



Brighton & Hove

Brighton & Hove City Council

**Annual Report and
Summary of Accounts 2005/06**



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This Annual Report and Summary of Accounts has been compiled by Central Accountancy Services. It can be viewed on our website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. The website also shows the full Statement of Accounts.

You can also see the Performance Plan 2006/07 on our website showing more details on the council's achievements for 2005/06 together with our aims for 2006/07.

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Introduction

The Annual Report and Summary of Accounts

Thank you for taking the time to read Brighton & Hove City Council's Annual Report and Summary of Accounts. This report highlights some of the city council's achievements in 2005/06, and provides a summarised version of the full statement of accounts. The report sets out an overall picture of the quality of the services run by the council and also explains some of the technical terms used in the accounts to make them more accessible.

This year's Statement of Accounts were completed in accordance with the new earlier mandatory deadline (June). The accounts show that the council has again achieved a good outcome despite many in-year pressures on budgets. Overall, an underspend of £0.458 million (0.2%) was achieved, demonstrating good financial controls that put us in a good position at the start of 2006/07.

The council continues to deliver substantial efficiency savings, in both cash and productivity terms, and in 2005/06 the council has delivered over £6.5 million of efficiency savings. Delivering efficiencies is critical for the council in order to free up essential investment into priority areas and meet financial pressures in services with high demand, for example, social care. This is especially so given the extreme financial restraints placed on us as the effects of the government's reduced grant settlements continue to impact on the council for the foreseeable future. Effective delivery of efficiencies and other savings has also enabled the council to reduce Council Tax increases and 2005/06 saw the lowest increase since the authority was formed in 1997.

To meet the challenge of delivering good local services more effectively, the council continues to focus on the four key priorities within its Corporate Plan. These priorities have been slightly refocused following consultation with partners and a review of our Corporate Plan. Details of progress against each of the priorities are provided in the report.

The Corporate Plan is linked to a Medium Term Financial Strategy that provides the financial framework to deliver this plan and an annual performance plan that focuses on ensuring continuous improvement in our services. The Medium Term Financial Strategy has recently been updated and reflects a more robust financial framework following the government's decision to announce a 2-year financial settlement in 2005. Next year the government will issue a 3-year financial settlement, including schools, which will give even more certainty although it will not lessen the financial challenges. You can find out more about the council's key documents on the council's web-site www.brighton-hove.gov.uk.

The council's performance is assessed each year under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) framework. This includes inspections of education and social care services for adults and children alongside other service inspections, for example, Cultural Services. Overall, the council is performing well and has achieved an overall 3-star rating (out of 4), i.e. performing well, and its "direction of travel" is assessed to be "improving well". This reflects the council's focus on performance monitoring and setting itself challenging targets as evidenced, for example, by the recent inspection of Cultural Services, which was assessed as "good" with "promising prospects for improvement". The council's Older People Services and Children's Services have also been externally inspected and the



conclusion is that the council “is serving most people well and that the capacity for improvement is excellent”.

In support of our priorities for young people, a new Children and Young People’s Trust for Brighton & Hove came into being on 1st April 2006, bringing together staff in South Downs Health Trust and Brighton & Hove City Council. This is a significant achievement and reflects the strength of partnership working within the city to bring this to a successful conclusion. The Children and Young People’s Trust will concentrate on delivering the priorities set out in the recently published Children and Young People’s Plan which is available on the council’s website.

Although the financial outlook remains challenging, the longer-term financial settlements do give added certainty and the council remains confident that it can deliver the efficiencies and service improvements to ensure that the people of Brighton & Hove are well-served by its vision, actions and services.

Alan McCarthy
Chief Executive



Corporate Plan and Council Priorities

Since the council's first medium term Corporate Plan was produced in 2004 much has been achieved. The Performance Plan 2005-06 detailed the progress that had been made in completing the milestones in the Corporate Plan. These were largely achieved on time and demonstrated that the council had made significant progress in each of its four priority areas.

The priorities of our local residents are vitally important in setting the future direction of the council. For this reason we carried out a major survey of our citizens ('City Views') at the end of 2005. The results of this survey will give us a picture of where we need to improve our services. We have also had a recent insight into local priorities through the review of the 2020 Community Strategy and will be taking as our vision statement the one that will be in the revised Community Strategy. This reflects the council's belief that it is effective partnership working which will bring about the changes the city needs.

Over the last few years partnership working has gone from strength to strength in the city and the council is a leading member of many partnerships. We have signed a Local Area Agreement (LAA) with our key partners, which means we are working in close co-operation to deliver a set of outcomes that reflect both local and national priorities. The Public Service Board and the Local Strategic Partnership are overseeing the delivery of the LAA.

