





Brighton & Hove
City Council

Cabinet Meeting

Title:	Cabinet
Date:	9 December 2009
Time:	2.30pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: Mears (Chairman) Brown, Caulfield, Fallon-Khan, Kemble, K Norman, Simson, Smith, G Theobald and Young
Contact:	Tanya Massey Senior Democratic Services Officer 01273 291227 tanya.massey@brighton-hove.gov.uk

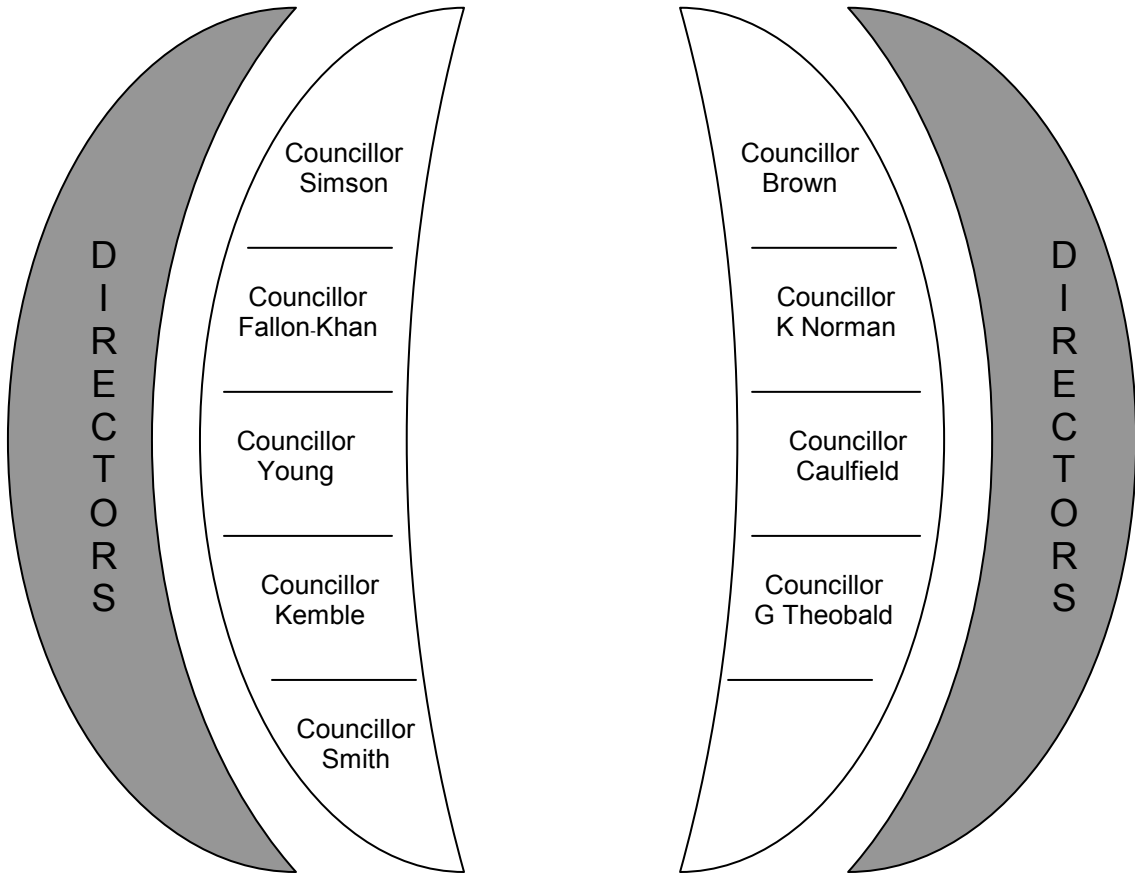
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Democratic Services: Meeting Layout

Director of Strategy & Governance Councillor Mears Chief Executive Democratic Services Officer

OFFICERS

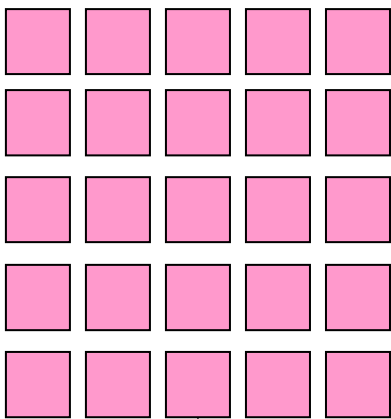
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OFFICERS

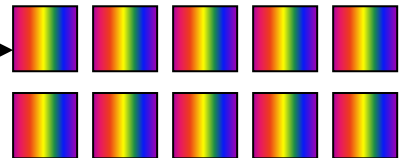
OFFICERS

Speaker Leader of the Labour Group Convenor of the Green Group Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group



Public Seating

Members in Attendance



Press



AGENDA

120. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) Declarations of Interest by all Members present of any personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- (b) Exclusion of Press and Public - To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading either that it is confidential or the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the categories of exempt information is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

121. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 20

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 November 2009 (copy attached).

122. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

123. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Items reserved by the Cabinet Members
- (b) Items reserved by the Opposition Spokespeople
- (c) Items reserved by Members, with the agreement of the Chairman.

NOTE: Public Questions, Written Questions from Councillors, Petitions, Deputations, Letters from Councillors and Notices of Motion will be reserved automatically.

124. PETITIONS

No petitions received by date of publication.

125. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(The closing date for receipt of public questions is 12 noon on 2 December 2009)

No public questions received by date of publication.

CABINET

126. DEPUTATIONS

(The closing date for receipt of deputations is 12 noon on 2 December 2009)

No deputations received by date of publication.

127. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

(The closing date for receipt of letters from Councillors is 10.00am on 27 November 2009)

No letters have been received.

128. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

(The closing date for receipt of written questions from Councillors is 10.00am on 27 November 2009)

No written questions have been received.

129. NOTICES OF MOTION

No Notices of Motion have been referred.

GENERAL MATTERS

130. Administrative Boundary Review - Saltdean

21 - 38

(a) Draft extract from the proceedings of the Governance Committee meeting held on 17 November 2009 (copy attached)

(b) Report of the Director of Strategy & Governance (copy attached).

Contact Officer: *Oliver Dixon* Tel: 29-1512
Ward Affected: *Rottingdean Coastal*

FINANCIAL MATTERS

131. Budget Update and Directorate Budget Strategies for 2010/11

Report of the Director of Finance & Resources (copy circulated separately).

Contact Officer: *Mark Ireland* Tel: 29-1240
James Hengeveld Tel: 29-1242
Ward Affected: *All Wards*

STRATEGIC & POLICY ISSUES

132. Local Area Agreement & Organisational Health: 09/10 Mid Year Performance

Report of the Director of Strategy & Governance (copy circulated separately).

Contact Officer: *Barbara Green* Tel: 29-1081
Ward Affected: *All Wards*

CABINET

133. Adult Social Care Annual Performance Assessment

Report of the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing (copy to follow).

Contact Officer: Philip Letchfield *Tel:* 29-5078

Ward Affected: All Wards

134. Housing Management Repairs, Refurbishment & Improvement Strategic Partnership Super Centre Proposal **39 - 46**

Joint report of the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing and the Director of Finance & Resources (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Nick Hibberd *Tel:* 29-3756

Ward Affected: All Wards

135. Response to the report of the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 'Older People And Community Safety' **47 - 120**

Report of the Director of Environment (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Linda Beanlands *Tel:* 29-1115

Ward Affected: All Wards

PROPERTY & REGENERATION MATTERS

136. Maintaining Brighton Centre Economic Impact **121 - 126**

Report of the Director of Culture & Enterprise (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Adam Bates *Tel:* 29-2600

Ward Affected: All Wards

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

137. Hollingbury and Waterhall Golf Courses - award of management contract **127 - 132**

Report of the Director of Environment (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Ian Shurrock *Tel:* 29-2084

Ward Affected: Hollingdean & Stanmer;
Withdean

STRATEGIC & POLICY ISSUES

138. Housing Management Repairs, Refurbishment & Improvement Strategic Partnership Super Centre Proposal **133 - 136**

Joint report of the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing and the Director of Finance & Resources (copy circulated to Members only).

[Exempt Category 3]

Contact Officer: Nick Hibberd Tel: 29-3756
Ward Affected: All Wards

PROPERTY & REGENERATION MATTERS

139. Maintaining Brighton Centre Economic Impact **137 - 142**

Report of the Director of Culture & Enterprise (copy circulated to Members only).

[Exempt Category 3]

Contact Officer: Adam Bates Tel: 29-2600
Ward Affected: All Wards

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

140. Hollingbury and Waterhall Golf Courses - award of management contract **143 - 150**

Report of the Director of Environment (copy circulated to Members only).

[Exempt Category 3]

Contact Officer: Ian Shurrock Tel: 29-2084
Ward Affected: Hollingdean & Stanmer; Withdean

141. PART TWO ITEMS

To consider whether or not any of the above items and the decisions thereon should remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

CABINET

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

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Therefore by entering the meeting room and using the seats around the meeting tables you are deemed to be consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for the purpose of web casting and/or Member training. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should sit in the public gallery area.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Head of Democratic Services or the designated Democratic Services Officer listed on the agenda.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Tanya Massey, (01273 291227, email tanya.massey@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Date of Publication - Tuesday, 1 December 2009

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**CABINET****4.00PM 12 NOVEMBER 2009****COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Mears (Chairman), Brown, Caulfield, Fallon-Khan, Kemble, K Norman, Simson, Smith, G Theobald and Young

Also in attendance: Councillors Mitchell (Leader, Labour Group), Randall (Convenor, Green Group) and Watkins (Opposition Spokesperson, Liberal Democrat Group)

Other Members present: Councillors Allen, Bennett, Cobb, Fryer, Harmer-Strange, McCaffery, Meadows, Morgan, Oxley and Taylor

PART ONE**101. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS****101a Declarations of Interests**

101a.1 During consideration of item 114, a report of the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing concerning the city's proposed new Housing Strategy, Councillor Randall declared a personal, but non-prejudicial interest as he was a member of the management board of the Local Delivery Vehicle.

101a.2 During consideration of item 115, a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance concerning proposals for the allocation of Three Year Strategic Grant funding, the Chairman declared that she may have a personal, but non-prejudicial interest as she was a member of the management committee of the Resource Centre, which was one of the successful applicants; the Chairman took no further part in the debate and Councillor Simson presided over the vote.

101b Exclusion of Press and Public

101b.1 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), it was 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).

101b.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

102. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

102.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2009 be approved as a correct record.

103. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

103.1 The Chairman noted that the meeting would be web cast.

103.2 The Chairman reported that workers at CityClean had suspended strike action for 28 days in order to discuss new proposals in detail. She thanked workers for their efforts to clear the backlog and return the city to normal so quickly.

103.3 The Chairman praised the success of both the White Nights Festival and Black History Month; both proved very popular and ran a number of well-attended events.

103.4 The Chairman reported that she had attended the opening of Patching Lodge extra care development, which was an excellent state-of-the-art facility developed in partnership with Hanover Housing Association to enhance the lives of older people and make their lives more manageable.

103.5 The Chairman reminded Members about the launch event for the Get Involved campaign; Get Involved Day would take place on 21 November at Hove Town Hall and residents were encouraged to take the opportunity to attend the event.

103.6 The Chairman highlighted Transgender Day of Remembrance also on 21 November which would be marked by an event at Dorset Garden Methodist Church.

103.7 The Chairman was pleased to report that the Secretary of State had confirmed the final boundaries for the South Downs National Park and that this would include both Green Ridge and Patcham Recreation Ground, as lobbied for by the council and residents.

104. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

104.1 **RESOLVED** – That all items be reserved for discussion.

105. PETITIONS

105.1 Councillor Oxley presented a petition signed by 742 people concerning retail development in Portland Road, Hove and calling upon the Council to support local businesses and urge the developer of a new supermarket to consider alternative sites.

105.2 The Chairman explained that as there was also a deputation and a letter on the agenda regarding the same matter, she would respond once those had also been heard.

105.3 **RESOLVED** – That the petition be noted.

106. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 106.1 The Chairman reported that one public question had been received, but as the matter had been resolved to the questioner's satisfaction, he had chosen to withdraw his question.

107. DEPUTATIONS

- 107.1 The Cabinet Member considered a deputation presented by Mr Gavin Beatty concerning retail development in Portland Road, Hove (for copy see minute book).

- 107.2 **RESOLVED** – That the deputation be noted.

108. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS**108(a) Letter – Retail Development in Portland Road, Hove**

- 108.1 A letter was received from Councillor Oxley concerning retail development in Portland Road, Hove (for copy see minute book). He highlighted the concerns of traders and residents regarding the possibility of a large developer moving in to the area and specifically that no discussions had taken place between the developer and local residents or with the Council.
- 108.2 Councillor Cobb also spoke in support of the letter and deputation and specifically referred to the weight of opposition from both traders and residents to any large-scale retail development in Portland Road. She added that the effect on parking and possibility of increased anti-social behaviour in Stoneham Park would be detrimental to the area as a whole.
- 108.3 The Chairman thanked Mr Beatty and Councillors Oxley and Cobb for their representations and assured them that the Council took such matters very seriously. She stated that Brighton and Hove supported a wide range and variety of local independent retailers.

The Council continued to support local independent retailers in terms of relevant policy development and one of the main thrusts of the Core Strategy was to provide an environment where small businesses can get established and thrive. Support programmes for local retailers continued to be funded as part of the Council's recession relief measures.

The Chairman explained that the real issue was around planning use; an A1 classification meant that the developer had been able to move onto the site without a planning application and, therefore, without local residents and traders having any say on the matter. Unfortunately, this was a matter for national government, and not something the council could easily influence, however the Chairman contended that the Council should lobby the government on behalf of residents.

With regard to the issue of the supermarket's alcohol license, the Chairman explained that Portland Road was not in the Cumulative Impact Zone, but urged

traders and residents to make their concerns known as part of the licensing application process, which would be heard on 2 December 2009.

The Chairman stated that the Council was committed to treating large businesses in exactly the same way as any small business or resident would be treated specifically in terms of the enforcement issues.

The Chairman reiterated her thanks to Mr Beatty and the local traders for their positive work in engaging ward councillors and the Administration on such an important issue.

108.4 **RESOLVED** – That the letter be noted.

108(b) Letter – Former Royal Alexandra Children’s Hospital site consultation

108.5 A letter was received from Councillor West and co-signed by Councillors Kitcat, Rufus and Taylor concerning the consultation on the former Royal Alexandra Children’s Hospital site (for copy see minute book).

108.6 Councillor Randall spoke on behalf of Councillor West, who was unable to attend the meeting.

108.7 Councillor Theobald stated that the 360 letters distributed to the local community were a substantial number and everyone living in close proximity to the site had been sent a copy. In addition, posters advertising the exhibition had been placed around the area and it had been advertised on the council’s website. He reported that the exhibition, which ran in Hove Town Hall for a week, was well attended and generated over 165 written comments.

108.8 The amount of community involvement provided for by the council had gone beyond what was considered normal for an informal planning brief. The brief required no statutory minimum requirements in respect of the extent, range and duration of consultation. Before any work had been undertaken on drafting the brief, discussions had been held with a large range of local interests including residents, amenity groups and landowners; the results of the consultation had informed the various proposed development options for the site.

Councillor Theobald explained that it was regrettable that ward councillors had not been informed of that stage of work, but noted officers had apologised prior to the start of the public exhibition. Ward councillors had then been provided with all the necessary information and given the opportunity to comment on the draft development scenarios.

Councillor Theobald added that the site was problematic, as changes in the economic situation had made a viable development of any type difficult to achieve, but that allowing the site to remain in its present vacant state could result in irreparable damage to the fabric of the buildings. The feedback from public consultation would be invaluable in informing the Council’s approach and had already begun to guide the approach to examining the feasibility of preserving the existing buildings.

108.9 **RESOLVED** – That the letter be noted.

109. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

109.1 The Chairman reported that one written question had been received.

109.2 Councillor Fryer had submitted the following question:

"One of the positive benefits often cited to Academies is that they grant the schools and parents more autonomy in how they are run. Yet the sponsor has the power to appoint the board which appoints the teachers. There can be as little as one parent governor.

Therefore is this council committed to stipulating in its contract with the sponsor of the Falmer academy a maximum 25% voting rights for sponsor appointees to ensure proper democratic and community representation on Academy boards?"

109.3 The following response from Councillor Brown had been circulated:

"The Articles of Association under which the Academy was established are outlined below and follow DCSF guidance. I will be able to provide you with a copy of these for your information.

The Sponsor can appoint up to 9 governors and, although I know Rod Aldridge is considering local/community candidates, there is no compulsion under the Articles for any to be community representatives (However defined). The LA, parent and staff governors (plus the Principal) could be considered "local". Rod Aldridge has indicated that he is particularly keen to engage the community in the work and development of Falmer Academy and this will be reflected in his appointments to the Academy Board.

When the school becomes an Academy, it ceases to be a maintained school and becomes an independent company. The Funding Agreement is signed between the Academy and Secretary of State and all funding to the Academy for its operations comes directly from the Secretary of State (not via the LA)."

Abstract from Articles of Association

GOVERNORS

Subject to Articles 39-40 and 55, the Academy Trust shall have the following Governors:

- a. up to 9 Sponsor Governors, appointed under Article 39 or 41;
- b. 1 LA Governor if appointed under Article 42;
- c. 1 Parent Governor appointed under Articles 44-49;
- d. 1 Staff Governor appointed under Articles 49F-49K;
- e. the Principal;
- f. any Additional Governors, if appointed under Article 53; and
- g. any Further Governors, if appointed under Article 54.

The Academy Trust may also have any co-opted Governor appointed under Article 50.

The first Governors shall be those persons named in the statement delivered pursuant to section 10(2) of the Companies Act 1985, who shall be deemed to be Sponsor Governors.

Future Governors shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, under these Articles. Where it is not possible for such a Governor to be appointed or elected due to the fact that an Academy has not yet been established or the Principal has not been appointed, then the relevant Article or part thereof shall not apply.

APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS

The Sponsor shall appoint the Sponsor Governors and may appoint himself as a Sponsor Governor.

The LA may appoint the LA governor.

The Principal shall be treated for all purposes as being an ex officio Governor.

Subject to Article 48, the Parent Governor(s) shall be elected by parents of registered pupils at the Academy. A Parent Governor must be a parent of a pupil at the Academy at the time when he is elected.

The Governing Body shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all other matters relating to, an election of Parent Governors, including any question of whether a person is a parent of a registered pupil at the Academy. Any election of Parent Governors which is contested shall be held by secret ballot.

The arrangements made for the election of a Parent Governor shall provide for every person who is entitled to vote in the election to have an opportunity to do so by post or, if he prefers, by having his ballot paper returned to the Academy Trust by a registered pupil at the Academy.

Where a vacancy for a Parent Governor is required to be filled by election, the Governing Body shall take such steps as are reasonably practical to secure that every person who is known to them to be a parent of a registered pupil at the Academy is informed of the vacancy and that it is required to be filled by election, informed that he is entitled to stand as a candidate, and vote at the election, and given an opportunity to do so.

The Parent Governor shall be appointed by the Governing Body if one or no parent stands for election.

In appointing a Parent Governor the Governing Body shall appoint a person who is the parent of a registered pupil at the Academy; or where it is not reasonably practical to do so, a person who is the parent of a child of compulsory school age.

Subject to Article 49F, the Staff Governor shall be elected by the employees of the Academy. A Staff Governor must be an employee of the Academy the time when he is elected.

The Governing Body shall make all necessary arrangements for, and determine all other matters relating to, an election of the Staff Governor, including any question of whether a person is an employee of the Academy. Any election of a Staff Governor which is contested shall be held by secret ballot.

Where a vacancy for a Staff Governor is required to be filled by election, the Governing Body shall take such steps as are reasonably practical to secure that every person who is an employee of the Academy is informed of the vacancy and that it is required to be filled by election, informed that he is entitled to stand as a candidate, and vote at the election, and given an opportunity to do so.

The Staff Governor shall be appointed by the Governing Body if one or no employee stands for election.

In appointing a Staff Governor the Governing Body shall appoint a person who is an employee of the Academy.

Where a vacancy for a Staff Governor is required to be filled by election, the Governing Body shall take such steps as are reasonably practical to secure that every person who is known to them to be an employee of the Academy is informed of the vacancy and that it is required to be filled by election, informed that he is entitled to stand as a candidate, and vote at the election, and given an opportunity to do so.

CO-OPTED GOVERNORS

The Governors may appoint up to 3 co-opted Governors. A 'co-opted Governor' means a person who is appointed to be a Governor by being co-opted by Governors who have not themselves been so appointed.

109.4 Councillor Fryer asked the following supplementary question:

"In the unfortunate event that the academy is not a success, will the Council seek to bring it back under local authority control, as recommended by Professor David Eastwood?"

109.5 Councillor Brown gave the following response:

"We are confident that the academy will not fail and therefore have not given any thought to this."

110. NOTICES OF MOTION

110.1 The Chairman explained that, as the first two Notices of Motion related to the 10:10 Campaign and there was also a report on the issue, she proposed to take comments during consideration of the item.

110(a) 10:10 Campaign

110a.1 The Cabinet considered the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Phillips:

"This council notes that 10:10 is a mass movement that has seen people and organisations from across the country sign up to reduce their carbon emissions by 10 per cent in 2010. From councils and hospitals to faith groups, scout troops and national newspapers, organisations across the UK have joined what is commonly being seen as the start of the journey to a low-carbon society.

Leaders of the national Green, Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative parties have all committed to 10:10. Councils from across the political spectrum including Greenwich, Hackney, Islington, Richmond, Oxford, Slough, West Sussex, Stroud, Eastleigh, Kirklees have also signed up.

This council notes that:

- Cutting global carbon emissions is vital if we are to stave off runaway climate change.
- The Lancet earlier this year published a report warning that climate change is the biggest threat to global health of the 21st century.
- There are compelling business reasons for joining the 10:10 campaign, not least that cutting our spending on energy is one way to reduce costs and increase efficiency.
- The importance of the outcome of the Climate Change talks in Copenhagen in December this year cannot be overstated, and early commitment to the 10:10 Campaign has the potential to influence those talks to make urgent cuts in global emissions a reality.

Therefore this council requests the Cabinet to consider the possibilities of Brighton & Hove City Council signing up to the 10:10 campaign.”

110a.2 **RESOLVED** – That the Notice of Motion be noted and referred to the Sustainability Cabinet Committee.

110(b) 10:10 Carbon Commitment

110b.1 The Cabinet considered the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Fallon-Khan:

“This Council recognises the progress that has been made in recent years to reduce the Council’s and City’s carbon emissions and on wider sustainability initiatives. In particular:

- Launching a £6 million energy efficiency grant scheme over three years to help householders cut costs and carbon emissions
- Committing to installing a network of electric car charging points in the city
- Running a successful Carbon Management Programme, saving more than £50,000 to date in energy efficiency measures, with more to follow
- Committing the council and the city to tough, short-term targets to cut carbon dioxide emissions – by 12% over three years
- Helping secure £180,000 from the Department for International Development for Climate Connections, a three year city-wide public engagement project
- Committing to introduce a network of park and rides sites at key strategic locations in the City
- Launching an impressive bid at an internationally-recognised conference to become the world’s first Urban Biosphere
- Playing an integral part in helping the city’s Food Partnership secure a grant of £500,000 over four years
- Launching a major Be Local Buy Local campaign to support local jobs and the environment.

This Council welcomes the national 10:10 campaign to persuade every sector of British society to work together to achieve a 10% cut in their carbon emissions in 2010. The 10:10 campaign is receiving growing support from a wide range of organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors as well as from individuals and households.

Therefore, as part of its continuing drive towards achieving a low carbon Brighton & Hove, this Council resolves to:

- Call on the Cabinet, as soon as possible, to sign up to the 10:10 campaign to reduce the City Council's carbon emissions by 10% in 2010/11.
- Request that the Cabinet considers calling for a report to be brought to the meeting of the Sustainability Cabinet Committee in January 2010 outlining the measures which will be taken to attempt to achieve this ambitious goal."

110b.2 **RESOLVED** – That the Notice of Motion be noted and referred to the Sustainability Cabinet Committee.

110(c) REDUCE THE DEFAULT SPEED LIMIT IN BUILT UP AREAS FROM 30 TO 20MPH

110c.1 The Cabinet considered the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Davey:

"This council is deeply concerned that:

1. 141 people were killed or seriously injured on roads in the city in 2008-9 (NI047)
2. 13 of these were children (NI048)

And that these casualty figures particularly those for children, whilst falling, are still far too high. Also that the relevant performance indicators for both of these figures have until recently been at red.

This council recognises that:

1. The most effective measure that can be taken to lower the number of serious road casualties is to reduce traffic speed [1]
2. That many towns and cities across the country have already decided to set speed limits at 20mph across large urban areas. These include: Glasgow, Portsmouth, Leicester, Norwich and Bristol.
3. That campaigning organisations such as Living Streets are calling on local Authorities across the country to do likewise.
4. Many residents and community groups throughout the city have called for traffic speed reductions on their local roads.

This council is also aware that additional benefits of reduced traffic speed include:

1. Reduced emissions and improved traffic flow – as proven by research in Germany where 30kph (19mph) speed limits have long been commonplace. [2]
2. Improved sociability - recent research in Bristol found that relationships between residents increased and improved on streets with lower traffic speed. [3].
3. Safer conditions for walking and cycling.

This council supports the principle of implementing 20mph speed limits in residential areas of Brighton & Hove wherever feasible.

It therefore requests Cabinet to consider referring this issue to ECSOSC with a view to the setting up of a Scrutiny Panel to undertake a detailed study and examination, that the Panel reports back as soon as possible and that its report forms the basis of a Cabinet report that will look at the viability of rolling out a programme of 20mph speed limits in suitable areas across the city.

In addition this council requests that the Cabinet Member for Environment gives consideration to the inclusion of the Scrutiny Panel's report within the council's submission to the Department of Transport's 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport Strategy' programme where the south coast is being prioritised as a key priority area for sustainable transport planning that will include accident reduction."

110b.2 The Chairman reported that on 9 November 2009 the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee had agreed to establish a scrutiny panel to consider the issue of 20mph speed limits following a request from Councillor Theobald.

110b.3 On behalf of Councillor Davey, Councillor Randall added that evidence showed that reducing the speed limit would be beneficial and that the Green Group looked forward to contributing to the work of the scrutiny panel.

110b.3 **RESOLVED** – That the Notice of Motion be noted.

111. 10:10 CAMPAIGN

111.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance concerning the Council's commitment to signing up to the 10:10 campaign to reduce its carbon emissions by 10% in 2010/11 (for copy see minute book).

111.2 Councillor Fryer, spoke on behalf of Councillor Phillips who was unable to attend the meeting, and stated that she was pleased that the 10:10 campaign had received cross-party support and that the Council was already doing a lot towards achieving it. She added that it would be important to set targets going forward and for the Council to support residents, tenants and schools.

111.3 Councillor Fallon-Khan explained that the Administration were placing sustainability at the core of the council's work and had begun to consider signing up to the 10:10 campaign in August. Contrary to reports in the local press he stated that the Council was making good progress towards meeting the target and this was supported by

comments made at the recent Sussex Business Awards and feedback from the Carbon Trust.

- 111.4 Councillor Mitchell stated that progress on sustainability targets had been made over a number of previous years and that the Core Strategy, considered later on the agenda, would be vital in ensuring the Council could meet the targets of the campaign.
- 111.5 Councillor Watkins advised that the Council needed to lead by example to encourage partner organisations to commit to the campaign. He added that early identification of risks would be the key to success.
- 111.6 The Chairman stated that the Administration recognised the challenge the campaign represented, but that they fully supported it and would set an example to residents and partners. She offered to provide Councillor Randall with details of how the savings made as a result of the campaign would be reinvested.
- 111.7 Councillors from all groups wished to record their thanks to Thurstan Crockett and the Sustainability Team for their hard work and commitment to ongoing progress.
- 111.8 **RESOLVED** - That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:
- (1) That the council signs up to the 10:10 Campaign.
 - (2) That the importance of the 10:10 Campaign in terms of city leadership be recognised and the Leader's challenge to the members of Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership to sign up to 10:10 be noted.
 - (3) That a report be taken to the Sustainability Cabinet Committee in January 2010 outlining the measures necessary to help achieve 10:10 campaign goals.
 - (4) That the Director of Children's Services works with the officer Carbon Trading Group to examine the possibility of schools being included in the scope of our 10:10 footprint and measured emissions.
 - (5) That 10:10 be used as an internal communications tool to actively engage staff in saving energy and fuel and hence carbon emissions and taxpayers' money.

112. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - BRIGHTON & HOVE CORE STRATEGY: SUBMISSION VERSION

- 112.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Environment seeking endorsement of the Core Strategy for submission to the Secretary of State, subject to approval by the Full Council (for copy see minute book).
- 112.2 Councillor Theobald highlighted some of the key subjects tackled by the Core Strategy, including the necessary inclusion of the Urban Fringe as a contingency for longer term housing provision and the preparation of an infrastructure delivery plan identifying environmental, social and physical infrastructure needed in coming years.

- 112.3 Councillor Mitchell explained that while she looked forward to debating the challenging issues at Full Council, she regretted that there had been no cross-party working group during development of the final document to ensure a collaborative effort. She added that the Labour Group would be putting forward a number of amendments.
- 112.4 The Chairman commented that she had not been advised of any desire to re-establish a cross-party working group.
- 112.5 Councillor Randall reported that the Green Group would also be requesting amendments and that some were likely to go forward jointly with the Labour Group.
- 112.6 Councillor Watkins explained that the Liberal Democrat Group would make their comments at Full Council, but added that they fully supported preservation of the existing green boundary.
- 112.7 **RESOLVED** - That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:
- (1) That the draft extract of the proceedings of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 20 October 2009 be noted.
 - (2) That Cabinet the nature of the representations and officer responses made to the Revised Core Strategy Preferred Options (July 2008) document and the Proposed Amendments Paper (June 2009) be noted.
 - (3) That the Core Strategy and supporting documents be endorsed and recommended for approval by Council for submission to the Secretary of State, preceded by a 6 week publication stage, subject to any minor editorial changes agreed by the Cabinet Member for Environment in consultation with the Director of Environment.
 - (4) That it be noted that the Core Strategy will be the subject of an Examination in Public in July 2010 followed by the Planning Inspector's binding report and adoption in January 2011.
113. **RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 'STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY'**
- 113.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing responding to the report of the Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the impact of students on the city of the Brighton and Hove and its residents (for copy see minute book).
- 113.2 The Chairman explained that the Strategic Housing Partnership (SHP) had begun a significant piece of work into some of same issues prior to the publication of the scrutiny report. She thanked the universities for engaging with the SHP on taking the issues forward.

- 113.3 Councillor Caulfield stated that the majority of the recommendations in the scrutiny report had been directed toward environment functions; however, those relating to housing were addressed in the new Housing Strategy for consideration later on the agenda.
- 113.4 Councillor Theobald thanked the scrutiny panel members for their recommendations and reported that many were already being implemented by officers.
- 113.5 Councillor Meadows, Chairman of the scrutiny panel, recapped the remit of the panel and the recommendations made in the final report. She was disappointed that the Cabinet report had not detailed which of the scrutiny recommendations the Council would be implementing and felt the Council should support the scrutiny process and explain which recommendations it would take forward and the reasons why others would not be implemented.
- 113.6 Opposition Members echoed Councillor Meadows' comments and Councillor Randall emphasised the need for a timetable for proposed actions.
- 113.7 The Chairman explained that many of the recommendations were already being implemented and those that had budget implications were being considered. She added that she was happy to provide opposition councillors with more detailed information on progress against each recommendation.
- 113.8 **RESOLVED** - That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:
- (1) That the scrutiny recommendations on 'Students in the Community' be noted.
 - (2) That it be noted that, where appropriate, scrutiny recommendations have been encompassed in the Student Housing Strategy.
- 114. HOUSING STRATEGY 2009-2014: HEALTHY HOMES, HEALTHY LIVES, HEALTHY CITY**
- 114.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing summarising the development of the city's new Housing Strategy and specialist housing strategies relating to Older People, the city's LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans) communities and Student Housing and seeking their approval (for copy see minute book).
- 114.2 In response to questions from Councillor Mitchell, Councillor Caulfield made the following comments:
- While the primary purpose of the Local Delivery Vehicle (LDV) was to meet the Decent Homes Standard, tenants wanted the opportunity to be able to increase the Council's housing stock, though this remained a long-term goal.
 - The Cabinet was keen to extend the social rented sector and were campaigning for the government to give local authorities the freedom to do this; a bid had been submitted to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) for a potential development of new council housing

- The Cabinet acknowledged the need to meet the Decent Homes Standard, but the Brighton & Hove Tenants Standard was equally important; the three-year repairs programme being considered at the next round of area panels

- 114.3 Councillor Randall declared a personal, but non-prejudicial interest as he was a member of the management board of the LDV.
- 114.4 Councillor Randall commended the Strategy and echoed the aspirations of tenants to use the LDV to increase the Council's housing stock in the long term. He requested that the Cabinet consider including a separate family housing strategy as part of the overall Housing Strategy.
- 114.5 The Chairman stated that she fully understood the problems faced by families trying to settle in the city and explained that the Cabinet's approach was reflected in the Core Strategy.
- 114.6 Councillor Caulfield added that the Council was actively encouraging landlords to rent to families, but noted that a gap existed in the private sector market; she added that a family housing strategy could be considered when the Housing Strategy was reviewed.
- 114.7 **RESOLVED** - That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:
- (1) That the Housing Strategy 2009-2014: healthy homes, healthy lives, healthy city and related sub-strategies, the Older People's Housing Strategy 2009-2014 and the LGBT People's Housing Strategy 2009-2014 and Student Housing Strategy 2009-2014 be approved.
 - (2) That the extensive good practice and stakeholder engagement demonstrated during the development of these strategies be recognised.
 - (3) That it be agreed that minor changes may be required and made to these strategies during their approval process to ensure they reflect the latest national and local strategic context, with significant changes requiring approval from the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing.

115. THREE YEAR STRATEGIC GRANTS 2010-13: DECISION ON FULL BID APPLICATIONS

- 115.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance setting out the proposed allocation of the council's Three Year Strategic Grants programme in 2010-13 for Third Sector organisations (for copy see minute book).
- 115.2 Councillor Simson recapped the process followed by the cross-party Members' Advisory Group (MAG) in making their recommendations for funding and explained that the Communities Team would work with all unsuccessful applicants to find alternative support packages.

- 115.3 Councillor Mitchell commented that it was always difficult to make decisions to allocate grant funding and that it was good to see the variety of groups recommended for funding, however, she regretted that the Crew Club in Whitehawk had been unsuccessful in their bid. She questioned the influence of the Cabinet with regard to MAG recommendations, questioning whether the final decision to approve lay with the Cabinet.
- 115.4 Councillor Randall echoed Councillor Mitchell's comments regarding the Crew Club and added that it was unfortunate that the Pre-School Learning Alliance and Wood Recycling Project had also been unsuccessful in their bids.
- 115.5 Councillor Simson stated that Cabinet was not the appropriate forum to discuss individual applicants; she was happy that MAG had made a unanimous recommendation following full and frank discussions. She reiterated that the Council would support those organisations that were unsuccessful in their bid through alternative funding sources and assistance, along with those who were not allocated all the funding they requested.
- 115.6 Councillor Watkins, a member of the MAG, stated that the cross-party group was set up under the previous Administration following concerns raised around Member involvement in the grant-making process. He agreed that it was inappropriate to go into detail, but recalled that there were good reasons why the Crew Club was not recommended for funding and that it was ultimately up to the Cabinet to make the final decision. He added that the presentations and details provided by officers to support the recommendations were of unprecedented quality.
- 115.7 The Chairman stated that the MAG was cross-party and a process had to be followed; it was for the representatives to feed comments from their Group back to the MAG. The process had never been challenged before and the decision-making bodies had always agreed the recommendations made by the MAG.
- 115.8 Councillor Caulfield stated that Bridge Centre was in her ward and had also been unsuccessful in receiving funding, but that the Cabinet respected the recommendations of the MAG; Members accepted this when they agreed to cross-party working groups.
- 115.9 In response to questions from Councillor Mitchell the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the MAG's role was to put forward recommendations for the Cabinet to agree and that if Members were trustees or paid members of staff of any of the organisations recommended for funding it was for them to decide whether they should declare an interest.
- 115.10 After consulting the Monitoring Officer, Councillor Simson confirmed that she did not have an interest to declare.
- 115.11 The Chairman stated that to dispel any doubt she would declare a personal, but non-prejudicial interest due to her position on the management board of the Resource Centre, which had been recommended for funding. She chose to take no further part and Councillor Simson assumed the role of Chairman for the vote.

115.12 **RESOLVED** - That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:

- (1) That the recommendations from the cross party Members Advisory Group on Grants for the allocation of the Three Year Strategic Grants programme in 2010-13 be agreed.

116. TARGETED BUDGET MANAGEMENT (TBM) 2009/10 MONTH 6

116.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Finance & Resources concerning the forecast outturn position on the Council's revenue and capital budgets as at the end of September 2009 (for copy see minute book).

116.2 Councillor Mitchell expressed concern that there had been no improvement to directorate budgets and that this would ultimately result in increased charges for services and new charges for existing services.

116.3 In response to questions from Councillor Mitchell, Councillor Caulfield made the following comments:

- The unforeseen works to housing properties were as result of damp and structural problems discovered in some and a decision had been taken to carry out the works while scaffolding was already up; she fully expected the Housing Revenue Account to be balanced at the end of the financial year.
- Work had only been carried out to LDV properties where major repairs were required; the majority of works could wait until new legal arrangements were determined.
- She had not received any indication that health and safety works had ceased.
- The Council had responded to the government's consultation on the abolition of the current housing subsidy system and she would circulate the response. However, it was understood that no decision would be taken until after the next general election. This made it difficult for the Council to plan how to pay off debt, and therefore the decision had been taken to repay debt early to reduce risk.
- The Director of Finance & Resources confirmed that if changes were made to the housing subsidy system it would be based on the council's notional debt, so decisions made on whether to pay down debt or not would not have any impact.

116.4 In response to Councillor Mitchell, Councillor Brown reported that the issue of raising the capital receipt for the government's Co-location Programme was likely to be considered at the next Cabinet meeting.

116.5 In response to questions from Councillor Randall the following comments were made:

- Councillor Norman confirmed that he would provide a breakdown of the £700,000 savings delivered in Adult Social Care and that the revised prediction of growth in physical disabilities was due to a data quality issue, which had now been addressed.

- Councillor Brown reported that savings delivered in respect of Children's Services were primarily due to a restructure of the management team and that front line services had not been affected.
- The Director of Finance & Resources explained that the Council had been negotiating with the Audit Commission to reduce external audit fees by relying more on the work of the Internal Audit team. She offered to provide further details on the Council's use of consultants.
- Councillor Theobald offered to provide further details of recovery measures and reported that measures, including vacancy management had been implemented across the directorate and would be monitored closely.
- Councillor Caulfield explained that work was ongoing in regard to the housing management improvement programme; as part of it, the three year programme would be presented at the next round of Area Housing Management Panels and it was expected that the whole programme would be considered by the Housing Management Consultative Committee in December.

116.6 **RESOLVED** - That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:

- (1) That the forecast outturn for the General Fund, Section 75 Partnerships and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2008/09 as at month 6 be noted.
- (2) That the impact of financial recovery plans on the forecast outturn position be noted.
- (3) That the drawdown of £0.350 million from reserves to meet potential costs of the Marina Development Appeal be approved.
- (4) That the forecast outturn position on the capital budgets as at month 6 be noted.
- (5) That the changes to the capital budget be approved.

117. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT 2009/10 (INCLUDING ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2009/10) MID YEAR REVIEW

117.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Finance & Resources advising of the action taken during the period April to September 2009 to meet the Treasury Management Policy Statement 2009/10 (TMPS) and the Treasury Management Practices and the Annual Investment Strategy 2009/10 (for copy see minute book).

117.2 In response to a query from Councillor Randall, the Head of Strategic Finance and Procurement explained that the cash flow shortfalls referred to in the report came about as a result of monthly cash flow variance.

117.3 **RESOLVED** - That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:

- (1) That the action taken during the half-year to meet the Treasury Management Policy Statement 2009/10 and associated Treasury Management Practices and the Annual Investment Strategy 2009/10 be endorsed.
- (2) That the proposed change to the benchmarking for investments be endorsed and the maximum indicator for risk be set at 0.05%.
- (3) That it be noted that the authorised limit and operational boundary set by the Council have not been exceeded.

118. SURVEILLANCE POLICY – ANNUAL REPORT ON THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT

- 118.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Environment informing Members of the activities that have been undertaken utilising the powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and updating Members on the revisions made to the Council's policy (for copy see minute book).
- 118.2 The Chairman stated that it was important for openness & fairness that the Cabinet received regularly report of the use of RIPA powers.
- 118.3 Councillor Randall added that it was reassuring to see that the powers were only utilised in extreme circumstances.
- 118.4 **RESOLVED** - That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:
- (1) That the continued use of covert surveillance and the accessing of communications data as an enforcement tool to prevent and detect all crime and disorder investigated by its officers, providing the necessity and proportionality rules are stringently applied, be approved.
 - (2) That the amendments to the Policy and Procedures in line with the recommendations made by the Surveillance Commissioner be approved.

119. EQUALITIES & INCLUSION UPDATE

- 119.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance updating Members on progress and performance on Equalities and Inclusion issues (for copy see minute book).
- 119.2 Councillor McCaffery highlighted a number of the issues raised in the Diversity Peer Challenge report and was concerned about some of the findings. She contended that there were more areas for improvement than were identified within the report and emphasised the need for a Council-based body to consider equalities issues. She argued that the Travellers Strategy should form part of the housing strategy rather than being a community safety matter.
- 119.3 Councillor Simson stated that she was confident that the appropriate structure would be achieved when the Equalities Coalition was fully established alongside the City

Inclusion Partnership. She added that the cross-party working group and relevant scrutiny panels would provide members with opportunities to comment on equalities issues.

- 119.4 In response to comments from Councillor McCaffery in relation to travellers, Councillor Theobald explained that significant improvements had been made to the Horsdean site, but that travellers often headed to other parts of the city. He added that it may be necessary to consider employing a site manager to prevent a minority from causing damage to the site.
- 119.5 In response to comments from Councillor Watkins, the Chairman explained the Cabinet were concerned about the relations between faith organisations and the Council, and that the Administration had introduced regular meetings with representatives from all faith groups.
- 119.6 Councillor Simson reported that work had already begun on the areas for improvement identified in the Diversity Peer Challenge report and that the Council was committed to reaching the 'Excellent' level by December 2010.
- 119.7 **RESOLVED** - That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:
- (1) That Equalities & Inclusion progress be noted.
 - (2) That the establishment of the City Inclusion Partnership be noted.
 - (3) That action required to build on the Peer Challenge and achieve "Excellent" in the Equalities Framework be recognised.

The meeting concluded at 6.55pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

**DRAFT EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 17 NOVEMBER 2009****GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****4.00PM 17 NOVEMBER 2009****COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL****DRAFT MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Oxley (Chairman), Simpson (Deputy Chairman), Elgood, Fallon-Khan, Kemble, Mears, Mitchell, Randall, Simson and Taylor

Also in attendance: Councillor Bennett

44 ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY REVIEW – SALTDEAN

- 44.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance concerning issues relating to a possible administrative boundary review of the Saltdean area (for copy see minute book).
- 44.2 The Chairman confirmed that recommendation 2.1(a) had been carefully worded to demonstrate the Council's strong support for Saltdean Residents' Association's (SRA) request and the need for it to be expedited; he added that while he understood the SRA's disappointment that the Council would not be conducting a survey, the reasons were detailed in the report and were primarily related to timing and the imminent changes to the Boundary Committee.
- 44.3 The Chairman invited Mr Lawrence O'Connor from the SRA to address the meeting. Mr O'Connor welcomed the Council's support, but was concerned that by not conducting a survey the strength of the support would not be evident to the Boundary Committee; it was also necessary to show the strength of resident support. Mr O'Connor requested that the Council begin looking in to the survey now with a view to conducting it nearer to 2011 and continue discussions with Lewes District Council (LDC) and East Sussex County Council (ESCC) in the hope that all three local authorities can agree on the survey and share the cost.
- 44.4 The Chairman advised that the Council would be prepared to communicate their support to the Boundary Committee in relation to any survey the SRA wished to carry out; if a review was approved, the Boundary Committee would

conduct their own survey and the Council had to carefully consider requests that would result in duplication of work because of the cost implications.

- 44.5 Mr O'Connor stated that the cost of another survey had significant resource implications for the SRA and that they would be concerned that it would be ignored in the same way as their previous survey.
- 44.6 The Chairman confirmed that discussions would be ongoing with LDC and ESCC, and the SRA, and that the Council would be prepared to bring a further report back to the Governance Committee to consider the progress.
- 44.7 Councillors Mitchell, Randall and Elgood thanked the SRA for their dedication to resolving the matter and gave their support for further consideration of it by the Governance Committee in the autumn of 2010 following further discussions with LDC and ESCC.
- 44.8 Councillor Mears commented that timing would be key to maximising the attention this is given by the Boundary Committee and that any survey would need to be conducted at a time that would fit in with the organisational changes to the Boundary Committee.
- 44.9 In response to a question from Councillor Elgood, the Head of Law confirmed he was not aware of any planned citywide administrative boundary review.
- 44.10 **RESOLVED –**

(1) That Governance Committee recommends that Cabinet:

- (a) Supports Saltdean Residents' Association's request for an administrative boundary review of the Saltdean area, and instructs officers to write to the Boundary Committee for England strongly supporting the request and asking for the review to be expedited; and
- (b) Notes Saltdean Residents' Association's request for the council to conduct a local referendum or survey on the matter and, whilst understanding the rationale for the request, not proceed with the proposal for the reasons set out in the report.
- (c) Reports its decision on (a) and (b) to Council, for information.
- (d) Communicates its decision on (a) and (b) to Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council, also for information.

(2) That a further report comes back to the Governance Committee in autumn 2010.

Subject:	Administrative Boundary Review – Saltdean		
Date of Meeting:	17 November 2009	Governance Committee	
	9 December 2009	Cabinet	
Report of:	Director of Strategy & Governance		
Contact Officer:	Name: Oliver Dixon	Tel: 29-512	
	E-mail: oliver.dixon@brighton-hove.gov.uk		
Wards Affected:	Rottingdean Coastal		

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

- 1.1 In response to correspondence and a deputation from Saltdean Residents' Association, this report considers the issues relating to a possible administrative boundary review of the Saltdean area, and whether to conduct a referendum or survey to ascertain the views of Saltdean residents.
- 1.2 As a decision on these matters is an executive function, the role of Governance Committee in this instance is to make recommendations to Cabinet.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Governance Committee recommends the following to Cabinet:
- (a) To support Saltdean Residents' Association's request for an administrative boundary review of the Saltdean area, and to instruct officers to write to the Boundary Committee for England strongly supporting the request and asking for the review to be expedited; and
 - (b) To note Saltdean Residents' Association's request for the council to conduct a local referendum or survey on the matter and, whilst understanding the rationale for the request, not to proceed with the proposal for the reasons set out in the report.
 - (c) To report their decision on (a) and (b) to Council, for information.
 - (d) To communicate their decision on (a) and (b) to Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council, also for information.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The western side of Saltdean lies in the area administered by Brighton & Hove City Council, whilst the eastern side lies in the area served by Telscombe Town Council, Lewes District Council, and East Sussex County Council. See the boundary area map at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The boundary line between these two areas runs north/south along Longridge Avenue, the main shopping street in Saltdean. Based on information supplied by Saltdean Residents' Association (SRA), the boundary originates from 1928 when the County Borough of Brighton was extended westwards to Longridge Avenue, while the eastern part of Saltdean remained under what was then Newhaven.
- 3.3 SRA carried out a survey in 2001 of residents' views on unifying the local governance of Saltdean. Those campaigning for a "yes" vote gave the following examples of how a unified Saltdean might be beneficial:

- A stronger community voice, with one contact point
- More influence in Saltdean affairs
- A united approach to municipal issues
- Resolution of parking, traffic control and maintenance problems in Longridge Avenue
- Same council tax rate
- Single planning policy
- Representation by councillors from one authority

The result of the survey revealed that 80% of respondents wanted Saltdean to be united under one local authority, and of those in favour, 75% wanted that authority to be Brighton & Hove. On the strength of this outcome, later in 2001 SRA sent a request for unification to the relevant councils and the Boundary Commission.

- 3.4 SRA resurrected the issue in 2009 by holding a public meeting in March to discuss how to progress matters. Among the 120 people who attended were Councillors Gill Mitchell and David Smith, as well as the MP for the area, Des Turner. A show of hands at the meeting indicated a majority in favour of unification.
- 3.5 On 31 May 2009, SRA wrote to Brighton & Hove City Council, Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council (copy at Appendix 2), calling on each local authority:
- (i) to request the Boundary Committee for England to carry out an administrative boundary review of the area as soon as possible; and
 - (ii) to carry out a survey or referendum of all Saltdean residents to ascertain their current views on unification
- 3.6 To strengthen their cause, SRA handed a 'United Saltdean Petition' in June to Councillor David Smith, ward member for Rottingdean Coastal, which he offered

to present to the Council meeting in July. SRA asked him to wait until September as they expected more residents to add their names. The “petition” is in fact a single item questionnaire, asking the respondent whether they think East and West Saltdean should be united under one council and, if so, which. (See copy at Appendix 3).

3.7 SRA made a deputation to the Governance Committee on 22 September 2009, reinforcing the two requests made in their letter of 31 May, and handed over the questionnaire, which by now bore 469 entries (approximately 7% of the electorate for the whole of Saltdean). Although some entries were invalid, the summary position is as follows:

- 96% of respondents said they favoured a unified Saltdean under one council
- Of these, 88% wanted to be under Brighton & Hove; 12% under Lewes

3.8 Before writing to the council in May and making a deputation in September, SRA had already written directly to the Boundary Committee, requesting a review.

3.9 The Boundary Committee for England is part of the Electoral Commission and has power to undertake reviews of the external boundary of a district or county.

3.10 In June, officers approached the Boundary Committee (‘BC’) informally on the matter. Their Review Manager confirmed the position on administrative reviews as follows:

“For the current and next financial year, given the Committee’s planned workload, it is very unlikely that we will be in a position to review the external boundaries of local authorities in England until 2011-2012 at the earliest. We have responded to Saltdean Town Council [sic] informing them of this and have placed their request on file. We will return to all the requests we have received for administrative boundary reviews at a later date and give consideration as to which areas we will be reviewing and their timing.”

3.11 Following a boundary review, the BC may make a recommendation to the Secretary of State. If the BC recommends a boundary change, the Sec of State may:

- (i) implement it with or without modification;
- (ii) take no action with respect to the recommendation
- (iii) request the BC undertake a further review

3.12 If the BC recommends that no boundary change is desirable, the Sec of State may accept the recommendation or request a further review.

3.13 The Cabinet of Lewes District Council considered SRA’s request in July. They resolved to authorise officers to write to SRA and BC, advising that the council supports SRA’s request for a review of the administrative boundary of Lewes and Brighton and Hove in the area of Saltdean, subject to the understanding that it is very unlikely that the BC will be in a position to review the external boundaries of local authorities in England until 2011-2012.

