



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

COUNCIL ADDENDUM 01

4.30PM, THURSDAY, 25 MARCH 2021

VIRTUAL

ADDENDUM

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	(1) Reduce resident Parking Permit Fees. Lead petitioner Alexia Buzgya	
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WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority at each ordinary meeting of the Council.

Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion.

The following written question has been received from members of the public.

1. QUESTION From: Charlotte Harman

I understand that the council's existing contract with Veolia means that it cannot recycle lower-grade plastics. Would the council consider trialling the recycling boxes offered by a company called Reworked?

Companies like Reworked offer recycling of fishing nets, PPE, as well as items that are deemed 'non-recyclable' and turn them into boards to become a variety of new long term use items.?

Councillor Heley, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee will reply.

2. QUESTION From: Malcolm Spencer**More bins in Ovingdean**

Ovingdean has seen a significant rise in visitor numbers and consequently rubbish. There are only four bins across a large area including the seafront, coast road, village and main parking areas.

Could new bins please be provided at these heavily used sites?

- 1) Multiple locations on Greenways: near the bus stop; Blind Veterans; along the parking strip
- 2) On Ovingdean Road, at the entrance to the farm
- 3) At the junction of Ovingdean Road and Longhill road, next to the farm gate.
- 4) The bottom of Old Parish Lane that links Ovingdean to Woodingdean.

Councillor Heley, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee will reply

3. QUESTION From: John Cole

As a Green Party led Council why are the garden waste collections and the recycling waste collections consistently missed in Saltdean? This is poor service and does not motivate residents to do the right thing and recycle responsibly. As the garden waste collection is an additional cost to residents, we are also being charged for a service we are not receiving.?

Councillor Heley, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee will reply

4. QUESTION From: Ben Benatt

BHCC's 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme

We welcome the programme, but we have concerns about three key elements:

Reliability of data - Without references, how can we confirm data used to formulate this plan is correct?

Emphasis - This is BHCC's response to the climate and biodiversity emergency yet it is very much carbon focussed. Biodiversity elements are weak, lacking specific targets.

Practical action - Land-use carbon accounting and building sustainably are key to reducing emissions yet the programme doesn't once mention 'requirement', instead speaking of 'guidance'.

Therefore, XR Brighton concludes the plan is seriously flawed. Is a consultation process planned? If so, how can we get involved?

Councillor Heley, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee will reply

5. QUESTION From: Nigel Smith

The mandatory 5-year review of the City Plan and its Sustainability Appraisal lacks a Transport Assessment Update for the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The last annual monitoring Transport Assessment Update was in 2014.

With the well documented unplanned rise in congestion since 2014, it is very unlikely the City Plan's required housing developments can now be achieved sustainably, which invalidates City Plan Part 2 unless it addresses this.

When will you perform the obligatory Transport Assessment Update and publish it for consultation?

Councillor Osborne, Joint Chair of the Tourism, Equalities, Communities & Culture Committee will reply

6. QUESTION From: Neil Williams

Preserving the City's Trees

Why is the Council supporting the destruction of a much-loved, healthy, mature tree in the Cliftonville Conservation Area in order to pave the way for a Planning Application twice rejected, specifically because of the presence of the tree, by both the Council Planning Committee and the Secretary of State?

The felling of this tree would be in direct contravention of Local Plan policy QD16 and cuts against the grain of current environmental research about the benefits of trees and plants to encourage wildlife, biodiversity and promote positive mental health within urban communities.

How is this decision justified?

Councillor Littman, Chair of the Planning Committee will reply

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which one Member of the Council, nominated by the Mayor, may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the Mayor and voted on without discussion that the spokesperson for the deputation be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification of five Deputations have been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

**(1) Deputation concerning the Climate Change
Spokesperson – Alison Plaumer**

Supported by:

Ruth Buckley –Salmon	Ben Phillips
Tammie Cook- Duncan	Alison Plaumer
Simon Hyde	Sara Winnington
Richard Michalec	Terezia Lengyelova

Ward affected: All

Councillor Clare, Chair of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee will reply.

**(2) Deputation concerning the Hospital Trusts Merger
Spokesperson – Madeleine Dickens**

Supported by:

Michael Foulkes	Liz Williamson
Al Ferguson	Sue Bowes
Linda Miller	

Ward affected: All

Councillor Evans, Chair of the Health, Overview & Scrutiny Committee will reply.

**(3) Deputation concerning Integrated Care Systems: What we can discern so far
Spokesperson – Ken Kirk**

Supported by:

Taraneh Ahmadi Parker	Ray Parker,
Clare Jones	Janet Sang
Valerie Mainstone	

Ward affected: All

Councillor Shanks, Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board will reply.

**(4) Deputation concerning Student Stikes and Student Accommodation
Spokesperson – Billie Krish**

Supported by:

Roseanne Steffen	Liam Pem
Aaron Williams	Joan Laycock
Rachael Vowden	Miles Ratcliff
Jacob Whitea	Kit Gidley
Porya Caspar Pourandi	Thaddeus Pawluski
Connor Moylett	Daron Coaker

Ward affected: All

Councillor Hugh-Jones, Joint Chair of the Housing Committee will reply.

**(5) Deputation concerning Homeless Bill of Rights for Brighton & Hove
Spokesperson – David Thomas**

Supported by:

Jim Deans
Barry Hughes
David Croydon
Daniel Harris
Pauline O'Connor

Ward affected: All

Councillor Gibson, Joint Chair of the Housing Committee will reply.

Deputation concerning Climate Change**Spokesperson – Alison Plaumer**

We are delighted that Brighton & Hove council, declared a Climate emergency in 2018, and a climate action plan was written early this year. A major opportunity was missed however, on actions that could be taken by the council, about emissions from the consumption of food in council controlled establishments.

Depending on which science article you read, emissions from food vary from about one quarter, to a third of everyone's carbon footprint. Food production alone is set to push Earth past 1.5°C of warming according to an Oxford University meta analysis in 2018. "If we don't change what we do with food, we would miss the 1.5°C target within 30 to 45 years," says Professor Michael Clark. He adds, "The most effective one seems to be transitioning to a plant-based diet".

"Animal agriculture and fishing industries are leading causes of deforestation, ocean dead zones, water pollution, biodiversity loss, and species extinction. Not only that, intensive animal farming poses has a significant threat for the development of new pandemics, and for furthered antibacterial resistance to emerge."

A myriad of other academic articles, Professors, Scientists, the United Nations, The Lancet EAT study and many, many more show same / similar results and call for massive reductions in meat and dairy.

Other councils

- 70% of UK councils have declared a climate emergency and of those, so far
- [Enfield](#) council has stopped serving meat at its council events
- Lewisham council has voted to provide exclusively plant-based options at theirs.
- [Leeds](#) council have taken measures to introduce one meat-free day and another fully plant-based day per week across 182 schools.

Our request

We request that B&H Council implement a carefully managed transition to at least 2 plant-based days in all state-run schools as soon as is practically possible. We also request that all council run events be plant based (post pandemic) plus any other council run establishments (e.g. day centres etc).

In addition, we also request that B&H Council lobby central government to revise the current National food standards for school children in line with sustainability targets, so they include up to date scientific evidence, such as reducing the amount of animal based foods, and increasing plant based foods to effectively reduce personal carbon footprints.

We are a small number of signatories who represent a growing number of residents frightened of the approaching climate chaos, and want to do everything in our power to help reduce the impact for future generations.

Additional / supporting evidence

Please see below a small collection of evidence, from the overwhelming amount of evidence that supports this request.

1/ Climate emissions from food

[A 2018 Oxford study stated that the biggest change we can all make to reduce our environmental impact is to adopt a plant-based diet](#)

[Schools need plant-based day \(soilassociation.org\)](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lrJYTsKdUM&feature=youtu.be>

[The EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health - EAT Knowledge \(eatforum.org\)](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/may/31/avoiding-meat-and-dairy-is-single-biggest-way-to-reduce-your-impact-on-earth>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19C8-Zw-ScQDEMk0rvGPEkj8w8rtD9sCz/view?usp=drivesdk>
[Avoiding meat and dairy is 'single biggest way' to reduce your impact on Earth | Environment | The Guardian](#)

2/ Children's health

Lots of studies cite the negative health consequences of animal produce, please see a selection below;

The consumption of LDL cholesterol, only found in animal based foods, contributes to development of atherosclerosis. A [Harvard Nurse's Health study](#), showed that consuming the amount of cholesterol found in a single egg a day, appeared to cut a woman's life short as much as smoking 5 cigarettes a day for 15 years. [Studies also show that atherosclerosis begins in childhood](#), with nearly all western children as young as 10 being found with fatty streaks in their arteries, the level of which is directly correlated to the amount of LDL cholesterol found in their diet. [Inflammation and stiffening of the arteries occurs within minutes of consuming the bacterial endotoxins found in animal products](#), predisposing children to the development of arterial occlusion and insulin resistance. [The World Health Organisation categorises processed meat as a class 1 carcinogen](#) and another [Harvard health study](#) found a single serving of processed meat a day increased a person's risk of diabetes by 51%.

Additionally, [there is no strong link between milk consumption and bone health](#), in fact scientific evidence points to the opposite, that increased dairy consumption is linked to osteoporosis and hip fractures. A [2020 study](#) revealed that consuming one glass of milk a day increased a woman's risk of developing breast cancer by 50% and 2-3 cups increased risk by 80%.

The current [School Food Standards Guide](#) require *'a portion of meat or poultry on three or more days each week & oily fish once or more every three weeks.'* The reason given is that this provides *'protein and essential minerals, including iron and zinc. Oily fish provides omega-3 fatty acids and vitamins A and D'*. Similarly, the standards say that dairy products should be available on a daily basis as they are *'a rich source of energy, protein, calcium, vitamin A and riboflavin'*.

As you know these can all be found in plant based foods, and the same guideline. We are lobbying to change this outdated guidance.

3/ BAME community

In addition, it is estimated 65% of the world's population are lactose intolerant, the majority of whom are of BAME descent. As such, there is an inherent racism to have national food standards that, if followed, would make the majority of people of colour ill.

Plant based foods suit all diet types, as well as religious dietary guidelines e.g. halal

4/ Local Brighton community / parents

Lots of Brighton's vegan parents want this to happen in schools (Please see recent campaign by a Brighton mum) [Plant-powered Mum Launches Schools Campaign For Vegan-inclusion | Vegan Life Magazine](#) .

I have a petition supporting this on the council website

<https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=751&RPID=40670721&HPID=40670721&fbclid=IwAR1kreBQkQbli-YWuaJwMBn4bYcawlhMpEeeN7s-z6e1FRRW6D9ysikpxGM>

5/ What children want

"People's Climate Vote", UN Development Programme, 27th Jan 2021

86% of young people (under 18) in the UK believe climate change is a global emergency.

Of the people that said climate change is a global emergency, 59% said the world should do everything necessary and urgently in response.

Plus 43% of people in the UK, said in this report, they believe we should promote plant-based diets to tackle the climate crisis

6/ Resilience in a changing world

Children learn habits at a young age.

Given the world's resources have been, and are dwindling since 2008, learning to eat whole food plant based food as a much larger portion of daily food intake is a necessity, which is much less resource intense .

Plant based foods are cheaper

7/ Help from professional organisations

<https://proveg.com/uk/> This fabulous organisation can help with this. They go, into schools, work with chefs, organise fun events for children, help those delivering more plant based meals with the importance of messaging, and much more.

They can provide menu consultation packages to suit the needs of each council. This includes menu planning, recipe ideas, chef training, impact assessments, parent communications, and PR support.

[Home - Plant Based Health Professionals UK](#) Health professionals who can help

[Feed Our Future: Plant Based Meals In Schools](#) Useful web site

8/ Our Local MP

We wrote to our MP Caroline Lucas in January 2021 about this. A quote from her email:

"I think we need to utterly transform our food production systems. In my work as your MP I will be using the remaining stages of the Environment Bill to advocate for a food production system designed to maximise human health, animal health and the health of our ecosystems."

9/ Youtube video

Please watch the video - <https://youtu.be/dcVC4RmEJZA>

**Deputation concerning Hospital Trusts Merger
Spokesperson – Madeleine Dickens**

The proposed merger of the **Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Trust and Western Sussex hospitals NHS Foundation Trusts** is intended to serve a population of 1.8 million people in the region extending from Emsworth on the Sussex/Hampshire border to Brighton and Hove and beyond. It will create a mega-trust involving five hospitals (with implications for those not included), employing some 20,000 staff, with a budget of £1.2 billion. The merger takes place in the middle of a pandemic. NHS staff are over-stretched and exhausted; hospitals still filled to capacity, patient waiting lists soaring, private sector encroachment rapidly increasing. Our publicly provided health services have never been more vulnerable.

We have asked for this deputation to Full Council for two main reasons.

- 1) Up to the last minute the merger plans have been developed in near-total secrecy – the full business case only just being released. The case is in fact nothing more or less than a replica of NHS England Long Term plan based on the long-discredited STP. The Trusts have refused calls for public or staff consultation on the grounds that the merger will not involve major service changes. We ask how such a mega-merger takes place without radical reconfiguration of acute health services?
- 2) The exclusion of the Local Authority from decisions around this merger raises grave concerns about the erosion of the LA role in the provision and maintenance of fully accessible, open to all health services in the city and the erosion of local democracy itself.

There are rumours of impacts on existing provision in the city. It is certain there will be serious implications for NHS staff with concerns about the undermining of Agenda for Change contracts and conditions. For patients and their families, with increased catchment areas for some services, and poor public transport connections, the most vulnerable and least mobile residents will be severely disadvantaged. See notes.

A King's fund report (from 2015) examined 20 mergers of NHS trusts and foundation trusts. A total of £2bn was spent on 12 hospital mergers. In many cases there was "no clear rationale" for the merger. There were furthermore serious weaknesses in the assessment of alternative options and in the actual case of merging. Specifically -

- increasing evidence that Trust mergers do not deliver financial benefits
- "little recognition" of the disadvantages in creating larger, complex organisations which act as a barrier to comprehensive and fully accessible service delivery.

A main rationale given by the Trusts is that "A single trust provides a new certainty for patients, staff and the hospitals, paving the way for service improvements that deliver the ambitions of the NHS Long Term Plan and Sussex Integrated Care System". This statement clearly illustrates the political and economic motives behind the merger. The NHS is a public service and as such, particularly with an initiative with such massive implications for health, treatment and survival of city residents there should be complete transparency. We therefore urge Councillors to agree to undertake the following actions:

- 1) The Leader of the Council, Chief Executive, Chairs of HWB and HOSC be authorised to write to the Chief Executive of both Western Sussex NHS Foundation Hospital Trust and BSUHT to demand:
 - Full public consultation and the carrying out of impact assessments in relation to the impact of the merger on the city. That no further action should be taken towards implementation until both have been completed and the results published.
- 2) The Chair of the HOSC request that the Chief Executive and senior management team be called to answer questions about the detail and impact of the full business case.

NOTES

Link for the Hospital Trust merger business case -

<https://www.westernsussexhospitals.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FBC-Merger-of-BSUH-with-WSHFT-FINAL-ABRIDGED-1.pdf>

King's Fund report - <https://www.nationalhealthexecutive.com/Health-Care-News/nhs-mergers-cost-billions-but-dont-solve-issues-they-were-created-to-address--think-tank>

Quote from the Kings Fund report - "Our review of the financing for recent mergers highlights both the huge size of the financing packages and the small amounts of funding allocated to activities related to the merger. It adds further weight to our suspicions that mergers are not needed and fail to address the root causes of providers' difficulties in many cases. It also suggests that organisations might be pursuing mergers primarily as a route for securing large financing packages, rather than because of the supposed benefits of the transaction".

Lack of meaningful consultation with staff or public Attempts by trade unions to raise substantive issues around the merger have been met the response that the merger will go ahead regardless. Many NHS staff are still unaware the merger is even happening, let alone the implications for their jobs. Western Sussex NHS Foundation Trust has been one of the major proponents in the English NHS of the "Lean (also known as the Toyota) Method" of operational organisation, collaborating closely with the US-based Virginia Mason Institute. Evaluation of "Lean" literature. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4833201/>

Centralisation and so-called rationalisation of services will inevitably mean enforced staff re-deployments to different parts of the region and possibly redundancies. For some time NHS England has been promoting the importance of a more flexible workforce with all that implies. There are serious concerns that existing contracts and Agenda for Change conditions and pay arrangements will be undermined and limited notice transfers to other posts and parts of the merged region will become the norm.

Issues facing the public - catchment areas for main services and travel distances will be massively increased - made worse by the below par transport arrangements between the two counties. This has implications for patient care and is likely to put lives at risk. Those without cars or the money to pay for local transport let alone taxis, who are often in the most vulnerable categories, will be severely disadvantaged.

Down-grading of facilities, mergers and closures across the region and in Brighton and Hove. In one example, it has been strongly rumoured, not denied that the Sussex Eye Hospital will be moved from its present premises.

Private sector involvement Obviously the extensive, highly preferential distribution of contracts to private companies which has been taking place under the cover of the pandemic has accelerated the existing dependence of the NHS on private sector involvement. Given the state of non-Covid waiting lists and the need for Long Covid provision, locally and across the region such involvement is likely to become normalised. The proposed Integrated Care system and partnership arrangements will place private sector interests at the heart of decision making about health services across the city. As one of the most powerful players (if not the most) on those boards the merged Trusts (with already well-established private involvements) will be placed in a stronger position to promote the agenda for privatisation of local and regional health services.

**Deputation concerning Integrated Care Systems: What we can discern so far
Spokesperson – Ken Kirk**

References to the D of H&SC recent White Paper are identified thus *5.6, in italics*.

