

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY
COUNCIL MEETING**

4.30PM 21 JULY 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL



AGENDA



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Council Meeting

Title:	Council
Date:	21 July 2011
Time:	4.30pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Brighton Town Hall
Members:	All Councillors You are summoned to attend a meeting of the BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL to transact the under-mentioned business.
	Prayers will be conducted in the Council Chamber at 4.20pm by Reverend John Wall
Contact:	Mark Wall Head of Democratic Services 01273 291006 mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk

	The Town Hall has facilities for people with mobility impairments including a lift and wheelchair accessible WCs. However use of the lift is restricted for health and safety reasons please refer to the Access Notice in the agenda.
	An Induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter and infra red hearing aids are available for use during the meeting. If you require any further information or assistance, please contact the receptionist on arrival.
	<p align="center">FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE</p> <p>If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts; • Do not stop to collect personal belongings; • Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move some distance away and await further instructions; and • Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.

AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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 personal and/or prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.

2. MINUTES

1 - 66

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the following meetings (copies attached):

- (a) the last Ordinary Council meeting held on the 24th March 2011;
- (b) the Annual Council meeting held on the 19th May 2011;
- (c) the Special Council meeting held on the 19th May 2011; and
- (d) the Special Council meeting held on the 26th May 2011.

3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

4. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.

Petitions will be presented to the Mayor at the meeting.

5. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

A list of public questions received by the due date of the 14th July 2011 will be circulated separately as part of an addendum at the meeting.

6. DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

A list of deputations received by the due date of the 14th July 2011 will be circulated separately as part of an addendum at the meeting.

7. PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

67 - 72

Petitions to be debated at Council. Reports of the Monitoring Officer (copies attached).

- (a) **Save the Big Lemon Bus.** Lead petitioner Ms. Jackie Chase.
- (b) **Gypsies and Travellers.** Lead petitioner Cllr Dee Simson.
- (c) **The Level.** Lead petitioner Mr Adrian Morris.

8. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS. 73 - 76

A list of the written questions submitted by Members has been included in the agenda papers. This will be repeated along with the written answers received and will be taken as read as part of an addendum circulated separately at the meeting.

6.30 - 7.00PM REFRESHMENT BREAK

Note: A refreshment break is scheduled for 6.30pm although this may alter slightly depending on how the meeting is proceeding and the view of the Mayor.

9. ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS 77 - 78

A list of Councillors who have indicated their desire to ask an oral question at the meeting along with the subject matters has been listed in the agenda papers.

10. REPORTS OF THE CABINET, CABINET MEMBER MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES.

(a) Call over (items 11-14) will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for consideration.

(b) To receive or approve the reports and agree with their recommendations, with the exception of those which have been reserved for discussion.

(c) Oral questions from Councillors on the Cabinet, Cabinet Member and Committee reports, which have not been reserved for discussion.

11. CULTURAL PROVISION FOR CHILDREN - SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL REPORT 79 - 102

Report of the Strategic Director: Resources (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Tom Hook
Ward Affected: All Wards

Tel: 29-1110

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12. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11 103 - 124

Report of the Strategic Director: Resources (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Tom Hook *Tel: 29-1110*
Ward Affected: All Wards

13. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2010-11 125 - 140

Extract from the proceedings of the Audit Committee Meeting held on the 28th June 2011, together with a report of the Strategic Director: Resources (copies attached).

Contact Officer: Ian Withers *Tel: 29-1323*
Ward Affected: All Wards

14. WITHDRAWAL OF THE CORE STRATEGY TO UPDATE AND AMEND 141 - 150

Extract from the Cabinet Meeting held on the 14th July (to be circulated), together with a report of the Strategic Director: Place (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Liz Hobden *Tel: 29-2504*
Ward Affected: All Wards

15. NOTICES OF MOTION. 151 - 162

The following Notices of Motion have been submitted by Members for consideration (copies attached):

- (a) **Community Covenant** - Proposed by Councillor G Theobald.
- (b) **Committee System** – Proposed by Councillor Peltzer Dunn.
- (c) **Return to the Committee System** – Proposed by Councillor Mitchell.
- (d) **Legal Aid Cuts** – Proposed by Councillor Morgan.
- (e) **Legal Aid** – Proposed by Councillor MacCafferty.
- (f) **Responsibilities Towards Travelling Communities** – Proposed by Councillor West.

16. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor will move a closure motion under Procedure Rule 17 to terminate the meeting 4 hours after the beginning of the meeting (excluding any breaks/adjournments).

Note:

1. *The Mayor will put the motion to the vote and if it is carried will then:-*
 - (a) *Call on the Member who had moved the item under discussion*

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to give their right of reply, before then putting the matter to the vote, taking into account the need to put any amendments that have been moved to the vote first;

- (b) *Each remaining item on the agenda that has not been dealt with will then be taken in the order they appear on the agenda and put to the vote without debate.*

The Member responsible for moving each item will be given the opportunity by the Mayor to withdraw the item or to have it voted on. If there are any amendments that have been submitted, these will be taken and voted on first in the order that they were received.

- (c) *Following completion of the outstanding items, the Mayor will then close the meeting.*

2. *If the motion moved by the Mayor is **not carried** the meeting will continue in the normal way, with each item being moved and debated and voted on.*
3. *Any Member will still have the opportunity to move a closure motion should they so wish. If such a motion is moved and seconded, then the same procedure as outlined above will be followed.*

Once all the remaining items have been dealt with the Mayor will close the meeting.

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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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 Mark Wall, (01273 291006, email mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

ACCESS NOTICE

The lift cannot be used in an emergency and Evac Chairs are not suitable due to limitations of the escape routes. **For your own safety please do not to go beyond the Ground Floor if you are unable to use the stairs.**

Please inform staff on Reception if this affects you so that you can be directed to Committee Room 1 where video conferencing facilities will be available for you to use should you wish to watch the meeting or need to take part in the proceedings e.g. because you have submitted a public question.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused

Date of Publication - Wednesday, 13 July 2011



Chief Executive

King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove
BN3 2LS

Council	Agenda Item 2(a)
21 July 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 24 MARCH 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Wells (Chairman), A Norman (Deputy Chairman), Peltzer Dunn, Alford, Allen, Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Carden, Caulfield, Cobb, Davey, Davis, Deane, Drake, Duncan, Elgood, Fallon-Khan, Fryer, Hamilton, Harmer-Strange, Hawkes, Hyde, Janio, Kemble, Kennedy, Kitcat, Lepper, Marsh, McCaffery, Meadows, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, K Norman, Older, Oxley, Phillips, Pidgeon, Randall, Rufus, Simpson, Simson, Smith, Steedman, C Theobald, G Theobald, Turton, Wakefield-Jarrett, Watkins, West, Wrighton and Young

PART ONE

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 78.1 Councillor Harmer-Strange declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Items 90 and 94(a) on the agenda, as he had two children within the autistic spectrum and he was a director of the Local Delivery Vehicle (LDV);
- 78.2 Councillors Randall, Simpson and Barnett declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Item 94(a), in regard to the fact that they were directors of the Local Delivery Vehicle (LDV);
- 78.3 Councillor Wells declared that he had a personal but not prejudicial interest in Item 94(a) as he had been a former member of the Local Delivery Vehicle (LDV);
- 78.4 No other declarations of interests in matters appearing on the agenda were made.

79. MINUTES

- 79.1 Councillor Fryer stated that she wished to move that the paragraph 79.1 of the minutes be amended to clarify the point that she had made at the meeting.
- 79.2 The minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on the 27th January 2011 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings; subject to the final sentence in paragraph 79.1 being amended to read;

“There was a need to provide suitable facilities at schools to prevent young people being sent home and to embed the Restorative Justice process into the schools’ culture and she welcomed the pilot project being conducted by CAHMS.”

79.3 The minutes of the Budget Council meeting held on the 3rd March 2011 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

80. MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS.

80.1 The Mayor asked the Council to stand for a minute’s silence as a mark of respect for the people of Japan who had lost thousands of lives as a result of the recent earthquake and tsunami.

80.2 Following the minute’s silence, the Mayor noted that books of condolence had been placed in Brighton and Hove Town Halls and the Jubilee Library.

80.3 The Mayor then stated that he was very pleased to invite the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mears, to come forward and receive the Local Government Improvement and Development Diversity Peer Challenge award for reaching the Excellent Level of the Equality Framework for Local Government on behalf of the Council;

80.4 The Mayor stated that he was very pleased to welcome Mr Bill Gandey, Chair of the Bevendean LAT, to the council meeting. The project was entered into the Brighton and Hove Empowerment Awards and achieved first place. As a result the group were put forward to the regional awards through the South East Regional Empowerment Partnership. Following an event in London, the group were awarded second prize and presented with a cheque for £3,000.

The Mayor also noted that the group had recently been informed that it had won no less than the Prime Minister’s Big Society Award. This prestigious award was given to the community project most demonstrating and achieving the vision of the Big Society – that is; local people volunteering to take action on the issues that matter to them. The Mayor then invited Mr Gandey to come forward and receive the award.

80.5 The Mayor reminded councillors that the Brighton Marathon was due to take place on Sunday 10th April and wished all those taking part every success and asked others to support the runners along the course.

80.6 The Mayor then informed councillors of various fund-raising events on the 3rd and 14th April and 6th May in support of the mayoral charities and encouraged everyone to attend.

80.7 The Mayor finally stated that he wished to offer the Council’s thanks and appreciation for their service to the council and the city to Councillors Drake, Fryer, Older, Steedman, Wakefield-Jarrett and Wrighton, who were not standing for re-election in the forthcoming May elections.

81. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.

- 81.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from councillors and members of the public. He reminded the Council that petitions would be referred to the appropriate decision-making body without debate and the person presenting the petition would be invited to attend the meeting to which the petition was referred.
- 81.2 Councillor Duncan presented a combined paper and e-petition signed by 113 residents concerning Queen's Park Bowling Green;
- 81.3 Councillor Hawkes presented a combined paper and e-petition signed by 50 residents concerning the Sure Start Children's Centres;
- 81.4 Councillor Davis presented a combined paper and e-petition signed by 818 residents concerning the proposed closure of Hove Police Station;
- 81.5 Councillor Davis Presented a combined paper and e-petition signed by 169 residents concerning the cycle lane in the Drive;
- 81.6 Mr. French presented an e-petition signed by 556 residents concerning the bus services in the city;
- 81.7 Ms. Paynter presented a combined paper and e-petition signed by 371 residents concerning the licensing of establishments in the Brunswick & Adelaide area;
- 81.8 Ms. Summers presented a combined paper and e-petition signed by 835 residents concerning road safety in Hollingdean Dip;
- 81.9 Councillor Peltzer Dunn presented a petition signed by 363 residents concerning a planning application;
- 81.10 Councillor Carden presented a petition signed by 129 residents concerning dog fouling in North Portslade,
- 81.11 Councillor Elgood presented a petition signed by 11 residents of St. John's Road requesting double yellow lines;
- 81.12 Councillor Elgood presented a petition signed by 445 residents concerning the proposed closure of Hove Police Station;
- 81.13 Councillor Young presented a petition signed by 56 residents concerning George Street,
- 81.14 Councillor Randall presented a petition signed by 146 residents requesting a Puffin Crossing for Elm Grove School;
- 81.15 Councillor Oxley presented a petition signed by 100 residents concerning the need for a crossing in Sackville Road,
- 81.16 Councillor Hamilton presented a petition signed by 29 residents concerning the sale of land in Victoria School;

- 81.17 Councillor Caulfield presented a petition signed by 30 residents of Hillside Road requesting the installation of traffic calming measures;
- 81.18 Councillor Morgan presented a petition signed by 11 residents of Findon Road requesting double yellow lines;
- 81.19 The Mayor noted that 17 petitions had been presented.

82. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- 82.1 The Mayor reported that 8 written questions had been received from members of the public and invited Mr. Jenner to come forward and address the council.
- 82.2 Mr Jenner asked the following question; "With the wonderful development and creation of the new facilities at the Sussex County Cricket Ground - What initiatives and leads have the Council taken in developing provision for the local children and young people with the Cricket club?"
- 82.3 Councillor Smith Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation & Tourism replied; "Thank you Mr Jenner for your question. I am very supportive of the County Cricket Club and all the excellent work the Club undertakes to develop cricket across the county.

The council's Leisure and Tourism Unit works with the County Cricket Club on various projects and programmes. The Sports Development Team are part of the Cricket Development Group for Brighton & Hove which oversees the Strategy for the Development of Youth Cricket.

The council supports the Sussex Cricket Board on a range of initiatives for young people in cricket including the Chance to Shine Project, which is a five year project linking local primary and junior schools to community cricket clubs across the city. The project will see school cricket sessions supported by local clubs, creating pathways for participation by young people. The council's Sports Development Team are also supporting Sussex Cricket Board to deliver the Street 20 Cricket project that is engaging young people in secondary schools and youth centres across the city.

In addition, the authority is also supporting the development of the club and its activities through, for example, the Museums Service assisting the establishment of the cricket museum; Tourism providing support for Venue Sales; and the Events Team supporting major events such as the Elton John concert.

To sum it up current action for the strategy for the development of youth cricket: to deliver a city-wide five year Chance to Shine Project: develop links with local schools and cricket clubs to establish three more youth sessions in clubs in the city during the next three years, to encourage the setting up of girls cricket sessions in two more clubs and to create coaching networks within the schools concerned in order to establish ongoing sustainability arrangements with each school.

I think we're doing very well as a city as far as we're supporting Sussex Cricket Club and more importantly the youngsters of this city to improve their cricket and any other sporting facility."

- 82.4 Mr Jenner asked the following supplementary question; "Thank you Councillor Smith for your extensive answer of all the things that are taking place. I was just slightly concerned, I noted in the new budget that the funding for playing for success (£160,000), half of which used to go to the Cricket Club, has actually ended and that the excellent opportunity has been removed and I wondered what plans there were to replace that service."
- 82.5 Councillor Smith replied; "We have it in the budget and if you look closely through it how much extra will be put in for sporting facilities and for coaching and everything in the city it's there. We've increased the amount, doubled the amount for going into small clubs for development, for coaches and everything else and we have increased a lot of our sporting facilities in the city."
- 82.6 The Mayor thanked Mr Jenner for his questions. The Mayor noted that Mr Cooke was unable to attend the meeting and invited Mr French to come forward and address the council on his behalf.
- 82.7 Mr French asked the following question; "Can the Council confirm what the long term plans are for the Old Market building on Circus Street? The building is literally falling apart due to lack of use, but with adequate resources it could be converted into a valuable community asset for the Turner neighbourhood."
- 82.8 Councillor Fallon-Khan Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment & Major Projects replied; "Because the Circus Street scheme has always been expected to deliver significant community benefits and high environmental standards, its financial viability was badly hit by the downturn in the development market. The council continues to work with our development partners, the Cathedral Group and the University of Brighton, on preparing a scheme for the site that is financially viable and deliverable but does not water down the regeneration benefits to the local community. We will consult with residents on any revised plans that emerge.

The council recognises the potential for the building as a community asset, and for that reason obtained temporary planning permission in 2010 for cultural and community uses. However, for such a use to safely happen, considerable investment would need to be made, which is not economically viable for a building that will be redeveloped soon. Cathedral have explored interim community uses in the past as part of a place-making exercise as a precursor to the long term regeneration of that area. They have done this to very good effect at another scheme in Deptford High Street and would be looking to do the same here once a deliverable long term scheme is agreed. The 2010 planning permission keeps this option open.

In the meantime, we are working with the Brighton Festival, who used the building in 2009 and who are looking at using it again this year. The festival has the experience and resources to properly steward events at the building and address health and safety concerns. Money has been invested in securing the building and preventing trespassing onto the roof."

- 82.9 Mr French asked the following supplementary question; "I am noticing a trend in a lot of the Tory Administration's regeneration plans in that not much seems to happen. Can I ask the question then and can you just clarify that no progress has been made and there do not appear to be any firm plans?"
- 82.10 Councillor Fallon-Khan replied; "We as a city council, are working in partnership with the university and developers. We've been doing that on a number of the projects in the city. When there's a downturn in the economy you will find if you wouldn't want to tax businesses as much as you did that businesses are suffering. The partnership remains with the university and the Cathedral Group and we are looking for every possible way that we can to get a fantastically sustainable development where there'll be students, where there'll be a library and where there'll be income coming into the city, so perhaps, Mr French, next time through you, Mr Mayor, we'll be able to talk in a little bit more detail when we've got a little bit more time about all the successful projects that we're putting through in the city at the moment."
- 82.11 The Mayor thanked Mr French for his questions and invited Ms Marks to come forward and address the council.
- 82.12 Ms Marks asked the following question; "With changes to benefits many disabled people are going to be looking for work for the first time in Brighton. Only one in three visually impaired adults are currently in work. What is Brighton and Hove Council planning on doing to ensure that there is support available for this group to help them into work and off benefits in line with the objectives set out in the corporate plan?"
- 82.13 Councillor Simson Cabinet Member for Community Affairs, Inclusion & Internal Relations replied; "Thank you Diane for coming along today and for your question. You mention in your written question about incapacity benefits that will be migrated to employment and support allowance over the next couple of years. I do know, I am aware that some disabled people, not only blind and partially sighted, are concerned that the new assessment for employment and support allowance which is to be introduced in April will mean that they may not be entitled to it and will be placed on jobseeker's allowance. In any event the Department for Work and Pensions will provide specialist support to find work.

As far as the council is concerned, the council continues to work closely with partners from Jobcentre Plus and other providers who support people into work and to remain in work. There are a range of initiatives across the city including our own efforts to recruit and retain more disabled workers within the council.

There are lots of ways the council's own supported employment team can help by talking about options, carrying out a work-focused assessment, agreeing a job preparation action plan, updating a CV, providing advice on suitable work opportunities, writing letters of support to employers, completing application forms, providing mock interviews and support at any interviews. They are based at the Knoll Business Centre in Portslade and can be easily contacted by 'phone or via the council's website for those who have access to the internet. Once somebody is employed we can continue to help both employee and employer with the induction and training process, information on job

adjustments, job coaching, ongoing support and improving skills. Our support continues for as long as the employee or employer wants it and needs it.

Jobcentre Plus also help by introducing people to pathways to work, a free service providing support to individuals on health related benefits to get back into employment by tackling barriers, providing training and raising confidence and self esteem.

A new service is also available via Jobcentre Plus which is called 'work choice' which replaces work step, work prep and job introduction schemes. This is designed to help disabled people whose needs cannot be met through other work programmes, maybe because they need more specialised support to find employment or keep a job once they have started work. 'Work choice' will be tailored to meet their individual needs and will focus on helping them achieve their full potential and move towards being even more independent.

I hope this has given you some reassurance that the council is working to ensure that support is available for anyone with a disability to help them into work and for them to remain there."

82.14 Ms Marks asked the following supplementary question; "As we are led to believe that the Government is slowly doing away with 'Access to Work' which allows us once we have a job to actually have the support within the job, that's technology or support workers. It's great that you're helping to get people into work but how are you going to help people keep that job?"

82.15 Councillor Simson replied; "I think I did really respond to that in my initial answer to the question because we don't only recognise how important it is for people to get into work and to find a job but also to retain them in that work. We at the council do make every effort to make sure that things are put in place to ensure that anybody who has a disability who works for us does have suitable arrangements made so they can retain that employment."

82.16 The Mayor thanked Ms Marks for her questions and invited Ms Hill to come forward and address the council.

82.17 Ms Hill asked the following question; "What action is the Council planning to take to prevent drivers driving along the pavements in Elm Grove, a practice that is dangerous for pedestrians, particularly parents and children making their way to and from Elm Grove school?"

82.18 Councillor Theobald Cabinet Member for Environment replied; "Thank you very much Mr Mayor and good evening Miss Hill, nice to see you. As you will know from the response that you have already received on this issue from the Parking Response Team, driving on the pavement is a police matter. As part of the safer routes to school scheme the council has already put in several physical measures to prevent this around key junctions. We have also put in preventative measures at the bottom end of Elm Grove to protect the pavement and green space there. In May of last year we consulted residents on a parking scheme which would have included regulated parking in Elm Grove. However, as you will be aware a large majority of residents voted against this and so we

did not proceed. Any solution to prevent parking and the associated pavement driving would inevitably involve a degree of parking regulation and displacement of vehicles.”

- 82.19 Ms Hill asked the following supplementary question; “Does the council consider the rejection of the proposed controlled parking zone last year enough of a reason not to act on any parking related matter even if there are safety issues at stake.”
- 82.20 Councillor Theobald replied; “Well you might not be aware but the local councillors said at my Environment CMM that they were going to work with the local community and then come back with any suggestions that they may have, but you will be aware that there was an overwhelming vote not to go ahead with parking regulation.”
- 82.21 The Mayor thanked Ms Hill for her questions and invited Mr Barraclough to come forward and address the council.
- 82.22 Mr Barraclough asked the following question; “In Hanover and Elm Grove ward many private landlords have been erecting large conservatories to provide an extra room in Houses in Multiple Occupation. The reason they do this is to make the living room into another bedroom, and so fit more tenants – usually students – into the property, and they don't need planning permission to do this. This is blighting the area as it destroys the green spaces between houses. What measures will the council take to tackle this issue?”
- 82.23 Councillor Theobald Cabinet Member for Environment replied; “The Council’s Planning and Housing Teams are working on a revised approach to considering how we manage Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO’s) and determine whether minor changes to buildings or conversion of family dwellings to small HMO’s would require Planning Permission.”
- 82.24 Mr Barraclough asked the following supplementary question; “Would Councillor Theobald not agree with me that Hanover and Elm Grove Ward should primarily be an area for family homes and not bed sits and the ward should be made a conservation area to protect its unique character?”
- 82.25 Councillor Theobald replied; “It is certainly a unique area I think the point is as things stand at the moment one can make that change and that’s why Officers are working on an article for direction that would need to be consultation and that would need to be approved to try and prevent that change.”
- 82.26 The Mayor thanked Mr Barraclough for his questions and invited Mr Walter to come forward and address the council.
- 82.27 Mr Walter asked the following question; “Does the Council think it’s fair that people using the 23 and 25 bus pay only £2.50 but people on every other Brighton & Hove bus pay £3.70 for a day ticket, and if not, what is the Council going to do to ensure that some areas of the city don’t end up subsidising other areas so that Brighton & Hove Buses can afford to price-match The Big Lemon?”
- 82.28 Councillor Theobald Cabinet Member for Environment replied; “As a council we feel that there should be fair competition among local bus operators. However, the council has

no control over bus fares, which is a commercial issue for operators. We are not the investigating body on competition issues as that duty lies with the Office of Fair Trading who are currently investigating a complaint from the Big Lemon Bus Company.”

- 82.29 Mr Walter asked the following supplementary question; “Wouldn’t including the Big Lemon and other operators in the quality bus partnership send a clear message to Brighton & Hove Buses that targeting smaller operators will not be tolerated?”
- 82.30 Councillor Theobald replied; “As I said earlier, we want fair competition and we certainly don’t want to see small operators being targeted.”
- 82.31 The Mayor thanked Mr Walter for his questions and invited Mr Lunnon to come forward and address the council.
- 82.32 Mr Lunnon asked the following question; “Currently if a family wishes to travel by bus, then every child will have to pay half the price of an Adult ticket, so it is actually financially beneficial to get a family into town by car. However if a child has the bus-id card, available freely from the bus company, they can travel for 20p when with an Adult, making it far cheaper. I ask the cabinet member for the environment to lobby Brighton and Hove Bus Company to remove the need for the bus ID card, to allow all children, when with adults to travel for 20p.”
- 82.33 Councillor Theobald Cabinet Member for Environment replied; “As I said in answer to the previous question the city council has no control over bus fares, that’s a commercial issue for bus operators. The bus ID scheme is a commercial marketing initiative by Brighton & Hove Buses. I understand that some 85% of older teenagers resident in the city take advantage of this scheme. The city council commends any initiative which offers attractive cheap fares for young people but any decisions to remove the requirement for the bus ID card would be a commercial marketing decision by the bus operator.”
- 82.34 Mr Lunnon asked the following supplementary question; “My supplementary question is simply I was merely asking you to lobby the bus company whether you could do this. I understand it is outside of your jurisdiction to actually enforce it but would you lobby the bus company on behalf of the council to see whether they would remove it to encourage family bus travel in this time of economic downturn when fuel prices are very high and obviously we want to move congestion from the streets of Brighton & Hove?”
- 82.35 Councillor Theobald replied; “Our officers do have meetings with various bus companies and certainly I will ask them to talk to the bus company. Thank you.”
- 82.36 The Mayor thanked Mr Lunnon for his questions and invited Ms O’Connor to come forward and address the council.
- 82.37 Ms O’Connor asked the following question; “Councillors last time voted £200,000 to the Connexions service specifically in order to ensure there are as many LDD and NEET delivery posts as possible. We understand that officers are planning to use the money for 1) Voluntary Sector transition i.e. contracts that must have been predicted within their present budget analysis 2) Other NON Connexions posts.

Can we be assured that the money will now be used so that all BHCC Connexions staff who apply for LDD or Employability delivery posts are offered a job?"

82.38 Councillor Brown Cabinet Member for Children & Young People replied; "The additional £200,000 is to be used to keep the voluntary sector connexions provision in place until we know the outcome of the youth review. This includes the provision of 4.5 personal advisors and the use of access point premises at the young peoples centre and the youth advice centre. Funding CVS contracts will ensure that these local projects are sustained at least until the future commissioning arrangements with the community and voluntary sectors are agreed. You must remember that the additional £200,000 is for one off funding for one year only. The most appropriate use of any one off funding is to ensure future sustainability. We have undertaken the consultation about the redesign connexions service and that has now been completed. Interviews are currently taking place for 12 full time equivalent posts; there are currently 13.44 full time equivalent applicants for these posts plus 1.6 currently on maternity leave. In addition there is one personal advisor post in the 16 plus team and one teenage pregnancy prevention officer post ring-fenced in the redeployment pool for Connexions staff."

82.39 Ms O'Connor asked the following supplementary question; "According to your own report that is the CYPT Performance Board Report of 22 July 2010, the Connexions IAG Team gave significantly better value for money. Why is it then that these same staff do not have first priority on the jobs available in the new service?"

82.40 Councillor Brown replied; "Well I am sorry Miss O'Connor that you do not value the role of the community and voluntary sector as we do. The money will go to Sussex central YMCA and impact initiatives to continue to provide services at the Young People Centre and the Youth Advice Centre. By the Autumn we should know the outcome of our review of youth services which we will use along with any new guidance from government on the all age career service to inform our future commissioning of support for young people in the city."

82.41 The Mayor thanked Ms O'Connor for her questions and noted that this concluded the public questions.

83. DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

83.1 The Mayor reported that there no deputations had been received for the current meeting.

84. PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

(A) ROYAL SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL PARKING

84.1 The Mayor stated that under the Council's petition scheme, if a petition contained 1,250 or more signatures, it could be debated by the Full Council and such a request had been made in respect of a combined e and paper petition, concerning the Royal Sussex Hospital.

- 84.2 The Mayor then invited Councillor Bennett to present her petition.
- 84.3 Councillor Bennett thanked the Mayor and stated that a total of 1,745 people had signed either the paper or e-petition version which read as follows:
“We the undersigned petition the council to relax their parking policies and work with the hospital trust to ensure that the amount of on site parking for all Royal Sussex County Hospital patients and their visitors is greatly increased.

Parking at the hospital should be easy and safe for patients and visitors, at what is for most people a stressful time.”
- 84.4 Councillor Bennett stated that she hoped a workable solution could be found to the parking issue at the new development and that the petition would be fully supported.
- 84.5 Councillor Theobald welcomed the petition and stated that he understood the difficulty and that he felt access for everyone concerned with the working at or visiting the hospital was important. He noted that the council and the NHS Hospital Trust were working closely with each other in regard to the overall development of the site and that the council was pressing for the maximum number of parking spaces to be included.
- 84.6 Councillor Turton stated that as the Chair of 3Ts Hospital Liaison Group he had been involved in discussions with the Hospital Trust over the development and he welcomed the petition that Councillor Bennett had brought forward. He also stated that he wished to move a Labour Group amendment to the report’s recommendation, as there was a need to give consideration to the increased staffing levels and to take account of alternative transport arrangements.
- 84.7 Councillor Morgan formally seconded the amendment.
- 84.8 Councillor Fryer moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group to the report’s recommendation and stated that there was a need to find a solution to the problem that accounted for the needs of all and provided alternative options to parking.
- 84.9 Councillor Davey formally seconded the amendment.
- 84.10 Councillor Carol Theobald stated that she hoped consideration would be given to how people could get to the hospital from the outskirts of the city as well as the staff parking.
- 84.11 Councillor Geoffrey Theobald stated that he hoped the proposed new transport model would help to offer solutions to the issue as not everyone could rely on alternative methods to a car to get to the hospital.
- 84.12 The Mayor noted that two amendments had been moved along with the recommendation to refer the petition to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting and stated that he would put each one to the vote.
- 84.13 The Mayor then put the Labour Group’s amendment followed by the Green Group’s amendment to the vote, each of which was carried.

84.14 The Mayor then put the substantive recommendations as amended to the vote which were carried.

84.15 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the petition is referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration, about how to improve access to the hospital for everyone, in particular in light of the proposed 3Ts development. This will include making public transport more accessible through ensuring the hospital promotes bus routes and working with bus and taxi companies to make sure they can both stop in or very near the hospital as well as making it easier to access the hospital by foot or bike. This will help to ease congestion and improve air quality around the hospital and ensure that emergency vehicles can reach the hospital more quickly and safely;
- (2) That the petition is referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration with the following recommendations:
 - (i) That the council works with Brighton, Hove and Sussex NHS Hospital Trust to ensure that the number of 450 additional staff that will be working at the Royal Sussex County Hospital site once the development is complete is taken into account when setting final car-parking numbers;
 - (ii) That the council actively encourages the Trust to significantly increase the frequency and capacity of the 40X bus;
 - (iii) That the council completes an area-wide feasibility study to determine whether through-traffic can be diverted away from the immediate vicinity of the hospital in accordance with the council's agreed LDF Core Strategy document; and
 - (iv) That the council works with the hospital Trust and other large employers in the city to provide genuine sustainable travel modes and choices for their workforce.

