

Council

30 January 2014

Agenda Item 73

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy 2014-2017		
Date of Meeting:	30 January 2014 Policy & Resources - 16 January 2014		
Report of:	Chief Executive		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Simon Newell	Tel: 29-1128
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is the overarching strategy for the City. It draws together plans, strategies and priorities from all partners, including Brighton & Hove City Council. It is one of the documents that establish a shared vision for the city. Following the publication of the Sustainable Community Strategy 'Creating the city of opportunities' in 2006 and its subsequent refreshes in 2007 and 2010, an updated version of the document is now required to reflect the current position of the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership (BHSP). The strategy was approved by BHSP at its meeting on Dec 10th 2013. It is intended that this revised document be published in March 2014.
- 1.2 This report provides an update to the main changes to the refreshed strategy document.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Policy and Resources Committee note the new format for the published document (and the refreshed website) and the new Partnership name - Brighton & Hove Connected.
- 2.2 That Policy & Resources Committee endorses the refreshed strategy set out in appendix 1 and recommends the Strategy to Council for approval and adoption.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy is the umbrella strategy for all others in the city. It represents the point at which they come together into an overall, coherent narrative for the city of Brighton & Hove.
- 3.2 Following the publication of the previous Sustainable Community Strategy 'Creating The City Of Opportunities' in 2010, an updated version is now required to reflect the current position of the BHSP. The BHSP is responsible for the strategy's development and implementation.

- 3.3 The following recommendations for refreshing the SCS were agreed at the BHSP meeting on 5th March 2013:
1. To produce a short strategy summary in booklet format setting out a clear vision and key aims for the city. The document would be circulated widely and would provide Brighton & Hove with overall direction. It would remain relevant and up to date for at least 3 years. The strategy booklet would contain clear signposts to the BHSP website for more information.
 2. The BHSP website would continue to link directly with the strategy, but would contain a lot more detail about each particular partnership approach and plans for each thematic area. The website would also provide links to other relevant websites.
 3. As the website will contain more detail, this would be updated more frequently than the 3 year summary strategy; biannually/annually as appropriate.
- 3.4 A steering group of representatives of BHSP, supported by the Partnerships team, produced the short, accessible summary booklet entitled Brighton & Hove - The Connected City. This is attached at appendix 1.
- 3.5 There are two overarching principles for the summary strategy: **Increasing Equality** and **Improving Engagement**. These are a reflection of the needs of the city as identified through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the State of the City report.
- 3.6 Under these key principles, there is a more specific set of overarching priorities that Partnerships will work collectively to deliver on. These are:
- Economy
 - Health & wellbeing
 - Children & young people
 - Community safety & resilience
 - Environmental sustainability
- 3.7 The detailed information on the work within these areas being carried out by the family of partnerships will be available on the BHSP website. This is drawn from key existing plans, strategies and documents which have been agreed and approved previously.
- 3.8 The website content will be updated and amended for each area as new plans and strategies are agreed. This will ensure that the strategy remains alive and vibrant.
- 3.9 It is proposed that the strategic partnership will be renamed in line with the new strategy to **Brighton & Hove Connected**. The current membership is attached at appendix 2.
- 3.10 The strategy and new name was adopted by representatives of the community, business and public sectors at the strategic partnership meeting on 10th December 2013.

- 3.11 It is proposed that Brighton & Hove – The Connected City strategy, along with the new website, will be launched at an event in March 2014.
- 3.12 Delivery of the strategy will be through the city's Family of Partnerships. To help ensure the efficient and effective delivery of the strategy going forward a partnership review process was initiated at the same time, and aligned to the Council's Constitutional Review.
- 3.13 Performance management of the Strategy will be delivered through a refreshed Partnership Performance Plan. The review process will be undertaken with the Family of Partnerships and will be overseen by the Strategic Partnership and the City Management Board.

4 ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.4 The current strategy was only ever intended to span to the end of 2013/14. Therefore there will be a gap in strategy cover if no refresh takes place. The existing strategy is now out of date and no longer directly relevant.
- 4.5 The strategic partnership is no longer statutorily obliged to have an overarching strategy but a local decision has been made to retain one. This is because the strategic partnership is committed a coordinated approach for the city.

5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The document attached at appendix 1 has been jointly produced by representatives of the Community and Voluntary Sector, Police, Health, Private Sector and the Local Authority and was discussed at various strategic partnership meetings in 2013.
- 5.2 The full partnership approach content that will appear on the website is a summary of existing pre-approved strategies and policy documents. These have all gone through their own consultation processes.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The strategic partnership have agreed to adopt Brighton & Hove – The Connected City for the period 2014-2017. They have adopted their new name of Brighton & Hove Connected.
- 6.2 The City Council, as one of the members of the strategic partnership are now being asked to adopt the new strategy. It is listed as one of our Core Documents in our constitution.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The Council's support to the Sustainable Community Strategy is provided within the draft budget strategy for 2014/15 and the medium term financial plan.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 23/12/2013

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000 requires every local authority to prepare a strategy for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom. In preparing the strategy the Council must consult and seek the participation of each partner and other such persons it considers appropriate. This duty remains in force although the Government has indicated its intention to revoke the duty and has revoked the accompanying Statutory Guidance. Responsibility for approving and adopting the Strategy is reserved to Full Council.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 31/12/2013

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 Increasing Equality has been given as one of the key principles for the refreshed strategy. By working together on this across the city partnerships will aim to reduce financial exclusion, extend healthy lifestyles and employment opportunities and improve the lives of the most vulnerable – improving equality for the city as a whole.

Sustainability Implications:

Environmental sustainability has been given as one of the five objectives in the refreshed strategy. This is in recognition of the finite resources available to us in the future. Further detail on the objective will be captured in the website pages.

In terms of the strategy itself, this refreshed format allows for longer use of the published strategy as it is specifically designed to remain in date for the full three years. The detailed partnership approach will be given on the new website and this can therefore be updated as often as is needed – creating a more sustainable approach.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.4 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Brighton & Hove – The Connected City 2014-2017
2. Current Membership of Brighton & Hove Connected

Documents in Members' Rooms

Details on the partnership approaches (the strategy chapters) are available in Members' rooms prior to the committee meeting. These are for information and final versions will be published on the refreshed website in late March 2014.