1. The end of a health service driven by patient demand. Under ICS, health services will be limited by allocated financial totals.
2. The clear purpose is to bear down on cost. Control of funding is central to the idea of an ICS, see Supporting Note A.
3. Deficits currently accrued by hospital trusts owing to recent underfunding won't be possible; hospitals will be forced to limit its work to allocated funding.
4. ICSs are based on US Accountable Care. Despite claiming to 'integrate' health and social care services for the benefit of patients there is little explanation of integration or how it's to be achieved in the White Paper.
5. White Paper news headlines claimed an end to privatisation (see Supporting Note C). On the contrary, the Health Services Support Framework allows ICSs to contract without tender with hundreds of private firms (see Supporting Note B).
6. Commissioning will be removed from the scope of Public Contracts Regulations 2015. This law ensures the inclusion of social, ethical and environmental aspects, implying the move from a regulated to an unregulated market. *5.46 – 7*.
7. There will be a Sussex-wide ICS NHS body and a separate ICS Health and Care Partnership. With CCGs will be abolished the ICS NHS body will be the sole commissioner. Its board will comprise a chair, a CEO, representatives from trusts and General Practice and local authorities. The board can appoint others, for example management consultants and executives from private firms but not members of the public it serves. *5.6 – 5.8 and 6.18 – 6.22*.
8. Local authorities will lose the power to refer health issues to "avoid creating conflicts of interest" *5.84*.
9. Exact local authority representation on the ICS NHS body isn't specified in the White Paper.
10. The ICS Health and Care Partnership will promote planning for health and social care needs, members drawn from local H&WB Boards etc. *6.20*.
11. There's no patient involvement in the provision of health services. The ICS NHS body will operate in secret, will be under no obligation to hold meetings in public, or to publish minutes.
12. The ICS will be to seek opportunities to bear down on costs, likely achieved by –
 - a. Limitation to the range of health services under the NHS. Already certain procedures are now denied under the NHS. (see Supporting note D). This is likely to be extended. Denial of care will become commonplace.
 - b. Rationing of care, when an allocated budget for a procedure is exhausted.
 - c. Diverting patients into cheaper procedures. (see Supporting Note E)
 - d. Extending care at home as an alternative to hospital care.
 - e. Using technology as an alternative to face-to-face consultations and widespread use of lower level of medical qualified clinician (see Supporting Note F).
13. An ICS will be allowed to "negotiate" local terms and conditions of their workers' employment, the Agenda for Change is likely to be under threat.
14. Professional regulation is certain to be under attack. The Secretary of State will have the power to "remove a profession from regulation" (*5.154*) and will be able to "abolish a regulator by secondary legislation" (*5.155*).

Supporting information Item 121 (3)

- A. The annual NHS budget is a large spend at around £130 billion. However UK spent the least per capita on healthcare in 2017 when compared with Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the US. The taxation burden is lower too.
<https://www.bmj.com/content/367/bmj.l6326>

The Health Services Support Framework is a list of accredited mainly private companies that an ICS can contract with, under specified purposes. Click on each Lot in <https://www.england.nhs.uk/hssf/use-framework/> to see each list, many US based.

- B. Section 75 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 is to be abolished, commissioners will no longer have to offer contracts to tender. However, under new legislation ICSs can contract without open tender to private firms listed in the HSSF, see Note B above.
- C. The medical services recently excluded can be found by searching for “Sussex CCG Clinically Effective Commissioning Programme”.
- D. Just as currently GP referrals to hospitals are interrupted into less-costly alternatives, e.g. physiotherapy, so an ICS will extend alternative referral pathways in pursuit of cost cutting.
- E. The necessity of pandemic social distancing has introduced widespread use of phone consultations in both primary and secondary care, also introduced has been the electronic transfer of photos to clinicians to assist diagnosis. An ICS is certain to extend technological innovation, particularly where it cut costs, irrespective of whether it serves its public better.

D of HSC White Paper

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/960548/integration-and-innovation-working-together-to-improve-health-and-social-care-for-all-web-version.pdf

**Deputation concerning Student Rent Strikes and Student Accommodation
Spokesperson – Billie Krish**

This written summary is submitted in support of our deputation concerning student rent strikes and private student accommodation in Brighton & Hove.

We wish to raise your urgent attention to the specific situation facing students in halls of residence at the University of Sussex and the University of Brighton, as well as students with private landlords in our city.

Summary of events:

Council will be well aware that in the run up to the 2020/21 academic year, students across the country were encouraged to come to campuses and into private student accommodation on the promise of proper teaching programmes, delivered in person as far as possible. Council will also be aware that the Government released guidance just days before term which tossed these plans out of the window and resulted in thousands of students being misled into accommodation where they were more at risk of COVID-19, more likely to be isolated and face challenges to their mental health and where they would have to pay already unfair and extortionate rents but for accommodation which they did not require and for many, which they would actually be advised against taking up residence in.

Here in Brighton & Hove and following a lack of action from management at the University of Sussex to remedy the financial and welfare concerns of students, the Sussex Renters Union publicly called for a rent strike in December 2020.

The Sussex Renters Union has a list of six demands, some which include: allowing students to exit their tenancy contracts without penalty, a fifty percent rent reduction for the academic year and no COVID-19 job losses on campus. Sussex Renters Union voices concern towards the University of Sussex's decision to increase rents for students in halls for the next academic year. This is in addition to the removal of Park Village, a £95 a week accommodation, leaving the next most affordable accommodation - Norwich House - at £118.50 a week. We believe the lack of affordability may drive some students away from living on campus. Sussex Renters Union was pivotal in applying pressure onto the University for a rent rebate for the 2021 lockdown period. However, we are petitioning for it to be applied to all students universally. Students have also faced a range of accommodation issues including mould, damp walls and ceilings, leaks, silverfish and rats. The slow response of the University to these issues has led to many students living in unbecoming conditions.

We ask the council to consider:

- What steps it may take in calling on the University of Sussex to maintain recent engagement and the University of Brighton to begin similar cooperation with student rent strikers.
- Requesting the appropriate persons at the council to write to the Minister of State for Universities demanding full and proper financial support for students, to call on universities to cancel rents and provide the necessary financial support our universities require so they need not exploit students in order to survive.
- Bringing a motion (similar to that already brought before Bristol City Council) requesting the appropriate persons write to student landlords and accommodation providers in Brighton & Hove imploring them to take advantage of Government aid that would enable rent reductions and contract releases for students in private accommodation who have not been in occupation during this lockdown.
- Referring this deputation to the Housing Committee for further consideration.

**Deputation on the Homeless Bill of Rights for Brighton & Hove
Spokesperson – David Thomas**

The Homeless Bill of Rights movement started in the USA ten years or more ago. In Europe, FEANTSA, the umbrella organisation for homelessness organisations, became increasingly concerned by trends towards criminalising and excluding homeless people, and they launched their own version in 2017.

We, Brighton & Hove Housing Coalition, very much liked the European Homeless Bill of Rights, which was drawn up in consultation with organisations of homeless people. It is a compilation of basic rights from European and international human rights law made highly specific to the situation of homeless people. It starts with Article 1, which is a restatement of the right to a home. It does not seek to accept or institutionalise homelessness; that there is homelessness is already a breach of this fundamental right. It also contains some highly specific rights. No-one should ever be forced to sleep rough. Everyone should have access to sanitary facilities and fresh water. Homeless people should have the same right of access to public spaces as everyone else. There should be respect for their privacy and data, and they should not be discriminated against.

After consultation with our local rough sleepers, with FEANTSA's agreement, we amended the European document a little to make the English more colloquial without changing the meaning, and we added two extra Articles; the right to respect for belongings and the right to have the deaths of homeless people recorded and investigated.

On 28th October 2018 the Brighton & Hove Homeless Bill of Rights was launched, at the Sunday Street Kitchen and at Brighthelm Centre. All three local MPs and Arch Healthcare sent supportive messages and Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP joined us at the Street Kitchen. Our much missed chair, Steve Parry, chaired the launch, and Maria Jose Aldanas of FEANTSA and Jamie Burton of Just Fair came and spoke in support. Many of the councillors presently serving the city were present, from Labour, Green and Conservative parties.

Both the Green and Labour Parties pledged to adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights in their manifestos. Following the election, we presented a petition with more than 2,500 signatures to Full Council on 25th June 2019, which was welcomed by speeches from all three parties. Accordingly the Council Plan 2019-23 states that "We will ... adopt a Bill of Rights for homeless people". The Homeless Bill of Rights was incorporated into the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25 as an aspiration and a standard against which the Council and its partners will judge its policies and practices.

The Homeless Bill of Rights comes before Full Council now for adoption. It has been accepted by officers, the legal department, and the Housing Committee. Last autumn, it had been adopted by nine European cities, including Barcelona and Santiago de Compostela in Spain and Gdansk in Poland. Since then, it has been sweeping through Greece, where 35 cities (including Thessaloniki and Korinthos) have so far adopted it; as they say, "for these municipalities, endorsing the bill is only a starting point for continuous commitment, improvement, and engagement to defend rights of homeless people". Councillors, it is time for the City of Brighton & Hove to become the first UK city to adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights!

Appendix 1

This appendix introduces the organisations involved in the Brighton & Hove Homeless Bill of Rights.

Brighton & Hove Housing Coalition (<https://housingcoalition.co.uk>)

We are a coalition of activists and organisations campaigning on housing issues in Brighton & Hove. Our coalition includes people who have experienced homelessness and activists who work with rough sleepers on a daily basis, including Sussex Homeless Support, ETHRAG, and Opsafe. We are involved in campaigns including the Brighton General Hospital Campaign, AGHAST (Brighton Gasworks campaign), SHS's homeless pods, and in support of Arch Healthcare's plans for a homelessness hub.

And, of course, we launched the Homeless Bill of Rights for Brighton & Hove. The full story of that campaign may be found on <https://homelessrights.org.uk>.

FEANTSA (<https://www.feantsa.org>)

FEANTSA is the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless. We are the only European NGO focusing exclusively on the fight against homelessness. Our ultimate goal is an end to homelessness in Europe.

Established in 1989, FEANTSA brings together non-profit services that support homeless people in Europe. We have over 130 member organisations from 30 countries, including 28 Member States. Most are national or regional federations. FEANTSA launched the European Homeless Bill of Rights in 2017 in co-ordination with Housing Rights Watch.

Housing Rights Watch (<https://www.housingrightswatch.org>)

Housing Rights Watch is an interdisciplinary European network of associations, lawyers and academics from different countries, who are committed to promoting the right to housing. The right to housing has been recognised as one of the most important fundamental human rights and what we seek is the realisation of every person's right to live in dignity and to have a secure, adequate and affordable place to live.

Just Fair (<http://justfair.org.uk/>)

Registered as a charity since 2011, Just Fair exists to realise a fairer and more just society in the UK by monitoring and advocating the protection of economic and social rights (ESR).

Just Fair is committed to increasing public awareness of international and domestic human rights law and the capability to use it. Just Fair is also devoted to the advancement of high-quality thinking, training and practice to ensure that ESR are respected, protected and fulfilled.

Appendix 2

This appendix sets out a few of the endorsements our campaign has received so far, mostly around the launch and the presentation of the petition.

MPs

All three sent their endorsement and support to the launch.

Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP: “Hopefully, Brighton and Hove City Council can lead the way by adopting the Bill of Rights in full and set an example for other councils across the country to follow. I really congratulate the campaigners who have built support for this initiative, and well done to everyone here today - I will continue to support you in the fight for a just housing system across our city and our country.”

Caroline Lucas MP: “I support the Bill of Rights, not just because of its aims and the urgent need to change our housing policy and address the housing crisis. I support the Bill because we need to end the merry-go-round of local authorities absolving themselves of responsibility to provide accommodation by saying they have no legal duty. For too long, in both our national and local housing policies, moral duty has been starkly absent. ... I hope that like other cities in Europe, Brighton and Hove leads the way in the UK by adopting the Homeless Bill of Rights.”

FEANTSA

Freek Spinnewijn, Director of FEANTSA, wrote a letter to the Leader of the Council: “On behalf of FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless, I hereby invite you to endorse the Homeless Bill of Rights in Brighton and Hove. ... We at FEANTSA strongly believe that cities must play a critical role in recognising and vindicating the human rights of all citizens. Endorsing the bill entails an explicit support by the city for the European campaign and the start of a change of policy in the city around homelessness. We encourage the City of Brighton and Hove to commit to the Homeless Bill of Rights and for it to be translated into firm actions to promote and respect its values.”

Just Fair

Koldo Casla, Policy Director of Just Fair:

“The reality of homelessness in the UK is a painful reminder of why, now more than ever, we need to secure the right to adequate housing and other social rights in law and practice. As observed by the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha, “effective implementation of the right to adequate housing cannot be achieved without the proactive involvement of local and subnational governments.” We very much welcome the Homeless Bill of Rights of Brighton & Hove. Even within the limits of diminishing resources, local authorities have the opportunity and responsibility to fulfil the right to adequate housing and other human rights for all without discrimination of any kind.”

Subject:	Next Steps – Rough Sleeping and Accommodation During Covid 19 Pandemic & Recovery – Extract from the proceedings of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on the 18 March 2021		
Date of Meeting:	25 March 2021		
Report of:	Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 01273 291006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**Action Required of Council:**

To consider the report and the recommendations from the Policy & Resources and Housing Committees.

Recommendation:

- (1) That the Homeless Bill of Rights be adopted (as referred to in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25) as an aspirational document and as the standard against which the Council and its partners judge its policies and practices and outcomes;
- (2) That a copy of the resolution is signed by the Leader and sent to FEANTSA to mark its commitment to the international movement of solidarity with homeless people;
- (3) That it be agreed to commit to a process of continuous commitment, improvement and engagement to uphold rights of homeless people.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

4.00pm 18 MARCH 2021

VIRTUAL TEAMS MEETING

MINUTE EXTRACT

Present: Councillor Mac Cafferty (Chair) Druitt (Joint Deputy Chair), Gibson (Joint Deputy Chair), Platts (Opposition Spokesperson), Allcock, Clare, Miller, Simson, Wilkinson and Yates.

Also present: Dr Anusree Biswas Sasidharan, Standing Invitee.

PART ONE

160 NEXT STEPS – ROUGH SLEEPING AND ACCOMMODATION DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC AND RECOVERY

- 160.1 The Committee considered an extract from the proceedings of the Housing Committee meeting held on the 17 March 2021, together with a report of the Executive Director for Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities, concerning the next steps to tackle rough sleeping and provide accommodation during the pandemic and recovery from it. The report also provided an update on the cold weather & protect funding, severe weather emergency protocol, government rough sleeping snapshot and the Homeless Bill of Rights.
- 160.2 The Executive Director for Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities noted that an amendment to the recommendations had been passed at the Housing Committee meeting the night before and was detailed in the extract from the proceedings.
- 160.3 Members of the committee welcomed the report and sought clarification on various points including the next round of government bidding for Housing First and the projections for future homelessness figures, use of emergency accommodation outside of the city and the maximum level of accommodation that was available in the city to meet homelessness figures. Members also thanked officers for the report and the work that had been undertaken to date.
- 160.4 The Assistant Director, Housing stated that it was hoped to reduce the use of emergency accommodation with the use of the ‘move-on’ process and reconnection for rough sleepers. It was also hoped to provide more council owned emergency accommodation in the city. He also offered to provide further information in writing to the committee Members.
- 160.5 Dr Sasidharan noted the recent court judgement and there being no recourse to public funds and asked what assistance would be made available to rough sleepers.

- 160.6 The Executive Director for Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities stated that it was a very complex situation and officers were currently looking at the implications and what could be done to assist people.
- 160.7 Councillor Gibson noted the amendment to the recommendations that had been agreed at the Housing Committee and stated that he hoped the full Council would support the aspiration to meet the Homeless Bill of Rights commitment.
- 160.8 The Chair thanked everyone for their comments and then put the recommendations to the vote.

160.9 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Executive Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities be granted delegated authority to secure accommodation up to the 31st October 2021, by entering into contracts to extend existing arrangements or alternative arrangements where necessary to extend the provision of shorter-term/interim accommodation acquired in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, including a building to deliver the No Second Night Out service up to the beginning of October 2021;
- (2) That it be agreed to continue to support people in the accommodation secured as para 2.9 which includes security, support and food where necessary estimated to cost £2.900m to 1st October 2021 and
- (3) That it be noted that if Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) funding is not available, this could create a service pressure of £2.043m.

160.10 **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

- (1) That the Homeless Bill of Rights (as referred to in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25) be adopted as an aspirational document and as the standard against which the Council and its partners judge its policies and practices and outcomes
- (2) That a copy of this resolution is signed by the Leader and sent to FEANTSA to mark its commitment to the international movement of solidarity with homeless people; and
- (3) That the full Council agrees to commit to a process of continuous commitment, improvement and engagement to uphold rights of homeless people.

Council	Agenda Item 127
25 March 2021	Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Next steps - Rough Sleeping and Accommodation during Covid 19 Pandemic and Recovery – Extract from the proceedings of the Housing Committee meeting held on the 17 March 2021		
Date of Meeting:	25 March 2021 18 March 2021 – Policy & Resources Committee		
Contact Officer:	Name: Shaun Hughes	Tel: 01273 290569	
	E-mail: shaun.hughes@brighton-hove.gov.uk		
Wards Affected:	All Wards		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

<i>Action Required of Council:</i>
To receive the recommendations of the Housing Committee for consideration.
Recommendation:
<p>(1) That the Homeless Bill of Rights (as referred to in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25) be adopted as an aspirational document and as the standard against which the Council and its partners judge its policies and practices and outcomes;</p> <p>(2) That a copy of this resolution is signed by the Leader and sent to FEANTSA to mark its commitment to the international movement of solidarity with homeless people; and</p> <p>(3) That the full Council agrees to commit to a process of continuous commitment, improvement and engagement to uphold rights of homeless people.</p>

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE

4.00pm 17 MARCH 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Gibson (Joint Chair), Hugh-Jones (Joint Chair), Phillips (Deputy Chair), Williams (Opposition Spokesperson), Mears (Group Spokesperson), Appich, Atkinson, Barnett, Fowler and Osborne.

PART ONE

146 NEXT STEPS - ROUGH SLEEPING AND ACCOMMODATION DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC AND RECOVERY

- 146.1 The Assistant Director of Housing introduced the report to the committee.
- 146.2 Councillor Atkinson was informed that the Homeless Reduction Board (HRB) have had a number of meetings and the minutes of the meetings can be made available to Members. Although it is hard to move people on, this is continuing. Reconnecting people is a lengthy process and mediation services are being used to assist. A sub regional approach has been used with regard to other cities and only those with a duty are linked to the city. There are no clear numbers on the loss of private rented accommodation and landlords are being asked to talk to the council before the pandemic restrictions are lifted. It was noted that the Homeless Bill of Rights is aspirational.
- 146.3 Councillor Williams extended a vote of gratitude to Emily Ashmore and Jenny Knight for their outstanding work and was sorry to see them leave.
- 146.4 Councillor Mears was informed that the officer correction had occurred as there had been a misunderstanding with the legal team. It was noted that the Homeless Reduction Board will report back to the Housing committee and are not a decision making body. The councillor expressed concerns at the amendments to the recommendations and considered the original recommendations to be suitable and there was no need for the amendments.
- 146.5 Councillor Appich was informed that some houses of multiple occupancy (HMO) have been used to accommodate homeless people. It was noted that those being placed in HMOs were also being given support. The HRB action plan is being developed and will come to the Housing committee every six months (approximately) for the committee to agree the actions.
- 146.6 Councillor Gibson considered the work by officers to be amazing and considered the strategy should be fully operational by June 2021. It was noted that although many people were moving on, more were arriving in the city and prevention should proceed

as soon as possible. The councillor was informed that the customer facing services were on the corporate road map to be reintroduced as soon as possible ahead of the end of lockdown restrictions. The councillor noted that the HRB were not a decision making body and will report to the Housing committee.

