

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE**

3.00PM 8 MAY 2009

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mears (Chairman), Caulfield and Fallon-Khan

Also in attendance: Councillor Cobb (Lead Councillor for Sustainability), Steedman (Spokesperson, Green)

Other Members present: Councillor Simson

PART ONE

43. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

43A Declarations of Interest

43a.1 There were none.

43B Exclusion of Press and Public

43b.1 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Sustainability Cabinet Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press or public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100I(1) of the Act).

43b.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

44. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

44.1 **RESOLVED** – The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

45. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

45.1 There were none.

46. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

46.1 **RESOLVED** - That all the items be reserved for discussion.

47. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

47.1 There were none.

48. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

48.1 There were none.

49. DEPUTATIONS

49.1 There were none.

50. PETITIONS

50.1 There were none.

51. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

51.1 There were none.

52. NOTICES OF MOTION

52.1 There were none.

53. REVIEW OF CITY FOOD STRATEGY

53.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance concerning a review of the Brighton & Hove Food Strategy and Action Plan being undertaken by Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (for copy see minute book).

53.2 The Sustainability Officer with responsibility for this area was pleased to announce that the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership had been successful in their application to the Big Lottery 'Local Food' fund for a Beacon grant of £500,000. The funding would help support 'Harvest Brighton & Hove', a partnership project co-ordinating a city-wide approach to producing and consuming food.

53.3 Councillor Steedman welcomed the review and hoped it would highlight where more work could be done. He felt that issues remained around sustainable procurement and that the staff and civic catering contract was an example of an opportunity where the council can take steps in the right direction.

53.4 In response to queries from Councillor Caulfield the Sustainability Officer explained that Harvest Brighton & Hove would include projects looking to work with Tenant Associations wishing to grow food on small areas of land. She also advised that while national legislation meant that profit cannot be made from selling surplus food grown on allotments, any money made can go back into a charity or not-for-profit organisation.

- 53.5 The Chairman requested a report to the Cabinet Committee on the specific issues around Tenant Associations growing food on housing land.
- 53.6 In response to questions from Councillor Fallon-Khan on obesity in young people the Sustainability Officer explained that the problem stretched wider than nutritional values of school meals, but working with children on cooking and growing food through the Food for Life Partnership would help to address these issues.
- 53.7 The Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy confirmed that the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership would be asked to address the issues raised during the review.
- 53.8 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the following recommendations be accepted:

- (1) That Sustainability Cabinet Committee note the review is being undertaken and encourage participation amongst council officers where relevant.

54. TAKING FORWARD THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT - PROPOSALS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 54.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance concerning arrangements for taking forward the Sustainable Communities Act (for copy see minute book).
- 54.2 The Chairman welcomed Councillor Simson to the meeting to introduce the report.
- 54.3 Councillor Simson reported that twenty proposals had been received and were currently being assessed for eligibility before the Local Panel met the following week. The ultimate decision on any proposals rested with the Secretary of State. Councillor Simson added that the council expected the Secretary of State to call for more proposals on a regular basis.
- 54.4 Councillor Steedman acknowledged the cross-party support for this initiative and was assured by Councillor Simson that ineligible proposals will be passed to the relevant Cabinet Member of department and that any proposals approved by the Local Panel will have to be ratified by the Cabinet.
- 54.5 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the following recommendations be accepted:
- (1) That the Sustainability Cabinet Committee notes the work being carried out by the Council and its partners to generate and assess proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act.

55. SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT

- 55.1 The Cabinet Committee received a presentation on Sustainability in the Comprehensive Area Assessment for the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy.
- 55.2 In response to queries from Councillor Steedman in relation to the Local Area Agreement indicator on per capita CO₂ emissions the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy explained that as it was an issue concerning the city as a whole, the City Sustainability Partnership would look into it and draw up an action plan.
- 55.3 Councillor Fallon-Khan commented that the Administration had had some enormous challenges to face around the use of resources, but that sustainability had been at the heart of achieving the council's highest ever score from the Audit Commission.
- 55.4 **RESOLVED** – That the presentation be noted.

