will be using the One Planet Living Framework to guide our actions toward a more sustainable city. The One Planet Living approach to sustainability was developed by Bioregional and WWF to help people and organisations live and work within a fair share of our planet's resources. Research shows that in order to achieve this we need to work on reducing our ecological footprint, with particular focus on carbon emissions, transport, food, waste and the materials we use. So, for example, we need to rethink how we create and use energy, how we move our goods and ourselves around the city, and how waste and materials are produced, used and disposed of. We are also committed to continuing our work to promote a Fair-trade city."
- 3.2 The Sustainability Action Plan is a detailed 3-year delivery plan that sets out the council's approach to sustainability internally as well as the approach for the city, led by key partners who have drafted many of the city sections under the ten One Planet principles. The plan sets out the ambition under each of these, the current position, where we want to get to as a council and city, and the short term actions towards this, along with suggested medium and long term actions, plus the roles of the partners. So it has been developed by - and will be owned and delivered by - both the council and the city's strategic partners.
- 3.3 It was agreed by P&R on November 29, 2012 that a draft OPL Sustainability Action Plan be revised following a development phase, which ran through December and January and ended on February 7. The comments of members at that meeting have been directly taken into account so the plan is more focused and contains fewer actions, with a focus on short-term ones over the next two-three years, plus a clearer sense of how success will be measured through performance indicators or milestones, and dates. There is also a stronger emphasis on learning, community engagement and communications; on fair trade; and on adaptation and resilience to the local impacts of climate change, under the Sustainable Water section, plus improvements to the Local & Sustainable Food, city Zero Carbon and Zero Waste sections particularly.
- 3.4 During the development phase meetings were held with partnerships, with their chairs, managers and stakeholder teams and with groups. About 30 responses were received in writing, some on the consultation portal, a number of them wide-ranging and/or detailed and from organisations, others briefer and more specific. The number of responses was as anticipated, given the targeting of partnerships and stakeholder groups for comment and the technical nature of the draft action plan; and the high quality of responses is reflected in the re-drafting of the plan. The detail of the points made in the responses is summarised in a table at Appendix 2 along with how the Leads for each principle are handling these points.
- 3.5 Detailed communications and behaviour change plans were developed during this phase and these have been circulated to leads across the ten principles for comment. The city leads highlighted the importance of effective communications and supporting behaviour change, and the proposed focus is on a few key areas:

Zero Carbon, Sustainable Transport and Zero Waste / Sustainable Materials combined. These have been selected for impact, financial benefit (saving money) by both the council and residents/businesses; to build on existing and previous campaigns; and for achievability: what will work.

- 3.6 This supports use of the One Planet approach to ensure Brighton & Hove will improve energy security and become more resilient to shortages and price hikes in energy, food and other resources; and takes opportunities for growth in environmental sector jobs, setting out a unique vision for smart city development that appeals strongly to both local business leaders and the Government in the context of City Deal proposals. At a time when Ofgem has raised the spectre of serious UK energy problems by 2015 and further rises in costs of energy, fuel, food and other resources, this work provides a framework for resilience for the city's residents, through a short term plan and a route map to increasing self-reliance through efficiency, technology and behaviour change which should serve residents well during a time of increasing austerity.
- 3.7 The plan preparation process has led to new approaches, collaboration opportunities and a wider recognition of where council and city challenges and opportunities lie. For example, the council's prime focus on domestic waste means there is a need for partners and stakeholders to focus more attention on city-wide waste reduction, re-use, repair and recycling issues, connected to far greater use of sustainable materials; that the Zero Carbon targets require a step change in council and city approaches to energy efficiency; and that local businesses and the whole city economy stand to gain from a focused approach to environmental efficiency and a growth in the city's environmental sector.
- 3.8 The One Planet approach breaks down sustainability into ten principles. These have provided the framework for producing the SAP.

