



Brighton & Hove Connected
Tuesday 4th March 2014, 4.00-6.00pm
Suite 1, Jurys Inn, 101 Stroudley Road
Brighton, BN1 4DJ

Present:

Chris Todd	Brighton & Hove Community Works (Chair)
Cllr. Bill Randall	Brighton & Hove City Council (Vice-chair)
Cllr. Lizze Deane	Brighton & Hove City Council
Penny Thompson	Brighton & Hove City Council
Paula Murray	Brighton & Hove City Council
Geraldine Hoban	Clinical Commissioning Group
Nev Kemp	Sussex Police, Brighton & Hove
John Eagles	Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner
Grahame Widdowson	Job Centre Plus
Chris Baker	University of Brighton
Charles Dudley	University of Sussex
Lisa Dando	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Gary Pargeter	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Sally Polanski	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Jessica Sumner	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Paul Sweeting	Advice Partnership
Andrew Comben	Arts & Creative Industries Commission
Lynn Thackway	City Employment & Skills Steering Group
Vic Borrill	City Sustainability Partnership
Leighe Rogers	Safe in the City Partnership
Julie Frith	Strategic Housing Partnership

Independent Secretariat:

Charmian Hay-Ellis (minutes)
 Simon Newell

Presenting:

Richard Butcher-Tuset	Brighton & Hove City Council
Rob Fraser	Brighton & Hove City Council
Martin Reid	Brighton & Hove City Council

Officers Attending:

Lucas Abedecain	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Corinna Allen	Brighton & Hove City Council
Toby Buckle	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Martin Chalker	University of Sussex
Thurstan Crockett	Brighton & Hove City Council
Daniel Parsonage	Brighton & Hove City Council
Lorraine Prince	Brighton & Hove Community Works

Apologies:

Tony Mernagh	Business Sector (Chair)
Cllr. Jason Kitcat	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr. Geoffrey Theobald	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr. Warren Morgan	Brighton & Hove City Council
Mark Streater	Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner
Michael Davies	University of Sussex
Trevor Freeman	Business Sector
Ian Chisnall	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Geraldine Des Moulins	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Doris Ndebele	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Vicky Watson	Advice Partnership
Gary Peters	Economic Partnership

1. Welcome, Introductions & Chair's communications

- 1.1 Apologies listed as above
- 1.2 Chris Todd (CT) welcomed Jessica Sumner (JS) and Gary Pargeter (GP), new reps from Community Works, replacing Rachel Brett and Christine Easterbrook.
- 1.3 CT welcomed Andrew Comben to his first meeting.
- 1.4 CT welcomed Sally Polanski (SP) and Paula Murray (PM) as co-opted members to Brighton & Hove Connected (BHC)
- 1.5 It was agreed that the City Tracker item was brought up the agenda to come before the City Plan and Housing Strategy items.

2. Minutes & matters arising from meeting 10th December 2013

- 2.1 The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed
- 2.2 Regarding item 4.1 under Transforming Local Infrastructure, Paula Murray (PM) informed the group that the organisers of the Brighton Marathon were already working with charities in a number of different way including supporting the mayors charities and by buying places for sponsorship in the marathon itself. PM continued that there was always more that could be done, particularly around involving smaller charities, and that this will be followed up.

3. Chairs Elections

- 3.1 Simon Newell (SN) confirmed that Tony Mernagh and Cllr. Bill Randall were both happy to continue as Chair and vice-chair respectively
- 3.2 CT announced that this would be his last meeting and would therefore be standing down as vice-chair of the partnership. CT confirmed that Vic Borrill (VB) has agreed to stand as the vice-chair representing the City Sustainability Partnership and Community Works.
- 3.3 Cllr. Bill Randall thanked CT for his input into the partnership and the city over the last 10 years
- 3.4 **This was agreed**