- 3.14 In a follow-up letter, Lewes District Council informed SRA they did not consider it appropriate to seek the views of Saltdean residents before the BC began any boundary review of their own, which was not due until 2011 at the earliest.
- 3.15 East Sussex County Council advised SRA that:
- (i) they have alerted the BC to the Association's desire for a boundary review; and
 - (ii) they do not consider it a good use of resources to consult with them at this stage, as any subsequent BC review would involve a comprehensive consultation with local people.
- 3.16 The BC have advised that agreement amongst those authorities potentially affected by a review *may* have an impact in deciding prioritisation. However, this is not something they are required to take into account and they say they would likely balance consensus locally against the objective need for a review.
- 3.17 The existing boundary between Brighton & Hove and Lewes can cause the residents of Saltdean genuine difficulties when dealing with local authority matters which affect the whole area. In addition, splitting Saltdean into east and west local government areas makes it difficult to create a coherent community. It is therefore questionable whether the existing boundary best serves the interests of Saltdean residents. On this basis, the Governance Committee is advised to recommend that Cabinet strongly support SRA's request for an administrative boundary review of the area concerned and instruct officers to write to the BC accordingly (recommendation 2(1)(a)).
- 3.18 BC has advised that the council's view can be communicated to them at any time and will be placed on record. When the time comes to prioritise reviews, they will consider all the views received.
- 3.19 Additionally, SRA have requested that we conduct a survey or referendum of all Saltdean residents to ascertain their views on the whole locality coming under one authority, on the basis this will, they believe, help to inform BC's decision on whether to carry out an administrative review. The report now considers the merits or otherwise of complying with SRA's further request.
- 3.20 It would be possible to send a short questionnaire to all or a representative sample of Saltdean residents. The cost of carrying out the exercise would fall entirely on this council, as Lewes DC and ESCC have decided against a survey at this stage. The estimated cost of such an exercise would be:
- (i) £12,500 - £15,500 for preparation, data analysis and report writing; and
 - (ii) up to £6,300 for producing, sending out and returning surveys
- 3.21 Apart from cost, there are a number of reasons why conducting a survey in the short term would not be advisable:

- (i) Between now and 2011 (the earliest date for an administrative review), the composition of the electorate in Saltdean could change, with some residents leaving and some arriving into the area over the two year period. Moreover, even among the settled population, views can change over time due to external factors; their response to a questionnaire in 2009 may not match that in two years' time.
- (ii) If the council were to survey Saltdean residents, its ability to act on the findings would be limited to informing the BC. Conversely, there is a real risk of the survey raising expectations among some residents that, if the consensus were in favour of unification, an administrative review would follow. In reality, a review is a minimum of two years away.
- (iii) In conducting an administrative boundary review, the BC must consult the council(s) of the local government area affected, and "other persons as appear to them to have an interest" – s9(2) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Given SRA's long history of campaigning for a change, it is almost certain the BC would consult them as part of any review.

Furthermore, when considering whether a boundary change is desirable, the BC must take into account the interests of local communities - s8(6)(b) of the 2007 Act.

In view of this, any survey by the council would pre-empt the BC's own statutory consultation.

- (iv) A survey covering the whole of Saltdean would involve writing to certain households and businesses currently outside Brighton & Hove's jurisdiction. Doing so at a time when the councils who do cover these other areas have decided against a survey could appear disjointed and runs counter to the normal practice of working in partnership with neighbouring authorities.
- (v) Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill currently before Parliament, the functions of the BC will transfer to a new organisation, the Local Government Boundary Committee for England. Its priorities may change, which may affect the timescale for reviewing the boundary at Saltdean. Until the new body is established and their priority areas agreed, a survey of residents would be of little value.

3.22 For the above reasons, it is recommended that Members decline SRA's request for a survey or referendum by the council (recommendation 2(1)(b)).

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Advice was taken from the Electoral Commission's Review Manager for Boundary Reviews. His responses are documented in paragraphs 3.10 and 3.16 above

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The cost of conducting a residents survey is approximately £20k, as detailed in section 3.20 of the report. This would have to be met within existing resources.

Finance Officer Consulted: Peter Francis

Date: 28/10/09

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 As indicated in paragraph 1.2 above, the decision about whether to support SRA's request for an administrative review, and whether to conduct a survey of Saltdean residents, is an executive function and thus reserved to Cabinet. In this instance the role of Governance Committee is to make a recommendation to Cabinet.
- 5.3 At Governance Committee on 22 September, Members requested that Cabinet report their decision to Council, purely for information.
- 5.4 The decision on whether to perform an administrative boundary review, and when, lies with the Boundary Committee. Following such a review, it would be for the Secretary of State to determine which of the BC's recommendations to implement, if at all.
- 5.5 Section 8 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 permits a local authority to request the Boundary Committee to conduct an administrative boundary review.
- 5.6 Relevant statutory duties of the Boundary Committee are referred to in paragraphs 3.11 - 3.12 above.
- 5.7 Section 116 of the Local Government Act 2003 permits the council to conduct a local survey to ascertain views about the provision of council services. The type of survey referred to in the report would come within this provision.

Lawyer Consulted:

Oliver Dixon

Date: 21/10/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.8 There are no equalities issues arising directly from this report

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.9 There are no sustainability issues arising directly from this report

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.10 There are no crime and disorder issues arising from this report

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.11 There is a risk that the Boundary Committee, or its successor, may not select the Saltdean area for an administrative boundary review in 2011 or within a reasonable timeframe thereafter. Similarly, if an administrative review of the area does take place, there is no guarantee this will result in Saltdean coming wholly within one local government area. As noted above, it is for the Secretary of State to make the final decision on the matter.
- 5.12 If a review cannot be held until 2011 at the earliest, there may be an opportunity for the council to work with Lewes DC and ESCC on a protocol that assists Saltdean residents closest to the boundary line to resolve issues requiring liaison between these three authorities.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.13 If and when there is an administrative boundary change which results in the whole of Saltdean coming within a single local government area, the wards most affected would be Rottingdean Coastal and, in relation to Lewes DC, Telscombe Cliffs and East Saltdean.
- 5.14 The likely effect of a new boundary would be an increase or decrease to the size of these wards and, potentially, a corresponding change to the number of members representing these wards.
- 5.15 A change to the boundary line would also affect the Peacehaven and Telscombe Towns division of East Sussex County Council, and the East Saltdean ward of Telscombe Town Council. As SRA's letter of 31 May recognises, moving the boundary eastwards could call into question the viability of the Town Council.
- 5.16 Were the boundary to be relocated to the west of Saltdean, some or all of Rottingdean Parish Council may be affected.
- 5.17 As noted in 3.21(iii) above, the Boundary Committee would consult all these local government bodies, were an administrative review of the area to be undertaken.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

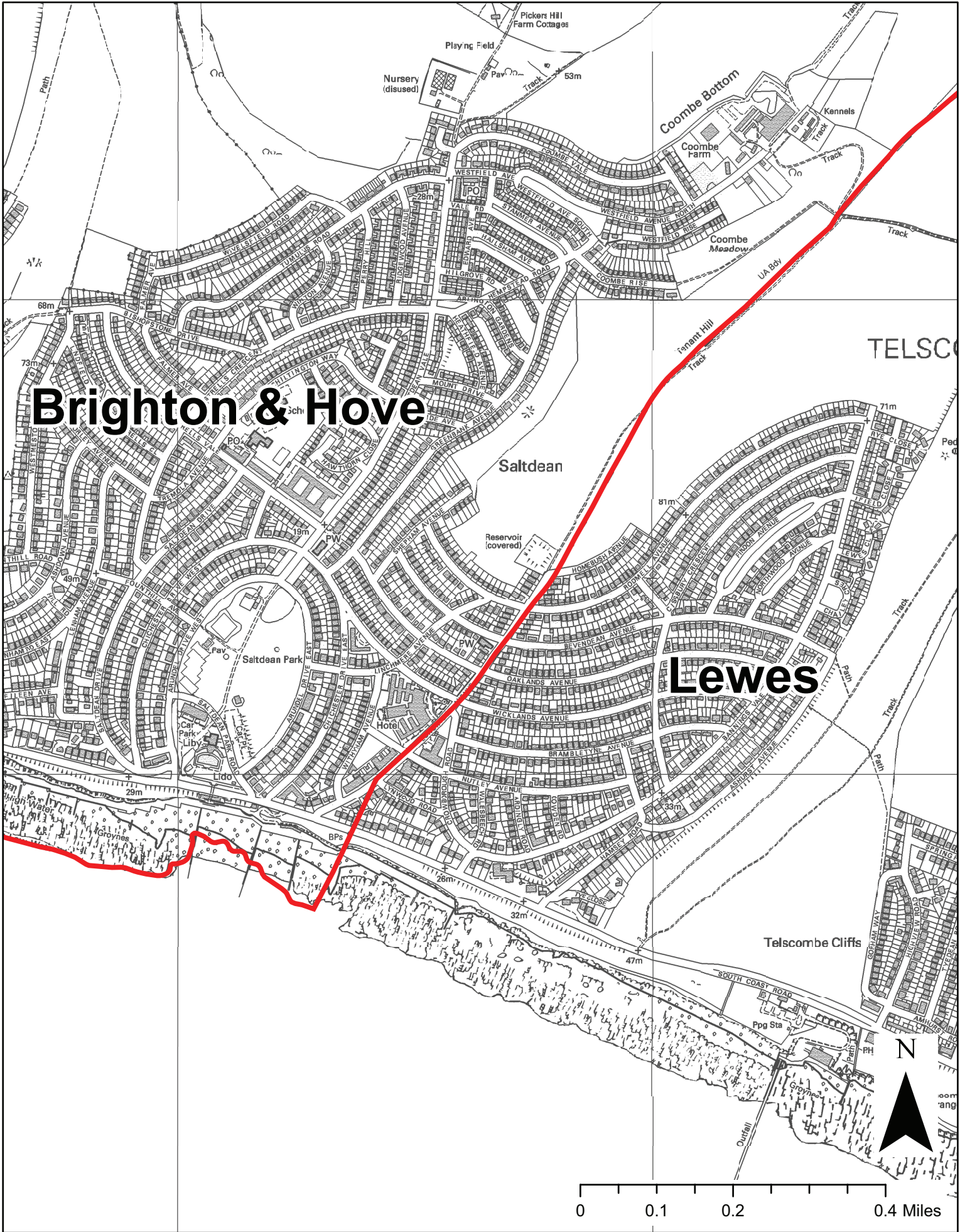
1. Map of Saltdean, highlighting the existing boundary between Brighton & Hove City Council and Lewes District Council
2. Letter of 31 May 2009 from SRA to the council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services
3. Template for SRA's questionnaire submitted to Governance Committee on 22 September 2009

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

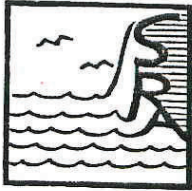
1. Details of the Saltdean Boundary Referendum carried out by SRA in February 2001 – see www.saltdean.info/sraref.htm



Scale: 1:10,000



Unitary Authority Boundary



Saltdean Residents' Association

*Founded in 1934 Embracing East and West Saltdean
(Currently over 700 members)*

**Ms Janet Preece
1 Rye Close
Saltdean
East Sussex
BN2 8PP**

Mr Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorgis
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
Brighton & Hove City Council
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS



31 May 2009

Dear Mr Ghebre-Ghiorgis

Re: Administrative Boundary Review – Saltdean, Sussex

The Saltdean Residents Association (over 700 members) is campaigning for the unification of Saltdean within one local authority. As you may know at present it is split between Brighton and Lewes District. The division is right down the main shopping street and this causes tremendous confusion and unnecessary bureaucracy. This matter has been outstanding ever since Saltdean was created over 80 years ago and it is about time the town stopped being ignored in its requests for unification. The last request made after a full survey in 2001 undertaken by this organisation was ignored by all the councils and the Boundary Commission.

We have written to the current Boundary Committee asking that a review be undertaken but we know that such requests can also be made by the local authority. We would therefore ask that Brighton and Hove undertake a coordinated survey of all areas within Saltdean to see what the will of the community is. This would mean that Brighton & Hove would need to deal with Lewes District Council to ensure that a common approach is adopted. Although the residents may want to be unified within one authority there is also the question of which one they would prefer. Thus any survey would need to cover both aspects.

As background can I say that this Association has asked that the Boundary Committee undertakes an administrative boundary review and takes account of the legitimate desire by this community to be treated as one town rather than having an arbitrary boundary which historically was in place as a parish boundary before the town was built in the 1920's and 1930's. We now need the town to be unified within one authorities area . It is appreciated that this creates other issues in adjoining towns in respect of electoral wards and sizes of those wards but why should Saltdean not have a right to be treated as a community in its own right. The adjoining towns of

Telscombe Cliffs and Rottingean are able to enjoy a sense of completeness whilst Saltdean is not. This is simply not acceptable.

This Association held a meeting on the 28th March 2009 to discuss how we progress the desire for unification. It was very well attended with over 140 people present. A presentation by ex SRA Chair Duncan Ward provided the history and background to the division of Saltdean into East and West. He detailed the results from the referendum that he organized in 2001 which had a high and significant response. This showed at that time that 80% of respondents wanted Saltdean to be united and of those in favour 75% wanted to join with Brighton and Hove. Full details are on an old SRA website at:

<http://www.saltdean.info/sraref.htm>

Contributions from residents at the meeting included the fact that East Sussex County Council had a higher council tax and there were more tiers of local government for East Saltdean. It has 10 councillors on 3 councils whereas West Saltdean which is a larger area has just 3 councillors on Brighton and Hove City Council. Other issues raised were the difficulty in getting things changed as we have to deal with so many different officials especially if it is anything to do with Longridge Avenue as it spans the boundary. Of course having Saltdean under one council might encourage more investment in the area, give the town more of a say in influencing issues of concern and create savings in costs.

At the meeting there were concerns that unification within Brighton and Hove would create no real benefits for East Saltdean. In addition there are difficulties in rearranging electoral wards, ensuring that their size is consistent across the various councils. Any change would impact upon Brighton and Hove wards as well as call into question the viability of Telscombe Town Council if it lost East Saltdean. A suggested approach might be to discuss with Telscombe and Peacehaven the possibility of their unifying under one council. To do this they would need a referendum and similarly Saltdean should have another referendum.

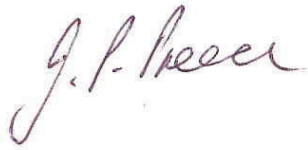
For your interest

- There were 120 people that signed into the meeting of which were 62 East Saltdean residents, 41 West Saltdean residents, 17 did not note their address, plus 5 others including Dr Des Turner MP, Cllr Gill Mitchell, Cllr Carly Butler, Cllr John Livings, Cllr Philip Howson. Cllr Brian Page and Cllr David Smith.
- It is difficult to draw any conclusions but the fact that there were 50% more East Saltdean residents present when in fact West Saltdean is a larger area indicates to me that unification as a subject is of more interest to East Saltdean residents than West Saltdean residents.
- A show of hands indicated that a majority were in favour of unification. Another show of hands showed a slight majority in favour of unification within Brighton and Hove.

Since then we have raised this matter with the press and The Argus printed a full centre page article on the 30 May 2009 with a supportive comments article demanding that the pros and cons be drawn up and presented to all its residents so that they can decide once and for all in a vote.

I would now ask that this whole matter be looked into by all the councils concerned and that they request an administrative boundary review by the Boundary Committee as soon as possible as well as organize a survey or referendum of all residents in Saltdean.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Preece'.

Janet Preece
Secretary Saltdean Residents Association

Cc: Heads of Democratic Services, Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, Lewes District.
Councillors for Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, Lewes District, Telscombe Town
Dr Des Turner, MP

Subject:	Housing Management Repairs, Refurbishment & Improvement Strategic Partnership Super Centre Proposal		
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2009		
Report of:	Director of Adult Social Care & Housing Director of Finance & Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Nick Hibberd	Tel: 29-3756
	E-mail:	nick.hibberd@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan No: CAB13313	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

This decision was not included on the Forward Plan one month in advance of the decision being considered because the decision to award the long term partnering contract to deliver repairs, maintenance and improvements to the council's housing stock to Mears Limited in July 2009 the mobilisation team has been working to identify and secure a building to house the partnership. A point has now been reached where the potential building has been agreed and it is therefore necessary to move forward with the lease of this building quickly in order to meet the desired timescales for the start of the partnership in April 2010.

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The award to Mears Limited of the long term partnering contract to deliver repairs, maintenance and improvements to the council's housing stock was agreed by the Housing Management Consultative Committee on 22 June and Cabinet on 9 July 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet gives authorisation for the council to take a lease for 20 years of Unit 1, Fairway Trading Estate, Eastergate Road, Brighton subject to agreement of detailed terms to be approved by the Director of Finance & Resources.
- 2.2 That Cabinet gives approval for the funding of the refurbishment costs of the Super Centre from HRA general reserves as set out in paragraph 3.11.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The award to Mears Limited of the long term partnering contract to deliver repairs, maintenance and improvements to the council's housing stock was agreed by the Housing Management Consultative Committee on 22 June and

Cabinet on 9 July 2009. The partnership covers the whole city, has a duration of 10 years and includes the transfer of some council functions (and TUPE transfer of associated staff) to Mears. The contract will commence from 1 April 2010. The partnership will involve estimated spend of £200 million over the 10 years.

- 3.2 The tender process asked bidders to provide proposals of premises to house the new partnership, with the intention that these would be developed between the preferred bidder and Brighton & Hove City Council following the contract evaluation process.
- 3.3 Mears bid for this contract proposed the establishment of a 'Super Centre' in the city which would provide integrated repairs, maintenance and customer service functions. The proposal brings significant benefits to the council and residents, as well as 'added value' benefits to the wider community and city. The proposed centre will provide an intergrated approach to the maintenance and improvement of the council's housing stock, including:
- A Resident Action Zone to enable residents to play an active role in the management of the partnership
 - Co-location with BHCC's retained staff
 - Integrated customer access
 - Co-location of supply chain partner with on-site stores
 - An onsite training academy for trade apprentices
 - An onsite kitchen manufacturing workshop
- 3.4 A provisional site has been identified at Unit 1, Fairway Trading Estate, Eastergate Road, Brighton. Mears anticipate it will take around 6 months to develop the Super Centre from lease to a fully operational building. If the council is able to secure the lease the building soon it should be possible to have basic operations (operational staff, surveyors, call centre etc) functional for contract commencement at the in April 2010.
- 3.5 The development of a super centre will bring a number of benefits which will be realised as the partnership progresses. Co-location of retained council staff will further foster good partnering relations and enable the service to develop more efficient ways of working and remove duplication. This has the potential to bring financial savings as the partnership moves forward. The co-location of the supply partner and their stores will also lead to a more efficient repairs process and increase the number of first time fixes by ensuring that operatives have easy access to the materials and supplies they require. These factors should create more integrated working relationships which enable more flexible working with a reduction in travel and other non-productive time.
- 3.6 The super centre will deliver improved customer service with a single point of contact for all repairs related enquiries. The existing BHCC Repairs Desk will TUPE transfer to Mears and move from their location in Bartholomew House to the super centre enabling the staff to work more closely with surveyors and operatives to resolve issues more quickly and effectively than current arrangements allow. The centre will have an option to provide 'showroom' space to enable demonstrations and product choices for residents (e.g. different styles

- of kitchens and bathrooms). The super centre will enable residents to become more involved in the management and monitoring of the contract with a dedicated area within the building to enable them to fully participate in the partnership.
- 3.7 The proposed site in Moulsecoomb has potential to bring investment, regeneration, employment and training opportunities to an area which is recognised as an area with multiple deprivation. The development will support existing work such as the draft social exclusion strategy 'Turning the Tide' which is being piloted in Moulsecoomb and Bevendean. This strategy aims to address anti social behaviour, intergenerational social exclusion and quality of life experiences for residents in social housing living in areas of multiple deprivation in Brighton & Hove.
- 3.8 The proposal fits into the corporate Accommodation Strategy and transformation programme that through the rationalisation of the council's operational buildings seeks innovative, value for money solutions to customer demand and access to services whilst promoting different ways of working. It offers the potential to consolidate accommodation and co-locate services, improve customer access and uplift communities through business, social enterprise and training development opportunities. The utilisation this building fits with the council's asset management strategy, as by centralising the accommodation for staff involved in management, repair and improvement of the residential portfolio, it also creates opportunities to release other sub standard operational buildings and release potential development sites within the portfolio for residential or other development.
- 3.9 Building designs are now being developed in consultation with the council. There is potential to locate in the region of 200 office based staff in the building. Property & Design have undertaken the initial space planning options in the building in line with the developing accommodation standards and space layout parameters to ensure that best use is made of the space and that service synergies are gained. External architects are being instructed to continue space planning work and the preparation of plans for seeking planning and landlord's consent to the alterations to the building.
- 3.10 The building requires significant refurbishment estimated to be between £0.9 million and £1.1million to make it suitable for the partnerships needs. Mears have agreed to undertake the refurbishment at cost which means that they will not charge any central overheads or profits. This will include the development of the building to meet the needs of the partnership including office space, training rooms, break and refreshment facilities, reception area, meeting rooms, kitchen manufacturing workshop and stores. In addition, the upfront investment represents good value in terms of ongoing annual rental costs in comparison to other possible accommodation. Mears have a direct labour force, as well as access to sub-contractors and supply chain which means they can meet the tight timescale. It will be necessary to seek a waiver to Contract Standing Orders in respect of the works to be undertaken by the council's partners, Mears Ltd, to convert the building to function as a super centre.

- 3.11 Negotiations are in hand with the landlord's agents, Stiles Harold Williams, for the council to take a lease of the building for 20 years subject to 5 yearly rent reviews. The rental will be assessed on an industrial basis and will include an initial 12 month rent free period. The landlord is aware of the council's partnership with Mears and that we are seeking to incorporate a tenant's break at the end of the 10th year of the lease. The running costs of leasing the building will be met by the council, with the council charging a nominal rent to Mears. The current negotiations will, amongst other things, address; the issue of landlord's consent to the proposed alterations to the building, the proposed use of the accommodation and the fact that future rent reviews will reflect industrial rather than office use.
- 3.12 The refurbishment will be carried out by Mears and will be charged to Brighton and Hove over the first three years of the contract. The initial charge for 2009/10 is £0.4 million which will be funded from general reserves. The remaining charge, estimated at between £0.5 - £0.7 million will be included in the 2010 - 2012 capital programme. In addition the landlords have agreed, at their own expense, to re-roof the building and undertake other works such as replacement of window units and investigation of adaptations to promote sustainable practices such as re-cycling of rain water.
- 3.13 The proposals for the super centre are now being taken forward as part of the partnership mobilisation process. Mears have agreed to work with consultant architects to prepare and submit the necessary planning application for change of use of the building. Mears anticipate it will take around 6 months to develop the Super Centre from lease to a fully operational building.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Finance and Property & Design staff have been consulted in connection with the proposed lease transaction
- 4.2 Staff who are affected by the TUPE transfer are being consulted following the process stipulated in TUPE regulations.
- 4.3 Other staff who may be co-located in the building will be consulted following the council's 'Managing Change' policy.
- 4.4 There will be opportunities for staff and residents to input into the building design.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The refurbishment of the proposed supercentre estimated at between £0.9 - £1.1 million will be charged to Brighton and Hove over the first three years of the contract. The refurbishment represents value for money in terms of ongoing rental costs. The initial charge for 2009/10 is £0.4 million which will be funded from general reserves. The remaining charge, estimated at between £0.5 - £0.7 million will be included in the 2010 - 2012 capital programme.

- 5.2 The revenue implications of the new Super Centre will be included in the 2010/11 HRA Budget report. In order to calculate the revenue implications, any savings achieved from vacating current offices need to be offset against the annual running costs (such as rent, rates and cleaning) of the new Super Centre. Therefore as the final occupancy is still unknown, it is difficult at this stage in the process to accurately estimate the future revenue implications. However, it should be noted that the building is provided with an initial 12 month rent free period which will enable officers to use this time period to rationalise other council office space and maximise the use of the Super Centre to achieve best value.

Finance Officer Consulted: Sue Chapman

Date: 23/10/09

Legal Implications:

- 5.3 S. 120 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the council to take the lease of the Supercentre. The level of rental means that the council will be liable for Stamp Duty Land Tax. The Solicitor to the Council will ensure that the legal documentation reflects the Heads of Terms as negotiated by the council's Estates Manager. It is not considered that the recommendations in this report adversely affect any individual's Human Rights Act rights

Lawyer Consulted:

Anna MacKenzie

Date: 23/11/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.4 The new building would need to be fully compliant with Disability Discrimination legislation to ensure that is physically accessible to both residents and staff.
- 5.5 The development of integrated customer service has the potential to improve customer service and access to services for Brighton & Hove's diverse residents.

Sustainability Implications

- 5.6 Mears bid includes sustainability commitments with an aim to be Carbon Neutral by 2013. Mears are committed to re-furbishing the building to a high sustainable standard to minimise its carbon emissions. Potential for onsite renewable micro energy generation will be also be investigated. The proposal for an onsite kitchen manufacturing workshop has the potential to bring sustainability benefits in terms of material use, reduced transportation and local employment. The proposed site has excellent rail and bus links.
- 5.7 The council has signed up to the 10:10 Campaign which commits it to reducing its carbon emissions from buildings, fleet and street lighting by 10% during 2010/11. The development of the building and associated transport fleet will need to support the council in meeting this target.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.8 The proposed site is located within an area with high levels of deprivation and reported crime. The site will regenerate a building that is currently vacant and will create a focal point for community and public sector services in the area.
- 5.9 The onsite training academy and kitchen manufacturing workshop will bring employment and training opportunities for local people including those that are not in education, employment or training.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.10 Risks will be logged and monitored on an ongoing basis by the project manager and a contractual Risk Register will form part of the partnership contract.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.11 The proposed Super Centre has the potential to bring significant community and regeneration benefits to Moulsecoomb and the wider city. The centre will house Mears flagship partnership in the UK and help to make Brighton & Hove City Council a leading council in housing maintenance and management. This new partnership will bring an improved service for residents across the city and the associated financial savings will enable the council bring the maximum number of homes up to the Decent Homes Standard.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 Options for Mears to lease or for the council buy the building have been investigated. The council has taken the decision to directly lease the building for a number of reasons including the fact that this gives the council control over the building for the next 20 years. The council will therefore be able to continue to provide services from it if there is a change in partner in the future.

7. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 7.1 To gain Cabinet approval to move forward with lease and refurbishment of the proposed super centre for the Housing Management Repairs, Refurbishment and Improvement Strategic Partnership.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. Housing Repairs, Refurbishment and Improvement Strategic Partnership Recommendations Cabinet Report 6th July 2009.
2. Housing Management Repairs, Refurbishment & Improvement Strategic Partnership Invitation to Tender document
3. Mears Limited Repairs, Refurbishment & Improvement Strategic Partnership tender submission

Subject:	Response to the report of the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 'Older People and Community Safety'		
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2009		
Report of:	Director of Environment		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Linda Beanlands	Tel: 29-1115
	E-mail:	linda.beanlands@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

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

1.1 Age Concern is one of a number of co-opted organisations to the Community Safety Forum. In October 2009, the Director of Age Concern raised the importance of fear of crime to older people in the city and that improved information was needed to older people about the effectiveness of work undertaken. The Forum acknowledged the importance of this issue and referred the matter to the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The Committee established a scrutiny panel to investigate:

- The extent to which the views of older people on community safety are known
- The specific community safety concerns of older people
- How older people can be helped to feel safer in the community.

1.2 The full report (appended), which describes the scrutiny process and summaries evidence, findings and recommendations, was considered by the Community Safety Forum at its meeting on 19 October. The Forum welcomed the report and endorsed all of the recommendations, requesting that they be brought to Cabinet for approval. To assist in that process, a draft implementation plan is also appended which when complete, will assist monitoring and review of progress in delivery of the recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That Cabinet notes the evidence, findings and recommendations of the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee and its scrutiny panel, in relation to Older People and Community Safety.

2.2 That Cabinet agrees the actions as detailed in the implementation plan.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 For the purposes of the scrutiny, an older person was identified as anyone over 50 years of age. According to the mid year population estimates (2007), 29% of

the population in the city is over 50 years of age. However, according to police recorded data in 2008/09, they experience 12% of all crime in the city showing that older people are less likely to be a victim of crime. Other information provided conclusive evidence that older people experience less crime than the rest of the population and that the likelihood decreases even further in each older age group.

- 3.2 However, while this information is reassuring, issues were identified about particular vulnerabilities of older people in their homes which gave cause for concern. The number of older people who experience domestic violence and who have increased vulnerability because of dementia are two examples. There are recommendations contained within the scrutiny report which specifically set out actions which are to address those and other specific concerns.
- 3.3 The significant finding, was confirmation of the extent to which older people's perception of crime is very much at odds with the low likelihood of being a victim or having direct experience of a crime. Feeling safe is very important to older people's quality of life and their overall health and welfare. Changing perceptions of older people, increasing their awareness of their actual level of safety and reducing their fear is therefore a high priority of the scrutiny panel and one which fully accords with the priorities of the Partnership Community Safety Team. The Team, together with Adult Social Care, will take the lead in implementing the recommendations from the scrutiny report that set out to address this issue.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Four of the scrutiny panel meetings were advertised as public meetings and provided opportunities for residents of the city to share their views and experiences. Their information was taken into account as evidence. At an early stage the panel invited a range of organisations, including the Older People's Council to give evidence and to respond to questions from panel members. Community Safety Forum meetings provided further opportunities for consultation.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The overall approach is to deliver the recommendations within existing resources. However, the implementation plan (draft appended) will be the mechanism through which any necessary additional resources are identified. Should that be the case, the timescales of implementation will be set accordingly and a commentary included within future progress reports.

Finance Officer Consulted: Patrick Rice

Date: 25/11/09

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gives the police and local authority an equal duty to reduce crime and disorder and fear of crime and improve community safety. Requirements are also placed upon partners within the Crime and Disorder reduction Partnership by this and subsequent legislation and guidance. The scrutiny process and the recommendations further the delivery of these legal

provisions and convenience of users; any other matters that appear relevant to the Council.

Lawyer Consulted:

Simon Court

Date: 02/11/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The implementation of the recommendations will improve the lives of those who are vulnerable either because of older age, disability or ill health. The effect of policies and practices on older people are to be included within the impact assessments for some service areas, including community safety.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Implementation of the recommendations to address the findings of scrutiny will greatly assist in the overall delivery of the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008-2011 in which a number of sustainability objectives are identified.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The overall purpose of the scrutiny process which is the subject of these reports was to reduce fear of crime, increase understanding of effective action taken by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and to increase the safety of older people.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The recommendations are designed in some cases, to reduce actual risks that may be experienced by older people as well as to reassure them that are in fact, safer than they perceive. However, reducing fear of crime is in itself of benefit to the welfare of older people and therefore results in risk reduction.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The recommendations will bring benefits for all of those in the city who are over 50 years of age.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The full submission of analysis reports and evidence by the scrutiny panel facilitated consideration of options in how to address concerns that were raised. The final recommendations proposed by the panel are the final outcome of the options considered.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The recommendations for which consideration and approval is sought are as the result of scrutiny of which the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee has had oversight. Considerable supporting evidence was provided to inform the process from the start, including an analysis report carried out by the Crime and Disorder analyst within the Partnership Community Safety Team.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Report of the Older People and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Panel: August 2009
2. Implementation Plan

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Report of the Older People and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Panel: August 2009

Background Documents

1. Scoping and Analysis Reports on Older People and Community Safety: March 2009. Prepared by Partnership Community Safety Team
2. Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008-2011



**Report of the Older People and Community Safety
Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

August 2009

Older People and Community Safety

**Investigating older people's concerns about community
safety and how older people can be helped to feel safer**

Panel Members

**Councillor Mo Marsh (Chairman)
Councillor Amy Kennedy
Councillor David Smart
Councillor David Watkins
Mr John Eyles, Older People's Council (Panel co-optee)**

Chair's Foreword

Older people can tend to be less visible and quieter than younger people in the community and may have unnecessary concerns about crime.

This scrutiny panel was set up to investigate how older people view community safety and what are the main issues from an older person's perspective.

We found that older people are less likely than the rest of the population to become victims of crime. We heard evidence of a large range of community safety preventative and support services from the Council and partner organisations that are available for older people.

However having heard from residents at the Panel meetings we agreed that all this information, and sources of advice and help are not as well known as they could be, especially amongst older people who are socially isolated.

Therefore we identified that well-coordinated community safety messages should be given to all older people, in the form of a purpose-designed booklet similar to those in use by other local authorities. Also that further research and analysis coordinated between the Council and its partners should focus more on the needs of older age groups as well as the wider population.

We also want to support community development schemes that help build the resilience of older people.

We hope that the recommendations in this report will contribute to helping people in later life feel safer.

On behalf of all the Panel Members I would like to thank Age Concern Brighton Hove and Portslade Director Jim Baker, who raised this matter. Thanks are also due to everyone who came to discuss their work with the Panel and most of all to the members of the public speaking at the meetings.



Mo Marsh

Councillor Mo Marsh
(Chair, Scrutiny Panel on Older People and Community Safety)

Executive Summary

The scrutiny review was set up to investigate how older people view community safety, what are the main issues from an older person's perspective and how older people can be helped to feel safer.

The panel heard evidence of the community safety services and initiatives provided by the Council and partner organisations for all age ranges. Older residents also gave their views.

Members identified a need for well-coordinated community safety messages, purpose-designed for older people and recommended further consultation and engagement, plus support for schemes developing resilience and social inclusion of older people.

List of Recommendations

Recommendation 1 – Information for older people

The panel recommends that a purpose designed booklet be provided to older people in user-friendly format to engage and inform on community safety and keeping safe

Recommendation 2 – Inter-generational initiatives

The Panel recommends inter-generational initiatives to help raise awareness, build resilience and feelings of safety of older people and better understanding between different age groups

Recommendation 3 – Equalities Impact Assessments

The Panel recommends Equalities Impact Assessments be brought forward with wide consultation with older people on policies/strategies of the Council and Partner organisations. This will help eliminate or minimise adverse impact on the mobility, independence and quality of life of older people and their ability to interact fully in society

Recommendation 4 – Mainstreaming successful schemes

The Panel recommends that the Neighbourhood Care Scheme, and other programmes shown to be successful in working with isolated vulnerable older people, be mainstreamed.

Recommendation 5 – Housing policy

The Panel recommends that the Council consider giving some priority for a move in an area near family or friends where support for an older person would be nearby.

Recommendation 6 – Cold calling

The Panel recommends that to help combat doorstep crime including distraction burglary, Trading Standards consider the introduction of 'no cold-calling' zones in areas identified from intelligence.

Recommendation 7 – Domestic Violence

The Panel recommends that regular training be further developed for every professional carer and volunteer working with older people in looking for early signs of elder abuse and domestic violence.

Recommendation 8 – Information on Domestic Violence

The Panel recommends that additional research and analysis be carried out including with service users. This would provide the council and partner agencies with better information on the extent and nature of domestic violence involving older people and elder abuse to help further develop preventive and support services.

Recommendation 9 – Select Committee on Dementia

The Panel recommends that operational protocols between agencies regarding elder abuse in cases of mental illness be referred on to the Select Committee on Dementia.

Recommendation 10 – Good Practice

The Panel welcomes the many initiatives regarding racial harassment and older people. The Panel recommends that good practice examples such as 'Reporting Centres' be extended where possible to other vulnerable older people including LGBT communities and disabled older people for example.

Recommendation 11 – Alcohol and older people

The Panel welcomes the social marketing campaign on the serious health consequences of alcohol abuse by older people and recommends that NHS Brighton & Hove be asked to report the outcomes of the campaign.

Recommendation 12 – Social spaces for older people

The panel recommends that licensed and unlicensed venues be encouraged to consider offering good value daytime activities and food and drink with the aim of attracting older customers.

Recommendation 13 – Data on older people

The panel recommends to enable the Council jointly with partners target future preventative work with older people, that where possible consistent data be distinguished by age and gender for vulnerable older people. This includes alcohol-related incidents and harm, black and minority ethnic population, domestic violence, disabled, LGBT and other minority groups.

Recommendation 14 – Police independent advisory group

The Panel recommends that the Older People's Council be asked to nominate an older person to serve on the Sussex Police Independent Advisory Group.

Recommendation 15 – Customer relationship management

The Panel recommends that to facilitate contact with older vulnerable people, the Council's Customer Relationship Management system be extended to include this population group.

Recommendation 16 – Consultation

The Panel recommends further consultation and analysis using the Community Engagement Framework to identify and respond to older people's specific concerns about community safety.

Recommendation 17 – B&H Community Safety Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 – 2011

The Panel recommends that the particular needs of older people for keeping safe and maintaining independence should feature more prominently in the review of the B&H Community Safety Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 – 2011.

Recommendation 18 – Monitoring action

The Scrutiny Panel asks its parent committee ECSOSC to monitor the implementation of actions following this scrutiny review. It also requests ECSOSC to add community safety work regarding minority older groups, to its work programme.

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18. List of Background Papers

1 – Community Safety Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 – 2011

2 – PCST Scoping report

3 – PCST Services to Older People Domestic Violence; Sexual Violence and Abuse; Racist and Religiously Motivated crimes and incidents; LGBT Community Safety; services for older people; Burglary; Environment Improvement; Communities against drugs; Anti-Social Behaviour; Family Intervention Project; Refugees and Migrants

4 – Reporting and Addressing Racism

5 – Cheers!?! Project on Alcohol and Older People

6 – OPC Annual Report

7 – Community Engagement Framework

1. Introduction

1.1 The Scrutiny Panel on Older People and Community Safety was established following 6 October 2008 Community Safety Forum meeting. The Director of Age Concern Brighton Hove and Portslade said the perception of crime by older people was a particularly important issue and that better contact was needed with older age groups. The Director later gave evidence to the Panel.¹

1.2 The Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC) agreed to set up a scrutiny panel and invite the Older People's Council (OPC) to nominate a co-optee. ECSOSC resolved that the Panel's remit would be to investigate

- To what extent are the views of older people known, regarding community safety?
- Do older people have specific concerns about safety in the community?
- How can older people be helped to feel safer in the community?

1.3 Councillors Amy Kennedy, Mo Marsh, David Smart and David Watkins plus OPC co-optee Mr John Eyles served on the panel and Councillor Mo Marsh was elected Chair.

1.4 Two informal meetings were held to agree the main scope of the review and work programme, and to gather initial information. Four meetings were held in public and a final informal meeting was arranged for the Panel to agree the draft scrutiny report.

1.5 The Partnership Community Safety Team (PCST) conducted an analysis for the Scrutiny Panel on crime, safety and fear of crime as experienced by older people. This sets out population characteristics, housing tenure, crime by older people, crime and reporting levels, crimes experienced by older people and perceptions of crime, based on police crime data, Office for National Statistics, British Crime Survey, Place Survey 2008 and Citizen's Panel 2008.²

1.6 Additional commentary and analysis was also provided to the Panel the Partnership Community Safety Team Members on Community Safety Services to older people.³

1.7 Compared with currently published information on local Community Safety, both reports focussed specifically on people over the age of 50. This more detailed information on older people in the two reports was particularly welcomed by the Scrutiny Panel.

¹ Letter to Scrutiny Panel from Age Concern (Appendix 1) and minutes 24 April 2009 (Appendix 2)

² Community Safety and Older People Scoping Report, March 2009 (Background paper 2)

³ Partnership Community Safety Team paper on Services to Older People.(Background Paper 3)

1.8 Together with other key issues raised by the Panel Members and by members of the public and organisations working with older people, the Partnership Community Safety Team information formed the main basis of the scrutiny findings and recommendations.

1.9 For the purposes of the Panel, an 'older person' was taken to mean over 50 years of age although different agencies use various definitions.

1.10 Community safety is defined by the Home Office as "an aspect of 'quality of life' in which people, individually and collectively, are protected as far as possible from hazards or threats that result from the criminal or anti-social behaviour of others, and are equipped or helped to cope with those they do experience."

1.11 Amongst the vast range of work the main areas investigated by the Panel have been vulnerable, isolated older people, focussing on feelings of safety, alcohol-related harm and incidents, domestic violence and doorstep crime. These are identified as relating in particular to older people in the Brighton & Hove Community Safety Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 – 2011.⁴

1.12 The Panel regretted that their work was time-limited, and so they were unable to cover many key areas. The Panel asked that community safety work regarding minority older groups such as disabled and LGBT people for example be included in the work plan of the Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1.13 The final report of the Scrutiny panel will be considered by ECSOSC for endorsement and reported to the Community Safety Forum. It will be taken forward to decision-makers and on to full council.

1.14 The Panel would like to thank all the witnesses who gave information either in person or in writing.

1.15 The Panel would like to give special thanks to the members of the public and organisations working with older people who attended the meetings or gave their comments.

2. Key findings

2.1 There is a large amount of work with older people by the Council, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and other organisations working with older people.

⁴ Community Safety Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 – 2011 (Background Paper 1)

2.2 Older people are less likely than younger people to be victims of crime but older people's fear of crime is disproportionately greater; the impact of any crime can be greater.

2.3 Older people as a group are not prioritised within the current published Community Safety Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 – 2011. However all other priority crime areas incorporate targeted crime reduction activities, which are appropriate to the needs of older people.

2.4 There is a higher level of reported domestic violence crimes and incidents from older people than from the population as a whole.⁵

2.5 The older black and minority ethnic population are least likely to report racially or religiously motivated crimes and incidents but the reasons for this are not known⁶

2.6 Despite current partnership work, older people would benefit from more targeted information on community safety and crime prevention services

2.7 Further close working between Council services and partners based on shared evidence can build on existing strategies to keep older people feeling safer

2.8 Recommendations within the body of this report address these key findings.

3. Older People and Community Safety

3.1 The Panel acknowledged the wide range of local Community Safety initiatives across all age ranges, set out in the Community Safety Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 – 2011.

3.2 The panel recognises the success of neighbourhood policing teams working with key partners - especially welcoming the developing work of the growing network of Local Action Teams (LATs), and praising Police Community Support Officers.⁷

3.3 Brighton & Hove's Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) website campaign 'Safe in the City' gives a wide range of information on all the priority areas of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and measures being taken to tackle them, and ways of becoming involved, with contact details. (www.safeinthecity.info)

3.4 This Scrutiny Panel's work, although limited to four public meetings, was important in that it was investigating the needs of older people which can often be different from the rest of the population.

⁵ Scoping Report Background Paper 2 para 7.1.3

⁶ Reporting and Addressing Racism, Senior Racial Harrassment Caseworker Background Paper 4 p5

⁷ Minutes of Panel meeting 10 July 2009 (Appendix 5)

3.5 Some older people are likely to feel uncomfortable in settings where most people appear younger or even where there are young people laughing and shouting.

3.6 Older people may generally have different perceptions of their own safety in the community compared with younger people. They may have lower tolerance levels and feel more vulnerable compared with other age groups who might feel better able to shrug off anti-social behaviour.

3.7 Other factors can be associated with ageing such as social isolation, physical or mental illness, disabilities, sensory impairment or reduced mobility. These may affect an older person's perception of their own safety in addition to their ability to tap into the available support and services.

3.8 The Panel especially wished the Council and partner organisations to try to reach more 'out of sight' older people; those who had little or no support or contact with individuals or groups.

3.9 All the public meetings were reminded that older people do have a disproportionate fear of crime both nationally and locally, despite much lower levels of victimisation for most crime types. (Scoping report, page 4). This may be because older people might tend to avoid areas they see as higher risk or less willing or able to report crime, but also because there can be a greater impact on older people who are victims, than on younger people.

3.10 Members made the point that this message needed even higher visibility and it should be better targeted at older people. Older people are less likely than younger people to have internet access and socially isolated older people may be less aware of information that would help them feel safer.

3.11 Members wanted this message and other relevant information to be more widely communicated to older people in appropriate ways.

4. Communications and information

4.1 Throughout the scrutiny review the Panel members were aware that for a variety of reasons information and community support and services were likely to be less accessible to older people than younger people.

4.2 Older people in the public gallery at Panel meetings indicated that more information would be helpful. Representatives of two groups asked for talks or presentations on policing at their local meetings. Respondents from Sheltered Housing Action Group also wrote that improved communications could assist in improving an older person's feeling of safety.

4.3 Other safety measures such as personal safety, home security and smoke alarms had been raised at the final panel meeting and it was felt that this type of information and advice should also be more widely publicised for older people's benefit.

4.4 The Panel are aware of the wide range of existing publications and communications channels and forums for contacting older people about community safety matters. Amongst others these include local media organisations, City News, The Pensioner, other local newsletters and magazines, 'Grey Matters' The Patrol, information via NHS organisations, Age Concern, Community and Voluntary Sector Forum, Community Safety Forum, Local Action Teams, Older People's Council and the annual Older People's Day.

4.5 The Panel concludes that older people would benefit from better access to consistent community safety information, advice and services which are targeted to their needs.

4.6 The Panel wished to support and extend the current outreach work to older people, especially to minority groups and those who are socially isolated. From experience Members said that some older people liked to have information on paper handed to them and discussed in person, rather than just pushed through the letter box.

4.7 The Panel asked that a 'one-off' publication for older people be produced similar to the 'Be Smart Be Safe' example that had been successfully used in other local authorities such as Essex County Council, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Shropshire Council, Middlesbrough Council and Plymouth City Council.

4.8 This would need to be tailored to Brighton & Hove style and format requirements including, with full contact details:

1. Explanation of community safety services, action to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and community cohesion
2. Neighbourhood policing and role of PCSOs
3. When and how to report incidents
4. How to recognise and report elder abuse and Domestic Violence
5. Reporting hate crime
6. Doorstep crime advice and reporting
7. Personal safety advice
8. Care assessments
9. Home fire safety assessments
10. Home security measures

Recommendation 1 – Information for older people

The panel recommends that purpose designed booklet be provided to older people in user-friendly format to engage and inform on community safety and keeping safe

4.9 In hearing from the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS) about home fire safety assessments the ESFRS Head of Community Safety e-mailed concerning all care agencies' fire assessments. This additional

matter does not fall within the remit of this scrutiny panel and the Panel Chair has asked the Council's Director of Adult Social Care and Housing to reply to ESFRS. (See Appendix 8)

5. Inter-generational Initiatives

5.1 Some older people may not have much contact with the younger generation, other than when they are on 'good behaviour' in front of elderly relatives. Conversely, younger people may well be unaware of the serious impact their behaviour can sometimes have on older people.

5.2 The Panel Members were aware of good examples of community safety information being taken in to schools and other groups and felt that older people could be encouraged to take opportunities to engage with younger people for mutual benefit.

5.3 Members were interested to support outreach schemes that include working in the community for instance with the Youth Council and in schools encouraging children to pass on information and advice to older relatives and friends. Trading Standards and RISE (Refuge Information Support and Education; formerly Women's Refuge Centre) said that officers regularly visit schools. An event involving older and younger people had been held at St Richards Centre, Hangleton and younger people had been at a presentation during a Local Action Team meeting.

5.4 The Panel Members wish to encourage inter-generational programmes to help build up greater understanding between older and younger people; for example by way of history projects and explaining how young people's behaviour may cause distress to older people.

Recommendation 2 – Inter-generational initiatives

The Panel recommends inter-generational initiatives to help raise awareness, build resilience and feelings of safety of older people and better understanding between different age groups.

6. Assessing the Impact on Older People of Policies and Strategies

6.1 The Panel noted and supported Age Concern's principles and values. Under the future Equality Act public bodies will need to consider the needs of everyone who uses their services, regardless of their age.

6.2 The International Development Manager, on the steering group of the Cheers! Project on alcohol and older people also made the point that strategies should be interlinked with the needs of an ageing population.⁸ The Panel wishes to recommend longer-term measures to increase the general resilience and independence of older people.

⁸ Minutes of the Panel meeting 3 July 2009 (Appendix 4)

Recommendation 3 – Equalities Impact Assessments

The Panel recommends Equalities Impact Assessments be brought forward with wide consultation with older people on policies/strategies of the Council and Partner organisations. This will help eliminate or minimise adverse impact on the mobility, independence and quality of life of older people and their ability to interact fully in society

6.3 Members asked that this scrutiny report be referred to the cross-party group on equalities which had recently been established.

7. Community Schemes

7.1 Members of the Panel were pleased with the success of the partnership work on Bristol Estate, set up to deal with anti-social behaviour.⁹

7.2 Consultation at the estate on people's perception of anti-social behaviour and crime before and after taking action had shown that local neighbourhood schemes can significantly strengthen a sense of safety.¹⁰

7.3 The Cabinet Member for Community Affairs, Inclusion and Internal Relations and Chair of the Community Safety Forum Councillor Dee Simson highlighted the importance of work to build inclusive communities. Information being gathered would help to shape future community safety services.

7.4 The good neighbour scheme Neighbourhood Care Scheme was described to the Panel; it helps older people and carers by recruiting local volunteers to support them in a variety of ways.

7.5 The Panel Members are aware that fostering a good sense of community takes a long time to establish and attracting funding can be a lengthy process. There seems to be scope for the Council to work closely in partnership, to improve the sustainability of community inclusion and cohesion projects that help maintain older people's feelings of safety, resilience and independence.

7.6 Therefore the Panel wishes to support and where possible mainstream, community programmes that are shown to be successful in helping isolated older people, such as the Neighbourhood Care Scheme.

Recommendation 4 – Mainstreaming successful schemes

The Panel recommends that the Neighbourhood Care Scheme, and other programmes shown to be successful in working with isolated vulnerable older people, be mainstreamed.

⁹ Minutes of the Panel meeting 10 July 2009 (Appendix 5)

¹⁰ Results of Surveys on Bristol Estate (Appendix 7)

8. Housing Policy

8.1 Homemove, the council's choice-based lettings system for council and housing association properties, allows tenants and prospective tenants to bid for the available properties they are interested in. The letting system is currently under review.

8.2 To help assist a care network of family and friends the Panel agreed it would be helpful as a part of the review, if priority could be given to bids for a move in an area near family and friends where care and support for an older person would be nearby.

Recommendation 5 – Housing policy

The Panel recommends that the Council consider giving some priority for a move in an area near family or friends where support for an older person would be nearby.

9. Doorstep Crime

9.1 Older people are known to be more affected than younger people by doorstep criminals such as bogus doorstep callers, rogue traders and distraction burglars.

9.2 Doorstep crime is a particularly heinous crime against vulnerable people and the Panel heard of the work being done locally and regionally to counteract it.

9.3 In national and local surveys older people have been shown to dislike cold calling and were worried about being conned in their own homes. Some local authorities had successfully introduced 'no cold-calling' zones. A member of the public asked if 'no cold calling' stickers can be made available.

Recommendation 6 – Cold calling

The Panel recommends that to help combat doorstep crime including distraction burglary, Trading Standards consider the introduction of 'no cold-calling' zones in areas identified from intelligence.

10. Domestic Violence

10.1 Domestic violence and elder abuse are not easy to recognise or talk about. Chief Executive Officer of RISE (Refuge, Information Support and Education and formerly Women's Refuge Centre) gave the Panel some examples and an anonymous case study of an older service user.

10.2 The Panel heard evidence of under-reporting of domestic violence and elder abuse and possible reasons why older women may be particularly

reluctant to disclose abuse. Some members of the 60+ Action Group had difficulty engaging with a speaker on Domestic Violence services.¹¹

10.3 First indications can start with financial abuse when firm evidence comes to light for example because of unpaid bills, and may then lead on to other forms of abuse and even physical violence. A part-time worker at the Accident and Emergency Department at Sussex County Hospital helps to find signs of Domestic Violence and abuse.

10.4 There is a lower level of awareness of elder abuse compared with child abuse even amongst professionals and consistent data on domestic violence and elder abuse in older age groups is limited.

10.5 In its summary of older people's main concerns about community safety the Sheltered Housing Action Group listed more action and information on elder abuse and domestic violence as one of its top priorities.

10.6 The Panel received only limited data on domestic violence but there is evidence of a higher level of reported domestic violence crimes and incidents from the older population than the population as a whole¹².

10.7 The scoping report showed that the most common location for violent crime against older people is within a dwelling. This differs from 'violence against the person' offences within the population as a whole, which are more likely to occur in a public place than a dwelling. Older people are shown to experience domestic crimes at the hands of family members.

