

Notes of City Sustainability Partnership Meeting – 20 November 2014
Committee Room 2, Brighton Town Hall, Bartholomew Square, Brighton, BN1 1JA

Present:

Public Services:

Richard O'Callaghan, Environment Agency (ROC)
Zoe Osmond, University of Brighton and Green Growth Platform (ZO)

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)

Brighton & Hove City Council:

Nick Hibberd, Head of City Regeneration (NH)
Sarah Jones, Sustainability Team and partnership administrator (SJ)
Mita Patel, Sustainability Team (SJ)
Rachel Williams, International Team (RW)

1. Introductions and apologies

- 1.1 Chair led introductions around the table
- 1.2 Apologies were received from: Geoff Raw of Brighton & Hove City Council; Mark Brunet, Blatchington Mill School; Rachael Durrant, University of Sussex; Phil Belden, South Downs National Park Authority; Damian Tow, Sustainable Energy Working Group and Eco Technology Show; Councillor Pete West; Anthony Probert, BioRegional; Emma Haughton, Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce; Siobhan Wilson, Brighton & Hove Fair Trade Steering Group.
- 1.3 NH updated the partners on the interim arrangements for the Sustainability Team pending the reorganisation of City Regeneration Unit. The Team will be headed by Rachel Williams of the International Team as an interim measure with a view to the teams being merged as part of the reorganisation. The International Team signposts officers to European funding opportunities with a focus on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The key challenge for the Sustainability Team is now investment in projects to enable delivery and Europe is a key area for funding.

2. Minutes and Actions of the last meeting

- 2.1 The Minutes of the last meeting on 11 September 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. Given CSP's transition this action had been superceded.
 - 8.4.2 CT to circulate to members the response from Chair of the Transport Partnership on the LPT4 consultation. This had been done.
 - 4.4 Partners with specific experience, for example of waste and recycling, to covene to explore indicators with the council in more detail. This would be taken under Item 6.

- 4.5 City Performance Framework refresh – NH will see SN to find out how CSP can be involved in the city performance framework refresh. This would be taken under Item 6.
- 5.5 Partners were asked to send any suggestions on governance changes to Chair and TC. This would be taken under Item 3.
- 6.1 TC to circulate report from City Plan/Urban Fringe Assessment meeting to members. This had been done.
- 6.2 CT to draft a letter asking that CSP be given more time to respond to P&R on City Plan consultation. This had been done.

3 Future Governance

- 3.1 A paper on the Development of the Biosphere Board, including transitional arrangements, was discussed at the meeting. This paper was to be made available on the council website.
- 3.3 NH advised members that: meetings wouldn't continue in the current format; after March 2015 the proposal is to consolidate several governance arrangements under a revised and streamlined governance structure that would focus upon the Biosphere designation. This would align city sustainability governance with the wider Biosphere and Greater Brighton city region and place it on a stronger footing to identify and secure new funding for delivery projects. The solution proposed was to use Biosphere as an umbrella and governance tool; this would focus resources in the most effective way and retain a focus on the city region.
- 3.4 Governance and reporting of progress on the Sustainability Action Plan would be to the Biosphere Board. Members liked DT's suggestion of mapping One Planet Action Plans for conversion to Biosphere Action Plans.
- 3.5 A paper was to be submitted to the Greater Brighton Economic Board meeting in January 2015, emphasising the importance of sustainability and the Biosphere to the sustainable economic development of the city region.
- 3.6 VB had identified projects for Biosphere and asked how these could be realised. NH advised her to contact: NH so that they could be placed in the council's project pipeline; Rich Howorth, Biosphere Reserve Officer, who could advise on Biosphere priorities; RW of the International Team who could advise and signpost on European funding.
- 3.7 Members agreed with ZO's proposal that single branding of all Biosphere and sustainability related activities will increase awareness.
- 3.8 Rachael Durrant was working with CSP members to identify which aspects of CSP they wish to retain and would meet with Paula Murray, Assistant Chief Executive.
- 3.9 Members agreed that it was vital to retain the links to community networks; and that independence from the council in the new partnership could enable action.
- 3.10 Members agreed in principle to the proposed revised governance arrangement and agreed to meet again on 28.01.15 for an update.

4. OPL 18 month report update

- 4.1 MP provided an update report and briefed members.
- 4.2 It was agreed by members that there should be one style of branding for behaviour change.

