

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CULTURE & TOURISM SUB-COMMITTEE

5PM – 30 MARCH 2006

**COMMITTEE ROOM 3
HOVE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Present: Councillor John (Chair), Councillors Battle (DC), Elgood, Kemble, Morgan, Older, Randall, Smith (OS).

PART ONE

ACTION

43 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

43A Declarations of Substitutes

43.1	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>for Councillor</u>
	Kemble	Mrs Brown
	Elgood	Davidson

43B Declarations of Interest

43.2 There were none.

43C Exclusion of Press and Public

43.3 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.

43.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items on the agenda.

44. MINUTES

44.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair, subject to amending paragraph 33.2 to read "Councillor Randall declared a personal

interest in Item 40, Commemorative Plaques, as he used to work as a consultant for Southern Housing Group.

45. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

45.1 No public questions were asked.

45A. INDUSTRIAL ACTION

45.2 The Assistant Director Heritage reported that the public sector union, the GMB, had notified her of the possibility of its members taking strike action on dates during April. This might mean the closure of the Royal Pavilion and Museums at Easter, if the continuing negotiations were not successful.

46. RESULT OF THE AUDIT INSPECTION

46.1 The Service Inspection Report of the Audit Commission was tabled. The Sub-Committee received a presentation on the process the audit took and the outcome. The Director of Cultural Services made the introduction, while the Assistant Director Heritage, the Head of Arts and Creative Industries and the Environment Department's Head of Leisure and Events spoke about their teams' part in the inspection and what they had learned from participation. Councillor Smith spoke on behalf of the Tourism service and referred to the Tourism Strategy.

46.2 It was noted that Brighton & Hove's score was higher than that of any other authority inspected so far. However, the Audit Commission had highlighted areas which could be improved and the report contained two recommendations. The Director stated that he was preparing an Action Plan, which will be brought before the Sub-Committee as soon as it is ready. Improving access to services is a key aim.

46.3 The Sub-Committee wished to record its congratulations to all staff in Cultural Services for the excellent outcome of the Inspection.

46.4 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Audit Commission Service Inspection Report be noted.

(2) That the report be referred to Full Council.

47. QUARTER 3 BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2005/6

47.1 The Sub-Committee noted a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance concerning the third quarter, October to December 2005, performance indicator results from the statutory Best Value

Performance Indicator suite (see minute book).

47.2 **RESOLVED** – That the data be noted.

48. THE CARE OF HUMAN REMAINS IN MUSEUMS

48.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services concerning action to be taken with regard to the document 'Guidance for the Care of Human Remains in Museums' published by the Department for Culture, Media & Sport, dated October 2005 (see minute book).

48.2 The Acting Joint Head of Collections stated that Brighton & Hove Museums Service would undertake an audit of its collections, before drafting a policy on human remains. The policy will follow the best practice set out in the Guidance, and will come to a meeting of the Sub-Committee in the near future.

48.3 **RESOLVED** – (1) That in accordance with best practice outlined in the Guidance, Brighton & Hove City Council Museums Service put in place a policy on human remains in its care.

(2) That the policy should cover acquisition, loans, de-accessioning, claims for return, conservation and collections management, display, access and educational use, and research.

(3) That the policy include the criteria by which any present or future claim for return of human remains will be assessed, and the framework within which such assessments will be made.

The meeting concluded at 6.30 pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2006