(B) KEEP BRIGHTON UNIQUE

84.16 The Mayor noted that under the Council's petition scheme, if a petition contained more than 1,250 signatures it could be debated by the Full Council and such a request had been made in respect of an e-petition, concerning Keep Brighton Unique.

84.17 The Mayor invited Mr. Tom French to present his petition.

84.18 Mr. French thanked the Mayor and stated that a total of 1,142 people had signed either the paper or e-petition version which read as follows:

"We the undersigned petition the council to lobby the government to introduce planning powers to enable local authorities to restrict the number of large

supermarkets in any one area. We are concerned about Brighton becoming another 'clone town' city, swamped by large chain stores that pose a threat to the unique character of our city and the success of local, small independent businesses. In particular we are concerned about plans to open a fourth large supermarket on St. James's Street which we believe will damage the quirky and diverse character of the area, threaten small businesses, and limit the council's ability to control the sale of alcohol in the local community despite it being within a Cumulative Impact Area.

In recent years we have seen an explosion of large chain stores dominating our local high streets. This petition is about getting the balance right between ensuring residents have access to a nearby supermarket, whilst also ensuring against an excess of chain stores that would threaten valued small independent businesses and the unique and attractive character of our city. This petition was launched in response to the news that a fourth supermarket could soon open on St. James's Street."

- 84.19 Mr. French stated that she hoped that the petition would be fully supported.
- 84.20 Councillor Mears welcomed the petition and stated that she felt it should have referred to the whole of city, and noted that the Administration did not want to see the city becoming a 'clone town.' She stated that the council had lobbied the government with a view to enabling local authorities to have greater control over the mix of establishments in their areas and hoped this would be forthcoming.
- 84.21 Councillor Mitchell stated that the Labour Group supported the petition and that she wished to move a Labour Group amendment to the report's recommendation, as there was a need to seek to restrict the growth of supermarkets in areas and help to maintain the economic mix.
- 84.22 Councillor Morgan formally seconded the amendment.
- 84.23 Councillor Mears moved an amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group to the report's recommendation and stated that the intention was to take account of the petition's aims.
- 84.24 Councillor Oxley formally seconded the amendment.
- 84.25 Councillor Fryer moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group to the report's recommendation and stated that there was a need to enable alternative options to be considered when retail premises became vacant rather than supermarket chains simply being able to move in and increase the number of stores in an area.
- 84.26 Councillor Duncan formally seconded the amendment and stated that he wished to move a further amendment and to reserve his right to speak later in the debate.
- 84.27 The Mayor noted the request to move a further amendment and asked the Monitoring Officer to advise Members.
- 84.28 The Monitoring Officer stated there was no requirement to give prior notice of an amendment; however a written copy had to be provided to the Mayor so that he could determine whether or not it was acceptable.

- 84.29 The Mayor thanked the Monitoring Officer and noted that there were insufficient copies available for all Members and therefore decided, having regard to the limited time available, not to accept the amendment on this occasion.
- 84.30 Councillor Fallon-Khan stated that he supported the petition and that he felt there was a need to support small businesses in the city and hoped that the Localism Bill would give local authorities more opportunities to do so.
- 84.31 Councillor Elgood stated that this was an important issue and one that needed to be addressed particularly in his ward. He had previously raised concerns over the situation on a number of occasions which had not been supported and he now hoped that something would be done.
- 84.32 Councillor West stated that the issue was not a new one and needed to be addressed. He hoped that the amendments would be supported.
- 84.33 Councillor Duncan noted that the present planning laws currently made it difficult to resolve the problem and suggested that thought should be given to enabling smaller business to occupy retail units that became vacant by splitting up the vacant unit.
- 84.34 Councillor Mears stated that this was a serious issue and local authorities had to abide by the legislation that had been passed by the previous government. The council was lobbying the government to change the regulations so that action could be taken to prevent the influx of supermarkets in the city.
- 84.35 The Mayor noted that three amendments had been moved along with the recommendation to refer the petition to the Cabinet and stated that he would put each one to the vote.
- 84.36 The Mayor then put the Labour Group's, the Conservative Group's and the Green Group's amendments to the vote, each of which was carried.
- 84.37 The Mayor then put the substantive recommendations as amended to the vote which were carried.
- 84.38 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the petition is referred to the Cabinet Meeting for consideration, with the following additional recommendations;
 - (i) That the council uses its existing planning powers to promote the unique aspects of the city and enhances the special character of retail areas with a mix of retail uses;
 - (ii) That the council uses its licensing and enforcement powers to ensure a good standard of maintenance of buildings and safety and security for residents and shoppers in retail areas; and

- (iii) That the council joins forces and works with other councils that are similarly concerned with this issue to engage the government in a dialogue on changes to the planning system that would include:
 - a) Possible separate classes for supermarkets and smaller shops;
 - b) The introduction of controls for the merging of smaller retail units; and,
 - c) Reviewing how the application of restrictive covenants could negatively lead to premises remaining empty.
- (iv) That Cabinet are requested to ensure that full account is taken of the work of the new retail Commission established as a result of the Streets Ahead conference on 11th March;
- (v) That the Chief Executive writes to Sainsbury's saying that the majority of residents do not want or need another Sainsbury's supermarket in Brighton or another supermarket on St. James's Street;
- (vi) That the Chief Executive writes a letter to the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government requesting that the Local Authority is given planning powers to:
 - a) Allow communities to work with their local authorities to create 'Business conservation areas' to ensure designated areas retain the character and amenity of their shopping streets, and bar formula retailers from certain areas,
 - b) Insist that a proportion of retail floor space in all new developments is affordable space for local small businesses;
 - c) Adopt a retail strategy, a retail regeneration plan and local competition policies to prevent formula businesses dominating shopping streets and to ensure fair market access for small, independent retailers. These strategies should include policies to support and retain street markets and farmers' markets, and encourage the introduction of new markets, where there is community demand;
 - d) Empower local authorities to bring in rent controls for small shop premises, to prevent landlords from driving up rents and driving out independent retailers; and
- (vii) That the Chief Executive writes a letter to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Skills asking that the government establish a Local Competition Ombudsman as recommended by the Competition Commission which will rein in the power of the big four grocery chains.

(C) SAVE THE DRIVE CYCLE LANES, HOVE

84.39 The Mayor stated that under the Council's petition scheme, if a petition contained 1,250 or more signatures, it could be debated by the Full Council and such a request had been made in respect of an e-petition, concerning the Drive cycle lanes in Hove.

84.40 The Mayor invited Councillor Davey to present his petition.

84.41 Councillor Davey thanked the Mayor and stated that a total of 3,543 people had signed the e-petition which read as follows:

"We the undersigned, call on the Conservative administration running Brighton & Hove City Council to withdraw its proposals to improve vehicular access to the seafront and Shoreham Harbour by spending £1.1m removing the cycle lanes on The Drive and grand Avenue in Hove.

The increased traffic levels, particularly the likely greater use by heavy goods vehicles, will increase the risk to other road users particularly pedestrians and cyclists.

These cycle lanes were installed by the same Conservative administration in 2008 at a cost of over £600,000. To spend nearly twice as much removing them now would be an irresponsible waste of public money. This money would be much better spent constructively elsewhere.

Please stop this before it's too late."

84.42 Councillor Davey stated that he hoped that having secured the cycle lane at the previous Budget Council meeting in light of the significant level of support for it, that it would now remain in situ and any necessary improvements made.

84.43 Councillor Theobald noted the petition and stated that very good reasons for the proposed removal of the lane had been outlined as part of the budget process. With regard to the saving achieved by retaining the cycle lane, he noted that the funding had been allocated to other areas and therefore he could not confirm whether resources were available for other safety measures to be put in place.

84.44 Councillor Davis stated that she supported the petition and noted that the cycle lane had been installed under the supervision of the National Cycling Group. She also stated that she wished to move a Labour Group amendment to the report's recommendation, to ensure that cycling was supported by the council.

84.45 Councillor Mitchell formally seconded the amendment.

84.46 Councillor Davey moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group to the report's recommendation and stated that there was a need to improve cycling facilities and to address any safety issues.

84.47 Councillor Phillips formally seconded the amendment.

- 84.48 Councillor Mears stated that concerns had been raised over the safety of the lane and these had been highlighted in Safety Audit reports. She noted that both the amendments referred to the issue of safety, which had been the primary concern for the Administration's proposal to remove the lane in the first instance.
- 84.49 Councillor Young stated that she had asked the local MP to look into the safety issue and noted that taxi drivers had also expressed concerns over safety and the ability to come out of properties along Grand Avenue.
- 84.50 Councillor Elgood stated that he had contacted Norman Baker MP as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Transport Secretary, who he had confirmed that had the council attempted to remove the cycle lane, the government would have taken legal advice on whether the previous funding towards the cost of installation could be reclaimed. He was happy to provide copies of the reply and stated that he believed the proposal to remove the lane had been irresponsible and that the aim should be to make it work and encourage cycling not deter it.
- 84.51 Councillor West stated that there was a need for the cycle lane and the amendment at the budget council meeting had prevented a waste of public money.
- 84.52 Councillor Kemble stated that as a taxi driver he had experienced the difficulty in getting out of drives along Grand Avenue and suggested that other Members should try it for themselves to see the danger that existed.
- 84.53 Councillor Hamilton stated that the previous funding of £1.1m saved by not removing the cycle lane had been taken from the Revenue Budget and not the Capital Budget and therefore suggested that resources were available for improvement works.
- 84.54 Councillor Theobald noted the comments and stated that he believed the overall budget of £4.3m had been reduced by £1.1m and that had then be set aside to fund other services. With regard to the previous funding contributed by a Quango which had now been dissolved, he questioned whether there was an avenue by which that funding could be reclaimed. He had received a number of emails on the issue all asking for the cycle lane to be removed and he questioned just how many of the 3,000 plus petitioners actually use the cycle lane.
- 84.55 The Mayor noted that two amendments had been moved along with the recommendation to refer the petition to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting and stated that he would put each one to the vote.
- 84.56 The Mayor then put the Labour Group's amendment followed by the Green Group's amendment to the vote, each of which was carried.
- 84.57 The Mayor then put the substantive recommendations as amended to the vote which were carried.
- 84.58 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the petition is referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration;

- (2) That the Cabinet Member is requested to seek to ensure that the council actively promotes cycling as a sustainable form of travel and continues to invest in safe cycling facilities across the city;
- (3) That the Cabinet Member is requested to:
- thank the public for their strong expression of interest and tremendous level of support for retaining and improving the cycle lanes;
 - acknowledge that there is clear public support for the retention of these lanes;
 - place all safety audits that have been undertaken on The Drive into the public domain; and
- (4) That the Cabinet Member is requested to:
- instruct officers to identify immediate measures that can be taken to address safety concerns; and
 - instruct officers to identify measures both in the immediate and longer term which may increase usage such as completing links to the north of the city and developing routes to the east and west.

85. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.

85.1 The Mayor reminded the Council that councillors' written questions and the replies from the appropriate councillor were now taken as read by reference to the list included in the addendum, which had been circulated as detailed below:

85.2 (a) Councillor Davis asked:

"What 'slow down' and Schools signs are planned to be installed along the Old Shoreham Rd near the junction at the Upper Drive?"

85.3 Councillor Theobald replied:

"I am pleased to report that two new electronic 'school warning' signs have been installed on the Old Shoreham Road, either side of the Upper Drive.

These complement the new puffin crossing currently being installed on the Upper Drive near this junction.

In addition to this, all the road markings along the Old Shoreham Road from BHASVIC to Portslade have been refreshed where necessary and a general de-clutter of signs has been carried out – removing redundant ones and combining others, some existing signs were either replaced or cleaned as appropriate."

85.4 (b) Councillor Elgood asked:

"Can the Cabinet Member for Environment kindly update me on the progress towards a gating order for Farman Street? As he will be aware this small cut through off Western Road has seen a particularly high level of anti-social behaviour and crime as a result of the high number of licensed venues on Western Rd."

85.5 Councillor Theobald replied:

"Statutory consultation on a proposed Gating Order at Farman Street took place between September and October 2010 and resulted in a number of representations both for and against being received and considered.

In the consultation it suggested a gate at the junction of Farman St and Western Road to be locked between the hours of 9pm and 8am to restrict access from Western Road to Farman St only. The lock will not restrict access from Farman St into Western Road at any time this is so that the area will remain accessible from Cross Street. (The legislation does not permit the full gating of an area of residential properties).

Access from Western Road will be enabled via PIN code for residents. Implementation of the proposed Gating Order presents some particular practical issues to be addressed before taking the next steps, and it is therefore proposed that one final consultation session be scheduled at the end of May 2011 so that a decision can be made at the Environment CMM on the 7th July, or 26th May if practicable."

85.6 (c) Councillor Elgood asked:

"A recent licensing hearing concerning a premise on Western Road revealed that its existing licensing permissions did not match those relating to the current planning permissions for the venue. What checks are made between licensing and planning (and vice versa) to ensure that both permissions match? How does the council ensure that there are no differences between the two sets of permissions and has the council identified this as an issue in previously agreed applications, where premises now operate with one or other permissions incorrectly?"

85.7 Councillor Theobald replied:

"Planning and licensing are separate statutory regimes with different considerations. It is quite legitimate for planning permission and a premises licence to impose different conditions. It is the responsibility of the premises licence holder to comply with all permissions.

The law precludes using lack of correct planning permission being used to justify refusal unless a licensing objective is not supported. Licensing objectives are crime prevention, public safety, public nuisance or protecting children. Planning considerations are different to Licensing Objectives. The lack of appropriate planning position cannot be used to justify licence application refusal or impose conditions in itself. To do so, would leave the Council acting outside its powers.

Officers have reported to Cabinet last March on this subject. Officers continue to work towards ensuring planning policy and enforcement is more effectively used to supplement the existing licensing powers to control the availability of alcohol through licensed premises in the city.

Where appropriate when considering planning applications within the policy framework planning conditions can be attached to permissions to safeguard amenity and mitigate against impact”

85.8 **(d)** Councillor Lepper asked:

“Can the Cabinet Member for enterprise give assurances to the local businesses and Community Transport, who currently rent space from the Council on the Preston Barracks site, that if future developments on that site should mean their relocation, every help will be given to them by the Council to do so locally, thus safeguarding the business and the jobs of those who work for them.”

85.9 Councillor Fallon-Khan replied:

“The council is of course committed to supporting businesses wherever possible. Indeed, it was the council’s desire to assist a number of local businesses back in 2004 (at a time when they had to vacate their previous site – Hollingdean Depot), that led to agreement to their temporary relocation to Preston Barracks. They have been fully aware from the outset that their occupation was an interim arrangement pending redevelopment. They have operated from the site for considerably longer than originally anticipated and I am very pleased that the council has been able to assist in this way.

The city council will again assist where it can. Equally, I am sure the businesses will be proactively searching for alternative accommodation and will be making best use of the time still available to them. I would therefore hope that a longer-term solution can be found. I am aware that Councillor Lepper has raised her concerns at previous Board meetings and I know that officers will update the businesses as the project moves forward.

As a member of the Preston Barracks Project Board, Councillor Lepper will know of the progress that has been made, in recent months in particular, in moving forward with plans in partnership with the University of Brighton. Having been supported by the Board, I am delighted that the draft planning brief was approved at the 10 March Environment CMM. This is a significant step forward and consultation on the draft brief will be starting shortly. This site offers a fantastic opportunity to deliver a high quality development, one that will create much needed jobs and contribute to the regeneration of this area of the city.”

85.10 **(e)** Councillor Morgan asked:

“Can the Cabinet Member advise of the progress made on the sale of the land currently occupied by Whitehawk Library and Youth Centre, whether bids have been sought or received, what timetable there is for the sale and what the market value of the land is?”

85.11 Councillor Alford replied:

“The recommendation to sell this site was presented to Cabinet on 14 January 2010 (item 161, Forward Plan No: CAB13950). More recently the Planning Projects Team has provided informal planning guidance notes for this site as well as land on Whitehawk Road (Wellsbourne Centre). The Property Estates Team are currently having informal discussions with agents with a view to identifying a shortlist to tender for the instruction for the marketing and sale of both sites. The intention is to commence marketing in May with a closing date for offers projected for July. Negotiations will then commence with the successful bidder or bidders to complete a sale which would likely complete in 2012. Initial valuations based on assumptions for residential development have estimated a value for both sites in the region of £1m - £1.5m which will be tested when put to the market.

The Whitehawk co-location project has been partly funded by the Education capital programme and so £1m from the receipt for these two sites will be repaid to the Education capital programme once the sales complete.”

85.12 **(f)** Councillor Morgan asked:

“How much has the council spent printing and posting the incorrect rate bills for charities?”

85.13 Councillor Young replied:

“We wrote to 100 organisations (charities and not for profit organisations) to forewarn them that their bills may be incorrect, due to unforeseen delays in processing applications for rate relief. The cost involved in sending these letters was relatively small at £105.89, and helped to ensure our customers were aware of what was happening. We have advised those involved to disregard their bill until they get an amended one in April.”

85.14 **(g)** Councillor Elgood asked:

“Hotels and Guest Houses benefit from voucher parking in Kemp Town. Could the council consider extending the scheme to other parking zones, including in Brunswick and Adelaide, where small hotels and guest house owners have requested a similar scheme?”

85.15 Councillor Theobald replied:

“The council will consider the issue of extending the hotel voucher permit scheme to other parking zones as part of the citywide parking review this summer.”

85.16 **(h)** Councillor Hawkes asked:

“Has the Cabinet member looked into the possible impact this government’s abolition of Educational Maintenance Allowance will have on young people in Brighton & Hove and what does she plan to do about it?”

85.17 Councillor Brown replied:

“The cost of providing EMA is approximately £600 million. The grant is allocated according to household income which does not necessarily reflect the actual needs of the student.

There is another source of funding to support students in real need ...the discretionary Learner Support Funds which is given directly to sixth form colleges and Colleges of further Education. (The Local Authority is given Learner Support funding for those in school sixth forms.) The government is intending to increase this discretionary fund.

Decisions regarding the new discretionary fund will be made locally, enabling schools, colleges and training providers to target support at those young people in greatest need.

In finalising the arrangements for the enhanced discretionary learner support, the Department will consult with schools, colleges and training organisations and other interested parties, including on how to ensure that the most vulnerable young people, who are facing genuine financial barriers to participation, receive appropriate support to enable them to continue in education or training.

The plan is to allocate the enhanced funding in line with the timetable for overall funding allocations for schools and colleges, which will be made by the end of March 2011.”

85.18 (i) Councillor Hawkes asked:

“Despite this government’s claim that they had found “more resources” for our school’s, new figures have revealed that the average secondary school will see its budget for building work, repairs and computers slashed by £86,000 next year and for primary schools in England the figure is £26,000. Does this concern the cabinet member and how does she plan to work with local schools to manage this further loss of funding?”

85.19 Councillor Brown replied:

“The government has been able to safeguard resources for schools and through the pupil premium increases funding. As part of the spending review for 2011/12, the overall settlement for schools, within the Dedicated Schools Grant, has been maintained at flat cash per pupil, which means that funding will rise in line with pupil numbers.

The pupil premium is in addition to this and is estimated at £625m nationally for 2011/12. For schools in Brighton & Hove, the pupil premium funding will be in the region of £2m and it is planned for this pupil premium money to increase over the next 4 years.

Brighton & Hove has benefited from a significant capital building project in Moulsecoomb, a brand new secondary school and has secured funding for new buildings and refurbishment at Portslade Community College. We also have funding for the building necessary to increase the number of primary classrooms.

The amount available to individual schools through devolved formula capital (DFC) has been reduced and officers are working with schools to look at the best ways to use this

efficiently. Some schools will contribute their DFC to existing projects and others may consider pooling their allocation to benefit groups of schools.”

85.20 (j) Councillor McCaffery asked:

“As one of the very few councillors living near London Road, I am only too aware of the volume of traffic coming into the City and the heavy congestion this causes and would wish to encourage the use of other forms of transport, Could Cllr Theobald inform me of the cost of a normal return journey to the city Centre for two adults and two children?”

85.21 Councillor Theobald replied:

“Whilst it is a busy road it is also vitally important in providing access to the City for our many visitors and our residents.

Assuming that none of the members of the family hold any concessions, the Brighton and Hove Bus Company fare for each adult would be £3.70, and for the children it would be £1 each way, giving a total cost of £11.40. However the adult ticket for £3.70 is an all-day City Saver giving unlimited travel between Steyning, Shoreham, Lewes and Seaford. If the adults held Annual Saver tickets, and the children held Bus ID cards, then the total cost for the family for the day would be £3.16.”

85.22 (k) Councillor Simpson asked:

“Could the Cabinet member give a best estimate as to how many Housing Benefit claimants will be affected by the cuts to the benefit that are being introduced over the next few years. Please can you inform me as to the numbers of Private Sector tenants and also a figure as to the number of working age Brighton and Hove City Council tenants who will be affected by such measures as the restriction of the payment of Housing Benefit to the number of bedrooms to match household size?”

85.23 Councillor Young replied:

“There are 28,114 people claiming Housing Benefit (HB) in Brighton and Hove. 9,630 of these are for Council owned, or Council leased accommodation. 18,484 are for private rented accommodation of which 4,891 are for Housing Association properties. The remaining people rent from independent private landlords and agencies.

Of the customers who rent from independent private landlords, 12,665 are paid under the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) scheme. A further 913 are paid on older HB schemes because of the length of their tenancy, it is a protected tenancy or because they live in unusual accommodation, for example houseboats.

There are currently 5,485 working households claiming HB and LHA. 4,183 rent from independent private landlords and agencies, 476 from Housing Associations and 821 from the Council.

7248 LHA claims currently have their benefit based upon an amount more than their rent. These ‘excess’ payments will be ended over the next 12 months starting in April 2011.

All LHA will be eventually based on the 30th percentile of local rents rather than the 50th percentile. This will be implemented for existing customers over the next 21 months starting from April 2011.

Non-dependent deductions are changing over the next three years to take into account inflation since 2001 when they were frozen. This will affect approximately 185 customers in Housing Association properties 265 who rent from independent landlords and agencies and 530 in Council Accommodation. A further 1000 claims with non-dependants are exempt from deductions.

The Government is yet to issue detail on the proposal that payment of HB should match household size and bedrooms in the Social Sector.”

85.24 (I) Councillor Meadows asked:

“Is Cllr Norman concerned about the cutbacks his government is making on the inspection of Care Homes and will he be making representations to the Secretary Of State for Health regarding the impact on local care homes?”

85.25 Councillor Norman replied:

“This question is linked to the new standards for regulated social care services that came into force on 1/10/10, including essential standards of quality and safety that all care providers must meet. The Care Quality Commission introduced a new registration and monitoring system alongside this. This includes a shift from periodic inspections and quality ratings to a system of continuous monitoring of compliance with these essential standards. The Commission have introduced a Quality Risk Profile on all providers which enables them to gather and analyse available information. This informs the actions they will take in relation to providers including inspection activity.

Findings from CQC monitoring are publicly available and the Commission have a range of enforcement powers if providers fail to meet standards. The Commission have also announced the development of a new scheme to promote excellence in regulated social care services with a proposed implementation date of April 2012.

These national developments have been complemented by the introduction of more robust Care Governance arrangements in Brighton & Hove through the Care Governance Panel which monitors the quality of care across local services. Officers from the Council meet regularly with the local CQC team to discuss the quality of local services. At my Cabinet Member Meetings I receive regular reports summarising the quality of care home provision in the city.

The quality and safety of care in local care homes is of utmost importance to me. I am satisfied that the monitoring of local care services by the CQC, alongside the local arrangements in the city are robust, and therefore I will not be making representations to the Secretary of State.”

86. ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 86.1 The Mayor reminded the Council that councillors' oral questions would be taken in the order as listed in the council agenda and that a period of 30 minutes was set aside for the item. Should any questions not be reached at the end of the time period, those councillors would have the opportunity for their question to be carried over to the next council meeting.
- 86.2 The Mayor then called on Councillor Smith to put his question to Councillor Kennedy as Chairman of the Culture, Tourism & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 86.3 **(a)** Councillor Smith asked, "Could Cllr Kennedy tell me what work the Culture, Tourism & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee has undertaken looking at library services in the City?"
- 86.4 Councillor Kennedy replied, "The Culture, Tourism, Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee has looked at lots of library related issues including pre-decision input on to the libraries plan for 2009 to 2012, a workshop on mobile libraries, regular updates on the libraries plan. We are also looking forward to a report detailing more information about the PFI contract for our libraries and in addition to that both as chair of the committee and also as a regular member of the committee I have attended several excellent events at the library including a very good event which was aimed at raising levels of reading among school children in the City and several wonderful visits to our marvellous rare books collection."
- 86.5 Councillor Smith asked the following supplementary question, "Would Councillor Kennedy join me in congratulating the administration for the completely protected library service in the recent budget process and would she perhaps explain to the residents including Christopher Hawtree why the Green Group voted against the proposal to provide 2000 new books at the city libraries?"
- 86.6 Councillor Kennedy replied, "Of course I will congratulate all involved in saving our library services. We do stand alone amongst many authorities in the South East for being able to do that. However Councillor Smith I am really sorry point 9.9 oral questions should relate to matters of general policy only and as Chair of a non-political scrutiny committee I will not answer your final question."
- 86.7 **(b)** Councillor Hamilton asked, "At the Cabinet Meeting last week you stated that you had been talking to Portslade Community Forum with regard to setting up a consortium to consider future plans for Portslade Town Hall. Furthermore you stated that officers at the council have been instructed to liaise with the Forum and I believe you may have discussed modernising the Kitchen and had a conversation with a project worker for how this could be developed for community use; however she is not on the Forum Committee. The Chair of Portslade Community Forum assures me that you and council officers have carried out no consultation or communication with the Forum, please could you clarify what future liaison is planned with Portslade Community Forum. Thank you."
- 86.8 Councillor Alford replied, "I was desperately interested to know what Councillor Hamilton would actually come up with today because clearly Portslade Town Hall is a fixation. Just to begin with, yes the Community Forum has been contacted, they've actually

supplied a list of active participants and I am quite happy to share this information with Councillor Hamilton at any time. We actually have the name of the council officer who will be the liaison man with this group, and I am quite happy to share that with Councillor Hamilton also. Yesterday the Cabinet held an informal meeting at Portslade Town Hall just to experience the facilities, and see what was going on. Everyone enjoyed the day it gave them the chance to have a look at the facility. What I have to ask Councillor Hamilton himself is does he have any plans to improve Portslade Town Hall. I mean last week at Cabinet we spent an hour debating the issue with him. You know basically bit by bit I believe we won him over to our argument. Interestingly enough at the end of the argument he said on camera "it does not happen very often but I actually agree with Councillor Alford." I am quite happy to share any information with Councillor Hamilton at any time."

- 86.9 Councillor Hamilton stated that "For a point of personal explanation, I said I supported Councillor Alford in spending money on Portslade Town Hall ,I did not say I supported Councillor Alford on selling of the rest of the property's site to pay for it." He then asked the following supplementary question, "My supplementary is this, why has the Cabinet agreed to market land and buildings in Victoria Road, Portslade prior to any consultation with Portslade residents many of whom are outraged by your proposal?"
- 86.10 Councillor Alford replied, "There again it has been explained to Councillor Hamilton that basically it will be a 3 stage process, this was all explained last week, it's an in principle decision at Cabinet so that goes ahead then basically we get somebody involved in the process who comes up with some ideas for the surplus land at that site at that point anyone that's wants to, including Councillor Hamilton and anyone with a vested interest is at liberty to join in the debate to find a sustainable future for this Town Hall."
- 86.11 (c) Councillor Fallon-Khan asked, "Will the Leader of the Council please make a statement on proposals for a coach park in Brighton?"
- 86.12 Councillor Mears replied, "I am referring to a report in the Argus from the Opposition Leader Councillor Gill Mitchell and comments about the coach park would be a waste of money. While we readily use taxpayers' money on the site and in the area with court fees, waste clearance, for loads of anti-social behaviour which amounts actually to over £50,000, a huge sum of public money, and this proposal would hugely improve the vitality of the whole area. It would also bring new investment into the city's economy. One coach company has said they will increase their business by 30%. This money is actually seaside town money very kindly given to us by the previous government, it's not match funding it was given to us for purposes like this. I would have thought Councillor Mitchell would really welcome this proposal."
- 86.13 Councillor Fallon-Khan asked the following supplementary question, "Would the Leader agree with me that this proposal is actually excellent value for money?"
- 86.14 Councillor Mears replied, "Absolutely, as I said earlier, we have spent over £50,000 of public money just to clear the site on a regular basis. To actually bring some investment into the area and to ensure that actually we increase our participation by a coach companies and they bring further investment into our city, to our economy is a really good thing so that is absolute value for money."

- 86.15 **(d)** Councillor Davis asked, "Will the Cabinet Member explain why the £62,000 of S.106 money allocated to the Council from the Development of South Down House 72 flats on Somerhill Avenue specifically for and I quote the provision of outdoor recreation facilities in the vicinity of the new development i.e. in St Ann's Wells Gardens has been sitting in the council's coffers unused since at least 2009?"
- 86.16 Councillor Theobald replied, "The S.106 money is available to do works in St Ann's Wells Gardens. The reason why, you say this has been laying there since 2009, frankly Mr. Mayor this work is planned to be done this year. It may well be the case that that money didn't come over to us at that particular stage. The fact is that a lot of works have been done in St Ann's Wells Gardens and a lot of works are going to be done in St Ann's Wells Gardens and I would have thought Cllr Davis would have been very pleased about that."
- 86.17 Councillor Davis asked the following supplementary question, "Is the Cabinet Member aware that we are extremely unlikely to win back the green flag in St Ann's Wells Gardens this month for a second year in a row because no money has been spent on the playground area and it is now deemed unsafe in places and not up to the required green flag standards?"
- 86.18 Councillor Theobald replied, "No I wouldn't accept that Mr. Mayor at all. We have been working on the various points that the judges in the green flag competition have raised as far as this park is concerned and all those works it is planned to do Mr. Mayor."
- 86.19 **(e)** Councillor Barnett asked, "Does the Cabinet Member for Enterprise & Employment share my disappointment that the opposition parties voted against the Conservative Administration's proposal to set up new future apprenticeships fund for the city at Budget Council meeting?"
- 86.20 Councillor Fallon-Khan replied, "I have to say I was particularly and personally very sad about that. During Budget Council you will recall some of the Conservative amendments which were fairly harmless you know, 20,000 library books, apprenticeships, education business partnerships these are the sorts of things that we absolutely believe that some of the other political parties would have necessarily agreed with. So I don't even think that they actually looked at our amendments because if they did look at our amendments Mr. Mayor they would have seen that they have cut at the heart of apprenticeships and 16-24 year olds in the City once and for all.