146.7 Councillor Williams proposed and introduced the amendments and stated that they considered the amendments to strengthen the recommendations.

146.8 Councillor Gibson seconded the amendments and asked the committee to support the amendments.

146.9 The Chair invited the committee to vote on the amendments which were agreed by a majority with 2 abstentions.

146.10 The Chair invited the committee to vote on the recommendations as amended and they were agreed by a majority with 2 abstentions.

146.11 **RESOVLED:**

- (1) That the progress to date be noted;
- (2) That the continued role of the Homeless Reduction Board in monitoring progress on meeting the conditions of NSAP funding and next steps be noted;
- (3) That the move on projections outlined in the report for those clients covered by Next Steps Accommodation Funding (Covid-1 in the report) and the continued emergency accommodation requirements for this cohort beyond 31st March 2021 be noted;
- (4) That the move on projections for those assessed as at risk of rough sleeping who we have continued to accommodate (Covid-2 in the report) and the ongoing emergency accommodation requirements of those we have housed during the on-going pandemic into the new (2021-22) financial year be noted;
- (5) That it be agreed that by 21st June 2021, the accommodation offer to those assessed as at risk of rough sleeping made for the duration of the pandemic (Covid-2 in the report) is ended where no accommodation duty is owed by the council as outlined in paragraphs 3.11 – 3.13. This to be reviewed if there is a further increase in the pandemic.
- (6) That the low number of verified rough sleepers (para 3.23) and that the Council will continue to seek to offer accommodation to all verified rough sleepers where this is permissible within the Council's powers to consolidate this achievement be noted;
- (7) That it be agreed that the Homeless Reduction Board oversee progress with the recovery of homelessness services, including face to face services, income recovery, move on and reconnections with a report on progress to the next Housing Committee; and

(8) That Housing Committee recommend to full council:

- (1) To adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights (as referred to in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25) as an aspirational document and as the standard against which the Council and its partners judge its policies and practices and outcomes;
- (2) That a copy of this resolution is signed by the Leader and sent to FEANTSA to mark its commitment to the international movement of solidarity with homeless people;
- (3) To commit to a process of continuous commitment, improvement and engagement to uphold rights of homeless people.

That Housing Committee recommend to Policy & Resources committee:

- (1) That the Executive Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities be granted delegated authority to secure accommodation up to the 31st October 2021, by entering into contracts to extend existing arrangements or alternative arrangements where necessary to extend the provision of shorter-term/interim accommodation acquired in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, including a building to deliver the No Second Night Out service up to the beginning of October 2021.
- (2) That it be agreed to continue to support people in the accommodation secured as para 2.9 which includes security, support and food where necessary estimated to cost £2.900m to 1st October 2021.
- (3) That if Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) funding is not available, this could create a service pressure of £2.043m be noted;

This committee resolves to recommend to full council:

- (1) To adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights (as referred to in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25) as an aspirational document and as the standard against which the Council and its partners judge its policies and practices and outcomes;
- (2) That a copy of this resolution is signed by the Leader and sent to FEANTSA to mark its commitment to the international movement of solidarity with homeless people;
- (3) To commit to a process of continuous commitment, improvement and engagement to uphold rights of homeless people.

This committee Notes:

- That on 25th June 2019 a Petition with (currently) 2,667 signatures was presented to the Council by Brighton & Hove Housing Coalition, with the support of FEANTSA and Just Fair, calling on it to adopt the Homeless Bill of

Rights.

- That the Council Plan 2019-23, states that “We will ... adopt a Bill of Rights for homeless people”;
- That the Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy approved by the Housing Committee on 17th June 2020 states that “The values of the ... Strategy align to aspirations within the Homeless Bill of Rights as amended for Brighton & Hove by Housing Rights Watch, FEANTSA and Just Fair” (page 11).
- That the Next Steps report presented to the Housing Committee of 17th March 2021 proposes that Housing Committee recommend to Full Council the use of the Homeless Bill of Rights, as a standard against which the Council and its partners judge our policies and practices.
- That the Homeless Bill of Rights User Guide, by Housing Rights Watch, states that “The bravest municipalities believe that endorsing the Bill of Rights was something they wanted to do. They did this showing a public commitment to its content and sending a signed copy of the Bill to FEANTSA. The bill is only a starting point for continuous commitment, improvement and engagement to defend rights of homeless people”;
- That according to the Legal Implications section of the said Next Steps report, “According to the council’s constitution, the ‘Endorsing, approving or otherwise committing the Council to any charter, alliance or pledge’ is a full council function. The recommendation at 2.8 is consistent with the constitution’s requirements”.

Council	Agenda Item 130 (A)
25 March 2021	Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 – Extract from the proceedings of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on the 18 March 2021		
Date of Meeting:	25 March 2021		
Report of:	Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 01273 291006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of Council:
To consider the report and the recommendations from the Policy & Resources Committee.
Recommendation: That the pay policy statement for 2021/22 attached at Appendix 1 to the report be agreed and adopted.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

4.00pm 18 MARCH 2021

VIRTUAL TEAMS MEETING

MINUTE EXTRACT

Present: Councillor Mac Cafferty (Chair) Druitt (Joint Deputy Chair), Gibson (Joint Deputy Chair), Platts (Opposition Spokesperson), Allcock, Clare, Miller, Simson, Wilkinson and Yates.

Also present: Dr Anusree Biswas Sasidharan, Standing Invitee.

PART ONE

164 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/22

- 164.1 The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development, concerning the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/2022 which needed to be approved by the full Council before the start of the financial year. She noted that there were no proposed changes to the policy for the coming year and that it was recommended for approval by the full Council.
- 164.2 Dr Sasidharan asked whether it was possible to share the equalities impact assessment that related to the policy.
- 164.3 The Assistant Director stated that she would ensure a copy was sent to Dr Sasidharan.
- 164.4 Councillor Yates welcomed the report and noted that further reports on the BAME and Gender pay gaps were due to come to the committee later in the year.
- 164.5 The Chair then put the recommendations to the vote.
- 164.6 **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** That the pay policy statement for 2021/22 attached at Appendix 1 to the report be recommended to the full Council for adoption.

Council

25 March 2021

Agenda Item 130 (A)

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Pay Policy Statement 2021/22		
Date of Meeting:	25 March 2021 18 March 2021 – Policy & Resources Committee		
Report of:	Assistant Director HROD, Finances & Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Wendy Jepson	Tel: 01273 295088
	Email:	wendy.jepson@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to produce a pay policy statement to be approved by Council annually before the start of the financial year to which it relates. The aim is to increase accountability, transparency and fairness in the setting of local pay.
- 1.2 The pay policy statement:
- sets out the council's policies on a range of issues relating to the pay of its workforce, particularly its senior and lowest paid staff;
 - summarises the parameters within which staff are paid;
 - describes the parameters being governed by a local pay framework set with reference to national terms and conditions, and nationally agreed pay awards.
- 1.3 The provisions in the Act do not seek to determine what decisions on pay should be taken, or what policies should be in place, but they do require councils to be open about their policies and how decisions are made.
- 1.4 This report asks the Policy & Resources Committee to recommend to Council the attached pay policy statement for adoption from 1st April 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Policy & Resources Committee recommends to Council the adoption of the pay policy statement for 2021/22 attached at Appendix 1.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**The Pay Policy Statement**

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to produce and formally approve an annual pay policy statement prior to the year to which it relates. The statement for 2021/22 is attached at Appendix 1. The council may amend its statement by resolution of Council if required during the year.

- 3.2 Schools' staff fall outside the scope of this legislation. Individual governing bodies are responsible for setting and updating their own Schools' Pay Policy each year.
- 3.3 The guiding principles for the council's pay policy are set out in the 'Aim' section of the statement. The council has adopted national terms and conditions, and these provide scope for local determination on grading structures and pay lines, as well as the ability to negotiate on working pattern allowances. Local authorities have the ability to determine their pay lines and grading structures and payments over and above basic pay.
- 3.4 Chief Officers, for the purpose of this legislation, are those who report to the Chief Executive and those who report to posts reporting to the Chief Executive i.e. deputy chief officers (aside from support roles).
- 3.5 The statement must provide a definition of lowest-paid employees adopted by the council for the purposes of the statement, and include the council's policies relating to the remuneration of chief officers, payments to chief officers on leaving, and the publication of information on the remuneration of chief officers. The pay policy statement provides links to our existing policies on redundancy, retirement and other compensation payments. These policies set out who is responsible for decisions on such payments.
- 3.6 The council's pay policy statement provides that decisions in relation to permanent recruitment to posts which attract a total remuneration package above the £100,000 threshold will be referred to the Appointments & Remuneration Panel for consideration and recommendation to the Chief Executive. In this way, it is ensured that adequate systems are in place to ensure value for money. The same provision is made regarding severance packages above £100,000, with the Chief Executive having authority to agree a severance package above £100,000 where the severance package has been recommended by the Appointments & Remuneration Panel. In accordance with Statutory Guidance, this figure does not include amounts that may be payable by virtue of any enactment e.g. redundancy retirements where payment is in line with legal requirements and normal council policy.
- 3.7 All other severance packages are considered and agreed by an officer compensation panel comprising the Head of Human Resources, the Monitoring Officer and the s151 Officer (or their delegates). The council's external auditors are also consulted about the value for money of any potential offers to Chief Officers. Compensation packages in excess of £100,000 which relate to the Chief Executive will be referred to the Policy & Resources Committee for approval.
- 3.8 The long-awaited Regulations introducing a £95k cap on exit payments for public sector employees did come into force on 4th November 2020 in the form of The Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payment Regulations 2020. However, following legal challenge, the Government confirmed on 13th February that these Regulations will be revoked and, in the meantime, have issued a Treasury Direction disapplying them. Therefore, no changes are required to Council policies in relation to the Regulations.

- 3.9 The Localism Act 2011 does not require specific numerical data on pay and reward to be published as part of a council's pay policy statement. However, statutory guidance made under section 40 of the 2011 Act suggests that consideration be given to how the pay policy statement fits with data on pay and reward that councils are already required to publish on their websites, under the [Local Government Transparency Code](#) and by the [Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015](#). The data published is in an accessible format according to the guidance contained in the aforementioned publications.
- 3.10 The council publishes pay data annually in accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code. The majority of this information is published as soon as possible after the start of the financial year. However, information required in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 is published in May each year in an unaudited format, and then the fully audited accounts are published in July each year.
- 3.11 The Localism Act 2011 requires authorities to explain what they think the relationship should be between the remuneration of its chief officers and its employees who are not chief officers. The pay multiple is calculated using the median pay of all employees within the scope of the Pay Policy Statement as a multiple of the Chief Executive's salary. This method is in line with the Hutton report on Fair Pay, which is referred to in the 'Openness and Accountability in Local Pay' guidance. For the financial year 2019/20 the pay multiple was 5.6:1 This is recalculated after the end of the financial year and published on the council's website as part of our pay data. The pay multiple is calculated using the definition contained in the Local Government Transparency Code, i.e. the ratio between the highest paid employee (usually the Chief Executive, as is the case with Brighton & Hove) and the median salary across the workforce (excluding school staff).
- 3.12 The pay multiple for 2020/21 is yet to be calculated, however it is not anticipated that this will have changed significantly as salaries and allowances have remained fairly static and the pay award uplift of 2.75% for 2020/21 was uniformly applied to all NJC and JNC grades.
- 3.13 The pay policy statement, when published on our website, will contain hyperlinks to related information.
- 3.14 Additional proposals to require high public sector earners to repay exit payments if they return to the sector have previously been consulted on but there has been no further indication of when or if they might be implemented. The Council will monitor the situation and review its arrangements once full details and implications are known.
- 3.15 The Voluntary Living Wage for council employees will increase to £9.50 per hour with effect from 1st April 2021: an increase of 2.15%.
- 3.16 The pay policy does not yet cover the Gender Pay Gap reporting for the period of March 2020, this will be added once the report has been prepared. However, the reporting published on 6 March 2020 for the March 2019 reporting period is shown below. Driven by The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public

Authorities) Regulations 2017 reporting period for March 2019 shows that on average female employees earn 5.8% more than male employees, and that using the median as a measure, female employees earn 4.9% more than male employees.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Section 39(1) of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to approve its Pay Policy Statement, while section 39(5) requires that it publish its Pay Policy Statement as soon as reasonably practicable after approval. This report and the Pay Policy Statement are considered to achieve the appropriate levels of transparency and to comply with relevant guidance.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The purpose of this pay policy statement is to provide transparency regarding how local decisions on pay are made. There will be no separate consultation, however trade unions have been made aware of the contents.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 It is a requirement of the Localism Act 2011 that Members are consulted prior to the publication of the Pay Policy Statement. It is therefore recommended that Policy & Resources Committee approve this report and recommend that full Council formally approve the Pay Policy Statement 2021/22.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The annual pay policy statement supports good governance and allows benchmarking comparisons with other local authorities to assess Value for Money.
- 7.2 The pay assumptions included within the budget for 2021/22 are consistent with the government's funding assumptions for local authorities. In the Spending Review 2020, the Chancellor announced a pay freeze for the public sector excluding the NHS and employees earning £24,000 or less who will see a minimum increase of £250. The council's budget for 2021/22 reflects this assumption and also includes provision for the Voluntary Living Wage uplift to £9.50 per hour from 1st April 2021. However, it should be noted that local authorities are not part of the public sector pay award determination and the pay of the majority of local authority staff is determined through the National Joint Council (NJC) made up of 12 employer representatives and 58 trade union representatives. Given that the funding settlement made available to local authorities effectively includes no provision for a pay award (other than for those paid £24,000 or less), this will be one of the many factors considered by the employers' side in negotiations. If a pay award is agreed by the NJC, the council will be bound by this agreement and will be required to honour any pay award regardless of the assumptions made in its 2021/22 budget. A 1% pay award (for grades above £24,000) would cost approximately £1.1M.

Finance Officer Consulted: Nigel Manvell

Date: 12.02.21

Legal Implications:

- 7.3 This Pay Policy Statement complies with the requirements of s38 of the Localism Act 2011 and statutory guidance issued pursuant to it. The Pay Policy Statement does not incorporate changes to the Council's policies and procedures to reflect restrictions on exit payments brought into force by the Public Sector Exit Payment Regulations 2020, made under the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 because the Government issued a Treasury direction in February 2021 disapplying the Regulations with immediate effect and has confirmed that they will be revoked.
- 7.4 It is a requirement of section 39(1) of the Localism Act 2011 that the Pay Policy Statement be approved by full Council.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 14.02.21

Equalities Implications:

- 7.5 The publication of a pay policy statement increases transparency over pay and promotes fairness.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.6 None

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.7 The pay policy statement provides local taxpayers with information on how the council makes local decisions on pay and thus provides greater openness and transparency to assist the public to assess value for money

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Appendix 1: Pay Policy Statement 2021/22

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

Brighton & Hove City Council Pay Policy Statement

1 Aim

Brighton & Hove City Council wants to ensure that the City and its residents receive high quality services and excellent value for money. In the context of the significant budget challenges that the council faces, pay levels need to be set at a level that will enable the council to attract and retain high calibre individuals while remaining prudent in its use of public funds.

To achieve this, the council requires a workforce that is conscientious, professional and reliable at all levels and which has the relevant up-to-date skills and knowledge to deliver high quality services to the residents of and visitors to Brighton and Hove.

The council depends on a high calibre senior management team able to provide leadership and to work in close partnership with other private, public and voluntary agencies across the City. The senior team need to work with partners to assess and understand the level of need across the City and to commission and deliver services. At the same time, they need to be able to lead change programmes and reduce costs to deliver better outcomes for customers. An innovative, skilled and experienced workforce is vital to the delivery of our vision and this is at the heart of our pay policy. This principle applies from the lowest to the highest paid employee.

Whilst recognising the market rates for pay and seeking to attract the best talent the council seeks to ensure that pay policies are based on fairness and equality and allow the workforce to live healthy and happy lives. The council has introduced the voluntary 'Living Wage' and is working to reduce the pay gap between the highest and the lowest paid. The pay multiple between the Chief Executive and the median earnings of the rest of the workforce will be published annually on the council's website.

2 Scope

This document complies with the council's statutory responsibility to produce a pay policy statement annually pursuant to s38(1) of the Localism Act 2011. This policy statement requires approval by full Council. The council wishes to ensure that local taxpayers are able to take an informed view on all aspects of the council's remuneration arrangements and the pay policy statement will be published on the council's website.

The statement applies to all employees of the council and 'casual workers', except for those staff based in schools and apprentices throughout the council.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of the pay policy statement the following definitions will apply:

- Brighton & Hove City Council defines its lowest paid employees as those who are paid on the lowest spinal column point of its [grading structure](#). This is the voluntary 'Living Wage' and is applied to casual workers as well as employees. A full-time post is based on a 37-hour week. Under the terms of the revised national pay spine, (which came into effect in April 2019) the voluntary 'Living

Wage' will equate to the bottom Spinal Column point of the new national pay spine.

- Chief Officers are defined as those who report directly to the Chief Executive. In Brighton & Hove these are currently the members of the Executive Leadership Team. Those who are members of the Executive Leadership Team, for the purpose of this policy statement, are also defined as Chief Officers, except where the context provides otherwise.

Senior Structure

For the purposes of this pay policy statement the Executive Leadership Team comprises the following posts:

- Chief Executive;
- Executive Director Families, Children & Learning (incorporating Director of Children's Services (DCS) role);
- Executive Director Health and Adult Social Care (incorporating Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) role);
- Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Culture;
- Executive Director Finance & Resources;
- Executive Lead Officer Strategy, Governance & Law; and
- Executive Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods and Communities.

The Extended Executive Leadership Team comprises members of the Executive Leadership Team and Assistant Directors ([Link to structure chart](#)). [The Leadership Network for the council comprises the Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Assistant Directors and those that report to them and are on a senior management grade \(M7 and above\).](#)

National Pay and Conditions

There are a number of national agreements produced through collective bargaining arrangements for different groups of local government staff. The main negotiating bodies relevant to our workforce and their scope are listed below. Brighton & Hove City Council operates these national conditions as amended by local agreements.

The National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services negotiates collective agreements on pay and conditions for local authority employees who are not covered by other specialist negotiating bodies (e.g. teachers).

The Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities (JNC) covers the pay and conditions for Chief Officers.

