



**Brighton & Hove Connected**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014, 4.00-6.00pm**  
**Suite 1, Jurys Inn, 101 Stroudley Road**  
**Brighton, BN1 4DJ**

**Present:**

Tony Mernagh	Business Sector (Chair)
Vic Borrill	City Sustainability Partnership (Vice-chair)
Penny Thompson	Brighton & Hove City Council
Richard Butcher-Tuset	Brighton & Hove City Council
Ramona Booth	Clinical Commissioning Group
Stephen Whitton	Sussex Police, Brighton & Hove
Richard O'Callaghan	Environment Agency
Sarah Springford	Business Sector
Ian Chisnall	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Lisa Dando	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Sally Polanski	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Caroline Ridley	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Jessica Sumner	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Vicky Watson	Advice Partnership
Regan Delf	Children's Services Partnership Forum
Lynn Thackway	City Employment & Skills Steering Group
Dean Orgill	Economic Partnership
Marcelo Staricoff	Learning Partnership
Leighe Rogers	Safe in the City Partnership
Julie Frith	Strategic Housing Partnership

**Independent Secretariat:**

Charmian Hay-Ellis (minutes)  
 Kynan Kelly  
 Simon Newell

**Officers Presenting:**

David Golding	Brighton & Hove City Council
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**Officers Attending:**

Carolyn Bristow	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cian Cronin	Brighton & Hove City Council
Simon Ellery	Brighton & Hove City Council
Emma Gilbert	Brighton & Hove City Council
Nigel Manvell	Brighton & Hove City Council
Andy Moore	Brighton & Hove City Council
Debbie Sargent	Brighton & Hove City Council
Frank Le Duc	Brighton & Hove News

**Apologies:**

Cllr. Bill Randall	Brighton & Hove City Council (Vice-chair)
Cllr. Jason Kitcat	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr. Geoffrey Theobald	Brighton & Hove City Council
Paula Murray	Brighton & Hove City Council
Geraldine Hoban	Clinical Commissioning Group
Mark Streater	Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner
Geraldine Des Moulins	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Doris Ndebele	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Gary Pargeter	Brighton & Hove Community Works
Andrew Comben	Arts & Creative Industries Commission
Pinaki Ghoshal	Children's Services Partnership Forum

- 1. Welcome, Introductions & Chair's communications**
  - 1.1 Apologies listed as above
- 2. Minutes & matters arising from meeting 23/09/14**
  - 2.1 Regarding item 2.4, a steering group and project reference group are in the process of being established to help to shape the new volunteering strategy. The Partnerships & External Relations Team are helping to take this work forward
  - 2.2 For item 4.11, initial discussions have taken place about arranging a Community Safety Summit in February/March 2015 and will continue to be progressed with the Safe in the City Partnership.
  - 2.3 Ian Chisnall (IC) said that he and Sally Polanski (SP) have been in conversations with Richard Butcher-Tuset (RBT) regarding voluntary sector engagement in the Greater Brighton Economic Board and will continue to take this work forward.
  - 2.4 The interviews of two BHC members have been moved to the next BHC meeting in March due to the number of items on this agenda.
- 3. Feedback on Children's Services Partnership Forum: Mental Health**
  - 3.1 Tony Mernagh (TM) provided positive feedback on the Children's Services Partnership Forum event held on 1<sup>st</sup> December. The event included four themed discussions focusing on:
    - Mental health in schools
    - Family support and emotional wellbeing
    - Drugs, alcohol and mental health
    - Crisis services
  - 3.2 Lynn Thackway (LT) noted that promotion for apprenticeships while young people are still in school is essential. She added that she hoped that this forum will continue to help drive this forward in promoting a joined-up approach to young people.
  - 3.3 TM stated that the draft report from this event will be sent to the Young People's Council to gain their input on the points raised. A final report will then be produced later in the new year and shared with all members of the Children's Services Partnership Forum.
  - 3.4 Stephen Whitton (SW) highlighted to the group the substantial issue around individuals with mental health issues, including young people, ending up in police cells. Leigh Rogers (LR) agreed that this had been an increasing problem for the city for some time. Penny Thompson (PT) said that this issue had been brought to the City Management Board (CMB) for discussion, and there is an ambition to make mental health practitioners more readily available to those in need. Caroline Ridley (CR) noted that this does not necessarily reflect the budget proposals recently released. TM stated the importance of understanding the need to work together in the light of the financial challenges.
- 4. Public Sector Budgets**
  - 4.1 PT provided BHC with a presentation on Public Sector Budgets, focussing mainly on how Brighton & Hove City Council and other public sector bodies plan to tackle the ongoing challenges.
  - 4.2 SW stated that Sussex Police were currently undergoing a 12 week programme looking at redesigning local policing systems and the implications that this may have when a 25% reduction to funding is realised. Questions around how to prepare staff, partners and the public for these changes are continuing to be considered throughout this process.
  - 4.3 Ramona Booth (RB) emphasised the £30billion gap in funding for the NHS in the UK, which translates to £110million shortfall for Brighton & Hove (£20million gap for 2015/16 alone).
  - 4.4 SW encouraged members to raise issues and concerns that they had with the relevant organisations. He added that changes being made should not be made in isolation.
- 5. City Tracker**

