POLICY, RESOURCES & GROWTH COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 120(b)

9 February 2017

Brighton & Hove City Council

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority at each ordinary meeting of the Committee.

Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion.

The following written questions have been received from a member of the public.

(a) Fairness Commission Recommendations and Older People – Lynne Shields

"Please can you inform us how these recommendations are being implemented and what resources are being allocated to ensure full accessibility of Brighton & Hove by 2020?"

Reply from Councillor Morgan, Leader of the Council and Chair of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

(b) Tower House – John Cook

"Please can we be given an assurance that every effort will be made for Tower House to continue as a community asset for older people in Brighton & Hove and can the public be given an update on discussions with the interested voluntary sector provider?"

Reply from Councillor Morgan, Leader of the Council and Chair of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

(c) Adult Social Care, Dementia & Mental Health Facilities – Colin Vincent

"Please can you explain how cutting finances to these facilities can possibly be acceptable given that BHCC is raising a 3% precept for adult social care services?"

Reply from Councillor Morgan, Leader of the Council and Chair of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

(d) Community Transport – Nick Goslett

"Please can you explain why this was not undertaken and why a service valued by older women in this city has been subject to such a swingeing cut with no prior consideration of its impact on these users?"

Reply from Councillor Morgan, Leader of the Council and Chair of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

(e) Proposal to Discontinue BHCC Support for the Older People's Council (OPC) – Penny Morley

"Please can BHCC explain why no consultation prior to the decision at the Leaders meeting was undertaken with the OPC nor any consultation whatsoever undertaken with older people in the City about the proposed removal of their vote in clear breach of their own stated policy on communication?"

Reply from Councillor Morgan, Leader of the Council and Chair of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

(f) Youth Services Consultation – Seb Royle

"Since you made your decision to cut the funding for youth services in the city in late 2016, there has been a consultation created and released for young people to provide their views on the impact of the cuts on our community. How can the people of Brighton and Hove expect that the results of the consultation will be properly taken into account when the decision had clearly already been made months ago, without any prior consultation at all?"

Reply from Councillor Morgan, Leader of the Council and Chair of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

(g) Youth Services – Boudicca Pepper

"You tell us that these cuts are incredibly difficult decisions, but that they must come from somewhere. Meanwhile, council offices get an £11 million refurbishment and the mayor wears a golden necklace as you debate whether to cut youth services for some of the most vulnerable children in the city. Many would suggest that this illustrates how the cuts are affecting some members of our community more than others. Would you agree that the burden of these cuts you say you must make should fall evenly onto everyone in the community and not disproportionately affect those of us already struggling?"

Reply from Councillor Morgan, Leader of the Council and Chair of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee