

Subject: State of the City report and summary
Date of Meeting: 9 June 2011
Report of: Strategic Director, Resources
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Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 A request was made by the Public Service Board and the City Council's Strategic Leadership Board for a report profiling Brighton and Hove, providing a snapshot of the city in terms of its characteristics and key issues, with an ultimate aim of creating a shared sense of priorities.
- 1.2 The report is unprecedented in its breadth and provides for the first time a benchmark for where we currently stand on key issues in the city.
- 1.3 It will form an important source of information for deciding commissioning priorities and the scopes of the commissions. The report will also enable us to track progress as we re-assess evidence in future versions.
- 1.4 The issues highlighted in the report highlight the city's strengths, opportunities and challenges including those relating to inequality and sustainability. The report therefore provides a picture of the city and a clear context for the incoming administration.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet reviews and notes the contents of the State of the City report and summary.
- 2.2 That Cabinet approves the report and summary for publication by July, to inform future commissioning decisions.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2011 provides a profile of the city, focusing on health and well-being and the wider determinants of health in the city. The State of the City report draws heavily on the JSNA summary but has a wider scope, balancing the health and well-being focus with information on a broader range of issues, including:
 - Employment and skills

- Business and enterprise
 - Investment and development
 - Transport and infrastructure
 - Environment and sustainability
 - Crime and disorder
 - Citizen engagement and involvement
 - Culture and leisure.
- 3.2 The State of the City report provides an impartial and factual “snapshot” of the city, its characteristics and issues it faces. It does not include evaluative statements about whether an issue should be a city priority but does provide comparisons to other cities, the region (where available) and national statistics.
- 3.3 The report highlight’s the city’s strengths, opportunities and challenges including those relating to inequality and sustainability. The report therefore provides a picture of the city and a clear context helping to decide on and grade future commissioning and track changes.
- 3.4 The evidence in the report will foster a shared understanding of citywide needs and priorities. Established commissioning priorities will be supported with in-depth needs assessments. A needs assessment pulls together all available data and information on a particular area (statistics; financial information; projections of future need; customer insight; profiling; service mapping; evidence of what works; community voice; professional views). This information is then analysed and used to make recommendations for commissioning and service delivery options.
- 3.5 As the report will be updated on a regular basis, drawing on analysis presented via needs assessments, it will enable us to track progress as we re-assess evidence in future versions.
- 3.6 The report will be made available as an accessible and interactive electronic document, with supporting data profiles. A summary report has been produced in hard copy (and will also be made available as an electronic pdf.) and is attached providing a concise picture of the main themes and messages. All formats will be available on the Brighton and Hove Local Information Service (www.BHLIS.org), an open data source.
- 3.7 Any data sets which are available and which are not duplicated elsewhere will be made available through our open data source.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Managers and analysts in service areas and partnership organisations across the city have provided input to the report in terms of data, advising on priorities and comments.
- 4.2 Lead commissioners at the City Council, SLB and Brighton & Hove’s Strategic Partnership’s Managers Group have received the report during May for information and comment.
- 4.3 All political groups have been informed and consulted on the function and content of the report. OSC are discussing the report on 7th June.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The information within the State of the City report and the Joint needs assessment will inform commissioning intentions and assumptions for the future budget strategies for the council and partner organisations. The costs of developing and compiling the report have been met through Local Public Service Agreement funding.

Finance Officer consulted: Anne Silley *Date: 27/05/11*

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 None.

Legal Officer consulted: Elizabeth Culbert *Date: 27/05/11*

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 There is a diversity section of the report and implications for equalities and identity groups have been noted in the report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The report contains a section on our environment. In addition, sustainability issues are raised throughout the report where relevant.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The report contains a section entitled 'our crime and disorder profile. In addition, crime and disorder issues are raised throughout the report where relevant.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 None contained within the report itself. Information or strategies referred to have their own risk and opportunity management processes at point of source.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The report covers city-wide issues and was contributed to by partners across the city.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 Possible alternatives to the State of the City report include not producing the report and allowing information to remain fragmented. This was deemed not to fulfil the requirements for a single, user-friendly, informative source of information as requested by PSB and SLB.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The report will provide a benchmark for key issues in the city as they currently stand. This will provide an evidence base for informing priorities but also to assess future impact. It provides a picture of the city to the incoming administration.
- 7.2 Assist with the creation of a shared sense of priorities.
- 7.3 Our commissioning programme has a requirement for robust evidence and a shared sense of city priorities to facilitate the allocation of resources for maximum benefit. It is therefore important to publish this report as soon as possible.
- 7.4 The report will be useful for a variety of audiences including planners, strategists and commissioners, politicians, service providers in statutory, community and voluntary sectors and advocates working across the city. They will be able to use it as a ready source of information, to quickly get up to speed with the “big picture” and to gain an overview of the city and the main issues.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Summary of the State of the City report, designed for wide dissemination

Documents in Members’ Rooms

1. Full text copies of the report, in Word format. Note the report will be professionally designed as an interactive e-document, arranged by theme.

Background Documents

None