The apprenticeships in this City are now only really backed by one political party in the City and that's us. The education business partnership Mr. Mayor is something that I have now bought up 4 times to Councillor Mitchell. She raised in the Argus a few months ago, made a statement that the Connexions service was going to be replaced by one-off education business partnership event. Students, companies and apprentices and employees look at this service as absolutely vital and, I am looking at Councillor Allen here because I just cannot believe that he would have read those amendments from us and voted against it and neither Councillor McCaffrey and especially Councillor Turton. So they cut right at the heart of that and I am very sad and we are going to try everything we possibly can Mr. Mayor to make sure apprenticeships survive in the City and small business and big business are willing to take them on, thank you."

86.21 **(f)** Councillor Morgan asked, “In 2007 the Conservative Manifesto for the City stated that we will work tirelessly to redevelop the Brighton Centre and make the new building the cornerstone of the city’s prosperity. Why, 4 years later and 6 weeks before they leave office are we no further forward and no nearer seeing a new Brighton Centre?”

86.22 Councillor Smith replied,

“Can I remind Councillor Morgan that in 2006 the then Chief Executive of this authority said the Brighton Centre was going to close at the end of 2007, going to shut its doors the whole lot. We lost millions of pounds of business in the City through that and it has taken us, how many years, 3 / 4 years to build it up again. I am pleased to say we are delivering between £60 million and £80 million pounds worth of income to this city which employs approximately 2000 jobs and a wider range of 14,000 jobs for the whole City. Because of what happened to the King Alfred, no money was spent over all the many years, we decided, because the Brighton Centre was such an important building to the economy of the City, to spend £800,000 refurbishing the Centre. I don’t know if any of you have been in there lately and looked at it, completely redecorated, new booking office. We have got so many conferences, new ones coming here even today, 2 new conferences have been booked in, one for 2013 and one for 2017 which will bring about another £400,000 into the economy of the City. When the Members of the Labour Party get up and say about the Brighton Centre, King Alfred or any of these things that are left in our hands, yes we do want a new Brighton Centre it is very important but what we are doing we’re spending money to make sure it is a leading light in the City it is today. Thank you.”

86.23 Councillor Morgan asked the following supplementary question, “Why is Councillor Smith answering this question and not the Cabinet Member for Enterprise & Major Projects, why have they and this administration failed to deliver on the Brighton Centre, failed to deliver on any major project, failed to deliver on the economy and on jobs after 4 years in office?”

86.24 Councillor Smith replied, “I will answer it because the Brighton Centre is so important in this City and have you forgotten the King Alfred? I could go on and on and on of things that haven’t been done in this City which should have been done. I was there at the very beginning 1977. I was a councillor when the Brighton Centre opened I was very proud of it then, what’s happened since then, we have had other centres all over the country opening in Manchester, Birmingham since then, Liverpool, Sheffield, Glasgow all these places in competition. We could have had a new Brighton Centre a few years ago, what happened when SEEDA gave us £16m this council, towards the cost of it with Standard Life, it went to the Secretary of State and they threw it out and the reason was Brighton was wealthy enough to find its own money.”

86.25 **(g)** Councillor Alford asked, “Could the Cabinet Member for Housing tell me how is tenant participation built into investment decisions in council housing?”

86.26 Councillor Caulfield replied, “Talking about another area of the council business that was never invested in under Labour. I am happy to say that a range of levels of tenant involvement in any decisions we make in investment and improvement to our council housing stock right down to the grass roots of tenants associations, which then form part of area panels, which then feed into the Housing Management Consultative Committee

which Members, if they decide to turn up, are also part of. So there is a whole range of tenant involvement initiatives and the biggest part of that is the City Assembly which is held a number of times and actually is just tenant led itself, but I think the ultimate tenant participation would actually be to see a tenant councillor sitting in this Chamber and I hope that after May we might actually see that happen.”

86.27 Councillor Alford asked the following supplementary question, “So right obviously the obvious question now is, now we know how it’s done, well I have got to ask now is how exactly is this changed since before the Conservative Group came into administration in 2007?”

86.28 Councillor Caulfield replied, “Yes we don’t just pay lip service to tenant involvement; we actually do take it seriously. I know Members on the opposition aren’t always happy about that, because we fundamentally believe that it isn’t for the state whether that’s the local or national state to dictate to people about their own homes. As Cabinet Member for Housing, private housing comes under me and I deal with things such as squatters, HMO licensing, grant to improve houses. I don’t tell home owners how to improve their homes or what to do with them so why should I tell tenants. I would like to see ultimately the Cabinet Member for Housing role in terms of council housing to deal with the budget and to look after maybe allocation of resources but it’s up to tenants to say how they want their service run how they want their homes delivered and I know that Members are uncomfortable about that because some people pay lip service to it and we actually believe in it. So when people talk to me about why haven’t we been involved in this decision, it’s up to tenants to bring these suggestions to us and we can have a debate about them but tenants must lead in this, it’s their homes after all.”

86.29 (h) Councillor Turton asked, “Could Councillor Theobald kindly update the council on the administration’s plans for permanent park & ride sites within the City please.”

86.30 Councillor Theobald replied, “I would just point out at the start that we do have a park & ride site in this City which, of course, is at Withdean Stadium. I appreciate you don’t know this part of the City very well. The site has 162 spaces, parking is free of charge and there is a bus straight into the City centre, the number 27 that goes every 15 minutes. So that is still there. As far as the future is concerned, it is intended that any park & ride sites would provide an opportunity to increase the choices available for people to access the City centre and also the South Downs National Park. Identifying suitable sites within the City does present a number of challenges.

I’ve mentioned Mr. Mayor, the challenges that are involved, the previous administration tried and failed and we have looked at the various sites they came up with and we have now looked at over 100 potential sites. It’s not easy Mr. Mayor bearing in mind we have a national park on one side and the sea on the other. But we have had a new approach based on the delivery of a number of smaller park & ride sites and that’s a key element of our sustainable transport policy. The next stage is a research exercise and that involves putting forward for consideration by the council potential sites within the City that could operate successfully but there are further detailed assessments and modeling that is required and of course, I mentioned this earlier on in this meeting, our transport model which will be with us very shortly now and that will help us very considerably because obviously, if you are going to put a lot of cars in one particular space you need to know the effect on the roads and such like around them, thank you Mr. Mayor.”

- 86.31 Councillor Turton asked the following supplementary question, "Councillor Theobald refers to the previous Labour Administration had identified over 100 potential sites and more work is being done. The Tory Manifesto in 2007 promised us effective delivery of park & ride within this current council cycle, it refers to a new approach, the new approach is the old approach put off doing anything about sustainable transport in this City, don't do anything, pack it in with cars and let the pollution go, that's your approach."
- 86.32 Councillor Theobald replied, "I have got absolutely nothing to answer, I mean I am amazed given the amount of time the Councillor must have had to think about what questions he can ask to try and catch me out, that that is the best he can do, then frankly that is not very good at all. I have already explained what we have got to do and what we are endeavouring to do. Find smaller sites but I got back to what I said originally, we have a park & ride site and I am just amazed that the Members opposite don't know where that is."
- 86.33 (i) Councillor Carden asked, "Dear Cllr Theobald can you please tell me how a Bridle Path of many years standing becomes a Twitten."
- 86.34 Councillor Theobald replied, "Well it's very nice to get the actual subject matter and the question which does enable me to answer it. A public bridleway is a legal definition for a right of way used by the public for walking and riding. A 'twitten' is a term used widely in Sussex and indeed it is certainly used widely in Patcham and there is a little booklet that refers to the 'twittens of Patcham'. A 'twitten' is a term used widely in Sussex to describe a path or alleyway which can depending on it's legal status be a public right of way and a bridle path. That's the legal answer that I've got."
- 86.35 Councillor Carden asked the following supplementary question, "Thank you Mr Mayor. What does the council do to perform maintenance and maintain these 'twittens'? I would like to know."
- 86.36 Councillor Theobald replied, "Rights of way are the responsibility of this council and they will continue to be the responsibility of this council even when the South Downs National Park and we have staff who maintain rights of way. We also have highways staff who maintain alleyways"
- 86.37 (j) Councillor Lepper asked, "Is Councillor Theobald aware that in October 1998 a Council report went to a committee in those days stated that Hollingdean needed a traffic calming scheme and as a result of that report some safety measures were carried out specifically in the dip, but everybody knew then that the measures had to be carried out on a wider scale. In fact by 2002, Hollingdean was ranked second in areas identified for traffic calming and finance was found to begin designing a scheme and public consultation began. The scheme ranked first was Woodingdean and that did in fact go ahead. In 2007 it would appear that the criteria and policy had changed and that area traffic calming schemes were no longer carried out. But in a letter to me at that time, I was told that road safety targets would be monitored annually and that the programme would be reviewed approximately every three years. Since then at regular intervals I have asked, not just as a local councillor but chair of the Hollingdean Local Action Team that a reassessment is carried out. I have also presented five petitions including those

from parents of St Joseph's School, residents in Stanmer Villas and Roedale Road calling for measures to make the area safer. The LAT has also offered up Hollingdean for a pilot area for a 20mph scheme. All these requests have been dismissed and local people believe that this administration does not take seriously local concerns about road safety. As it is now more than three years since 2007 can Councillor Theobald tell me when this area will be reassessed as part of that review promised in 2007?"

86.38 Councillor Theobald replied, "Well what is interesting is these sorts of questions come up just before an election don't they Mr Mayor. It's also interesting that the councillor was a leading member of the last Labour administration and it's interesting to know why these things didn't happen during their term. But Mr Mayor the council has taken positive steps to improve road safety at the dip. The road has undergone a number of improvements that included adjusting road layout and improved signage and lighting. Collision data for the last three years shows that these measures have and are working as the number of collisions has fallen significantly compared with the original road layout. Whilst the council doesn't consider Hollingdean Dip to have a specific safety concern, we are sensitive as we are throughout the city to the concerns and perceptions of residents. So we have developed a new methodology for assessing the requirements for pedestrian crossings that not only takes accidents into account but also includes pedestrian demand and I will ask officers to look at your request with this in mind.

86.39 Councillor Lepper asked the following supplementary question, "If he'd have listened to the question I talked about an area traffic calming scheme and he has fallen into the usual trap of just talking about the Dip which is only part of the problem. I have asked at regular intervals, and I do have the correspondence to prove it Geoffrey, it's not just at election times, as I have been instructed to do by the Local Action Team for a reassessment of the Hollingdean area, which does include the Dip, but it takes into account the entire 50 bus route which passes St Joseph's School, the Children's Centre Hollingdean Sure Start and the entrance to Cedar Centre Special School. The question is when is he going to ask his officers to carry out an assessment of Hollingdean for traffic calming as was promised in 2007? And it was the Labour administration that worked up the traffic calming scheme."

86.40 Councillor Theobald replied, "Mr Mayor, we get lots of requests, I can't just say well that because Councillor Lepper has got up at election time to say yes I will do so and so just like that Mr Mayor, I really can't and I don't think it would be appropriate."

86.41 **(k)** Councillor Marsh asked, "In this recent leaflet circulated by Councillor Caulfield, it's a non party political leaflet which is paid for by the way by the tax payer but is a very clear statement where it says that residents can receive free or cheap electricity under a council initiative. I would like to ask Councillor Caulfield the evidence on which this is based and whether she can clarify how exactly residents of our ward can receive free electricity?"

86.42 Councillor Caulfield replied, "Actually if opposition councillors again came to Housing Management Consultative Committee (HMCC) they would hear the evidence and have heard debates around tenants discussing it. We are in discussions, it was at my Cabinet Member Meeting (CMM) only on Tuesday after HMCC where we showed evidence in the report that we do have electricity companies willing to sign up with us and we are also in consultation with another local authority to go in and look at installing

solar panels and we are really excited about this project because what it will mean for council tenants in this city is that energy companies will install these solar panels for free. The tenants will benefit from the electricity that is provided and what's up for discussion is what we do with the surplus. So that could come to the council, that could come to the energy company, depending on the sort of negotiations we go into and this was debated at the tenants meeting last night that we both attended Councillor Marsh so you did get the answer then as well, thank you."

- 86.43 Councillor Marsh asked the following supplementary question, "Further along in this leaflet it does refer to the feed in tariff scheme which Councillor Caulfield hasn't actually mentioned and I want to ask is she aware that the Government is currently reviewing these feed in tariffs, whether she is aware that according to Climate Change Minister Gregory Baker there have been no representations received from this Administration regarding this review which is rather surprising and does she therefore not agree that her Administration should pursue making representations to the Government as a matter of urgency to ensure that Brighton and Hove City Council has a say on what is clearly an important review?"
- 86.44 Councillor Caulfield replied, "On a couple of issues, we do know there's going to be changes made to the feed in tariffs and that is why we wanted to move quickly and why we brought the recommendation for the feed in tariffs to Budget Council, which the Green Party voted against in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and the Labour Party abstained and tenants are very aware of that. In relation to the Energy Minister, it's Greg Barker actually, Councillor Mears actually met with him last week at number 10 Downing Street and negotiations went very well and we are very pleased and that is why we are ahead of the game with most local authorities because we know changes will be made and that's why we want to get these installations in quickly."
- 86.45 (I) Councillor Mitchell asked, "Would the Leader of the Council comment on the Local Economic Partnership, its relationship with this council and how likely she believes Brighton & Hove will fare in receiving funding from the Government's new Regional Growth fund?"
- 86.46 Councillor Mears replied, "I am pleased that the Government has made it possible for our city to qualify for Regional Growth funding; I recognise there is stiff competition to receive this funding from across the country. The authority has encouraged private sector business to also bid for the funding. And I think that we ought to need to recognise the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) is also about inward investment to the area. In the Budget yesterday, George Osborne announced that LEP's will be able to become new enterprise zones which would allow us to retain business rates locally and would streamline planning which is something that we very much welcome and will be looking into."
- 86.47 Councillor Mitchell asked the following supplementary question, "I thank the Leader of the Council for her partial answer and I would like to invite her to explain how it is intended under this new model that local business groups and fora will continue to be linked to and represented on the LEP, and would she take this opportunity of expressing her genuine and continuing support for these local groups?"

- 86.48 Councillor Mears replied, "Thank you Mr Mayor. I very much welcome the establishment of the Coast Capital LEP which provides an opportunity to provide private businesses large and small to champion economic recovery and the long term growth of our city and the wider region. My ambition for the new appointed LEP board is that it will provide a strategic platform for business leaders working with local government to promote investment, create jobs and raise the prosperity of our city. As a local authority, to realise our role is to work with the business sector to achieve the best possible outcomes for local people. The city council has a seat on the LEP board and we will work to ensure that the LEP is sufficiently influential with Government and reflects our priorities and that's across the piste Mr Mayor, we will be ensuring that our businesses in the city, right across the piste are actually consulted and included."
- 86.49 (m) Councillor Hawkes asked, "Whilst realising that Travellers in the city have only recently come under your portfolio, why is it that the two groups of Van Dwellers in North Brighton at Varley Halls of Residence, Coldean lane and Thirty Nine Acre Field on Ditchling Road have been allowed to remain for almost a year spoiling the beautiful environment around Coldean?"
- 86.50 Councillor Caulfield replied, "Thank you for your question and I to share your concerns as the area is near my ward and I do receive quite a lot of complaints from local residents around the two encampments. It's not for the want of trying I can assure you and we have had several legal discussions around this and the groups have got legal cover themselves, they have got Legal Aid in fact. But we are at the stage where we now do have a court date next week on the 29th and we are hoping that a full court hearing will be scheduled soon so that we will get an eviction notice. Unfortunately they are a very well organised group and they do have a lot of legal support and they are talking about making this a test case for national purposes and what I am particularly disappointed in is this group of Van Dwellers have no regard for local neighbours and the local neighbourhood. But also they are doing a disservice to the Gypsy and Traveller community in this city because people are assuming it's Gypsies and Travellers and it's not, they are Van Dwellers and they are very much linked to the Van Dwellers that have been in Stanmer Park that thankfully our Rangers got rid of and a group of squatters that are organised around this city as well. So I want to make clear we are very committed to evicting them from both sites, it's under legal proceedings so it's difficult and we are trying to move it on as quickly as possible, but I want to emphasise that they are a group of Van Dwellers and not Gypsies and Travellers and it's a great shame that they are having a negative impact on that Community."
- 86.51 Councillor Hawkes asked the following supplementary question, "I did also use the term Van Dwellers, there is no doubt about that. But are you prepared therefore, I am aware of the court proceedings obviously, are you prepared to consider the sites urgently one way or the other please?"
- 86.52 Councillor Caulfield replied, "Yes we are, and we have sort advice from a barrister as well because there was debate whether to fight these court cases because they will be very expensive on the tax payer and the advise was that we must because they want to make us an example and a test case, and if we don't we will be opening the flood gates to other Van Dwellers to take up any vacant land in the parts of the city. So we are absolutely committed to fighting this and will deal with it as urgently as possible. And I do acknowledge that Councillor Hawkes said Van Dwellers as well."

- 86.53 (n) Councillor McCaffery asked, “Noting that despite the amendments to the budget and the potential restructuring I understand that the Education Welfare Service is significantly reduced, could Councillor Brown inform me what mechanisms are proposed for monitoring and assessing the reasons for absence from school, often a key indicator that there are serious issues in the family or with the young people’s mental health?”
- 86.54 Councillor Brown replied, “Thank you Councillor McCaffery. Even before the budget we were considering planning to integrate the Education Welfare Service more fully with the mainstream Children Social Work Teams. This will create a simpler more coherent care pathway for children requiring support and will stop duplication of services, because generally if the children are known to social services, they are the ones who are also working with the Education Welfare Officers, so hopefully it will stop the duplication which is better for the children and for us.”
- 86.55 Councillor McCaffery asked the following supplementary question, “As I mentioned in my first question some of the issues are around young people’s mental health. Would Councillor Brown please tell me the average length of time that young people with serious psychological problems currently have to wait to be seen by a Tier one psychologist, that’s the top tier, and how long they will have to wait in the future?”
- 86.56 Councillor Brown replied, “Thank you Councillor McCaffery. I think they were two very complicated questions and I don’t think you’d expect me to be able to answer off the top of my head but we will give you a written answer.”

87. REPORTS OF THE CABINET, CABINET MEMBER MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES.

(a) Callover

87.1 The following items on the agenda were reserved for discussion:

- Item 89 - Overview & Scrutiny Report: The Societal Impact of the In-Year Budget Reductions.
- Item 90 - Services for Adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions – Scrutiny Review Panel Report.

(b) Receipt and/or Approval of Reports

87.2 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that Items 89 and 90 had been reserved for discussion; and that the following reports on the agenda with the recommendations therein had been approved and adopted:

- Item 88 - Annual Report of the Standards Committee.
- Item 91 - Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2011/12.
- Item 92 - Health and Safety Annual Service Plan 2011/12.

Item 93 - Annual Investment Strategy 2011/12.

(c) Oral Questions from Members

87.3 The Mayor noted that there were no oral questions.

88. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

88.1 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

89. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT: THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF THE IN-YEAR BUDGET REDUCTIONS

89.1 Councillor Watkins introduced the report and stated that he felt it had been an important scrutiny and had produced clear recommendations which he hoped would be taken forward. He wished to thank the Panel Members and the scrutiny officers who had helped to ensure that the review was well supported.

89.2 Councillor Young stated that she wished to thank the Panel for undertaking the review and completing it so quickly in light of the unprecedented cuts that had been announced by the government. The recommendations had been taken on board and had informed the 2011/12 budget setting process.

89.3 Councillor Wakefield-Jarrett thanked those involved in the scrutiny process, especially the CVS staff and finance officers who came to give evidence and enabled the panel to develop an understanding of the pressures caused by the in-year budget announcements. She hoped that an equalities impact assessment would be available with future budget papers and welcomed the acceptance of the recommendations.

89.4 Councillor Fallon-Khan welcomed the report and drew attention to paragraphs 8.4 and recommendation 9 in relation to partnership working of the panel's report; which had been highlighted by the panel and which he felt had been recognised by the Leader and already actioned.

89.5 Councillor Watkins noted the comments and recommended the report to the council.

89.6 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

90. SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM CONDITIONS - SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL REPORT

90.1 Councillor Harmer-Strange introduced the report and stated that he had great pleasure in bringing the report before Members. He wished to thank the panel Members for their support and those taking part in the review as well as the officers who supported the panel. It had been a very complex issue and was one that he had personal experience with and yet proved to be enlightening for him. The evidence received had enabled the panel to produce their recommendations and he hoped that they would form the basis of

improved working arrangements across all agencies and the opportunity to have further joint sessions to discuss how services to all those directly or indirectly affected could be improved.

- 90.2 Councillor Watkins stated that he wished to place on record his thanks to Councillor Harmer-Strange for his chairmanship of the panel and the various meetings that received evidence and personal experiences in coping with autism and associated conditions. He stated that the review complemented previous ones on dual diagnosis and sexual violence and highlighted the important role that effective scrutiny offered.
- 90.3 Councillor Norman stated that he wished to endorse the report and its recommendations and to thank the Members of the Panel. He stated that a number of the recommendations had already been taken forward and others would be in due course. It was an important issue and one that he as the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health would ensure was kept at the forefront of the service's priorities.
- 90.4 Councillor Phillips stated that she wished to thank the officers, members of the public and expert witnesses involved in the review process. She noted that some excellent work was already being undertaken in the third sector but that more co-ordinated support would enable that work to continue, which was why it was important to facilitate the coming together of all the service areas to ensure help could be provided across all sectors.
- 90.5 Councillor Meadows added her thanks to everyone involved with the review and also noted that Councillor Harmer-Strange's personal experience had helped the Panel Members to gain an understanding of just how diverse and wide ranging the subject matter was. She stated that the testimonies of those who suffer from an autistic condition and their carers had shown just how much they had to fight for help and support and how their lives could be improved and she hoped that the Panel's recommendations would be fully supported by all partner agencies.
- 90.6 Councillor Harmer-Strange thanked everyone for their comments and stated that there was still a lot to take forward and he hoped that the recommendations and the situation would be regularly reviewed.
- 90.7 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

91. OFFICIAL FEED AND FOOD CONTROLS SERVICE PLAN 2011/12

- 91.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2011/12 be approved.

92. HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN 2011/12

- 92.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Health and Safety Annual Service Plan 2011/12 be approved.

93. ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2011/12

93.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Annual Investment Strategy 2011/12 be approved.

94. NOTICES OF MOTION.**(a) Investing in the City's Housing**

94.1 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Mears and seconded by Councillor Caulfield.

94.2 Councillor Simpson moved an amendment on behalf of the Labour and Green Groups which was seconded by Councillor Randall.

94.3 The Mayor noted that the joint amendment moved by Councillor Simpson had not been accepted by Councillor Mears and therefore put the proposed joint amendment to the vote which was carried.

94.4 The Mayor then put the following motion as amended to the vote:

“This Council welcomes the close involvement of Brighton & Hove’s tenants and leaseholders in deciding how housing services are planned and delivered in the City and in setting the Council’s housing budget strategy for 2011-12. Their identified priorities include:

- Continued investment in the Turning the Tide strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour and reduce social exclusion;
- Identifying measures to tackle overcrowding through an enhanced housing options approach;
- Leasing properties to Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes, the housing company set up by the council to raise investment for improvements to council tenants’ homes;
- Working in partnership to develop an estates “masterplan” to inform best use of our assets and identify opportunities to build new Council homes;
- Maximising the level of revenue resources available to support the Decent Homes Programme and working with residents to ensure that we are able to respond to opportunities to generate renewable energy.

However, this council is disappointed by the government’s record on housing so far, which includes:

- Controversially reducing housing benefit which risks driving thousands of vulnerable people from their homes in areas where housing costs are high.
- Not adjusting the formula to limit the rise in social housing rents, at a time of high inflation, to help Brighton & Hove tenants during the financial downturn;
- Housing associations being allowed to charge rents of up to 80% of market rate to fund new provision, which is likely to price vulnerable tenants out of their homes in these tough economic times.

- Ending the universal right to secure tenancies for existing as well as new tenants, despite promising in the 2010 Conservative Party Manifesto to “respect the tenures and rents of social housing tenants.”
- Extending the amount of time a home is allowed to stand empty, before a council can intervene, from 6 months to 2 years, meaning more empty homes for longer periods in Brighton & Hove.
- Reducing the affordable housing budget by 60% which will lead to a decline in affordable house-building nationally and locally.
- Taking-back 75% of right-to-buy income, rather than allow 100% of income from sales to be given to local authorities, such as Brighton & Hove.
- Abandoning previous planning targets, which could lead to fewer new homes locally and nationally.
- Failing to end the sale of council homes, leading to a reduction in the availability of affordable housing in Brighton & Hove.
- Doing nothing to regulate rents in the private rented sector or regulate the work of letting agents, thus failing to ease the many problems faced by private sector tenants who account for almost a quarter of the tenancies in Brighton and Hove – more than twice the national average – and whose average tenancy length is between only 12 and 18 months.

The Council believes that the above measures, taken together, will have significant adverse impact on the availability of, and investment in, housing in the City.

Therefore, this Council resolves:

- (i) to place on record its sincere gratitude to the city’s tenants and leaseholders for all their excellent partnership working with the Council in helping to deliver improvements to their housing;
- (ii) to continue to involve them closely in budget and policy setting, which affect their lives and homes;
- (iii) to request that the Chief Executive writes to the Housing Minister – Grant Shapps MP – with a copy of this motion highlighting this council’s concerns with his government’s housing policies, but also the excellent partnership working taking place in Brighton & Hove.
- (iv) notes that the Cabinet member for Housing has publicly stated that the potential sites for the building of new council homes in the city are “clearly mapped out” and requests that these maps and details are distributed to all members of the council forthwith.”

94.5 The motion was carried.

Motion to terminate the meeting:

94.6 In accordance with Procedural rule 17, the Mayor noted that the meeting had been in session for over four hours and he was therefore required to move a closure motion to effectively terminate the meeting.

94.7 The Mayor therefore moved the closure motion and put the matter to the vote which was lost and therefore resulted in the continuation of the meeting.

(b) Enhancing Brighton and Hove's Trees and Woodland

94.8 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Janio and seconded by Councillor Fallon-Khan.

94.9 Councillor Kennedy moved an amendment on behalf of the Green and Labour Groups which was seconded by Councillor McCaffery.

94.10 The Mayor noted that the joint amendment moved by Councillor Kennedy had not been accepted by Councillor Janio and therefore put the proposed joint amendment to the vote which was carried.

94.11 The Mayor then put the following motion as amended to the vote:

"This Council recognises the hugely important role that is played by Brighton & Hove's 9,000 street trees, and 500 hectares of woodland. In particular:

- Woodlands and parks provide invaluable space for recreation and exercise for residents.
- Trees and woodland play a crucial role in global climate regulation and, therefore, help to enable people and wildlife to adapt to climate change.
- Trees and woods also help in the reduction of urban temperatures, alleviate flooding, absorb pollution, and provide sustainable building materials.

Furthermore, Brighton & Hove plays a national role in tree conservation and biodiversity, hosting the official National Elm Collection and the former National Lilac Collection at Withdean Park. The Council also runs a successful Tree Trust, which enables residents to have a dedicated tree planted on their behalf to mark a significant event or simply to enhance the character of their chosen area.

This Council notes the woodland access standard developed by the Woodland Trust, which has a goal that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size, and that there should be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km of people's homes. Currently access to woodland within 500m is 3.6% for Brighton and Hove, which compares to an average of 13.2% for East Sussex and 15.6% for the UK.

This Council is also pleased to note that the coalition government has been forced to abandon its plans to sell off England's treasured 1,400 national forests, including nearby forests visited and enjoyed by the people of this city, thanks to the Save Our Forests Campaign, organised by 38 Degrees and backed by organisations including the Woodland Trust, Greenpeace, the WWF, the National Trust, and the Ramblers,

heralding a victory for people power with over 530,000 people signing a petition opposing the Government's plan to privatise public forests.

This Council is, however, disappointed that this government still plans to sell 15 per cent of the Public Forest Estate, the maximum sales allowed under the law as it stands, where they have simply delayed the sale until the autumn. This will concern local people who enjoy visiting adjacent natural forests and woodland, such as the nearby Friston Forest,

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Congratulate all Brighton & Hove residents involved in the Save Our Forests Campaign for their success in achieving a u-turn from the coalition government on these unpopular proposals to sell off our national forests;
2. Request that the Cabinet Member for Environment:
 - a) Works with the Woodland Trust to examine options for further woodland creation and tree planting in Brighton and Hove, with particular reference to the Mayor of London's Street Trees campaign which aims to plant 10,000 new street trees in the capital;
 - b) Investigates the possibility of a developing a stand alone trees and woodlands policy, in consultation with the relevant scrutiny committee.
 - c) Explores the option of a free tree scheme, such as the one in Kent, which enables residents to apply for up to 25 free trees, of which nearly 7 tonnes of CO2 would be absorbed in their lifetime, and can be planted as single trees or used to create a woodland or hedgerow."

94.12 **The motion was carried.**

Motion to terminate the meeting:

94.13 In accordance with Procedural rule 17, Councillor Kennedy moved a closure motion to effectively terminate the meeting in view of the length and time of the meeting.