The Corporate Plan is one part of the council's Delivery Plan, which comprises:

- The **Corporate Plan (updated) 2006-07**, which sets out the council's top priorities and the strategic goals that we aim to achieve over the next year. In 2007 will publish a new Corporate Plan to guide the council's work through to 2011.
- The **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2006-09**, which supports the Corporate Plan and shows how a financial framework will be developed to support the delivery of the city's priorities during a period that will be financially demanding. In 2007 we will publish a new Medium Term Financial Strategy to take us through to 2011.
- The **Performance Plan** is an annual plan that details our performance against national performance indicators for services we (and in some cases our partners) provide and sets targets for future years against those indicators. The 2006-07 plan has now been published.

Setting priorities means making some hard choices particularly in a difficult financial climate. It is an essential part of community leadership that we define our ambitions, set priorities and communicate them – to our residents, our partners and our staff. Whilst our priorities are largely unchanged we have reworded them so that they are a better reflection of the concerns of our local residents. For 2006-07 our joint priorities are:

- Develop a safe city that values our unique environment
- Develop a prosperous and sustainable economy
- Ensure all our children and young people have the best possible start in life
- Develop a healthy city that cares for vulnerable people and tackles deprivation and injustice.



These are backed up by Strategic Goals, which we consider are the “must do’s” for the council over the next year. These will be included in our directorate planning and individual team plans for 2006-07 to ensure that resources are allocated and progress is monitored to check that we are moving in the right direction. In June the Performance Plan will report on progress made on the 2005-06 milestones in the Corporate Plan 2004-07.

Inspection of Council Services

The council’s performance is assessed throughout the year by various organisations, including Ofsted, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and the Audit Commission. Our service users and the wider community are also invited to share their views of the council’s performance through our consultation programmes and other routes, for example, customer satisfaction surveys. Complaints from the public and our service users also provide valuable feedback on our performance. The headlines about our performance over the last year are summarised below, drawing on information from audit, inspection, research, consultation, complaints, national performance indicators and award schemes.

Adult Social Care (2006 Review)

Overall assessment by CSCI: **The council’s Adult Social Care services have achieved a 3-star rating and are judged to be ‘serving most adults well’ with ‘excellent capacity to improve services’.**

The commission identified the following improvements since the last assessment:

- Adult social care services are effectively supported through robust leadership and management and by strong corporate and political commitment. The clear business planning process focuses on modernisation of social care delivery and includes development of new support services such as tele-care aimed at giving people greater independence.
- The council has developed a number of commissioning strategies for the delivery of services for older people, learning disabilities and mental health.
- Effective financial planning and investment underpins performance monitoring, budget setting, commissioning and service development.
- There is impressive contract setting and compliance monitoring within the commissioning unit, which are applied rigorously to both in house and external services. The council has a commitment to delegating budgets to operational level, measuring outcomes to ensure value for money and has an extensive range of pooled budgets.
- The council works closely and in partnership with health colleagues and has created an information sharing protocol and secure email to improve timely exchange of confidential information and the use of a single assessment process is in place.



- The council has developed challenging local targets with partners in its local area to ensure joint delivery of services that support healthy living and independence.
- A continuing strength of the council is its commitment to involving individuals and carers in the design and development of services and selection and training of staff.

The commission identified the following areas for improvement:

- The council should have strategies in place to manage the potential negative impact of reorganisation of the local health care sector and ensure that use of the single assessment process is consistently applied.
- The council should ensure that its commissioning strategy for the delivery of services for people with learning disabilities is robustly implemented and services clearly performance managed and monitored.
- The council needs to prioritise the creation of a commissioning strategy for delivery of services for people with physical disabilities and stimulate the market to increase the range of services for people with dementia.
- The council should continue to develop opportunities for people with disabilities to access employment.
- Further progress is needed in the issue of statements of need, use of direct payments and improvement in waiting times for the delivery of care packages.
- The council should pursue strategies to engage with people from black and minority ethnic groups who have mental health needs.
- The council should ensure that engagement with the voluntary and independent sectors stresses the importance of safeguarding vulnerable adults and rolls out the use of in-house effective policies and procedures.

Children's Services (Joint Area Review 2006)

Overall assessment by Ofsted and CSCI: **Outcomes for children and young people in Brighton & Hove are 'good' overall.**

The review said that:

- The majority of young people are healthy.
- Children and young people do not have to wait long to see a specialist if they are emotionally or mentally unwell.
- Children and young people who are most likely to be at risk are recognised quickly and helped to stay safe.
- The educational standards achieved by most children and young people are good.
- The educational achievement of children and young people who are looked after by the council is satisfactory.



- Children and young people behave responsibly and make a good contribution to their schools and the area in which they live.
- Young people are prepared well for working life.
- The number of young people who are homeless is reducing and is lower than in other parts of the country.