The Soulbury Committee negotiates the pay and conditions for advisory staff in local education authorities (LEAs), such as: educational improvement professionals (previously advisers and inspectors) and educational psychologists.

The Joint Negotiating Committee for Youth and Community Workers covers the pay and conditions of youth and community workers.

4 Governance

The Policy & Resources Committee is responsible for setting policy on pay and conditions of employment within Brighton & Hove City Council. The council has adopted the National Joint Council terms and conditions for local authority staff as amended locally. Chief Officers, including the Chief Executive, are mainly employed on nationally negotiated JNC terms and conditions but their pay is determined locally. A minority of Chief Officers are employed on NJC terms and conditions, but similarly their pay is determined locally.

The relevant sub-committee, committee or the Chief Executive approves the appointment of staff in accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules. The council has adequate systems in place through the Appointment & Remuneration Panel to ensure value for money.

The Appointments and Remuneration Panel may also be consulted for its views in connection with the statement of pay policy as defined in the council's Constitution. The policy in respect of the remuneration of interims and consultants is set out under paragraph 20 below.

5 Grading Structure

The council uses a recognised, analytical job evaluation scheme to ensure that there is an objective process for determining the relative size of jobs and thus allocating jobs to the appropriate grade. This is used for all posts, apart from those of the Chief Executive and Executive Directors and staff employed on Soulbury and Youth Worker conditions of service. The current pay and grading structure was implemented during 2010.

6 Progression

All posts, apart from that of the Chief Executive are employed on grades containing spinal column points. All employees (other than the Chief Executive) progress through their grade each year (subject to satisfactory performance), rising by one incremental point, until they reach the maximum point of the grade. Pay awards for NJC and JNC staff are negotiated nationally. ([NJC](#) and [JNC grades](#)) Where a member of staff is the subject of formal disciplinary and capability processes, increments may be withheld.

Employees may be accelerated up the pay grade by a maximum of two spinal column points to recognise exceptional performance. Link to [Additional Payments Policy](#).

7 Remuneration on Appointment

Staff are usually appointed on the minimum spinal column point of the grade. However, where there are difficulties recruiting to a post or where an individual can demonstrate significant valuable previous experience, appointment may be agreed at a higher spinal column point within the grade.

The Chief Executive is required to consult the council's Appointments & Remuneration Panel on the appropriate starting salary for any new permanent Executive Leadership Team appointments or any other proposal to offer a permanent appointment with a salary package of £100,000 or more.

8 Chief Executive

The Chief Executive's salary is set to ensure that it is competitive when compared to roles of similar size and complexity elsewhere and with regard to the challenges, additional hours and working arrangements required to achieve the requirements of the role. The salary is on a single fixed salary point. Nationally negotiated cost of living awards are applied.

The Chief Executive is entitled to receive a fee as set by the Ministry of Justice for acting as the local returning officer for elections. ([Link to actual earnings and earnings forecast for 2020/21](#))

Full Council is required to approve the appointment of the Chief Executive following the recommendation of such an appointment by the Appointment & Remuneration Panel.

9 Executive Leadership Team

The pay and grading of the Executive Leadership Team is determined by the requirements of the role and by reference to the labour market for roles of a similar size and complexity. Executive Directors (and the Executive Lead Officer Strategy Governance and Law) progress to the next point of their grade scale subject to satisfactory performance in the role as determined by the Chief Executive Officer. Once at the top of the scale they continue to receive the JNC nationally negotiated cost of living awards. ([Link to actual earnings and earnings forecast for 2020/21](#))

10 Assistant Directors

The pay structure for posts at this level ensures the council is able to attract and retain staff with the suitable skills and experience to deliver the council's many services. Nationally negotiated cost of living awards are applied.

11 Additional Payments

In order to ensure sufficient flexibility to reward staff who are undertaking additional responsibilities, the council's policy on [Additional Payments](#) provides for Acting Up Allowances or a one-off Honorarium Payment to be made in specific circumstances.

12 Market Supplements

The Council may pay a market supplement, in accordance with the council's market supplement policy, where there are proven shortages of individuals with particular skills and experience.

13 Travel and Expenses

The Council is committed to becoming a carbon neutral city and promoting healthy and sustainable travel. This means that when employees are required to travel, they should be aware of choosing the most cost-effective, efficient and sustainable ways of travelling, both to and from work and within the working day.

Staff should first ensure that travel is necessary and that the intended outcome could not be achieved by other means, such as email or telephone or video-conferencing. Where travel is necessary, staff should make optimum use of diary planning to minimise the number of business travel journeys made and should explore walking, cycling, public transport options before using a car.

Where authorised to do so, employees are entitled to be reimbursed for mileage they incur whilst discharging their official duties. This does not include mileage to or from home to their normal place of work. The rate of [reimbursement](#) will depend on the engine size of their car, while other rates are applicable where motorbikes and bicycles are used for this purpose. Employees who have to use public transport to travel for their role are entitled to reclaim the costs of the transport under the council's expenses policies.

14 Working Pattern Allowances

The council introduced its current allowance scheme for those employed on NJC terms and conditions on the 01 October 2013; these allowances reward employees who work outside the council's standard working week, which is Monday to Friday between 6am to 8pm each day. Working outside of these standard times will attract an enhancement to the hourly rate. Details can be found in the Employee Rights & Responsibilities document.

15 Annual Leave

Annual leave entitlements vary according to the terms and conditions of employment. [Annual leave entitlements](#) are published on the Council's website.

16 Pension Scheme

Membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme is subject to the rules of the scheme and contribution rates are set by legislation ([Link to rates on ESCC Website](#)). Where individuals are already in receipt of a local government pension, they are subject to the rules on abatement of pension within the scheme.

17 Redundancy, Retirement and other Compensation Payments

The council's approach to dismissals on the grounds of redundancy or efficiency of the service and in the case of early retirement can be found in the following policies on our website: [Redundancy, Retirement and other Compensation Payments policy statement](#) and [Retirement at Brighton & Hove](#).

It is the council's policy that employees who accept a financial package on voluntary termination of their employment with the council are not re-employed or engaged as a self-employed contractor or through an agency for a minimum period of two years; details of this policy can be found in the [Re-Employment of Employees policy](#)

In exceptional circumstances, the council will agree to settle a claim or potential dispute upon the termination of employment by way of a compensation payment. In this situation, an officer panel comprised of the Head of Human Resources, the Monitoring Officer and the S151 Chief Finance Officer (or their delegates) will review a business

case prepared by the relevant Chief Officer. While the officer panel will scrutinise the business case and may endorse it, make recommendations regarding it or advise against it, the final decision will remain with the relevant Chief Officer.

In the case of Chief Officers, other than those who report to the Executive Leadership Team, and in any case where the proposed total payment is £100,000 or more, the Chief Executive may approve the severance package where the package has been recommended by the Appointments & Remuneration Panel. The council's External Auditor is also consulted about any potential offers to Chief Officers. Compensation packages in excess of £100,000 which relate to the Chief Executive will be referred to Policy & Resources Committee.

18 Pay Protection

In cases where an employee is redeployed into a lower graded role due to their original role being made redundant, the annual protection payment will be the difference between the employee's normal contractual pay in the former post and the normal contractual pay of the new post in year 1; and in year 2 it will be 75% of this value. After which the employee will be paid the rate for the role they've been redeployed into.

An employee will have the amount of their protection re-calculated should their pay details change at any point during the protection period so that their amount of pay does not exceed the pay they received in the role they were made redundant from.

19 Job Evaluation

The council grades all NJC and JNC roles using a job evaluation scheme to ensure roles of equal value are paid equitably. The council's allowance scheme sets out circumstances where individuals are entitled to payments beyond their basic grade.

20 Remuneration of Staff – Contract for Services

Individuals employed on a contract for services will be paid at a rate consistent with the pay of directly employed staff performing a comparable role and will consider where relevant, a premium to take into account any relevant market factors. It is the council's policy to minimise the use of consultants wherever possible and the approval of the Chief Executive is required prior to any commitment to expenditure on consultants in excess of £10,000.

21 Remuneration of Staff – Publication of Information

The council publishes details of [staff earnings](#) in accordance with legal requirements on transparency. Further information is contained in the [Annual Report and Accounts](#) in accordance with the Audit of Accounts legislation.

22 Gender Pay Gap Report

The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017 requires all local authorities with more than 250 employees to publish gender pay gap data based on a 'snapshot' date of 31 March of the previous year to the year in which the data is published.

The gender pay gap is defined as the average pay gap between male and female staff in hourly pay. The council is required to publish the mean and median differences between male and female employees and the proportions of each gender in each pay quartile.

Further requirements stipulate the need to publish information related to bonuses received by each gender, however the council does not pay bonuses, and as such the council does not report under these headings.

The council will be publishing the BAME pay gap data later in the year.

For further information please see the most recent. [Gender Pay Gap Report](#)

Council

25 March 2021

Agenda Item 130 (B)

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme – Extract from the proceedings of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on the 18 March 2021

Date of Meeting: 25 March 2021

Report of: Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law

Contact Officer: Name: **Mark Wall** Tel: **01273 291006**
E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**Action Required of Council:**

To receive the report from the Policy & Resources Committee for information.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

4.00pm 18 MARCH 2021

VIRTUAL TEAMS MEETING

MINUTE EXTRACT

Present: Councillor Mac Cafferty (Chair) Druitt (Joint Deputy Chair), Gibson (Joint Deputy Chair), Platts (Opposition Spokesperson), Allcock, Clare, Miller, Simson, Wilkinson and Yates.

Also present: Dr Anusree Biswas Sasidharan, Standing Invitee.

PART ONE

161 2030 CARBON NEUTRAL PROGRAMME

- 161.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture, which outlined the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme that was a co-ordinated programme of projects that aimed to help the city address the climate crisis.
- 161.2 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture stated that the report sought approval for the programme which sought to achieve a carbon neutral city by 2030. He noted that there were five thematic areas which were supported by six cross-cutting themes and that engagement from organisations both within and outside of the city would be required if the objective was to be achieved.
- 161.3 Councillor Miller moved an amendment to the recommendations on behalf of the Conservative Group, which sought the deletion of recommendation 2.5. He stated that given the significant level of spend that would be required it was felt that the committee should have closer oversight and therefore regular reports to future meetings.
- 161.4 Councillor Simson formally seconded the amendment.
- 161.5 Members of the committee welcomed the report and sought clarification on various points including the impact on greenhouse emissions with the improvements to the built environment and the Warmer Homes programme. Members also queried whether there were sufficient resources to take the programme forward and noted the need to bring other organisations on board if the target of 2030 was to be achieved.
- 161.6 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture stated that there was an aim to reduce emissions and this was detailed under the energy theme rather than built environment, although it would cut across both themes. He also noted that there would be a new Key Performance Indicator (KPI) that would be reported on regularly and that

all Directorate Plans incorporated the objective to achieve a carbon neutral city by 2030. The recent Budget Council meeting had also approved resources for additional posts to support the programme and these were being recruited to. In regard to the amendment he noted that no changes to the current arrangements were being proposed and that the Carbon 2030m Working Group would have oversight. However, if carried it would mean some reports having to come to committee for project approval which would add a potential delay and more work for officers.

161.7 The Chair thanked everyone for their comments and then put the amendment to the vote which was carried by 6 votes 3 with 1 abstention.

161.8 The Chair then put the recommendations as amended to the vote which were agreed,

161.9 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme be approved;
- (2) That the oversight of the Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Investment Fund (SCRIF) is transferred from the cross-party SCRIF Member Oversight Group (MOG) to the cross-party 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group, and the SCRIF MOG is stood down;
- (3) That the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme which is attached in Appendix 1 be approved;
- (4) That the transfer of oversight of the Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Investment Fund from the cross-party SCRIF Member Oversight Group (MOG) to the cross-party 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group and the ending of the SCRIF MOG be approved;
- (5) That the updated draft Terms of Reference for the 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group, which is attached in Appendix 2, and the ending of the SCRIF MOG be approved;
- (6) That the overall unallocated SCRIF resources to support the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme is £7.118m, of which £3.9m will be allocated alongside the Local Transport Plan investment programme and £3.218m will be allocated through the SCRIF be noted; and
- (7) That the establishment of the Climate Assembly Action Capital Investment Fund of £1.404m to support the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme be noted.

Subject:	2030 Carbon Neutral Programme		
Date of Meeting:	16 March 2021 ETS Committee 18 March 2021 P&R Committee		
Report of:	Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Kirsten Firth Rachel Williams	Tel: 01273 291098
	Email:	kirsten.firth@brighton-hove.gov.uk rachel.williams@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme which is a coordinated programme of projects that aims to help the city to address the climate crisis and transition to carbon neutrality by 2030. The report also sets out proposed changes to the governance of the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme relating to the oversight of the Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Investment Fund and the Climate Assembly Action Capital Investment Fund.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee:

- 2.1 Recommends the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme to Policy & Resources Committee for approval
- 2.2 Recommends to Policy & Resources Committee that the oversight of the Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Investment Fund (SCRIF) is transferred from the cross-party SCRIF Member Oversight Group (MOG) to the cross-party 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group, and the SCRIF MOG is stood down

That the Policy & Resources Committee

- 2.3 Approves the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme which is attached in Appendix 1
- 2.4 Approves the transfer of oversight of the Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Investment Fund from the cross-party SCRIF Member Oversight Group (MOG) to the cross-party 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group and the ending of the SCRIF MOG

- 2.5 Agrees to delegate the decision to finance projects through the SCRIF and the new Climate Assembly Action Capital Investment Fund to the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture in consultation with the cross-party 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group (as set out in paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9)
- 2.6 Approves the updated draft Terms of Reference for the 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group, which is attached in Appendix 2, and the ending of the SCRIF MOG
- 2.7 Notes the overall unallocated SCRIF resources to support the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme is £7.118m, of which £3.9m will be allocated alongside the Local Transport Plan investment programme and £3.218m will be allocated through the SCRIF
- 2.8 Notes the establishment of the Climate Assembly Action Capital Investment Fund of £1.404m to support the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Brighton & Hove City Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency in December 2018 and has pledged to become a carbon neutral city by 2030. The delivery of the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme is a key priority in the city council's corporate plan 2020-23. In December 2019 Policy & Resources Committee approved the establishment of the cross-party 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group to oversee the creation and delivery of the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme to help the city to transition to carbon neutrality by 2030.
- 3.2 The 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme is a coordinated programme of priority projects that aims to continue and accelerate the city's transition to carbon neutrality by 2030. The programme contains projects under five thematic areas for climate action: travel & transport; energy & water; waste; built environment; nature & environment (food, land-use and agriculture). In addition, there are six cross-cutting themes: community engagement; jobs, education & skills; circular economy; adaptation; carbon offset; and procurement.
- 3.3 This Programme focuses on the period to 2023, with less detail on the remaining period to 2030. Some projects are indicated for further development over the next few years and a programme review and update is planned for 2023. It is important to note that the Programme is not designed to identify every action and project that will transition the city to carbon neutral by 2030. It does however indicate the initial programme of projects, and those projects that the council will take a role in delivering.
- 3.4 The Programme could help cut nearly a third of the city's carbon emissions by 2030. In addition, national actions (particularly decarbonisation of the electricity grid) could save another third at least. A Key Performance Indicator on *Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions* will be monitored annually from 2020-21 onwards. Measuring reduction of carbon emissions can be fairly accurate for some types of work, such as building energy performance; but other projects, for example behaviour change, are more difficult to measure and require many assumptions to be made. So the Programme will include further work to refine this estimate and help us track progress.

- 3.5 The city council is carrying out many projects on council buildings, social housing and operational energy use, which will help cut the council’s corporate carbon emissions. However, the carbon neutral 2030 target is a city-wide one and as such needs the engagement and participation of residents, schools, businesses and institutions across the city. The council is also engaging with many regional partners including Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership, Greater Brighton and The Living Coast Biosphere, to create partnerships that will help to accelerate progress on climate action. It is particularly important that climate action is fair and inclusive and ensures that all residents have an opportunity to participate.
- 3.6 In July 2019 Policy & Resources Committee approved the establishment of the Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Investment Fund (SCRIF) and the initial 2019/20 SCRIF allocation of £0.5m to invest in citywide projects. The Committee also approved the creation of the cross-party SCRIF Member Oversight Group (MOG), a ‘task and finish’ group. In 2019/20, via an internal bidding process overseen by the SCRIF MOG, £0.382m was awarded to a range of sustainability and carbon reduction projects. These include electric vehicle fast chargers, exhaust converters for older buses, Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) projects and community composting.
- 3.7 In 2020/21 an additional £0.5m was allocated to the SCRIF. This funding was not allocated to projects as it was ‘paused’ by P&R Committee as part of the Covid response, until December 2020. Policy & Resources Committee approval is required before this funding can be spent. Furthermore in 2020/21 £3.9m was allocated to SCRIF transport; this was deferred to 2021/22 as the anticipated income from additional parking and bus lane enforcement charges required to borrow it would not be achieved during 2020/1. P&R Committee agreed in April 2020 to the principle of incorporating the £3.9m into the LTP capital programme and that its allocation to projects will also be considered and agreed by ETS Committee. A report on the LTP capital programme is also on this committee agenda. The remaining SCRIF 2019/20 and 2020/21 funding will be carried forward to 2021/22. On 25 February 2021 Budget Council agreed an additional £2.6m SCRIF allocation. In summary:

Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Investment Fund remaining to be allocated to projects (at 2/3/21)

2019/20 SCRIF unallocated*	£0.118m
2020/21 SCRIF unallocated	£0.500m
2020/21 SCRIF-Transport unallocated	£3.900m
2021/22 SCRIF **	£2.600m
Total SCRIF	£7.118m

*Funding approved at Policy & Resources Committee, July 2019

** Agreed at Budget Council on 25/2/21

- 3.8 The SCRIF and the SCRIF MOG were created prior to the initiation of the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme in December 2019. The SCRIF forms a key source city council capital funding to support delivery of carbon reduction and climate adaptation projects, along with funding in service budgets. It is therefore

recommended that in future the SCRIF is overseen by the cross-party 2030 Carbon Neutral MWG, which has oversight of the programme of carbon reduction and climate adaptation projects. An amended draft Terms of Reference for the 2030 Carbon Neutral MWG is attached in Appendix 2. In line with this recommendation it is proposed that the SCRIF MOG is ended.