94.14 Councillor Randall formally seconded the motion.

94.15 The Mayor therefore put the motion to the vote which was carried and noted that each of the remaining items would need to be taken and voted on or withdrawn by the mover before the meeting was concluded.

(c) A Financial Inclusion Programme for the City

94.16 Councillor Mitchell confirmed that she wished the Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda to be taken and that she was willing to accept both the Conservative and Green Groups' proposed amendments.

94.17 The Mayor noted that the Conservative and Green Groups' amendments had been accepted and therefore put the following motion as amended to the vote:

"This Council acknowledges the need to build a sustainable economy in Brighton & Hove and recognises that an essential part of this should be a comprehensive information and advice strategy to ensure that people are supported in coping with increasingly complex financial pressures.

Regrets that today, in Brighton & Hove:

- 10,700 people in Brighton & Hove are without jobs and want to work.
- 17% of households have incomes below £10,000 per year
- 20% of children live in households with no working adults.
- Average earnings in the city are also below national levels, while property prices are above average.

There is a lack of awareness about affordable credit and problem debt is increasing. Exclusion from financial services creates barriers and can lead to additional costs, particularly for those on the lowest incomes.

This Council acknowledges that social and financial exclusion is economically inefficient, representing a waste of people's potential and generating unnecessary welfare costs.

Around 70% of financially excluded people live in social housing and this Council believes that any financial inclusion programme must include social housing tenants. This Council recognises that effectively helping people achieve financial inclusion involves tackling the various factors that result in exclusion. For example, a person may be in debt through not claiming their full benefit entitlement, be paying punitive rates of interest to a doorstep lender, lack insurance cover to meet unexpected costs and be unable to budget effectively.

Therefore this Council:

1. Welcomes the work already undertaken to improve financial inclusion in the City; for example, through grant funding to agencies including Brighton Housing Trust, Credit Union (East Sussex) and St Luke's Advice & Money Advice Community Support and through the City's Advice and Information Services Partnership.
2. Requests the Leader and Cabinet to consider launching a campaign to increase East Sussex Credit Union membership among Brighton and Hove council staff and members led by the Council Leader, the Chief Executive and senior council staff;
3. Welcomes the decision of Full Council to provide funding to develop a Citywide Financial Inclusion Strategy, including support for existing money and debt advice services and credit unions;
4. Requests the Cabinet Member for Finance to immediately begin exploring options for commissioning a strategy which would aim to:-

- target disadvantaged areas to assist local residents in managing their money,
 - increase the number of residents having a basic bank account,
 - provide access to affordable credit – such as joining a credit union,
 - offer debt advice and tackle illegal loan sharks including support for existing money and debt services and credit unions;
5. Requests the Cabinet Member for Finance to continue to ensure that all potential partners are fully liaised with and consulted, including existing money advice organisations, Citizens Advice Bureau, the local credit union and the Advice and Information Services Partnership of the LSP;

And

6. Requests the Chief Executive to write to the city's three MPs urging them to lobby the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the introduction of a cap on interest rates, bringing the UK in line with Germany, France, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Ireland, Poland and most European countries.”

94.18 **The motion was carried.**

(d) The Impact of Police Cuts in Brighton and Hove

94.19 Councillor Morgan confirmed that he wished the Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda to be taken and that he was not willing to accept the Green Group's proposed amendment.

94.20 The Mayor noted that the Green Group's proposed amendment had not been accepted and put it to the vote which was lost.

94.21 The Mayor then put the following substantive motion to the vote:

“This council wishes to acknowledge its good working relationship with Sussex Police at both a central command and neighbourhood policing level.

However, it expresses concern at the government's policy of making deep and front-loaded cuts to our local police services.

The Sussex Police Authority has been placed in an impossible position in having to reduce the number of police officers and staff, both of whom play a vital role in protecting local residents from crime and work hard to make Brighton & Hove a safer city.

This council has huge reservations over the impact these cuts will have locally, with Sussex Police facing cuts of £28.6m in real terms over the next two years, as well as last year announcing cuts to 1,050 Police officer posts over the next five years.

Over the four years of the Government's Spending Review, police forces will see their funding cut by around 20 per cent in real terms. Sussex Police will lose 550 police staff as a result of this.

Meanwhile, the Government is spending over £100m on replacing police authorities with 42 directly elected police commissioners, an unwanted and currently unnecessary organisational upheaval, which goes against a 150-year tradition of keeping politics out of day to day policing.

People will be justifiably angry that, at the same time as cutting funding for frontline police, the government wants to spend the equivalent of 600 full time police officers on bringing in directly elected police commissioners.

This council therefore expresses concern at the following;

- That the future of Hove Police Station is under threat with no confirmed alternative proposals for a publicly accessible front desk service.
- That the station's viability was placed in doubt following the departure of the Road Policing Unit, due to budget cuts.
- That there will be no police station in Sussex open after midnight and that it is proposed that the John Street Police Station in Brighton closes its doors between midnight and 8am.

This council also;

- Believes strongly, that the residents of Brighton, Hove and Portslade need a local Police Station, with full policing capabilities and an accessible, public front desk;
- Notes that when the previous government left office, there were record numbers of Police on the street, nearly 17,000 more than in 1997, in addition to 16,000 new PCSOs. Accordingly, crime fell by 43% and the chance of being a victim of crime was at a thirty year low;
- Notes that the number of young people first time entrants to the criminal justice system and ending up in custody had fallen by 25% by 2010.

This council therefore;

Requests that the council's Chief Executive writes to the Home Secretary, The Rt. Hon Theresa May MP to express this council's concerns as set out in this motion with a copy also sent to the Shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper MP and the city's three local MPs."

94.22 The motion was carried.

(e) Educational Reforms and Their Effect on the City

94.23 Councillor Fryer confirmed that she wished the Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda to be taken.

94.24 The Mayor then put the substantive motion to the vote:

“This council acknowledges that the above average proportion of highly educated residents is one of the main reasons for the success of Brighton and Hove’s diverse and resilient economy ^[1].

Therefore, it notes with concern proposals for wholesale cuts to educational funding in the city, which will see further increases in the university tuition fees introduced by the previous government and cuts to the Education Maintenance Allowance that will seriously affect the education chances of more than 2,600 young people from low-income families in Brighton and Hove ⁽²⁾.

It recognises these cuts will:

- Have a serious impact on the local economy by seriously reducing the number of jobs at the city’s universities and further education colleges
- Reduce the number of well-educated people entering the city’s work-force
- Increase the 8.2 per cent of the working population in the city who have no qualifications at all ⁽³⁾
- Reinforce social inequality by increasing the gap between rich and poor.

This Council therefore:

Requests that the Chief Executive writes to the government urging it to introduce a business education tax levied on the top 4 per cent of UK companies, which would generate enough income annually to abolish all tuition fees, maintain the EMA and bring our public investment in higher education up to the average in other comparable countries.”

[1] According to 2008 figures, 40.25 per cent hold a degree or equivalent qualification, and the city’s skills base places us in the top 20 per cent of districts across the country (Brighton and Hove Local Intelligence Service)

[2] Young People’s Learning Agency report on EMA take-up in Brighton and Hove, 2004/05 to 2009/10

[3] Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Brighton and Hove City Council, 2010

94.25 **The motion was carried.**

(f) Reducing the Effects of Alcohol Abuse on the City

94.26 Councillor Randall confirmed that he wished the Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda to be taken and that he did not accept the Conservative Group’s proposed amendment.

94.27 The Mayor noted that the Conservative Group’s proposed amendment had not been accepted and put it to the vote which was lost.

94.28 The Mayor then put the following substantive motion to the vote:

“This council expresses its concern about alcohol consumption in Brighton and Hove, its cost to the local economy and its damaging effect on the well-being of the local community.

It notes that:

- The number of licensed premises in the city increased from 1099 in 2006 to 1427 in 2010, an increase of nearly 50 per cent, following the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003; ⁽¹⁾
- 45 per cent of all crime in the city is fuelled by alcohol ⁽²⁾ including crimes of violence, among them domestic violence;
- The city has almost double the regional rate of alcohol related crime;
- The annual financial cost to the city is estimated at more than £106 million;
- 57 per cent of adults in the city are estimated to be hazardous or harmful drinkers;
- Many of those at highest risk live in deprived areas;
- 13 per cent of all 10-15 year-olds reported being drunk at least once.

Locally, this council welcomes the work in hand by the council to address the problems associated with alcohol consumption in the city. However, it deplores the ineffectual ‘Responsibility Deal’ introduced by the Government, which depends on self-regulation through voluntary agreements on issues such as promotions and labeling.

It therefore:

- (1) Joins the British Medical Association, The Royal College of Surgeons, The British Liver Trust, Alcohol Concern, the Institute of Alcohol Studies and the Royal College of Physicians in condemning the ‘Responsibility Deal’;
- (2) Calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Government on behalf of the city council urging it to:
 - Produce a coherent and comprehensive strategy to deal with alcohol calling on the expertise of health professionals and others;
 - Engage with the drinks industry, *after the strategy is produced*, to establish what contribution it can make to implementing the strategy.”

(1) All figures from Brighton and Hove City Council except

(2) A Sussex Police Authority figure.

94.29 **The motion was carried.**

95. CLOSE OF MEETING

95.1 The Mayor called on Councillor West.

95.2 Councillor West noted that a number of Members were due to end their terms of office with the forthcoming elections in May and despite their political differences, they had

given a valued service to the city and the council and he hoped all Members would join him in wishing them well for the future.

95.3 The Mayor thanked Councillor West and closed the meeting at 10.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**COUNCIL****4.30pm 19 MAY 2011****COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Wells (Chair), A Norman (Deputy Chair), Barnett, Bennett, Bowden, Brown, Buckley, Carden, Cobb, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Farrow, Fitch, Follett, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hawtree, Hyde, Janio, Jarrett, Jones, Kennedy, Kitcat, Kitcat, Lepper, Littman, MacCafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, K Norman, Oxley, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Pidgeon, Pissaridou, Powell, Randall, Robins, Rufus, Shanks, Simson, Smith, Summers, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Turton, Wakefield, Wealls and West

PART ONE**1. COUNCIL BUSINESS****(a) Newly Elected Councillors**

- 1.1 The Mayor welcomed the newly elected councillors to the Council Chamber and introduced them to the council:

Councillor Bowden representing Queen's Park Ward;
Councillor Buckley representing Goldsmid Ward;
Councillor Farrow representing Moulsecoomb & Bevendean Ward;
Councillor Fitch representing Hangleton & Knoll Ward;
Councillor Follett representing Hanover & Elm Grove Ward;
Councillor Gilbey representing North Portslade Ward;
Councillor Hawtree representing Central Hove Ward;
Councillor Jarrett representing Goldsmid Ward;
Councillor Jones representing Preston Park Ward;
Councillor Kitcat representing Regency Ward;
Councillor Littman representing Preston Park Ward;
Councillor MacCafferty representing Brunswick & Adelaide Ward;
Councillor Pissaridou representing Wish Ward;
Councillor Powell representing Queen's Park Ward;
Councillor Robins representing South Portslade Ward;
Councillor Shanks representing Withdean Ward;
Councillor Summers representing Hollingdean & Stanmer Ward;
Councillor Sykes representing Brunswick & Adelaide Ward;

Councillor Wakefield representing Hanover & Elm Grove Ward;
Councillor Wealls representing Central Hove Ward.

(b) Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were no declarations of interest in items appearing on the agenda.

(c) Vote of Thanks to Past Councillors

1.3 The Mayor stated that he wished to move a vote of thanks those previous councillors who had chosen not stand in the recent elections and to those past councillors who had not been re-elected on this occasion. In so doing he also wished to present a certificate of thanks in recognition of the service given by those previous councillors to the council, their respective wards and the city itself as listed below:

Trevor Alford, Kevin Allen, Maria Caulfield, Melanie Davis, Pat Drake, Paul Elgood, Ayas Fallon-Khan, Rachel Fryer, Steve Harmer-Strange, Pat Hawkes, Ted Kemble, Juliet McCaffery, Averil Older, Christine Simpson, Paul Steedman, Vicky Wakefield-Jarrett, David Watkins, Georgia Wrighton and Jan Young.

1.4 The Mayor noted that the vote of thanks had been moved and sought confirmation from the council.

1.5 The vote of thanks was duly agreed.

2. MAYORAL REPORT FOR 2010/11.

2.1 The Mayor formally moved the Mayoral report for 2010/11 be noted.

2.2 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

3. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR OF BRIGHTON AND HOVE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011/12.

3.1 The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Mayor of Brighton & Hove for the municipal year 2011/12.

3.2 Councillor Anne Meadows was proposed by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Marsh.

3.3 Councillors Theobald and Randall supported the nomination of Councillor Meadows as Mayor for 2011/12.

3.4 The Mayor declared that, there being no other nominations, Councillor Anne Meadows be duly elected Mayor of Brighton & Hove for the forthcoming municipal year.

3.5 **The motion was agreed.**

- 3.6 The Mayor then adjourned the meeting at 4.55pm in order for Councillor Meadows as the incoming Mayor to be robed and to take the Chair for the meeting.

Councillor Meadows in the Chair

- 3.7 Councillor Meadows reconvened the meeting at 5.05pm and then made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 3.8 The Mayor then thanked the Council for her appointment and called on Councillor Mears.
- 3.9 Councillor Mears moved a vote of thanks to Councillor Geoff Wells as the retiring Mayor for his services during his term of office.
- 3.10 Councillor Simson formally seconded the motion and this was supported by Councillors Mitchell and Randall.
- 3.11 The Mayor put the motion to the vote.
- 3.12 **The motion was carried.**
- 3.13 The Mayor presented Councillor Geoff Wells and Mrs Sally Wells with commemorative badges in recognition of their year of office.
- 3.14 Councillor Geoff Wells thanked the Council.

4. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF BRIGHTON AND HOVE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011/12.

- 4.1 The Mayor moved that the Council appoint Councillor Geoff Wells as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming municipal year.
- 4.2 The Motion was seconded by Councillor Theobald.
- 4.3 The Mayor declared that, there being no other nominations, Councillor Geoff Wells be duly elected as Deputy Mayor of Brighton & Hove for the forthcoming municipal year.
- 4.4 **The motion was agreed.**
- 4.5 Councillor Geoff Wells made and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Deputy Mayor and was presented with his badge of office by the Mayor.

5. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 5.1 The Mayor informed the council that following on from the vote of thanks to past councillors; she wished to announce that she had agreed to call a Special Council Meeting on the 21st July to consider the conferral of Honorary Aldermen. The special meeting would take place prior to the Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for the 21st July.

5.2 The Mayor invited councillors to join her at the civic service to be held at 10.30am in the Parish Church of All Saints on Sunday 22nd May.

6. APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

6.1 The Mayor invited Councillor Kennedy to propose the appointment of the Leader of the Council.

6.2 Councillor Kennedy proposed that Councillor Bill Randall should be appointed as the Leader of the Council for the term of the council.

6.3 Councillor Davey formally seconded the proposal.

6.4 The Mayor noted that there were no other nominations and put the motion to the vote which was agreed.

6.5 **RESOLVED:** That Councillor Randall be appointed as the Leader of the Council.

7. REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, FORUMS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

7.1 The Mayor moved that:

- (i) The allocation of seats as detailed in the report and in appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (ii) For the municipal year 2011/2012 the following Committees and Sub-Committees be constituted and appointed to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council and the number of Members and allocation of seats to the Party Groups (apart from co-opted Members) as detailed in appendix 1 to the report and as specified below be agreed:

Committee/Sub-Committee	Seats	Green	Conservative	Labour
Governance	10	5	3	2
Audit	10	4	3	3
Licensing*	15	6	5	4
Planning	12	5	4	3
Overview & Scrutiny Commission	10	5	3	2
Adult Social Care & Housing Overview & Scrutiny	8	3	3	2

Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny	8	3	3	2
Culture, Tourism & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny	8	3	3	2
Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny	8	4	2	2
Health Overview & Scrutiny	8	3	3	2
Total	97	41	32	24
<i>Licensing 2003 Act* - has the same membership as Licensing and does not come into the equation for the allocation of seats</i>	15	6	5	4

- (iii) That the membership of the committees and sub-committees as detailed in appendix 2 to the report and set out below be agreed;

Governance Committee – Councillors Littman (Chair), A Norman (Deputy Chair), Kennedy, J Kitcat, Mitchell, Morgan, Oxley, Powell, Randall and G Theobald.

Audit Committee – Councillors Hamilton (Chair), Follett (Deputy Chair), Jarrett, Mitchell, A Norman, Pissaridou, Sykes, G Theobald, Wakefield and Wealls.

Licensing & Licensing (2003) Committee – Councillors Deane (Chair), Cobb, Duncan, Hyde, A Kitcat, Lepper, Marsh, Pidgeon, Rufus, Simson, Sykes, C Theobald, Turton and West.

Planning Committee – Councillors MacCafferty (Chair), Hyde (Deputy Chair), Carden, Cobb, Davey, Farrow, Hamilton, Hawtree, Kennedy, Summers, C Theobald and Wells.

Overview & Scrutiny Commission – Councillors Mitchell (Chair), Janio (Deputy Chair), Brown, Follett, Littman, Morgan, K Norman, Powell, Rufus and Summers.

Adult Social Care & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Councillors K Norman (Chair), Phillips (Deputy Chair), Buckley, Gilbey, Jones, Smith, Turton and Wealls.

Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Councillors Powell (Chair), Lepper (Deputy Chair), Bennett, Brown, Jones, A Kitcat, Pissaridou and Wealls.

Culture, Tourism & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Councillors Brown (Chair), Marsh (Deputy Chair), Deane, Farrow, Hawtree, Hyde, A Kitcat and C Theobald.

Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Councillors Morgan (Chair), Sykes (Deputy Chair), Buckley, Cobb, Gilbey, Janio, Jones and Littman.

Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Councillors Rufus (Chair), C Theobald (Deputy Chair), Barnett, Bennett, Follett, Marsh, Phillips and Turton.

Licensing 2003 Sub-Committee (3 from the parent committee with designated reps) – Councillors Deane (Chair), Simson and Lepper.

Personnel Committee – (3 from a pool of Members with designated reps) Councillors Powell, Pidgeon and Marsh.

Standards Committee – (6 Councillors and 6 Independent Members) Councillors J Kitcat, Lepper, Littman, A Norman, Phillips and Wells.

Dr Wilkinson (Chair), Mr J Bustard, Mr P Cecil, Mr G Rhodes, Mr P Rose and 1 vacancy.

Housing Management Consultative Committee – Councillors Wakefield (Chair), Duncan, Farrow, Peltzer Dunn, Pidgeon, Randall, Robins, Summers and Wells.

Community Safety Forum – Councillors Duncan (Chair), Barnett, Carden, Deane, Janio, MacCafferty, Morgan, Pidgeon, Robins and Summers.

- (iv) That in having regard to (iii) above, those Members listed as Chair and Deputy Chair of the respective Committees, Sub-Committees and Forums as detailed in appendix 2 to the report be agreed;
- (iv) (a) That with regard to (iii) above and subject to (b) and (c) below, all Members of the Council be appointed as Substitute Members of each Committee of the Council in accordance with Standing Orders.
 - (b) That no Member may act as a Substitute Member of the Planning Committee or the Personnel Committee unless he/she has received the appropriate training to enable them to serve on the respective Committee.
 - (c) There are restrictions on membership of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees as set out in the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure rules.
- (v) That in having regard to (ii) above, an Urgency Sub-Committee for each Committee be approved in accordance with Procedure Rule 22;
- (vi) That those appointments listed in appendix 3 to the report being the responsibility of the Executive and as such made by the Leader of the Council be noted as detailed below:

	Seats	Green	Conservative	Labour
Housing Management Consultative Committee	9	4	3	2
Community Safety Forum	10	4	3	3

(viii) That the appointments of representatives to the list of Outside Bodies as detailed in appendix 4 to the report and specified below be agreed:

	Name of Organisation	Term of Office	Nominations 2011/12
1	Admissions Forum	Annual	Wakefield Wealls
2	Adoption & Permanence Panel	Annual	Wakefield
3	Age Concern	Annual	Jarrett and A Kitcat
4	Arc Manche	Annual	Phillips
5	Arts Commission	Annual	Bowden, A Kitcat, Hawtree Brown, C Theobald Fitch
6	Brighton Dome & Festival Limited	Annual	Bowden Marsh
7	Brighton Housing Trust	Annual	Phillips
8	Brighton & Hove in Bloom	Annual	Deane, Jones, Shanks Barnett, K Norman, Pissaridou
9	Brighton & Hove Allotment Federation	Annual	Rufus
10	Brighton & Hove Business Forum	Annual	Kennedy Wealls
11	Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership	Annual	Kennedy G Theobald
12	Brighton & Hove Estates Conservation Trust	Annual	West Mitchell
13	Brighton & Hove Federation of Disabled People	Annual	Caulfield
14	Brighton & Hove Food Partnership Board of Directors	Annual	Sykes
15	Brighton & Hove Foster Panel	Annual	Shanks
16	Brighton & Hove Foyer	Annual	Wakefield
17	Brighton & Hove Music Trust	Annual	Kennedy, MacCafferty A Norman

18	Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes Ltd	3-year 2011-14	Randall, Summers Wells Fitch
19	Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project	Annual	Duncan
20	Citizen's Advice Bureau	Annual	MacCafferty Robins
21	City Inclusion Partnership	Annual	Shanks, Wakefield Cobb Marsh
22	City Sustainability Partnership	Annual	Littman, West Janio Mitchell
23	City Sports Forum	Annual	Phillips Janio Robins
24	Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership	4-year term	Randall
25	Coastal Issues Special Interest Group	Annual	Rufus
26	Consumer Direct	Annual	Deane
27	Cornerstone Community Centre Board of Management	Annual	Sykes
28	Councillor Disability Champion	Annual	Powell
29	Dialog 50/50	Annual	Duncan
30	East Sussex Fire Authority	Annual	MacCafferty, Rufus, Wakefield Pidgeon, C Theobald Carden
31	East Sussex Gypsy & Traveller Forum	Annual	Wakefield Peltzer Dunn
32	East Sussex Pension Fund Investment Panel	Annual	Rufus Wealls
33	Eurocities Network	Annual	A Kitcat
34	Fair Trade Steering Group	Annual	Littman, Rufus
35	Gorham's Gift	4-year term 2011-15	Hawtree K Norman Fitch
36	Healthy City Partnership	Annual	Jones K Norman
37	INTERREG Iva	Annual	Phillips
38	Joint Committee for Appointment of Local Authority members to Sussex Police Authority	Annual	Randall G Theobald

39	Local Government Association	Annual	Follett, J Kitcat G Theobald Mitchell
40	LGA Rural Commission	Annual	West
41	LGA Urban Commission	Annual	Follett, Kennedy
42	Local Housing Allowance Steering Group	Annual	Wakefield
43	Local Strategic Partnership	Annual	Randall G Theobald Mitchell
44	Members Advisory Group on Grants (MAG)	Annual	Rufus Hyde Hamilton
45	MIND	Annual	Jarrett
46	Patrol Adjudication Joint Committee (Appointee also sits on the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee)	Annual	Davey
47	Pre-School Learning Alliance (South)	Annual	Buckley
48	Race Ground Trustees	Annual	Kennedy, Powell, Wakefield, West Brown, C Theobald Fitch, Lepper
49	Resource Centre	Annual	Davey
50	SACRE	4-year term 2011-15	Powell, Summers Wealls Hamilton
51	Shoreham Port Authority LA Liaison Committee	Annual	Kennedy Peltzer Dunn
52	South Downs National Park Authority	4-year term 2011-15	West
53	South East England Employers	Annual	Powell, Rufus Pidgeon
54	Sussex IFCA	4-year term 2011-15	Sykes
55	Transitional Southern Regional Flood & Coastal Committee	Annual	Rufus
56	The Brighton Fund	4-year term 2011-15	Mayor (ex-officio) Meadows Bowden, Powell A Norman Lepper
57	The Sussex Deaf Association	Annual	Jarrett
58	The Royal Pavilion and Museums Foundation	Annual	Shanks

59	United Nations Association	Annual	A Kitcat
60	University of Sussex Court	01/08/11- 31/07/12	(Mayor) Meadows Summers A Norman
61	West Pier Trust	Annual	Shanks

7.2 **The motion was carried.**

8. APPOINTMENTS

8.1 The Mayor moved that for the municipal year 2011/2012 the following appointments to the positions as agreed by the various Groups represented on the Council be noted:

- | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (i) | Convenor of the Green Group | Councillor Bill Randall |
| (ii) | Leader of the Conservative Group | Councillor Geoffrey Theobald |
| (iii) | Leader of the Labour Group | Councillor Gill Mitchell |

8.2 **The motion was carried.**

8.3 The Mayor moved that for the municipal year 2011/12 Councillor Ian Davey be appointed as the Deputy Leader (non-Executive) of the Council.

8.4 **The motion was carried.**

8.5 The Mayor moved that for the municipal year 2011/12 Councillor G Theobald be appointed as the Leader of the Official Opposition.

8.6 **The motion was carried.**

8.7 The Mayor moved that the appointments made by the Leader as detailed below and listed in appendix 1 circulated with the addendum papers be noted:

- (i) That Councillor Amy Kennedy be appointed as the Deputy Leader (Executive) of the Council;
- (ii) That the following Members be appointed to the Cabinet with the respective portfolios:

1	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health	Councillor Rob Jarrett
2	Cabinet Member for Children & Young People	Councillor Sue Shanks
3	Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities &	Councillor Ben Duncan

	Public Protection	
4	Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation & Tourism	Councillor Geoffrey Bowden
5	Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability	Councillor Pete West
6	Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services	Councillor Jason Kitcat
7	Cabinet Member for Housing	Councillor Liz Wakefield
8	Cabinet Member for Planning, Employment, Economy & Regeneration	Councillor Amy Kennedy
9	Cabinet Member for Transport & Public Realm	Councillor Ian Davey

(iii) That the following Members be appointed to the following bodies as listed below:

1	Area Housing Panels x 4	Annual	Appropriate Ward Councillors	Appropriate Ward Councillors
2	Children & Young People's Trust Board	Annual	Cabinet Member for Children & Young People plus: 1 Green 1 Conservative 1 Labour	Cllr Shanks Cllr Ruth Buckley Cllr Andrew Wealls Cllr Gill Mitchell
3	Community Safety Forum	Annual	4 Green 3 Conservative 2 Labour	Cllr Ben Duncan (Chair) Cllr Lizzie Deane Cllr Phelim MacCafferty Cllr Christina Summers Cllr Dawn Barnett Cllr Tony Janio Cllr Brian Pidgeon Cllr Warren Morgan Cllr Alan Robins
4	Housing Management Consultative Committee	Annual	4 Green 3 Conservative 2 Labour	Cllr Liz Wakefield (Chair) Cllr Ben Duncan Cllr Bill Randall Cllr Christina Summers Cllr Garry Peltzer Dunn Cllr Brian Pidgeon Cllr Geoff Wells Cllr Leigh Farrow Cllr Alan Robins

5	Joint Commissioning Board	Annual	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health Cabinet Member for Housing 1 Conservative 1 Labour	Cllr Rob Jarrett Cllr Liz Wakefield Cllr Ken Norman Cllr Brian Fitch
6	Staff Consultation Forum	Annual	3 Green 2 Conservative 1 Labour	Cllr Mike Jones Cllr Phelim MacCafferty Cllr Stephanie Powell Cllr Brian Pidgeon Cllr Geoffrey Theobald Cllr Gill Mitchell

8.8 **The motion was carried.**

9. CLOSE OF MEETING

9.1 The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and invited her assembled guests to join her at a reception in the Royal Pavilion; before closing the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 5.40pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

Council	Agenda Item 2(c)
21 July 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL

3.00pm 19 MAY 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Wells (Chair), A Norman (Deputy Chair), Barnett, Bennett, Bowden, Brown, Buckley, Carden, Cobb, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Farrow, Fitch, Follett, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hawtree, Hyde, Janio, Jarrett, Jones, Kennedy, Kitcat, Kitcat, Lepper, Littman, MacCafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, K Norman, Oxley, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Pidgeon, Pissaridou, Powell, Randall, Robins, Rufus, Shanks, Simson, Smith, Summers, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Turton, Wakefield, Wealls and West

PART ONE

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1.1 There were no declarations of interest in matters appearing on the agenda.

2. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

2.1 The Mayor welcomed everyone to the special meeting and confirmed that he had given permission for photographs to be taken during the meeting.

3. HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE CITY

3.1 The Mayor explained that Section 249(5) of the Local Government act 1972 required the Council to hold a Special Meeting to confer the title of Honorary Freewoman or Freeman on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Council and/or the City.

3.2 The Mayor then called upon Councillor Mears to formally move the proposition to make Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi a Freewoman of the City.

3.3 Councillor Mears stated that as the Leader of the Council she was truly honoured to be able to propose that Aung San Suu Kyi be made an Honorary Freewoman in recognition of her continued representation of the people of Burma and call for democracy in her country. She felt that in striving for democracy, Aung San Suu Kyi demonstrated the

qualities that all those who had freedom and those that sought freedom held dearly and wish the people of the Brighton and Hove recognised and enjoyed. She hoped that in conferring this honour, it would help to highlight the need for change in Burma and provide an incentive for those involved in seeking to bring change to that country to continue with their endeavours. She therefore wished to move:

"That the honour and title of Honorary Freewoman of the City of Brighton and Hove be bestowed on Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her continued efforts to support the people of Burma and many people throughout the world striving to attain democracy, human rights and ethnic conciliation by peaceful means."