- 5.1 Richard Butcher-Tuset (RBT) presented the City Tracker report to BHC members. He emphasised that the survey is based on the public's perception of the city and its services rather than actual performance data.
- 5.2 Marcelo Staricoff (MS) asked if education was regarded as a council service. David Golding (DG) responded that on page 47 of the report, residents were asked about their level of satisfaction with education and support services, including schools. MS asked if it would be possible to do some further analysis on this result. **Action: Richard Butcher-Tuset/Marcelo Staricoff**
- 5.3 Vic Borrill (VB) asked if resident's ability of meet basic living costs could be linked to the high levels of mental health issues in the city. DG replied that he could look in more detail at the breakdown of respondents' profiles. TM suggested that this could also be linked to children in poverty. **Action: David Golding**
- 5.4 Sarah Springford (SS) noted the need to look into the detail of the figures in order to understand the bigger picture. TM highlighted his concern over the budget proposals only being set for one year, rather than looking at future implications over the four year cycle of proposed cuts. PT responded that officers are planning longer term, with service reviews, etc, taking place, but that a yearly delivery budget needs to be set and agreed by the politicians. She added that all the detail of the budget has been published and is available for comment.
- 5.5 Ian Chisnall (IC) stated that, at some point, organisations need to consider what services might look like in a few years' time. He continued that there are many opportunities available, but creativity is needed to implement these jointly to understand the big picture. RBT noted that although there are new and different ways to deliver services, some will have to be stopped completely. TM added that it will be important to help the public to understand what the challenges are and how they can contribute to addressing them
- 5.6 Sally Polanski noted that, although the strategic imperatives for the council are clear, this is not necessarily reflected in the budget proposals. She added that planning for changes to budgets often takes months, which is difficult when budget proposals are released at relatively short notice.
- 5.7 PT highlighted that it is often a small number of vulnerable people that cost the most money to services. New ways of working need to be identified.
- 5.8 SS asked that, when work is being discussed, is it possible to make sure that the private and voluntary sectors are given the opportunity to input into the process. PT greatly encouraged BHC members to contact her to discuss opportunities and issues, but noted that it would ultimately be down to politicians to make decisions.
- 5.9 TM asked when the consultation period comes to an end. Nigel Manvell (NM) replied that the proposals need to be in place for February Police & Resources Committee. Therefore discussions need to be finalised before the end of January 2015.
- 5.10 Simon Newell (SN) informed BHC that the Transport Partnership and the Strategic Housing Partnership had both already looked through their budget proposals and would continue considering these going forward.

## 6. City Management Board Annual Report

- 6.1 PT highlighted some keys points from the CMB annual report. She thanked the members that had been involved for their input and commitment to partnership working and hoped that this could continue into the future.
- 6.2 TM noted that university growth had been considered at one of the meetings, he asked what had been discussed regarding these issues. PT replied that the impact of their growth had been considered, and they should be seen as a positive force for the city. This item led to a further discussion at CMB around raising aspirations of our city's children and how the universities can play a larger role.
- 6.3 SP congratulated the CMB on the work that it had already achieved. She asked for the new City Performance Framework to be circulated to the BHC for comment. **Action: Charmian Hay-Ellis**
- 6.4 SP noted that the work of the CMB highlights questions around what role BHC has. This will be considered and actioned during 2015. **Action: Simon Newell/Tony Mernagh**

## 7. AOB

7.1 None

**Items for information**

**8. Partnership Feedback**

8.1 3 out of 11 partnerships have responded. BHC are encouraged to read the responses as it helps strengthen the relationship between thematic partnerships and the BHC. They have also been circulated to thematic partnership members for information

**9. Date of next meeting**

9.1 The next Brighton & Hove Connected meeting takes place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 4.00-6.00pm, **Renaissance Suite, Thistle Brighton Hotel, King's Road Brighton, BN1 2GS**