Inspectors also found that:

- the quality of children and young peoples health varies across the city and that they are less healthy in areas of poverty
- there are high rates of drug and alcohol misuse among young people
- some children and young people are not being assessed and receiving social care services quickly enough
- there are very high numbers of children and young people in care and a significant number of them do not have a qualified social worker to support them
- the number of pupils in primary and secondary schools who are excluded for fixed time periods is high
- the number of young people involved in crime re-offend more than those in other parts of the country
- the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training is higher than that found in other parts of the country; and
- the number of young people going on to universities or colleges is lower than in other parts of the country.

The main things that children and young people told inspectors about the area were:

- Young people appreciated the efforts being made to find out what their views are but thought more could be done to feed back the outcome of consultations.
- Although a lot is being done to reduce bullying, some children and young people told us that they do not feel safe, particularly in their own neighbourhoods or the city more generally.
- A number of young people with caring responsibilities spoke positively about the support they have received through the Young Carers Service and their own support group.
- Some young people told us they were dissatisfied with the level of support they received from the Leaving Care team, particularly the effects of not having a named worker.

Areas of strength identified by the inspectors included:

- The way that services work together in helping children and young people to be healthy and encourage a healthy lifestyle.



- The way that agencies work together to safeguard those children and people most at risk of abuse and exploitation.
- The way in which children and young people enjoy school and are provided with a wide range of recreational and leisure opportunities.
- The opportunities available to children and young people to become involved in school and community activities.
- The way in which young people are provided with advice and support from Connexions and other agencies to prepare for adult life.
- The way that services work together to help children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities to achieve and manage changes in their lives.

Areas for improvement identified by the inspectors included:

- Children's social care services should ensure that children and young people and their families do not have delays in assessing and meeting their needs or having named social care staff allocated to them.
- More help and support needs to be provided earlier to families to reduce the high numbers of children and young people looked after.
- More suitable foster and other care placements need to be provided to stop children and young people moving around unnecessarily in care.
- When young people leave school they should have better opportunities to get the right education, job or training. This is particularly an issue for those with learning difficulties or disabilities and those young people over 16 who offend.

Cultural Services (March 2006)

Overall assessment by the Audit Commission: **Brighton & Hove provides 'good' cultural services, which have 'promising prospects for improvement'.**

The Audit Commission said that: Cultural services are important to the council. Political and corporate leadership and support for cultural services are strong. There is clear understanding of the role culture can play in achieving local priorities. The council's own challenging cultural ambitions are based on what is important locally and focus on improving the quality of life. Overall, strategic cultural partnerships are strong and the council is considered an effective partner by key stakeholders. It demonstrates confident cultural leadership and works well as an enabler and facilitator.

The Audit Commission identified some areas for improvement including:

- Ensuring stakeholders' have a realistic expectation of the council's ability to continue to deliver cultural improvements.
- Encouraging more take-up of cultural activities by families on lower incomes by tackling barriers to participation, such as opening hours, location of activities and affordability.



- Addressing service users concerns and lower levels of satisfaction evident in some service areas, including ensuring appropriate access for people with disabilities.
- Improving value for money in some service areas by setting comprehensive quality standards for the level of service local people can expect and reviewing cost versus quality and satisfaction.

Landlord Services (Housing) (April 2005)

Overall assessment by the Audit Commission: **Brighton and Hove Council is providing a 'fair', 1-star housing service that has promising prospects for improvement.**

The Audit Commission identified the following positive service aspects:

- tenants find it easy to access the landlord service with a good range of communication and consultation methods available;
- tenant participation is well resourced by the council and this is positively influencing the service;
- complaints management is customer focussed;
- there are arrangements in place to support vulnerable tenants that are helping to sustain tenancies;
- anti-social behaviour is managed proactively;
- the council has given a high corporate priority to equalities and diversity and this is having a positive influence on service delivery; and
- planned and improvement works are carried out to a standard which tenants are happy with.

However, there were some areas where improvement was needed, many of which have since been addressed:

- there is a lack of comprehensive published service standards in place that have been agreed with tenants;
- the council is not fulfilling their legal responsibilities for gas servicing;
- play areas on estates are not regularly inspected and maintained and in some cases were presenting health and safety risks;
- the council is failing to effectively collect housing revenue and manage housing debt;
- cleaning and grounds maintenance on estates is not of a consistent standard and in some cases it is poor;
- there is no routine system in place for identifying repairs to communal areas; and;
- value for money has not been fully demonstrated across the service.



The Audit Commission judged that the service had promising prospects for improvement as there were the following drivers for change:

- The new estate management service and centralised debt recovery team will produce a more focussed approach and increase capacity in current areas of weakness.
- There is strong evidence of consultation with service users and examples of service users driving change.
- Corporate improvement plans are reflected in divisional plans and team improvement plans are in place that identify weaknesses in the service.
- The council has carried out a range of benchmarking and has used its membership of benchmarking clubs to inform its improvement work.
- There are examples of how the service is learning both from customers and external organisations.