- 3.4 Councillor Mitchell formally seconded the motion and stated she was extremely pleased to be able to support the motion. She felt that Aung San Suu Kyi was a truly inspirational person who optimised the concepts of equality and fairness which were shared throughout the city.
- 3.5 Councillor Randall stated that she was a beacon of democracy and had faced many personal hardships and persecution but had remained steadfast in her belief that democracy was achievable and the right way forward. He was honoured to have been able to sign the scroll and felt that the city should be honoured that she was accepting the award.
- 3.6 The Mayor noted that the motion had been moved and put it to the vote.
- 3.7 The motion was carried unanimously and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was duly conferred as an Honorary Freewoman of the City of Brighton and Hove.
- 3.8 The Mayor then invited Ms Anna Roberts of Burma UK to come forward and accept the scroll and to address the Council.
- 3.9 Ms Roberts thanked the Mayor and the Council for deciding to admit Aung San Suu Kyi as a Freewoman of the City and stated that she knew Suu Kyi would be aware of the award and was very honoured to receive it. She hoped that one day she would even be able to visit the city and thank the council in person. In the meantime such actions were important as they showed that the efforts to bring democracy to Burma were supported by others. It gave strength to those who were still imprisoned or facing persecution to continue with their endeavours to bring the freedoms enjoyed and taken for granted in the western world into their own country.
- 3.10 The Mayor thanked Ms Roberts and stated that the people of Burma had just made an army of new friends in Brighton and Hove.
- 3.11 The Mayor then called upon Councillor Mears to formally move the proposition to make Flight Lieutenant Marc Heal a Freeman of the City.
- 3.12 Councillor Mears stated that she was delighted to be able to move the motion for Marc Heal to be made an Honorary Freeman. He was a local boy who had studied in Brighton and regarded the city as his hometown and she knew his parents and family were very proud of him. She felt that it was significant to be recognising the acts of courage that he had shown in saving the lives of those defending democracy in

Afghanistan at this meeting, having already acknowledged the position of Aung San Suu Kyi. She believed that Marc's skills in flying his helicopter and leading his team were further examples of the qualities that this city supported and should be clearly held up for others to aspire to. She therefore wished to move:

"That the honour and title of Honorary Freeman of the City of Brighton and Hove be bestowed on Marc Heal in recognition of his outstanding gallantry as the Captain of the Chinook helicopter Immediate Response Team in Afghanistan, for which the Queen awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The inspirational command of his crew and superior flying skills led to the successful extraction of 29 casualties and the saving of lives."

- 3.13 Councillor Mitchell formally seconded the motion and stated how pleased she was to be able to support the motion. She felt that Marc was an inspirational leader who had shown unflinching courage under fire and successfully evacuated a number of casualties which had meant that lives were saved. As someone born in the city he was clearly a person for the residents of the city to be proud of.
- 3.14 Councillor Randall stated that he fully supported the motion and admired the way in which Marc had put the safety of others above his own and wished him every success in the future.
- 3.15 The Mayor noted that the motion had been moved and put it to the vote.
- 3.16 The motion was carried unanimously and Flight Lieutenant Marc Heal (DFC) was duly conferred as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Brighton and Hove.
- 3.17 The Mayor then invited Flight Lieutenant Marc Heal to come forward to receive the scroll and to address the Council.
- 3.18 Flight Lieutenant Marc Heal thanked the Mayor and the council for what he felt was truly an honour and which made him feel very humble; especially in light of the award to Aung San Suu Kyi, who was someone he admired. He hoped that if he was able to share some of her qualities he would be able to influence matters and change things for the better. In the meantime he wished to thank the council again and to say that he would always refer to Brighton and Hove as his hometown.
- 3.19 The Mayor thanked Freeman Heal for his kind words and wished him well for his future career.

4. CLOSE OF MEETING

- 4.1 The Mayor thanked everyone attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 3.30pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

Council	Agenda Item 2(d)
21 July 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 26 MAY 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Meadows (Chair), Wells (Deputy Chair), Barnett, Bowden, Buckley, Carden, Cobb, Davey, Deane, Farrow, Fitch, Follett, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hawtree, Hyde, Janio, Jarrett, Jones, Kennedy, Kitcat, Lepper, Littman, MacCafferty, Marsh, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, A Norman, K Norman, Oxley, Peltzer Dunn, Pissaridou, Powell, Randall, Robins, Rufus, Shanks, Smith, Summers, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Turton, Wakefield, Wealls and West

PART ONE

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1.1 The Mayor drew the Council's attention to Item No.3, Review of Members Allowances, on the agenda and stated that all councillors held a personal and prejudicial interest in the item. However, it was not practical to prevent them from voting on the matter and therefore all councillors had a general dispensation, in order to be able to consider and vote on the matter. She therefore sought agreement, which was given, to take the declaration of personal interests from all councillors as having been declared.
- 1.2 There were no other declarations of interest in matters appearing on the agenda.

2. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

- 2.1 The Mayor called for a minutes silence as a mark of respect for John Hutchinson who died the previous week and had been a former Honorary Alderman and Brighton Borough Councillor, representing Patcham Ward from 1979 to 1997.
- 2.2 The Mayor then reminded council that she expected all Members to adhere to Standing Orders and therefore expected them to use them accordingly when moving a motion or seeking a point of order.

3. REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

- 3.1 Councillor Littman introduced the report and stated that the Independent Remuneration Panel had recommended to the Governance Committee that the current Members' Allowances Scheme should be retained for 2011/12. He noted that the Panel intended

to undertake a further review once the decision-making structure was clear and stated that he wished to thank the Panel for their work to date.

- 3.2 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Littman on his maiden speech.
- 3.3 Councillor Randall stated that the Green Group fully supported the recommendations but wished to highlight three areas that it was hoped the Panel could take into account as part of their next review and with a view to reporting back to the council in the autumn. The three areas being:
- (i) the SRA's paid to deputy chairs of regulatory committees, i.e. Planning and Licensing which it was felt should attribute an SRA;
 - (ii) an urgent review of child care provision; and
 - (iii) support for carers.

He stated that the last two points were important as they affected current Members and a package needed to be identified which could form the basis for the future and thereby help to attract people into becoming councillors. He also wished to thank the Panel for their work and the officers involved, especially Angela Woodall, who supported the Panel and had brought the previous report to the council.

- 3.4 Councillor Peltzer Dunn stated that he believed the Panel did a very good job in reviewing the allowances and bringing forward recommendations. However, he was disappointed that the Panel did not support the payment of SRA's to deputy chairs, who he believed did undertake an important role and additional responsibilities which supported the payment of an SRA. He hoped that the panel would reconsider its recommendations in this respect.
- 3.5 Councillor Mitchell stated that the Labour Group supported the recommendations and looked forward to playing a full part in a further review.
- 3.6 Councillor Oxley welcomed Councillor Littman to the role of Chair of the Governance Committee and stated that as the outgoing Chairman he had been very well supported by officers. He believed it was important to look to the future and with a number of new Members to the council and to endeavour to develop an allowances scheme that could meet future needs. In regard to the role of deputy chairs, he felt that they provided an important role; they had to be able to take over at a meeting and ensure they were fully aware of various issues. He also felt that further consideration needed to be given to the formula proposed for setting the Leader's allowance; with the number of members in the group being taken into account it did not reflect the role of the Leader which remained constant whether there was a minority or majority administration.
- 3.7 The Mayor noted that there were no other speakers and that Councillor Littman did not wish to reply and therefore put the recommendations to the vote which were carried.
- 3.8 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That in view of the current economic climate the current Members' Allowances Scheme be retained and adopted for the 2011/12 municipal year with effect from the 20th May 2011; and

- (2) That the Panel's report be noted and a subsequent report be brought before the Council later in 2011/12 when the outcome of the Localism Bill would be known and a further review had been undertaken.

4. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

- 4.1 Councillor Davey introduced the report and stated that he welcomed the opportunity to speak as the Cabinet Member for Transport and Public Realm and to support the Local Transport Plan, which was a key strategic document. He wished to acknowledge the work to date in bringing the plan forward and hoped that the bids to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund would prove to be successful. However, he also wanted to ensure that there was an opportunity to debate fully the aspects of the plan and to enable a city-wide consultation and input into developing it for the benefit of the whole city.
- 4.2 Councillor Mitchell stated that the Labour Group supported the broad principles of the document but wanted to see an early and more detailed action plan for implementation. She felt that there had been a 4-year transport policy vacuum which needed to be addressed so that the public had a clear understanding of what was to be delivered and by when. She noted that the Green Group had not sought to amend the plan and would wait to see how matters were taken forward.
- 4.3 Councillor G Theobald welcomed the Cabinet Member's support for the plan which had been developed by the previous administration and questioned why at budget setting the Green Group had supported the removal of £1.1m funding from the plan for other projects. He stated that he would be watching carefully to see how the funding from Government would be spent on supporting transport projects across the city.
- 4.4 Councillor Davey noted the comments and stated that in reality there were aspects of the plan that everyone could support and others that there would be disagreements on. He hoped that as part of the transport policy review it would lead to an integrated plan for the future.
- 4.5 The Mayor then put the recommendations to the vote which were carried.
- 4.6 **RESOLVED:** That the draft of the Local Transport Plan as detailed in appendix 3 to the report be approved.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING

- 5.1 The Mayor then closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 5.05pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

Subject:	Save the Big Lemon Bus		
Date of Meeting:	21 July 2011		
Report of:	Monitoring Officer		
Contact Officer:	Name: Mark Wall	Tel: 29-1006	
	E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk		
Wards Affected:	All		

For general release

Note: The subject matter of the petition is an executive function and therefore not one that Full Council can make a decision on.

PETITION TRIGGERING A FULL COUNCIL DEBATE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not a petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 A combined paper and e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 2,316 signatures.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is referred to the Transport and Public Realm Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition**

"We the undersigned petition the council to level the playing field in the local bus industry to ensure smaller groups like The Big Lemon Bus Company are not at a disadvantage."

Lead Petitioner – Ms. Jackie Chase

- 3.2 As the subject matter of the petition relates to an executive function, the options open to the council are:

- To note the petition and take no action for reasons put forward in the debate;
or

- To refer the petition to the relevant Cabinet Member Meeting; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Cabinet Member Meeting with recommendations.

4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:
- (i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
 - (ii) The Mayor will then call on the relevant Cabinet Member to respond to the petition and move a proposed response;
 - (iii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors and call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to move an amendment or additional recommendation(s) to the recommendation listed in paragraph 2.1 of the report;
 - (iv) Any councillor may move an amendment or recommendation, having regard to the recommendation in 2.1 above and any such proposal will need to be formally seconded;
 - (v) After a period of 15 minutes, the Mayor will then call an end to the debate and ask the relevant Cabinet Member to reply to the points raised;
 - (vi) The Mayor will then formally put:
 - (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and then
 - (b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).

Subject:	Gypsies & Travellers in Brighton and Hove		
Date of Meeting:	21 July 2011		
Report of:	Monitoring Officer		
Contact Officer:	Name: Mark Wall	Tel: 29-1006	
	E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk		
Wards Affected:	All		

For general release

Note: The subject matter of the petition is an executive function and therefore not one that Full Council can make a decision on.

PETITION TRIGGERING A FULL COUNCIL DEBATE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not a petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 A combined paper and e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 1,805 signatures.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is referred to the Cabinet Meeting for consideration.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition**

"We the undersigned petition the council to take immediate and effective action when gypsies and travellers set up unauthorised encampments on parks and open spaces within the city's boundary. Immediate action should mean requesting Sussex Police to use their powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 rather than using the long-winded process of repossession of the land through the courts. We also petition Council to recognise that providing a permanent site in the city will only accommodate a small number of travellers who wish to remain in the city and will not deal with the problems of the many who have permanent sites elsewhere and come to the city looking for work."

Lead Petitioner – Councillor Dee Simson

3.2 As the subject matter of the petition relates to an executive function, the options open to the council are:

- To note the petition and take no action for reasons put forward in the debate;
or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Cabinet Meeting; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Cabinet Meeting with recommendations.

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:

- (i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
- (ii) The Mayor will then call on the relevant Cabinet Member to respond to the petition and move a proposed response;
- (iii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors and call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to move an amendment or additional recommendation(s) to the recommendation listed in paragraph 2.1 of the report;
- (iv) Any councillor may move an amendment or recommendation, having regard to the recommendation in 2.1 above and any such proposal will need to be formally seconded;
- (v) After a period of 15 minutes, the Mayor will then call an end to the debate and ask the relevant Cabinet Member to reply to the points raised;
- (vi) The Mayor will then formally put:
 - (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and then
 - (b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).

Subject: Keep the Level a Green Open Space**Date of Meeting: 21 July 2011****Report of: Monitoring Officer****Contact Officer: Name:** Mark Wall **Tel:** 29-1006**E-mail:** mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk**Wards Affected: All****For general release**

Note: The subject matter of the petition is an executive function and therefore not one that Full Council can make a decision on.

PETITION TRIGGERING A FULL COUNCIL DEBATE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not a petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 A combined paper and e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 2,498 signatures.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is referred to the Environment and Sustainability Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition**

"We the undersigned petition the council to take account of our opposition to any structural development of the area of the Level north of the Rose Walk. We believe that a new and improved skate park should be built in the southern play area."

Lead Petitioner – Mr. Adrian Morris

- 3.2 As the subject matter of the petition relates to an executive function, the options open to the council are:
 - To note the petition and take no action for reasons put forward in the debate; or
 - To refer the petition to the relevant Cabinet Member Meeting; or

- To refer the petition to the relevant Cabinet Member Meeting with recommendations.

4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:
- (i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
 - (ii) The Mayor will then call on the relevant Cabinet Member to respond to the petition and move a proposed response;
 - (iii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors and call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to move an amendment or additional recommendation(s) to the recommendation listed in paragraph 2.1 of the report;
 - (iv) Any councillor may move an amendment or recommendation, having regard to the recommendation in 2.1 above and any such proposal will need to be formally seconded;
 - (v) After a period of 15 minutes, the Mayor will then call an end to the debate and ask the relevant Cabinet Member to reply to the points raised;
 - (vi) The Mayor will then formally put:
 - (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and then
 - (b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answers which will be included in an addendum that will be circulated at the meeting:

(a) Councillor Hamilton

“In the dying days of their administration, the Conservative Cabinet voted to sell off half of the council owned site in Victoria Road, Portslade, home of the former Portslade Urban District Council. The disposal was to include the Council offices, a bowling green, the car park and the public toilets. There is widespread concern about this proposal in Portslade. Extension of the bowls pavilion, relocation of staff from other buildings, a police presence in the building and a home for any future community forum are all options that have been proposed by local people. Will you agree to put the proposed disposal on hold and carry out a full appraisal and consultation on the future use of the site?”

Reply from Councillor J Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services.

(b) Councillor Pidgeon

“Could the Cabinet Member for Finance and Central Services confirm how many full time equivalent trade union representatives and local constituency representatives were employed by the Council during 2010-11 and how this compares to other similar unitary authorities?”

Reply from Councillor J Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services.

(c) Councillor C Theobald

“Can the Cabinet Member for Planning, Employment, Economy & Regeneration tell me whether any work is currently being carried out, or will be carried out in the near future, on assessing the economic impact of introducing a ‘workplace parking levy’ in Brighton & Hove as set out in the Green Party’s local election manifesto?”

Reply from Councillor Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Planning, Employment, Economy & Regeneration.

(d) Councillor Peltzer Dunn

“Would the Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Public Protection confirm that it is the Councils duty to enforce bye laws which are legally in place within the City?”

Reply from Councillor Duncan, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities & Public Safety.

(e) Councillor Carden

“Will the Leader confirm exactly how much money this council has spent on dealing with unauthorised Gypsy and Travellers encampments since the new administration came into power in May 2011?”

Reply from Councillor Randall, Leader of the Council.

(f) Councillor Mitchell

“Would the Leader of the Council please give details of the current number of council employees that have accepted or been offered voluntary redundancy packages, the number of deleted posts and the number of any permanent redundancies occurring since 1st April 2011?”

Reply from Councillor Randall, Leader of the Council.

(g) Councillor Mitchell

“Does this Administration:

- a) share my concerns regarding the consistent overspending of the council’s communications service, who in 2009/10 overspent by 46.3% (£272,000), in 2010/11 overspent by an increased 109% (£459,000) and are this year predicted to overspend by £311,000, and;
- b) what does this administration plan to do about this consistent overspending by the communications team, at a time when services such as children and young people and adult social care are facing unprecedented cuts?”

Reply from Councillor J Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services.

(h) Councillor Marsh

“What is the administration’s view on the Education Bill and its proposals to remove:

- a) Local parents’ ability to challenge decisions about admissions and exclusions
- b) Make a local complaint
- c) The local admissions forum
- d) This city’s successful school places lottery; and

Can you explain how this administration:

- a) Intends to encourage faith schools to subscribe to the local authority admissions system, rather than set their own admissions policies, as stated in your manifesto?
- b) Will encourage local schools to collaborate and share best practice, as stated in your manifesto?
- c) Will protect youth services, especially for young people at risk of becoming NEETs (Not in Education Employment or Training) or falling into the criminal justice system, as stated in your manifesto?
- d) Plans to campaign for a reinstatement of Building Schools for the Future money, as stated in your manifesto?
- e) Is going to help groups of schools develop in-house environmental officers posts to save money and reduce the city's carbon footprint, as stated in your manifesto?

Reply from Councillor Shanks, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People.

(i) Councillor Farrow

“What is the council doing to attract new media enterprise to the city, as well as supporting current media business in the city?”

Reply from Councillor Bowden, Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism & Enterprise.

(j) Councillor Wealls

“Would the Cabinet Member for Housing give a pledge to continue with the commitment of the previous Conservative Administration to ring-fence Supporting People funding, which provides housing-related support for some of the most vulnerable residents in Brighton & Hove?”

Reply from Councillor Wakefield, Cabinet Member for Housing.

(k) Councillor Barnett

“Would the Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability confirm who authorised a provision of the bund at the 19 acre site, the date of the provision of the bund and the cost of same? Will he further confirm the authorisation of the removal of the bund, the date of same and the cost for carrying out such works?”

Reply from Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability.

ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

A period of not more than 30 minutes is set aside for oral questions from Members, at the expiry of which, the Mayor will call a halt and proceed to the next item of business of the agenda. Any Member whose question then remains outstanding will be contacted to determine whether they wish to have a written answer provided or for their question to be carried over to the next meeting.

The following Members have indicated that they wish to put questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairmen of Committees or Members of the Council that have been appointed to an outside body. The Councillor asking the question may then ask one relevant supplementary question which shall be put and answered without discussion:

- (a) **Councillor G Theobald**
Subject matter – Waste.

Reply from Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability.

- (b) **Councillor MacCafferty**
Subject matter – Living Wage in Brighton and Hove.

Reply from Councillor Randall, Leader of the Council.

- (c) **Councillor Cobb**
Subject matter – State Benefits.

Reply from Councillor J Kitcat, Chairman of the Finance & Central Services.

- (d) **Councillor Farrow**
Subject matter – Dropped Kerbs.

Reply from Councillor Davey, Cabinet Member for Transport & Public Realm.

- (e) **Councillor A Norman**
Subject matter – War Memorials.

Reply from Councillor J Kitcat, Chairman of the Finance & Central Services.

- (f) Councillor Morgan**
Subject matter – Sustainable Transport.

Reply from Councillor Davey, Cabinet Member for Transport & Public Realm.

- (g) Councillor Mears**
Subject matter – Tenant Working Groups.

Reply from Councillor Wakefield, Cabinet Member for Housing.

- (h) Councillor Robins**
Subject matter – School Places.

Reply from Councillor Shanks, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People.

- (i) Councillor Pissaridou**
Subject matter – School Places.

Reply from Councillor Shanks, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People.

- (j) Councillor Marsh**
Subject matter – Young People's Wellbeing.

Reply from Councillor Shanks, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People.

- (k) Councillor Gilbey**
Subject matter – Hangleton Bottom.

Reply from Councillor Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Planning, Employment, Economy & Regeneration.

Council

21 July 2011

Agenda Item 11

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Report: Cultural Provision for Children and Young People**Date of Meeting: 21 July 2011****Report of: Strategic Director, Resources****Contact Officer:** Name: Tom Hook Tel: 29-1110

E-mail: Tom.Hook@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution requires that the findings of Scrutiny Panels, along with the executive response, be reported to Full Council for information.
- 1.2 This report presents to Council the findings of the Scrutiny Panel review into the Cultural Provision for Children and Young People (Appendix 1) and the Executive response (Appendix 2).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Members note Appendices 1 and 2.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Panel was set up by the Cultural, Tourism and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee (CTESOC) to examine the provision of cultural services for children and young people across the city, to look at the current deployment of resources, to identify any gaps in provision and to identify areas of good practice.
- 3.2 The Panel held four public meetings, the final of which took the form of a round table involving twelve different organisations. They also received 7 written submissions and a number of emails from schools.
- 3.1 The Panel made 15 recommendations which were accepted in principle by the Executive. These can be found in the summary report in Appendix 1.

3.2 The full Scrutiny Panel report along with the evidence base is available in Members' Rooms and on the Overview and Scrutiny webpages.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 No formal consultation has been undertaken in relation to this report. The Scrutiny Review undertook extensive consultation.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Legal Implications:

5.2 As indicated in paragraphs 1.1 and 2.1 above, and in accordance with the council's procedure rules on overview and scrutiny, this report is purely for Council to note. There are no further legal implications arising directly from the report.

Lawyer consulted: Oliver Dixon

Date: 10 March 2011

Equalities Implications:

5.3 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 No specific implications as this report is purely for the Council to note.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Summary of the Cultural Provision for Children and Young People.
2. Executive response to the scrutiny recommendations.

Documents in Members' Rooms:

1. Full Scrutiny Panel report and evidence base

Appendix 1

Cultural Provision for Children and Young People – Report Summary for Council

1.0 About this Panel

- 1.1 The Panel was set up by the Culture, Tourism & Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CTEOSC) and consisted of Councillor Melanie Davis (Chair), Councillor Rachel Fryer, and Councillor Carol Theobald. The Panel agreed its terms of reference as:

“To consider the provision of cultural services for children and young people across the city, both by B&HCC and by other organisations; to look at the current deployment of resources; to identify any gaps in provision; and to identify areas of good practice, with a view to making recommendations for the future of cultural services for children and young people in the city.”

The Panel held three half day evidence gathering sessions and one Round Table meeting. A list of witnesses is included at the end of this report.

2.0 What are cultural activities?

- 2.1 For the purpose of the Inquiry, the Panel decided broadly to use the definition of cultural activities in the Express strategy, namely:

Creative Makers – painting, drawing, writing, constructing, building, composing, filming, designing;

Creative Performers – acting, singing, dancing, exhibiting, broadcasting, playing;

Creative Audiences – watching, listening, discussion, criticising, learning, communicating, reading;

Creative Leaders – directors, producers, curators, managers, choreographers, teachers, conducting.

3.0 Why are cultural activities important?

- 3.1 It is widely acknowledged that engagement in the arts helps children and young people increase their confidence, social skills and self esteem. It also develops transferable skills such as creative imagination and problem solving.

4.0 Recommendations

Recommendation 1

- 4.1 The city has a well deserved reputation as a city of culture. There are many groundbreaking events and a wide range of activities on offer in the city. Perhaps as a consequence of this, to some extent the city misses out in terms of regional and national initiatives aimed at increasing and improving arts and cultural provision for young people. The assumptions of both the Arts Council England and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport appear to be that good practice is commonplace across the city and therefore they award funding to areas where provision is generally poorer. The Panel appreciates that the city does much well, but it is important that funding streams are accessible, both to maintain the high quality of the cultural offer, and to ensure fair and equitable access for all children and young people across the city.
- 4.2 Following another bid for funding being turned down, the Culture, Tourism & Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee felt it was timely to re-examine this area, with a view to commenting on the Express strategy (see below) and its relevance today. Since the Panel started its Inquiry, the Express strategy has started to be re-examined and re-framed.
- 4.3 The **Express strategy** for the arts was the first joint strategy between Children’s Services and Cultural Services. It stated that all children, whatever their cultural background should be able to engage with, and be inspired by the highest quality arts and cultural activity that the city can offer. This is also reflected in one of the ambitions in the Children and Young People’s Plan.¹
- 4.4 This clearly links two different parts of the Council - Children’s Services and Cultural Services and requires clear co-ordination between the two. The Panel maintained that in addition to receiving existing performance reports and reports on specific issues, the Children’s Trust Board should be receiving information on the way that different parts of the Council are working together to achieve the stated ambition on arts and cultural activity. The Board should receive information on what has been achieved so far and what is proving problematic in terms of children and young people engaging with arts and cultural activities.

Recommendation 1: *The city’s cultural offer should be fully available to all children and young people. The council’s cultural and children’s services need to ensure that joint working exists to fully exploit opportunities. Joint work and achievements should*

¹ “...children and young people from 0-19 from all cultural backgrounds, to be able to engage with, to enjoy, and to be inspired by the highest quality sports, arts and cultural activity that the city can offer.”

be reported annually to CYPT and then to the Culture, Tourism and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CTEOSC).

Recommendation 2 (Communication)

- 4.5 **The Panel believes that there is an urgent need for central coordination point to be created *and publicised* as a core source of information for practitioners, children and young people, parents/carers and teachers to find out what is going on in the city.**
- 4.6 During the Panel's Round Table meeting in June 2010, there was a discussion about the idea of a web-based resource. There was a widespread recognition that there was no central resource, but issues were raised over how any website could work, how it would be updated, and who would be expected to use it. The Panel felt that, all things considered, it would be a useful exercise to explore the option of creating a web-based resource, how it could work, and how it could benefit a wide range of people. The Panel does not, however, expect any website to be part of the Brighton & Hove City Council website but to be independently run and maintained.
- 4.7 The Panel agreed with various witnesses who pointed out the importance of involving young people in devising projects. As part of the preparation for any web-resource, young people's views should be sought. This could be through the existing Youth Council, as well as asking parents and children more widely. The Panel heard from Blatchington Mill School that they are intending to appoint an arts leader for each year group to feedback on arts projects. These young people could provide a valuable resource for views and opinions on what should be on a web page.

Recommendation 2: The panel recommends that the council develops a dedicated website. This web-site would allow children/young people, teachers, parents, and practitioners to access information about projects, events and funding opportunities across the city. This should include a forum for swapping expertise and asking questions. There should also be a system to alert registered users to new and relevant items put on the website.

- 4.8 It is worth noting here that there is also no physical central information point. Many people will not have access to the Internet, or it may not be their preferred means of accessing information. The issue of physical space in the city is dealt with later in this report.

Recommendation 3 (Co-ordination)

- 4.9 The council can be perceived as a large faceless organisation and it is important that there is a clear first point of contact to lead on cultural entitlement for children and young people in the city. A named officer should act as a ‘gatekeeper’ to signpost towards teams in the council (for example, youth offending service, volunteering team, communities’ team). This named person would also be responsible for drawing together the relevant strands of existing strategies (for example, the Children and Young Peoples’ Plan, the Cultural Strategy and the Express strategy). They would also be involved in ensuring that there was regular contact between these different areas of the council. It is often presumed that different parts of the same organisation will be in regular contact with each other, but given the complexity of an organisation like the council, this is often not the case. Officers across the council could benefit from the naming of one person as a first point of contact.

Recommendation 3: The Panel recommends that there is a single point of first contact within the council for people who wish to discuss arts and cultural activities for children and young people in the city. This role would also be an active one of co-ordination and information dissemination.

Recommendation 4 (Jubilee Library)

- 4.10 During the course of private discussions, Panel members expressed concern that the Jubilee Library does not have a central notice board that can be used to publicise events and activities. The Panel requested clarification on the policy on what information can be made available in the Jubilee Library, what is not allowed, and the reasons why not. The Library has a policy on how it priorities the information on the notice board. There is also a community diary in each library, including the Jubilee Library, where one hard copy of any publication can be placed. Nonetheless, the Panel believes that there is a need for an easily accessible central notice board to provide information. At the very least, this notice board should inform people of the existence of the community diary and encourage them to consult it.

Recommendation 4: The Panel recommends that there is visible central notice board in the Jubilee Library. This notice board should publicise the existence of the community diary and encourage people to access it.

Recommendations 5, 6, and 7 (Venues)

Performance venues

- 4.11 The issue of affordable and appropriate venues was raised with the Panel. If young people participating in, for example, dance events, musicals, or fashion shows, can perform in specialised venues and gain real experience of professional theatres or stages, it would help

enormously to improve the quality of their artistic experience. The Panel was told how young people had reacted very positively to the experience of performing in expert venues.

- 4.12 **As part of the refresh of the Express Strategy, the target should be amended to reflect the need for ‘appropriate’ venues and for partners to commit to work together to enable more children and young people to have the opportunity to perform in some of the fantastic venues the city has to offer.**

Recommendation 5: The Panel recommends that the council should actively work with venues in the city to find ways to enable young people to perform in venues with professional type facilities. For example, closer communication between the venues team and the youth services team may ease some of the problems those working with young people are encountering in finding suitable venues. This may be as simple as working to ensure that venues and their staff meet the young performers in advance, and are made more familiar with the differences between different performers. There are obvious examples of good practice and this should be shared across venues in the city.

Practice and meeting spaces

- 4.13 There are problems with the availability of venues and spaces *specifically for young people* in the city. There is a lack of clearly signposted places where information on what is going on is available; a shortage of areas that can be used as practice space; and a paucity of appropriate and affordable venues. Additionally, there is currently a lack of places for young people to go in Central Brighton.
- 4.14 Those at the Round Table meeting agreed that it would be worth exploring using the Brighton Youth Centre (BYC) as a venue for a central ‘hub’ for cultural activities for young people. **Mindful of the economic climate, the Panel believes that the BYC should be considered, possibly as a pilot scheme, for development into a hub for young people.**

Recommendation 6: The Panel recommends that steps are taken to increase the use of the Brighton Youth Centre as a central place for young people to be involved in cultural activities. The council should promote BYC as a place to meet, to discuss projects, and to find out information on cultural activities.

Community Centres

- 4.15 The Panel is aware of some of the various activities going on in different community venues around the city. The Circus Project told the Panel that they performed in the Hangleton Community Centre. The Youth Art Project uses such venues as Patcham YC, Hollingdean, Whitehawk YC, Falmer High, and Downsview Link College. However, the Panel felt that it would be helpful to know in more detail which

community centres are holding arts and cultural activities, and to explore ways in which these centres could be more fully utilised both as a venue and as a place to find information. **There is currently a lack of clearly identified physical places where people can go to find out information about what is going on, and where.**

- 4.16 An audit of what space is available - for example, what centres have sprung dance floors that could be used as a practice space - would be very helpful. Awareness of different events and activities going on across the city, with the associated exchange of information and sharing of good practice, would all go towards creating spaces in different areas of the city where children and young people can take part in, or learn about, different arts events and activities. The community centres could be informed by, and submit information to, any new web-based central resource (see Recommendation 2.) By utilising community centres in this way, more young people will be given the opportunity to try out different arts and cultural activities.

