

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE / SPECIAL MEETING

10.00 AM – 26 OCTOBER 2006

HOVE TOWN HALL – COMMITTEE ROOM 1

MINUTES

Present:

Dr M Wilkinson (Chair)

Councillors J Lepper (Deputy Chair), D Davidson and D Simpson

Also present:

Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis, Head of Law, Oliver Dixon, Lawyer, and Nara Miranda, Committee Administrator.

PART ONE

ACTION

26. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

26A. Declarations of Substitutes

26.1 There were no declarations of substitutes.

26B. Declarations of Interest

26.2 Cllr Lepper declared that she was also a member of the Credit Union.

26C. Exclusion of Press and Public

The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

26.3 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public should not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item on the agenda.

27. APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION- TO PARTICIPATE AND VOTE ON THE 3 YEARS GRANTS APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 02 NOVEMBER 2006

- 27.1 A Ghebre-Ghiorghis presented the item to the committee, explaining the nature of this item and why it was brought to the Standards Committee.
- 27.2 A Ghebre-Ghiorghis explained that one of the things the members of this Committee might want to take into account when considering this item is whether they feel that this matter could be resolved by nominating substitutes for the meeting in question, i.e., Policy & Resources, which will take place on 02 November 2006. However, and even though it is at the discretion of the Committee to grant dispensation or not, it may be appropriate, and the recommendation is, to grant dispensation in these circumstances given the fact that the Credit Union is a local organisation, an organisation with which some Members of the B&H City Council have accounts with.
- 27.3 A Ghebre-Ghiorghis further explained that the dispensation will only apply as specified in points 2.1 and 2.2 of the report: applicable to all Members of the Policy & Resources Committee who have duly applied for dispensation and applicable to the applications submitted to Policy & Resources Committee meeting that is taking place on 02 November 2006 (this would apply for a period of four years from the date at which the dispensation was granted. It will also apply if the grants item is considered at any subsequent meeting of that Committee or any other Committee, with exception of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 27.4 Finally, and in response to Members' comments about the inadequacy of convening the full Standards Committee to consider such a straightforward item, A Ghebre-Ghiorghis clarified that, currently, there are no other options in place to deal with dispensations. A Ghebre-Ghiorghis suggested that the Committee might want to give some consideration to this matter in future and perhaps establish a sub-committee, with a quorum of two members, to consider such items.
- 27.5 The members noted the information given by A Ghebre-Ghiorghis on this item and there were no questions raised.

RESOLVED – (i) that the dispensations are granted, by unanimous agreement, for a period of four years from the date at which the dispensation was granted and;

(ii) that the Committee will revisit the arrangements for dealing with applications for dispensations.

PART TWO

28. ITEMS TO REMAIN EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that the item considered should not be exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 10.20 am

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2006