The Audit Commission also noted that the council is yet to determine the outcome from the stock options appraisal and as a result this is impeding the development of a long-term vision for the service

Older People's Services (March 2006)

Overall assessment by CSCI: **The council is serving 'most people' well and that capacity to improve is 'excellent'.**

The commission said that: social care services for older people were commissioned and delivered in partnership with local health bodies, Brighton and Hove Primary Care Trust and community health trusts respectively. A strong corporate lead to work with a range of partners, within a network of productive strategic planning forums, had helped in the development of modernised services for older people. Joint financial agreements were in place under Section 31 of the Health Act 1999 ('pooled budgets'). Partnerships with the local health trusts, and with the private and voluntary sectors, were productive, and had continued to be so even during challenging times. Older people were supported by the council to have a role in the planning and review of social care services, and other city-wide developments, in various ways.

The council showed a willingness to learn from external sources, including service users. There was an increasingly sound approach to performance management, which had yielded pleasing results during 2005-06. Commissioning and contracting arrangements were excellent, and resources were well managed.

The commission identified some areas for improvement including:

- Ensuring that there were wider opportunities for input of older people from the city's diverse communities.
- Addressing waiting times for some service areas which some people felt were too long, although improving.



- Fully establishing the 'single assessment process' with health staff to improve access to services.
- Addressing staffing capacity issues in some services that experience high workloads.
- Improving technology arrangements across integrated services to enable greater efficiencies and improved information sharing.

Supporting People (2006 Review)

Overall assessment by the Audit Commission: **The council is providing a 'good', 2-star service that has promising prospects for improvement.**

The commission identified the following positive aspects of the programme:

- The overall aims of the council reflect a commitment to supporting vulnerable people and there is evidence of a wider corporate track record of delivering improvements.
- There is strong corporate and political support, and commitment, to taking forward the Supporting People programme.
- There is a good range of up-to-date information on the Supporting People programme for service users and providers, including published leaflets, a provider newsletter and a dedicated website.
- A 'fairer charging' policy has been well-promoted, leading to a good level of assessments.
- The council's housing options team is providing an effective gateway into a number of Supporting People services.
- Service providers are generally satisfied with the day-to-day support and advice provided by the council.
- Progress has been made to re-model services for single homeless people and rough sleepers.
- Comprehensive value for money guidance has been developed and identifiable savings have been made.
- Governance arrangements for the programme provide effective leadership of the programme and the future priorities for the programme have been clearly set out in the five-year strategy.

The commission identified some areas for improvement including:

- Service user participation in the delivery of the programme is underdeveloped and service user input into the governance fora need to be strengthened.
- Working relationships between the Supporting People team and the Supporting People Provider Forum require further development to promote better joint working.



- The commissioners need to agree local eligibility criteria to support the transparent management of the programme.
- The council needs to address weaknesses in its partnership working with service providers.
- Some of the current range of Supporting People plans lack clear milestones and outcomes, making it difficult to monitor and measure progress effectively and there is not yet a systematic approach to learning from complaints.

Comprehensive Performance Assessment

The council achieved improved performance across a wide range of its services in 2005/06. This was reflected in our CPA (Comprehensive Performance Assessment) score, which was assessed by the Audit Commission in December 2005. The council's performance was graded by the Audit Commission as 3 star overall (out of a maximum of 4) with a 'direction of travel' statement, which describes the council as 'performing well'. The statement highlights the areas where council services have improved - education, social services for children, young people and adults, homelessness services, transport and major projects. The 3 star rating was achieved by just over 40% of single tier (unitary) and county councils.

Annual Audit and Inspection Letter

The Audit and Inspection Letter provides a picture of the council's progress on performance and financial arrangements over the last year. It highlights areas where performance has improved and the council's finances are managed well. It provides some very positive messages and also helps the council to focus on areas for improvement.

The Audit Commission highlighted the following positive aspects:

- A strong commitment to design services from the user perspective.
- Ensuring fair access to services is a priority.
- Council support for equalities and diversity.
- Effective working with a range of partners to increase the range and level of services provided.

The Audit Commission highlighted the following challenges:

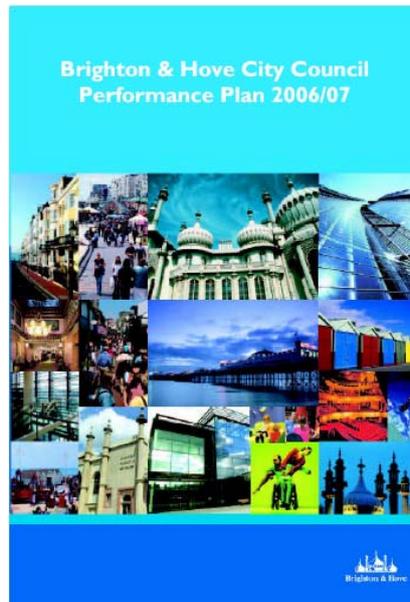
- To further strengthen performance management arrangements across the council.
- To implement effective workforce planning.
- To implement recommendations made as a result of the 'Use of Resources' assessment.