Recommendation 7: There is currently a lack of clearly identified physical places for young people to go to find out information about what is happening in the arts. The Panel recommends that an audit is undertaken of all community centres/venues in the city and their current usage. Following on from this, the facilities and resources available should be publicised as widely as possible.

Recommendation 8 (Young offenders and the hard-to-reach)

- 4.17 Officers from the Youth Offending Service (YOS) explained that the young people they worked with were often not in school, may be homeless and have problems with drugs and alcohol. They did not access the mainstream provision of services of any sort in the city and often had no family support. The post of Arts Project Worker was created within the YOS to provide targeted assistance to young offenders and re-offenders. A wide range of projects including film, fashion, creative writing, exhibitions, music, and singing lessons were offered (along with other organisations). These projects were excellent for raising self-esteem and providing a free space for young people to say what they wanted. **The Panel welcomed the news that there is a full time Arts Worker within the Youth Offending Service. The Panel appreciate that this means that case workers may have heavier case loads but are fully supportive of the importance of a full time Arts Worker.**
- 4.18 One of the main problems facing the YOS team was that the projects are not sustainable under current financial arrangements. The Panel recognised that in the current financial climate, there is limited scope for additional funding. **Nonetheless, the Panel supports any attempts to embed arts projects in the whole social work team and thus create more sustainable projects.**

- 4.19 The Panel suggested that there would be merit in putting in place mechanisms to help young offenders to take part in mainstream arts projects where appropriate. They were told that there is an issue of reinforced identity: that is, if high risk repeat offenders are mainly with other young offenders, then their mutual sense of themselves as young offenders can be reinforced. Anything that could be done to integrate young people into mainstream arts projects would be very beneficial. The Youth Offending Service felt they were not always aware of all the cultural opportunities in the city, nor invited to take part in these activities.
- 4.20 It is clear that there needs to be a robust two-way relationship between those working with young offenders and those working in cultural services. For example, seconding people between the two strands of the council would go a great way to promote understanding and further communication.

Recommendation 8: The benefit of accessing cultural activities for young people should be more widely recognised. The council and others offering arts and cultural projects should as a matter of course seek to involve young people not in mainstream education. Consideration should be given to ways of including marginalised children, particularly young offenders or those in challenging circumstances - and, if they can not be included, reasons given as to why not.

- 4.21 The funding of arts activities for young people, and those not in mainstream education in particular, should not be seen as an optional extra. If one of the desired outcomes for the city is a reduction in reoffending rates, then the value of the arts must be widely understood and accepted as a tool for achieving this. Additionally, the benefits of cultural activities in terms of self confidence and increased awareness will help young people in other ways. **Co-ordinated service design through the council's new approach to commissioning must ensure sustainable funding for arts and culture to ensure these wider priorities are deliverable.**

Recommendation 9 (Corporate parenting)

- 4.22 The council has an important responsibility towards the children in its care. These children are encouraged and supported to achieve their potential and fulfil their aspirations. In Brighton & Hove this role of Corporate Parent will be monitored by the Corporate Parenting Forum led by Councillors from all parties who will take account of the views and opinions of children and young people.

Recommendation 9: The council as a corporate parent has a responsibility to ensure that all children in its care have access to, and support for, involvement in cultural activities as part of their

programme of care. This is an area that requires significant development.

Recommendation 10 (Cultural activities and the curriculum)

4.23 Schools have a pivotal role to play in engaging children and young people in arts and cultural activities. It is at school that children's awareness of, and interest in, the arts can be stimulated - and taken beyond the school gates.

4.24 The Panel felt there was an issue around gaining the involvement of schools and were disappointed that they did not manage to get information from all schools. **The Panel did not have the resources or the time to carry out a full audit but this would be a useful exercise.**

Libraries and Museums interaction with schools

4.25 The Panel was told that 11,540 children went on class visits to the libraries across the city last year. In terms of areas for future development, the Libraries Service told the Panel they found it harder to reach children aged 12 and above. They were aware of the need to work more closely with partners to identify children with specific needs.

4.26 The Museums' Learning Manager, Royal Pavilion and Museums (RP&M), told the Panel that they worked mainly with primary schools and had found it much harder to work with secondary schools. Often the problems were practical ones relating to staff cover or travel costs. They did do some work with secondary schools – one example was a fashion show with recycled clothing that ended up in the Victoria & Albert Museum. The Panel were told that one of the issues was how to involve different schools: they often found that they were working with the same schools.

Recommendation 10: Logistical barriers (such as transport or staff cover) that are preventing secondary schools from fully working with the libraries and museums service need to be overcome. These services need to do as much as possible to identify and remove the obstacles. Closer collaboration with named people in all schools, including secondary schools, should help facilitate closer ties.

Recommendation 11 (Arts Champion in schools)

4.27 The Panel was told that one of the tasks of the temporary arts development officer role (until November 2010) would be to look at the Express strategy. As part of this, they will update the database of 'Arts Champions' (or arts contacts) in each school. The idea of an Arts Champion arose out of the Express strategy and was a welcome one.

There seem to be some informal networks of arts teachers that already exist but it would be useful to have a more formal and easily identifiable network. During the Panel's Inquiry, the point was made that it is important to reach children when they are still young and to engage them in the arts at an early age. The Arts Champions in schools could have an important role in this.

Recommendation 11: *The Panel recommends that each school identifies one person to be the cultural lead to advise on arts and cultural activities available both in and outside of school, and whose role is to link into other schools and arts groups across the city.*

Recommendation 12 (Creative Partnerships, Sussex and Surrey)

4.28 Creative Partnerships is an organisation that aims to make the curriculum more accessible to young people by providing more creative ways to engage with the curriculum, and increase motivation for learning. It was funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and by the Department for Education (DfE). However, this funding is ending in July 2011 and Creative Partnerships told the Panel that they were now looking at a future offer to schools that builds on the learning from the Creative Partnerships programmes and continues to support schools in developing creativity of their pupils and staff.

4.29 *Recommendation 12: It would be beneficial for Creative Partnerships to become more involved with the Governors Network. The council's Governor Support Team should find ways to take this forward in schools. The Panel request that a report back on this is brought to the Children and Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC) in twelve months time.*

Recommendation 13 (After school clubs)

4.30 Many of the schools in the city offer after school clubs including dance, drama and music. However, it was not clear how easily accessible and how affordable they were. The importance of engaging children in a wide variety of activities out of school was not in doubt and the city must do all it can to ensure activities are open to all, regardless of age or wealth. Due to a lack of resources and time, and given the current uncertain climate, the Panel were not in a position to comment on what was available and at what cost. An audit of what is available and who accesses it, would, however, be a useful exercise.

4.31 The Panel were interested to learn about the *Ride the Wave* programme providing funding to help ensure that out-of-hours activities were accessible to pupils who would not otherwise be able to afford them.

Recommendation 13: *The Panel recommends that the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC) receives a report in 2011 on the number of children who engage in after school activities as a result of the Ride the Wave programme.*

Recommendation 14 (Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks)

- 4.32 The issue of CRB checks arose during the Panel's discussions. Comments were made suggesting that CRB checks for arts practitioners were not transferable across schools or organisations in the city. Parent volunteers were also not clear about whether or not a CRB check in one school or organisation is transferable to another. This is indicative of the confusion that currently surrounds the system for CRB checks.

Recommendation 14: *The Panel recommends that the Chief Executive of Brighton & Hove City Council writes to the Home Secretary to request that the reform of the system of CRB checks is conducted quickly in order to establish a clear system of transferable CRB certificates. Once it is known what the new system will entail, there is a role for the council in disseminating this information to ensure that schools and arts practitioners are very clear about the arrangements for CRB checking.*

5.0 Conclusions

The Panel were left with the impression that often it is the same schools, the same families, and the same children who are really making the most of what the city has to offer. It is time to concentrate on widening the accessibility of events, without any deterioration in quality. The Panel hopes this report will help the council and its partners achieve this aim.

Recommendation 15: *Implementation of these recommendations will be undertaken after 6 and 12 months.*

Timetable of meetings

Wednesday 31 March 2010 - 4.30pm

Founder's Room, Brighton Dome and Festival

James Dougan, Assistant Director, Children & Young People's Trust, B&HCC
Julia Box, Youth Arts Development Worker, B&HCC
Emma Fincham, Central Area Manager, CYPT, B&HCC
Lucy Stone, Project Director, Rhythmix
Peter Chivers, Head of Brighton & Hove Music Advisory and Support Service (BHMAS)

Wednesday 28 April 2010 - 11am

The Lecture Room, Friends Meeting House, Brighton

Cllr David Smith, Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism and Enterprise
Cllr Vanessa Brown, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Karen McCallum, Head Teacher, Patcham Junior School
Catherine Orbach, Director, Creative Partnership, Sussex and Surrey

Jo Bates, Youth Arts Worker, B&HCC

Nigel Andain, Head of the Youth Offending Service, B&HCC

Wednesday 19 May 2010 - 11am

Conference Room 1, Jubilee Library

Pippa Smith, Head of Education, Learning & Participation, Brighton Dome and Festival
Adam Joolia, Director, AudioActive
Julia Basnett, Museums' Learning Manager, Royal Pavilion and Museums, B&HCC
Kate Rouse, Jubilee and Central Services Manager, Libraries and Information Service, B&HCC
Kirsty Sulston, Head of Community and Learning, South East Dance

Wednesday 30 June 2010 - 4pm

Round Table meeting, The Komedia

Marina Kobler, Programmer and Founder, the Komedia
Emma Taylor, Founder, The Circus Project
Simon Wilkinson, Director, JunkTV
Daniel Bernstein, Arts Council England
Jamie Wyld, Videoclub/Lighthouse
Jackie Fawcett, Director of Music and Performing Arts, Blatchington Mill School
Chris Taylor, Director, New Writing South
Anna Jefferson, Creative Learning Manager, New Writing South
Honor Wilson-Fletcher, Aldridge Foundation
Robyn Steer, Community Media & Visual Arts Co-ordinator, Patcham High School
Liz Hall, Executive Director, Carousel
John Varah, Same Sky
Donna Close, Arts & Cultural Projects Manager, B&HCC
Julia Riches, Scrutiny Officer, B&HCC

Executive Response to the Scrutiny Panel on Cultural Provision for Children and Young People

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report outlines the Executive response to the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel on Cultural Provision for Children and Young People set up by the Culture Tourism & Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Panel (CTEOSC).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) To congratulate the panel on the detailed and well informed work undertaken to produce their report.
- (2) To mandate commissioners to make best use of existing resources to act upon these informed findings in shaping delivery as detailed in the body of the report.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Culture, Tourism & Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CTEOSC) set up this Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel to consider the provision of cultural services for children and young people across the city both by B&HCC and by other organisations; to look at the current deployment of resources; to identify any gaps in provision; and to identify areas of good practice, with a view to making recommendations for the future of cultural services for children and young people in the city.
- 3.2 The panel comprised of Cllr Melanie Davis (Chair), Cllr Rachel Fryer and Cllr Carol Theobald. More than 28 representatives from the city council, the formal education, youth service, the youth offending team and from cultural organisations were consulted over 4 group meetings in March, April, May and June 2010.
- 3.3 The report outlined 15 recommendations structured around themes, and these are used to form the basis of the Executive Response:
- 3.4 **General**
Recommendation 1: *The city's cultural offer should be fully available to all children and young people. The council's cultural and children's services need to ensure that joint working exists to fully exploit opportunities. Joint work and achievements should be reported*

annually to CYPT and then to the Culture, Tourism and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CTEOSC)

Recommendation 15: *Implementation of these recommendations will be undertaken after 6 and 12 months.*

The council's Arts Development Officer and the Team leader from Music and Study Support in CYPT have had regular meetings to revisit, refresh and move forward the aims of *Express*, the strategy for the development of arts for young people.

This has led to:

- Two consultation events which were arranged for representatives from the city council, education, youth service and arts, cultural and creative industry sector
- The creation of city-wide regular *Express Network Meetings* which take place every 10 weeks and which are hosted and chaired by different organisations each time
- An *Express blog* and mailout system that all members can access and add to (<http://bhartsexpress.posterous.com>)
- The formation of the *Express Youth Participation Group*.

In addition to this, the Arts team will be taking on an apprenticeship post for a six month period beginning in March to focus specifically on cultural provision for children and young people

The longer term ambition for the *Express Youth Participation Group* would be to develop it into a Youth Arts Commission linking to the Brighton and Hove Arts Commission.

More widely, the council's move to a commissioning model should provide opportunities to seek to ensure better joint working across services and with external partners. Arts and culture is represented, for example, on the Youth Commissioning /Delivery Partnership Meeting to ensure that cultural provision is embedded in city wide strategies around positive outcomes for children and young people and to ensure joint working across the council.

3.5 Communication and Information

The city enjoys a massively vibrant and diverse culture and arts scene – this needs to be more actively communicated to children, young people and their carers, therefore:

Recommendation 11: *The Panel recommends that each school identifies one person to be the cultural lead to advise on arts and cultural activities available both in and outside of school, and whose role is to link into other schools and arts groups across the cit.*

The Music and Study Support Team have collated an up to date list of arts contacts at most of the schools across the city. This list has been created on

the basis of self nomination and there are currently gaps. One of the tasks of the apprenticeship post will be to target those schools again to identify a lead contact person. A programme of involvement in the wider cultural activity in the city is in development specifically for the arts lead contacts in schools.

In addition, the *Express blog* membership (discussed more fully below) continues to grow including the involvement of schools' staff.

Recommendation 3: The Panel recommends that there is a single point of first contact within the council for people who wish to discuss arts and cultural activities for children and young people in the city. This role would also be an active one of co-ordination and information dissemination (linked to recommendation 11) (p. 20).

The provision and promotion of arts and cultural activity for children and young people is a priority that would feature in the commissioning objectives of the Commissioner for Culture. This role should be a contact point for further signposting. In terms of active co-ordination and information dissemination; these would be commissioned across a range of services and partners in addition to the online dissemination recommended below.

Recommendation 2: The panel recommends that the council develops a dedicated website. This web-site would allow children/young people, teachers, parents, and practitioners to access information about projects, events and funding opportunities across the city. This should include a forum for swapping expertise and asking questions. There should also be a system to alert registered users to new and relevant items put on the website

There is a two part response to this recommendation:

In terms of creating a web based resource that young people will use and share: the city council is working with Lighthouse, Photoworks and the Brighton Photo Biennial to help them to build on **Viewfinder**; a web based visual arts resource, owned and populated by young people. **Viewfinder** has the potential to encourage and empower young people across the city to discuss and share their cultural experiences across all cultural forms as well as the visual arts and the council is currently sourcing additional funding to expand this resource.

In terms of a web based resource that works as an interactive database of events and opportunities for a wider audience, the council is continuing to develop the *Express blog*, which currently has 200 users. The blog is free to join and is regulated by the Arts Development Officer. The profile of users is wider than Viewfinder and includes schools, artists, arts organisations, youth centres and community centres.

Recommendation 4: The Panel recommends that there is visible central notice board in the Jubilee Library. This notice board should publicise

the existence of the community diary and encourage people to access it (p.21).

There are visible notice boards in Jubilee Library, from the foyer through into the main part of the library which are used to display posters. There is also a set of shelves with room to put leaflets, leaflet racks and a table for more prominent items. If there is not enough room to display every leaflet, one reference copy is kept in the Community events folder which is available for the public. In response to this recommendation, we intend to advertise this service more prominently on these notice boards.

The Library Service has a leaflets and posters policy that explains what items will be given priority for display in libraries which is attached at Appendix One.

In the longer term, subject to funding, we would very much like to install electronic notice boards for library and community use; these would have the advantage of being instant and responsive to opportunities.

3.6 Venues

Recommendation 5: The Panel recommends that the council should actively work with venues in the city to find ways to enable young people to perform in venues with professional type facilities. For example, closer communication between the venues team and the youth services team may ease some of the problems those working with young people re encountering in finding suitable venues. This may be as simple as working to ensure that venues and their staff meet the young performers in advance, and are made more familiar with the differences between different performers. There are obvious examples of good practice and this should be shared across venues in the city.

This is one of the considerations of the *Express Network Group* whose members include cultural venues, youth centres and schools. This group meets regularly at the moment with administrative support provided by the Arts Development Officer post.

In addition, subject to funding, a training package for venues focussed on working successfully with young people will be developed.

Recommendation 6: The Panel recommends that steps are taken to increase the use of the Brighton Youth Centre as a central place for young people to be involved in cultural activities. The council should promote BYC as a place to meet, to discuss projects, and to find out information on cultural activities.

Mike Roe is the new Chief Executive Officer of Brighton Youth Centre; he is participating in the *Express Network* meetings and Chairs the *Express Youth Participation Group* with the aim of making the facilities more accessible for young people's cultural activities.

Recommendation 7: *There is currently a lack of clearly identified physical places for young people to go to find out information about what is happening in the arts. The Panel recommends that an audit is undertaken of all community centres/venues in the city and their current usage. Following on from this, the facilities and resources available should be publicised as widely as possible*

The last *Express Network* meeting held in January of this year focussed on the issue of spaces for cultural provision for young people. A number of suggestions were made from that which will be taken forward via the *Express blog*. Rather than a published directory, the blog will be used to provide information about spaces and opportunities as they become available. The blog will be actively managed by the Arts Development Officer post in order to keep it relevant and up to date.

3.7 Relevance of the arts to all

Recommendation 8: *The benefit of accessing cultural activities for young people should be more widely recognised. The council and others offering arts and cultural projects should as a matter of course seek to involve young people not in mainstream education. Consideration should be given to ways of including marginalised children, particularly young offenders or those in challenging circumstances - and, if they can not be included, reasons given as to why not*

There is a range of targeted activity that the council provides currently on a project basis; Brighton Museum for example is working with a group of young people who are long term unemployed and not in education on a photography project that will culminate in an exhibition and the young people gaining a Bronze Art Award. The Museum is also focussing on working with young people with mental health problems, with disability and setting up a Young Carers programme.

There is a desire from the providers of cultural activity for young people to reach all young people across the city. In order to do this they require more information as to gaps, city priorities and current mechanisms for accessing these young people. Equally there is the desire from those working with excluded young people to ensure that the children in their care can access positive experiences and the best that the city has to offer: cultural opportunities are at the centre of this. The draft Youth Commissioning Strategy offers much of this targeted information and the opportunity to make connections.

For the future, in addition to the range of project work that will continue, although often subject to external funding, the requirement to consider ways of including marginalised young people will be a baseline of all commissioning of cultural activity for young people.

Recommendation 9: *The council as a corporate parent has a responsibility to ensure that all children in its care have access to, and support for, involvement in cultural activities as part of their programme of care. This is an area that requires significant development.*

A pilot programme of activity; Try it with a Friend was run as a pilot last year in conjunction with the Independent Visitor Co-ordinator in the Youth, Advocacy and Participation Team. This programme provided 50 children in care with two tickets each to go and see or take part in any cultural activity in the city. The funding for this was from the 2010 Children's Festival budget.

Building on the success of this, we will work with partners to continue and expand this area of provision both in terms of providing opportunities to take part and attend events as well as volunteering.

Recommendation 10: *Logistical barriers (such as transport or staff cover) that are preventing secondary schools from fully working with the libraries and museums service need to be overcome. These services need to do as much as possible to identify and remove the obstacles. Closer collaboration with named people in all schools, including secondary schools, should help facilitate closer ties (p.33).*

Undoubtedly where there are close working relationships with schools, provision is most successful and this must continue and expand. An example of particularly good practice would be Patcham Library which has been opening on an extra morning a week so that pupils from Patcham High School can use the library as part of their reading and literacy improvement programme. This cooperation has been extended with the support of a grant from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, and the new programme will focus on speaking, listening and reading skills.

Additionally, there is much that takes place off site; our museums service provides a loan service for schools that is well used and covers nursery and reception through to 'A' Level. Specimens from the Booth Museum can be borrowed for a very small fee and there are several loan boxes that include lesson plans and resource notes in addition to museum items, which support areas of the National Curriculum.

Recommendation 12: *It would be beneficial for Creative Partnerships to become more involved with the Governors Network. The council's Governor Support Team should find ways to take this forward in schools. The Panel request that a report back on this is brought to the Children and Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC) in twelve months time*

The future of Creative Partnerships is unclear as their funding was cut in the October spending review. The Arts Council of England have confirmed that they will continue to invest in high quality cultural provision for young people but have not specified a mechanism for this. We remain in dialogue with ACE

and with ACE funded cultural providers how we can play a role in ensuring investment and activity can continue to take place and improve.

Recommendation 14: *The Panel recommends that the Chief Executive of Brighton & Hove City Council writes to the Home Secretary to request that the reform of the system of Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks is conducted quickly in order to establish a clear system of transferable CRB certificates. Once it is known what the new system will entail, there is a role for the council in disseminating this information to ensure that schools and arts practitioners are very clear about the arrangements for CRB checking*

In 2010 the Government was due to implement a new scheme called 'vetting and barring' which was to replace the CRB system. The subsequent Coalition Government announced that the proposed vetting and barring system was too complex. The initiative for change has been put on hold, with a plan to launch a much scaled down version at the beginning of 2012. At that point, the local authority could take part in any consultation around this. Meanwhile CRBs are still valid and can still be applied for in the usual way.

Recommendation 13: *The Panel recommends that the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC) receives a report in 2011 on the number of children who engage in after school activities as a result of the Ride the Wave programme*

This was a two year initiative from central government due to end in the summer of 2011. This was to provide funding for activity for children on a targeted basis to take part in an extended schools programme. In the first year this funding was made available to the Moulsecoomb cluster of schools and rolled out to all schools in the second year. The funding went directly to schools on a per capita basis of children in the targeted category. Information on the success of this is currently being collated.

The programme is due to complete in August of this year at which point a report will be made available from Ellen Jones, Head of Extended Services Team.

- 3.8 In addition to the recommendations in the report, it is also proposed by the executive to **prioritise external bid writing** in order to bring in resources to this area and to explore best practice nationally and internationally. International partners in Rotterdam, Ghent and Antwerp have confirmed that they are interested in joint projects for example.
- 3.9 Further to this, it is also recommended by the executive that the Children's Festival, organised by the B&HCC and the Arts Commission, is expanded to include all age ranges, subject to fundraising. The Festival is aiming to become a major showcase of good practice in cultural provision for young people across the city and an opportunity for young people to identify year round cultural opportunities.

- 3.10 Since the writing of the Ad Hoc Panel Scrutiny Report, another key issue to consider is the review by Darren Henley commissioned by the Department of Education and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The key findings of this and the subsequent Government response have positive implications for the provision of music education in Brighton and Hove. A National Music Plan will be developed and a key recommendation is the formation of delivery hubs. Clearly, there is the potential to build upon the work of *Express* in creating a 'music education hub' for the city; to bid for resources, to deliver in a co-ordinated way and to make the most of the range of partners we have.
- 3.11 Following the publication of this review, the Government have also announced that Darren Henley will be commissioned to produce a further review with a wider scope looking at a wider scope in terms of cultural education. The exact terms of this are due for publication soon.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 There has been consultation with the Music and Performing Arts Service, Museums, Libraries, Brighton Festival and Dome, Youth Service.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

It is not possible to quantify the financial implications at this stage. However, any additional costs arising from the actions identified will need to be funded from either external funding, as indicated in the report, or existing resources across the Authority. It would therefore be necessary to ensure that all concerned parties were kept aware of developments and the potential impact on their budgets.

Finance Officer Consulted: Michelle Herrington *Date:* 03/03/11

5.2 Legal Implications:

There are no adverse legal implications directly arising from this report

Lawyer Consulted: Bob Bruce *Date:* 02/03/11

5.3 Equalities Implications:

The implementation of all the proposed recommendations would be in line with the Councils Equalities and Inclusion standard. The report notes the importance of targeting our most excluded young people.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

The implementation of all of the proposed recommendations in the ad-hoc panel report would have positive implications in terms of sustainability.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

Any initiatives or programmes implemented that provide positive activities for young people, particularly those most at risk will have a positive impact in reducing the likelihood of crime and disorder.

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

If the ad-hoc panel report recommendations are not implemented, there is a risk that the city will begin to lose its edge as a cultural city. This drives economic benefits – for residents, businesses and the visitor economy as well as social benefits – in terms of social inclusion, health and well-being and civic identity.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

The implementation of the recommendations in the ad-hoc panel report would have a positive impact on young people and the cultural sector in the city and therefore would be citywide.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 The responses under each Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel Recommendation have been arrived at through evaluating what is feasible, affordable, building on need and where initiatives already taking place.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The ad-hoc panel report drew on a detailed level of expertise and current information from a range of providers across the youth, education and cultural sectors. The resulting recommendations were extremely well informed and offer a number of useful and pragmatic ways forward for the development of this key subsector.

7.2 In the view of all of the witnesses who presented to the ad-hoc panel, cultural opportunity is valued as an important tool for engaging with and empowering young people and is one that Brighton and Hove should actively develop. Many of the preconditions for growth in this area were identified in Brighton and Hove by the panel's findings and examples of good practice of an international standing, shared and celebrated in the report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices: Appendix One: Jubilee Library Poster policy

Community Information in Brighton & Hove City Libraries

We provide comprehensive, unbiased, wide-ranging local and other useful information. We offer local communities a number of ways to publicise their organisation and activities:

Local Information

- ESCIS- the local information database for Brighton & Hove and East Sussex with information on approximately 1000 local groups and organisations. Available to everyone via the Internet at www.escis.org.uk it is widely consulted and regularly updated. Local organisations may put their details on it free.
- 'Help in Hand.' Printed version of ESCIS issued annually
- Local Information folders containing information on local events and organisations produced by local organisations

Posters and leaflets

Display of posters or multiple copies of leaflets is principally for:

- Statutory notices
- Library service information
- Council information
- Other public services information
- Some government information
- Range of local education prospectuses

We do not normally display any other posters or leaflets. However, single copies of small posters/flyers advertising local events are kept in the local information folders.

Procedures

- All material for display must be submitted for scrutiny by the appropriate Library Manager
- Local discretion may be used, within these guidelines, and the manager's decision is final
- We are unable to return any material submitted for display

Where we agree to accept leaflets for a number of libraries, the provider will need to send them directly to each library. The addresses of all libraries are on the 'a guide to your library services leaflet' or at www.citylibraries.info.

We do not accept the following for display:

- Material promoting a particular political, philosophical or religious view point
- Campaigning material calling for support, including petitions, requests for membership, donations.
- Controversial or offensive material or material contravening current legislation.

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2010 – 2011**Date of Meeting: 21 July 2011****Report of: Strategic Director: Resources****Contact Officer: Name: Tom Hook Tel: 29-1110**

E-mail: Tom.hook@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny is required to report annually to Council on its work. Appendix 1 of this report details the work undertaken by scrutiny committees, panels and workshops over the last year, and monitors the impact of previous scrutiny work.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Members note the Scrutiny Annual Report.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- 3.1 The attached report summarises the work of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee along with the work of scrutiny panels. The report seeks to show how previous scrutiny recommendations have been implemented. Appendix 1 also outlines the call-in requests considered and development areas for 2011/2012.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with OSC Members.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 15 July 2011

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The constitution requires that the work of overview and scrutiny is reported to council on an annual basis. This report fulfils this requirement.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon

Date: 15 July 2011

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Equality issues form an important part of the work of a number of ad hoc panels; additionally the OSC has a remit to look at equality issues and receives six monthly updates.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Sustainability falls within the remit of the OSC; a number of scrutiny interventions have focused on issues of sustainability. These are outlined in appendix 1.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 ECSOSC is the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee. Liaison between the Community Safety Forum (CSF) and ECSOSC ensures that there is no duplication of effort and good communication. The Chairman of ECSOSC sits on the CSF.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 O&S is developing links with partners to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by legislative changes.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 Scrutiny has a remit to look any issue that affects the quality of life of residents; this extends beyond just Council run services.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

- 1) O&S Annual Report 2010/2011

Documents in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

None

Brighton & Hove
Scrutiny Service

Annual Report 2010/2011



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Foreword by Cllr Gill Mitchell

Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

I am very pleased to introduce the 2010/11 Scrutiny Annual Report. In what has been another busy year for scrutiny members, I was delighted that the quality of our work has been recognised by the Centre for Public Scrutiny; the scrutiny service won the Good Scrutiny Award 2011 for Innovation and was runner up for the national Team of the Year Award.

Highlights from the past year have included detailed work looking into services for adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions, the review of the in-year budget reductions and work relating to letting agents. This report aims to provide a succinct summary of scrutiny activity over the year, and looks back over previous years to monitor the impact of previous scrutiny reviews.

Whilst there have been many excellent pieces of work during the year, scrutiny is continuing to develop and respond to the challenges we face as a council and city. This will include providing training for new members, moving to a partnership based scrutiny function and enabling members to contribute to the development of services under Intelligent Commissioning.

Once again it is important, on behalf of all members involved in scrutiny, to thank residents, local partners and witnesses who have so freely given their time over the course of the year. Without their input we could not undertake the work we do.



Cllr Gill Mitchell

Scrutiny Annual Report 2010/11

Welcome to the third annual report of Brighton & Hove's scrutiny service. This report highlights how scrutiny has worked to tackle the major issues facing the city.



What is scrutiny?

Scrutiny works to drive forward improvements to the council's policies, procedures and service delivery:

Policy Development

The focus of our panel work is to develop policy. Examples include children and young people's access to culture, renewable energy and support services for victims of sexual violence.

Decision-making scrutiny

Holding the executive to account is a key part of our role. This is done through reports to committee, Call-in and questioning of cabinet members at scrutiny meetings.

Pre-decision input

Input on draft policies and strategies before they have been agreed by Cabinet or Council helps ensure they are more robust. It also provides an opportunity for cross-party consensus to be developed on an issue.

Monitor and track recommendations

Ensuring that panel work results in service improvements is an essential part of the process. Six-monthly and annual reports are produced to show committees what outcomes are being achieved.

