

Notes of City Sustainability Partnership Meeting – 21 November 2013

Committee Room I, Brighton Town Hall, Bartholomew Square, Brighton, BN1 1JA

Present:

Public Services:

Alistair Hill, (AH)

Phil Belden, South Downs National Park Authority (PB)

Zoe Osmond, University of Brighton (ZO)

Community and Voluntary Sector:

Chris Todd, Chair (CT)

Mark Strong, CVSF (MS)

Roger Carter, Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum (RC)

Jess Crocker, Harvest Brighton & Hove (JC) – sub for Vic Borrill (Food Partnership)

Business Sector:

No attendees.

Brighton & Hove City Council:

Councillor Ollie Sykes (OS)

Councillor Pete West (PW)

Dean Austyn, Performance Analyst (DA)

Nick Hibberd, Head of City Regeneration (NH)

Thurstan Crockett, partnership manager (TC)

Sarah Jones, administrator and note taker (SJ)

Observers

Helen Walker, University of Brighton (HW)

Les Gunbie, Brighton Peace & Environment Centre (LG)

Peter Friedman, Fair Trade Steering Group (PF)

1. Introductions and Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cat Fletcher, CVSF; Danni Craker, Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce; Councillors Gill Mitchell and Tony Janio, Brighton & Hove City Council; Damian Tow, Brighton Energy Co-op; Geoff Raw, Brighton & Hove City Council; Mark Brunet, Blatchington Mill School.
- Vic Borrill of the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership was represented by Jess Crocker of Harvest Brighton & Hove; Christine Gent of Fair Trade Brighton & Hove Steering Group was represented by Peter Friedman.

2 Minutes and Actions from last meeting

- 2.1 The Minutes of the last meeting on 26 September 2013 were approved.
- 2.2 The Chair went through updates on the following actions from the last meeting.

- 5.3 Sustainable Transport feedback to the Food Strategy Action Plan had been awaited, and GR was to chase this. TC had been advised that a survey of households on shopping areas re. the Lewes Road scheme had been undertaken. MS raised the issue of freight deliveries in the city centre which he believed was a major issue, with an impact on local business. He asked that the Transport Partnership be kept informed.
- 5.4 All partners to consider joining the Food Partnership and to promote membership to their networks: this action had been noted and members were advised that it was an ongoing commitment.
- 5.7 VB had met Ian Parks of Coast 2 Capital LEP to discuss focus work on food production across Greater Brighton.
- 7.3.1 Proposed reconsideration of Wild Park designation: TC advised that the council was in the process of resolving the issue. PB asked for an update on this. Chair agreed that this would be given when PW arrived at the meeting.
- 8.3 Waste House presentation had been arranged for the next meeting in January 2014.
- 8.5 Green Deal delivery partner for Sussex presentation had been arranged for the next meeting in January 2014.
- 8.6 Suggestions for agenda items: Chair advised members that this was an ongoing invitation.

2.3 PW arrived at the meeting.

3 Coast 2 Capital European Funding Programme 2014-20 Consultation

- 3.1 NH gave members a presentation on the Coast 2 Capital European Funding Programme 2014-20. He advised members that he was providing an overview of the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership's draft strategy for the funding programme, which formed part of the government's programme for economic growth. The presentation would be made available on the City Sustainability Partnership page on the council website.
- 3.2 NH drew members' attention to the fact that the Local Enterprise Partnership would not fund adaptation, environmental protection or sustainable transport, as these had not been prioritised by the Government.
- 3.3 In response to PB's request for clarification, NH advised that the LEP was consulting with area partners to respond to government.
- 3.4 MS questioned whether CVSF had been included in the consultation with area partners. NH confirmed that the decision had been made not to, due to the patchy CVSF representation across the partnership areas. MS voiced his concern about this and NH agreed to take this to the LEP. **Action: NH to**

advise LEP members of CSP's concern at the decision not to include CVSF representation in the consultation with area partners.