The Letter concludes that the prospects for future improvement are 'promising'.



Best Value Performance Indicators

The council is required to report against over 100 nationally set Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs). Full details of these are provided on our web site and a commentary on performance during 2005/06 is provided within the “Performance Plan 2006/07” (link: http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/performance_team/BVPP_2006-07_website_version.pdf).



We aim to be amongst the best performing councils and set challenging targets annually to drive improvement. We regularly monitor our performance against these BVPIs to see if we are performing well enough to meet our targets. If we are not performing as well as planned, we consider what action needs to be taken to achieve the targets we have set.

In 2005/06 we improved our performance (compared to 2004/05) against approximately 68% of the BVPIs and for most of these we exceeded our targets. We achieved or exceeded the targets we had set on almost half of the BVPIs. Overall the picture is one of improved performance against the majority of BVPIs with this good performance being spread over our service areas. We have set targets for improvement again this year and will monitor our performance regularly to ensure that we do everything possible to meet them. BVPI targets that we found particularly difficult to achieve during 2005/06 were generally those relating to complex service areas, which are undergoing service modernisation such as children’s services and the refuse and waste management service.

Research and Consultation

The council’s constitution recognises the importance of ‘supporting the active involvement of citizens in the process of local authority decision making’. We consult in order to find out what service users think about how the council is run and what its priorities should be.



Our Public Consultation Strategy outlines the standards that apply to any research or consultation we undertake and the mechanisms and processes implemented to ensure these standards are met and maintained.

The results of public consultation are made available to all council employees via a database on our intranet and to the public via the consultation pages on the council's website which ensures compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

The BVPI General Survey was last carried out in Brighton & Hove during 2003/04, and will be undertaken again in September 2006. The survey examines levels of satisfaction with the local authority generally and also with specific services. The consultations outlined above demonstrate how ongoing service evaluation and monitoring, in between the major BVPI consultation, is becoming a routine tool for enhancing performance across the council.

The Budget consultation takes place every year and provides an opportunity for supplementing the BVPI General survey by establishing residents' priorities for service expenditure.

Local Area Agreement

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) sets out priorities for Brighton and Hove over the next three years, agreed between the partners of our Local Strategic Partnership and Public Service Board and central government acting through the Government Office for the South East.

The Local Area Agreement is about our ambition and aspirations for our City. In reviewing and refreshing the Agreement we have built on the achievements of its first year, linking it more closely now to our new 2020 Community Strategy and incorporating the targets recently agreed in our second generation Local Public Service Agreement.

The following pages set out our progress against the priorities.



Developing a safe city that values our unique environment

This priority focuses our efforts on improving quality of life in the city, and addressing residents' concerns about crime, reducing waste, sustainability, and improving our open spaces and built environment.

Recycling, Refuse and Cleanliness

Our Milestones for 2005/06 were:

- Increase recycling of household waste to 30% in 2005/06 and 2006/07
- Ensure long-term waste disposal solutions are in place
- Complete the roll-out of kerbside recycling so 85% of households are served
- Launch communication campaigns to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste produced
- Improve satisfaction with the household waste collection service
- Continue to improve street cleanliness

Progress & Focus for 2006/07

During 2005/06, 21% of the total tonnage of household waste arising in Brighton & Hove was sent for recycling, with a further 3.56% sent for composting. Though we have not met the target of 30%, the total of 24.56% represents a significant improvement on the 19.8% achieved in 2004/05.

During 2005/06, the roll-out of kerbside recycling was completed, with over 87% of the city's households now having access to a kerbside collection service of multiple recycling materials, which means our overall recycling rates should continue to improve throughout 2006/07. The "Think Inside the Box" and other communications campaigns have been well received and contributed to the successful take-up of recycling services by residents.

Refuse Collection & Waste Disposal Solutions

We are working in partnership with East Sussex County Council to develop a joint 25-year waste management contract which will include the development of a waste transfer station and a materials recovery facility, which will help maximise our ability to recycle waste and reduce reliance on landfill sites for waste disposal. A revised planning application to build a waste transfer station and materials recovery facility at the Hollingdean waste depot was submitted in March 2006.

During 2005/06, an average 437kg of household waste was collected for each person in the city, compared to an average 457kg in 2004/05. This reduction in the amount of waste produced by households minimises the need for expensive disposal and helps make the city more sustainable.



Overall satisfaction with the waste and recycling services is improving. A survey in 2005 showed that 81% of people were satisfied with the household waste collection service, compared to 66% in 2003. Satisfaction with recycling improved from 56% to 85% over the same period, while satisfaction with the household waste disposal sites remained the same at 72%.

Street cleanliness has also improved in 2005/06, with the percentage of streets graded as having “unsatisfactory” levels of litter and detritus having fallen from 24% to 19% over the course of the year.

