

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CULTURE & TOURISM SUB-COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 24 MARCH 2005

5.00PM

COMMITTEE ROOM 3, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor John (Chair); Councillors Allen, Mrs Brown, Davidson, Meadows, Morgan (Deputy Chair), Older, Smith (Opposition Spokesperson), Taylor and Mrs Theobald.

PART ONE

ACTION

24. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

24A Declarations of Substitutes

24.1	<u>Substitute Councillor</u>	<u>For Councillor</u>
	Meadows	Hawkes

24B Declarations of Interest

24.2 There were no declarations of interest.

24C Exclusion of Press and Public

24.3 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.

RESOLVED – (1) That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items on the agenda.

(2) That a late report (see item 28a) be considered as a matter of urgency.

25. MINUTES

25.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair.

26. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Questioner	Subject	Reply by
Mrs Elaine Evans	Hove Library, Journals Reading Room	Councillor John
Mr Christopher Hawtree	Hove Library layout	Councillor John

27. IMPLEMENTING THE TOURISM STRATEGY: COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

27.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services informing Members of the proposals to review the provision of Commemorative Plaques in the City, to determine a way of maintaining existing plaques, providing for new plaques and to consider how a partnership approach with other organisations may provide a sustainable long-term solution in undertaking this work (see minute book).

27.2 **RESOLVED** – That the proposals be noted and that the Director of Cultural Services be instructed to undertake the review.

Adam Bates

28. THE OPENING OF THE NEW JUBILEE LIBRARY, BRIGHTON

28.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services updating Members on the opening of new Jubilee Library, Brighton. The Chair and Opposition Spokesperson stated that they wished to record their appreciation and thanks to all staff involved and to congratulate the project team.

28.2 The Sub-Committee noted that the media coverage had been very positive. The design had already attracted a BREEAM “excellent” rating on grounds of sustainability. It was noted that the Disabled Access Advisory Group had compiled a list of areas which they believe could be improved for disabled visitors; Councillor Mrs Theobald stated that she would send this to the Director of Cultural Services.

28.3 It was agreed that the Director should send Councillor Taylor information related to publicising the opening. Members were aware

Tony Miller

**Sally
McMahon**

that there had been requests for longer opening hours but there was currently no finance available for this, although a different pattern of opening hours might be considered. It was agreed that officers should monitor attendance figures and the level of interest and report back in about six months' time.

28.4 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the information contained in the report be noted.

(2) That the sub-committee receive a progress report in six months' time.

28a. IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY FOR HOVE LIBRARY

28a.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report regarding an improvement strategy for Hove Library (see minute book). The Chair agreed to take this report on the agenda as a matter of urgency by reason of the following special circumstances: this item should be considered at the meeting because requests from Members and the public, including the question to Full council on 10 March, indicate the need for further information before building work begins. The special circumstances for non-compliance with Section 100B(4) of the 1972 Local Government Act and Procedural Rule 19.1 of the Constitution (items not to be considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five clear days in advance of the meeting) are that there was insufficient time from the council meeting of 10 March 2005.

28a.2 The Director stated that increasingly practice in libraries was to integrate non-fiction books that could be borrowed with the reference books. Members enquired whether this proved popular with the public, as they feared it might destroy the quiet working atmosphere of the first floor if introduced at Hove library. The Director reassured the sub-committee the intention was to maintain the first floor as quiet study space.

28a.3 Some members had made a site visit to the Library on 21 March. It was agreed that the Director could arrange a further visit for those who did not attend if they so wished.

28a.4 Councillor Taylor referred to paragraph 10.1 of the report and stated that the cross party working group had not considered the Library service. He proposed an amendment: to add a recommendation to reinstate the working group. A vote was taken and the amendment was lost on the basis that this sub-committee served that function. Councillor Smith proposed that the report should be amended by deleting the words "and the library service operating within it" from paragraph 10.1 and this was agreed.

**Sally
McMahon**

28a.5 Members requested a further report updating them on progress and the interim arrangements to the next meeting.

28a.6 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the information in the report be noted, subject to deleting the words “and the library service operating within it” from paragraph 10.1.

(2) That the timetable and overall approach be agreed as set out in the report.

(3) That the sub-committee receive a report at the next meeting.

(4) The Director agreed that members would be kept in touch with the practical developments, and that the Head of Libraries would consult with service users.

29. FRAMEWORK FOR THE CITY'S CULTURAL QUARTER

29.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services to begin a discussion on developing a framework for the City's Cultural Quarter (see minute book).

29.2 The Director shared members' concern that the special nature of the North Laine should not be destroyed, stating that it was necessary to take account of many factors to preserve this fragile part of the city. He noted a member's request that residents and ward councillors be consulted.

29.3 **RESOLVED** – That

(1) It be noted that the Culture & Tourism Sub-Committee considers that a coherent and joined-up approach to the city's Cultural Quarter is vital, and that the quarter's future viability and sustainability is key to ensuring that the city's cultural offer is placed centre-stage locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;

(2) That it be agreed that the Assistant Director Heritage (Royal Pavilion, Libraries and Museums) undertake further work on the framework with colleagues and cross-directorate working groups; as well as continue discussions with key external partners and stakeholders to develop the ideas and approaches set out within this paper further; and

(3) That it be agreed that this paper is also tabled at the Environment Committee.

30. EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO DOME SCRUTINY REVIEW: EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 23 FEBRUARY 2005

30.1 The Sub-Committee considered an extract from the proceedings of the Policy & Resources Committee of 23 February 2005 (see minute book).

30.2 **RESOLVED** – That the extract be noted.

31. COMMITTEE TOUR ON 22 MARCH 2005

31.1 Members had visited a number of cultural attractions during a committee tour on 22 March 2005.

31.2 One member suggested that the sub-committee should meet at different cultural venues across the city and it was agreed that officers should consider which venues would be suitable for public meetings.

**Tony Miller/
Estelle
Woodcock**

31.3 Another member requested a report on The Bandstand to a future meeting.

Tony Miller

The meeting concluded at 6.55 pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2005