10.8 Information from the Lead Commissioner for Mental Health, NHS Brighton & Hove indicated a likely link between domestic violence and alcohol misuse.

10.9 Members were concerned at cases of domestic abuse victims having to leave home while the perpetrator remains.

10.10 The Panel's view was that older and more vulnerable might be expected to be less 'visible' to the authorities and probably less likely than younger people to arrive at Accident and Emergency hospital departments.

10.11 Having considered the evidence presented the Panel concluded that further work including with service users, was needed. This would involve community safety and adult social care officers and council partners getting a clearer picture of the needs of less visible and vulnerable older people in relation to domestic violence and elder abuse.

Recommendation 7 – Domestic Violence

¹¹ Summary of replies to the Scrutiny Panel (Appendix 8)

¹² Scoping Report Background Paper 2 para 7.1.3

The Panel recommends that regular training be further developed for every professional carer and volunteer working with older people in looking for early signs of elder abuse and domestic violence.

Recommendation 8 – Information on Domestic Violence

The Panel recommends that additional research and analysis be carried out including with service users. This would provide the council and partner agencies with better information on the extent and nature of domestic violence involving older people and elder abuse to help further develop preventive and support services.

10.12 In a rare case, information was given to the Panel by a carer in the Older People's Mental Health Team of an older person with mental illness needing additional protection from a perpetrator in their own home. Though rare this was a serious incident. The Head of Community Safety reassured the Members that operational protocols between agencies in these circumstances were being drawn up via the Safeguarding Adults Board and reported to the Community Safety Forum.

10.13 A Select Committee on Dementia set up by the Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee is in progress. Despite this case being rare the Panel did have a high level of concern because an incident could be serious. The Panel asked that the matter be forwarded to that Select Committee.

Recommendation 9 – Select Committee on Dementia

The Panel recommends that operational protocols between agencies regarding elder abuse in cases of mental illness be referred on to the Select Committee on Dementia.

11. Racist and Religiously Motivated Incidents

11.1 The definition of racist and religiously motivated incident (RRMI) is wide enabling the recipient to determine what is inappropriate and unwanted behaviour.

11.2 The Senior Racial Harassment Caseworker gave the Panel a comprehensive account of incidents that can be experienced by minority ethnic and religious groups. This was a complex area of work to analyse not least because people may be targeted for identities other than age and ethnicity eg disability or sexual orientation and also because the numbers of instances are relatively low.

11.3 Older people in general are thought to be less likely to report incidents than younger people (*Scoping report*). For ethnic and religious groups there can be additional barriers to reporting for older people such as language capacity and potentially, fear of repercussions.

11.4 There is evidence that the older black and minority ethnic population are the least likely to report racially or religiously motivated crime and incidents. However there is no information as to whether or not that is as a result of a lower level of experiencing those crimes or a lack of trust and confidence, knowledge or unwillingness to report.¹³

11.5 There was already a great deal of work already under way with elderly BME community members including monitoring levels and trends, providing advocacy and support to victims and where possible working with partner agencies to respond to the incidents - for example taking action against the perpetrator.

11.6 At the end of a Panel meeting further advice and information was requested by members of the public from minority groups. This was given separately in person by officers in the Partnership Community Safety Team.

11.7 Accessing preventative and support services by minority communities where there are language, cultural and bureaucratic barriers had been identified as a priority by the City's Racial Harassment Forum.

11.8 Members welcomed the RRMI action plan 2008 - 2011 and all the outreach work under way to improve communication via translation, interpreting jargon and engaging in more accessible ways.

11.9 The folded booklet 'Racism – Don't Accept It' and Pan Sussex racist incident report form used by partner agencies were good examples of this. Enabling elderly BME members of the community - who may not find reporting easy – to report incidents through a known agency worker or at a local 'Reporting Centre,' could perhaps be extended to all vulnerable elderly.

Recommendation 10 – Good Practice

The Panel welcomes the many initiatives regarding racial harassment and older people. The Panel recommends that good practice examples such as 'Reporting Centres' be extended where possible to other vulnerable older people including LGBT communities and disabled older people for example.

12. Alcohol Abuse

12.1 It is not uncommon for people to greatly underestimate the amount of alcohol they drink. Alcohol is a disinhibitor of violence and reduces constraints around social behaviour, and can be linked with physical ill health, anxiety and depression. This can be a sensitive matter that people may feel uncomfortable to raise even with their GP. The Lead Commissioner for Mental Health, NHS Brighton & Hove said the most prolific users of alcohol unhealthily, is probably the 50+ age group.

¹³ Reporting and Addressing Racism Background Paper 4

12.2 Availability of low-cost alcohol and higher drinks costs in pubs and restaurants can lead to more solitary drinking, especially amongst older people who are likely to spend more time at home than younger people.

12.3 The scoping paper indicates a link between violent crime committed by people aged 50+ and alcohol. (*Scoping paper page 9*)

12.4 Unlike smoking where there is a clear message for health reasons to stop smoking, drinking alcohol should not always be seen as negative.

12.5 The effects of alcohol on younger people at present has a higher profile compared with older age groups so Members welcomed a new social marketing campaign targeted at older people. This is one part of a major programme on awareness and intervention being initiated by NHS Brighton & Hove.

12.6 Scrutiny Panel Member John Eyles Older People's Council co-optee, would serve on the interview panel to select the marketing company.

Recommendation 11 – Alcohol and older people

The Panel welcomes the social marketing campaign on the serious health consequences of alcohol abuse by older people and recommends that NHS Brighton & Hove be asked to report the outcomes of the campaign.

12.7 Cheers!? Is a local joint research project that looks into the reasons for older people's drinking because this was seen as a neglected area of research, policy and practice.¹⁴ International Development Manager and member of the project steering group told the Panel that the needs of older people who are overlooked within the general population are likely to be greater for those who are already marginalised. This work linked in with the Healthy Cities Programme.

12.8 The project highlighted the importance of maintaining social spaces where older people can meet others.

Recommendation 12 – Social spaces for older people

The panel recommends that licensed and unlicensed venues be encouraged to consider offering good value daytime activities and food and drink with the aim of attracting older customers.

12.9 No detailed evidence on older people and alcohol misuse was given. The Panel suggested that where possible agencies collect and disaggregate

¹⁴ Cheers!? A project about older people and alcohol Background paper 4

consistent data on community safety for older age groups as well as for younger people. (See Crime/incident data below)

13. Crime/Incident Data

13.1 For the purposes of the scrutiny review an 'older' person was taken to mean someone over 50 years of age. Different agencies use other age ranges or none to record community safety data.

13.2 Part of the questioning for the Scrutiny Panel has been around coordinating the considerable amount of high quality information that is already available for planning services and conveying consistent messages to the public.

Recommendation 13 – Data on older people

The panel recommends to enable the Council jointly with partners target future preventative work with older people, that where possible consistent data be distinguished by age and gender for vulnerable older people. This includes alcohol-related incidents and harm, black and minority ethnic population, domestic violence, disabled, LGBT and other minority groups.

14. Neighbourhood Policing and Reporting Incidents

14.1 Evidence provided by the PCST indicates that rates of reporting crimes and incidents by older people are lower than by other age groups (*Scoping Paper page 12*)

14.2 There could be a number of reasons for this. But questions asked at Panel meetings indicated that older members of the public do not necessarily know when and how best to report incidents. Without internet access, people may not easily be able to find this out.

14.3 Amongst responses from individual older members of the public and written submissions from Sheltered Housing Action Group and 60+ Action Group, there was a view that the police ought to be more visible on the streets. It also seemed that the role of Community Police Support Officers (PCSOs) was not fully clear to residents and there was a question whether PCSOs could be issued with business cards.

14.4 Police representatives presented the neighbourhood policing plan to the Panel and said that the police were more accessible and visible than ever before. Around 95% of all police work did not need to involve a warrant-card-holding regular police officer. The PCSOs worked closely with local communities and Local Action Teams. Older people are the least likely to become victims but younger people needed to understand better the impact they can have on others. Conversely older people could be encouraged to

understand the younger generation better and perhaps visit schools or youth groups and explain how they feel.

14.5 The police representatives said that if necessary messages for PCSOs can be left at the Lewes call centre. Regarding when to report an incident; false alarms are preferable to ignoring serious incidents.

14.6 Historically the fear of crime had been overlooked but with a reduction in levels of crime, work to address this had now become important.

14.7 This and other community safety messages had to be communicated over the whole Division. At the same time more detailed information and intelligence needed to be addressed at a very local neighbourhood level. The Police were looking at ways to contact people other than via the Internet or 'The Patrol' monthly newsletter. (See Communications below)

14.8 There was praise for the work of PCSOs from Panel Members and some people in the public gallery who had worked closely with them. Members agreed that the PCSO role and responsibilities should be explained more widely.

14.9 As part of the Sussex Police Consultation strategy, an Independent Advisory Group advises the police on the impact of critical incidents and the Police were seeking an independent older person to serve on this. The Panel felt that the OPC were well placed to facilitate a nominee. The Older People's Council's Annual Report 2008 – 2009 had been circulated¹⁵.

Recommendation 15 – Police independent advisory group

The Panel recommends that the Older People's Council be asked to nominate an older person to serve on the Sussex Police Independent Advisory Group.

14.10 There was a question about using a database of older vulnerable or isolated people to simplify contact in cases of emergency. Details entered on to a Customer Relationship Management system would enable a caller and background details to be identified from the phone number alone.

Recommendation 14 – Customer relationship management

The Panel recommends that to facilitate contact with older vulnerable people, the Council's Customer Relationship Management system be extended to include this population group.

15. Consultation

15.1 The Panel publicised its work via press releases prior to meetings and via direct mailings to organisations working with older people and tenants' and

¹⁵ Older People's Council Annual Report 2008 – 2009 Background Paper 6

residents' associations. The information received in reply from residents and groups working with older people is included in the minutes of the Panel meetings or otherwise summarised in Appendix 8.

15.2 Full details on the use of the Community Engagement Framework have been presented to the Panel by the Community Engagement Improvement Officer. The Panel noted that faith groups, regularly making home visits were important in the context of contacting older people.

15.3 Members are grateful to the residents and members of the public and groups working with older people who gave evidence to the Panel. Similarly to other Scrutiny Panels, this review has been restricted to only four meetings. Where responses concerned other matters such as access and pavement obstacles these have been passed on to relevant officers

15.4 Referring back to the Bristol Estate initiatives and consultation (Appendix 7), Members also welcome and support all the coordinated partnership work that has been presented to them. Over time the Panel would like this to become even more inclusive by further:

- developing consultation arrangements with older people including service users on their perceptions of anti-social behaviour and crime
- improving the Council's knowledge of the most vulnerable and isolated older people including those who either by choice or lack of information do not engage with services or organisations
- providing more publicity and coordinated information on current services

15.5 This should be done consistently over time by specialists working in partnership in front-line services and together with Community Engagement officers.

Recommendation 16 – Consultation

The Panel recommends further consultation and analysis using the Community Engagement Framework to identify and respond to older people's specific concerns about community safety.

Recommendation 17 – B&H Community Safety Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 – 2011

The Panel recommends that the particular needs of older people for keeping safe and maintaining independence should feature more prominently in the review of the B&H Community Safety Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 – 2011.

16. Monitoring the Recommendations of Scrutiny Review

- 16.1 The Panel asked that the Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitor action following this scrutiny review.
- 16.2 It also asked ECSOSC to add to its work programme .community safety work regarding minority older groups, that were not covered by this scrutiny review,

Recommendation 18 – Monitoring Action

The Scrutiny Panel asks its parent committee ECSOSC to monitor the implementation of actions following this scrutiny review. It also requests ECSOSC to add community safety work regarding minority older groups, to its work programme.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Letter from Jim Baker, Director, Age Concern, Brighton Hove & Portslade

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Age Concern Brighton Hove & Portslade has a central and essential role of ensuring that the perspective of older people in this City is considered by decision makers within the City. Our Mission and Core Values are below, and we hope that these show our desire to act in partnership to ensure that our client group are able to receive a quality, unified, service from all providers across the City.
- 1.2 Our intention in making a submission to the Scrutiny Panel is to assist the Panel's deliberations discussing and making recommendations in relation to:
- (i) **Impact & Communication.** Communicating with 30%+ of the population when there is no free newspaper and many of them do not purchase the local paper or welcome unsolicited correspondence is a significant problem in this City
 - (ii) **Trust & Rumour** Within a context of lack of information, or lack of choosing to access information it is very easy for people with a negative perspective to cause distress amongst others
 - (iii) **Collaboration & Value for Money.** There is a considerable amount of quality information and organisations currently available in the City in relation to community safety but how effective can numerous leaflets and consultations be, if older people are expected to read them all and know what is relevant at a given time
 - (iv) **Targeted Support.** City wide information may not deal with the problems experienced (or believed to be occurring) in specific localities
 - (v) **Network of older peoples organisations.** How do we ensure that they have a chance to be involved, even if they are small and do not have a constitution. This is critical if we are to make this work in neighbourhoods

- (vi) **Role of the Older Peoples Council.** Although it is true that there are a number of organisations involved in working with older people the only formally elected body across the City is the OPC. Its role within this process requires clarification
- (vii) **Relationship to the Local Area Agreement targets.** In particular
 - N14: People who feel they can influence decisions in their locality;
 - N16: Participation in regular volunteering;
 - N17 Creating an environment for a thriving third sector.

AGE CONCERN

Our mission

Our mission is to promote the well-being of all older people and to help make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.

Principles

Values and principles underpin what we do, why we do it, and guide how we work to achieve our mission. Our underlying principles are:

- Ageism is unacceptable: we are against all forms of unfair discrimination, and challenge unfair treatment on grounds of age
- All people have the right to make decisions about their lives: we help older people to discover and exercise these rights
- People less able to help themselves should be offered support: we seek to support older people to live their lives with dignity
- Diversity is valued in all that we do: we recognise the diversity of older people and their different needs, choices, cultures and values
- It is only through working together that we can use our local, regional and national presence to the greatest effect.

Values

Our work is also guided by a set of values:

- Enabling: we enable older people to live independently and exercise choice
- Influential: we draw strength from the voices of older people, and ensure that those voices are heard
- Dynamic: we are innovative and driven by results and constantly deliver for older people.

- Caring: we are passionate about what we do and care about each individual.
- Expert: we are authoritative, trusted and quality-orientated

Corporate priorities 2007 – 2010

- Prevent poverty and maximize income in retirement
- Promote age equality and enable older people to make full contributions to our economy, society and neighbourhoods.
- Maximize healthy life expectancy and promote health, independence and wellbeing for all older people
- Achieve greater social inclusion of the most disadvantaged older people and challenge the causes of exclusion
- Achieve a step change in effectiveness and efficiency, in which a crucial element will be a greater focus on older people as customers and contributors to all that we do

APPENDIX 2

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE AD HOC PANEL - OLDER PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY
SAFETY**

11.00am 24 APRIL 2009

VALLEY SOCIAL CENTRE

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Marsh (Chair)

Also in attendance: Councillor Watkins, Smart and Kennedy

Other Members present: Mr John Eyles Older People's Council co-optee

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1.1 There were no substitutes – substitutes are not allowed on scrutiny panels.

1.2 Councillors Kennedy and Marsh said they had personal and non-prejudicial interests as they were volunteers for and supported the Neighbourhood Care Scheme. Councillor Smart said his wife was a recipient of NCS support.

1.3 There were no declarations of party whip.

1.4 Members of the press and public were not excluded from this meeting but the Panel noted that anyone could ask to give information to the Panel in private session.

2. TO NOTE THE REMIT OF SCRUTINY PANEL AND INITIAL FOCUS

2.1 The Panel noted the remit of the Panel and particular areas that they may wish to pursue as per agenda.

3. INFORMATION GATHERING

Introduction

The Chair Councillor Mo Marsh welcomed members of the public attending the meeting in the Valley Social Centre. The Scrutiny Panel Members and speakers introduced themselves. The Chair explained that for the purposes of the Panel an older person was defined as anyone 50 years or over. The

Community Safety Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 – 2011 had been developed by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Information from Age Concern

3.1 Mr Baker Director of Age Concern Brighton Hove and Portslade, had first raised the issue of older people and community safety at a meeting of the Community Safety Forum. He welcomed the panel investigation.

3.2 Older people were far less likely to be victims than younger people yet older people's fear of crime was greater but disproportionate to the actuality. This message had to be spread.

3.3 Mr Baker stated that there needed to be stronger communication with older people; both to receive and give information. He thought business sponsorship or other funding sources could be attracted to produce an independent publication for older people in Brighton and Hove. Consultations with older people would be better received in a publication that was already being regularly read and could work out cheaper than at present for statutory consulters including health organisations.

3.4 Mr Baker envisaged this as a free quarterly newsletter that would include for instance good news regular features local events and emergency phone numbers aimed at older people. He felt the Older People's Council and other organisations could be involved with this. He did not criticise any current publication but said more collaboration was needed and the proposal would not affect any existing newsletter such as the Council's City News, the Leader or The Pensioner, published by the Pensioners' Forum.

3.5 Councillor Smart said that in his ward the Knoll Scroll and Hangleton Harbinger were now circulated to more than 6000 households. This had taken years of hard work to establish.

3.6 From his experience of supporting local clients Mr Baker said social inclusion of older people was an area to be developed, to help people feel safe. Older People could lose their sense of independence and yet often they themselves did not recognise this and did not see themselves as vulnerable. Supporting social networks and developing these should be an area of priority in his view. One example was give; tenpin bowling.

3.7 Speaking about interaction with local groups he said a full list did not exist of local organisations working with older people. Putting together such a contact list and keeping it up to date would be a long process; however it would be a simple task and would help communicate key issues such as fear of crime.

3.8 More personal alarms for local vulnerable older people could be provided if unwanted mobile phones were collected for emergency use by older people in Brighton and Hove, rather than being sent for recycling elsewhere. Handsets could be programmed with a 'one-touch' key if necessary and linked with a Geographical Positioning System to help identify and locate an alert.

3.9 Regarding future grant funding rounds, Mr Baker said closer partnership working by the Council had the potential to demonstrate the various client groups thereby strengthening funding applications.

3.10 Mr Baker said that the Council should give more support to the Older People's Council, and commented that he felt more could be done 'Designing out Crime' as for example in award-winning West Yorkshire. The Head of Community Safety pointed out the long-term input into planning policies and into individual planning applications of the Environmental Initiatives Team and its direct practical environmental work.

3.11 Answering questions Mr Baker said that from 1 April 2009, Age Concern and Help the Aged had merged. These were national charities and therefore those who wished to make a donation or leave a legacy for local use needed to specify 'to be spent in Brighton and Hove.'

3.12 Age Concern held a number of contracts within the council, accounting for around $\frac{3}{4}$ of its services and around $\frac{1}{4}$ were funded by legacies and donations. Responsibilities for Older People's Services within the Council lay with Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Cabinet Member for Housing.

3.13 Regarding lines of communications Mr Baker said he had meetings at Cabinet Member level. It was a period of change for both Age Concern and council Members and officers and there was room for improvement in communications with partners. An example of a need for closer working was a 'Patient's Choice' health event targeted at older people.

3.14 The Head of Housing Management who was also the scrutiny link officer for the Panel, lead officer for the Older people's Council and manager of the 50+ Community Programme, said that the Panel had seen and liked the handbook 'Be Smart Be Safe' produced by the Safety Education Foundation and if wished, could recommend the funding of this, tailor-made to Brighton and Hove.

3.15 Individual's names could not be shared because of data protection legislation; however the list of clubs/activities and organisations formerly compiled and maintained by Adult Social Services was likely to be part of the remit of a council officer in the near future. This would be helpful to many, including the Access Point. Information on the 50+ Community Programme had been provided to the Panel and was available to view on request.

3.16 Mr Baker told the meeting Age Concern had a free counselling service. Client confidentiality was important. He said elder abuse typically started with financial abuse, perhaps by a family member or carer which could lead on to criminal, physical psychological or emotional abuse. An older person may tend to internalise emotions, feel guilty or responsible and timescales in arranging help - such as the support of a social worker - could be so long that unrepairable damage may have been made to the client.

Neighbourhood Care Scheme

3.17 Mr de Podesta had run NCS, the Neighbourhood Care Scheme (different from Neighbourhood Watch) since 1998. He said many elderly people were isolated and 'invisible' and had inescapable difficulties which required support which could best be provided by NCS. A paper giving facts and figures and leaflet was circulated.

3.18 The Scheme was key to helping people stay active alert and involved and gives emotional and practical support to vulnerable people. It gives neighbours an opportunity to help which he said as responsible concerned people, they often wanted to do. People wishing to volunteer were first interviewed then checked with the Criminal Records Bureau, then had induction sessions and on-going support and training.

3.19 He gave examples of people needing help and volunteers who often formed lasting friendships. Answering a question about risks associated with introducing befrienders, Mr Podesta said that NCS do risk assessments for both client and volunteer. Though the scheme was risk-aware it was not risk-averse and just comparable to everyday life.

3.20 Despite major Neighbourhood renewal programmes that had been funded across the country, Mr de Podesta said that fostering a sense of community and good neighbourliness had not been promoted well.

3.21 Mr de Podesta said he knew of no other scheme in the UK that put such a stress on giving people the opportunity to help their neighbours and reduce social isolation. There was great potential for the scheme to grow, describing it as an un-mined seam of neighbourly good-will.

Older People's Mental Health Service

3.22 Staff from the Older People's Mental Health Team gave examples of safeguarding adult alerts involving those with dementia or mental health problems that concerned the meeting. These indicated gaps in procedures between agencies; operational protocols needed to be addressed directly, to enable a victim to be protected in their home from a perpetrator. Progress would be reported back to this Panel.

3.23 In discussion the OP MHT said that those supporting the elderly including NCS volunteers might benefit from further training on looking for signs of abuse. It was noted that people with dementia and mental health problems were not good witnesses and evidence was difficult to gather, except where financial transactions were on record.

3.24 Regular courses for staff were run at a nominal fee. Identification cards could be issued to those with serious dementia in case police or other services needed to intervene but the use of these had other implications.

3.25 The Panel had received a copy of the Safeguarding Adults Annual report and work programme, available to view on request, and a summary of the Older People's Mental Health Service structure was circulated.

Head of Community Safety

3.26 The Head of Community Safety said that a strategic assessment (crime analysis) had been provided to the Panel in a report available to view on request on the extent to which older people experience and perpetrate crime.

3.27 The report drew out the risk areas that were not normally discussed such as alcohol-related harm and incidents, domestic violence, doorstep crime, criminal damage and hate crime, for which the number of incidents reported by older people, although low, had risen in comparison with the rest of the population.

3.28 Members discussed:

- a) Extent of awareness of elder abuse and compared with child abuse
- b) Training for councillors, staff
- c) The attrition rate for perpetrators
- d) Role of the Older People's Council, particularly in contacting individual older people electorate

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

4.1 The Panel noted that a Select Committee on Dementia and a scrutiny panel on pavement obstructions such as A- boards would shortly start work.

4.2 Summarising the Chair said the Panel would be asking for more information on alcohol and older people and hopefully more public interest would be generated as the Panel progressed. The Chair would be discussing the next agendas with the scrutiny officers.

4.3 Possible/probable items for next meetings 22nd May and 3rd July

- Cabinet Member Cllr Dee Simson
- Primary Care Trust and older people risk from alcohol-related incidents/harm
- Community engagement and meeting the particular needs of older people
- 60+ Action Group
- Progress following 24th April
- others

The meeting concluded at 1.30pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

APPENDIX 3

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE AD HOC PANEL - OLDER PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY
SAFETY**

11.00am 22 MAY 2009

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Marsh (Chair) Smart and Watkins
and Mr John Eyles OPC cooptee

PART ONE

5. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

5.1 The Panel Chair welcomed all to the meeting including all the speakers and Councillor Dee Simson the Cabinet Member for Community Affairs, Inclusion and Internal Relations and Chairman of the Community Safety Forum. The Chairman was pleased to see more members of the public in attendance than previously and reminded everyone of the Panel's remit.

6. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 APRIL

6.1 Subject to a minor amendment by Sean de Podesta the minutes of the 24 April meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

6.2 With the agreement of the Chairman, Ms Joan Moorhouse Chair of the Brighton & Hove Pensioners' Forum; which published 'The Pensioner' magazine made comments on the minutes. She said that 'The Pensioner' was written by older people for older people and thought it would indeed be adversely affected by an additional publication in this area. Ms Moorhouse handed out copies of the latest edition and said there was no need for any similar publication.

6.3 Two Members of the Older People's Council (OPC) served on the Editorial Board and the OPC contributed articles to the magazine. 'The Pensioner' was supported by statutory providers including the Council and health organisations and was distributed across Brighton & Hove. However circulation numbers had recently been reduced from 6,000 to 4,000 and it was difficult to attract more business and statutory sponsorship. The Pensioners' Forum had 600 individual and group members and was actively trying to recruit more affiliated organisations.

6.4 Mr Eyles, OPC co-optee to the scrutiny panel, said 'The Pensioner' was a useful way to publicise older people's issues. Other Panel members praised the quality of the magazine and it was suggested that Council funding of OPC could be used to buy advertising space in the magazine. The Panel heard of production and distribution costs and advertising fees. The Head of Housing Management said that Adult Social Care had contributed to the newsletter's production costs and paid for OPC members' expenses not programmes.

6.5 Ms Moorhouse told the Panel that the Brighton & Hove Pensioner's Forum organised a joint 'Older People's Day.' The event typically attracted more than 1,000 delegates and this year was being held in Hove Town Hall on Thursday 19 November.

6.6 The Chairman asked if the following Panel meeting could appear in the next edition of the magazine and thanked Ms Moorhouse for her comment.

7. DISCUSSION WITH CABINET MEMBER AND CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

7.1 Councillor Simson, Cabinet Member for Community Affairs, Inclusion and Internal Relations, referred also to her relatively new role of Chairman of the Community Safety Forum. She said older people had a greater fear of crime and were particularly fearful of groups of young people. It was important to help reduce these fears by encouraging schemes that brought the age groups together.