Further rollout of wheelie bins and communal waste disposal solutions has contributed to a reduction in household waste generated, and improvements in recycling rates and cleanliness in parts of the city where they were introduced. These and other service changes such as restructuring the waste collection rounds have led to significant savings in the cost of household waste collection, and enabled significant investment in improving the recycling service.

Planning & Development Control

Our Milestone for 2005/06 was:

- To meet performance targets for timeliness and quality of service in development control (planning services)

The council’s speed in processing planning applications is measured in terms of the percentage completed within 8 weeks of application. In 2005/06, our targets for processing minor and other applications were exceeded, with a greater proportion of applications processed in time than in 2004/05. The council processed 50% of major planning applications on time in 2005/06, and did not achieve the target of 60%.

The council’s quality of decision making has been good throughout the year, with the percentage of decisions overturned at appeal (31%) remaining within the target (35%), meaning the majority of decisions to refuse were correct. The council’s score against a “quality of services” checklist has improved from 66% to 100% during 2005/06, with much of the improvement driven through further e-enablement of the planning service.

Parks and Green Spaces

Our Milestones for 2005/06 were:

- Achieve Green Flag accreditation for 5 parks by 2005/06
- Commence phase two of the Preston Park regeneration project
- LAA outcome - Provide safer, cleaner, greener public spaces

There are currently three “Green Flag” accredited parks in Brighton & Hove (St Ann’s Well Gardens, Easthill Park and Preston Park). In 2006, we will enter 6 parks for Green Flag awards.



Following a successful funding bid, the Environmental Improvement Team was set up in December 2005, with the aim of improving public spaces and making antisocial behaviour less permissible. The team are managing a number of projects in partnership with residents, service providers, community and business organisations and police teams to make public areas safer and more attractive. For example, we are working with the Albion Hill residents' association and the Turner Area Partnership to improve safety in the Grove Hill / Ashton Rise area by improving the green environment and reducing the size of bushes surrounding housing. This is intended to reduce opportunities for drug dealing and other forms of antisocial behaviour, while preserving the park-like feel of the area and maintaining cover and berries for wild birds that are important to residents.

Public Safety

Our Milestones for 2005/06 were:

- Continue to work with the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership to achieve the priority actions in the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2005/08
- LAA Outcome – To reduce crime and reassure the public, by reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and to reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs

During 2005/06, overall crime in the city fell slightly (by 0.1%) and British Crime Survey comparator crimes (e.g. theft of or from motor vehicles, theft from a person, personal robbery, domestic burglary, common assault or wounding) fell by 5.4% compared to the baseline year of 2004. By 2008, the strategy aims to reduce overall crime in the city by 6%, and the level of BCS Comparator Crime by 18.5% from the baseline year of 2004.

Over the 2005/06 year, there was a reduction in domestic burglaries per 1000 households in Brighton & Hove from 17.6 to 11.8. Vehicle crime was also reduced, from 13.2 incidents per 1000 population in 2004/05 to 10.3 in 2005/06. Personal robbery has also fallen, and the total number of robberies in 2005/06 (327) was almost 21% lower than the number in the baseline year of 2004/05 (413). There were 4,990 incidents of violent crime in a public place during 2005/06, which represents an increase of 12% over the baseline year of 2004/05. The main factor contributing to this rise is the change in police recording standards. Measures such as enhanced CCTV recording and high visibility policing at times of peak demand are being used to reduce incidences in this priority crime area.

The Partnership Community Safety Team (PCST) offers advice and support to victims of crime and other members of the public, and recorded over 2000 interventions over the course of 2005/06 including specialist help for victims of hate crime and antisocial behaviour. As a result of their work in prioritising and enforcing action against antisocial behaviour the team and two sets of residents in the city have received awards from the Home Office Trailblazer initiative.

The council is committed to reducing the impact of drug and alcohol misuse in the city. The National Drugs Strategy is being delivered through four strategy implementation groups for young people, communities, treatment, and reducing/disrupting the supply of illegal drugs.



The council is represented on all these groups, which are responsible for analysing needs, consultation and forming local plans.



Developing a prosperous and sustainable economy

The city of Brighton & Hove has experienced strong economic growth over the past 5 years. The council facilitates this through the work of its Economic Development Unit with the Economic Partnership and the Regeneration Partnership. In September 2005, the Economic Partnership developed a second Economic Strategy in association with the city's Business Forum, which is closely aligned to the economic priorities of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and the Community Strategy.

The council is also working closely with the Brighton & Hove Learning Partnership to address skills gaps in the city to help deliver economic improvements. Funding secured through the Area Investment Framework has enabled a number of workforce development initiatives, supported employment programmes delivered through the 'Want to Work' project, and Constructing Futures delivered in partnership with the City College. These initiatives have created over 1,200 full-time permanent jobs and safeguarded a further 1,100 jobs in the city.