The work of the Scrutiny Team includes promoting member workshop sessions, using university expertise to guide our work, asking residents what they want scrutinised, and bringing cabinet members, scrutiny chairs and senior officers together through tripartite working.

Winner of the 2011 Good Scrutiny Award for Innovation

The national Good Scrutiny Awards were established by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) to:

"...celebrate good practice in public scrutiny and the contribution that non-executives make to achieving transparency, involvement and accountability."

Brighton & Hove's Scrutiny Team won the Good Scrutiny Award for Innovation. CfPS were impressed by:

- Extending the use of academic experts within scrutiny reviews
- Developing a partnership based 'pan-public sector' scrutiny approach
- Non-executives have thought about how to work differently to influence decision-makers

The Scrutiny Team was also runner up in the Team of the Year Award for tackling major local issues.

The CfPS said that:

"Brighton and Hove was a late adopter of the Cabinet and Scrutiny model but in the last three years has developed a reputation for innovation and high quality scrutiny. A key focus has been to improve the way they work, moving towards partnership based scrutiny, complementing rather than duplicating workstreams."

Cultural Provision for Children and Young People

Completed November 2010

How can children and young people be helped to access the arts?

The Panel commended what was on offer in the city and suggested how to publicise events better, improve venues and include marginalised young people.

Key recommendations and achievements:

- ✓ In March 2011 an apprentice began a 6 month post to work on delivering key recommendations of the Panel.
- ▶ Each school should identify a lead person for arts and culture.
- ✓ Now a list of arts contacts at most schools.
- ▶ There should be a single point of contact within the council regarding arts and cultural activities for young people.
- ✓ These activities made a priority for the Commissioner for Culture.
- ▶ The council should set up a dedicated website with information about projects, events and funding opportunities.

- ✓ The council is working with partners to build on Viewfinder - a web based visual arts resource for young people. Continuing work to develop the Express blog, whose users include schools, artists, youth centres and community centres.
- ▶ The council should work with venues in the city to find ways to enable young people to perform in venues with professional type facilities.
- ✓ Developing a training package for venues on working successfully with young people, subject to funding.

School Exclusions

Completed June 2010

- ✓ Schools, and council officers working with schools, have been provided with advice and guidance in relation to unofficial exclusion and the use of part-time timetables.
- ✓ The Children Missing Education Officer, within the Attendance Strategy Support Team, monitors those pupils on part time timetables to ensure these are used appropriately as outlined in the guidance.

Bright Start Nursery Call-in

October 2010

Call-ins are a way of challenging decisions taken by the council's executive before they are implemented.

The request for a Call-in was made on the decision to consult on the closure of the Bright Start nursery and whether sufficient consideration had been given to alternative options.

The **Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC)** resolved not to refer the decision back to the Children and Young People Cabinet Member for reconsideration.



Sports Facilities Management Contract Workshop

July 2010

Members of the **Culture, Tourism & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee (CTEOSC)** were consulted on the tendering process and their input informed both the specification and the contract. Freedom Leisure was awarded the contract from 1st April 2011.

Children & Alcohol Related Harm

Completed May 2009

- ✓ The Young Persons Alcohol worker has continued to develop early intervention work, including the police developing links with the ambulance service.
- ✓ Work has been recognised by Alcohol Concern as a case study for a simple cost effective referral process.
- ✓ The Alcohol Worker from the Health Promotions team has worked closely with the council training team to develop and deliver training to staff across the council as well as the wider statutory and voluntary sector.

Support Services for the Victims of Sexual Violence

Completed June 2010

Investigated the level of support provided in the city for victims of rape, sexual assault and other serious sexual offences, identifying current support services and gaps in the provision of support.

Recommendations have been taken forward as part of the Intelligent Commissioning pilot into domestic violence.

- ✓ Supporting networking of agencies in women's services sector.
- ✓ Ongoing funding for domestic violence advisor within A&E.

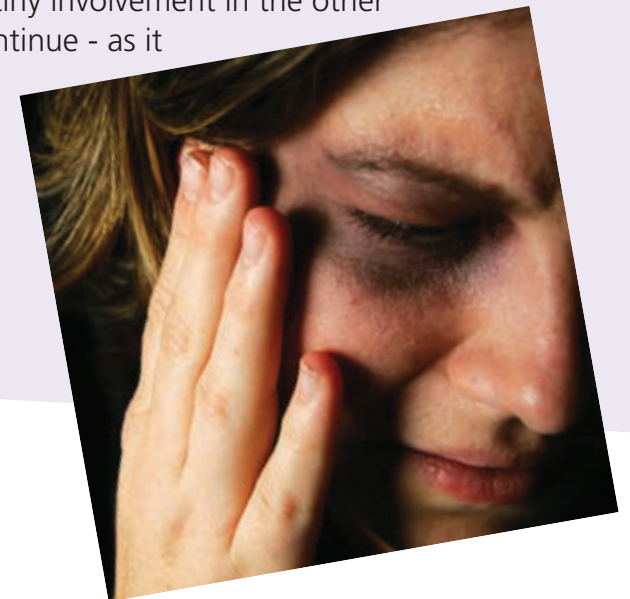
Intelligent Commissioning Pilots on Domestic Violence, Drugs and Alcohol

December 2010 & March 2011

Scrutiny has an important role to play within Intelligent Commissioning. Scrutiny Members held workshop sessions on all three pilot areas, discussing the evidence base presented within the needs assessments.

A further session was held on the domestic violence pilot looking at the service priorities, and how the council and partners were intending to respond to evidence of need.

Looking forward, scrutiny involvement in the other two pilot areas will continue - as it will for those areas identified within the city commissioning plan as priorities for action.



Services for Adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC)

Completed March 2011

How should we respond to the first National Autism Strategy? How can we improve our services?

Local services currently provided for adults with ASC were reviewed, including the transition from children's to adult services. The Panel listened to service users, parents and carers of people with ASC, service providers, third sector organisations, health and criminal justice colleagues.

Key recommendations:

- ▶ Training on ASC awareness should be given to as many frontline council staff as possible.
- ▶ There are currently two pathways to diagnosis, either through Mental Health services or Learning Disabilities services, which are not always as well linked as they should be. The Panel would like to see clear and accessible pathways, which work together where appropriate.
- ▶ Families and carers need to be kept more informed about the transition from children's to adult services. Joint working is needed to manage the change as smoothly as possible.
- ▶ Encouraged health colleagues to explore the diagnostic model used in West Sussex.

- ▶ A dedicated team of professionals to support adults with ASC should be set up.
- ✓ An ASC stakeholder group has been set up, including council officers, police, education, and health. This will develop the local response to the National Autism Strategy using the work of this Review as a starting point.

"Other local authorities should see this innovative piece of work as a model for the inclusive re-design of major strategies."

Professor Jeremy Turk, Consultant in Development Psychiatry, Maudsley Hospital; Professor of Developmental Psychiatry, University of London.

"The panel provided an opportunity to explore in depth concerns with fairness, transparency and without censure. As a result, locally we are now better informed and more able to develop the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and a local autism strategy."

Diana Bernhardt, Lead Commissioner, Learning Disabilities, NHS Brighton & Hove and Brighton & Hove City Council

Dementia Strategy

Completed September 2010

- ✓ Our partners are currently revising the city's dementia strategy, and the Panel's recommendations have been included in the evidence considered.

GP Health Centre

Completed July 2009

- ✓ Following the publication of the scrutiny report, NHS Brighton & Hove has ensured that details of all major procurements are available on its website, which will allow concerned members of the public to make their views known about particular plans.



Dual Diagnosis

Looked at services for people who have both serious substance misuse and mental health problems.

Completed April 2009

- ✓ Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust has developed its own strategy using the Panel's report as a fundamental building block. This strategy has just been approved by the Trust's executive board and will shortly be rolled out across the Trust.

This year the **Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee** worked closely with NHS Brighton & Hove to help it develop its annual operating plan, identifying areas of particular concern in terms of the city's healthcare needs

"We have a very positive relationship with the Brighton & Hove Scrutiny Team. They provide a constructive challenge to the PCT and continue to develop their services in innovative ways."

Claire Quigley, Director of Delivery, NHS Brighton & Hove;
Director of Delivery and QUIPP, Sussex PCT Cluster

Community involvement

Working with the local third sector

- ✓ Scrutiny has developed a strong relationship with the local third sector, resulting in the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) being represented in service commissioning scrutiny workshops and having a co-optee in the scrutiny of the 2011 budget setting process.

Older People and Community Safety

Completed in August 2009

- ✓ The Draft Community Safety Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2011 – 2014 includes a new section and action plan on older people.
- ✓ Intelligent Commissioning Pilots on Domestic Violence and Alcohol take elder abuse and older people's specific needs into account.

Staff Disabilities

Completed in May 2010

A Disabled Workers Forum (DWF) Annual Report is being produced for the first time.

- ✓ Cllr Stephanie Powell, the Chair of CYPOSC, has been appointed as a disability champion.
- ✓ Recommendations used to inform e-learning packages: **Attendance Management** (launched), **Recruitment and Selection** (being developed) and **e-induction** (being revised).
- ✓ Training workshops and courses being run on this issue.

"I think that the process was very worthwhile. The recommendations were very useful and it was a wonderful opportunity to enable us to communicate our needs to improve our working environment at the council. The recommendations have given us support for improving practices when issues around disability arise for staff. I particularly like the recommendation of acquiring a disability champion which should help us trouble shoot problem areas more swiftly."

A member of the DWF talking about this Panel

In 2010-11, the **Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ASCHOSC)** invited the CVSF to talk about their experiences of personalisation and problems that they've experienced, on two occasions. On the second occasion, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and key officers were in attendance and committed to meet with the Chief Executive of the CVSF to address the issues raised.

Letting Agents

Completed in March 2011

What extra charges are Lettings Agents making tenants pay for?

Charges can be made for getting references, carrying out credit checks, providing an inventory and renewing tenancies. Some of these charges were seen as hidden and not providing value for money.

Key recommendations for the council include:

- ▶ To develop a local letting agents' accreditation scheme.
- ▶ Launching an information pack for private sector tenants, highlighting letting agents' good practices and procedures.
- ▶ Ensuring that the current landlords' accreditation scheme provides advice on choosing letting agents. To include an explanation that letting agents deriving most of their income from tenant charges may not be acting in the best interests of landlords.
- ▶ Consider including details of homes to let by accredited letting agents in its Homemove lettings scheme web pages/ magazine alongside council and housing association properties.

Students in the Community

Completed in February 2009

- ✓ The council has developed a detailed Student Housing Strategy which addresses the majority of the recommendations to come out of the scrutiny study. It sets out a strategic approach for the supply and management of student housing in the city, to ensure that students are integrated into established residential communities in ways that do not unbalance local population structures and housing markets.



Renewable Energy Potential

Completed April 2011

What can be done to encourage the growth of renewable energy in the city?

The Panel found that growing this sector would retain money in local economy, tackle fuel poverty, create jobs and improve skills.

Key recommendations include:

- ▶ Develop a city wide sustainable energy programme.
- ▶ Establish a team or agency to focus on sustainable energy.
- ▶ Carry out a heat mapping exercise to identify opportunities for district heating.
- ▶ A sustainable energy publicity campaign.
- ▶ A programme to enable community based sustainable energy.

Climate Change Adaptation

Completed in July 2010 – the work of this Panel won the CfPS 2011 Good Scrutiny Awards for ‘Innovation’

- ✓ The findings of this Panel are being fed into the city's revised Climate Change Action Plan.
- ✓ A Local Climate Impact Profile has been undertaken.
- ✓ Work on the city's Surface Water Management Plan is progressing.
- ✓ The City Sustainability Partnership's ‘Big Asks’ of the Strategic Director of Place and the new council administration included: “Leadership on climate change adaptation planning, including and beyond public services, with an emphasis on community engagement to improve resilience to severe weather impacts.”
- ✓ Climate Change impacts and adaptation feature in the ‘State of the City’ and ‘State of the Local Environment’ reports.
- ✓ Active consideration is being given to updating the council's Strategic Risk Register to include a new risk on severe weather.

“Chairing [this]... panel for Brighton & Hove City Council was a valuable and rewarding experience”

Professor Gordon MacKerron, Director of the Sussex Energy Group – University of Sussex

Environmental Technologies

Completed January 2010

- ✓ Officer appointed in 2010 to encourage business growth and retention in the key local sectors of Environmental Industries and Creative Industries. Working closely with partners and businesses, this officer has helped the Brighton and Hove Chamber of Commerce to establish a Green Business group. An action plan is being developed, using the findings of the Scrutiny Panel, which includes the formation of an Environmental Industries Partnership.
- ✓ Recent updates of strategies including the City Employment and Skills Plan have taken account of this sector.
- ✓ The city's successful Future Jobs Fund apprenticeship scheme included 100 recycling and environmental jobs.

Winter Service Plan

Completed March 2010

- ✓ Communication with residents during the severe winter weather during 2010/11 was vastly improved compared to 2009/10.
- ✓ Scrutiny recommendations regarding up-to-date information and guidance on the liability of residents clearing paths and pavements also helped ensure that the city was better able to cope with the snow.



Local Transport Plan (LTP3) workshop

January 2011

Transport policy was considered at an informal workshop for the Environment and Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC). Members received copies of the LTP3 strategy and delivery plan in draft form and heard a presentation from senior officers.

The Committee fed comments into the strategy development process, focussing on key issues such as road safety, vehicle speeds, air and noise pollution, response to severe weather, smart ticketing (Oyster cards), street lighting efficiency, freight operations, bus route maps and the new responsibility for road classification.



Street Access Issues

Completed March 2010

- ✓ Licensed premises have to leave a minimum agreed pavement width for pedestrian access. A rule of one A-board per business has been enforced. Licensing zones extended to London Road and Church Road for 2011-12.
- ✓ A trial programme of marking the positions of tables, chairs and A-boards started in May and it is planned to have the majority of licensed sites marked by October 2011.
- ✓ Met with police, Cityclean and civil enforcement officers. Agreed to produce a data sheet so that any officer can check extent of each licensed area. Data sheets can be accessed by members of the public as well as council officers.
- ✓ Where traders' items are in breach of licence conditions two written warnings should be issued. Upon the third occasion of breach of licence, immediate confiscation by council officers should be undertaken. Since July 2010:
 - 84 first warnings have been issued
 - Seven second warnings
 - Four A - Boards have been confiscated

20mph Speed Limits/Zones

Completed April 2010

- ✓ Progress in implementing the recommendations is tied into the development of the LTP3.
- ✓ Citywide Speed Limit Review (Non A&B Class Roads) pilot study on three trial areas in different parts of the city is now complete.
- ✓ Officers are preparing to present the report seeking Cabinet Member approval to consult on implementing its recommendations within those areas. At that meeting approval is also being sought to continue the review using the same methodology.

Parking Call-in

October 2010

This Call-in was held to determine whether to ask the Environment Cabinet Member to reconsider the decision in relation to the Hanover & Elm Grove Resident Parking Scheme Review Community Consultation. The decision was made to neither refer the decision back nor make recommendations to the Environment Cabinet Member.

Pedestrian Crossings

Following concerns from residents, the **Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC)** pushed for a more transparent and easier to understand method of prioritising pedestrian crossings.

An up to date scoring system has now been developed that takes into account residents' fear of crossing busy roads and public perception of dangerous roads; a report with the revised methodology will be taken for the approval of the Cabinet Member for Environment.



In-Year Budget Reductions

Completed in December 2010

How might the planned in-year budget reductions affect council services?

The aim was to help improve how future budgets are set.

Key recommendations include:

- ▶ Consulting on service changes.
- ▶ Agreed priorities for services.
- ▶ Partnership working.
- ▶ Monitoring the on-going and longer-term impact of budget reductions.
- ▶ Closer working with the city's Community and Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF).

Outcomes achieved to date:

- ✓ Council maintaining close links with the CVSF.
- ✓ For future years – assessing the equality impact, as well as consultation and engagement, will be part of the commissioning process.
- ✓ Consultations on risk and opportunity management will be included in relevant committee reports.

- ✓ Recommendations taken into account in partnership working about collective financial challenges (eg joint use of buildings and collaborative procurement).
- ✓ Recommendations taken into account in the Intelligent Commissioning Framework and partnership working.

Engaging with the community

We have been expanding the ways the Scrutiny Team communicates and engages. This includes:

- ▶ A scrutiny Twitter account has been created to promote scrutiny committee and panel work and receive suggestions for scrutiny topics. [@BHScrutiny](#)
- ▶ A quarterly newsletter on scrutiny activity which goes to all Members, senior officers and partner organisations and is on our webpages.
- ▶ All [Overview and Scrutiny Commission \(OSC\)](#) meetings are webcast and stored on the website.
- ▶ Website improvements and up to date information about the progress of panels and all scrutiny committee meetings can be found on our webpages.

The Scrutiny Team

Who are we?

- **Tom Hook**
Head of Scrutiny (01273 29-1110)
- **Giles Rossington**
Senior Scrutiny Officer, HOSC, ASCHOSC (29-1038)
- **Mary van Beinum**
Scrutiny Officer, ESCOSC, OSC (29-1062)
- **Julia Riches**
Scrutiny Officer, CTEOSC (29-1084) Part time
- **Karen Amsden**
Scrutiny Officer, CTEOSC (29-1084) Part time
- **Sharmini Williams**
Scrutiny Officer, CYPOSC (29-0451)
- **Kath Vlcek**
Scrutiny Officer, ASCHOSC (29-0450) Part time

Working with our Universities

The 'University Challenge' a study by the Centre for Public Scrutiny has included the recent collaboration between us and the city's universities as a case study. This work includes:

- Dr Adrian Smith, from University of Sussex, who brought his knowledge of community energy to chair a Panel on realising the potential for renewable energy in the city.
- A final year student undertaking an internship in the Team.



Looking forward to 2011-12

Review how we work

We will be reviewing the scrutiny structure and ways of working, in order to:

- Become more partnership focused.
- Increase resident involvement in the work of scrutiny.
- Streamline but increase the value added by scrutiny.

The aim is to:

- Increase democratic accountability and input to organisations within the city.
- Review service provision in areas of weakness or priority areas for intervention.
- Act as a mechanism for innovative policy development.
- Provide a means for increased community involvement in decision making and service review.
- Offer a mechanism for the independent review of issues of contention between organisations.

“CVSF believes the scrutiny process is a key mechanism for influencing decision making and for enabling the voice and experience of CVSF members to be heard. It has been an absolute privilege to work with the Scrutiny Team and CVSF hopes to continue its involvement in scrutiny on behalf of its members.”

Sally Polanski, CEO,
Community and Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF)

Get involved

There are many ways in which you can get involved in Scrutiny. This can be done by:

- 1. Attending a meeting** – All Scrutiny Committee Meetings are open to the public. Please look at our website to see the dates, times and venues of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting:
<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1211354>
- 2. Consultation** – During the evidence gathering stage of a review, a range of stakeholders will be consulted with. Details of the consultation will appear on our web pages or in a variety of other formats such as in the local newspaper.
- 3. Tell us your views** – Please contact us if you have an idea for a Scrutiny review or if you would like to contribute to a current review.

Suggesting a topic for scrutiny

If you have an issue that you think we should look at, or suggestions for future work, there are different ways to tell us about them. These include:

- Contact the Scrutiny Team
- Speak to your local councillor
- Look out for our annual consultation programme, where you can suggest a topic for a future scrutiny review

To help you when thinking of suggestions, we have listed some questions for you to think about.

- Is this an important issue for local people?
- Are there new laws or rules that might affect a service?
- Is this a poorly performing service? Have there been complaints about the service?
- Has the service overspent or underspent its budget?

How to contact us

Email us: scrutiny@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Follow us on Twitter: [@BHScrutiny](https://twitter.com/BHScrutiny) to find out about our meetings, give evidence to us, suggest reviews or tell us what you are up to.

Write to us:

Scrutiny Team, Room 128 King's House,
Grand Avenue, Hove BN3 2LS

Telephone us on 01273 291084

Visit our website:

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1247215>

Brighton & Hove Scrutiny Service

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**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

**EXTRACT FROM THE DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON THE 28TH JUNE 2011****BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL****COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Hamilton (Chair), Follett (Deputy Chair), Jarrett, Mitchell, A Norman, Pissaridou, Smith, Summers, Wakefield and Wealls

PART ONE**13. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

13.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance that provided a summary of the Audit Committee's performance and achievements during 2010/11. The preparation of an annual report is recognised as best practice for Audit Committees in providing assurance over its role by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

13.2 RESOLVED:

- (1) That the draft Annual Report be noted; and
- (2) That the draft Annual Report be referred to Full Council for approval.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 13

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Audit Committee Annual Report 2010/11
Date of Meeting: Council 21st July 2011
28th June 2011
Report of: Director of Finance
Contact Officer:: Name: Ian Withers, Head of Audit & Business Risk
Tel 29-1323
E-mail: ian.withers@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Wards Affected: All

For General Release

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This draft report attached at Appendix 1 provides a summary of the Audit Committee's performance and achievements during 2010/11. It has been prepared on behalf of the Audit Committee members.
- 1.2 The preparation of an annual report is recognised as best practice for Audit Committees in providing assurance over its role by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Audit Committee:

- 2.1 Considers the draft report at Appendix 1 and makes any amendments and additions it deems necessary.
- 2.2 Refer the report (incorporating any amendments and additions) to Full Council for approval.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Audit Committee (the Committee) was established in May 2008, replacing the previous Audit Panel. Its purpose is contained in the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix A.
- 3.2 Whilst there is no statutory requirement for a local authority to establish an Audit Committee it is implied by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and recognised across both the private and public sectors as a key component of corporate governance.

3.3 The key benefits of an effective Audit Committee are:

- Raising greater awareness of the effectiveness and continued development of the council's governance arrangements;
- Increasing public confidence in the objectivity and fairness of financial and other reporting; and
- Reinforcing the importance and independence of internal and external audit.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 None

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

The costs of the Audit Committee and its work programme including officer support and training is met from existing budgetary provision.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley 15th June 2011

5.2 Legal Implications:

The report is made under the Committee's power to consider and make recommendations to Full Council on matters relating to or affecting the Committee's functions.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon 16th June 2011

Equalities Implications:

5.3 There are no equalities implications arising.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 There are no sustainability implications arising.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 There are no crime and disorder implications arising.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 There are no direct risk and opportunity management implications arising.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 Robust corporate governance arrangements are essential to the sound management of the City Council and the achievement of its objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Audit Committee Annual Report 2010/11

Background Documents

1. Reports to the Audit Committee May 2010 – May 2011



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

AUDIT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11 (Draft)

Councillor L. Hamilton, Chairman

Foreward by the Chairman of the Audit Committee



This is my third year as Chair and I am pleased to present the Audit Committee's Annual Report for the 2010/11 municipal year. The report shows how the Audit Committee has successfully achieved its objectives contained in its terms of reference, developed its role and continued to make a positive contribution to the council's governance and control environment.

The next few years will be significant in terms of financial pressures on our services. How we therefore use the resources available will become even more important and how we risk manage our priorities, partnerships and services will be crucial. We will need to ensure a robust governance and control framework and be increasingly vigilant to the risk of fraud.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank both the committee members and the officers that support the committee's work. Special thanks are also due to David Watkins for his commitment and support as Deputy Chair over three years.

I would also like to thank the Audit Commission for their support and regular attendance at meetings.

During the year officers have presented professional reports, taking on board comments, suggestions and ensuring improvements have been made.

I have enjoyed leading the committee and working with officers to further enhance the council's governance arrangements.

Introduction

1. The Audit Committee (the Committee), is now in its fourth municipal year, succeeding the Audit Panel. The Committee's activities during 2010/11 built on the positive contribution from previous years to the improvement of governance arrangements across the council.
2. The Committee's role is principally to underpin the Council's governance processes by providing independent challenge and assurance of the adequacy of risk management, internal control (including Internal Audit External audit and counter fraud) and financial reporting frameworks
3. A copy of the Committee's Terms of Reference is shown at Appendix A.
4. This is the second annual report from the council's Audit Committee. It is produced in accordance with latest best practice¹ and details the work and outcomes of the Committee in 2010/11 and that the council is committed to working as an exemplar organisation, operating to the highest standards of governance.

Audit Committee Work Programme and Members

5. During the 2010/11 municipal year there were 5 meetings of the Committee. All had full agendas and in total considered 42 reports, had 2 presentations and 3 verbal updates.
6. The rolling and flexible work programme covers the Committee's main areas of activity which is continually reviewed and amended to reflect changes in policies, priorities and risks. A summary of the work programme is shown at Appendix B.
7. The Committee consists of 10 Members and detailed for 2010/11 in Table 1 below. Nominated substitutes attended meetings as required.

Table 1: Members of the Audit Committee 2010/11

Member	Role
Councillor Les Hamilton	Chair
Councillor David Watkins	Vice Chair
Councillor Jason Kitcat	Member
Councillor Brian Oxley	Member
Councillor Pat Drake	Member
Councillor Steve Harmer-Strange	Member
Councillor Bill Randall	Member
Councillor David Smith	Member
Councillor Christine Simpson	Member

¹ Best practice as contained in the CIPFA Publication, "A Toolkit for Local Authority Audit Committees"

Councillor Ann Norman	Member
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8. A rolling and flexible work programme has been agreed for the Committee's main areas of activities

Training & Development

9. In order to be effective, it is recognised that members of the Committee should have a clear understanding of their role, internal control and governance issues, internal and external audit, risk and opportunity management and how the arrangements in place across the council operate.
10. There were no specific training sessions during 2010/11 but integrated (briefings) into committee meetings and regular meetings with Chair and Deputy Chair.

Core Activities 2010/11

11. The Committee's terms of reference contains a number of functional responsibilities and these have been interpreted into seven core activity areas. The Committee's work and outcomes in each of these areas are summarised in the following sub sections:

Internal Audit

12. Internal Audit is a key source of assurance for both officers and Members on the effectiveness of the control environment and governance. The Committee has responsibility for ensuring that Internal Audit is effective in the provision of that assurance.

During the year the Committee has:

- Approved the Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Plan for 2011/12;
- Considered regular Internal Audit Progress Reports from the Head of Audit & Business Risk highlighting audit work completed in particular audit reviews, internal audit performance against key indicators and any significant issues;
- Considered the Head of Audit & Business Risk's Annual Report and Opinion on the council's governance and internal control environment;
- Considered the statutory review of the effectiveness of the system of internal audit;
- Ensured the internal audit and external audit plans were complementary and provided optimum use of the total audit resource;
- Ensured Internal Audit is effective in the provision of key assurance on an ongoing basis; and

- Continue to provide support to the Internal Audit service to ensure management is responsive to recommendations made and agreed.

External Audit

13. External Audit which is currently provided by the Audit Commission is an essential part of the process of accountability of public funds, providing an independent opinion on the financial statements as well as arrangements for securing value for money across the council.
14. At its June meeting, the Committee were advised that the Government had stopped all work on the Comprehensive Area Assessment which included the Use of Resources.
15. In August 2010, the Department for Communities and Local Government announced plans to disband the Audit Commission and refocusing of the audit of local public bodies. In March 2011 it further issued a consultation draft entitled the “Future of Local Public Audit”. This also included proposals to changes to the structure of audit committees and for them to have responsibility for recommending the appointment of external auditors.
16. During the year the Committee:
 - Considered the Audit Commission’s Annual Audit Plan;
 - Considered progress reports against the plan;
 - Considered Fees Letters;
 - Receive and considered Annual Audit Letter for 2009/10; and
 - Considered individual reports from reviews carried out including Housing Repairs and Maintenance Contract.

Risk and Opportunity Management

17. During the year Committee:
 - Received and considered Risk and Opportunity Corporate Register Updates;
 - Considered the outcomes of the Risk and Opportunity Management Programme;
 - Overseen the transition to a Strategic Risk Management Strategy;
 - Received a briefing on the new risk management “self service” software (Interpan) and considered reports generated;
 - Received the Annual Risk Management Report; and
 - Received and considered individual risk maps on corporate risks, in particular on emerging risks and areas of concern (for example financial outlook).

Internal Control and Governance

18. A pivotal role of the Committee is its work in developing the council's internal control and assurance processes. During the year there were no major break-downs in internal control, governance and risk management reported.
19. During the year the Committee:
 - Considered and agreed the council's Annual Governance Statement a key document which summarises the council's governance arrangements and the effectiveness of these during the year;
 - Received updates on actions for improvements from the Annual Governance Statement;
 - Was requested and provided a letter to the District Auditor on providing assurance from those charged with governance; and
 - Continued to raise the profile of internal control and governance across the council and of the need to ensure audit recommendations for improvement are implemented.

Counter Fraud

20. Countering fraud and corruption is the responsibility of every Member and officer of the council. There were no major incidences of fraud reported to the Committee during 2010/11.
21. During the year the Committee:
 - Considered the outcome of counter fraud activity as part of the Head of Audit & Business Risk's Annual Report;
 - Monitored and supported the actions of officers in particular those by Audit & Business Risk to counter fraud;
 - Were made aware of national emerging fraud and corruption issues that could impact on the council for example housing tenancy fraud;
 - We were made aware of the outcome from the National Fraud Initiative (NFI); and
 - Received a report and presentation on Fraud Risk Analysis and Loss Measurement exercise on the council's potential exposure to fraud which projected a significant level of potential fraud loss as a whole to the council.

Financial

22. During the year the Committee:
 - Considered and approved the Annual Statement of Accounts, asking a number of questions on the content;

- Considered the external auditor's report on the accounts and council's responses to comments;
- Received periodic reports for information, on the council's budget performance (TBM) asked questions and helped to inform the approval of end of year Statement of Accounts; and
- Received updates and progress made on implementing the requirements of the International Financial Reporting Standards.

Other Activities

23. During the year the Committee:

- Considered reports on Treasury Management Policy Update and Annual Investment Strategy, providing an independent scrutiny role.

