

Brighton & Hove

Fairness

Commission

# Background to Fairness Commissions

- First established in Islington in 2010 following election of new Labour administration to Borough Council
- Profile of Islington: rich or poor
- Fairness in decision making when cutting services
- They coined the phrase 'Fairness Commission'
- 24 Fairness Commissions set up since
- All have followed similar model

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# What was their purpose?

*To ensure that everyone, no matter where they live in the city, has a share in its economic success, and that everyone has the opportunity to lead healthy and productive lives in financial security and in cohesive communities.*

# Strength of Engagement



Libraries



Community groups

BME

Parents with Learning Disabilities

City Tracker

Housing



People with Disabilities

Schools



Young carers

Older people



# Who are the Commission Members?

Name	Position
Vic Rayner (Chair)	Chief Executive, National Care Forum
Wednesday Croft	Brighton & Hove Youth Mayor
Martin Harris	Managing Director, Brighton & Hove Bus and Coach Company
Ann Hickey	General Manager, East Sussex Credit Union
Dr Rhidian Hughes	CEO, Voluntary Organisations Disability Group
Imran Hussain	Director of Policy, Rights & Advocacy, Child Poverty Action Group
Sally Polanski	Chief Executive, Brighton & Hove Community Works
Bill Randall	Writer, Journalist and Housing Consultant
Dan Shelley	Vice Principal, Sussex Coast College Hastings
Dr Katie Stead	GP and Clinical Lead for Primary Care & Quality at CCG
Rachel Verdin	GMB Organiser
David Wolff	Director, CUPP

# Evidence Gathering

- 5 themed public meetings
- Visits to groups
- Attendance at Focus Groups
- Meetings with frontline workers and service users
- Roundtable discussions
- Open sessions for residents
- Seminars and consultation events
- Questions in City Tracker Survey

# City Tracker Questions

- How do you think the council and its partners can make Brighton & Hove a fairer place to live?
- What can residents do to make Brighton & Hove a more fair and equal place to live for everyone?

## How do you think the council and its partners can make Brighton & Hove a fairer place to live?

- Three key areas of City life identified by the public of where the Council and its partners should take action to improve fairness.
- These are:
  - Housing
  - Diversity and Inclusion
  - Travel
  - Community

# Housing

- Housing was by far the most significant aspect of city life that residents saw the Council as responsible for addressing in order to improve fairness.
- The word most frequently used in relation to housing was 'rent'
- There was a clear concern that rents in the city are too high affecting those on low incomes adversely

# Housing

- 20% of references to housing called for the Council to control or 'cap' rents in the city
- The next highest issues were
  - Regulation of Landlords
  - Regulation of letting agents
  - Provision of more affordable social housing
  - Buy to let
  - Bringing empty homes into use

# Diversity and Inclusion

- Mainly associated with support for specific groups around specific issues
  - High rents for young people, young families and those on low incomes

# Diversity and Inclusion

- Over half of those responses identified people experiencing homelessness as having the most pressing needs
- “Lack of an effective strategy to address homelessness was strongly associated with resident experience of Brighton and Hove as a city that did not have its priorities in order and therefore could not be experienced as fair”

# Travel

- Travel around the city was cited as the 3rd most important concern to address to improve fairness in Brighton and Hove
- A lack of accessibility contributed to the social isolation of specific groups and prevented those living in different areas of the city from sharing in the same benefits as other residents.

# Travel

- The two most commonly cited means of improving fairness in relation to travel were
  - maintain bus routes
  - lower bus fares
- Parking and lowering the cost of parking in the city for residents was also seen as an important way to improve fairness

# Travel

- Accessibility and maintenance of pedestrian routes and cycle paths was referred to frequently as a means of improving fairness

# Community

- Support for communities was the fourth most commonly cited way in which the Council and its partners could improve fairness in the city.
- The role of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) was frequently referred to as pivotal
- Support for the VCS centred on its capacity to reach and enable diverse groups who would otherwise be neglected or vulnerable which was understood by residents to be at the heart of fairness

# Taking it Forward

- We call on all partners to accept our recommendations, commit to their implementation and communicate on the progress being made and how fairness is developing in Brighton & Hove.

**Thank You!!**