7.2 Noting that the Panel may wish to focus on domestic violence and violence in the home Councillor Simson said as Cabinet member she was working to build inclusive communities to increase individuals' resilience and reduce vulnerability; for example via discretionary funding for third sector organisations which was currently under way. Helping older and younger people to work more closely and reaching out to older people especially for instance when they are isolated or confined indoors were important.

7.3 Councillor Simson noted that partners including the Primary Care Trust and Sussex Police were also contributing to the scrutiny panel, and referred to the work of the City Inclusion Partnership. Housing policies could be key in helping to keep families and communities together she said.

7.4 The Panel's remit was potentially wide and the information being gathered would help increase the visibility of older people and help shape future community safety services.

8. INFORMATION-GATHERING AND FUTURE MEETINGS

Head of Trading Standards, John Peerless

8.1 The Head of Trading Standards outlined the history of the Service from 'weights and measures' to fair trading, product safety, food standards and Consumer Advice to taking steps to address some of the wider agendas such as Health and Community Safety.

8.2 He said older people were more affected by doorstep criminals than younger people and that doorstep crime was linked with distraction burglary. A national survey of people aged over 55 by the Institute of Trading Standards showed that 96% disliked cold calling such as energy sales and property repairs. The survey revealed that 60% were worried about being conned in their own home and 70% thought the development of an 'approved' trader scheme would be helpful.

8.3 Scams and rogue trading tended to be cross border issues. Whilst steps were taken locally to help support residents it was recognised there was a need to work regionally and nationally with enforcement colleagues.

8.4 Trading Standards South East (TSSE) a group of Trading Standards Authorities co terminus with the GOSE region have collaborated to develop a regional response. The group was funded by BERR (Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) to produce a Community Safety Toolkit which brought together best practice. A Community Safety project was also financed including the musical 'trickster' which was organised a number of times by Trading Standards during 2006 and 2007.

8.5 More recently TSSE had implemented a Regional Intelligence Unit to collate and disseminate intelligence across the region and with colleagues across the country. The Unit liaised with 'Operation Liberal' a Derbyshire Police-based national reporting database for incidents of doorstep crime.

8.6 The Head of Trading Standards said that there were a number of different commercial trader schemes that could help the public identify suitable traders; but it was recognised that a Trading Standards Approved Scheme would help provide even better protection. Therefore in 2006 Brighton & Hove implemented the 'Buy with Confidence' scheme which had been started 2 years before by Hampshire Trading Standards.

8.7 'Buy With Confidence' had been adopted across the region and there were now 80 local members. Potential members have to undergo a very stringent process including the vetting of their terms and conditions and obtaining references. The scheme is publicised in 'The Pensioner' and 'The Argus' works with East and West Sussex and Brighton & Hove to produce a quarterly advertorial.

8.8 Consumer Direct South East (CDSE) was the regional arm of a national consumer advice line that receives all first contacts for Trading Standards in the region. CDSE identifies and refers potential 'doorstep crime' incidents by telephone immediately. A Rapid Action Team (RAT) aims to respond to these calls within 40 minutes and since 2006 RAT has responded to more than 50 calls.

8.9 The CDSE number is 08454 040506. Doorstep crime can also be logged with Sussex Police by calling 08457 606999.

8.10 Brighton and Hove Trading Standards was one of the few Services to employ an Education Officer. The officer works with a wide range of organisations involved with older and vulnerable people and uses links with schools to give information to children to pass on to older relatives and friends.

8.11 Jointly with the Community Safety Partnership Team alternative prevention measures are used including the fitting of locks, door chains and the provision of posters designed to deter door step callers.

8.12 Answering a question, the Head of Trading Standards said the service could investigate providing 'no cold calling' stickers for individual households and would also support the implementation of 'no cold calling' zones in relevant communities or areas identified from intelligence.

8.13 Asked about rogue management agents the Head of Trading Standards indicated that he was not aware of reports of this particular problem.

8.14 However all consumers were encouraged to report suspicions of rogue trading or scams via CDSE, Trading Standards or the Police to help build the case for targetting resources.

8.15 Some Panel members said they had not been not aware of all the various initiatives and contact details.

8.16 The Chair thanked the Head of Trading Standards who was about to begin a secondment to manage a Regional Fraud Unit funded by BERR. The Scambusters Team has a remit to work with 61 local authorities in the South East and East of England and London to tackle cross border crime including doorstep crime.

RISE Refuge, Information, Support and Education (Formerly Women's Refuge Centre)

8.17 Gail Gray spoke to the scrutiny panel as the Chief Executive Officer of RISE, Refuge Information Support and Education, formerly the Women's Refuge Project. She explained that domestic violence included emotional, physical, psychological sexual and financial abuse that takes place within an intimate or family type relationship and forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. Although professional carers may not come into this category they may have a close and intimate relationship with the person being cared for that may become abusive.

8.18 A briefing note was handed to the Panel and case study was given.

8.19 Anyone could experience domestic abuse but most were women. It was difficult to disclose abuse and there was some evidence of considerable under-reporting. An Australian study had shown that 1/3 of all older women had experienced domestic violence at some time but as much as 60% of these had not reported it.

8.20 An older person could suffer the physical and psychological consequences of domestic violence that had happened during their lifetime or later in life when retirement, deprivation, disability or sexual changes could exacerbate abuse. Under-reporting by older people could be due to a sense of shame, embarrassment, guilt or, particularly amongst BME communities, honour; that may not exist to the same extent amongst younger people. Older people who were physically and socially isolated would find it more difficult to report domestic violence for lack of someone to talk to.

8.21 In some cases there may be a fear of the consequences of reporting, such as the response of the professionals or, for families with a concern for an older family member, fear of having a dependent relative.

8.22 Perpetrators could be adult children perhaps financially dependent on a vulnerable mother. An older woman may be the carer for the perpetrator or may depend on the perpetrator for care. In many cases the criminal justice system was not appropriate and specialist resources to help and support the sometimes more complex physical and medical needs of those involved were limited.

8.23 Domestic abuse often breaks up families. However there is some success in bringing families together via local support services for perpetrators and Rise services working separately with grandmother, mother and children before re-integrating the father into the family.

8.24 Neither nationally nor locally was there firm information; reporting was the responsibility of different individuals and agencies for example GPs – for whom more training was needed - and hospital Accident and Emergency (A+E) departments. RISE had recently appointed an independent adviser partly based in A+E to do this.

8.25 Domestic violence is often subsumed under 'elder abuse.' It seemed that there was a low level of knowledge and awareness of domestic abuse even amongst professionals. Signs of domestic violence were not being well recognised

8.26 Local research and data collection was necessary and there needed to be agreement as to what level of support was needed in the City as a whole and what were the appropriate resources for older people and domestic violence.

8.27 Ms Gray said RISE was the only specialist domestic violence provider in the City and formed part of a coordinated crisis response. RISE had disabled-friendly refuge but this accommodated families often with younger children and complex needs and so was not usually the best option for older people other than in an emergency.

8.28 It had a dedicated helpline and also outreach services in areas of Whitehawk and Moulsecoomb which is now a citywide resource though with

limited capacity due to funding ending. Community outreach was the best way to work with older people and this had also been done successfully in partnership in Turner and Eastern Road areas. RISE provided preventative education in schools on healthy relationships and young people's groups. A recent development has been a group for young people who are aggressive in their relationships and a Carers' group that runs alongside this.

8.29 Rise worked together with the Safeguarding Adults Team and the Domestic Violence coordinator of the Community Safety team and was helping develop policies and protocols on domestic violence and vulnerable adults including a checklist and flowchart for professionals.

8.30 Ms Gray said there needed to be a level of risk assessment including for carers' schemes. Raising awareness was key and RISE was providing training and talks to local groups targeting older people. Feedback from these group said that leaflets should be printed in accessible and suitable formats and a Compact Disk (CD) for easy use would be useful. However more could be done.

8.31 Ms Gray stated that most domestic abuse victims have to leave home while the perpetrator remains. She said there was a need for housing for older people who had experienced domestic violence. She said in her opinion domestic abuse should be included in a cross-cutting older people's strategy and older people's safety included prominently within the older people's housing strategy.

Rise Helpline is 622822. Rise website is www.riseuk.org.uk

8.32 On behalf of the Panel the Chairman thanked all the speakers for their helpful information.

9. Discussion/questions from members of the public

9.1 A member of the public asked what could be done for older people who had neighbours who made them feel unsafe? The meeting heard that there was active working on anti-social behaviour between tenants associations, neighbourhood policing and Police Community Support Officers. A direct call line was available to give a rapid response.

9.2 Answering another question, the officers would investigate producing 'No cold calling' door stickers.

10. Future Panel meetings, Brighton Town Hall

10.1 It was agreed to start the final two meetings earlier; start times would now be:

10.30am 3 July and
1.30pm 10 July

10.2 Future probable/possible information

- a) Alcohol-related Incidents and Crime
- b) Feedback on Older People's Mental Health Team following evidence on 24 April
- c) Community Engagement and older people
- d) Feedback from 60+ Action Group
- e) 50+ Programme Annual report
- f) Older people from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities and Community safety
- g) Policing re Older People in the Community

The meeting concluded at 1.30pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

APPENDIX 4

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE AD HOC PANEL - OLDER PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY
SAFETY**

10.30am 3 JULY 2009

COMMITTEE ROOMS 2/3, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Marsh (Chairman), Kennedy, Smart and Watkins,

Co-optee: John Eyles (Older People's Council)

PART ONE

9. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

a Declarations of Substitutes

Substitutes are not allowed on Scrutiny panels

b Declarations of Interests

Councillor Smart said he had formerly been a trustee of Hangleton and Knoll Project.

c Declaration of Party Whip

There were none.

d Exclusion of Press and Public

In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in section 100I (1) of the said Act.

RESOLVED: That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

10. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

12.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May were signed by the Chair.

11. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

11.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Members of the public who wanted to make a comment or ask a

question were requested to say if they were speaking for themselves or on behalf of an organisation.

12. ALCOHOL AND OLDER PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY SAFETY

12.1 Lead Commissioner for Mental Health Simon Scott, NHS Brighton and Hove, spoke to the Panel about the impact of alcohol across the City on people above 50 years old. He said there was evidence to show that the most prolific users of alcohol unhealthily, was the 50+ age group and resources were being allocated to addressing this via the Joint Commissioning Board, chaired by Councillor Ken Norman.

12.2 It was not uncommon for people to underestimate by half the amount of alcohol they drink. It was thought that the group in the general population who drink most above the recommended levels of alcohol are 50+ old and living on a low income in social housing.

12.3 Unlike smoking for which the clear and simple message is to stop smoking; the alcohol message is not necessarily to abstain but to drink in moderation and there was not one single message to send out for all parts of the community. Unhealthy drinking over a number of years has a physiological impact especially on liver kidneys and the brain (cognition) which accrues over time.

12.4 Over a single year there was thought to have been a 17% rise in alcohol-related hospital admissions including falling, fighting and domestic violence or, more commonly, adverse effects on physical health.

12.5 Falls and alcohol can be more associated with older people, whose mobility can be more affected, than younger people. Existing information did not show the extent to which older people were victims of alcohol misuse but it was likely that even hearing younger people drinking laughing and shouting would not aid an older person's sense of wellbeing.

12.6 Alcohol was an disinhibitor of violence and reduced constraints around social behaviour. Violence in the home was a serious concern for the city.

12.7 Brighton & Hove was known to have significantly more alcohol-related problems than the national and south east region averages, and other seaside towns.

12.8 Answering questions the Lead Commissioner said alcohol was associated with the young onset of dementia. Existing dementia services were seeing people younger and younger and there was not optimism about a cure.

12.9 Prompt early action was needed but this was difficult when alcohol was widely available and ridiculously cheap, he said. The cheaper the alcohol is, the more it was consumed.

12.10 Alcohol was a relaxant and depressant but excessive misuse exacerbated depression. The use of alcohol could affect a healthy sleep pattern, leading to poorer ability to cope.

12.11 Low income, below £10,000, was a key factor associated with greater use of alcohol and anxiety and depression were also interlinked. Asked about reasons there was no other known explanation, other than the social circumstances that older people can find themselves in. Intelligence was poor as to why people drink but there is anecdotal evidence that social isolation can lead to drinking at home. The Cheers!? Project to be described later at this meeting, would help to shed light on this, said the Lead Commissioner.

12.12 The Lead Commissioner outlined a recent alcohol-related initiative: Firstly to understand what is healthy drinking and persuade people to drink healthily. Social marketing to young people was now to be extended to people over 50 years. Interviews were being held on 24 July re tenders for social marketing to older people and NHS would like a volunteer to serve on the panel. Older People's Council co-optee John Eyles agreed to do this.

12.13 Secondly a series brief interventions sessions were being arranged for people drinking at a harmful level, to encourage more sensible drinking patterns. This contract has been let to a voluntary sector organisation.

12.14 Thirdly focussed intervention was being provided on the hospital ward to a dependent group for whom alcohol is known to be a problem for example domestic violence offenders/victims, public place violent crime perpetrators, and other people presenting to hospital. Those over 50 were likely to form a large part of this group.

12.15 The Chair thanked the Lead Commissioner for his helpful information.

12.16 The Chair welcomed Cheers!? Steering Group member Angela Flood, International Development Manager, working across City Council Adult Social Care and NHS Brighton and Hove. Her work was also related to the development at city level of the World Health Organization's Healthy Cities Programme. A 4-page summary of the Cheers!? project had been distributed to the Panel.

12.17 Cheers!? A project about older people and alcohol, was a joint research project between Age Concern, the University of Brighton School of Applied Social Science, NHS Brighton and Hove, the City Council and the Drug and Alcohol Team and was funded through the Brighton and Sussex Community Knowledge Exchange. It was carried out because alcohol and older people was seen as a neglected area of research, policy and practice – the focus had been on young people's drinking - and the reasons for older people's drinking were not well documented.

12.18 The project, built on a previous scoping study carried out by the Health & Social Policy Research Centre enabled older people themselves to carry out the research and included representation from the Older People's Council.

The research findings were disseminated at a special launch event on 11 June and the project also won the University of Brighton's Research and Innovation Award for 2009, attracting further funding to develop the research.

12.19 Drinking should not always be seen as negative but could have a negative impact from the point of view of health, social life and relationships with family and friends. The Brighton and Hove night-time economy, aimed at younger people, was linked to economic development but ageing can exclude older people from certain locations and some areas were perceived to be unsafe. Perceptions can have a powerful impact on behaviour, potentially leading to an increase in social isolation.

12.20 The availability of low-cost alcohol, sometimes cheaper than bottled water, and higher drinks costs in pubs and restaurants could lead to more solitary drinking at home. Negative uses of alcohol tended to decrease for those with an active social life.

12.21 Some older people who feel their drinking is becoming a problem will seek help; however, some GPs may feel reluctant to raise this sensitive and confidential subject and possibly risk spoiling their relationship with the patient. The needs of older people which are overlooked within the general population, are likely to be worse for those who are already marginalised.

12.22 Main findings from the study which impacted adversely on drinking habits:

- Feelings of exclusion/social isolation
- Life transition points can trigger drinking (e.g. bereavement, unemployment, retirement)
- Current and previous lifestyles ('hanging onto youth')
- Cost and easy availability of alcohol
- Inactive social life
- Night time drinking economy affects perceptions of safety (e.g. 'no-go' areas)
- Leisure spaces aimed at younger people

12.23 Strategies and policies should be interlinked and planned collaboratively to provide an overall holistic approach to the needs of an ageing population.

12.24 A member of the public said that older people can also be fearful in their own homes (for example fear of users of drugs and alcohol in high-rise flats) in addition to certain places from which they feel excluded. Another member of the public said that many women feel isolated at home in the evenings as they are scared to go out.

12.25 Some panel members felt there were not enough suitable social meeting places where older people would feel comfortable.

12.26 The International Development Manager said that older people could be fearful of something that had happened in the past which would have an impact on their perceptions of safety and future social mobility.

12.27 Publicans could play a key role in offering good, reasonably priced food so that establishments provided a social not just a drinking-only environment. Ideally, the City should be age-friendly; a place where all ages should feel comfortable and included.

12.28 The Head of Community Safety reminded the Panel that there is clear information that older people are least likely to be victims of crime. She would be happy to speak to community groups including the Women's Institute

12.29 The Chair thanked the International Development Manager for her helpful information.

13. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OLDER PEOPLE

13.1 The Community Engagement Improvement Officer circulated a copy of her presentation. The Community Engagement Framework had been developed for use city-wide and not only across the Council.

13.2 There had already been much good practice but some poor practice in community engagement work in the city. Before starting any engagement activity it was important to research what had already been done in the area.

13.3 There was a need to learn from experience and improve quality and coordination of engagement activity. It was important to be clear and honest when engaging with communities; if there were no extra resources, then that information should be included.

13.4 Many local organisations and groups already had good relations and know their client groups within communities, and should be engaged in the process at the outset. Members noted that there were well-established existing ways of communicating – such as 'The Pensioner', 'Grey Matters' and 'City News.'

13.5 The Community Engagement Improvement Officer reminded the meeting of the Duty to Involve and said that there was a commitment to respect and build upon existing structures and organisations. This would be a gradual process that would take time but it shouldn't be assumed that anything new was needed.

13.6 Some Members had the impression that, having completed many surveys over the years, there were no results to show.

13.7 The comment was made that older people were likely to prefer information to be provided in paper form.

13.8 A Member of the public felt that older people preferred a physical presence at a help desk rather than use the phone, a publication or the internet. For example the Pensioners' Service was a low-level and effective

service available at libraries. A database of all older, vulnerable or isolated people in the City might be helpful for the local statutory authorities to know of their existence in cases of emergency and to help older people to feel included, he said.

13.9 The Head of Housing Management would reply to the Panel.

13.10 The Chair thanked the Community Engagement Improvement Officer for her presentation and handout.

14. ANNUAL REPORT OF 50+ PROGRAMME

With the agreement of the Chair this item was postponed to the following meeting.

15. RACIAL HARASSMENT AND OLDER PEOPLE

15.1 The Senior Racial Harassment caseworker reminded the meeting that the Partnership Community Safety Team (PCST) was a partnership of the Brighton & Hove Council with the Sussex Police, the Racial Harassment Forum, the Domestic Violence Forum, and the LGBT communities. Some members of the Team were employed by the Council and others were employed by the Police.

15.2 She said together the team worked to reduce racist and religiously motivated crimes and incidents. The aims of the service included increasing reported incidents, ensuring victims and witnesses are fully supported and building their confidence in the criminal justice systems.

15.3 The Senior Racial Harassment Caseworker tabled a briefing on Racist and Religiously Motivated Incidents and Older People, available to view on request. She emphasised that the definition of racist/religiously motivated incident was intended to empower the victim; it was for the recipient to determine what was inappropriate and unwanted behaviour.

15.4 In some incidents there may be direct verbal racial hostility demonstrated by the perpetrator/s and in other cases the incidents may not be accompanied by direct racist abuse and the victim / witness or a third party may have attach a perception that 'these things are done to them' because of their race / faith / ethnicity / culture / colour / language / nationality etc. Prejudice is taken into account in their investigation of the incident by Police, Schools, NHS and employers, both statutory and private. Actions against the perpetrator / s are evidence led.

15.5 Incidents could be verbal or physical violence in the home or in the neighbourhood or in other public domain.

15.6 As shown in the PCST scoping report (available to view on request and circulated to the Panel previously) there was evidence to show that older people in general were less likely to report incidents than younger people. There were additional barriers to reporting racially motivated incidents such as language capacity, and fear of backlash. Surges in incidents occurred for example after the July 2005 London bombing and failed London bombing.

During such politically turbulent times minority communities were known to restrict their mobility and also expect incidents/ abuse and may not report incidents, believing it to be normal. Older people may fear a backlash more than younger people.

15.7 Older people may be targeted due to their race or because of more than one identity for example BME, disabled, and sexual orientation. The statistics presented in the paper accounted for the racist and religiously motivated incidents only.

15.8 At present, available data showed the types of incident against ethnicity for all people and did not distinguish between older and younger people. Around a quarter of incidents were directed at Asian people and around a quarter against white ethnic groups.

15.9 Racial and Religiously Motivated Incidents can be experienced by anyone, not necessarily from an ethnic group – for example by association with partner, children or friend.

15.10 Current work in progress by the Racial Harassment caseworkers included advocacy and casework support. This could be done by meeting at a person's home, which was especially relevant for older people. There used to be drop-in Neighbourhood Surgeries in East Brighton, Turner and Central Hove. Language or sign interpreter, could be provided if needed and information about available services and reporting forms had been translated.

15.11 The Senior Racial Harassment Caseworker gave an example of successful work with Chinese older people in Brighton & Hove. The Chinese Community in the city was larger than the national average and represented around 0.5% of the population. There were many older people, many have issues around English language capacity, work in family owned shops/takeaways/are front line workers, and many had limited access to services. The Partnership Community Safety Team had translated the reporting forms in Cantonese and Mandarin and worked in partnership with a community organisation called 'Chinese Information Pilot' to effectively access Chinese older people. Recently a visit by Chinese elders was organised to the police station together with information on rights and how to report incidents with a view to increasing trust and confidence in the community. This has led to increased reporting levels.

15.12 The PCST attended and took stalls to relevant events of the minority communities and neighbourhoods. This has led to increased reporting and improved mechanisms and access to services.

15.13 Councillor Smart said he was serving on a local steering group concerning the Bangladeshi community and asked if this was a citywide process.

15.14 A member of the public said that although she contacted the police and local councillors with concerns about community safety, these were not

always followed up. Councillor Watkins said that elected Members should be informed about incidents in their own wards.

15.15 The Senior Harassment Casework said that local councillors would only be informed about individual incidents with the consent of the client.

15.16 A Pan Sussex Racist Incident Report form was tabled at the meeting. This was for use by all organisations to record racist and religiously motivated incidents and then send the completed forms to the Partnership Community Safety Team (PCST) for monitoring and casework. Individuals could go to any organisation and fill in form thus increasing access to the reporting and casework services. This also meant that people could report at locations other than the police station. For example St Richards, Hangleton & Knoll Project, MOSAIC etc. were trained to be a reporting centre so people do not need to go to the City – can use existing staff. Individuals could also directly complete self reporting forms or contact the team to report incidents.

15.17 Casework services could help individuals if they gave their names and contact details. The Partnership Community Safety Team monitored levels and trends of incidents and reporting systems enable people to report anonymously, should they wish. On the central database, some 60% of reports come from the police – the remainder from other organisations including PCST which accounts for around 15 – 20%. Other organisations were now submitting more reports.

15.18 Asked by a member of the public about reporting to Crimestoppers the Head of Community Safety said local organisations should be used. Older people who were victims of RRMI were often not able to telephone and speak in English. The right local agency trust and confidence is important. Access is complex issue.

15.19 The Chair said people did not always know who to contact to get information or report incidents. Local Councillors were not always directly contactable. Councillor Marsh said she thought a printed publication aimed at older people would be helpful. The Internet was not the favoured tool of the elderly.

15.20 Members thanked the Senior Racial Harassment Case Worker for her presentation and especially for good outreach work.

16. SUMMARY AND NEXT MEETING; 10 JULY, 1.30PM BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

The Chair thanked all the contributors to the meeting and invited members of the public to the following meeting, being held at 1.30pm on 10th July in Brighton Town Hall.

The meeting concluded at 1.15pm

APPENDIX 5

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE AD HOC PANEL - OLDER PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY
SAFETY**

1.30pm 10 JULY 2009

COMMITTEE ROOMS 2/3, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Marsh (Chairman), Kennedy and Watkins,

Co-optee: John Eyles (Older People's Council)

PART ONE

17. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

18a Declarations of Substitutes

Councillor Smart had given his apologies. Substitutes are not allowed on Scrutiny panels

18b Declarations of Interests

There were none.

18c Declaration of Party Whip

There were none.

18d Exclusion of Press and Public

In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in section 100I (1) of the said Act.

RESOLVED: That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

19.1 The Chair stated that the draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 July were not yet published. Anyone who wanted to receive a copy could leave their contact details on the attendance sheet left in the public gallery.

19.2 Sergeant Castleton gave additional information following the previous meeting; the Police Equality Working Group had identified a pattern of racial harassment for older people; for people up to 60 years old, there were more men than women reporting racial harassment; after 60 years old there were more women than men reporting racial harassment.

19. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

20.1 The Panel noted that the Annual Report 2008 – 2009 of the Older People's Council had been circulated with the agenda.

20.2 Councillor Marsh had attended the Community Safety Forum (CSF) meeting on Monday 6 July as Chair of the Coombe Road LAT. There she found out that there had been a commitment to hold a Scrutiny Panel meeting in Portslade and Hangleton areas and she had been unaware of this. Councillor Marsh quoted in full the extract from the 9 March CSF minutes:

“44.1 The Head of Community Safety presented a report on the Scrutiny of Community Safety and Older People and stated that this was the first issue that had been referred from the Community Safety Forum onto an Overview & Scrutiny Committee agenda.

She stated that meetings to discuss the issues were taking place on 24 April at the Valley Social Centre, 22 May at Hove Town Hall and 3 July at Brighton Town Hall. As many agencies and community organisations as possible were being invited to submit information.

44.2 A member of the Forum asked whether the focus on tackling crime should be shifted to a focus on the prevention of crime, which was more in line with Sussex Police policies. The member felt a proactive approach was needed to ensure community safety. The Head of Community Safety stated that all issues around this subject would be discussed and a report would be produced with recommendations for action that could be taken forward by the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).

44.3 Councillor Barnett asked that a further meeting be arranged in either Portslade or Hangleton to allow people from those areas to attend more easily. The Head of Community Safety agreed and stated that meetings would be arranged in both of these areas.

44.4 A member of the Forum welcomed the work being done, but highlighted that safety for disabled people needed to be addressed as well. The Head of Community Safety stated that this piece of work had a specific focus on older people, but noted that work had begun on addressing the issue of community safety for those with disabilities and those who experienced hate crimes, which was recognised as a highly

important piece of work and would be taken forward later on in the year.