4. Interviews with 2 Brighton & Hove Connected Members

- 4.1 Cllr. Bill Randall conducted interviews with Leighe Rogers (LR) from the Safe in the City Partnership and Julie Frith (JF) representing the Strategic Housing Partnership

5. Thematic Partnership Changes

- 5.1 SN gave a brief overview of the Thematic Partnership changes paper, and agreed to keep the partnership up to date with any future amendments

6. City Tracker Results Overview

- 6.1 Richard Butcher-Tuset (RBT) gave a presentation on the latest City Tracker results from late last year
- 6.2 JS noted that the question around charities using money wisely didn't really give much opportunity for detail and asked if further questions could be added particularly around commissioning. RBT responded that there were tensions around how long it is possible to keep someone on the phone for, but suggested that there may be other surveys in which these sorts of questions could be included. **Action: Richard Butcher-Tuset**
- 6.3 Geraldine Hoban (GH) asked if it would be possible to share the City Tracker data packs with BHC members, particularly around postcode comparison in order to try and target certain areas. RBT replied that the results had been anonymised so could be shared with the group. **Action: Richard Butcher-Tuset**
- 6.4 VB asked if there were any questions where the results had not been used to the full. RBT agreed that some of the results from the survey could be used better.
- 6.5 Cllr, Bill Randall noted in the survey that some had said that they don't use council services at all. He brought out that this could not be entirely correct, and showed that work, especially around awareness, needed to be done in this area. **Action: Richard Butcher-Tuset**
- 6.6 SP asked RBT what the most effective way is to take forward this information. RBT responded that it was now for members to take the results back to their organisations to discuss. He added that there is also a strong link being made between this survey and the new Partnerships Performance Plan. It will also be taken to the new City Inclusion Partnership/City Engagement Partnership once this has been set up. **Action: Richard Butcher-Tuset**
- 6.7 PM said that she was surprised to see drop in levels of volunteering in the city and asked if this matched other statistics that the voluntary sector new of. SP confirmed that it did match and that this was an issue that needs to be looked at, but added that levels of volunteering in Brighton & Hove are still higher than the national average.
- 6.8 PM brought out that there was still some benchmarking work to do around cultural activities. **Action: Paula Murray**
- 6.9 CT recommended that the way in which transport issues and improvements are communicated need to be further considered given the large number of unprompted comments on this.
- 6.10 CT was concerned at how this was reported which gives a false impression of people thinking that enough was being done about climate change. If the large number of people who responded 'don't know' were included in the results, only 42% against the 59% reported think that enough is being done on climate change. He asked if this could be re-looked at. **Action: Richard Butcher-Tuset**

7. City Plan

- 7.1 Rob Fraser (RF) gave an overview of his paper on the City Plan including the initial conclusions of the inspector

- 7.2 PM asked if any feedback had been received from partnerships at this stage. RF confirmed that they have an ongoing dialogue with the Strategic Housing Partnership (SHP) and are planning conversations with the City Sustainability Partnership (CSP) and the Food Partnership. He stated that he would be happy to attend other partnership meetings if they consider it to be useful.
- 7.3 CT asked what would happen if the inspector found that parts of the urban fringe should be identified for development, which belonged to the council, and then that development did not take place. RF replied that if it was identified for development, the Local Authority should not unreasonably withhold their land without good cause