<b>Zero carbon</b> Making buildings more energy efficient and delivering all energy with renewable technologies
<b>Zero waste</b> Reducing waste arisings, reusing where possible, and ultimately sending zero waste to landfill
<b>Sustainable transport</b> Encouraging low carbon modes of transport to reduce emissions, reducing the need to travel
<b>Sustainable materials</b> Using sustainable products that have a low embodied energy
<b>Local and sustainable food</b> Choosing low impact, local, seasonal and organic diets and reducing food waste
<b>Sustainable water</b> Using water more efficiently in buildings and in the products we buy; tackling local flooding and water course pollution
<b>Land use and wildlife</b> Protecting and expanding old habitats and creating new space for wildlife
<b>Culture and community</b> Reviving local identity and wisdom; support for, and participation in, the arts
<b>Equity and local economy</b> Inclusive, empowering workplaces with equitable pay; support for local communities and fair trade
<b>Health and happiness</b> Encouraging active, sociable, meaningful lives to promote good health and well being

- 3.9 The principles apply to both the council's services and activities in the city and to the council's corporate work internally; in the 2011-15 Corporate Plan the council has signed up to "Working to achieve One Planet Living principles", adding: "If we are to create a more sustainable city then the council needs to lead by example, reducing its environmental impact, through adopting One Planet Living Principles. We will embed these principles throughout the work of the council and, where appropriate, through our procurement practices. Our areas of focus will include:
- Making buildings more energy efficient and using renewable energy solutions where appropriate
  - Developing more sustainable transport options for our services and staff
  - Reducing the amount of waste we produce, and increasing its reuse and recycling where possible
  - Working with suppliers and contractors to reduce the environmental impact of goods and services we purchase
  - Using water more efficiently in our buildings
  - Protecting biodiversity and creating new spaces for wildlife
  - Continuing our support for a Fair Trade City
  - Strengthening and extending our environmental management system"
- 3.10 BioRegional oversees One Planet Living and provides independent endorsement and verification against targets and requirements for UK regions, based on common international targets. BioRegional currently charges an annual fee of £10,000 for access to resources, network, training and support materials and network, which includes the London Borough of Sutton, the city of Middlesbrough, Bicester and B&Q. There is a fee of £2,500 to review the plan every 18 months. The cost benefit analysis of One Planet City endorsement is favourable and this has been demonstrated in number of ways by the LB Sutton which has benefitted from substantial external funding successes.
- 3.11 In January 2008 the council's Sustainability Commission recommended - and Policy and Resources Committee agreed - to draft a One Planet Plan for the city. Eventually this became the 'One Planet Framework' for Brighton & Hove, adopted by the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership in response to the Sustainable Community Strategy's long-term ambition to significantly reduce the ecological footprint of the city. Work on the Framework is being led by the City Sustainability Partnership and progress has been made on integrating this work into city strategies (Food, Climate) and the work of different groups (e.g. the Waste Advisory Group, the Transport and Food Partnerships) and identifying possible projects.
- 3.12 The council has an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) that currently covers its Events and Venues. EMS provides a systematic and proven way to manage and monitor environmental and other impacts. Significant environmental improvements and associated cost savings have been achieved at the Brighton Centre as a result of this approach. It is sufficiently flexible to be rolled out as the framework for managing One Planet Council, but the language of EMS can be complicated and inaccessible so the One Planet Principles provide a way to communicate about sustainability more clearly. The two councils with One Planet status have found that a robust EMS based approach to managing implementation of their actions plans is a vital part of a successful One

Planet programme.

- 3.13 A One Planet fund of £250,000 has been allocated by the Council, with a decision to spend part of this for the essential requirement of water metering and for corporate energy surveys to enable greater progress against the council's Zero Carbon plans. Under delegated powers officers have allocated the majority of the funds to projects necessary to meet endorsement, against clear criteria and including a new showcase cultural project, one to systematically map potential new food growing areas in and around the city, and a communications, behaviour change campaign which Bioregional expects and which is essential to the plan being effective.
- 3.14 The endorsement process is about stretching our existing performance and achieving sustainability excellence as a council and city. The council's progress towards achieving this will be monitored using wherever possible the mainstream performance management systems. So the existing City Performance Plan will be the source of headline Sustainability Indicators to measure progress against the Sustainability Action Plan and reported to P&R and Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership. Detailed indicators relating to each One Planet Principle (drawn from the existing indicator set) can also be reported to the relevant thematic partnerships.
- 3.15 One of the city's unique strengths is in sustainable food work. The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (BHFP) is the external lead on the plan's food section and has a national and international reputation for its pioneering food policy work and project delivery; locally it enjoys widespread support. For these reasons a more comprehensive version of the Local & Sustainable Food section has been produced (at Appendix 3). This includes greater detail, further background information, and additional actions. It explains some of the complex and sometimes conflicting ideas behind some of the terms such as 'sustainable diet'.
- 3.16 As part of their OPL work, BHFP independently undertook considerable research, consultation and engagement with the highly active local food community; this longer version reflects this contribution. The BHFP engagement with this work reflects the close correlation between the One Planet ambition and the aims of BHFP and the Food Strategy. Considerable financial and staff resources are committed by the BHFP to delivery of this plan. This FOOD SAP exceeds the ambition and scope of previous OPL Plans around the 'Local Sustainable Food' principle. In recognition of these factors, this longer version has been included as part of the suite of documents supporting OPL B&H.