Looking Forward

24. We want to continue to develop our role and build on our current status. For 2011/12 we will:

- Continue to review all governance arrangements to ensure they are robust with focus on the continued transformation of the council, new operating model and financial pressures in particular relating to the continued transformation of the council and financial pressures;
- Continue to support and embed the role of risk management including the risk management software;
- Ensure the effectiveness of the council's response to existing and key risks emerging including resulting from financial pressures and transformation;
- Continue to support the work of Internal and External Audit and ensure appropriate management actions to recommendations made;
- Ensure the council maintains and further improves the standards in relation to the production of accounts;
- Ensure the council continues to manage the risk of fraud and corruption, in particular by taking further proactive measures for example awareness training;
- Equip existing and new Members to fulfil responsibilities by providing training, briefings and good practice guidance;
- Respond to changes imposed by legislation and from best practice on the structure and activities of the Audit Committee to ensure its continued effective role;
- Undertake a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the Committee; and
- To keep abreast of developments and respond as required to changes in the Public Audit Agenda.

Audit Committee Terms of Reference (Agreed by Council in April 2008)

Explanatory Note

The Audit Committee oversees the Council's arrangements for the discharge of its functions in connection with finance, risk management and audit arrangements. It makes recommendations to the Council, the Cabinet, officers or other relevant body within the Council.

Functions

To carry out independent scrutiny and examination of the Council's financial and non-financial processes, procedures and practices to the extent that they affect the Council's exposure to risk and weakness in the control environment with a view to :

- Providing independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management and associated control environment;
- Providing assurance on the adequacy of the Council's audit arrangements ;
- Securing robust performance and risk management arrangements; and
- Making recommendations to the Cabinet, Council or Directors as appropriate
- To consider the Council's risk management arrangements and make recommendations to the Cabinet, Council or its Committees.

(Source: B&HCC Constitution)

Appendix B

Summary of the Audit Committee Work Programme 2010/11

Meeting Date	Report	Area	
18th May 2010	Update on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)	Financial Management	
	Audit Commission Progress Report 2009/10	External Audit	
	Assurances from the Audit Committee and the body charged with Governance 2009/10	Internal Control & Governance	
	Internal Audit Strategy & Annual Plan 2010/11	Internal Audit	
	Risk and Opportunity Management Update	Internal Audit	
	Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit	Internal Control and Governance	
Part 2	Corporate Risk Management Action Plan – Council Housing Stock Condition	Risk Management	
29th June 2010	Audit Commission Progress Report 2009/10	External Audit	
	Audit Committee Annual Report 2009/10	Internal Control and Governance	
	Statement of Accounts 2009/10	Financial Management	
	Annual Governance Statement 2009/10	Internal Control and Governance	
	Assurances from those charged with governance	Internal Control and Governance	
	Audit Commission Supplementary Opinion Audit Plan	External Audit	
	Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion 2009/10	Internal Audit	
	Targeted Budget Management Provisional Out Turn 2009/10	Financial Management	
	Risk and Opportunity Management Update – Corporate Risk Register	Risk Management	
	Part 2	Corporate Risk Management Action Plans Focus	Risk Management
		Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion 2009/10 – Audit Reviews giving limited assurances	Internal Audit
28th September 2010	Internal Audit Progress Report 2010/11	Internal Audit	
	Targeted Budget Management (TBM) Month 4	Financial Management	
	Risk and Opportunity Management Annual Report 2009/10 and Programme 2010/11	Risk Management	
	Audit of Accounts ended 31 st March 2010 letter of representation and Statement of Accounts Update	Financial Management	
	Audit Commission: Annual Governance Report 2009/10	External Audit	
	Abolition of the Audit Commission (Verbal Update)	External Audit	
	Part 2	Corporate Risk Management Action Plans Focus CR15 Effective Procurement Process and Co-ordinated Organisational Compliance	Risk Management
14th December 2010	Treasury Management Policy Statement 2010/11 (including Annual Investment Strategy 2010/11)	Other Activities	
	Proposed review of the effectiveness of the Audit Committee	Internal Control and Governance	
	Internal Audit Progress Report 2010/11	Internal Audit	
	Annual Governance Statement 2009/10 Action Plan Update	External Audit	

Meeting Date	Report	Area
	Risk and Opportunity Management (ROM) Update	Risk Management
	Targeted Budget Management (TBM) Month 6	Financial Management
	Audit Commission Progress Report	External Audit
	Audit Commission Annual Audit Letter 2009/10	External Audit
	Audit Commission Review of Housing Repairs and Maintenance Contract 2009/10	External Audit
Part 2	Fraud Risk Analysis and Loss Measurement	Internal Audit
	Corporate Risk Management Action Plans Focus	Risk Management
5th April 2011	Annual Statement of Accounts 2010/11 Progress Update and International Financial Report Standards (IFRS) Verbal Update	Financial Management
	Targeted Budget Management (TBM) Month 9	Financial Management
	Treasury Management Policy Statement	Other Activities
	Annual Investment Strategy 2011/12	Other Activities
	Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Audit Plan 2011/12	Internal Audit
	Risk and Opportunity Update and Strategic Risk Register	Risk Management
	Audit Commission Progress Report 2010/11	External Audit
	Audit Commission Certification of Claims and Returns Annual Report	External Audit
	Audit Commission Fees Letter	External Audit
	Audit Commission Assurance from the Audit Committee as the Body charged with Governance 2010/11	External Audit

Council

21 July 2011

Agenda Item 14

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Withdrawal of the Core Strategy to Update and Amend	
Date of Meeting:	14 July 2011	Cabinet
	21 July 2011	Council
Report of:	Strategic Director, Place	
Lead Member:	Cabinet Member for Planning, Employment, Economy & Regeneration	
Contact Officer:	Name: Liz Hobden	Tel: 29-2504
	E-mail: liz.hobden@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan No: CAB, COU 23148
Wards Affected:	All	

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

- 1.1 This report seeks agreement to withdraw the Core Strategy from the examination process to allow essential updating and amendments in response to new circumstances relating, in particular, to emerging legislation and housing delivery. The revised Core Strategy will be a city wide plan and will assist in meeting the required tests of soundness of development plan documents.
- 1.2 The City Wide Plan will be a vital tool for attracting and directing investment in the city, it is imperative to deliver needed affordable homes and essential for encouraging the most sustainable forms of development and the highest quality of design. Preparing a city wide plan will provide the strategic planning framework to guide neighbourhood plans and will allow issues of local importance to be addressed appropriately and innovatively.
- 1.3 Withdrawing the plan will also allow essential updating and amendments in response to new circumstances. These relate, in particular, to emerging legislation and housing delivery and will assist in meeting the required tests of soundness of plan documents.
- 1.4 The report goes on to recommend that a Cross Party Working Group is set up to assist with future plan preparation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet recommends to Council that the Secretary of State's direction to withdraw the submitted Brighton and Hove Core Strategy from the examination process be sought for the reasons set out in Part 3 of this Report.
- 2.2 That Cabinet agrees that a Cross Party Working Group is set up in accordance with the terms of reference in appendix 2.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The submitted Core Strategy is the main planning policy document within the Local Development Framework (the plan-making system introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004). Its role is to provide an overall strategic vision and policy framework for the city to 2026.
- 3.2 Following a resolution of Council in December 2009 the Core Strategy was submitted to the Secretary of State in April 2010 for examination. The examination was suspended following an exploratory meeting on 20th May 2010 with the appointed Planning Inspector. The Inspector raised soundness concerns about the housing delivery strategy in the submitted document which was at odds with Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing by not identifying sufficient housing sites to meet the Regional Strategy, namely the South East Plan, target. The local case for not meeting the regional target was not considered sufficiently robust. Further uncertainties arose as a result of the publication of a letter by the Secretary of State on 27 May 2010 indicating his intention to abolish regional strategies and, consequently, regional housing targets. This intention has been taken forward into the Localism Bill which was published last December.
- 3.3 Since June 2010 two studies have been completed that will help inform the way forward. These relate to the supply of housing land in the city for the next 15 years (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) and the Open Space Update that undertook a qualitative assessment of all non B&HCC owned open space. These studies were approved by CMM Environment on 26th May 2011. Moreover the Localism Bill proposes a number of changes to the planning system in addition to the abolition of regional strategies, for example the introduction of Neighbourhood Planning.
- 3.4 As a result of the findings of these studies, the proposed legislative changes and the need for further updates, the Core Strategy needs altering and amending to ensure it will be found sound at examination. For example there is a need to extend the end date of the plan to ensure a minimum of 15 years is covered and there is a need to take the formal designation of the South Downs National Park into account. It is considered that the sum of all the changes necessary add up to a significant alteration to the document that should be the subject of further consultation. See appendix 1 for a list of matters to be addressed. The Planning Inspector has agreed with this view.
- 3.5 It is considered that a real opportunity exists to prepare a city wide plan which will have greater scope than the submitted Core Strategy to tackle the issues facing the city. The city wide plan will be a vital and positive planning tool for attracting and directing investment in the city. It will provide an imperative for delivering much needed affordable homes and for encouraging the most sustainable forms of development with the highest quality of design. Preparing a city wide plan will provide the strategic planning framework to guide neighbourhood plans and will allow issues of local importance to be addressed appropriately and innovatively.
- 3.6 As a result this report recommends that Council formally request the agreement of the Secretary of State that the Core Strategy be withdrawn from the examination process to allow the preparation of a city wide plan. The city wide

plan will be subject to statutory consultation and, following formal publication, a 6 week publicity period during which time representations on the plan may be made. The plan can then be re-submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

- 3.7 An initial timetable indicates that withdrawing the Core Strategy will provide the opportunity to have a more robust and up to date city wide plan that has been the subject of effective engagement with residents and stakeholders at the expense of a slight delay to its adoption.
- 3.8 In accordance with the request of the Cabinet Lead for Planning, Employment, Economy and Regeneration, the report recommends that a Cross Party Working Group is set up to help with plan preparation. The purpose of the Group, as set in the terms of reference (see appendix 2), is to develop and implement the city's development plans and promote partnership working. This Group will provide the opportunity to improve local democracy, it will help to build consensus and result in a better citywide plan

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Formal consultation has not been undertaken in relation to the recommendation to withdraw the Core Strategy. Informal advice has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate.
- 4.2 Residents and stakeholders will be consulted on a draft city wide plan. An updated Local Development Scheme (3 year work programme for the Local Development Framework) will be published in the autumn.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no Capital Expenditure implications. Preparation and consultation costs for the Core Strategy have been identified and a budget allowance has been made for this within the City Planning Division. The Core Strategy and future vision for the city will have a number of property implications that will embrace wider issues and future requirements in the city. These will include regeneration of areas and sites, design quality of proposals affecting the condition and suitability of city sites/properties in general and as part of the council's own portfolio. Any additional costs of the Cross Party Working Group will be met from resources within Planning.

Finance Officer Consulted: Louise Hoten

Date: 10/06/11

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 22 (2) (b) allows for the withdrawal of a core strategy on the direction of the Secretary of State after it has been submitted for examination. As soon as reasonably practicable following the making of the direction notice of withdrawal must be publicised in the manner set out in Regulation 37 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended). Regulation 37 also provides that documentation relating to the withdrawn strategy must be removed from the

Council's website and public inspection points as soon as reasonably practicable after withdrawal.

- 5.3 It is not considered that the report raises any adverse human rights implications.

Lawyer Consulted:

Hilary Woodward

Date: 13/06/11

Equalities Implications:

- 5.4 Equalities issues are relevant to a number of the Core Strategy issues, including reducing inequalities, providing community facilities and ensuring housing is provided for all. Extensive community involvement has been undertaken during the preparation of the document and has aimed to reach the identified communities of interest. Additionally, the document was subject to an Equality and Health Impact Assessment. Withdrawing the core strategy will provide the opportunity to up date these policy areas and the Equality and Health Impact Assessment will be updated. The proposed Cross Party Working Group, by providing representation across the Parties and promoting partnership working, will help to improve consideration of equalities issues in future development plans.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.5 The planning system has a clear purpose to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development. All planning documents have to be appraised for their economic, social and environmental impacts. The Core Strategy has been subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal. Any changes or updates carried out as a result of withdrawing the document will be the subject of a further Sustainability Appraisal.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.6 The Core Strategy addresses crime and disorder through development areas, special area policies and a number of citywide policies. Withdrawing the Core Strategy will provide an opportunity to ensure that this policy area is up to date.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.7 The Alternative options for the Core Strategy have been the subject of risk assessment and timetabling scenarios. In terms of taking a sound Core Strategy forward to examination by an appointed Planning Inspector, withdrawing the document is considered the best option to secure a sound plan within the shortest time period. A Cross Party Working Group will enable policy options to be discussed at an early stage therefore reducing uncertainty when key decisions are made.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The Core Strategy will contribute to delivering plans and strategies across the city council directorates, along with the Sustainable Community Strategy. It will also help to deliver city-wide strategies of public and voluntary sector partners. Withdrawing the Core Strategy will provide an opportunity to update references to these strategies.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The alternative option is for the Core Strategy to remain in submission stage and proceed towards examination. This option was considered to be a high risk strategy due to the amount of updates and amendments necessary to ensure the Core Strategy is found sound and that these should be subject to consultation. The Planning Inspectorate has informally agreed this view.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The reason for the main recommendation to withdraw the Core Strategy is to allow necessary updates and changes to the document that will allow the document to be found sound at examination. This is considered the best option to secure an adopted city wide plan in the minimum amount of time.
- 7.2 The proposed Cross Party Working Group will help to build cross party consensus during development plan preparation.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. List of the Main Amendments Required to the Core Strategy
2. Draft Terms of Reference for the Cross Party Working Group for Plan Preparation

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. CMM Environment 16th May 2010- Local Development Framework Core Strategy –Updated Background Studies
2. Submission Version of the Core Strategy

Main Amendments required to the Core Strategy

General

- Extend the end date of the Plan to 2030 to ensure there is a minimum of 15 years coverage from the date of adoption.
- Rename Document from Core Strategy to part 1 of the City Wide Plan
- Add maps of Development Areas and Special Areas
- Amend references to Regional Spatial Strategy and other national policy or legislative changes; and status of the South Downs National Park.
- Updates to Development Area policies in relation to strategic allocations and amounts of development.
- Update policies in accordance with the findings of recent studies including the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, the Open Spaces Study Update and soon to be updated Retail Study.

Policy and Site specific

- Update Shoreham Harbour policy (DA7) to reflect the current situation – recent studies including a housing capacity study indicates lower capacity
- Amend the housing delivery strategy to reflect local housing requirements including amendments to CP11 Housing Delivery and SA4 relating to the urban fringe.
- Clarify and strengthen the spatial strategy for employment and economic growth issues and include more specific mention of sites in the new Plan.
- Add reference to Neighbourhood Plans to the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Policy (SA6)
- CP9 Infrastructure and Developer Contributions - Update policy in line with new legislation on Community Infrastructure Levy
- CP8 Sustainable Transport - Update references to capital projects in the context of the government's review of funding and update national policy references.
- Update the Implementation and Monitoring Tables.
- Update the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Draft Terms of Reference July 2011

Cross Party Working Group for Plan Preparation

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the cross party working group is to help the City Council develop and implement its development plans as a mainstream part of its activities, including partnership work with other agencies and bodies.

Terms of Reference

- To oversee the progress of the Core Strategy (proposed to become the new City Wide Plan) and any subsequent developments plan documents undertaken by the Council and advise or make recommendations to the Cabinet member meetings or cabinet.
- To review the content of development plan documents and, having regard to evidence; National planning guidance; best practice; corporate priorities; and resources to advise the Cabinet member (s) as appropriate.
- The joint working group shall have the ability to invite / receive presentations from interested parties where they (jointly) see fit. (Interested parties may include amongst others; community and voluntary Sector partnerships or organisations, constituent partnerships of the Community partnership, Landowners, Developers or their agents).

2. Objectives and scope

- 2.1 To lead on the development, implementation, monitoring and review of the Council's Development Plans; in partnership with local partnerships and communities.
- 2.2 To promote innovative thinking, best practice and joint working in approaches to delivering sustainable development within the boundary of the City.
- 2.3 To develop the capacity of the wider community to make informed, sustainable decisions and build on the work of the Brighton and Hove Strategic Partnership to promote greater understanding of the priorities for the city and the contribution that sustainable development can make to improving people's quality of life.
- 2.4 To work with the voluntary and community sector, business and others to promote sustainable development, integrate economic, social and environmental issues and advise on implementation within the context of the community strategy and the Council's overall vision and priorities.

- 2.5 To work with the Brighton and Hove Strategic Partnership to ensure that development plan documents are compatible with and help to facilitate delivery of the community strategy.

3 Membership

The group shall be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Planning, Employment, Economy & Regeneration plus one member from each political group (for the current term 1 Green group member; one Conservative group member one Labour group member).

4. Voting

- 4.1 It is expected that the Working Group would normally reach agreement on proposals by consensus. If, however, there is no consensus, or if any Member requests it, the matter will be put to a vote. In the event of there being an equality of votes, the Chair will have a second or casting vote.

5. Reporting and Accountability

- 5.1 The joint working group will advise, the Council's Cabinet Member for Planning, Employment, Economy & Regeneration. The Working Group will report to and ask for comments from the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee

6. Review

- 6.1 These Terms of Reference will be reviewed after the first 6 months
- 6.2 The work of the cross party working group will be reviewed bi-annually.

NOTICE OF MOTION**CONSERVATIVE GROUP****AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE**

“This Council recognises the huge contribution made by the UK’s armed forces in protecting the basic and fundamental freedoms which we all take for granted. As a result of their duties they sacrifice civilian freedoms, face constant danger and sometimes suffer serious injury or even death. At the very least, they deserve our respect and support and should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of services.

This Council warmly welcomes recent initiatives in Brighton & Hove which have sought to recognise the unique contribution of the armed forces such as the ‘Heroes Welcome’ campaign, Armed Forces Day celebrations, the Freedom Parade and the awarding of Freedom of the City to Henry Allingham and Flight Lieutenant Marc Heal.

However, this Council recognises that both nationally and locally, the Armed Forces community (including veterans, reservists and their families) face many unique social and economic problems and distinct challenges in accessing services provided by public authorities.

Therefore, this Council welcomes the recent commitment by the Government to enshrine the national Armed Forces Covenant into law. This will bring about tangible benefits to the Armed Forces Community including increasing council tax relief to 50%, a pupil premium for service children, a new veterans’ information service, a Veterans’ Card and a Troops to Teachers scheme.

This Council wishes to further show its moral and practical support to the local armed forces, veterans, reservists and their families by committing to sign a Community Covenant. The aims of the Community Covenant include:

- Encouraging local communities to support the Armed Forces in their areas and vice versa;
- Promoting understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community;
- Recognising and remembering the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces community; and
- Encouraging activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life.

Therefore, this Council requests that the Cabinet considers signing a Brighton & Hove Community Covenant and asks for a report to be brought to a future meeting on how such a Covenant could be implemented, with a view to launching the Covenant on Remembrance Day 2011; and such report should be drawn up in close consultation with the Armed Forces Community and their representative organisations in Brighton and Hove.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Geoffrey Theobald Seconded by: Cllr. Ann Norman

Supported by: Cllrs Cobb, Peltzer Dunn, Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Oxley,
Wealls, Mears, Simson, Smith, Wells, Pidgeon, C. Theobald, K.
Norman, Janio and Hyde.

Council	Agenda Item 15(b)
21 July 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

CONSERVATIVE GROUP

RETURNING TO A COMMITTEE SYSTEM IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

“This Council notes that Schedule 2 of the Localism Bill currently going through Parliament gives provision for local authorities to return to operating a committee system of governance should they wish to do so.

Prior to its implementation in 2008, all political groups on Brighton & Hove City Council were opposed to the Executive Leader and Cabinet system, and reaffirmed unanimously their desire to return to a committee system at Full Council on 15th July 2010.

This Council further notes that although, as it currently stands, new governance arrangements could only come into force immediately after the next election of the local authority – May 2015 in the case of Brighton & Hove – there is flexibility written into the Localism Bill. Clause 13 permits the Secretary of State to make an order setting out transitional arrangements and, in addition, s105 of the Local Government Act 2000 allows for secondary legislation specific to individual or groups of local authorities.

Therefore, this Council:

- Reaffirms its desire to return to a committee system of governance at the earliest possible opportunity;
- Asks the Chief Executive to write to:
 - (a) The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government requesting the necessary amendments to the Bill and/or other measures, are so ordered to enable Brighton & Hove City Council to return to a committee system without delay and;
 - (b) The City’s 3 MPs advising them of the Council’s wishes and requesting that they add their support through appropriate lobbying of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Garry Peltzer Dunn Seconded by: Cllr. Andrew Wealls

Supported by: Cllrs G. Theobald, Cobb, Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Oxley, A. Norman, Mears, Simson, Smith, Wells, Pidgeon, C. Theobald, K. Norman, Oxley and Hyde.

Council	Agenda Item 15(c)
21 May 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP

RETURN TO THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM

“On Thursday 15th July 2010 the previous Council agreed:

- (a) that it desired to return to the committee system of governance, provided there is significant local support from residents to do so following proper consultation;
- (b) for the Chief Executive of the Council to write to the Minister with responsibility for Communities and Local Government asking when the required legislation will be forthcoming and seeking clarification of the process to be followed.

Further to this agreement, the Localism Bill is due to become enacted later this year and according to advice from the Department of Communities & Local Government, it would be for councils opting to operate the committee system to decide how to discharge their functions, subject obviously to the requirement to have certain statutory committees and also subject to any regulations made by the Secretary of State specifying that certain functions (e.g. decisions on the council’s budget) should be for full council.

This council therefore:

- a) reaffirms its desire to return to the committee system, as a model for running a more effective, inclusive and responsive City Council and;
- b) wishes to put in place all necessary arrangements as soon as possible and apply to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, as soon as the Localism Bill is enacted, to return to the committee system.”

Proposed by: Cllr Gill Mitchell

Seconded by: Cllr Mo Marsh

Supported by: Cllrs Meadows, Farrow, Gilbey, Pissaridou, Carden, Hamilton, Morgan, Turton, Lepper, Fitch, Robins.

Council	Agenda Item 15(d)
21 May 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP

LEGAL AID CUTS

“This Government proposes to cut £350 million to legal aid, as part of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

As a result, over half a million fewer people a year will receive support from the legal aid system.

This Council believes that these cuts to legal aid are short-sighted and counter-productive because many of the issues covered by legal aid will simply escalate, resulting in greater cost to the taxpayer further down the line. For example, according to cost-benefit analysis from the Citizens Advice Bureaux, for every one pound of legal aid expenditure on:

- Housing advice, the state potentially saves £2.34
- Debt advice, the state potentially saves £2.98
- Benefits advice, the state potentially saves £8.80
- Employment advice, the state potentially save £7.13

Furthermore, Law Centres help 120,000 people annually. Independent research has revealed that for every £1 spent by a Law Centre in the provision of legal service, at least £10 was generated in savings and social benefits.

Of these 120,000 people, with problems such as eviction, unfair dismissal, exclusion from school and domestic violence, it is estimated that 60,000 will no longer be helped, if these proposals are brought into force. There is no alternative source of advice available or that is suitable.

This council believes that this Government’s proposals remove vital support when people need it the most and that it is an irresponsible time to be leaving the most vulnerable in society without advice or legal support, when demands on advice services as a result of Government cuts are higher than ever.

This Council acknowledges that advice centre funding has been hit by cuts from all angles, from local authorities and central government grants from BIS, DCLG and now the Ministry of Justice. This has put at risk, on average, nearly 45% of the funding that advice centres receive.

This Council acknowledges the role of the local advice centres and is grateful of the hard work which helps so many vulnerable people in Brighton & Hove. These include Age Concern, Brighton Housing Trust, Citizens Advice Bureau, Community & Voluntary Sector Forum, Fitzhugh Gates Solicitors, MACS (Money Advice and

Community Support), Mind, Rise Women's Refuge, The Bridge Community Education Centre and the Whitehawk Inn.

Approximately 20,000 residents receive one-to-one advice from voluntary sector agencies in this city, with the Brighton Housing Trust providing specialist casework support and representation to 3,000 people per year. Legal Aid accounts for around 90% of BHT funding for advice and around 25% of the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

This Council therefore deeply regrets that due to proposed cuts, the admirable work of our local advice centres may be unable to continue and therefore resolves to:

- (a) Express its support to Brighton & Hove's Justice for All campaign in asking Government to rethink their cuts to legal aid, and;
- (b) Requests the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Justice, Ken Clarke to express concern over these proposals."

Proposed by: Cllr Warren Morgan Seconded by: Cllr Gill Mitchell

Supported by: Cllrs Meadows, Farrow, Gilbey, Pissaridou, Carden, Hamilton, Marsh, Turton, Lepper, Fitch, Robins.

Council	Agenda Item 15(e)
21 July 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP

LEGAL AID

“This council notes with deep concern the Coalition Government’s plans to cut the national legal aid budget by £350 million depriving many Brighton & Hove residents from free legal advice. [1]

It is concerned that claimants – including vulnerable residents needing help in cases of medical negligence, divorce, employment and welfare – will no longer be entitled to legal aid. These people will be denied justice, as their cases will go unheard without the support of a legal aid lawyer.

Furthermore, the council is concerned the cuts will devastate the inspiring work of the local Citizen’s Advice Bureau and Brighton Housing Trust, among others. If Legal Aid Funding is withdrawn, Brighton and Hove Citizens Advice Bureau estimates it will no longer be able to help 220 local residents needing specialist welfare benefits advice and 381 needing specialist debt advice each year.

The work of the Brighton Housing Trust helps clients in more than 1,400 housing cases each year. The proposed legal aid cuts will mean 900 of those cases will go unsolved. Long-term problem solving will also be lost. The Legal Action Group estimates legal aid in East Sussex will be cut by 64% with a total loss of funding to legal aid providers of £407,266.40. [2]

This Council believes legal aid cuts in addition to the Coalition Government cuts to public services are a further blow to those communities in Brighton & Hove already enduring poverty and discrimination. Many older people, unemployed, families and the infirm will be left with little or no access to justice. The erosion of legal aid is likely to exclude even more people from enforcing their rights to fair treatment at work, decent housing and quality education and health.

This Council further believes cutting legal aid is a false economy and will bring additional costs to Brighton & Hove City Council as more hardship problems are relinquished by central Government. Indeed, in the opinion of the Law Society “The suggested cuts will cost the government and the tax payer more than they will save and will have a severe impact on society.”[3]

Furthermore, in a period of economic depression, these cuts are likely to reduce social cohesion, increase criminality and silence the vulnerable.

This Council believes that fundamentally the legal aid cuts abandon the principle established by the *Magna Carta* of 1215 that everyone is equal in the eyes of the law.

This Council resolves to:

1. Express its support for the Sound off for Justice Campaign that has brought together the Law Society and non-government organisations as varied as the Women's Institute, Netmums and Shelter to campaign against the changes;
2. Ask the Cabinet to work with solicitors and barristers in the city with clients receiving legal aid to lobby the Government to reverse the cuts;
3. Ask the Cabinet to work with Citizens Advice Bureau, Brighton Housing Trust and other NGOs and to lobby Government to axe the cuts;
4. Ask the Cabinet to meet with the bodies affected by the cut in legal aid funding to examine what proposals can be drawn out to help them navigate the changes; and
5. Request the Chief Executive to write to the city's three MPs urging them to lobby for the withdrawal of the government proposals."

Proposed by: Cllr Phelim MacCafferty

Seconded by: Cllr Mike Jones

Supported by: Cllrs Kennedy, Davey, Bowden, Duncan, Jarrett, Shanks, Wakefield, Buckley, Deane, Follett, Hawtree, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Littman, Phillips, Powell, Randall, Rufus, Summers, Sykes and West.

[1] <http://www.justice-for-all.org.uk/Government-proposals>

[2] <http://www.lag.org.uk/>

[3] <http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/currentissues/sound-off-for-justice.page>

Council	Agenda Item 15(f)
Date	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP

RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS TRAVELLING COMMUNITIES

“This council shares the concerns expressed by residents about the behaviour of some members of the Gypsy and Traveller groups visiting the city, and it condemns anti-social or criminal behaviour by any members of the travelling or settled communities. Where such behaviour is evidenced and substantiated, the administration will take appropriate and proportionate action within the bounds of the law.

The council will continue to adopt a fair but firm approach to the issues raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments. Working in partnership with the Police, it uses:

- Government guidance introduced by the previous Government
- Brighton and Hove City Council’s Traveller Strategy, which the previous administration introduced in June 2008.

This council recognises Gypsy and Traveller communities’ heritage and the right to continue their nomadic lifestyle, as enshrined in law. It will continue to work with Friends and Families of Travellers and other organisations to address the problems faced by travelling communities.

It also acknowledges the excellent work of the council’s Traveller Liaison Team and urges all Council Members to behave in a mature, respectful and tolerant way when debating the presence of Gypsy and Traveller groups in the city, in accordance with relevant codes of conduct.

Further, this council recognises that problems posed by inadequate site provision in the city pre-date May 5th 2011 by many years, and has resulted in a yearly merry-go-round of evictions across the city incurring both financial cost and emotional distress to those involved. In particular it regrets that all previous Brighton and Hove administrations have failed to provide a permanent Travellers’ site, which has exacerbated the problems raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments.

Therefore

1. This Council resolves to ask the Cabinet:
 - (a) To continue the search for a permanent Traveller site in the city;
 - (b) To work with other local authorities to seek a regional solution to the provision of Traveller sites;

- (c) To continue with its firm but fair approach to the issues raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments, working in partnership with the Police on special initiatives like Operation Monza, where necessary;
 - (d) To continue its cross-party review of the Traveller Strategy to relieve the pressures created by unauthorized Traveller encampments; and
- (2) The Council welcomes government proposals to ‘raise awareness amongst councillors of their leadership role in relation to traveller site provision; [1].”

Proposed by: Cllr Pete West

Seconded by: Cllr Bill Randall

Supported by: Cllrs Kennedy, Davey, Buckley, Bowden, Deane, Duncan, Follett, Hawtree, Jarrett, Jones, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Phillips, Powell, Rufus, Shanks, Summers, Sykes, Wakefield.

[1] ‘Planning for Traveller sites’ Consultation, Department for Communities and Local Government, April 2011.