44.5 A member of the Forum welcomed this information and asked that GEMS was included as well when taking forward the work on community safety for those with disabilities and those who experienced hate crimes. The member asked whether baseline levels of crime would be established before work began on this report. The Head of Community Safety confirmed that baselines would be established and where possible targets would be set and recommendations produced.

44.6 Councillor Watkins stated that the scrutiny panel set up to examine Community Safety of Older people was time and financially limited and noted that this was a large subject to scrutinise. He asked for assurances from the Chairman that full support would be given to the recommendations and outcomes. The Chairman agreed and stated that she fully supported the scrutiny of this issue.

44.7 A member of the Forum raised the issue of material being accessible for older people and the Head of Community Safety stated that all literature about the subject would take into consideration its target audience and be accessible for all.”

20.3 Councillor Marsh said that safety for disabled people and hate crimes were important pieces of work that the Scrutiny Panel had not had an opportunity to investigate although relevant organisations had been invited to contribute information to the scrutiny review.

20.4 Asked about monitoring the safety of minority groups Sergeant Peter Castleton said that number of crimes against all older people were low and reduced significantly as people got older, irrespective of other identities such as ethnicity or sexuality. This would be partly because many older people tended not to put themselves in situations where they might become vulnerable and partly for other reasons; for example there were now more older BME workers in frontline services. People were not vulnerable because they were older, per se.

20.5 Councillor Marsh asked that Councillor Dee Simson Chair of Community Safety Forum and Cabinet Member for be kept informed of progress with the scrutiny review.

20. 50+ PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT (POSTPONED FROM 3 JULY)

21.1 The Head of Housing Management outlined her role as the Council’s Adult Social Care and Housing link to the scrutiny review and outlined the Community development work at the Bristol Estate, situated north of the Royal Sussex County Hospital, that had been described at the Panel’s first

scoping meeting. This work to tackle anti social behaviour issues on the estate, had been funded jointly by Housing Management and the Police.

21.2 Research into the initial outcomes of the work showed that feelings of safety increased and general satisfaction with the Estate had been improved. For the first time, people now wanted to move to the Estate rather than avoid it. Further research was now under way with a 100% survey being carried out.

21.3 The Panel asked for the data to be added to the evidence received, especially information on links between age and feelings of safety on the Bristol Estate.

21.4 The Head of Housing Management also introduced the annual report of the 50+ Community Programme. This team of workers and volunteers from a range of services and voluntary organisations delivered services to support people aged 50 and over in the Queens Park Ward, Craven Vale and Hangleton and Knoll areas. It is led and funded by Brighton & Hove City Council jointly with the Primary Care Trust in line with the Local Area Agreement and most projects had exceeded the annual targets

21.5 The Panel had heard evidence on 24 April from the Neighbourhood Care Scheme NCS – a citywide scheme which helped people stay active alert and involved and actively put people in touch with each other. NCS also helped strengthen links and develop trust between older and younger generations and helped maintain older peoples' independence and resilience. The Head of Housing Management said NCS was a prime example of a scheme that required relatively low resourcing compared with high benefits for both volunteers and older people.

21.6 There was reassuring evidence from evaluation of people's feelings, that 50+ Community Programme activities are having a positive effect, so resourcing is continuing for this year. However funding from one year to the next may not allow for the best value from community development projects because these take time to establish. The Panel may wish to encourage the mainstreaming in partnership, of successful community projects to enable future stability of resourcing.

21.7 The Panel were aware of the 3- year discretionary grant funding process and the considerable skills that organisations needed in order to attract additional funds. Members felt that there was scope to work more closely in partnership, to improve the sustainability of community development projects that help maintain older people's feelings of safety, resilience and independence

21.8 Asked about the effect of the Council's housing allocations policy on the ability to keep families within close contact the Head of Housing Management said that with choice-based lettings, people can say where they would like to go, but as the city has limited social housing it could take a long time for people to get their preference. Officers could help older people

without social networks to move, to release family sized homes and there were good news stories of how older people's lives had been changed in this way.

21.9 A Member of the public asked about the success of choice-based lettings for older people and heard that this was being reviewed.

21.10 Members of the public asked about coverage of the community projects in the Programme and heard that the Bristol Estate project was in a neighbourhood renewal area but had not been included in the New Deal for Communities Neighbourhood Regeneration Programme. Therefore together with the police separate prevention work had been arranged for the estate. Hangleton and Knoll and Queens Park/Craven Vale were selected because of the Local Area Agreement priorities based on the highest proportion of older people and levels of deprivation, which were key areas of interaction with Primary Care Trust.

22. FEEDBACK RE EVIDENCE FROM OLDER PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH TEAM

22.1 As requested by the scrutiny panel, the Head of Community Safety reported back from the 24 April meeting which had heard evidence from officers from the Older People Mental Health team. The officers worked with older people with alzheimers or dementia who live in their own homes, privately rented or social housing and who, in rare cases, could be victims of crime because of mental ill health.

22.2 Despite cases being rare, the Panel did have a high level of concern because incidents could be serious and because of the possible vulnerability to abuse by carers who may be family members, or others. A potential victim would not necessarily be protected from a potential perpetrator and so may be preyed upon by a burglar or drug dealer befriending them and identifying their home as a place to use as a drug den; a relatively new crime known as cuckooing.

22.3 Statutory services did protect the needs of this small but very vulnerable group however only limited joint working between Adult Social Care and Community Safety Team had been done to put in place extra prevention and protection actions and strategies.

22.4 The Head of Community Safety reported she was one of the senior managers serving on the Safeguarding Adults Board which works with Police Representatives, and senior Health and Adult Social Care Managers. An action plan being drafted in consultation with police colleagues in the coming weeks would soon be reported to the Community Safety Forum.

22.5 Council lawyers were now using new powers, in joint operations with police, housing, landlords and the community safety team to deal with closure of premises in this type of case, especially where the resident was the victim.

The victim who was unable to protect him/herself could then go to appropriate accommodation and the offenders suitably dealt with.

22.6 Sergeant Castleton stressed that only rarely were significant powers used and then only as a last resort.

22.7 A Member of the public representing a residents association said she had been concerned about cuckooing it had taken too long to secure premises; she heard that the new protocols and working arrangements would speed up the process.

22.8 The Panel were pleased at the important work being done with care and consideration to safeguard older vulnerable people on their own premises, and that serious offenders faced the full force of the law. Members felt that this work could be shared with other local authorities.

22.9 A representative of a Tenants and Residents Association made a number of points;

- can a speaker visit his area, to reassure senior citizens about community safety and fear of crime
- nobody would know if someone with a mental illness had been allocated sheltered housing accommodation
- was community safety funding available for his area

22.10 Sergeant Castleton said mental health varied widely from minor issues to serious conditions requiring people to be 'sectioned' under the Mental Health Act; detained for treatment against their will. The Head of Housing Management replied that there was a new requirement in the Single Assessment Process for a community care assessment including mental health needs, before someone moves into sheltered accommodation. This information was shared with Sheltered Housing.

22.11 As regards fear of crime, Sergeant Castleton told the meeting that until recently this had tended to be overlooked. However actual crime levels had fallen to such an extent that this and perceptions of crime, anti-social behaviour and crime prevention measures for example design of the built environment had become more important areas of work.

22.12 The Head of Community Safety said that additional Local Action Teams could be set up. There were currently 38 and the number was growing. It was challenging for only 4-5 officers to attend all LAT evening meetings but information and support was available and LAT representatives could be co-opted onto the Community Safety Forum.

22.13 The Chair encouraged people to be involved in their LAT, where community safety issues could be raised.

22.14 Representatives of the Women's Institute and the Pensioner's Forum said that older people's fears about safety can extend to dying alone in their own homes. The Head of Housing Management said that one of values of the

50+ Community Programme was to reach large numbers of older people. The Neighbourhood Care scheme did try to identify and then support older people who may feel isolated. A Council officer was available to arrange and attend a funeral service where there was no-one else to do this.

22.15 The Head of Community Safety said this question was only on the border of community safety. The Panel could simply recommend a process whereby someone can refer an older person for an assessment of their needs. This process already worked well but perhaps greater publicity would be helpful.

22.16 A Member of the public felt that face to face contact with the public was especially important for older people. The Head of Housing Management said issues could largely be resolved by phone to make best use of resources. Not everyone needed a full care assessment and face to face help was available for more far-reaching matters.

23. POLICING STRATEGY

23.1 Police Sergeant Peter Castleton handed out copies of the Local Policing Plan for Sussex 2009 – 2012 and explained to the Panel how it impacted on older people. The approach to Neighbourhood policing was:

- Being visible and accessible (enhanced teams in neighbourhoods, the public influencing our priorities and building confidence)
- Working with communities (Managing demand, enhancing supervision and delivering effective interventions) and
- Providing a quality response (building strong relationships, achieving best outcomes through partnerships and communicating effectively)

23.2 He said there was not a police officer at every corner. However the police were more accessible and visible than ever before and made professional judgements about the best policing programme. The Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) provided a high quality response.

23.3 PCSOs worked closely with communities and Local Action Teams and with older people because they often had more time. PCSOs could signal crimes such as damage to benches and this impacts on people's feelings of safety and actual safety because criminals tended to operate in areas perceived to be lawless.

23.4 Inspector Delacour said people's confidence depended on the ability of the service to deal with matters but acknowledged that an older person may regard a 'quality response' differently compared with a younger person.

23.5 He referred to bogus callers who tended to prey on older more vulnerable people with minimum defence. They remained a day or two in an area and then moved on.

23.6 Neighbourhood Watch tended to be populated by people at home during the day, often older people being good neighbours. The service was moving away from phone- to internet-based.

23.7 Turning to a potential gap between generations he said young people need to understand better the impact they can have on others. Conversely many older people without contact with children and younger people needed to understand the younger generation better.

23.8 He said he would like to encourage older people into schools to explain how they feel about groups of children in the streets. The Panel may wish to make a recommendation on this.

23.9 Free upgrade to locks could be provided for older people without the means to do the work themselves. Advice could be given to individuals about personal safety and how to conduct themselves when out at night. Older people were least likely to become victims but they could take extra precautions, for instance with their personal belongings, he said.

23.10 As part of Sussex Police Consultation strategy, an Independent Advisory Group advises the police on the impact of critical incidents and the Police were seeking an independent person from the older community to serve on this. The Panel felt that the Older People's Council were well placed to nominate an independent older person.

23.11 Inspector Delacour said the Police were looking at other ways to contact people without access to the internet. The monthly newsletter 'The Patrol' was placed in accessible places such as doctors' surgeries.

23.12 The conduct of most young people was fine and this message needed to be promoted. For instance at Hangleton Local Action Team, Members of the Youth Council as well as older people were given a presentation. This involvement of Younger people was specially welcomed by the Panel.

23.12 Members also preferred the paper newsletter for older readers as otherwise people without use of the internet missed out on latest developments. There was concern about the move of Neighbourhood Watch to internet-based and a suggestion that older people be provided with a computer.

23.13 Mr Eyles OPC Co-optee to the scrutinypanel remarked that communications was vital. Neighbourhood Watch was one source of information. However not all publications covered the whole of the City.

23.14 Inspector Delacour said there would be a communications and media centre at police headquarters in Lewes. While there were overarching community safety messages to be communicated over the whole Division, detailed information needed to be addressed to specific areas at a very local neighbourhood level.

23.15 A Chair of a Residents Association stated that even though young people may not intend harm, even playing loud music or driving fast around the block can have much more serious consequences for older people than for younger people. There needed to be much wider recognition that older and vulnerable people were likely to have different needs and reduced tolerance levels. Earlier intervention was necessary in those cases, he said.

23.16 Another person in the public gallery said older people who have issues or concerns wanted to be better recognised and respected by public sector services. He felt that PCSOs and Neighbourhood officers should be issued with standardised business cards linked with incident numbers recorded at a call centre.

23.17 Inspector Delacour said a message could be left for a PCSO at the call centre in Lewes if have the name and number are known. There was a facility on the Operational Information System which recognised a person by name from the phone number; however this was accessible only by a named senior police officer. Referrals from Adult Social Care system would be useful for example where a person was unable to speak and was feasible for some vulnerabilities. A person's phone number could be added to the OIS at the request of ASC or a relative but not all information on the ASC database could be transferred to the OIS. Officers would investigate possible options.

23.18 A questioner from the Women's Institute asking about police coverage of Preston Park and Patcham which were not generally regarded as deprived areas, heard that problems could occur anywhere. Preston Park LAT held regular meetings with PCSOs. A local councillor or local police officer could be invited to a WI meeting.

23.19 Inspector Delacour said each Neighbourhood policing area – West, East and Central had a Police Sergeant/Inspector and 20 PCSOs who integrated into the community and gathered neighbourhood information. In addition there was 24-hour police coverage for the city plus CID and other police-force-based teams.

23.20 More than 95% of police work did not involve the use of a warrant card

23.21 The Panel had received comments that older people wanted to see 'more bobbies on the beat.' However having heard evidence today, the Panel wished to collectively enforce the message that 95% of policing is about other work. There was praise for their local PCSOs from several members of the public.

23.22 A representative of the Pensioners Forum asked about providing locks for older people and it was confirmed that there was a fund to provide deadlocks where there was a need, based on a person's vulnerability.

23.23 Asked when it was appropriate to dial 999 or the general police line Inspector Delacour acknowledged that it was sometimes impossible to distinguish between high spirits and real emergencies. Officers would go

where they thought there would be a problem. False alarms were preferable to ignoring serious incidents.

23.24 There was a comment from the public gallery that reinforced the view that there were many rowdy behaviour incidents and while these may not be unlawful they can make older people feel uncomfortable or unsafe and impact on their quality of life. Everyone would become an older person and the ageing process can affect sight, hearing, mobility and perceptions.

23.25 The Chair thanked the police officers and all the speakers who had contributed to this meeting.

24. AREAS OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS

24.1 The Panel sketched out its main headline areas of recommendations and agreed to hold an informal meeting not in public, on 11 August. This would be to consider a first draft report with the intention of reporting back to the parent Committee, the Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 September.

24.2 A member of the public asked for information on smoke alarms.

The meeting concluded at 4.45pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

APPENDIX 6

List of Scrutiny Panel meetings

Scoping Meeting - 23 January 2009

Agree Chairman – note remit of Panel – agree publicity and press release – contacting older people and groups – Letter from Age Concern

Scoping Meeting - 20 March 2009

Receive PCST Scoping report and PCST papers on details of services for older people – agree witnesses and scope: contacting the vulnerable elderly, fear of crime, alcohol-related crimes and incidents, domestic violence and elder abuse and burglary artifice.

Valley Social Centre, Whitehawk, Meeting in public - 24 April 2009

Evidence from:
Age Concern
Neighbourhood Care Scheme
Older People's Mental Health Team

Hove Town Hall, Meeting in public - 22 May 2009

Evidence from:
Cllr Dee Simson, Cabinet Member
Trading Standards
Refuge Information Support and Education (Formerly Women's Refuge)

Brighton Town Hall, Meeting in public - 3 July 2009

Evidence from:
Lead Commissioner for Mental Health Services, NHS Brighton & Hove
Board Member - Cheers!? Alcohol project
Community Engagement Framework Improvement Officer
Senior Racial Harassment Caseworker

Brighton Town Hall, Meeting in public -10 July 2009

Evidence from:
Head of Housing Management
Head of Community Safety
Representatives of Sussex Police

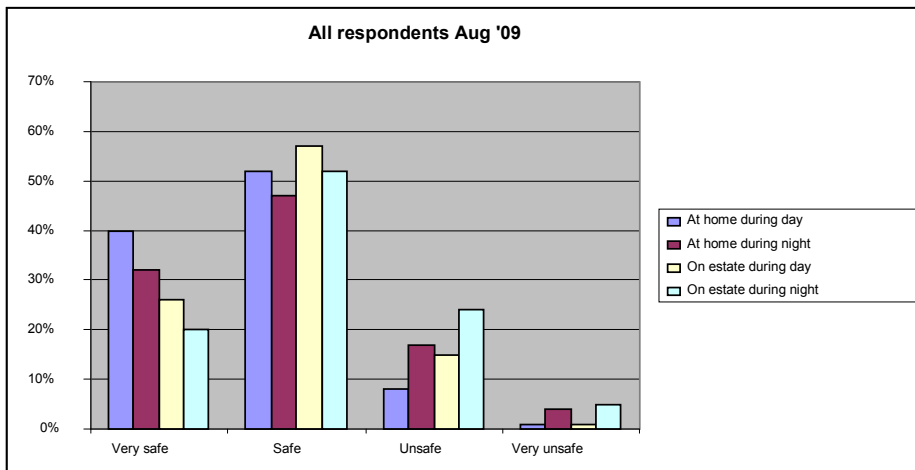
APPENDIX 7

Survey of outcomes of Community Development at Bristol Estate

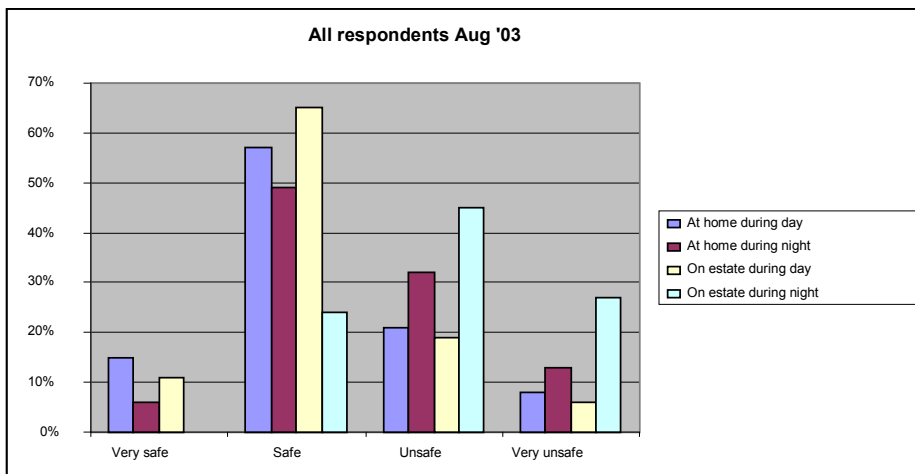
Residents on the Bristol Estate were surveyed before community development support, and then annually, being asked: How safe do you feel – At home during the day; At home during the night; On the estate during the day and On the estate during the night?

The latest survey results (August '09; see graph A below) show high percentages of households feeling safe or very safe, with households of people over 50 years of age (which relates to about a third of all households) showing little difference from all households. See graph C below.

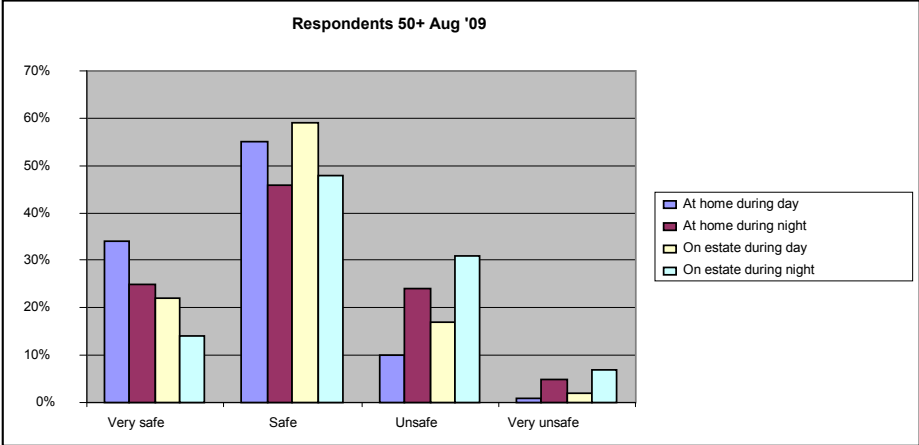
This compares with August 2003 when there were fewer households feeling safe or very safe and more households feeling unsafe or very unsafe as shown in graph B below. This 2003 survey data was not disaggregated by age.



A. Feelings of safety in August 2009 for all households who replied



B. Feelings of safety in August 2003 for all households who replied



C. Feelings of safety in August 2009 for households of people aged 50+.

*Andy Silsby
Community Development Consultant
Serendipity Enterprising Solutions CIC*

APPENDIX 8

Other Information Received by the Panel

1. SHAG Sheltered Housing Action Group

Introduction

Below is a submission to the Older People's Community Safety scrutiny panel from the Sheltered Housing Action Group. The group is made up of tenants from across the city that live in Brighton & Hove City Council sheltered housing.

Representatives were asked to list what older people's main concerns about community safety are and what could improve matters. 26 tenants from 18 schemes took part in the consultation.

Findings

Two areas were considered a priority for older people: more police on the street and more action and information on elder abuse.

Increased Police Presence

This was the most popular suggestion for improving community safety for older people particularly at night and in known trouble spots. It was thought that this would also help reduce graffiti and vandalism.

Elder Abuse

Elder abuse and domestic violence was highlighted as a real concern for older people. It was mentioned that being 'bullied and picked on' by staff is a worry as is financial abuse.

The following are other suggestions made by group members:

- Better street lighting would improve community safety
- More secure windows on the ground floor of sheltered schemes
- Stop cars from parking on pavements and ramps, as wheelchair and scooter users have to go on to the road
- Excessive speeding in Winfield Avenue is extremely dangerous for residents when they cross from the bus stop, as there isn't a crossing. Also crossing the road near Hazelholt in North Portslade is a problem as it is such a busy road
- The failure of lifts and the time it takes to repair them is a problem for older people as is not getting a repair completed 'first time'

- Not having a call on a Sunday in sheltered schemes is an issue for some residents
- Door stop distraction / burglary is a concern for some older residents
- Alcohol and drug related incidents and crimes are a worry with incidents sometimes being the fault of visitors to the scheme rather than residents
- The fear of crime as opposed to actual crime was noted has having an impact on an older person's feeling of safety. It was suggested that an improvement in communication between council staff and residents could assist with this, as scheme managers are often aware of residents' fears and concerns
- Fire safety talks were suggested as a way to increase the feeling of safety within schemes
- CCTV to flats to allow tenants to see who is at their door was a recommendation from one scheme

2. 60+ Action Group

The only firm messages we have so far from our groups are that a) group members are more concerned about the state of municipal services, e.g. cracked pavements, inadequate street lighting, lack of handrails in strategic places, etc. than about crime, domestic violence or alcohol; and b) they want more "bobbies on the beat" – they say that the PCSOs are "not the same". We haven't had the opportunity to explore the latter in more depth in order to find out what PCs would provide compared to PCSOs – i.e. would they feel safer, and what makes them feel unsafe?

We did discover that members were actively hostile to a speaker from domestic violence services and determined this had nothing to do with them. I suspect alcohol issues might provoke the same reaction. Bearing in mind that the average age of our members is over 70, and the great majority are widowed women, I suspect they are too uncomfortable with this type of issue to talk openly about their experiences.

3. Summary of Telephone Comments from residents to the Panel (Referred to officers)

1. Numbers of police
2. Obstacles on pavement
3. Hours of Police Community Support Officers
4. Work of the Carer's Centre
5. 20 mph speed limit in town / residential areas and 40 mph speed limit on rural roads
6. Bicycle and cars obstacles on pavements
7. Feels threatened by young people out on Saturday nights
8. Phone kiosk vandalised
9. Drug dealing location
10. Night-time noise and shouting
11. Neighbour's behaviour
12. Road speed limit
13. Mobility of scooter on pavement
14. Safety and security advice/ older ethnic minorities issues
15. Elder women and domestic violence/ well-being issues
16. Reporting alcohol/drugs incidents
17. Drug dealing

4. Potential 'Doorstep Crime' or Rogue Trader incidents

To contact Consumer Direct South East, the Regional Consumer Advice Line and Rapid Action Team

Telephone 0845 040506

5. Domestic Violence: RISE Refuge Information Support and Education (Formerly Women's Refuge Centre)

Rise Helpline is 01273 - 622822. Rise website is www.riseuk.org.uk

6A. East Sussex Fire and Rescue Home Safety visits

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Home Safety visits are available to all members of the community. One of the most vulnerable and therefore largest target group for East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service are the elderly and disabled.

The visits are completely free and are carried out by dedicated teams and all Firefighters. The home safety visit provides a risk assessment and advice and safety in the home.

The teams can also refer the occupier on to partner agencies for assistance with matters other than Fire Safety. Where necessary smoke alarms will be fitted free of charge.

To arrange a visit call on 0800 1777069.

You will be asked a few simple questions to help us provide the right service based on the individuals needs.

6B. E-mail re Fire Assessments from Head of Community Safety, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service

e-mail to Mrs van Beinum
Scrutiny Support Officer (Older People and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel)

"Thank you for your enquiry. East Sussex Fire & Rescue recently launched the "Who Cares?" campaign. The campaign is specifically targeted at carers (both professional carers and others, such as family members or members of the community) . The aim of the campaign is to generate referrals to our long-standing home safety visit service. This service is free of charge and includes (where appropriate on safety grounds) the free fitting of smoke detectors.

The home safety visit scheme is widely advertised , in publications, new papers etc, it is regularly mentioned on local radio stations and always promoted in our press releases relating to relevant incidents. That said , it is a message that bears repeating and wide promulgation. ESFRS have produce a pack which has been provided to all our (fire) Boroughs for staff to use a tool with which to engage local care workers & their managers.

ESFRS has frequent contact with a wide variety of agencies in it's effort to identify the most vulnerable in the community, for example we have many referrals made to us by the Pensions Service. We recognise that older people are the amongst the MOST vulnerable and that is exacerbated where other conditions apply , such as living alone or where a person suffers physical or other impairments. ESFRS aim (across the Service area) to complete 11,000 home safety visits each year and in addition to our operational staff we have ten dedicated community safety advisors who are primarily engaged in this work. The Service has a target of 60% of all home safety visits to be conducted at homes where an occupier is regarded as 'vulnerable' . We are meeting this target but would like to target our resources better still. There is no doubt whatsoever in our minds that the most effective way of achieving better targeting is for other agencies (such as the BHCC) to refer to us individuals who most need our assistance.

