

Notes of City Sustainability Partnership Meeting – 11 September 2014
Committee Room 2, Brighton Town Hall, Bartholomew Square, Brighton, BN1 1JA

Present:

Public Services:

Richard O'Callaghan, Environment Agency (ROC)
Susie Vernon, Sussex Community NHS Trust (SV)
Rachael Durrant, University of Sussex (RD)
Jo Carpenter, University of Brighton
Phil Belden, South Downs National Park Authority (PB)

Community and Voluntary Sector:

Cat Fletcher, Community Works and Vice Chair (CF)
Chris Todd, Community Works and Chair (CT)
Rob Stephenson, Community Works (RS)
Stuart Derwent, Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum (SD)
Vic Borrill, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (VB)

Business Sector:

Damian Tow, Sustainable Energy Working Group and Eco Technology Show (DT)

Brighton & Hove City Council:

Abbe Boeg, Adult Social Care, Brighton & Hove City Council
Councillor Pete West (PW)
Dean Austyn, Performance & Analysis (DA)
Joanne Dougnalgo – Senior Property Lawyer, Brighton & Hove City Council
Nick Hibberd, Head of City Regeneration (NH)
Sarah Jones, Sustainability Team and partnership administrator (SJ)
Thurstan Crockett, Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy and partnership manager (TC)

Observers

Peter Clark, South Downs Housing Cooperative
Siobhan Wilson – Fair Trade Steering Group

Presenter

Chris Tomlinson, EOn (CT)

1. Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 Chair welcomed Senior Managers visiting from Brighton & Hove City Council and led introductions around the table
- 1.2 Apologies were received from: Councillor Tony Janio; Councillor Gill Mitchell; Councillor Ollie Sykes; Geoff Raw of Brighton & Hove City Council; Mark Brunet, Blatchington Mill School; Will Clark of Sussex Community NHS Trust; and Zoe Osmond, University of Brighton.

2. Minutes and Actions of the last meeting

- 2.1 The Minutes of the last meeting on 16 July 2014 were approved.
- 2.2 The Chair went through updates on the following actions from the last meeting:
- 2.1 / 5.6 **CF/DT to draft a survey to send to absentee members.** This was carried over as still to be done .

- 4.3 Housing Strategy workshop meeting to be arranged – this had been done; CT asked that a revised governance proposals paper be circulated - this had not been done but would be covered later in the meeting.
- 6.2 CT to draft a letter to the Chair of Brighton & Hove Connected (the LSP) and the Chair of the City Management Board, asking for action to be prioritised to improve performance across these indicators and making several other points. This had been done and was to be discussed later in the meeting.
- 8.4.2 CT to draft a letter to the Chair of the Transport Partnership about the LPT4 consultation, seeking improvements to the consultation process. This had been done and a response received. **Action: CT to circulate the response to members.**

3 Rampion Wind Farm presentation

- 3.1 Chris Tomlinson of Eon updated members on the successful planning application and gave detail on current and future plans. He then took questions.
- 3.2 It was noted that Newhaven Port had been widened and deepened to accommodate building works. CF flagged up the opportunity to restore Newhaven Beach to public use.
- 3.3 PB asked about communications between Tier 2, 3 and 4 contractors and the general public. CT confirmed that EOn would provide 24/7 customer contact.
- 3.4 CT confirmed to members that supplier contracts were being set up across Brighton & Hove, Sussex and Kent. He advised that any local businesses interested in supplying the project should register their details on EOn's website.
- 3.5 TC advised that local other benefits of the project were educational and expressed the hope that the visitor centre would be sited in the city; also that the closeness of the wind farm would boost the reputation of renewable energy among local residents, as the closest to any UK city.
- 3.6 CT advised that fishermen were still able to operate in their designated area and discussions with their community continued.

4 Performance Issues on Environmental Indicators

- 4.1 Chair of City Management Board (CMB) had replied to Chair's letter asking for action to be prioritised to improve performance across Environmental indicators.
- 4.2 Chair was pleased to note that Chair CMB had agreed that CSP's concerns needed consideration. However he felt that her response had focused on qualitative, not quantitative evidence and offered little analysis of how to change in order to achieve targets. He felt that the CSP should not be expected to deliver projects since the CSP is a strategic body and its remit is not delivery. He believed, by contrast, that the CMB with its membership and financial clout had the ability to influence and change policy and progress towards targets. Members agreed.
- 4.3 NH pointed out that Chair of CMB had drawn attention to a review of the city performance framework as a means of tracking and improving performance. Those present agreed that the challenge was to identify the agents for delivery. NH advised members that another challenge was diminishing capacity within the council; there were no longer the resources to undertake detailed monitoring and scoping. He welcomed RD's proposed solution of metrics mix of process and outcomes from University of Brighton. Chair restated a broader challenge to city leadership with greater clarity required from them - this wasn't just aimed at the City Council.