#### **4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Meetings with about 10 partnerships, stakeholder teams and groups were held during the development phase and about 30 responses were received in writing during the development phase, which was as anticipated, given the targeting of partnerships and stakeholder groups for comment and the technical nature of the draft action plan. See para 3.3 above.
- 4.2 The Sustainability Action Plan has been developed to ensure that appropriate levels of public participation is at the heart of the plan. Key to the success of such an ambitious behavioural change strategy is to build in stakeholder ownership -

for example the new energy buying club; the campaign to reduce waste; promoting healthier travel like walking and cycling; encouraging landlords to invest in energy efficiency for their tenants. As part of the Leads' forward planning they will consider how to maximise their impact from limited resources, taking advantage of the existing networks of groups and organisations in the city. They will use the city's Community Engagement Framework Standards, and the guidance from the City Inclusion Partnership to ensure that those most in need are included and have both a voice and active engagement in the activities of principle.

## **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### Financial Implications:

- 5.1 Each action in the Sustainability Action Plan has been selected because of its social, environmental or economic return on that investment, for example the Health and Happiness work, the city-wide Living Wage policy, and the actions to promote the Food Strategy. These actions concentrate on short-term actions over the next two to three years.
- 5.2 Appendix 1 details each action and identifies the specific financial implications of each action identified within the Plan. The cost of each action, where known, is detailed alongside the source of funding or funding options available and also where savings can be expected although these will need to be quantified as schemes progress.
- 5.3 The short-term actions for the council are met from a combination of funding including existing budgets, government grants and initiatives such as the Green Deal, commercial, public sector and third party partners, and specific reserves such as the One Planet Living fund. For the medium-term and longer-term actions (beyond 2016) there is greater uncertainty around costs and funding options. Some of the medium term to long term actions are expected to be met from existing budgets whilst some will require funding options to be explored either from internal or external sources such as bids for grants or working with partners. The report describes how the Plan is governed and reviewed and thus how these medium and long term actions could continue to justify their place in the Plan
- 5.4 A contribution of £250,000 was set aside specifically as a One Planet Living fund within 2012/13. This fund has been allocated to support the delivery of automated water metering within council buildings and corporate energy surveys in order to enable the council to make progress against the council's Zero Carbon plan. Funding has also been set aside from this fund to assist with supporting a behavioural change programme endorsed by Bioregional and a programme for food mapping programmes within the city.

