Council	Agenda Item 5
21 st July 2011	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 Council.

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 members of the public.

(a) Mr Nigel Furness

"As the price of scrap metals such as aluminium and steel continues to rocket, could Cllr West please tell us how much money the council generates from the sale of these plus all other recyclable materials collected from our homes?"

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(b) Mr Adrian Morris

"The proposed location of the skatepark in the northern section restricts parents' and carers' ability to supervise the combination of young children and older children. The disparate locations of the skatepark, café and play area make it impossible for a parent with children of varying ages to keep an eye on children using the public lavatories, the skatepark or play areas. Local residents raised these problems throughout the consultation period, but were constantly ignored. Would the council accept that there are still many massive flaws in the proposed overall design to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund?"

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(c) Ms Ashley Shelling

"In the Environmental Cabinet Meeting' on July 5th, the council were asked what measures would be taken to prevent dog's from entering the 'dogs free skating area' despite it being located in a 'dogs-off lead zone'. The council replied along the lines that planting schemes were under consideration (this thinking was reflected in the master Plan D presented for cabinet).

Given that 'planting as a preventative barrier' to dogs entering the skate area is under consideration, would the council please clarify how 'plants' would/could meet safety standards for the skate park required by Health & Safety?"

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(d) Ms Davis

"Residents in Hanover/Elmgrove and northern section of St Peters/North Laines, the two wards closest to the Level expressed concern that their votes would be diluted when voting was expanded from 13,500 to 28,000 homes. PPT accepted the recommendation should not depend on a simple headcount but on consideration of all relevant factors and their views would count. Can the PPT demonstrate a mature consideration of all facts as its report appears to focus on top level results and overlooks the granularity of voting data in the two affected wards which shows a divide in type of voter (parent/progreen) and no obvious Option 2 majority."

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(e) Ms Monson

"The Decision to build a concrete skatepark on a green lung in the centre of the City is at odds with green philosophy.

Also, it is a contradiction of Green Party policy. I quote "the need for urban green spaces, both formal and informal, should be recognised and these spaces should be protected." The Level, in use for nearly 200 years, is an urban space that satisfies both these formal and informal criteria.

How can the people of this City, with the UK's first Green Party MP and council, have confidence that this Party will protect green open spaces?"

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(f) Mr W. Hardy

"Can you tell me how much it cost council tax payers since May to clean up the mess left by gypsies and travellers, following the unauthorised encampments in Withdean Park, including the cost of re-installing the fences they drove over and the paving slabs they dug up and smashed, which for has not been replaced?"

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(g) Mr B. Jewell

"Have The Scrutiny Panel on Renewable Energy Potential scrutinised the relevant energy and noise study supporting documents and biomass literature in the PortZED planning application and identified that all technical aspects of the renewables are totally without foundation such that the wind turbines will not work in the proposed experimental configuration and all study results are confused and incorrect resulting in the developers making a late substitution of a very large wood pellet fuelled combined heat and power plant with associated health risk issues from the emissions?"

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(h) Mr A. Fallon-Khan

"Bearing in mind the award winning Revenues and Benefits and NNDR teams at the Council under the last Conservative Administration undertook some excellent initiatives which were nonsensically rejected by the previous Labour Government [for example a review of the way residents were being penalised when they started to draw unemployment benefit] would the Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services please inform us what additional services these teams are likely to endure under the present Green Administration?"

Councillor J Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services, will reply.