The council is aware of the need to maintain and diversify the economic base of the city, and is committed to maintaining the right conditions for businesses to invest in the city. Key to our approach in this area will be the delivery of our major development projects, and the provision of a good local transport system within the city.

Developing Brighton & Hove as a Tourist Destination

Our Milestones for 2005/06 were:

- To promote Brighton as a tourist destination
- To increase tourism enquiries and revenues for the city

Improving Sustainable Transport Systems

Our Milestones for 2005/06 were:

- To improve awareness and encourage use of sustainable transport choices
- To develop the Local Transport Plan for 2006/07 to 2010/11
- To submit funding bid for the city's Rapid Transport System

Major Projects

The council's approach to developing the city's main infrastructure projects is an important part of its overall economic development. The section below sets out our progress in each of the major projects.



Redevelopment of the Black Rock site

Our Milestones for 2005/06 were:

- To approve the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage C Design proposals
- To sign the Development Agreement between Brighton & Hove City Council and the Brighton International Arena
- To submit the RIBA Stage D Design Proposals

Redevelopment of the Brighton Centre

Our Milestones for 2005/06 were:

- To establish an Expert Panel – a panel of industry experts in the fields of conference and exhibition organising and venue operators to review and develop the convention centre accommodation schedule
- To generate a viable option which could be taken forward to procure and establish a development team.
- To present the scheme to South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) to ascertain and confirm its in principal support for the redevelopment of the Brighton Centre and surrounding area.

Feasibility studies for a variety of options on the site have been undertaken and are being refined enabling them to be used to inform the final specification for the redevelopment of the Brighton Centre and the surrounding area.

Detailed work towards the new Centre and associated facilities will continue in 2006/07 and the coming years, with major milestones being the selection of a preferred procurement route for the development team and submission of a planning application.

Overall, the project has the potential to create or safeguard between 1,300 and 1,700 local jobs, and a 30-year projected economic impact on the city of £2 billion.

Development of the King Alfred site

Our Milestones for 2005/06 were:

- To approve Stage C design proposals
- To approve Stage D design proposals
- Submission of the planning application by the developer



Progress in 2005/06

The Stage C Design submission was approved by the Policy & Resources Committee in June 2005 and the Stage C+/D Design submission was approved by the Policy & Resources Committee, as landowner, in September 2005. The planning application was submitted and registered in October 2005 and a re-submission was received on 16 March 2006. Further detailed design work will be progressed in 2006/07. The development will include a new indoor sports and swimming centre, homes for private sale and affordable housing, retail and commercial units, along with attractive and accessible new public spaces. The scheme will generate employment and training opportunities for local people, as well as construction jobs. The economic impacts to the area from additional tourism revenue, employment during construction, additional long term jobs for local residents and main residential spend is estimated at £10-12m per annum.

Development of the Community Stadium

Progress and Focus for 2006/07

Following two public enquiries, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) approved plans for the development of the Community Stadium at Falmer on 28 October 2005. However, Lewes District Council and others challenged aspects of the decision. The government department admitted to a technical error and consideration is being given to the effect of that error.

Meanwhile, Brighton & Hove Albion has been working to ensure the designs accommodate the teaching and training provisions requested by the club's partners.

Once completed, and if the club is successful in securing planning permission, construction could begin within a year and be completed two years later. The stadium will include a seating capacity of over 22,000, banqueting and conferencing facilities, and community and teaching facilities. It is expected to lead to around 1,500 construction jobs at the peak of the building programme, with around 600 full-time equivalent local jobs being created after completion. The scheme will further benefit the city by providing additional spending by day and overnight visitors to the city of an estimated £2.6m per year.



Ensuring all our children & young people have the best possible start in life

We want to ensure all our children and young people have the best possible start in life, so that everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential, whatever that might be.

The Children and Young People's Trust

To achieve our vision, we have established the Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) which brings together the council's existing Children, Families and Schools Directorate with the equivalent children's community healthcare service (within the South Downs Health NHS Trust) to form a single organisation. It sits at the heart of a coherent partnership - the 'whole-system' approach that includes children, young people and their families, schools, general practitioners, hospitals, the police, community and voluntary sector organisations.

Our Milestones for 2005/06 were:

- To establishment of the Children & Young People's Trust (CYPT)
- To develop the Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP)
- To open additional Children's Centres in key city locations
- Workforce Development Strategy developed which is part of the CYPP
- Common Assessment Framework (CAF) awareness-raising sessions rolled out to managers and head teachers across the city. Our CAF training programme, which comprises workshops on the Common Assessment Framework, Information Sharing and Consent, Multi-disciplinary Working and Working in Partnership with Families, has begun for Children's Centres staff.
- CYPT Performance Group, including social care, health, education and corporate services established to support the performance management of the CYPT

The city's Children & Young People's Trust was established in April 2006. Interim governance arrangements have been approved by key partners, and a comprehensive management structure will be in place by October 2006. Area-based integrated service teams dedicated to the age phases of early years, school age and teenage years will be established, and citywide services will be in place by October 2006.

