

Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership**Tuesday 1st October 2013, 4.00-6.00pm****Suite 1, Jurys Inn, 101 Stroudley Road****Brighton, BN1 4DJ****Present:**

Tony Mernagh	Business Sector (Chair)
Cllr. Bill Randall	Brighton & Hove City Council (Vice-chair)
Chris Todd	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum (Vice-chair)
Cllr. Jason Kitcat	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr. Warren Morgan	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr. Dee Simson	Brighton & Hove City Council
Penny Thompson	Brighton & Hove City Council
Nev Kemp,	Sussex Police, Brighton & Hove
Grahame Widdowson	Jobcentre Plus
Chris Baker	University of Brighton
Ian Chisnall	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Lisa Dando	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Vicky Watson	Advice Partnership
Jackie Lythell	Arts & Creative Industries Commission
Lynn Thackway	City Employment & Skills Steering Group
Geraldine Des Moulins	City Engagement Partnership
Chris Thomson	Learning Partnership
Julie Frith	Strategic Housing Partnership

Independent Secretariat:

Charmian Hay-Ellis (minutes)

Simon Newell

Presenting:

Catherine Vaughan	Brighton & Hove City Council
Nick Hibberd	Brighton & Hove City Council
Paul Sweeting	Advice Partnership

Officers Attending:

Carolyn Bristow	Brighton & Hove City Council
Clair Farenden	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Frank LeDuc	Brighton & Hove News
Geoff Raw	Brighton & Hove City Council

Apologies:

Cllr. Geoffrey Theobald	Brighton & Hove City Council
Mark Streater	Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner
Rachel Brett	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Doris Ndebele	Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Vic Borrill	City Sustainability Partnership
Gary Peters	Economic Partnership
Leighe Rogers	Safe in the City Partnership

1. Welcome, Introductions & Chair's communications

- 1.1 Tony Mernagh (TM) opened the meeting as chair
- 1.2 Apologies listed as above
- 1.3 At the previous CMB meeting on 3rd September, the importance of encouraging work experience within organisations was highlighted. Providing work experience has proven to have a significant impact on reducing unemployment in the City, particularly those that are under 25. The performance in this area is better than other comparable geographical areas. There is also a new 'Wage Incentive' scheme available for those between the ages of 16 and 24. The CMB had recommended that this come to a future BHSP for further discussion and action. This was agreed. **Action: Simon Newell**
- 1.4 Regarding the BHSP Supper, TM thanked all those that were able to attend. The top 3 City Challenges identified at this meeting were:
 - Economy and Jobs
 - Skills and Training
 - Educational attainment and young people
 A full report will be circulated to the BHSP in due course. **Action: Simon Newell**

2. Minutes & matters arising from the BHSP meeting 25th June 2013

- 2.1 From item 4.2, it was brought out that the review was ongoing and that Health & Wellbeing Board subgroups will continue to be modified to form part of the review.
- 2.2 Under item 4.4, Simon Newell (SN) stated that the CEP had recently met after a number of months, and that he would continue to work with them to help improve the partnership linkages with other areas of work in the city region.
- 2.3 Regarding item 11.2, TM confirmed that a debate on the subject of happiness versus economic growth would be held in the Meritropole Hotel on 3rd December between 5.00 and 7.00 pm. There will be an opportunity for networking before and after the debate. Tom Scanlon will be presenting his work on the pursuit of happiness and all B&HSP members are invited. Formal invitations will be issued shortly.
- 2.4 All other items for action had either been completed or would be discussed during this or a future meeting

3. Interviews with 2 BHSP members

- 3.1 Following on from the previous meeting, TM carried out brief interviews with Geraldine Des Moulins (GDM) and Chris Baker (CB).
- 3.2 During the course of the interviews two potential links between families of partnerships were identified. Further meetings between Geraldine des Moulins, Grahame Widdowson and Tony Mernagh were proposed. **Action: Tony Mernagh, Geraldine des Moulins, Grahame Widdowson.**

