

Subject:	Brighton and Hove Fairness Commission 12 Month Update		
Date of Meeting:	27th November 2017		
Report of:	Executive Director Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide committee with an update on activity against the recommendations of the Brighton and Hove Fairness Commission as agreed at NCE committee meeting November 2016.

1.2 Appendix 1 provides an update on activity actioned in relation to the Fairness Commission findings and recommendations in its entirety in the last twelve months. Appendix 2 provides a specific update on the 15 recommendations prioritised by the cross party working group set up following the Fairness Commission to oversee the development of the council response.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That committee notes the activity taking place in relation to the recommendations of the 2016 Brighton and Hove Fairness Commission as set out in appendices 1 and 2.
- 2.2 That committee supports a partnership event, hosted by the city's Equality and Inclusion Partnership to share the work of the city council and all partners against the findings and recommendations of the Fairness Commission (2016).
- 2.3 That committee agrees to reconvene the cross party member working group to review and determine further priorities for focus.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Agreement to the establishment of a Fairness Commission was given by the Council's Policy, Resources and Growth Committee (then titled Policy and Resources) on 11 June 2015.

- 3.2 The Commission produced its final report on 27th June and made 117 recommendations which were received by the Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Committee on behalf of the council on 11th July 2016.
- 3.3 A cross party Member working group was set up to oversee the development and content of the council's response which was presented for approval by NICE committee 28th November 2016. The Member Working Group (MWG) prioritised 15 recommendations for action in the knowledge that within public sector financial constraints it would be very difficult to progress all 117 recommendations. The following criteria (paragraph 3.4) were used to prioritise the recommendations and NICE committee agreed to progress the 15 recommendations.
- 3.4 Member Working Group prioritisation criteria:
- Represent value for money and in particular do not involve recurring costs;
 - Do not duplicate existing work and effort;
 - Have the maximum impact on fairness and poverty;
 - Are within the council's gift to influence;
 - Were considered by the public and communities contributing to be of high importance;
 - Are achievable and realistic;
 - Bring innovation or best practice from elsewhere to the city;
 - Empirically highlight areas where improvement or further action is required.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 An alternative option was not to provide an update. However, the NCE committee in November 2016 agreed to take a monitoring role of delivery against the recommendations on behalf of the council.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 All council services involved in activity against the recommendations were engaged in providing the update as were key partner organisations also involved in the delivery e.g. Brighton and Hove NHS Clinical Commissioning Group.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The majority of recommendations continue to influence and inform activity of the council and its partners, and as anticipated the change sort by the Fairness Commission is a long term process. Nevertheless, the 12 month on progress report (appendix 1) clearly demonstrates that the areas of focus of the Commission's recommendations: where we live, how we live, living life to the full and fairer ways of working are being progressed. Despite the continuing challenge of reducing resources and increasing demand.

- 6.2 A key next step will be a sharing and learning event, hosted by the Equality and Inclusion Partnership in January 2018 as part of its remit to hold city oversight of activity against the 2016 Fairness Commission report.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The work of implementing the recommendations of the 2016 Brighton and Hove Fairness Commission is being met from the current resources of the council across all directorates. If any additional resources are required to implement a recommendation, committee approval will be sought separately through the committee process as appropriate. The council's share of the costs of the partnership event and any costs to reconvene the cross party member working group will be met through the Communities, Equalities and Third Sector (CETS) budgets.

Finance Officer Consulted: Monica Brooks

Date: 13/11/17

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Lawyer Consulted:

Name Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 06/11/17

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 The Fairness Commission looked at a significant range of equality and fairness issues. Recommendations for all protected characteristic groups were included in the report and have had implications for the Council's work across the organisation.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 A broad definition of sustainability, which takes account of the health and well-being of people and communities as well as the environment, is wedded through the principles and priorities of our Corporate Plan 2015-19. These are interconnected in terms of the causes and outcomes of inequality, which many of the recommendations in the Fairness Commission seek to address.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.4 There are no other significant implications arising from this report. The Fairness Commission has had an impact on many council services and city partners as the recommendations were far reaching.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. 12 Months On: Update on Work Against the 2016 Fairness Commission Recommendations
2. Update on progress against the 15 recommendations prioritised by the Members Working Group

Background Documents

1. Fairness Commission 2016 [Headline](#) and [Full Report](#)

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 1.1 The Fairness Commission recommendations included ones on crime and disorder in particular violence against women and girls. Progress has been achieved against these recommendations as detailed in Appendix 1.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 1.2 The Fairness Commission presented services across the public sector with the opportunity to reflect and review their priorities and ways of working, and has had an impact of the focus of many services work. There was a risk that given public sector financial constraints delivery against the recommendations would be lower than expectations. However, despite the challenge services are able to demonstrate that they have listened to the Fairness Commission and are responding and/or building the findings into their work.

Public Health Implications:

- 1.3 The Fairness Commission recommendations included reducing inequality through tackling some of the key determinants of poor public health – housing, employment, access to open space.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 1.4 The Fairness Commission impacted on services across the council and other public sector bodies and thus continues to have any impact on many residents, communities and places across the city.