

Brighton & Hove City Council Corporate Plan 2011-2015

2014-15 annual update – Introduction by Jason Kitcat, Leader of the Council

Welcome to Brighton & Hove Council. I'd like to take you through what we've done in the last year and our plans for the year ahead. In the last few years we've already have to take about £60 million out of our budget and we're proud of the way that we've been able to do that but there are still huge challenges ahead as demand for our services grow and the Government reduces our budgets we've got to take another £100 million out of our budgets in the next four to five years. We will need to work to do things differently but we don't think this should reduce our ambition.

We're here today at the Level, where a year ago redevelopment work was just about to begin on a project funded by the Lottery und and Sports England amongst others. Now it's completely redeveloped and people from all ages are enjoying and benefiting from these facilities. We're delighted that this has been able to come forward and that the 35,000 people that live within 15 minutes walking distance are able to enjoy it.

We've worked hard to protect services for citizens including children's services, adults and social care. We've also worked hard to improve conditions so we've introduced the Living Wage for our staff and we supported a campaign which means that over a quarter of all Living Wage firms in the UK are based here in Brighton & Hove.

We're also the world's first council to be independently accredited as a One Planet City and we've got a clear plan to deliver that. For example, we've introduced the Lewes Road corridor project which has resulted in a 14% increase in cycling and a 7% increase in bus journeys. In fact, outside of London we're the only place in the UK where bus usage is continuing grow. We've introduced the Old Shoreham Road scheme which has made things safer and easier for pedestrians and cyclists and we've completely redeveloped the Seven Dials roundabout to make things better for all road users. We've also started work on the Brighton Station gateway to make a much better welcome to Brighton Station, which is the UK's 13th busiest station.

Those are just a few of the examples of the things we are focussed on but we're ambitious for all the priorities in our Corporate Plan. We're really proud of the work we've done but there are tough times ahead and we really need to hear your views. You can find out more about our plans by visiting www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/yourcouncil.