4. Economic Strategy

- 4.1 Nick Hibberd (NH) gave a presentation to the BHSP on the Greater Brighton City Deal.
- 4.2 NH said that the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) continues to develop a regional [Coast to Capital LEP area] economic strategy which will identify specific projects for EU funding allocation. Projects have to be 50% match funded^{4.3}
- 4.3 Ian Chisnall (IC) noted that social inclusion funding now included in LEP funding was different to other models. Historically, it would be the community & voluntary sector organisations bidding for funding. He expressed his concern about how certain organisations could be lost in this new process. Cllr. Jason Kitcat responded that the Local Authority would continue to work with local organisations to find and secure funding for community & voluntary sector organisations through this process. TM added that although the LEP is business led, other sectors are strongly involved and applications to the LEP for EU funding are not restricted to either the public sector or private sector.
- 4.4 Catherine Vaughan (CV) outlined her presentation of the Local Authority's budget context.
- 4.5 Chris Todd (CT) noted that the council does not currently set its own business rates. He asked if this was likely to change in the future. CV replied that this was very unlikely to change.
- 4.6 CT asked if for clarification around whether it was more useful to have a high turnover or a constant, solid base of business. CV responded that it would be based on net income so the Local Authority benefits from the highs, but also loses out during the dips in the economy. She added that the Local Authority is currently looking into the possibility of taking advantage of some of the city's long term development sites and empty properties.
- 4.7 CV stated that schools currently pay full business rates, but that if a school becomes an academy, there is a reduction in their business rates.
- 4.8 CV stated that there needs to be a greater interdependency with neighbouring areas. The success of the city involves strengthening our working across Brighton & Hove's Functional Economic Area¹.

¹ To Worthing in the west, Newhaven in the east and up to Burgess Hill in the north.

- 4.9 TM conducted a presentation on the current state of Brighton & Hove's economy and the Economic Strategy.
- 4.10 Lynn Thackway (LT) explained the principle behind the Apprentice Training Agency [ATA]; City College employs the apprentices and effectively hires them out for placements with employers that can't afford to take someone on full time or doesn't require a full time apprentice. She gave the example of an apprentice that may work in 3 different restaurants a week, another might work with 2 different plumbing companies depending etc.. However, more employers are needed to sign up to this scheme in order to maximise its benefits. Grahame Widdowson (GW) added that employers are sometime reluctant to take on apprentices as they are considered time consuming, but noted that they need to be given a chance. Marketing incentives can help with this. LT stated that there is a need to work with advertising agencies to get the key messages out to employers about the many potential positive aspects of taking on people as apprentices or for work experience, and that it doesn't mean committing to taking a person on for 12 month periods.
- 4.11 Cllr. Jason Kitcat noted that the lack of high skill jobs is a big issue for the city. More big business is required. Cllr. Bill Randall added that as well as this, when businesses do start to expand, they often move to other areas due to lack of appropriate office space available in the city.
- 4.12 It was agreed by BHSP members that employers providing work experience placements to local residents has proven to have a positive impact on the city. TM suggested that the discussion on how the economy can benefit those furthest from the labour market will be continued at the City Employment & Skills Steering Group (CESSG). TM stated that all BHSP members would be welcome to attend the next meeting and that an invitation to it would be circulated shortly.
Action: Tony Mernagh/Simon Newell
- 4.13 Tony Mernagh also agreed to speak in defence of work experience at the Chamber of Commerce debate of the morality of working without pay to be held on October 16th. **Action: Tony Mernagh**

5. Advice Services Transition Fund Partnership Project

- 5.1 Vicky Watson (VW) and Paul Sweeting (PS) gave a presentation to the BHSP on the Advice Services Transition fund
- 5.2 TM asked for VW and PS to contact him after this meeting in order to discuss the best ways in which to link this work with the business community. **Action: Vicky Watson/Paul Sweeting/Tony Mernagh**

6. AOB

- 6.1 It was agreed that the presentations given during this meeting would be circulated to the group via the website. **Action: Charmian Hay-Ellis**

Items for information

7. Sustainable Community Strategy Refresh Update

- 7.1 The report outlines the work that has been completed since the previous update sent to BHSP in June. The SCS will be sent to BHSP on 10th December for adoption and sign off

8. CMB Communiqué to BHSP

- 8.1 The communiqué outlined 5 key pieces of work that the CMB have been progressing with over the last few months. It also highlighted 3 main areas that will be taken forward over the next number of meetings

9. 2011 UK Population Census update

- 9.1 The 2011 Census will be a key resource for future planning of services for the city. This paper includes further information on the release of multi variable tables from the census
- 9.2 Further reports will be received following the releases of more detailed 2011 Census data.

10. Partnership Feedback

- 10.1 6 out of 12 feedback forms were received from partnerships. The BHSP were encouraged to read the reports and continue to ensure that they are completed for future BHSP meetings if possible

11. Date of next meeting

- 11.1 The next BHSP Meeting takes place on Tuesday 10th December 2013, 4.00-6.00pm, Suite 1 at the Jury's Inn Hotel, 101 Stroudley Road, Brighton, BN1 4DJ