

Brighton & Hove City Council

Meeting: Sustainability Commission

Date: 9 March 2005

Report of: Director of Environment

Subject: Internal Review of the Sustainability Commission – Terms of Reference

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To outline the proposed terms of reference for an internal review of the Sustainability Commission.

2. Rationale

- 2.1 The original terms of reference for the Sustainability Commission (see Appendix A) committed the council to a bi-annual review of the Commission – this has been delayed from May 2004 pending the appointment of the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy to lead the review.
- 2.2 Following the council's recent decision to pay expenses for co-opted members, there is an issue that requires an immediate decision. The Constitution states that the three co-opted members of the Sustainability Commission should be nominated by the Local Strategic Partnership (see Appendix B). As the Local Strategic Partnership has only appointed one co-opted member, it is recommended that the Constitution be changed to permit the Commission to appoint its own co-optees.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is proposed that:

These original terms of reference should be the basis for the review.

The review be conducted by surveying present and past members of the commission and the council's Sustainability Team on a set list

of questions relating to the original TOR and asking how these have squared with their experience of the Commission.

That in addition, the Sustainability Team reviews and reports on the items considered by the Commission, referred to P&R or other committees, and the outcome of these considerations and referrals.

3.2 It is further proposed:

To recommend to Policy and Resources Committee that Article 6 of the Brighton & Hove City Council Constitution be amended to state that the Sustainability Commission have “up to 3 co-optees nominated by the Sustainability Commission or the Local Strategic Partnership”.

COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX



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Financial implications

No new financial implications.

Legal implications

Any changes to the terms of reference or composition of the Commission need to be approved by the Policy and Resources Committee. There are no adverse Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

Solicitor consulted: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghi

Corporate/Citywide implications	Risk assessment
Sustainability implications	Equalities implications
Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder	
Not relevant.	

Background papers

Constitution of Brighton & Hove City Council.

Contact Officer

Thurstan Crockett, Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy, 29-2503

Sustainability Commission - Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the Commission is to help the City Council develop and implement its sustainability policies as a mainstream part of its activities, including partnership work with other agencies and bodies.

2. Objectives and scope

- 2.1 To lead on the development, implementation, monitoring and review of the Council's Sustainability Strategy and Action Plans; and the development of a Local Agenda 21 in partnership with local communities.
- 2.2 To promote innovative thinking, best practice and joint working in developing sustainable approaches to delivering the Council's services and to advise The Management Team of the Council on integrating sustainability into all aspects of their work
- 2.3 To develop the capacity of the wider community to make informed, sustainable decisions and build on the work of the ninelives campaign to promote greater understanding of the contribution that sustainable development can make to improving people's quality of life.
- 2.4 To work with the voluntary and community sector, business and others to promote sustainable development, emphasising the importance of integrating economic, social and environmental issues and advising on implementation within the context of the community strategy and the Council's overall vision and priorities.
- 2.5 To work with the Local Strategic Partnership to ensure that Local Agenda 21 is an integral part of the community strategy; and to work with other groups and organisations to promote the City Council's participation in sustainability partnerships and networks.

3. Reporting and Accountability

- 3.1 The Commission will report to, and be accountable to, the Council's Policy and Resources Committee.
- 3.2 To reflect the significance of sustainability to 'economic, social and environmental well-being' the Commission will, in addition, be able to report to any of the Council's other committees and the Local Strategic Partnership.

[Note: The Commission will operate in an advisory capacity and will not have executive decision making powers].

4. Review

- 4.1 The work of the Commission will be reviewed bi-annually.