- 3.5 In response to a question from PW, NH confirmed that Low Carbon had a minimum 20% of ERDF allocation, totalling £5.6m over six years, with the potential to increase the allocation over the 6 year period.
- 3.6 HW made the point that Environmental Industries within the low carbon economy should be linked to the skills agenda.
- 3.7 PB was concerned that the rural economy would be dominated by commercial concerns within the Coast 2 Capital LEP due to the presence of the Gatwick Diamond within the partnership area.
- 3.8 NH recommended that the CSP responded to the consultation to raise their issues and concerns. He assured members that the council would feed back to the LEP all issues raised at the meeting. **Action: NH to feed back to the LEP all issues raised at the meeting.**
- 3.9 NH left the meeting.
- 3.10 **Action: TC to draft CSP response to LEP consultation. PB, JC, CT, OS, and HW to feed into the draft response to TC; and CT to submit it.**
- 3.11 DA arrived at the meeting.

4 Green Growth Platform update - presentation

- 4.1 ZO gave members a presentation to update them on the progress of the Green Growth Platform (GGP). The presentation would be made available on the City Sustainability Partnership page on the council website.
- 4.2 PW advised that ideas for projects for the GGP could be taken from his recent study trip to Eindhoven, where projects included satellite mapping the city's solar potential roof by roof, with an online search facility for individual roof PV potential and payback. The project cost 20,000 euros and had small business growth potential for local solar traders.
- 4.3 MS left the meeting.

5 Renewable Energy Study Visit to Eindhoven

- 5.1 TC updated the members on his recent study trip with PW and DT. He had circulated an update report to members before the meeting and this was available on the City Sustainability Partnership page on the council website.

5.2 Aquifer Thermal Energy storage project was identified as having potential for the local area. **Action: ZO would ask University colleagues for an update on the University of Brighton's project.**

5.3 ZO left the meeting.

6 Updates and Information

6.1 Zero Carbon Behaviour Change Campaign

6.1.1 TC advised that IO:IO and BPEC had been asked to submit a fresh proposal with a view to commissioning this, following the completion of the tender process, which saw no one awarded the work.

6.2 One Planet Living Leads and Board Meetings October 2013

6.2.1 Notes of these meetings had been circulated to members before the meeting and were available on the City Sustainability Partnership page of the council website.

6.2.2 The Board Meeting had focused on the Zero Carbon Behaviour Change Campaign and the Leads Meeting had looked at successes in the SAP so far and identified that more communications was needed; this would be the focus of the next six months.

6.2.3 CT highlighted that a number of projects given red status in the RAG rating were process-led and therefore there were fewer projects failing outright than might be apparent. He did however warn that the city may well miss its CO₂ emissions targets next year.

6.2.4 PW recommended that the CSP remind council leadership to maintain their current focus on One Planet Living Sustainability Action Plan; ask them to make a statement of congratulations on the successes so far and urge that the momentum be maintained; ask them to get other parties to commit. PB & PF Fairtrade requested evidence of successes to target before agreeing to this. **Action: DA and TC to present performance against KPIs** at a following meeting.

6.3 Fairtrade Steering Group

6.3.1 PF advised members that Ruth England had accompanied the Secretary of State for International Development to Cottesmore School to see the Fair Trade City film that Ruth had worked on with the school pupils.

6.3.2 PF told members about the Fairtrade Christmas Shopping Day on 30 November.

7 Any Other Business

- 7.1 PB asked for an update on Wild Park from PW, who advised that following the convened panel meeting failing to follow clear guidance on Wildlife Site designation, its position on Wild Park was being overturned.
- 7.2 CT confirmed that funding was being sought for the Biosphere while UNESCO's decision was awaited and that the Partnership was developing project ideas for both before and after the decision.
- 7.3 LG advised members that all were welcome at the Hanover Action for Sustainable Living's AGM at 7.30pm that evening in The Hanover pub and community centre.
- 7.4 PB advised members that Defra was approving the recommendation to make Beachy Head West, the chalk shelf lying offshore between Eastbourne and Brighton, a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). He clarified that the estuaries of the Ouse and Cuckmere were not included in the MCZ.
- 7.5 Next meeting: **22 January 2014, 5pm-7pm in Committee Room 1, Brighton Town Hall.**