

Summary

A short overview of the Corporate Plan

Each year Brighton & Hove City Council, overseen by 54 locally elected councillors (each representing one of 21 'wards' or areas in the city) spends a total budget of approximately £778 million. This budget is funded through government grants, council tax, business rates, other fees and charges and rents. In turn it is used to employ 9,400 staff (which includes 4,500 who work in our city schools), providing 800 services to the city's 273,400 residents, 12,650 businesses and 8.5 million annual visitors.

The council works year round to ensure that services are provided routinely and consistently. These should be rated highly by citizens, represent value for money and collectively achieve a common purpose; that of looking after the best interests of the city and of citizens. The council must adapt to meet its biggest challenges; the varied and changing needs of a growing, ageing and diversifying population, as well as the scale of reductions in public spending. The need, therefore, is for the council and the city to become increasingly self-sufficient and sustainable.

The Corporate Plan is our way of setting out the council's purpose, ambition, values and priorities, describing how we will work to meet them. We recognise from public feedback that the reputation of the council to deliver services and spend public money wisely can and should improve. Our rationale is always that there is room, or necessity, for improvement. Though the funding situation is very challenging we will use this as a driver for innovation, becoming clearer about what the council is here to do and being more efficient in getting it done.

Meeting our challenges as a partner

Most often we seek to work with others, inside and outside of the organisation, making the best use of wider public, business and community resources and reducing duplication. In other words, sound investment in the city and its people by those agencies who work on its behalf to promote and draw in new investment. The Corporate Plan is therefore not only a plan which governs the organisation but which sets out the council's own contribution to delivering the city's sustainable community strategy, Brighton & Hove – the Connected City.

Given the radical national reforms of local authorities and public services generally, we must strive to create a new model for public services in Brighton & Hove; one which relies on a spirit of connectivity and togetherness. Only by realising that we work better together by breaking down barriers and collaborating between organisations and across sectors, will we deliver Brighton & Hove and also Greater Brighton's unrealised potential.

Meeting our challenges as an organisation

The Corporate Plan describes the way in which the council works, and will work increasingly, to meet its challenges and those of the city. For each of our four priorities the plan gives detail of what we want to achieve – our intended outcomes – and the key areas of focus for us to do this, aligned to the budget setting process.

Our priorities are:

- **Tackling inequality** – a fair city that works together with a shared responsibility for everyone’s health and wellbeing and protects its most vulnerable citizens
- **Creating a more sustainable city** – a world class economy and visitor destination that is a [One Planet City](#)
- **Engaging people who live and work in the city** – a shared understanding of what is important to citizens and actively encouraging people to get involved
- **Modernising the council** – a high performing local authority working toward a new model of self-sufficiency for public services in the city

[Meeting our challenges as individuals](#)

Council employees work across seven departments or ‘directorates’, each led by a director or other senior manager. They are by far the council’s greatest resource, a great many of whom not only work for, but live, in the city and surrounding area. With support from the organisation and from their managers, all council officers are expected to give their personal best for our customers, citizens and for the city. To ensure that everyone is able to understand what this means, our employees created and agreed six organisational values. Our values describe the qualities every officer is expected to demonstrate when carrying out their job.

The budget setting process for this and for previous years has required difficult choices. Tough decisions will follow as we have to increasingly prioritise and question what we are able to keep doing, even as the health of the wider economy gathers pace. We commit to keep working democratically to fulfil our purpose, striving to be a high performing council. It is therefore a necessity and a collective responsibility to decide what council and public services for the city will look like over the coming year and the coming decade. Professionals who deliver public services and citizens working together are vital in shaping our future.