56. CLIMATE CONNECTIONS

- 56.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a presentation on the Climate Connections partnership project from the Sustainability Co-ordinator and representatives from the Brighton Peace and Environment Centre (BPEC).
- 56.2 The Sustainability Co-ordinator explained that Climate Connections was a joint project with Oxfam and the BPEC focussed on raising awareness of climate change across the world and encouraging residents to take advantage of existing initiatives within the city. The project would be funded by a successful application £183,000.
- 56.3 Ruth England, Education Co-ordinator for the BPEC explained that the funding would go towards a photographic exhibition, an interactive website, workshops and a new member of staff for the BPEC.
- 56.4 The Chairman requested that the Cabinet Committee received a regular report from the BPEC.
- 56.5 **RESOLVED** – That the presentation be noted.

57. REPORT OF THE CITY SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

- 57.1 The Cabinet Committee considered the draft minutes of the City Sustainability Partnership (CSP) held on 6 April 2009 (for copy see minute book).
- 57.2 Councillor Steedman queried why discussions regarding the CSP considering issues around peak oil had not been included in the draft minutes.
- 57.3 The Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy confirmed that he would ensure that the minutes contain all discussions before they are finalised.
- 57.4 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes be noted.

The meeting concluded at 4.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of



Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

What is CAA?



- **Starts April 2009**
- **It is about people and places**
- **It will aim to give people a snapshot of life in their local area each year**
- **It aims to help local services improve quality of life in their area**
- **It will help people understand if they are getting value for money from their local services**

What is CAA?



- **How well are people served by their local public services? (not just how good is the organisation)**
- **How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?**
- **How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?**
- **What are the prospects for future improvement?**

Area Assessment



- What changes will CAA bring?

CPA	CAA
Local government focus	All sectors and partners
Institution based	Area based
One size fits all	Focus on local priorities
Performance	Outcomes and perceptions
Collaboration between regulators	Joint assessment
Cyclical inspection	Continuous assessment, proportionate inspection
More backward looking	More forward looking