Children's Centres for the under-5's and their families have been opened in Hollingdean, Turner, Moulescomb and North Portslade. There will be a total of 14 Children's Centres in the city by 2008.

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2006-2009 has been produced in consultation with children, young people and their families, partners and key stakeholders. The plan is fully integrated with the Corporate Plan and other strategic plans for the city dealing with, for example, Economic Development, Community Safety, Drug Prevention and Housing. The CYPP priorities sit within the refreshed Local Area Agreement to be delivered over the



2005/08 period. Progress against the CYPP will be reviewed and the plan will be refreshed in April 2007.



Developing a healthy city that cares for vulnerable people and tackles deprivation and injustice

A wide variety of council services contribute to the wellbeing of vulnerable people and work to reduce deprivation and injustice within the city. In order to make the maximum possible impact we are focusing resources on two main areas:

- Increasing the availability of affordable housing, reducing homelessness and working towards a decent home for all
- Providing services for older people which enable them to live healthy and independent lives

The council seeks to maximise the supply of affordable housing in the city and improve housing choice. Our planning policies require that all new developments in the city of 10 or more homes include 40% affordable housing, and we are working closely with social and private sector landlords to enable easier access to rented accommodation.

Through our Supporting People programme, we are strengthening our partnerships to commission accommodation for the vulnerable, promote the work of our independent living teams and maximise housing support services.

Decent Homes

Our Milestones for 2005/06 were:

- Complete the housing stock options appraisal process
- Work towards achieving the Decent Homes Standard for council housing by 2010
- Implement the Audit Commission's recommendations for improving the Housing Management service following the April 2005 Landlord Services inspection

Progress and Focus for 2006/07

At a meeting of the Full Council on 21 July 2005, it was decided that the preferred option would be to transfer the city's council housing stock to a new housing association that would be set up for Brighton & Hove. This option was chosen to maximise the level of future investment, and ensure that tenants' homes and the areas around them can be improved.

Over the course of 2005/06, there was a slight reduction in the number of council homes failing to meet the Decent Homes Standard. Currently approximately 58% of homes do not meet the standard, and the council is committed to improving this as fast as possible over the next three years.



In July 2005, the Audit Commission published a report following the April 2005 Landlord Services inspection, which detailed their recommendations for improving the housing management service. Over the course of 2005/06 we have made improvements in the following areas:

- Implementation of a consistent citywide approach to estate cleaning and caretaking services, and regular consultation with residents about the quality of estate services via the Estate Warden Review Group. Two particular areas of improvement have been in graffiti and bulk refuse removal services which now operate faster and more cost-effectively under the new arrangements.
- Implemented regular inspections on communal areas to identify necessary repairs and improvements. Regular Estate Inspection Reports are produced along with action plans to rectify problems as quickly as possible.
- Introduced a system of regular inspections of communal play areas to improve cleanliness and safety of these facilities
- Modernised procurement processes for repairs and maintenance which has reduced costs and led to faster project delivery times
- Revised procedures for ensuring gas safety checks are completed on time
- Reduced the time taken to re-let empty properties from 51 days in 2004/05 to 39 days in 2005/06. This helps maximise rental income and reduces the length of time households spend in temporary accommodation. In 2006/07, we aim to further reduce re-let times to 32 days or less
- Reported regularly to the Housing Management sub-committee and tenants' representatives on our progress against the Audit Commission's recommendations

Affordable Housing

Our Milestones for 2005/06 were:

- To develop 300 affordable homes per year

In January 2006, the Audit Commission inspected the administration of Brighton & Hove's Supporting People Programme and judged it to be "good" with "promising prospects for improvement". The strengthening of the links between the city's housing, health, and social care service providers has led to improved outcomes for service users.

The strategy requires the review of all services provided through Supporting People within the first three years of its operation, with the aim of improving value for money, quality of service provision and ensuring the views of service users and staff are taken into account. In 2005/06 we completed reviews of all services that were inherited by the programme in April 2003. These reviews led to modernisation and refocusing of resources in some service areas, and improved outcomes for service users.



The programme will make services more inclusive and ensure they are available to all, and establish a performance monitoring framework to ensure services effectively contribute to government and local targets to improve outcomes for service users.

Independent Living for Older People

Milestones 2005-08

- Deliver the Local Area Agreement 2005/08 outcomes to promote health, quality of life and independent living for older people over the next three years
- Improve the health and well-being of older people
- Implement a falls prevention strategy to reduce emergency hospital admissions
- Improve information and choice for older people enabling them to access services they need quickly.

Summary Accounts 2005/06

To access the Summary Accounts 2005/06, please click on the link below.

http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/summary_accounts_05-06_Final.pdf