- 3.9 On 25 February 2021 Budget Council committed £1.404m capital funding for the creation of a Climate Assembly Action Capital Investment Fund. It is proposed that this fund is also overseen by the 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group and the draft Terms of Reference in Appendix 2 has been amended accordingly.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The council has a clear corporate priority to take all action required to make our city carbon neutral by 2030.
- 4.2 Directorates across the council are already pursuing projects that will help to reduce carbon emissions. The 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme builds on existing work as well as establishing where more can be done. It gives the council a platform and rationale for engaging with the community to enhance and broaden participation in climate action.
- 4.3 Climate change brings with it many risks to communities and the city, including overheating, drought, flooding, coastal erosion and loss of biodiversity. Some of these risks would be extremely costly and difficult to tackle, if action is not taken both to reduce carbon emissions and to adapt to the climate changes which are happening already.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Recruitment is underway to recruit a Climate Emergency Communication & Engagement Officer to lead this work across the programme, including city climate campaign work. Individual projects within the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme will undertake individual consultations.
- 5.2 The council commissioned Ipsos MORI to design and deliver the Brighton & Hove Climate Assembly in September - November 2020, focusing on reducing carbon emissions from transport and travel. A randomly selected but representative group of 50 residents from across the city were selected to take part. A range of selection criteria were applied: gender, age, ethnicity, long-term illness or disability, occupation, car ownership and area of the city. Invitations were sent to 10,000 local households, 700 residents applied for one of the 50 places; a very strong response compared to Citizens' Assemblies elsewhere. The Recommendations from the Climate Assembly have informed the development of the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme and are being used to help develop the fifth Local Transport Plan and the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- 5.3 Local young people designed and delivered a Youth Assembly in October – November 2020 on the same topic.

- 5.4 In September 2020 the city council launched the on-line space 'Let's talk climate change': <https://climateconversationsbrighton.uk.engagementhq.com/>. This platform has links to all the Climate Assembly materials and involves the wider city in conversation, polls and submitting ideas about local action on climate change. To date, the focus has been on transport and travel and engagement on the City Downland Estate Plan. The on-line space will cover a range of other themes / initiatives over the coming months and seek residents' input to help the city to transition to carbon neutrality.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme brings together a strong programme for climate action across all council directorates, working with a range of partners. It suggests where further development is needed in the next 2 years. This helps to set the direction for the council to fulfil its ambition to become a carbon neutral city by 2030.
- 6.2 The SCRIF and CAACIF will help to accelerate city wide climate action projects led by the city council.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The total unallocated capital resources to support the 2020 Carbon Neutral programme through the SCRIF is £7.118m as set out in the table at paragraph 3.7 and is fully funded and reflected in the capital investment programme. This incorporates funding approved at Budget Council on 25 February 2021. All allocations from these resources will need to meet the definition of capital investment and this will form part of the advice provided as allocations are agreed. Included within these resources is £3.9m funded through increased parking and bus lane enforcement revenue resources and is therefore required to be invested in transport related proposals alongside the Local Transport Plan investment programme. Budget Council on the 25 February 2021 also approved £1.404m for a Climate Assembly Action Capital Investment Fund; any allocations agreed will also need to meet the definition of capital investment.

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld

Date: 17/02/2021

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The committee has previously agreed that the £3.9m SCRIF sum will be allocated in accordance with Section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The terms of reference of all permanent member groups must be approved by Policy & Resources Committee and included in the Constitution. The change to the Terms of Reference is therefore a decision to be taken by Policy & Resources. It is also the appropriate committee for decisions with corporate policy or budgetary implications such as the decision to approve the Carbon Neutral Programme.

Lawyer Consulted: Alice Rowland

Date: 17/2/21

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 The equalities impact of reducing carbon and greenhouse gas emissions in Brighton & Hove includes: opportunities to avoid fuel poverty; risks involved with introducing new technologies, which may not be accessible to everyone on grounds of cost, housing condition and individuals' ability to operate new technologies; protecting communities, especially vulnerable people, from detrimental climate change impacts; improving access to renewable or low-carbon energy.
- 7.4 Assessment of the impact on equalities is carried out through project processes, development of briefs, and consultation. Carbon reduction measures will be reviewed to ensure they meet the city's fair and inclusive principles.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 The 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme is the council's main response to the climate crisis and there are sustainability implications throughout. These are highlighted in the body of the report.

Brexit Implications:

- 7.6 Brexit impacts significantly on the council's ability to effectively collaborate with European partners on sustainability measures via EU funded projects. However, there are still some EU opportunities open to the UK and officers aim to maximise local benefit from these.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 7.6 Strategic risk 36 – Not taking all actions required to address climate and ecological change and not making our city carbon neutral by 2030 – is managed at quarterly risk review sessions and is also discussed at Audit & Standards Committee at least annually.

Public Health Implications:

- 7.7 The programme has many co-benefits relating to public health. For example, increasing the energy efficiency of homes, reducing risk of overheating, and reducing residents' energy bills, particularly in vulnerable groups, will contribute to the prevention of ill health and excess winter deaths, reduce health and social inequalities, and improve wellbeing and quality of life. Supporting and enabling residents to pay less for their energy can contribute to tackling fuel poverty and cold homes. Enhancing green spaces in the city has a beneficial impact on mental and physical health and wellbeing. Reducing emissions from transport will assist in improving air quality and therefore people's health, as will greater promotion and use of active and sustainable travel options as alternatives to motorised travel.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 7.8 The council has been successful in cutting its corporate greenhouse gas emissions with a 47% cut over the last 10 years. Current schemes with

significant carbon cutting potential include improving the energy efficiency of social housing and installing renewable energy; a rolling programme to reduce energy use across the council property portfolio; and a Fleet Strategy to decarbonise the council's fleet by 2030. The 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme sets out a wide range of other projects and policies being planned and carried out across the council, often in partnership with local organisations.

- 7.9 Citywide, in order to be successful, the Programme will require the participation and coordination of many stakeholders and partners, including universities, Greater Brighton, Coast to Capital LEP, businesses and employers. The council plays an important role in engaging communities, businesses, and organisations across the city in climate action and working with them to create responses. The wider positive outcomes from climate action will be felt across the city.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme
2. 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group – updated Terms of Reference

Background Documents

1. July 2019: Policy, Resources & Growth Committee report – SCRIF-next steps
2. April 2020: Policy & Resources Committee – 2020/21 LTP Capital Programme



2030 Carbon Neutral Programme

This Programme is Brighton & Hove City Council’s response to the climate and biodiversity emergency. It sets the direction for action on climate change by the council, partners and residents across the city for the next decade, focussing on social justice and future generations alongside rapid decarbonisation. This Programme sets out clear actions and interventions required on the path to net zero emissions, starting immediately.

Contents *(to come)*

Foreword (Cllr Mac Cafferty) *(to come)*

BHCC’s commitment to climate action

Brighton & Hove City Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency in December 2018 alongside an ambition for the city to be carbon neutral by 2030. The council’s corporate plan, “Our plan 2020 to 2023 – a fairer city, a sustainable future” sets out a series of priorities, including to take all action required to make our city carbon neutral by 2030.

A Programme produced in partnership with Brighton & Hove

Governance

In December 2019 Policy & Resources Committee approved the establishment of the cross-party 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group to oversee the creation and delivery of a Carbon Neutral Programme to help the city to transition to carbon neutrality by 2030.

Fair and inclusive – participation in climate action

Brighton & Hove City Council believe that the city can only achieve its carbon neutral ambitions with all city organisations, businesses, communities, residents and visitors signed-up to our common agenda and working together to find solutions for the challenges we face. Taking a joined-up approach to delivering projects and initiatives that protect and promote our environment, facilitate behaviour change, support city resilience to the impacts of climate change, and nurture the skills and opportunities we need to help our economy grow and prosper, is central to the city’s ambition. The council’s response to the grave

challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic highlights the need for a green recovery and demonstrates how we can work together across the city at all levels.

It is particularly important that climate action is fair and inclusive and ensures that all residents have an opportunity to participate. Climate change impacts upon different sections of society differently and the impacts of climate change could exacerbate existing inequalities within the city. The Coronavirus pandemic has highlighted inequalities, for example poor housing and overcrowded conditions making self-isolation impossible, and cold damp homes affecting people's underlying health and resilience. Factors such as age and health can affect sensitivity to climate impacts, and the availability of green space and good quality housing, can offset exposure to the impacts of climate change. Levels of inequality and income, and neighbourhood and community cohesion will affect the ability of individuals and communities to adapt.

The council is working hard to reduce its own corporate carbon emissions, but in total these contribute less than 2% of the city's emissions. The carbon neutral 2030 target is a city-wide one and as such needs participation from residents, schools, businesses and institutions across the city. The council is engaging with the city at many levels through the Climate Assembly, city-wide partnerships, behaviour change campaigns, formal consultations and support for community action.

Climate Assembly 2020

The Brighton & Hove Climate Assembly held between September and November 2020 explored how we combat climate change over the next decade. The key question was, "How can we step up actions to reduce transport-related carbon emissions in the city?"

A randomly selected, representative group of 50 residents from across the city were invited to take part. A range of selection criteria were applied: gender, age, ethnicity, long-term illness or disability, occupation, car ownership and area of the city. Invitations were sent to 10,000 local households, 700 residents applied for one of the 50 places; a very strong response compared to Citizens' Assemblies elsewhere. The Recommendations from the Climate Assembly have informed the development of BHCC's 2030 Carbon Neutral programme and are being used to help develop the fifth Local Transport Plan and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The assembly was designed and facilitated by independent [Ipsos MORI](#).

Youth assembly

The mobilisation and enthusiasm seen during the many climate youth strikes in Brighton & Hove have shown that young people are a great force in pushing for change and coming up with creative ideas to combat climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

Young people formed the UK's first youth citizen assembly to advise Brighton & Hove City Council on specific actions to take on important issues like transport. The youth climate assembly met online between September and December 2020. Twenty-four young people from schools, colleges and universities in Brighton & Hove, took part.

Climate conversations

In September 2020 the city council launched the on-line space 'Let's talk climate change': <https://climateconversationsbrighton.uk.engagementhq.com/>. This platform has links to all the Climate Assembly materials and involves the wider city in conversation, polls and submitting ideas about local action on climate change. To date, the focus has been on transport and travel, the Climate Assembly and engagement on the Downland Estate Plan. The on-line space will cover a range of other themes and

initiatives such as environmental engagement and the circular economy over the coming months and seek residents' input to help the city to transition to carbon neutrality.

Formal consultations

Individual projects within the 2030 Carbon Neutral programme will undertake their own consultations and equalities impact assessments if relevant.

Working across our region

To be successful, this Programme will require participation and collaboration with many stakeholders and partnerships across the city, as well as engaging Brighton & Hove's residents. Action is required at all levels: international, national and locally.

As a leading city, Brighton & Hove City Council develops solutions and shares good practice with regional partners and other cities. For example, Brighton & Hove City Council is lead partner in The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere, the UK's only urban biosphere reserve, contributing to innovative sustainable socio-economic development projects that also protect and conserve the natural environment. Shared learning locally, regionally, nationally and globally across the world network of biospheres is a key objective of this partnership.

Working with Greater Brighton, Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership, Transport for the South East and the Greater South East Energy Hub is key to delivering programmes to decarbonise our infrastructure and economy at the rate and scale we need including where we need to secure support from Government.

We work with key partners including the local universities, electricity and gas companies, The Living Coast Biosphere, and the Sussex Local Nature Partnership to create projects that will accelerate progress on climate action and build green skills and jobs.

Measuring and reporting progress

We will report annually on the city's progress on climate action and carbon emissions, with quarterly updates on the delivery of the Programme provided to committees through the council's performance reporting framework.

A Key Performance Indicator on *Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions* will be monitored annually from 2020-21 onwards, using data provided by ScatterCities. <https://scattercities.com/>

Not all the actions in this Programme will generate quantifiable carbon savings, but where data is available for the council's direct emissions it will be included. Where it's not possible to quantify carbon savings, we indicate if the impact is high, medium or low.

The council is working towards reporting progress to the Global Covenant of Mayors, through the Carbon Disclosure Project CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System. <https://www.cdp.net/en>

News stories on climate action are available at: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/climate-change>

Continuing development of this Programme

Action on climate change is fast-moving. Therefore this is a living Programme of high-level actions, which can be responsive to developments over its life. Likely developments include new scientific information on pathways to net zero; advances in Best Available Techniques (BAT) to give the best environmental or health outcomes; significant changes in local, national or international policy and funding on climate change and energy; and learning and best practice from other cities and partners. Responding to these challenges is complex and dependent on many factors.

The CN2030 Programme runs until 2030. Most actions in the current programme focus on the period to 2023, and there are some longer-term actions that are less detailed.

Key issues for future development are:

- Refining estimates of greenhouse gas emissions sources and sinks to help identify additional priority areas for action and track progress towards the carbon neutral target
- Further engagement with major local businesses and organisations to elevate ambition and align climate action across the city
- A carbon offsetting framework to enable more local carbon cutting projects
- Investigating alternative finance for climate action
- Developing the circular economy especially in the construction industry
- Solutions for scaling up energy efficiency retrofits for private housing
- Understanding the carbon footprint of consumables such as food and clothing.

This Programme will be reviewed in 2023 in line with the council's Corporate Plan for 2020 – 2023, which aims to deliver a fairer city with a sustainable future.

Further information and get involved

Brighton & Hove City Council's website has more information about the council's climate actions and about actions that individuals and communities can take to cut their own carbon footprint:

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/climate-change/what-you-can-do>

Timeline of climate action in BHCC

1880 - 1947 - Purchase of Downland Estate

2006 – Adoption of Sustainable Community Strategy ‘Creating the City of Opportunities’

2006-2007 – Neighbourhood Action on Climate Change – community behaviour change project

2010 – Climate Change Adaptation Scrutiny Panel

2009-2012 – Climate Connections - global awareness and city behaviour change project

2011 – Local Climate Impacts Profile for Brighton & Hove

2011 – Brighton & Hove Climate Change Strategy – an early commitment to climate change action

2014 – The Living Coast Biosphere formally designated by UNESCO

2015 – Fourth Local Transport Plan includes a carbon reduction objective to reduce transport emissions

2016 - City Plan adopted – includes policies on sustainability of new homes and non-residential buildings

2011-2017 - BHCC adopts the One Planet Living Framework for overseeing actions to improve sustainability

Dec 2018 – BHCC Members declare a climate and biodiversity emergency

Sept 2019 – BHCC creates fund to encourage climate action within the council (SCRIF)

July 2020 – Greater Brighton agrees Energy Plan and Water Plan

Sept-Nov 2020 – BHCC hosts Climate Assembly on travel and transport

Oct 2020 – Brighton & Hove Youth Climate Assembly

Oct 2020 – Greater Brighton signs 10 pledges on climate action

Nov 2020 – Brighton & Hove awarded Gold Food Sustainable City <https://bhfood.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Gold-Food-Places-Bid-2020.pdf>

Nov 2020 – consultation starts on the Downland Estate Plan

Dec 2020 – Council leader Cllr Phelim Mac Cafferty signs Glasgow Declaration <https://www.glasgowdeclaration.org/>

Dec 2020 – BHCC Circular Economy Routemap and programme for the city receives committee approval

Jan 2021 – Council agrees grants for community projects which tackle climate emergency and biodiversity

Feb 2021 – Launch of Hydrogen Sussex

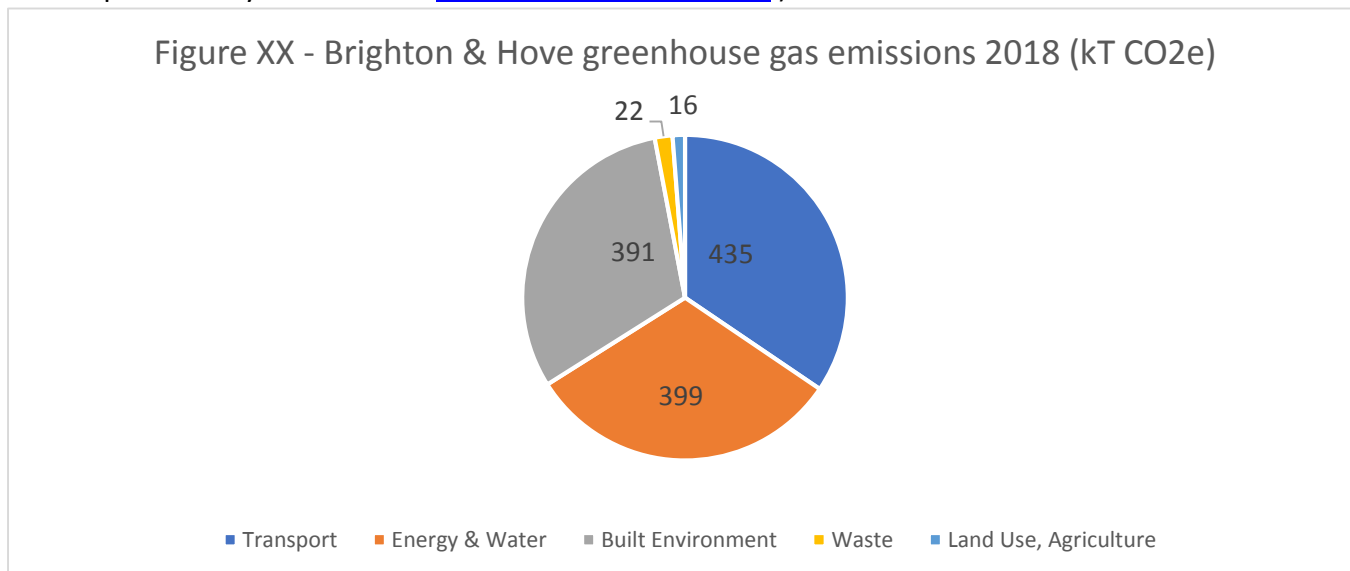
March 2021 – Carbon Neutral 2030 Programme

Brighton & Hove's carbon neutral target

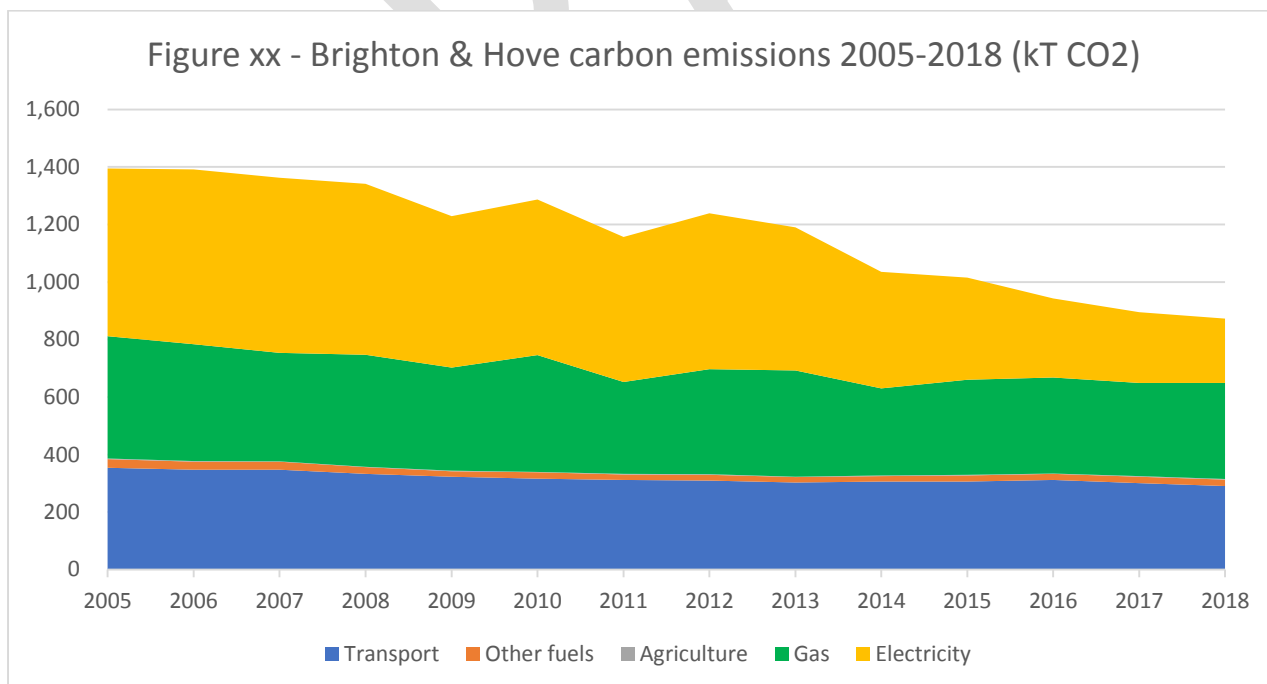
The council has set an ambitious target for the whole city to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Brighton & Hove's carbon emissions profile

The starting point is the city's current emissions of greenhouse gases, which were 1,242 kilo-tonnes (KT CO₂e) in 2018 (the most recent year for which full data is available). This includes aviation and shipping. Data is provided by ScatterCities (<https://scattercities.com/>)



Total carbon emissions in the city have fallen by just over a third since 2005. The largest cut has come from electricity, as the National Grid gets more renewable electricity from wind farms and solar power.