The main elements of CAA



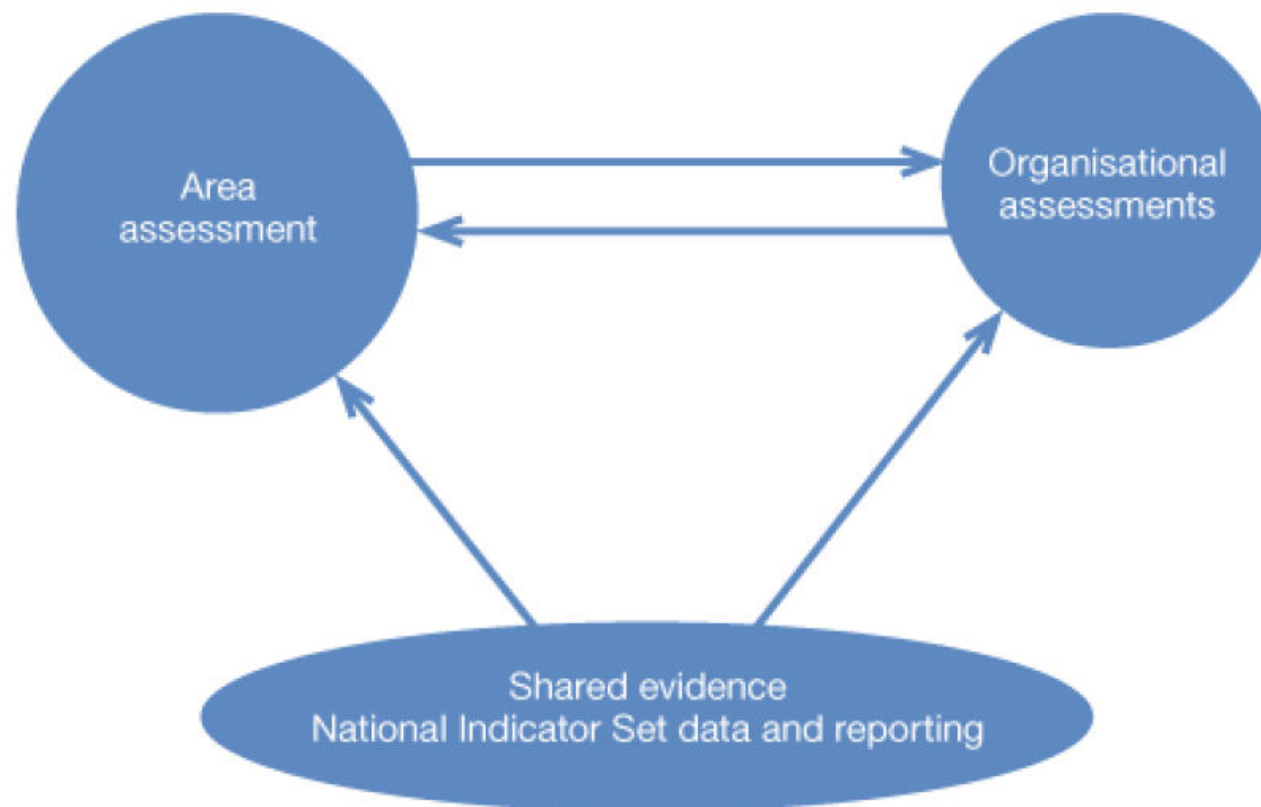
CAA is composed of two basic elements

- **An area assessment – a joint judgement on outcomes in a specific area primarily reviewing progress against the LAA and Community Strategy**
- **Organisational assessment – replaces annual direction of travel statement and will comprise of two elements**
 - **Managing Performance**
 - **Use of Resources**

The main elements of CAA



The CAA framework



Area Assessment



Introduction of Area Assessment Flags

- A 'green flag' will indicate innovative or exceptional success that others may learn from
- A 'red flag' will indicate that outcomes and/or performance and prospects for sustained improvement in local priorities are inadequate
- A 'red flag' means that something new or different must happen
- Flags will not be counted or used in league tables

Area Assessment



Website

Your local area

Assessing the quality of life where you live

Home | Search | News | About CAA

You are here: [Home](#) > [Your Local Area](#) > Barshire

Your local area

Welcome to Comprehensive Area Assessment

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) brings together the expertise and knowledge of seven inspection bodies to provide an independent and accurate view of the quality of local services across England.

CAA provides clear and impartial information on how local council, health, children's services, police and other services are performing — and how they compare with other parts of England.

Find out [more about CAA](#).

Your views matter

Your views are an important part of our assessments; your money that is being spent and your quality of life affected. You can give us [feedback on this site](#) or you can give us [feedback on this site](#) or you can give us [feedback on this site](#).

Click on the map or search for your area or postcode

Demonstration site, Indicative only

Your local area

Assessing the quality of life where you live

Home | Search | News | About CAA | Methodology | National Reports | Contact us / provide feedback

You are here: [Home](#) > [Your Local Area](#) > Barshire

Barshire

- Quality of life in Barshire - the area assessment in detail
- Improvement activity
- Search by theme
- Best performers for this theme
- How are your local services performing?
- Performance Data
- Compare with similar areas
- Download the full report
- Inspections and performance of other local services
- Contact your local public services
- How to get involved?

Search for another area

Demonstration site, Indicative only

Barshire, at a glance

This assessment sets out how your local public services are working together to tackle the major issues facing the people of Barshire. Where we use a red flag, this is to highlight where something more or different needs to happen to ensure that the most important challenges in Barshire are addressed. Where we use a green flag, this means that public bodies are achieving exceptional outcomes in priority areas, or something innovative, and that others can learn from.

Where different action is needed to deliver desired Improvements	Local innovation and excellence in Barshire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing choice in social care Educational attainment Reducing unemployment and worklessness, and improving skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the environment and housing through energy efficient homes

[Find out about what's being done in response to these flags](#)

Barshire is a large county with a population of just over 1 million. Since 2005 the Barshire economy has been improving, though the recession is starting to bite. The county is split into three quite distinct areas, the main town and the relatively affluent built-up districts around it, deprived towns and villages in the south and east of the county still affected by the collapse of the coal industry; and the prosperous market towns and villages of the mainly rural north and west.

There are six districts in Barshire, but there are big differences in the quality of services provided by their district councils. Demands on public services are higher in the more deprived districts which can be found mainly in the south of the county. In these areas, school results and health are poorer, and there's more crime there. Numbers of older residents are growing across the county.