4.4 **Action: Partners with specific experience, for example of waste and recycling, to convene to explore indicators with the council in more detail.**

4.5 **Action: City Performance Framework refresh – NH will see DT to find out how CSP can be involved in the city performance framework refresh.**

5 **CSP / One Planet Living / Biosphere Governance changes – discussion**

5.1 Chair set out the aim of the discussion, to begin to formalise the governance of Biosphere.

5.2 TC asked members to reflect on what they valued about the CSP. Members agreed that this was: the ability to challenge and influence; strategic planning; networking; sharing each other's expertise and giving feedback; that the partnership was independent and non-party political; the mixture of grassroots and corporate organisations; the meeting of different sectors gave valuable insights for research. TC added their success in influencing decision-making; their achievements had included lobbying for the city's Transport Partnership for example.

5.3 TC flagged up the difficulty in retaining economic partners.

5.4 It was discussed whether it would be better to embrace the Greater Brighton region or if this would mean the loss of the partnership's city focus.

5.5 **Action: partners were asked to send any suggestions on governance changes to Chair and TC.**

5.6 Members were asked by visiting senior managers from the council what collaborations worked well with city and council partners. They agreed that these were: learning from each other; networking; developing ideas into projects; finding out about other local organisations and events.

5.7 Members were asked by visiting senior managers from the council, what were their top three challenges to progressing the next actions for their group? Members replied that these were: reducing CO₂ effectively, improving the condition of key wildlife sites; coordinating the development of programmes and projects at scale, especially renewable energy and low carbon; resourcing the partnership.

5.8 Members were asked by visiting senior managers from the council, what more or less could be done by all parties to combat climate change? TC said there was room to refocus this partnership from policy and strategy to a delivery partnership focused on project development and funding, similar to the Biosphere Board. NH said that the development to a governance structure would give the opportunity raise ambitions and achievements. Chair said that this was a big ask of the voluntary sector's time.

6 **Sustainable Cities Working Group**

6.1 **Action: TC to circulate report from City Plan/Urban Fringe Assessment meeting to members.**

6.2 Members awaited the notes of the meeting and the P&R paper to inform the CSPs position. TC said no consensus had emerged from the meeting and participants acknowledged this. Partners wanted it noted that they believed that they had been given too short notice to respond on this serious issue last time and did not want a repeat for the next P&R meeting. **Action: CT to draft a letter asking that CSP be given more time to respond.**

7 **Updates**

- 7.1 Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum (BHWF)
 - 7.1.1 SD gave highlights of the last BHWF meeting on 19 August 2014. Minutes had been circulated before the meeting. Concerns had been raised at the high number of houses being proposed on greenfield sites in the city through the City Plan; the Forum decided to become a partner in the Biosphere; they had experienced IT problems which potentially could lead to the loss of important wildlife records.
- 7.2 Sustainable Energy Working Group
 - 7.2.1 Eco Tech Show 2015 was now in planning.
 - 7.2.2 DT and Brighton Energy Co-op colleague are in the process of writing a guide to setting up a community energy cooperative.
- 7.3 Fair Trade Steering Group
 - 7.3.1 SW advised colleagues of upcoming Panel discussion on October 10 at Brighton Fashion Week on ethics, sustainability and fashion.
- 7.4 Waste House
 - 7.4.1 CF was to speak at Recycling & Waste Management exhibition at NEC Birmingham in September.
 - 7.4.2 CF reminded members of the Fotodocument One Planet Living exhibition: ten photo essays responding to the ten sustainability principles of One Planet Living with ten site-specific installations in public spaces across Brighton & Hove, running for ten months from September. The Waste House is one of them.
- 8 Any Other Business**
 - 8.1 VB advised members that the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership had been awarded funding for a 3-year project called 'Sharing the Harvest', which aimed to help more vulnerable people in the city to benefit from gardening.
 - 8.2 TC reminded members that they had two weeks to respond to the Housing Strategy consultation and referred them to the paper that had been circulated before the meeting.