

Title:	City Management Board Annual Communiqué
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Purpose/Key Messages:	To inform and update the BHSP of the work of the CMB over the past 12 months
Significance to BHSP and Delivering SCS outcomes:	The CMB exercise a leadership and governing role, reconciling competing interests, investigating and assessing future possibilities in the effective and efficient delivery of public services on behalf of BHSP.
What is BHSP being asked to do?	For information
Next steps and report back mechanism:	The CMB will send regular communiqués to the BHSP to inform members of the CMB's work

1. Public Service Board Restructure – The new City Management Board

The new City Management Board (CMB) was established in early 2013 to better reflect a need to focus on financial leadership, public service performance and improvement in the city. Formally known as the Public Service Board (PSB), the CMB has been able to take advantage of the recent government policy and organisational changes to optimise its effectiveness.

Since this restructure, the CMB has continued to meet the increasing financial challenges surrounding public services in the city. By taking a collaborative and reasoned approach, the CMB has focussed itself onto a select few key areas to progress work as effectively and efficiently as possible.

The rest of this paper will look at some of the main items in which the CMB has been able to advance specific work.

2. Single Apprenticeships Scheme

In autumn 2012, a paper was brought to the PSB regarding the benefits of establishing a clear pathway to apprentices for local businesses and public sector employers in the city. The PSB (and therefore the CMB) agreed to support this process.

The CMB agreed that it would provide leadership in terms of advocating the use of the single pathway and aim to act as exemplar employers in terms of apprentices. The CMB therefore commissioned the City Employment & Skills Steering Group (CESSG) to initially take this work forward.

A single pathway for apprenticeships has been agreed by the CESSG and is currently in the process of being implemented. An Economic Development Officer has also been recruited to the Economic Development & Enterprise Team at Brighton & Hove City Council and part of their role is to specifically lead on the co-ordination of apprenticeship work within the Local Authority. As a result of this ongoing work, all stakeholders have reported better, more efficient use of resources in relation to the single apprenticeship pathway.

3. Digital Inclusion

It was highlighted to the CMB that there are a number of different strands of work around digital inclusion being done across various areas in the city. It was suggested that the Partnerships & External Relations team, with the support of the CMB, would begin to look at these different areas of work in order start to bring it together in a more coherent way.

The main drivers for bringing this work together was to focus on the welfare benefit reforms and the implications this will have particularly on people of working age and the way in which that they access their benefit claims. From the work that that was undertaken, it appeared that the issues primarily applied to the groups that are experiencing general social exclusion, not simply digital exclusion.

It was agreed that this should become a key strand area for the Improving Customer Access board to implement. The Improving Customer Access board was set up by and originally for the council, but were asked to take some of the recommendations forward along with key partners. Updates on this work are provided to the CMB on a regular basis.

4. Asset Management in Brighton & Hove

At the CMB meeting on 25th March 2013, in which Finance Directors were also invited, a key action came out around aiding the City Property Group in involving more partners in asset management/use of space in the city.

As a result of this, the former City Property Group has been re-enlivened and mandated by the CMB to form the new Public Sector Property Group, to take into account a broader spectrum of partners and assets. The aim of this group is to identify joint working opportunities in the city region to make the best shared use of our space and to look at shared delivery outcomes, services and processes. This group has met once and has already identified some potential areas for collaboration.

The group will report regularly to CMB to assist in their decisions concerning the most effective and efficient use of property and buildings of CMB partners

5. Stronger Families Stronger Communities Programme

Stronger Families Stronger Communities (SFSC) is Brighton and Hove's response to the national Troubled Families Programme. The new approaches to improving the resilience, capacity and independence of families and households facing multiple disadvantage will improve their outcomes and significantly reduce public sector expenditure. Consolidating assertive, holistic, whole family interventions across the professional system is considered the most effective initial approach. The CMB agreed to support this process and receives regular updates about its current work.

6. BIG Lottery Fund's Fulfilling Lives: Multiple and Complex Needs Programme

The Board was asked to consider and endorse the bid being submitted on behalf of the City by BHT to the Big Lottery Fund. A detailed business plan has been completed following successful appraisal of initial plans submitted to Big lottery. The submission of the plan is due by September 2013. If successful, the projects will commence spring 2014

The Board was also asked to consider how we can build on this approach within statutory and other service providers to deliver the most effective services for this client group in the most efficient way for this client cohort.

It was agreed that a letter from all CMB members outlining that this is an area that is priority for the city would be helpful in strengthening the bid in its process.

7. City Tracker

This survey was commissioned by Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership and aims to regularly track resident satisfaction with services in the city over time. The CMB is provided with the results of the City Tracker, which are being used as a spur for action/response from partners to the major issues raised.

8. Joint Commissioning Board Officer Group

Following discussion at CMB the officer group to support JCB has been re-enlivened to help deliver the most effective and efficient commissioning possible in Health and Social Care

9. Local Safeguarding Children Board

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is undergoing a review of the structure and governance, with a new sub-group structure being put in place. The LSCB wanted to communicate to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, raising their awareness of how this can best be done and encouraging them to do so.

It was noted at the time that many of the key partnerships that need to become more connected with the LSCB were currently going through a state of review. It was therefore agreed that that this important issue be considered during these processes and discussed again in detail as and when structures become clearer.

10. Employment Related Performance

The CMB held on 3rd September took place in the offices of Job Centre Plus and focussed on local employment related performance and future challenges & plans. The Board was presented with a series of reports on local performance and was shown around the new facility of The Loft.

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. The CMB recommended that this come to a future BHSP for further discussion and action

As a result of these discussions, CMB members have agreed to commit to taking on individuals for work experience within their organisations where possible.

11. Citywide risk

In October 2013, the City Wide Risk Register was discussed in detail with a number of positive additions and amendments being made by the board. The City Wide Risk Register can be used as a way of prioritising issues for resource allocation and to avoid pitfalls whilst recognising the opportunity to innovate. As public sector budgets are reducing and the scope of the challenge to deliver to our citizens is increased, having a city wide risk register will evidence a risk based approach to help manage the challenges the city faces and take up opportunities where possible.

CMB members were intensely interested in the priorities of the register and agreed for cross-organisation Risk Managers to coherently take this work forward for the city. The outcomes of this process will then be brought back to the CMB for members to take forward.

12. Public Sector Financial Planning

Finance Directors from each CMB organisation have been invited to attend the December 2013 CMB meeting to focus on the city's financial outlook. The entire meeting will focus on budget decisions and the cumulative impact that these will have on the city, particularly on our most vulnerable residents. Actions from this meeting will be taken forward in the new year.

13. Future Items

Possible items for future meetings include

- Citywide Risk Management
- Whole Place Community Budgets
- Corporate Parenting
- Performance Update
- City Tracker