*Finance Officer Consulted:*

*Name Rob Allen*

*Date: 28/02/13*

### Legal Implications:

- 5.5 There are no legal implications arising from this report

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The aim of the One Planet Initiative is to create a future where it is easy, attractive and affordable for people to lead healthy and happy lives within a fair share of the earth's resources – One Planet Living'.
- 5.4 'Fair shares' is fundamental to the Sustainability Action Plan – for example, it is about why some people are more likely to die because of fuel poverty than others. Sustainability is about building flourishing communities, with resilient and capable individuals. It protects the needs of future generations.
- 5.5 The actions in the Sustainability Action Plan must comply with equalities and human rights laws. The council, its statutory partners and contractors, will have due regard to the impact of the Plan on people with the protected characteristics defined in law, together with other inclusion groups.
- 5.5 Actions which are the responsibility of the city council or its statutory partners will meet the requirements of the Acts through a proportionate impact assessment before implementation. The council's Equality and Inclusion Policy suggests potential equalities monitoring measures for the council.
- 5.6 Where city-wide actions are the responsibility of others, the City Inclusion Partnership may wish to identify sections of the Sustainability Action Plan that it can support and will work with other partnerships, as needed, on these as part of their ongoing work.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.7 The One Planet framework is an established operating model for sustainability.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.8 Evidence suggests people living in One Planet communities know more neighbours than in standard communities and that crime and fear of crime may reduce as a result.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.9 There are a range of Risks and Opportunities relating to this work:
  - 5.9.1 A number of actions are dependent on securing external funding. And the requirement to show medium and long-term actions in this plan requires an acknowledgement that at this stage these actions are necessarily not yet funded, hence they are now in bullet point format. Close work with Strategic Finance and with external funders and partners should reduce the risk to the plan of many actions being unmet due to inadequate resourcing.
  - 5.9.2 BioRegional endorsement risk: it is conceivable that the final plan may not sufficiently meet standards and targets to secure endorsement. However, the feedback from BioRegional has been very positive and this seems unlikely.

5.9.3 Partnership buy-in risk; the extent towards this is a Council-led programme risks distancing or alienating some partners who may also feel One Planet Living is too abstract or unaffordable in the current financial climate. A move to city-council shared governance, improved communications, the focus on money-saving measures, authorship by a wide range of external partners and the buy-in of established city partnerships should reduce this risk from now on.

5.10 Opportunities:

- financial/resilience: resource efficiency particularly in energy, water and waste will reduce costs across the board
- economy: the city's growing environmental industries and services sector has the potential to both support and benefit from local procurement and activity in these areas
- communication: One Planet Living is both a concept that is easy to grab and an effective framework for communicating sustainability at all levels
- reputation – the city's reputation stands to benefit as the first "One Planet City" with a unique selling point good for the city's image as a forward thinking "smart" city, with an inward investment offer to match – both the kind of businesses we want to attract here and their role in our community.

#### Public Health Implications:

5.11 Health and Happiness is one of the ten principles and there is an extensive section addressing the following requirements set by Bioregional in their Regions Targets (see Background papers):

"Local authorities will encourage employees to take responsibility for their wellbeing, health and happiness, as well as supporting this through provision of activities and resources. A methodology for monitoring employee wellbeing and satisfaction will exist, with evidence of work-based improvements where appropriate. Local authorities will design services with well-being in mind and encourage the community in activities that increase health and happiness, with the following measures in place:

- A method for monitoring and improving both community and employee wellbeing and satisfaction.
- Evidence of embedding wellbeing into the design of services across major service areas.
- Community involvement and participation in shaping well-being.

One Planet Regions are expected to complete two showcase major initiatives to promote health and happiness in the community. Suitable projects should be identified using baseline data to benchmark the local context, identifying specific areas of need. The approach and level of support will be determined on a project by project basis but will be provided at a scale compatible with the scale of the region." All this is reflected in the Sustainability Action Plan.

#### Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.12 This is a corporate change programme and operating model and will therefore have significant implications, which are set out in the Sustainability Action Plan.

All of the ten principle targets have a city-wide focus too and the impact therefore on the city will be significant. The Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership will be asked to approve the Plan in June, the next available meeting after P&R.

## **6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

- 6.1 Adopt the principles without going for endorsement – this would mean the council would not have external independent assessment and endorsement for its approach and that quality assurance, nor access to BioRegional’s experience and networks; the council could not call itself a One Planet Living council or use the main branding for this. The opportunities set out above would not be realised.
- 6.2 The council could adopt a different framework or operating model for sustainability, most obviously “Natural Step” – but this is much more scientific in approach and less engaging.

## **7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 It was agreed at P&R on November 29, 2012 that a draft Sustainability Action Plan be revised following a development phase and that approval then be sought from P&R to implement the plan and submit if for endorsement.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. Sustainability Action Plan
2. Summary of responses from development phase

### **Documents in Members’ Rooms**

None

### **Background Documents**

1. [One Planet Regions targets](#)
2. [One Planet Framework for Brighton & Hove \[PDF 2.92mb\]](#)
3. [Ten Steps to becoming a One Planet Region](#)