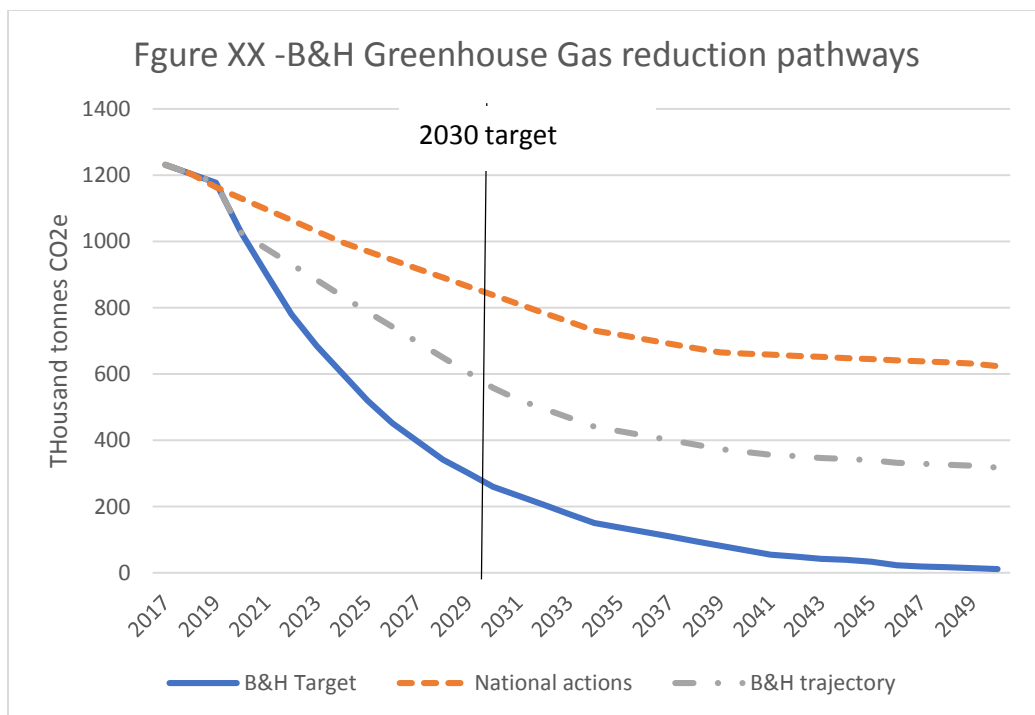


Target 2030

BHCC's carbon neutral target requires the city's greenhouse gas emissions to fall by 12.7% annually from 2020 onwards. This is a science-based target, prepared by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change, showing

Brighton & Hove’s fair contribution to keeping climate change within limits. Carbon emissions accumulate and stay in the atmosphere for hundreds of years, so it is important to act as soon as possible.

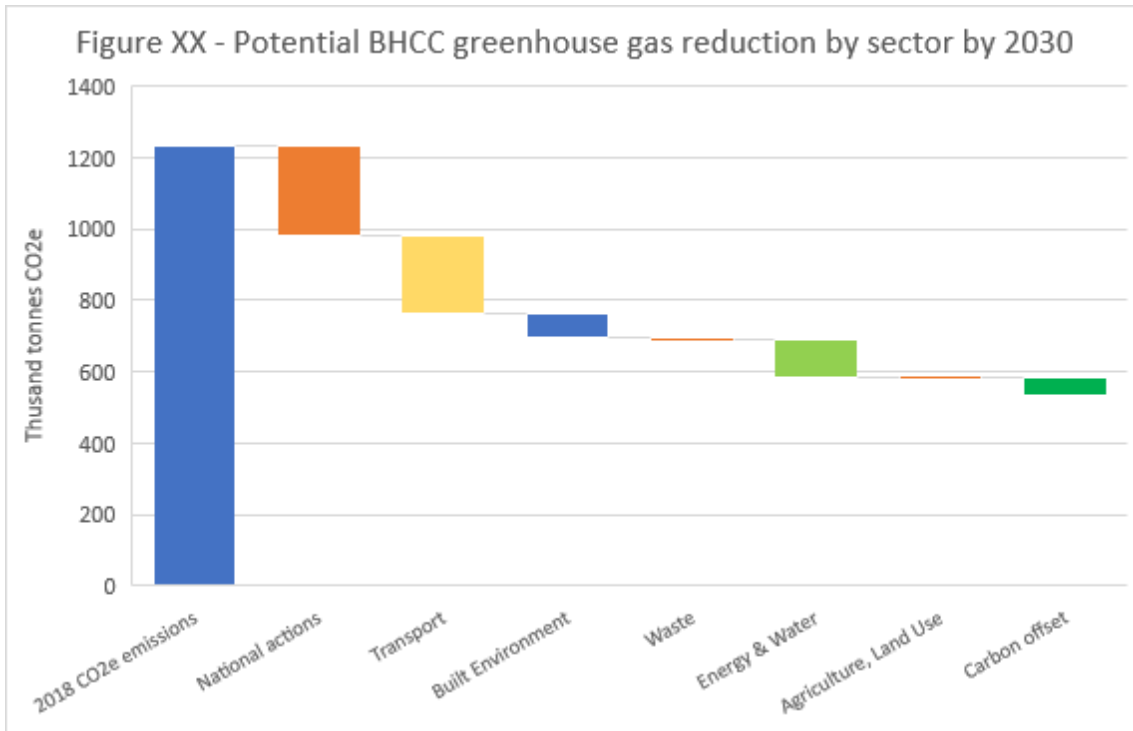
Figure XX shows the scale of the challenge, comparing the science-based target (blue line) with current trajectory outlined in this Programme (grey dotted line) and the ‘business as usual’ scenario (orange dotted line). This top-down analysis shows a gap between the estimated modelled BHCC pathway and the carbon neutral target – this is because modelling assumptions are based on present day evidence and actions. Work will continue towards the ambition to close that gap.



Pathway to carbon neutral

This Programme shows how a pathway to cutting carbon across Brighton & Hove could be secured, with the participation of residents, communities, businesses and organisations. Programme actions take into account the council’s spheres of influence and public expectations.

Early estimates are that the actions in the Programme could help cut nearly a third of the city’s carbon emissions by 2030. In addition, national actions (particularly decarbonisation of the electricity grid) could save another third. Figure XX illustrates this and further work will refine these estimates.



Brighton & Hove City Council’s corporate carbon footprint

The council’s greenhouse gas emissions were only a tiny fraction (1.7%) of the city’s emissions in 2018. The Council has been working to reduce carbon emissions within its own operations and estate. The council’s GHG footprint in 2018/19 was 21,793 tonnes CO2e, a reduction of 9.9% on the previous year. The council’s carbon emissions have reduced by 47% over the 10 years to 2019, meeting BHCC’s existing targets. Action has included decommissioning oil boilers and installing solar panels on council buildings and modernisation of street lighting. With BHCC’s current capacity of installed Solar PV and planned investment, it is forecast that the proportion of the council’s electricity self-generated by Solar PV will increase from 1% in 2018/19 to 14% by 2023/24.

Figure XX – Brighton & Hove City Council greenhouse gas emissions 2019-20



BOX XX – What does Carbon Neutral mean?

Carbon Neutral means that carbon emissions will be reduced as far as possible. Then any remaining carbon emissions are offset via carbon sinks or carbon reduction projects. Net Zero Carbon is another term that means the same thing.

Box XX – BHCC’s Science-Based Target

The Tyndall Centre has calculated science-based carbon emissions targets for UK local councils, showing how each can make its fair contribution to the Paris Climate Change Agreement to stay well below 2C global warming. Brighton & Hove’s target is to emit no more than a maximum 5.9 million tonnes CO₂ between 2020 and 2100. This pathway requires an annual minimum reduction of 12.7% in CO₂ emissions, starting immediately.

Box XX – Greenhouse gases and carbon emissions

‘Carbon emissions’ means carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted when fossil fuels are burned in vehicles, buildings, industrial processes and so on. CO₂ is one of the Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) identified by the Kyoto Protocol, which warm the atmosphere. There are six greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorocarbons, often referred to together as ‘carbon dioxide equivalent’ (CO₂e). Nitrous oxide from diesel and petrol combustion is a potent greenhouse gas and also prejudicial to human health when inhaled. ‘Carbon emissions’ is often used as a catch-all term to include both carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

This Carbon Neutral 2030 Programme target is for all greenhouse gases. Where data on greenhouse gases is not available, data on carbon dioxide is used instead.

Brighton & Hove City Council's Carbon Neutral Programme

The Carbon Neutral Programme is a coordinated programme of projects that aims to continue and accelerate the city's transition to carbon neutrality by 2030.

Timescale

As the bulk of action will need to take place in the short term, this Programme focuses on the period to 2023, with less detail on the remaining period to 2030. Some projects are indicated for further development over the next few years.

Project timeframes are:

Short term	2021 – 2023
Medium term	2024 – 2026
Long term	2027 – 2030

The plan is structured over the following key priority areas, with several cross-cutting themes to demonstrate the broader impact of actions targeted in each theme.

Key priority topics

Travel and Transport

Energy and Water

Waste

Built Environment

Nature and Environment (Food, land use and agriculture)

Cross-cutting themes

Community engagement

Jobs, education and skills

Circular economy

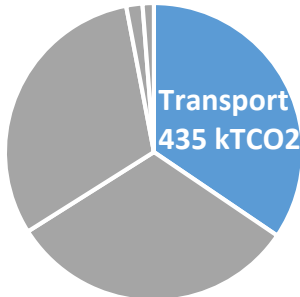
Adaptation

Carbon offsetting

Procurement



Travel and Transport



Over a third of Brighton & Hove's carbon emissions come from transport, which includes estimates for shipping and plane flights by Brighton & Hove residents. A shift to public transport and active forms of travel is needed to bring down carbon and nitrous oxide emissions, affecting everyone in the city. Switching from petrol and diesel vehicles to electric and hydrogen vehicles will save carbon emissions and improve air quality, as will a reduction in the length and number of vehicle trips.

BHCC held a climate assembly in Sept – Nov 2020, on the topic of travel and transport. The key question was, "How can we step up actions to reduce transport-related carbon emissions in the city?" The climate assembly asked for:

- Individuals to be given every opportunity to change the way they travel to reduce emissions, improve air quality and create a safer, accessible and more pleasant environment.
- Transport providers to make low emissions transport affordable and easy to use

They made 10 recommendations, which will be considered by the Council in developing its fifth Local Transport Plan and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan:

1. A car-free city centre – being taken forward as a 'liveable city centre'
2. The public transport system should be affordable/accessible
3. Creation of healthier low traffic/pedestrianised communities
4. The council should actively consult and engage with the community
5. Introduce mobility hubs (i.e. a recognisable place which provides and connects up different types of travel – for example cycle hire, bus, rail, car club, parking and transport information)
6. Cyclists should be prioritised over cars through well-designed dedicated cycling networks that are safe and practical for day-to-day use as well as leisure
7. Introduce a Park & Ride to minimise car use in the city
8. Make public transport a more convenient alternative to driving a car
9. Messaging should focus on what people gain rather than lose and educate/expand citizens knowledge
10. There should be a focus on incentives rather than sanctions as interventions

Travel & Transport Key Actions	Deliverable	Impact on CO2 emissions	Timeframe	Key partners
Local Transport Plan 5	<p>Strategy setting out the priorities for transport and travel in the city to 2030, to support a more inclusive and accessible city, reduced carbon emissions, improved air quality and public health, safer streets, and a stronger more sustainable local economy.</p> <p>Focus on reducing the need to travel, managing demand and promoting and providing safe, inclusive, sustainable and healthy alternative travel options</p>	High	Short, medium & long term	Transport operators, businesses, educational establishments
	Develop options for projects including a Liveable City Centre, expanded Ultra Low Emission Zone, Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and Mobility Hubs	High	Short and medium term	Transport operators, businesses, technology companies
Create an inclusive and integrated transport system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to all parts of our city and our services for people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities • Expansion of Bike Share scheme to deliver a citywide scheme with 50% electric bikes • Support an Assisted Cycle Hub on Brighton seafront 	Low	Ongoing	
Develop a public realm which enables active travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an active and sustainable travel network • Delivery of School Streets programme to improve road safety and air quality outside schools • Invest in the maintenance of the city's road and pavement network • Promoting physical activity and reducing social isolation 	High	Ongoing	
Increase use of public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage mixed forms of travel with good transport interchanges and better integration of travel information and ticket purchasing • Work with public transport operators to improve infrastructure - bus stops, bus 	High	Ongoing	Transport operators,, The Living Coast,

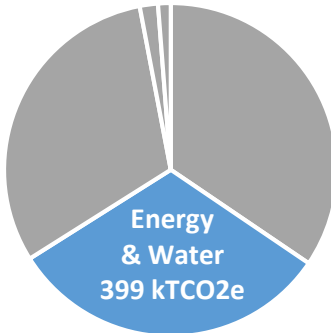
	<p>shelters, Real Time Information, Station improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support bus services, especially in outlying areas that are not commercially viable • Support and encourage the use of sustainable transport in the local visitor economy through the BioCultural Heritage Tourism project, and development of The Living Coast by Bike portal 			
Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritised programme of improvements focusing on principal walking and cycling routes, including in town and local centres. • Aim to make walking and cycling the first choice for local journeys <p>10-year programme of investment including delivery of secure on-street cycle storage</p>	High	Short term	
Promote and use technology to reduce and manage travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to attract investment in ultrafast broadband infrastructure across the city and enable home working • Smart traffic signals 	Medium	Short and medium term	Technology companies
Promote and facilitate the use of zero emission and electric vehicles	Install hundreds of on street electric charging points and rapid charging hubs for taxis	High	Short and medium term	Transport operators, council contractors
Improve air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve air quality through clean buses, taxis and delivery vehicles and seek further investment in zero emission buses. • Continue to implement Ultra Low Emissions Zone in city centre and consider expansion of zone • Reduce carbon emissions from council-owned vehicles 	Low	Ongoing	Bus, taxi and delivery companies

Related plans and policies

- Local Transport Plan
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (in development)
- Brighton & Hove 2020 Annual Air Quality Status Report
- Brighton and Hove Air Quality Action Plan 2015



Energy and Water



Energy is essential for our city. It provides heat for homes, powers our transport and keeps our healthcare system running. Establishing an affordable, locally generated green energy supply will maintain our quality of life and improve energy security and resilience. Rising energy prices, energy inefficient housing and low incomes have resulted in high levels of fuel poverty. The health effects of living in a cold, poorly ventilated home are well established, ranging from cardiovascular and respiratory problems to depression.

This section tackles reducing energy consumption, providing greater access to renewable energy, and making sure existing homes are affordable and healthy to live in. This means new renewable energy generation technologies, an engaged community who want to make change, and a focus on innovative business models that can transform our local energy systems. Energy-efficient homes reduce waste energy and the demand for non-renewable energy, and may also be cheaper and healthier to live in.

The transition to Carbon Neutral by 2030 can only be delivered if we are able to secure the decarbonisation of our energy and water infrastructure at scale, therefore working at a city region and wider south east region scale will be critical to success. The council will work closely with partners of the Greater Brighton Economic Board and Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel to deliver ambition solutions for low carbon infrastructure across the city region.

Greater Brighton Energy and Water Plans - These Plans, agreed in 2020, brought together public sector, business and academic stakeholders across the city region. They identified opportunities for energy and water infrastructure that will support objectives for decarbonisation and economic growth, in renewable energy, power, heat and transport. Learning and dissemination between local councils was key in this rapidly evolving technical, financial and regulatory environment. Recently there is an increased focus on the potential to build a hydrogen economy in the city region, particularly for heavy vehicles.

The Water Plan identified challenges in cutting consumption of clean drinking water to reduce the impacts of the predicated water shortages to the region within the next decade. Water and wastewater treatment use energy so cutting consumption will also reduce carbon emissions.

Existing homes - Energy efficiency in housing and buildings is key to reducing carbon emissions, and the council has a role to play in energy upgrades and retrofitting, through facilitating and coordination, being a trusted partner, and supporting the growth of local skills and supply chain. The council is developing an

extensive plan for solar PV, replacement of heating and hot water and energy efficiency in council housing, as well as working with residents to adapt behaviour where required and ensure they get maximum benefit from the retrofit programme.

