Item 11 State of the City report and summary

Summary forwarded from the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 7 June 2011

Q. *How can you commission services before any needs assessments have been completed?*
A. The Council and partners already hold a lot of data.

Q. *Can commissioning be based only on full-time resident population? How are visitors and students taken into account? How is this used to support service delivery priorities?*
A. We have data from universities, businesses etc that allow some breakdown between different user/demographic groups.

Q. *Why have a State of the City report – who is the audience, what is the purpose?*
A. The State of the City Report presents a useful snapshot of the city. It brings together in a single readable format a wide range of information that only otherwise exists in a number of other reports. Bringing together all of this data facilitates a more strategic and evidence based approach to decision-making.

Q. *Is all the data referenced in the document available to residents? Are there plans for enabling higher level analysis – eg number of cars per household and single person households?*
A. Brighton and Hove Local Information Services (BHLIS) will eventually hold all of the data and also present some analysis. We are moving towards an Open Data approach, with as much data as possible being publicly available.

Q. *How do BME figures match up?*
A. We can look again at 'non-white British' data.

Q. *How do we know the data is reliable?*
A. There is a data quality policy; only the best available information is used. A named person is responsible for their own areas of data. We always seek to quality assure data, and whilst recognising it may not all be perfect we are confident as to its reliability.

Q. *When/Will it be done again?*
A. Yes, if it's found to be useful and no, if not. It's intended to be useful for scrutiny and especially scrutiny panels**.** Data can be used both to identify issues that scrutiny may wish to concentrate upon, or once a review has started provide information to guide questioning and research.

OSC recommends that:

(1)   State of the City and Needs Assessment data is shown to link clearly with commissioning priorities and proposals before the latter are finalised.

(2)   Future updates on Needs Assessments to OSC are linked in with the relevant data.

(3)   Significant updates to the State of the City report are reported to OSC.