8. Housing Strategy

- 8.1 Martin Reid (MR) conducted a presentation on the Housing Strategy. It was agreed that the presentation be circulated to members. **Action: Charmian Hay-Ellis**
- 8.2 JS asked how the Housing Strategy linked into other agendas within the city, such as the Age Friendly City work currently taking place. MR brought out that it aligns itself along with other strategies under the Sustainable Community Strategy, but that he would welcome a conversation around other agenda particularly as there are a lot of vulnerable older people in our city. **Action: Jessica Sumner/Martin Reid**
- 8.3 Paul Sweeting (PS) stated that he would welcome engagement with the Advice Partnership on this matter in order to help them plan for possible future demand. **Action: Paul Sweeting/Martin Reid**
- 8.4 Cllr. Bill Randall brought out that the Housing Revenue Account was being used to help support other services, e.g.: Adult Social Care services. He added that he hoped this community budgets type process could be repeated in other areas as well.
- 8.5 MR noted that family housing remained a big issue and risk for the city as it has become expensive for many families to live in the city which can then create bigger social care issues. Cllr. Bill Randall added that there was also a specific issue around a lot of families living in overcrowded conditions.
- 8.6 GH stated that the Better Care Fund provides the city with a real opportunity to work more collaboratively. She asked if MR was happy with the engagement level received from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). MR confirmed that they had been happy with the level of engagement, but always welcomed more. GH informed the group that the CCG were in the process of employing a clinical lead for sustainable practices and encouraged MR to engage with them as well. **Action: Geraldine Hoban/Martin Reid**
- 8.7 CT asked if student accommodation had been counted towards the housing provision required for the city. RF said that it had not, as it is unclear as to what the requirement will be.
- 8.8 CT noted that there is currently a lot of pressure in the city from student housing, and asked how the city would be affected by university expansion. MR responded that there had been a lot of discussion about this issue at the SHP with the two universities, but recognised that it is not solely a housing issue and that it will have impacts on other service areas as well, e.g.: transport. RF added that the previous Student Housing Strategy had a large influence on the City Plan and would look to have this same influence again.
- 8.9 Cllr. Bill Randall noted that there had been some issues around not using Article 4 as successfully as planned. RF replied that this was often an issue to do with resources and having limited capacity to carry out checks. This was a concern that was trying to be addressed

- 8.10 Charles Dudley (CD) outlined Sussex University's plans to expand the student housing campus.
- 8.11 Chris Baker (CB) noted the difficulties of it not being a campus based university, and highlighted some of the points from the new 2015-18 expansion plan, including plans for Preston Barracks and Circus Street. He added that there are also other areas of expansion available in places such as Eastbourne and Hastings.
- 8.12 Cllr. Bill Randall stated no council tax can be received from student housing. He added that the possible university expansion is potentially one of the biggest issues facing the city at this time.
- 8.13 Andrew Comben (AC) asked how the need for housing was being communicated, particularly around topics such as removing the marina building height restriction. RF answered that it would be for the Local Authority to consider but would welcome the involvement of the partnerships.

9. AOB

- 9.1 CT reminded the group of their invitation to the Sustainable Community Strategy Launch on **Thursday 3rd April** at the Hilton Metropole from 5:30pm-6:30pm, and confirmed that all are welcome to attend. Please contact Charmian Hay-Ellis (charmian.hay-ellis@brighton-hove.gov.uk) for more information. **Action: All members**
- 9.2 CT thanked everyone said that he had enjoyed working with the Partnership and wished it and everyone around the table all the best for the future.

Items for information

10. Partnership Feedback

- 10.1 8 out of 12 partnerships had responded with feedback. CT thanked the partnerships for sending these through and encouraged the group to read through these as it helps to strengthen the relationship between thematic partnerships and Brighton & Hove Connected. These have also been circulated to thematic partnership members for information
- 10.2 Penny Thompson (PT) noted, due to the varying dates of partnership meetings, some of the feedback can become out of date by the time it comes to a Brighton & Hove Connected meeting. She asked the Partnerships & External Relations team to investigate whether or not this could be better co-ordinated going forward. CT agreed and suggested that solution might be that feedback could be circulated by email as soon as it was produced after a Partnership meeting. . **Action: Charmian Hay-Ellis**

11. Date of next meeting

- 11.1 The next Brighton & Hove Connected meeting takes place on Tuesday 24th June 2014, 4.00-6.00pm, Suite 1 at the Jury's Inn Hotel, 101 Stroudley Road, Brighton, BN1 4DJ