There is significantly more private housing than council housing, so this is where greater carbon savings can be made, although this is more reliant on government action and funding. The council is working with partners including Solar Together Sussex, Warmer Sussex and the Local Energy Advice Partnership to promote retrofit of private homes.

Council property - The council has been improving its own property portfolio by identifying inefficiencies in energy use and working with site managers to save energy and water and create efficiencies in gas, electricity and oil use. In the next period there is a focus on low carbon heat technology and surveys will be carried out in schools and housing centres that may be suitable, as well as the improvement of control and monitoring systems. In 2021-22 a programme to install 500 kW of Solar PV in corporate, housing and leisure sites will save 150 tonnes CO₂ p.a. The council will transfer its energy supply to renewable sources as contracts become due for renewal.

Key challenges

- 38% of city's carbon emissions are from gas, 26% from electricity
- Scaling up energy efficiency retrofit of private homes (rented & owner-occupied) presents long-term, logistical and engagement issues
- Heating is difficult to decarbonise, requiring a mix of solutions, heat networks, and long-term programmes to replace gas boilers.
- Local supply chain for new energy technologies needs to be developed further
- Smart energy systems are vital but require complex multi-party integration and smart interfaces

Energy & Water Key Actions	Deliverable	Impact on CO2 emissions	Timeframe	Key Partners
Reduce CO2 emissions from council owned properties	Develop an investment plan for transitioning council buildings to carbon neutral. Building audits will quantify opportunities, identify and prioritise pipeline of self-financing energy saving projects on council assets. Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects completed with savings reinvested. Work towards fully renewable electricity supply in council property.	High	Short, medium and long term.	
	Deliver major programme of renewable energy, solar PV and energy efficiency retrofitting on council housing	1,291 tonnes p/a	Medium term	
Reduce carbon emissions from council-owned vehicles	Council fleet to become carbon neutral; reduce diesel vehicles and plant through delivery of the Fleet Strategy	High	Medium and long-term	
Street Lighting modernisation	Replace street lighting with LEDs through the continuation of the street lighting modernisation programme	2,360 tonnes in 2021	Short-term	
Improve standards in private housing	Continue to explore partnerships and lobby for investment and solutions for scaling up retrofit of private housing to improve energy efficiency	Medium	Long-term	
	Increase capacity for hazard inspection and Energy Performance Certificate non-compliance. Consider creation of a private rented sector team to enforce housing and energy efficiency standards. Support expansion of good landlord schemes	Medium	Short term	
	Address fuel poverty through programme of energy efficiency in council-owned housing s	Low	Short and medium term	
Support a resilient, zero carbon and smart energy system through delivery of the Greater Brighton Energy Plan.	Deliver pipeline of projects. Work in partnership with Greater Brighton Economic Board and Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership to secure investment in the city's infrastructure.	High	Short, medium & long-term	Greater Brighton

	Establish the Greater Brighton Hydrogen Group to support the transition to hydrogen across the city region	High	Medium and long-term	Greater Brighton
	Deliver feasibility study on hydrogen	Low	Short term	
	Develop business case and seek approvals for development of a solar farm	High	Medium	
	Promote heat networks through Planning system. Develop district heat network study at Conway Street	Medium	Short, medium & long-term	
	Explore potential for a Heat Decarbonisation plan, including options for replacement of gas boilers	Medium	Medium term	
	Continued cyclical investment and trials of renewable technologies that save carbon	Medium	Short, medium & long term	
Facilitate a resilient, integrated water environment through Greater Brighton Water Plan	Continue participation and delivery of The Aquifer Project (TAP) to protect and improve the quality of groundwater in the Brighton chalk aquifer as a sustainable resource for public water supply	low	Short and medium term	

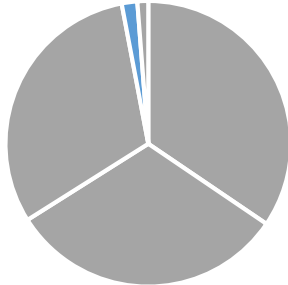
Related plans and policies

- Greater Brighton Energy Plan
- Greater Brighton Water Plan
- BHCC Housing Committee 20 Jan 2021 report “Housing action towards Carbon Neutral 2030” with draft Housing Revenue Account Carbon Neutral Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025



Waste

Waste - 22 kT CO2e



Managing waste efficiently involves increasing the awareness of residents and businesses around how waste is produced and how we manage and reuse our waste. The benefits of achieving this are more than reducing landfill or plastic in the oceans. By thinking differently about how we use materials and what we throw away, we can generate benefits to the city, such as reducing the number of heavy vehicles on the roads, alleviating congestion and improving air quality, and creating partnerships between organisations to use waste material from one as resources for another.

Brighton & Hove already has one of the lowest rates of waste sent to landfill, at 2.7% in 2019-20 and falling. The city's residual waste is sent to the energy recovery facility at Newhaven and generates electricity for 25,000 homes.

Recent work in Brighton & Hove includes:

Tech Take Back: Cityclean has partnered with Tech-Takeback to create an "on demand, small electrical end of life collection service" to improve the offering to residents. Between 12 Nov 2020 and 28 Jan 2021:

- There were 591 household collections
- 6474 items were collected
- Weighing a total of 10.9 tonnes
- 616 tonnes of CO2 emissions were saved through reuse of these items

Waste, Resources and Street Cleansing Strategy - Developing a Strategy which will consider the achievements of the Modernisation Programme and identify how the service can continue to deliver and embed these improvements, as well as set out further opportunities for modernisation for the service over the next five years. One of the suggested ambitions is to increase levels of reduce, reuse and recycling

Recycling leaflet - Redesigned the recycling leaflet to be sent to all households with council tax bills

Food waste collection options appraisal - Partnered with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) on an options appraisal for the introduction of a food waste collection service. This includes how the service can best operate in Brighton & Hove in terms of frequency of collections, vehicles, the receptacles to be used both kerbside and communal, the materials to be collected at the same time and the volume of food waste collected.

Garden Waste - introduced a third garden waste round

Current Projects in development

1. Communal bin system: Reviewing the existing communal bin system and identifying areas for improvement with the current distribution of bins, capacity offered for different waste streams, improvements to glass recycling (bins, contamination of, and noise), bin bays, signage, type of bins, expansion of waste streams, and application of colour coding for the different waste streams
2. IT systems: Modernising the service and supporting the wider programme of change through technology, including improved flow of real-time information
3. Managing waste responsibly: Delivering an informative and educational campaign to assist residents, visitors, businesses and crews to dispose of waste responsibly.
4. Wheelie bin audit and rollout: Implementing a wheelie bin recycling service to all the streets identified as suitable for this service from the city-wide wheelie bin audit.
5. Schools Food Waste collection

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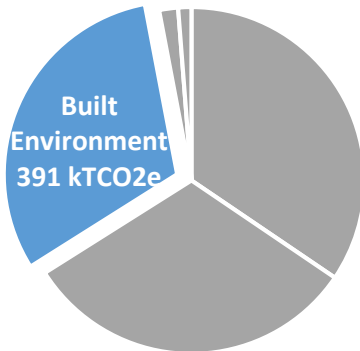
Waste Key Actions	Deliverable	Impact on emissions	Timeframe	Key partners
Increase Reduce / Reuse	Community Composting,	Low	Medium term	BHFP
	Install TLC-branded drinking water fountains	Low	Short-term	The Living Coast Biosphere
	Extend Revalu electrics (Tech Take back) to recycle phones, laptops etc	Low	Short Term	TTT
	Work towards development of a Reuse Centre	Low	Medium	Planet Brighton Veolia
	Build Furniture Reuse into the Bulky Waste Collection Service	Low	medium	
	Develop and deliver accreditation scheme to encourage businesses to end the use of single use plastics	Low	Short term	SAS Traders
	Develop communications campaign to encourage reduce and reuse before recycling	Low	medium	
	Continue to minimise waste sent to landfill	Low	ongoing	Veolia
	Subject to consultation end the use of single use BBQs on the beach and in parks and open spaces	Low	Short	
Increase Recycling	Introduce additional Garden Waste Rounds to different property types	Low	Short term	Veolia
	Extend range of plastic that can be recycled. Run a feasibility study on options for food packaging - pots, tubs and trays	Low	Medium	Veolia
	Introduce Domestic Food Waste Collection	Medium	medium	Veolia
	Introduce Foil Recycling	Low	medium	Veolia
	Reduce contamination of recycling	Low	medium	
	Extend 'Ghost Gear' fishing line collection for recycling on the seafront	Low	Short term	Leave No Trace Brighton
	Roll out improved and colour coded containment for recycling	Low	Medium	
	Extend 'On the Go' recycling,	Low	Medium term	

Related plans and policies

- Environmental Enforcement Framework
- Binrastructure and Litter Reduction Strategy (in development)
- Waste, Resources and Street Cleansing Strategy (in development)



Built Environment



Key challenges

The built environment is responsible for:

- 36% of all carbon emissions
- 40% of energy consumption
- 50% of all raw material extraction
- 1/3rd of all drinking water usage

In Brighton & Hove there is a lower level of owner occupation and more private rented housing, compared with the South East region. The housing stock is older and there are pockets of poor energy efficiency. The planning system is important for new build homes, offices, retail and industrial uses and the council has an extensive range of planning guidance on nature conservation and the urban environment. The council also uses its influence as a client, landowner and development partner in regeneration schemes and building affordable housing.

The council is leading the way and increasing its expertise through a cross-party Zero Carbon New Homes Working Group, researching and creating specifications for Zero Carbon new affordable homes, and new ways of deploying solar PV and heat pumps in council housing. This group is addressing carbon emissions through, for example, the adoption of Whole Life Carbon Assessments which measure greenhouse gases throughout the construction and operation of new homes.

Built Environment Key Actions	Deliverable	Impact on CO2 emissions	Timeframe	Key partners
Regeneration schemes to provide social and sustainability benefits	Introduce a sustainability impact checklist for new regeneration projects – private sector and public sector – through the planning system.	low	Short term	Development industry
	Embed circular economy principles into new developments, construction and deconstruction projects	medium	Short term	Development industry

Build sustainable council housing	Develop a design specification for carbon neutral homes	Low	Short-term	
	Deliver pilot Zero Carbon social housing project at Victoria Road, Portslade	Medium	Short-term	
	Develop and introduce a decent environment standard for council estates	Low	Medium-term	
	Adopt a New Build Housing Sustainability Policy for new council housing supply	Medium	Medium-term	
Secure sustainable development in the city through planning policies and City Plan.	Implement sustainability policies in City Plan Part One and supporting guidance documents (including guidance on energy efficiency and design, sustainable drainage, parking, masterplans, food growing advice, swift boxes/bee bricks, Nature Conservation,)	Medium	Short term	
	Adopt City Plan Part 2 and implement updated sustainability policies in relation to new development	Medium	Short term	
	Start review of City Plan Part 1 to update policies.	Medium	Short term	
	Promote carbon neutral development with developers, architects and agents	Medium	Medium-term	Development industry
Community Infrastructure Levy, Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Apply a Community Infrastructure Levy to new developments to secure funding to deliver the city's low carbon infrastructure priorities.	Low	Short-term	
	Update the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to reflect priorities, e.g. carbon offsetting and supporting retrofit	Low	Medium-term	
Planning Guidance	<p>Prepare, adopt and implement planning guidance to support delivery of sustainable and biodiverse places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt Urban Design Framework Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) • Hove Station Master Plan SPD • Update Nature Conservation SPD 	Medium	Short term	

Related plans and policies

City Plan Part One <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/planning/planning-policy/city-plan-part-one>

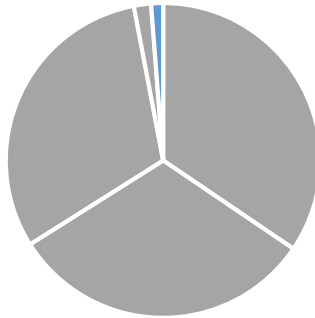
City Plan Part Two

BHCC Housing Committee 20 Jan 2021 reports – Housing Actions towards Carbon Neutral 2030 and Sustainability Measures for New Homes and Housing Supply Sustainability Policy



Nature and environment (Food, land use, agriculture)

Land use &
agriculture
19 kT CO₂e



Nature's contribution is critically important for our livelihoods, economy, quality of life and wellbeing. Halting and then reversing biodiversity loss and improving the resilience of our natural environment is vital. The council has declared a climate and biodiversity emergency, so we seek to identify, enhance and improve access to the most important natural habitats including chalk grassland, woodland and hedgerows.

Parks, gardens, farms and the Downland Estate surrounding Brighton & Hove offer opportunities to capture and lock up carbon in soils, grassland, trees and even the marine environment. Green spaces can be managed for biodiversity and soil health, landscape, recreation and agriculture as well as carbon sequestration. Where and how we produce food has a significant impact on carbon emissions as well public health and quality of life. With a longer dry season, valuable habitats will need to be resilient to fire. There are great hopes for locking up carbon in the natural environment, but more evidence is needed. All these elements will be increasingly important to help reach the city's Carbon Neutral 2030 target.

Tree planting – A landscape of trees has many benefits for physical and mental health, and tree planting projects often have enthusiastic community support. However, not all tree planting results in positive carbon sequestration. Planting the wrong trees in the wrong place can actually release more carbon stored in the soil than is sequestered by the trees as they grow. It can also destroy existing habitats such as species rich grasslands which would compromise work towards tackling the biodiversity emergency. Tree planting often produces a plantation, not a woodland with diverse age structures and rich ecotones. To address the biodiversity emergency as well as the climate emergency, it is preferable to allow natural regeneration with some planting to diversify the species mix so that in the long term a woodland with mixed age and species is achieved. The South Downs National Park was designated for its natural beauty based on its open sweeping views, so the impact on the wider landscape needs to be considered in any tree planting scheme

Wilding - The aim of Wilding is to manage habitats through natural processes as far as is possible. In ancient times, the countryside would have contained large herbivores and predators which would have been the main drivers of natural landscape processes. Getting the delicate balance of herbivores right should allow species rich grasslands to develop in some places and naturally regenerating woodland in

others. While natural regeneration of woodland under light grazing takes longer than tree planting it produces a more diverse, resilient woodland in the long run. It is also desirable to replace missing plant species, by planting a limited number of trees that will then provide seeds for the trees of the future. As soils develop, wilding will provide long term carbon sequestration as well as biodiversity benefits.

City Downland Estate – The council’s rural estate of over 10,000 acres is located within the South Downs National Park. The council acquired the estate in the late 19th and early 20th Century with the aim of protecting water supply and controlling development. The council has long recognised the importance of the Downland Estate, which contributes a great deal to the Downland landscape which surrounds the City

The City Downland Estate plan is being reviewed during 2021-22, with a vision to reconnect the people of Brighton & Hove to a more biodiverse Downland with better education, improved access and a sense of connection to the land. There will be a focus on improving biodiversity; plant, tree and soil health; carbon emissions and sequestration; and renewable energy.

City greenspaces –The city’s 2,000 acres of parks, trees and gardens enhance health and wellbeing for residents and are the venue for a dynamic range of activities. These spaces can be managed with a focus on biodiversity, increasing tree cover, and encouraging active travel.

The Living Coast UNESCO World Biosphere Region covers 390km² with the city of Brighton & Hove at its heart. Its mission is to connect people and nature to inspire a positive future, today, through delivering projects under its three objectives: to conserve & enhance nature & culture; support sustainable human development; and to share environmental knowledge, learning, awareness and engagement.

Food – in 2020 the city received a Gold Sustainable Food City award; the bid was led by the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership. The city will build on this success.

Related plans and policies

- Downland Estate Whole Estate Plan consultation
- Open Spaces Strategy (2017) <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/default/files/migrated/article/inline/2017%20FINAL%20Approved.pdf>
- BHCC City Tree Strategy (DRAFT)
- The Living Coast Management Strategy 2020-2025

Brighton & Hove Food Strategy Action Plan 2018-23 <https://bhfood.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Final-FULL-WEB-Food-Strategy-Action-Plan.pdf>

Nature & Environment Key Actions	Deliverable	Impact on CO2 emissions	Timeframe	Key partners
City Downland Whole Estate Plan	Consult & approve the CDEP and develop a 10-year action plan. Linked to BHCC Climate & Biodiversity Emergency declarations, re biodiversity, plant & tree health, carbon emissions and sequestration, renewable energy, soil health 100-year vision for the Downland Estate Mapping of natural capital assets Carbon accounting to be considered	Medium	Short, medium and long-term	The Living Coast, South Downs National Park, Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre
Food	Review the use of council owned land with the aim of encouraging uses that promote biodiversity and mitigate climate change, such as food growing, re-wilding	Low	Medium term	
	Build on Brighton & Hove's Gold Sustainable Food City award with campaigns for a more plant-based diet; less single-use plastics; and tackling food poverty.	Medium	Short term	Brighton Food Partnership
Invest in the biodiversity of our parks, green & blue networks, development sites and urban fringe.	Encourage and facilitate tree planting, green corridors and restoration of hedgerows & ponds to enhance biodiversity, especially on city-owned assets including parks, planters, community gardens and housing estates Restoration of Stanmer Park Masterplan	Medium	Short term	Living Coast Biosphere Plumptre College, South Downs National Park
	Wilding projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing Chalk • Wilding Waterhall – ecological restoration of golf course by CityParks • Greening the Cities – creating new urban green space with local downland planting 	Low	Medium term	Living Coast Biosphere, National Trust Changing Chalk partnership
Maintain quality of our beaches, and marine conservation	Maintain Blue Flag status for beaches Restore kelp to coastline	Low	Short term	TLC Biosphere, SWT, Southern Water, Greater Brighton

Communication and engagement

Only with the participation of individuals and communities will Brighton & Hove be able to act on cutting greenhouse gases and achieving the carbon neutral goal. Involvement from people and businesses is needed to reduce or adapt demand for energy intensive services. New technologies such as electric cars or heat pumps require at least some degree of change from consumers in their purchasing choices and daily lives. Individual choices are key to shifting quickly towards healthier diets, slowing the increase in air flights, and choosing products that last longer and improve resource efficiency. The council has a role in many aspects of community engagement including:

Climate Assembly - During 2020, Brighton & Hove City Council held a Climate Assembly and set up an online platform to engage on climate change with residents and businesses. Local young people designed and delivered a **Youth Assembly**. The keen interest in the assemblies showed the willingness of Brighton & Hove residents to participate in climate action

Engaging stakeholders – the council participates in many citywide and regional partnerships including The Living Coast Biosphere management board and Greater Brighton. Communicating our strategic vision is key to this engagement.