Barshire's public services have agreed the following five major challenges that they need to tackle:

- Supporting communities to be healthy and well cared-for;

Organisational Assessment



Comprises of two elements:

Use of Resources

- **Managing finances:** does the organisation manage its finances?
- **Governing the business:** govern itself and deliver better outcomes for local people
- **Managing resources:** meet current and future needs

**Audit
Commission
use of
resources
assessment**

Managing Performance

- **Managing performance:** improve services and outcomes

**Joint
inspectorate
assessment**

CAA questions



- **How well do we understand our community?**
- **Is this understanding shared among our partnership?**
- **Is it reflected in our shared priorities?**
- **How well do we understand our performance and is this clearly focused on outcomes?**
- **How well do we understand the challenges ahead and are we working effectively together to meet them and improve priority outcomes?**

CAA questions



- **How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered? 10 Key questions which are outcome focused:**
- How safe is this area?
- How healthy and well supported are people?
- How well kept is the area?
- **How environmentally sustainable is the area?**
- How strong is the local economy?
- How strong and cohesive are local communities?
- How well is inequality being addressed?
- How well is housing need met?
- How well are families supported?
- How good is the well-being of children and young people?

CAA focus



- **Does the area have a grasp of the important global and local factors that impact on ecosystems?**
- **Does the area know its environmental footprint and what is it doing to minimise that footprint?**
- **Is the area making its transport system more sustainable by reducing the need to travel?**
- **Is the area joining up its activities, ensuring that the way it addresses economic and social issues does not have a negative impact on environmental concerns?**

CAA focus



- **LAA indicators:**
- **NI 186: Per capita CO2 emissions in the Local Authority area**
- **NI 185: CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations (local)**

- Also:
- NI 188: Planning to Adapt to Climate Change
- NI 189: Flood and coastal erosion risk management
- NI 194: Air quality – % reduction in NOx and primary PM10 emissions through local authority’s estate and operations
- NI 197: Improved Local Biodiversity – proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented

CAA timetable



- April 2009 - CAA comes into effect
- First public reporting of CAA at end of November 2009
- National overview reporting February 2010





BRIGHTON PEACE & ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Brighton Peace and Environment Centre is a charity which aims to raise awareness and understanding of social justice, peace, sustainable development and environmental protection matters by providing information, education and positive practical solutions to global problems.

In 2007 Brighton Peace and Environment Centre celebrated its 25th anniversary. For a quarter of a century, the organisation has served as an essential community resource within the heart of Brighton. As an organisation we work together with community groups, schools, local council, businesses and the wider public.



● Providing Information

Brighton Peace and Environment Centre is based in a city centre location and provides an information point for the public on local organisations, activities and events. This includes a specialist library, leaflet displays, events listings, information sheets on ethical living and the popular Green Pages, the brilliant guide to greener living in Brighton and Hove. The Green Pages holds free listings for local green businesses, providing essential support as they grow and develop.



● Providing Education

The schools programme is well regarded in the city, providing training and support for teachers on developing Global Citizenship in the curriculum. The centre hosts a teachers resource library with over 800 teaching resources borrowed by schools last year. Regular training is held with teachers in schools and at conferences and we are involved in projects in partnership with the City's Children and Young People's trust.

Last year Brighton Peace and Environment Centre was awarded an Argus Eco Award for our community learning with older people's groups on issues of sustainability.

● Providing Volunteer Opportunities

The centre provides quality volunteering opportunities in the city and we currently have 17 volunteers supporting the organisation. The volunteers are from a wide range of backgrounds and are gaining essential experience for working in the voluntary and environmental sector.

● Climate Connections

We are very excited about launching this new project in Partnership with Oxfam GB and Brighton and Hove City Council Sustainability Team.

Climate Connections is a public engagement project to increase knowledge and understanding of climate change issues and how individuals can respond. It will raise awareness of the connections between climate change, its effect on the developing world and how it is hampering efforts to reduce poverty and work toward the Millennium Development Goals. This will be achieved by making connections between human stories of individuals both locally and globally who are experiencing the effects of climate change and having to make adaptations in their lives in response to these effects. The stories will also highlight actions that these individuals are making to reduce their impact on the causes of climate change, inspiring others to make change and take action. The stories will be explored in three ways through a photographic exhibition, workshops and website.



