

Brighton & Hove City Council Corporate Plan 2011-2015

2014-15 annual update – Introduction by Penny Thompson Chief Executive

Hello, I'm Penny Thompson, Chief Executive of Brighton & Hove City Council.

A few facts about your council. We have a total budget of £778 million. Out of that budget £332 million, or 43%, comes from Government grants that can only be spent on schools and housing benefits. We have 9,400 staff, 4,500 of those work in the city's schools. The council delivers over 800 services for 273,000 residents, 12,500 businesses and over 8,500,000 visitors every year. All of this is led and overseen by 54 elected councillors. The services delivered or arranged by the council include schools, refuse, recycling, street cleaning, the upkeep of your roads, parks and seafront. Other less visible services such as social care for older people and safeguarding for children and young people are absolutely essential to protect the most vulnerable in the city.

But, things are changing. As our population grows, both the young and the old, the demand for services increases but the money to pay for those services is reducing. Things have got to change.

Increasingly we need as a council to become self sufficient and we need to examine how the council is funded and how it can modernise its services to keep the city running and to continue to meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

I believe there are three main ways of doing this. By working ever more closely with partner organisations, communities and citizens, we can create better public services and make the most efficient use of our resources. We need to look at new ways of maximising our income, bringing in new businesses. For example, the new i360 will bring much needed investment to the seafront. Finally, we're creating a bolder long term vision for the economy of the city and the Greater Brighton Region.

We're working ever more closely with our neighbouring councils in Greater Brighton and with investors and developers to realise our potential as a national and an international destination.

Collaboration and creativity is at the heart of all this. Collaboration through Brighton & Hove Connected, our strategic partnership. Through the Greater Brighton Economic Board. Collaboration with health partners to integrate and transform health and social care, improving early help, personalisation and working together for citizens.

You can find details of our plans at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/yourcouncil. We want to hear your views and your ideas. Please do get in touch with us through the website, by email or via Twitter. Thank you.