Behaviour change – communicating options and opportunities for residents and organisations to cut their own carbon footprints is something the council already engages in, for example, ensuring social housing tenants are informed about efficient use of their heating systems; responding to demand for electric vehicle charge points. Public Health team are the specialists with campaigns on healthy eating and active lifestyles. With the rapid pace of technological change there will be increasing need to communicate behaviour change messages with residents. Businesses and organisations can be supported in accessing resources that help them reduce their carbon outputs. The stories of local people and businesses that are already working towards a zero carbon city can be recognised and celebrated.

Engaging the whole community including council staff in the ongoing conversation about biodiversity loss and the climate emergency. Providing free civic space such as libraries to facilitate this. On-line consultation is helping to reduce the carbon footprint of consultation and engagement events and can enhance community capacity to engage with council initiatives such as the Downland Estate review.

Support for community action – In 2020 the council ran a successful grants programme for community projects on climate and biodiversity action. The grants programme supports residents in a wide range of projects including engagement on active travel, rainscaping along Lewes Road, the Craven Vale Association to create their own community apiary and a wildflower and wildlife area in addition to their already planted mini-orchard. In future community groups could be supported to identify the climate and carbon impacts of their projects. Participatory budgeting will enhance community engagement in housing estate improvements.

Health and wellbeing - Wide participation will also help to meet the city's priority of being fair and inclusive and ensuring that everyone can benefit from and participate in climate actions. The council recognises that we need to engage with under-represented and marginalised groups who are often those most affected by the impact of climate change.

Communication and Engagement Key Actions	Deliverable	Impact on CO2 emissions	Timeframe	Key partners
Sustainability Carbon Reduction Investment Fund (SCRIF)	Use the SCRIF to accelerate carbon reduction work within the council	Medium	Short term	
Engage young people in climate action	Embed climate change into schools Brighton & Hove Environmental Education (BHee) programme	Enabling action	Short term	Living Coast Biosphere
Community action	Invest in a strong and independent voluntary and community sector through awards of three-year grant through Third Sector Commission and Communities Fund, including a dedicated strand for supporting climate change & biodiversity projects	Low	Short term	Living Coast Biosphere
Engagement and behaviour change campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community engagement on climate action via online platforms. The Living Coast programme connects people and nature in the Biosphere Online advice to residents and council staff on cutting carbon emissions in their homes and consumption Find ways to support businesses to align their corporate social responsibility policies to the city Carbon Neutral target. Support Neighbourhood Plan groups to include carbon reduction and biodiversity as key strands. 	Medium	Short, medium and long-term	Living Coast Biosphere
Museums	Deliver a distinctive offer at the Royal Pavilion and RP Garden, Brighton Museum, Booth Museum, Hove Museum & Preston Manor to support learning, creativity, well-being and engagement of diverse audiences and environmental sustainability, collaborating with The Living Coast Biosphere programme.	Enabling action	Short term	Living Coast Biosphere
Sustainable events	Implement the Brighton & Hove Outdoor Events Charter. Encourage event organisers to sign up to the BHCC Environmental Impact Assessment and Action Plan and cut carbon emissions from travel, energy, food & drink, and suppliers.	Medium	Short term	

Jobs, education and skills

Young people have been a vital force in driving action on climate change in the city, participating in climate strikes and a Youth Assembly on transport. BHCC has run a schools and youth climate engagement programme which support schools, city youth engagement events, debates with MPs and a schools Heads climate conference.

A new City Employment and Skills Plan is being developed that is focused on post-Covid recovery. Steps to recovery require stakeholder participation and collaboration between the council, employers, training providers, colleges and universities, the LEP, business and education networks and the third sector. One of the plan's objectives is to facilitate employment and skills interventions which support low-carbon employment and are key to any mass retrofitting project – e.g. installation of solar panels and heat pumps.

This will help to strengthen the local supply chain for green infrastructure. In January 2020 the council unanimously passed a Notice of Motion supporting a 'Green New Deal,' seeking to address climate change in ways that also boost jobs, address poverty and inequality, and restructure our economic system. The Green New Deal approach can help to grow 'green' skills and local jobs, linking public sector decarbonisation initiatives and council retrofit programmes to opportunities for skills and training.

Jobs, Education & Skills Key Actions	Deliverable	Impact on CO2	Timeframe	Key partners
Engage young people in climate action	Embed climate change into schools Brighton & Hove Environmental Education (BHee) programme	Enabling action	Short-term	Living Coast Biosphere
Promote outdoor education and programmes to increase children's exposure to nature, theatre, music and physical activity	Support the city's early years and childcare providers to provide high quality early years services including positive promotion of natural environment and outdoor learning.	Enabling action	Medium-term	
Develop green skills and jobs	Collaborate with education institutions and businesses to plan for future skills needs and increase take up of apprenticeships.	Enabling action	Short & medium-term	
	Secure funding and collaborate with Coast to Capital LEP, FE and HE colleges to create a Decarbonisation Skills Academy	Enabling action	Medium term	Coast to Capital LEP, colleges, universities, Green Growth Platform

Related plans and policies

Brighton & Hove City Employment and Skills Plan 2021-23 (*in development*)

[Coast to Capital LEP Build Back, Stronger, Smarter, Greener Plan](#)



Circular economy

In 2018 the Brighton & Hove Economic Strategy (2018-2023) was launched and included a commitment to creating a Circular Economy Routemap to 2035. Circular Economy principles move away from a linear ‘take, make, consume and throw-away society’, towards one that minimises waste and pollution, keeps products and materials in use for as long as possible and supports the regeneration and protection of natural resources.

The Routemap will aim to capture and share good circular projects and practices across the city. The Routemap will grow and evolve over time, shaped around new opportunities, learning and collaboration as the city begins to unlock its potential and transition towards circular systems and ways of working – driving sustainable growth, reducing carbon emissions and protecting our communities and the environment. Brighton & Hove City Council plays an important role in leading our city and we can use this position to facilitate a move to circular principles through our own practice as well as introducing policies that affect the whole city.

Many council services are inherently sustainable; for example libraries’ core service is to ‘recycle’ books (and potentially other high-cost / low-use items) for many people to use; and the council’s Communities, Equalities and Third Sector team supports refugee resettlement with second-hand white goods, furniture and clothing. Using the city’s spending power to procure goods and services and working with partners and contractors is key to the development of a local, sustainable, circular economy and the council’s Procurement Team has actively engaged in developing the Circular Economy Routemap.

The planning process can support the incorporation of circular economy principles in the design and construction of new development through appropriate planning policies in development plans. City Plan Part One Policy CP8 ‘Sustainable Buildings’ and Policy WMP3d of the East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste & Minerals Plan together provide some existing support, and future reviews of both these plans provide opportunities for more explicit policy support that better reflects the Circular Economy Framework.

The council is exploring whole life carbon assessments on new build housing schemes, which will assess the ‘embodied carbon’ locked up in construction materials and manufacturing processes. The council is developing construction specifications to include circular economy principles to reduce waste, reduce operational energy use, and protect and enhance biodiversity, and has identified pilot projects to trial these specifications.

Other priority sectors include the visitor economy, and single-use plastics. In future there’s the potential to focus on fashion, food and other consumables that are produced outside the city.

Circular Economy Key Actions	Deliverable	Impact on CO2 emissions	Time-frame	Key partners
Promote a sustainable economy by supporting low carbon growth and encouraging businesses to reduce waste and pollution	Circular Economy Routemap and Action Plan	Medium	Short term	University of Brighton, SOENECS, Circular Brighton & Hove, Good Business Club, CityClean
	Update BHCC design spec to reduce and reuse construction materials in our building projects Explore methodology for quantifying embedded carbon in construction	Medium	Short-term	
	Work with visionary small businesses to identify ways of making the city carbon neutral	Low	Medium term	
	Scope and explore development of a flows analysis for produce and goods consumed in the city but produced elsewhere, e.g. food, drinks and fashion	Medium	Medium-term	
	Deliver pilot circular behaviour change and education projects to schools and residents for facilitating citywide engagement in reuse and reduction of waste and materials.	Medium	Short & medium-term	Schools Blueprint
Ensure circular economy principles are fully supported in future development plans	Dependent upon the outcomes from government planning reforms, embed circular economy principles in the new City Plan and potentially any review of Waste & Minerals Local Plan with policies that identify the circular economy factors required to be addressed and/or incorporated in development proposals.	Medium	Medium & long-term	East Sussex County Council, South Downs National Park Authority

Related plans and policies

- An Economic Strategy for Brighton and Hove 2018 <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/business-and-trade/support-businesses/brighton-hove-economic-strategy-2018-2023>
- City Plan Part One
- Waste and Minerals Local Plan

Adaptation

Brighton & Hove is already experiencing the impact of the changing climate, even in our temperate latitudes. The city will need to find ways to adapt to these impacts to protect lives and livelihoods and the natural environment. Challenges include the high upfront capital cost of projects such as coastal defences and looking beyond statutory duties to future proof the city against climate change.

- **Protecting our coastline** - Higher sea levels and large storm waves are putting a strain on coastal defences. In December 2019 part of the Albion groyne collapsed into the sea because of strong wind and rain, and at Seaford, the chalk cliff face has suffered several dramatic rock falls.
- **Extreme storms and flooding** - Climate change is expected to cause warmer, wetter winters, with more intense, heavy rainfall events, and greater risk of flash flooding. Brighton and Hove can suffer from muddy flooding, dumping eroded soil from the South Downs onto roads and drainage systems in the city.
- **Water supplies and quality**- By 2050 dry summers could result in 80% less water in the UK's rivers and reservoirs, especially in the South East which already suffers from water stress. Drought could affect the quality and amount of groundwater supplies available to the city. All Brighton and Hove residents' drinking water comes from the Brighton Chalk Block aquifers, so it is vital we protect and improve the groundwater in this valuable natural resource.
- **Health** - A range of health conditions related to heat, extreme weather and air pollution are predicted to rise. Vulnerable people, including the elderly and children, will be at risk of increased heat exposure during heatwaves, especially in South East England. A [recent study](#) in Brighton and Hove identified air pollution from transport as a contributory cause of more than 170 deaths a year in the city.
- **Clean air** – air pollution is associated with adverse health effects particularly affecting the most vulnerable in society – children and older people and those with heart and lung conditions.

Adaptation Key Actions	Deliverable	Impact on CO2 emissions	Timeframe	Key partners
Manage risk of groundwater flooding and surface water flooding	Surface Water Management Plan Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Works include highway drainage improvements, property level protection, surface water flow route interventions.	Low	Short & medium term	
Sustainable Urban Drainage	Develop and begin delivery of a city-wide programme of sustainable urban drainage schemes to protect highways and properties from surface water flooding and extreme weather events and to protect the chalk aquifer. Deliver SCAPE SUDs scheme	Low	Short and medium term	The Aquifer Partnership
	Implement Sustainable Urban Drainage Supplementary Planning Document through the planning process and to shape future changes to the urban realm	Low	Short-term	
Protect against coastal erosion and flood risk	Coastal Defence Strategy Shoreline Management Plan Shingle Beach Replenishment & Groynes Proposed Marina to Adur Coastal Protection Scheme	Low	Short & medium term	Lewes DC, Adur & Worthing Councils, Environment Agency
Air Quality	Review Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) designations and develop new Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)	Medium	Short term	
	Continue to implement Ultra Low Emissions Zone for the city centre and consider expansion of the zone.	Low	Medium	
	Develop options for smoke control areas	Medium	Short-term	

Related plans and policies

- 2020 Air Quality Status Report and Air Quality Action Plan
- Coordination of adaptation work across council departments and teams
- City Plan Parts 1 and 2
- Ultra Low Emission Zone guidance

Carbon offsetting

Brighton & Hove City Council has set a target to become a carbon neutral city by 2030. This means reducing greenhouse gases from all consumption and activity across the city as far as possible. However, some emissions are very hard to remove, and it is expected that not all carbon emissions will be eliminated by 2030. So, as a last resort, any carbon emissions that cannot be avoided at source must be offset (or 'neutralised') by schemes that remove or reduce remaining greenhouse gases. Despite energy efficiency improvements and technological advances, a gap between carbon emissions and our target may still remain. It is likely that Brighton & Hove will need to offset carbon emissions in addition to all other efforts to cut emissions over the years to 2030.

Many carbon offsetting projects are nature-based, as our natural environment offers some of the best opportunities for capturing and storing carbon, as well as the benefits for wildlife and natural habitats. Projects which could offset carbon emissions include:

Offsetting potential	Examples
Remove carbon from atmosphere	Plant trees Enhance natural habitats
Prevent carbon being released	Protect natural habitats Soil management
Reduce carbon emissions	Energy efficiency in buildings Renewable energy
Create enabling environment for carbon reduction	Fuel poverty advice Fuel switching Research Behaviour change

The council is exploring the potential for investing in local carbon reduction projects and identifying the carbon reduction that can then contribute towards our carbon neutral target. The aim is to help more carbon reduction projects to happen faster, and to keep investment local. These projects often have other benefits which can be captured locally, such as tackling fuel poverty, improving air quality, creating new habitats for wildlife and benefiting health and wellbeing. BHCC is already engaged in many nature-based projects which help to cut carbon, including planting trees in our streets and parks, the restoration of Stanmer Park, and reviewing the Downland Estate Plan.

Carbon offsetting projects must be additional, verifiable and permanent, which requires a robust framework to give confidence in the delivery of carbon savings. A framework would also help to make carbon saving projects visible and accessible, and help engage public, communities and investors in climate action.

The council is also looking to ensure that contracts are procured with carbon neutral goals in mind and that contractors may be able to partner in local carbon offsetting schemes or may have their own environmental or carbon emissions goals.

Carbon offsetting Key Actions	Deliverable	Impact on CO2 emissions	Timeframe	Key partners
Investigate nature-based potential for capturing carbon emissions	Support Sussex Natural Capital Investment Strategy - develop evidence base and methods of calculating carbon savings and biodiversity enhancement in nature-based projects	Medium	Medium & long-term	SNCP, Living Coast Biosphere
New investment models for low-carbon projects and to engage community	Investigate development of a municipal bond or fund to provide opportunities for local people to invest in local low-carbon projects	Low	Medium term	
	Local Authority Insetting research on investing in local carbon offsetting projects	Low	Short term	

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Procurement

Sustainability is an integral part of the procurement process. The [Sustainable Procurement Policy](#) sets out how sustainability is embedded into every procurement process. It was expanded in 2019 to incorporate circular economy principles to encourage reuse and recycling of materials. The Procurement Team has actively engaged in the Circular Economy workshops, discussions and work undertaken so far and is committed to delivering the procurement related actions in the Circular Economy Routemap.

All activity aligns with the council's priority in achieving its goal to become a carbon neutral city by 2030.

Procurement Examples:

- EV Lamppost Chargers: Energy supplied must be from a renewable source. Helped save approx.11.1 metric tonnes in carbon emissions in first 2 months of operation.
- A Design Team for phase 1 of the regeneration of Madeira Terrace whereby principles such as enabling zero waste on site are part of the brief.
- Adopting circular procurement models – e.g. Product-as-a-Service (PaaS) and leasing e.g. Multi-Functional Devices (MFDs)

Procurement Key Actions	Deliverable	Impact on CO2 emissions	Timeframe	Key partners
Procure local services for the benefit of communities	Use city's spending power to procure local services for the benefit of our communities by buying goods and services locally where possible, changing the way we outsource services and bringing services in house if it will increase social value and improve the development and retention of a highly skilled council workforce	Enabling	Short-term	
Circular Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a case study library to aid Circular Economy learning and development • Review and refresh existing procurement policies. 	Low	Short and Medium-term	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim that a % of spend is on circular goods and services • Aim that a % of those purchases are supplied by local companies 	Medium	Medium – Long term	

Related plans and policies

Sustainable Procurement Policy

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR 2030 CARBON NEUTRAL MEMBER WORKING GROUP

1. Name

2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group (MWG).

2. Purpose

A 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme has been established to help achieve a key policy objective of Brighton & Hove City Council in becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The cross-party MWG will oversee the programme development and implementation, including the development of an engagement programme and Climate Assembly.

3. Status

The 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme MWG shall be an advisory board to the Policy & Resources Committee. The Board will not have subcommittee status and the political balance rules in section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 will not apply. However, it is expected that the Board will be established on a cross-party basis.

4. Areas of focus

The cross-party MWG has oversight of the development and delivery of the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme to help ensure the core programme objectives are met. These objectives are to:

- Agree a methodology for recording emissions that allows the Council and the City to readily compare our progress with other UK and international cities working to achieve similar targets
- Develop and deliver an engagement plan / Climate Assembly process to harness the knowledge and enthusiasm of partners and local residents
- Develop and implement a high-level plan to meet the 2030 target – delivered through a coordinated programme of projects
- Develop and deliver a communications plan to support activities and engagement
- Continue to collate information on our current carbon reduction initiatives and assess the contribution these will make to the 2030 target.

The cross-party MWG also has oversight of the delivery of the Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Investment Fund (SCRIF) and the Climate Assembly Action Capital Investment Fund (CAACIF), as the main funds that have been established to support the city's transition to carbon neutral by 2030. In particular, it shall be consulted by the Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Culture, in relation to SCRIF and CAACIF project approvals. In summary, the MWG will:

- Advise the Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Culture in relation to SCRIF and CAACIF project approvals
- Review and monitor the performance of the portfolio of SCRIF and CAACIF projects

- To seek to maximise the value of the SCRIF and CAACIF funding to the council and the city, including through the leverage of additional funding.

5. Reporting

The Group will report to Policy & Resources Committee, with recommendations as necessary.

6. Membership

Membership of the Group shall consist of 8 elected Members, following nominations by their Group Leaders to reflect the political composition of the Council.

7. Meetings and Ways of Working

The timing and number of meetings will be dictated by the volume of business for the MWG. The Group will agree ways of working appropriate to the role and remit of the Group.

8. Review

These terms of reference may be reviewed and amended by the Policy & Resources Committee from time to time.

REVISED NOTICE OF MOTION**CONSERVATIVE GROUP****GREEN PRIDE**

This Council agrees to:

1. Request the Policy & Resources Committee to consider the prohibition of the use of Preston Park and any other council property, park, green or open space for the event Green Pride as a commercial event, in which the organiser charges stall holders and accepts sponsorship, or takes money in relation to the event, save if agreed by Council officers and to call for a report as necessary in order to be able to approve the prohibited use of council land and property as outlined; and
2. Support the use of medicinal cannabis and CBD oil in line with national legislation and the right to protest on the issue of cannabis use, using areas designated by Council officers, other than when the organiser seeks to make money.

Proposed by: Cllr Miller

Seconded by: Cllr Bagaeen