The "Who Cares?" campaign was born of circumstances in which a number of individuals did their best to assist (by specifically looking at fire risk) a very vulnerable person. No-one thought of contacting the Fire & Rescue Service. That individual later died in a home fire. We very much need carers to contact us and not rely solely upon their own best efforts.

A recent inquest in to a fire death in Brighton has resulted in the HM Coroner writing to the City Council with a view to ensuring that vulnerable people are identified and best protected. That communication has a resonance with the

outcomes of a Serious Case Review (in respect of juvenile fire deaths) and a recommendation that relevant agencies consider the issue of fire risk for those individuals that they have contact with. ESFRS would like to see all care agencies include 'fire' within their various & individual assessments as a matter of standard practice.

ESFRS are able to monitor the number of referrals that are made to us by other organisations and by that means are able to identify of those organisations that are thinking seriously about fire risk.

I would be delighted to assist the scrutiny panel in any way that they consider to be helpful. I have spoken with the ESFRS (fire) Borough Commander for Brighton & Hove, Area Manager Keith Ring and he too is very willing to ensure that opportunities to identify the vulnerable are fully exploited.

I should add that in conducting home safety visits we are able to fit specialist equipment (usually free of charge) for people with impairments and in the most extreme cases of risk we will work with partners in considering fire suppression mechanisms such as sprinklers. During our home safety visits we often identify people who need the caring services from other agencies, we therefore, make reciprocal referrals to facilitate this.

Please do not hesitate to contact Keith Ring (email keith.ring@esfrs.org) or myself for further information. We would be pleased to arrange for a presentation to be made to the panel.

Regards

Chris Pascoe MA,BA | Head of Community Safety | Directorate of Prevention & Protection | East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters | 20 Upperton Road | Eastbourne | East Sussex | BN21 1EU | **Tel:** (01323) 462497 | **Fax:** (01323) 462044 | **Mobile:** 07949 285560 | **E-mail:** Chris.Pascoe@esfrs.org | **Web:** www.esfrs.org | “

As this matter is not directly within the remit of this scrutiny panel the Chair Councillor Mo Marsh has written to the Director of Adult Social Care and Housing, asking for a reply to ESFRS.

Implementing the recommendations from the scrutiny of Older People's Community Safety concerns

Recommendations	Response of Partnership Community Safety Team	Response of Primary Care Trust	Response from Adult Social Care & Housing
<p>1 – Information for older people The panel recommends that a purpose designed booklet be provided to older people in user-friendly format to engage and inform on community safety and keeping safe.</p>	<p>The PCST will work with Adult Social Care to produce a good quality handbook for Older People.</p>	<p>In July 2009 NHS Brighton and Hove and Brighton and Hove City Council (Adult Social Care) launched <i>Information Prescriptions</i> as a six month pilot scheme. The prescriptions are a tool that can be used for both health and social care staff and will help service users to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feel in control and independent; • gather information at an appropriate time, quickly and easily; • access information in a format that suits them; and • reduce the need to use health and social care services. <p>Information and advice about community safety could be included in the website.</p>	<p>ASC&H can contribute to the production of an information document, the content needs to be broader and examples of the publications used in Crawley and Mid Sussex and the Be Smart Be Safe Handbook were considered good practice.</p>
<p>2 – inter-generational initiatives The Panel recommends inter-generational initiatives to help raise awareness, build resilience and feelings of safety of older people and better understanding between different age groups.</p>	<p>The PCST will work with its partners, particularly those which deliver initiatives targeted at Young People, to introduce inter-generational work where appropriate.</p>	<p>The Healthy Ageing Sub-Network (including WHO Healthy Cities, Healthy Ageing Sub-Network) The Healthy Ageing Sub-Network is to include inter-generational development in their next development programme.</p> <p>NHS Brighton & Hove and Adult Social Care have are represented at the Centre for Intergenerational Practice which could be used to inform/develop initiatives.</p> <p>NHS Brighton & Hove and Adult Social Care are working together on a peer support development programme being developed under the National Dementia Strategy Demonstrator Site bid.</p>	<p>ASC&H can facilitate inter generational work, this happens on some Council Housing Estates and there have been links with schools and sheltered housing schemes.</p>

Implementing the recommendations from the scrutiny of Older People's Community Safety concerns

Recommendations	Response of Partnership Community Safety Team	Response of Primary Care Trust	Response from Adult Social Care & Housing
		This will cut across all ages and it may be possible to include issues about community safety for this vulnerable group.	
3 – Equalities Impact Assessments The Panel recommends Equalities Impact Assessments be brought forward with wide consultation with older people on policies/strategies of the Council and Partner organisations. This will help eliminate or minimise adverse impact on the mobility, independence and quality of life of older people and their ability to interact fully in society.	The PCST will incorporate assessments on the effect of its policies and practices, within its wider equalities impact assessment work.	NHS Brighton & Hove have a robust programme for reviewing all policies, procedures and commissioning decisions that currently includes older people. (This process is under review).	Equality Impact Assessments are carried out and these consider the impact on older people of policies and strategies. The monitoring of EIA's must ensure the relevant emphasis is given.
4 – Mainstreaming Successful Schemes The Panel recommends that the Neighbourhood Care Scheme, and other programmes shown to be successful in working with isolated vulnerable older people, be mainstreamed.	N/A	This will be considered alongside other priorities when commissioning services.	Annual funding can be problematic for some projects and some good work is lost when the monies available are for new initiatives. Mainstreaming could become part of the commissioning function to ensure VFM.
5 – Housing Policy The Panel recommends that the Council consider giving some priority for a move in an area near family or friends where support for an older person would be nearby.	N/A	N/A	The review of the choice based lettings system could enable applicants to be awarded priority in relation to their ability to offer or receive acknowledged support. This would mean people could then be housed in a certain area of the City, receive support from local people and minimise their dependency on services.
6 – Cold Calling The Panel recommends that to help combat doorstep crime, Trading Standards consider the introduction of 'no cold-calling' zones in areas identified from intelligence.	The PCST is in discussion with Trading Standards about whether or not this work can be implemented.	N/A	ASC&H will liaise with Trading Standards in adopting these zones, this already happens in relation to the sheltered housing schemes.

Implementing the recommendations from the scrutiny of Older People's Community Safety concerns

Recommendations	Response of Partnership Community Safety Team	Response of Primary Care Trust	Response from Adult Social Care & Housing
<p>7 – Domestic Violence The Panel recommends that regular training be further developed for every professional carer and volunteer working with older people in looking for early signs of elder abuse and domestic violence.</p>	<p>The Senior Officer Strategy Group for Domestic Violence is to consider the resource implications of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Suggest that this recommendation is discussed at the Domestic Violence Senior Officers Group.</p>	<p>Ongoing training for ASC&H staff to raise awareness of elder abuse and domestic violence.</p>
<p>8 – Information on Domestic Violence The Panel recommends that additional research and analysis be carried out including with service users. This would provide the council and partner agencies with better information on the extent and nature of domestic violence involving older people and elder abuse to help further develop preventive and support services.</p>	<p>The Senior Officer Strategy Group is to consider the best means of implementing this recommendation.</p>	<p>Suggest that this recommendation is discussed at the Domestic Violence Senior Officers Group.</p>	<p>ASC&H to be part of this information collection and sharing protocol.</p>
<p>9 – Select Committee on Dementia The Panel recommends that operational protocols between agencies regarding elder abuse in cases of mental illness be referred on to the Select Committee on Dementia.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this recommendation will be picked up as part of the Select Committee on Dementia.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this recommendation will be picked up as part of the Select Committee on Dementia.</p>
<p>10 Racist/Religiously crimes/incidents The Panel welcomes the many initiatives regarding racial harassment and older people. The Panel recommends that good practice examples such as reporting centres are extended to vulnerable older people including LGBT communities and disabled older people.</p>	<p>The PCST to implement this recommendation.</p>		<p>ASC&H will ensure models of good practice are explored and adopted as appropriate.</p>
<p>11 – Alcohol and older people The Panel welcomes the social marketing campaign on the serious health consequences of alcohol abuse by older</p>	<p>The Alcohol Strategy Group is carrying out consultation with Older People as to the most effective way of providing information and assistance to Older</p>	<p>The Cheers! report (social marketing campaign looking at alcohol consumption and older people) has informed the Alcohol and Mental Health</p>	<p>The Cheers! report (social marketing campaign looking at alcohol consumption and older people) has informed the Alcohol and Mental Health Strategies.</p>

Implementing the recommendations from the scrutiny of Older People's Community Safety concerns

Recommendations	Response of Partnership Community Safety Team	Response of Primary Care Trust	Response from Adult Social Care & Housing
people.	People.	Strategies.	
12 - Social spaces for older people The panel recommends that licensed and unlicensed venues be encouraged to consider offering good value daytime activities and food and drink with the aim of attracting older customers.	N/A		ASC&H would look to participate in this work in relation to building communities on estates and ensuring the relevant services are provided for older people in the city.
13 – Data on older people The panel recommends to enable the Council jointly with partners target future preventative work with older people, that where possible consistent data be distinguished by age and gender for vulnerable older people. This includes alcohol-related incidents and harm, black and minority ethnic population, domestic violence, disabled, LGBT and other minority groups.	The PCST to implement this recommendation within CDRP services as far as is possible.	Suggest that this recommendation is picked up through the Partnership data group (analysts working for the Council; Police, NHS Brighton & Hove etc)	Suggest that this recommendation is picked up through the Partnership data group (analysts working for the Council; Police, NHS Brighton & Hove etc). By agreeing to hold data on older people in a consistent way partners would have the ability to provide more effective analysis. This could be addressed in the council through the development of CRM corporately.
14 - Police independent advisory group The Panel recommends that the Older People's Council be asked to nominate an older person to serve on the Sussex Police Independent Advisory Group.	Sussex Police are to implement this recommendation.	N/A	This request has been made to the OPC by the Police and will be discussed at their meeting 28 October 2009.
15 - Customer relationship management The Panel recommends that to facilitate contact with older vulnerable people, the Council's Customer Relationship Management system be extended to include this population group.	N/A	N/A	ASC&H would need to adapt their front line services to utilise CRM to provide this improved customer service.
16 – Consultation The Panel recommends further consultation and analysis using the Community	PCST to discuss this recommendation with the Policy lead of community engagement.	N/A	ASC&H would contribute to this work as required.

Implementing the recommendations from the scrutiny of Older People's Community Safety concerns

Recommendations	Response of Partnership Community Safety Team	Response of Primary Care Trust	Response from Adult Social Care & Housing
Engagement Framework to identify and respond to older people's specific concerns about community safety.			
17 – B&H Community Safety Crime Reduction & Drugs Strategy 2008–2011 The Panel recommends that the particular needs of older people for keeping safe and maintaining independence should feature more prominently in the review of the B&H Community Safety Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 – 2011.	The PCST to implement this recommendation.		ASC&H would support this as appropriate.
18 – Monitoring Action The Scrutiny Panel asks its parent committee ECSOSC to monitor the implementation of actions following this scrutiny review. It also requests ECSOSC to add community safety work regarding minority older groups, to its work programme.	The PCST to take the lead in implementing this recommendation.	N/A	ASC&H will support this monitoring by providing the relevant details of progress made towards the recommendations.

Subject:	Maintaining Brighton Centre Economic Impact		
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2009		
Report of:	Director of Culture & Enterprise		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Adam Bates	Tel: 29-2600
	E-mail:	adam.bates@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	Key	Forward Plan No: Procedure Rule 16 complied with	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

This report was not included on the Forward Plan because Information required to complete the report has only been available very recently and analysis of this information was completed within the last 10 days from which a formal report has been produced. The urgency of works identified in Part 2 mean that rather than delay the report until the New Year the paper is being brought to December Cabinet.

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Brighton Centre has to compete for conferences and other events against newly constructed venues throughout the country and Europe.
- 1.2 The age of the building and much of its fabric, fittings and equipment are of an age where they are at the end of their useful life, are costly to maintain or simply do not compare to what is on offer in other venues.
- 1.3 These are many of the reasons why the Council is pursuing the re-development of the Brighton Centre. It is anticipated that following completion of the feasibility study in March 2010 the council will be in a stronger position to share a development timetable.
- 1.4 It is proposed that some of the Brighton Centre Redevelopment Reserve, specifically set aside to assist with the cashflow of the redevelopment during the early years, be applied to the maintenance and competitiveness of the current centre in order that local employment can be sustained.
- 1.5 Despite the age of the venue effective sales and marketing has still delivered strong bookings for the venue. Twenty five conferences in the current year and 32 last year however it is felt that investment could sustain and potentially improve this.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves an allocation from the Brighton Centre Re-Development Reserve towards maintenance and operational needs of the existing Brighton Centre in order that the economic impact of the Venue can be maximised up to the point of re-development.

- 2.2 That Cabinet instructs officers to continue to reassess the required level of the reserve once the latest feasibility study is completed; and
- 2.3 That Cabinet notes the need for the council to build sufficient contributions within the Medium Term Financial Strategy to ensure the level of the Brighton Centre Redevelopment Reserve is adequate to support the development.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Brighton Centre opened in 1977 and produces around £50m of economic impact in the local area each year through the balanced programme of Conferences, Commercial Hires and Entertainments.
- 3.2 In 2007/08 the Council committed to funding a Re-Development Reserve to support the development of business in a new Brighton Centre.
- 3.3 While it is recognised that the City requires a new Brighton Centre to secure growth and sustain the significant direct employment, it is recognised that this will take some time to deliver.
- 3.4 At the same time there is significant competition for the lucrative business which the Conference Centre secures for the City.
- 3.5 The age of the venue and the state of the equipment that supports it as well as the fabric of the current operation makes competing for business extremely difficult.
- 3.6 The Brighton Centre operates a balanced programme of events with activity broken down into 1/3 entertainment, 1/3 conference and 1/3 private hires/corporate. The occupancy of the Brighton Centre compares favourably with other venues. In the latest benchmarking data the centre operated at 74% occupancy with venues including Birmingham operating in the low 60's.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Feedback on the need for investment and its likely impact is overwhelmingly positive. Comments are as follows:
- 4.2 Keith Faulkner, TUC: 'The TUC has been a long term supporter of the Brighton Centre. We would encourage investment in the current building to prevent the venue from falling behind other newer and refurbished centres in the UK'.
- 4.3 Jacinta Scannell, Happening Conference Management: 'The availability of funds to help maintain the Brighton Centre would be very welcome indeed. As a city Brighton is a very attractive option for our clients, but many feel the Brighton Centre does not represent the right image for their event. Although the flexibility and capacity of the venue is great, the first impression is tired and an outdated building can put people off. The investment of funds would reassure clients and demonstrate the commitment to keep the venue in good order for the future. This is very important for clients who are considering the venue for events that may take place in 3, 4 or 5 years time.'

- 4.4 Philip George, Head of Events, Solace: ‘The Brighton Centre is a flexible venue which makes it a good venue for us to organise the SOLACE Annual Conference. It is also in a great location which is attractive to our delegates – 75% of our delegates said they were very or fairly satisfied with the Brighton Centre while only 7% were dissatisfied with it. However our delegate feedback suggests that the venue is a bit shabby and some investment in improving the feel of it would enhance our delegates’ experience at our conference.
- 4.5 Joe Norris, Partner, Off The Kerb Productions: ‘I consider the Brighton Centre to be one of our favourite venues, when putting together a UK tour.....Any further investment into the venue will, I feel, enhance the experience that you give to your customers, which is extremely important as the ticket buying public’s expectations over the past few years have been raised with new venues coming on line such as O2 and the LG Arena’.
- 4.6 Harvey Goldsmith CBE: ‘I have been promoting at the Brighton Centre for 30 years and view Brighton as one of the major cities on the UK tourism circuit. I think any additional investment in the infrastructure of the venue would further enhance the Brighton Centre and make it a more attractive proposition for promoters like myself to continue and increase the number of live events that we bring to your city’.
- 4.7 Caroline Jones, College of Occupational Therapists: ‘Our organisation is holding its annual conference – the showcase for the occupational therapy profession – at the Brighton Centre in June 2010 and June 2011 and it is absolutely vital that the Brighton Centre is fit for purpose and well maintained and that our members have a positive experience of our conference...I hope that ongoing maintenance and refurbishment is carried out on a timely basis to ensure the experience of our delegates is a positive one, and ultimately, a positive experience for Brighton itself’.
- 4.8 Mark Jones, Chairman Brighton & Hove Hotels Association: ‘The BHHA has long emphasised the importance of maintaining, even improving, the current Brighton Centre right through to the end of its life. Whilst we await a move forward on a new conference venue for the city, we must remember that the city’s ability to continue to win conferences, concerts and exhibitions is crucial to the hospitality sector’s fortunes. These improvements offering a well maintained Brighton Centre that is still able to attract key business events, is essential in that quest. I welcome the City Council’s decision to spend this money and look forward to a continuing event programme and more visitors as a result’.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The financial implications are detailed in the report listed on Part 2 of the agenda.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen

Date: 17/11/09

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no immediate legal, health & safety or Human Rights Act implications arising from this report

Lawyer Consulted:

Bob Bruce

Date: 17/11/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An equalities impact assessment exists for the venues. Many of the proposals contained within detailed plans for venues improvement would enhance the experience of all visitors but particularly allow us to improve the experience for those with disabilities.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The main sustainability implications are in securing future business for the venue and the city and in ensuring that local employment is maintained. In additional works planned would be able to mitigate the consumption of resources where replacement or improvement of equipment is taking place. Additionally improvements would allow the venue to improve practice in respect of waste management.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from the proposals in this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Risk implications are improved as a consequence of this investment. Risks including unplanned closure, lost business, loss of local economic impact and local employment are all mitigated by the proposed investment.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The main corporate and citywide implications are positive in terms of economic impact and employment and confidence in the local tourism market to invest and develop. In terms of corporate implications there are resource needs from various services to support the programme of works and also the need to rebuild the Brighton centre Redevelopment Reserve.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The main alternative considered is the status quo. This however retains the risk of lost business as a consequence of unplanned closure and diminishing client confidence.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To sustain local employment and economic impact, to compete with other venues and destinations and to build business in the period leading up to a new

venue rather than allow business in the city to decline and result in a harder battle to improve standards once the new centre is operational.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. 2009 Condition Survey of Brighton Centre

Background Documents

None

Subject:	Hollingbury Park and Waterhall Golf Courses – Award of management contract		
Date of Meeting:	9 December 2009		
Report of:	Director of Environment		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Ian Shurrock	Tel: 29-2084
	E-mail:	ian.shurrock@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan No: CAB12843	
Wards Affected:	Hollingdean & Stanmer; Withdean		

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

- 1.1 This report provides members with the outcome of the tender process to seek an external operator to manage the council owned public golf courses at Hollingbury Park and Waterhall.
- 1.2 The report sets out the current management arrangements for the golf courses, the potential for improving the golf service, and the tender process to seek an external operator to achieve that potential. A brief evaluation of the tenders received is provided within this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves and authorises officers to accept the tender received from Tender A to manage Hollingbury Park and Waterhall golf courses for a period of 10 years commencing 1 April 2010.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**Current management arrangements**

- 3.1 Currently the management arrangements for the golf courses are complicated with several parties involved. This hampers the effectiveness of the service that is delivered with a consequent negative impact on the quality of golf experience, the number of golfers and consequent financial performance. The financial performance has worsened in recent years resulting in a subsidy being required to operate the courses.

At present the management arrangement are as follows ;

Landlord responsibilities	- B&HCC Sport & Leisure
Greenkeeping	- B&HCC City Parks
Clubhouses	- Golf Clubs (HollingburyPark & Waterhall)
Catering	- Franchisee of each club

Golf shops - Hollingbury Park – Golf professional with management agreement with B&HCC
Waterhall – B&HCC golf assistants

- 3.2 Legal agreements have been in place with the respective golf clubs for many years to manage the clubhouses on behalf of the council. These agreements, together with the contract for golf professional services can now all be drawn to a close providing the opportunity for new management arrangements. The golf clubs are voluntary organisations and do not have the capacity or desire to meet the requirements for managing public facilities. The golf clubs would continue as resident clubs offering competitive golf and social events without management responsibility.

Tender process

- 3.3 Soft market testing which involved structured interviews with existing external operators of council golf courses took place to identify options for management arrangements. These interviews confirmed the potential for a single operator to greatly improve the quality of the golf service by a co-ordinated approach to the provision of all the major elements required to provide fully functioning golf courses.
- 3.4 In addition, there was genuine interest in managing both courses for the council, although it was clear even at this stage that a contract would need to be for a minimum period of 10 years in order to attract a level of investment. This investment is required for grounds maintenance machinery and equipment, in the courses themselves and the clubhouses. It was also confirmed that the two golf courses, which are set in picturesque settings on the South Downs (with excellent drainage offering year round play) have potential to provide a quality golf service.
- 3.5 The Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation & Tourism agreed at the Cabinet Member Meeting on 14 July 2009 for an external operator to be sought to manage the two golf courses. The other options of either continuing with the status quo or bringing the whole operation in-house were not selected, as both could potentially worsen the financial position for the council.
- 3.6 The Culture, Tourism and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee was also given the opportunity to comment of the procurement process at their meeting on 2 July 2009. This consultation helped to inform the draft tender specification documents and confirmed that there was no intention to “sell off” the courses. The committee expressed a desire to ensure that the council would continue to be involved in approval of the pricing structure. A workshop with the scrutiny committee on 9 September considered a final draft of the tender documents. Minor amendments were made prior to the invitation to tender (ITT) document being issued to interested parties that had met the criteria of the pre qualification questionnaire (PQQ).

3.7 The council's overall aims for the contract are to :

- ensure the long term future of the courses through an effective partnership between the council and external operator, improved management and investment
- increase the level of golf development activities
- achieve service and customer improvements through the unification of all golf services under single management

3.8 In terms of the contractors responsibilities, the council wanted to appoint a contractor who would be responsible for all aspects of the management and maintenance of the two courses and their associated facilities to include :

- The issue of tickets and collection of fees
- Advance and other booking arrangements including those for competitions, society days and special events
- Provision of golf professional services including advice to players, tuition and equipment repair
- Management of golf shops including purchase and sale of stock , cleaning , maintenance and decoration
- Management of clubhouses including the provision of catering and bar services, arrangement of social events, cleaning , maintenance and decoration
- Management of course, car parks, outbuildings and other course infrastructure and equipment
- Course greenkeeping and supervision
- Provision of a golf development programme
- Marketing and promotion of the courses and their associated services
- Obtaining and maintenance of all necessary licences and permissions relating to the operation and management of the facilities.

3.9 Seven external operators that were invited to tender took part in open days to visit the two golf courses and subsequently five tenders were received. This represented a "good test of the market" to achieve value for money for the golf service particularly as a range of operators were interested including :

- Not for profit organisations (leisure trusts) with experience of managing local authority sports facilities and/or golf courses
- Private specialist golf management companies with experience in managing local authority golf courses
- Private specialist golf management companies with experience in managing private golf courses

Tender evaluation

- 3.10 The tenders were evaluated by members of the golf tendering project team including:

Environment (including the Head of Sport & Leisure and the Head of Service Improvement & Sports Facilities Development Officer)
Strategy & Governance - HR Business Manager and Pensions Manager
Finance & Resources – Environment Accountant

In addition, the procurement process was supervised and legal support provided by:

Finance & Resources – Procurement Manager
Strategy & Governance – Contract Lawyer

- 3.11 The tenders were evaluated using the two main criteria of price (52%) and quality of service (48%). Each criteria was scored as per the weighting below and then converted into an appropriate percentage for the total score for each tender bid.

Price Evaluation Criteria (52%)

Price	Weightings
Tender Price in the Form of Tender	70%
Sustainability of income projections	10%
Sustainability of expenditure projections	10%
Investment Proposals [adequacy of financial provision]	10%
	100%

Quality Evaluation Criteria (48%)

Quality Criteria	Weightings
Capability and Resources	6%
Staff	18%
Quality Management	8%
Health and Safety/ Environment	12%
Maintenance	18%
Operation	20%
Service Proposals	18%
	100%

- 3.12 As well as requesting potential tenders for the management contract, tenderers were also requested to submit investment proposals. These proposals were evaluated with regard to the tenderers adequacy of financial provision to make such investments.
- 3.13 Full results of the evaluation process are set out in Part 2 of the report.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with staff who would TUPE transfer to a new operator and trade unions. In addition, consultation has taken place with the golf clubs and golf professional at Hollingbury Park.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

The financial analysis undertaken as part of the tender evaluation demonstrates that the successful contractor is most likely to provide the best value for money as set out in the part 2 report. A full financial summary is detailed in the part 2 report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Derek Mansfield

Date: 24/11/09

5.2 Legal Implications:

The services described in this report exceed the applicable threshold for the purposes of EU procurement law and UK procurement Regulations. However they are classified as Part B (non priority) services under said legislation and therefore subject to minimal procedural requirements. In addition the Council is required to demonstrate fairness, transparency and value for money in all purchasing. The tender process described in this report indicates compliance with all relevant requirements. The value of the contract is in excess of £75,000 and so must be in a form approved by the Head of Law. The Council must take the Human Rights Act into account in respect of its actions but it is not considered that any individual's Human Rights Act rights would be adversely affected by the recommendations contained in this *report*

Lawyer Consulted: Sonia Likhari

Date: 24/11/09

5.3 Equalities Implications:

The operation of public golf courses that are accessible to the local community is important to increase participation in golf with subsequent health and well-being benefits.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

The operator is required to establish clear guidelines for environmental good practice to reduce the environmental impact of the management of the courses.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

There are no crime and disorder implications to consider.

5.6 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

The operator will be monitored by the council to ensure that the requirements of the contract will be met.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

There are no corporate/city wide implications to consider.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 These were considered at the Cabinet Member Meeting on 14 July 2009 as indicated in 3.5 of this report.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 This is included in the part 2 report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents:

1. Report to Culture, Recreation & Tourism Cabinet Member Meeting on 14 July 2009
2. Report to Culture, Tourism and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 July 2009
3. Tender documentation papers submitted by the five tenderers

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