- 4.3 It was agreed by those present that Sustainability Action Plan actions should be aligned with the Biosphere plan. The council would be able to advise on this.
- 4.4 It was agreed by those present that the SAP would now prioritise high impact actions.
- 5. Innovate UK, Digital Catapult and Energy Data Projects Update**
- 5.1 NH briefed partners on opportunities brought to the city by Digital Catapult.
- 5.2 Digital Catapult is a place to accelerate innovation within the digital economy. Brighton & Hove Connected had won funding to establish a space in Brighton – probably New England House - with the University of Brighton, Wired Sussex, American Express and Gatwick Airport to create a space with the technology to enable a real time data platform to be established. Businesses can develop products and services based on the data collected. Sunderland, Bradford and Brighton are the three cities in the UK with this platform.
- 5.3 The benefits to the city are that it will help council and partners to understand how we use data to drive innovation and change, enabling us to address the efficiency of city infrastructure by wise investment.
- 5.4 ZO saw this as a big opportunity for Digital Catapult to collaborate with the Green Growth Platform. NH advised a conversation with Phil Jones and Chris Baker.
- 5.5 NH updated members on energy data projects. Brighton & Hove is a “test bed city” for energy data platform offering real time measurement; companies can pilot in Brighton.
- 6. Performance Framework**
- 6.1 Chris Todd had contacted Penny Thompson, Chair of the City Management Board, reiterating CSP’s request that action be prioritised to improve performance across red light indicators, in particular Carbon and Climate Change. There was concern that action wasn’t being targeted and while it was acknowledged there were difficulties achieving some of these challenging targets, this shouldn’t be an excuse not to take action or even lobby for change.
- 6.2 Members felt that retrofit of homes in the city should be prioritised by the council/city as this was an area of high energy expenditure where solutions were available. **Action: NH agreed to take back their concerns to housing colleagues at the council.**
- 7 Updates**
- 7.1 Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum (BHWF)
- 7.1.1 SD updated members with highlights from the minutes of the previous BHWF meeting held on 28 October 2014, as follows.
- 7.1.2 Council Parks enthusiastic for BHWF to re-run their wildlife slide show during April 2015 at Pavilion Museum.
- 7.1.3 Toads Hole Valley Community Group seeking to influence planners to prioritise Wildlife/Good Design.
- 7.1.4 BHWF still awaiting decision on Section 106 monies allocated from Maycroft development for Withdean Park. **Action: MP to advise Debra May, Section 106 Officer at the council.**
- 7.1.5 The Friends of Sheepcote Valley were unhappy with the inefficient treatment of Japanese Knotweed, i.e. mowing the affected area, which will cause it to

spread. **Action: NH to report this issue to the relevant council Head of Department.**

7.1.5 SD raised concern about whether the extension of the travellers' site at Horsdean was likely to increase the risk to water supplies in Patcham. NH advised that it is a condition of the planning permission that the water drainage solution must be agreed by the Environment Agency.

7.2 Sustainable Energy Working Group

7.2.1 Damian Tow had sent apologies.

7.3 Fair Trade Steering Group

7.3.1 Siobhan Wilson had sent an update via email.

7.3.2 Sustain Debate at Brighton Fashion Week was very successful with good attendance, good press and social media coverage and great feedback from both panel members and the audience. SW thanked CF and RS for attending. A film of the debate will be screened during Fair Trade Fortnight.

7.3.3 FTSG working with The Bridge Community Education Centre in Moulsecoomb on a pilot project to be rolled out to schools and other organisations on how to reduce, reuse, recycle and repair items.

7.3.4 Members who would like to see the Sustain film or have ideas for additional information for The Bridge project, please contact SW.

7.3.5 FTSG AGM was to be held week commencing 26/11/14. SW asked partners to let her know if they are aware of people who would like to join.

7.4 Waste House

7.4.1 CF reported that she had achieved global publicity for Waste House, Eco Open Houses and her WARPit work at the council, as keynote speaker at Reuse Expo in Austin Texas.

7.4.2 500 people visited the Waste House during Eco Open House 2014.

7.4.3 Waste prevention fund: RW will help CF to bid for European money to open commercially viable reuse depot in the city.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 CT advised that the Rampion Windfarm's final design was imminent.