

# BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

## CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE

5PM – 12 SEPTEMBER 2007

COMMITTEE ROOM 1  
BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

### MINUTES

**Present:** Councillor Smith (Chairman); Councillors Allen, Bennett, Mrs Brown, Davis (OS), Mrs Drake, Kemble, Kennedy, Older (DC), Randall.

### PART ONE

### ACTION

#### 11 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

##### 11A Declarations of Substitutes

11.1 Councillors Allen and Randall declared that they were attending the meeting as Substitute Members for Councillors Marsh and West respectively.

##### 11B Declarations of Interest

11.2 There were none.

##### 11C Exclusion of Press and Public

11.3 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 Schedule 12A, Part 5A, Section 100A(4) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

11.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

#### 12. MINUTES

12.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June

2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### 13. CALLOVER

13.1 It was agreed to discuss all items on the agenda.

### 14. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

14.1 The Chairman informed the Committee on various matters:

i. He indicated that the Leisure Centre had been awarded £107,293, received from the Well Being programme of the Big Lottery fund. The grant would be used to fund an Active for Life physical activity worker for three years.

ii. He also reported that the World Beach Under 21 Championship would be held next year on the Yellow Wave site in Brighton.

iii. The Chairman further reported that four Brighton businesses had been short listed for the Excellence category of the Tourism award. The short listing had been announced and the ceremony would take place on 24 October 2007.

iv. He also updated the committee on the two thefts that had taken place at the Royal Pavilion and at the Brighton Museum. He clarified that this matter was still under investigation and an update would be brought to the committee in due course.

Janita  
Bagshawe

14.2 Cllr Kennedy requested an update be brought to the committee on the statue of Steve Ovet in Preston Park. This was agreed.

Paula  
Murray

### 15. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

15.1 The Chairman invited the questioners to present their questions and agreed to take both questions together.

15.2 Mr Mike Chapman asked: "What plans do the Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee have to secure the additional funding and the resources required to open the Jubilee Library on Sunday?"

Mr Christopher Hawtree asked: "Could Councillor Smith please tell us what plans there are to open Brighton Library on a Sunday?"

15.3 The Chairman replied indicating that there are no plans in place, at present, to open Jubilee Library on a Sunday. However, the council is committed to seeking ways of extending library opening hours, and they are investigating how this might be

done in the future.

- 15.4 Mr Chapman asked a supplementary question, enquiring whether the possibility had been considered of neighbouring businesses in the area sponsoring the library to open on a Sunday. The Chairman agreed to send Mr Chapman a written response to his supplementary question. Chairma n & Sally McMaha n
- 15.5 Mr Hawtree had a supplementary intervention, commenting on the fact that, at an earlier committee meeting, a promise had been made to the city's residents that the library would open on a Sunday. He sought reassurance that the promise would not be forgotten.
- 15.6 The Chairman clarified that the intention was still there to open the library on a Sunday. He indicated that this has not yet been possible due to budget constraints, but that the matter would be kept under review.

## **16. THE ROYAL PAVILION: AN ICON**

- 16.1 A presentation on "The Royal Pavilion: An Icon" was given.
- 16.2 The Head of Museums and Royal Pavilion explained that officers proposed to have all three sections (the Royal Pavilion, Libraries & Museums) identified by one design logo. The idea resulted of the necessity for internal organisation, even though the final product is very much externally focused, especially in terms of the website and the public concentration of services.
- 16.3 The Committee welcomed the presentation, and its contents were noted and supported by majority.

## **17. ADMISSIONS CHARGES FOR ROYAL PAVILION AND PRESTON MANOR**

- 17.1 The Committee considered the report of the Acting Director of Cultural Services that set out the proposed changes to admissions charges for the Royal Pavilion and Museums division for 2008/09- 2010/2011 (see minute book for copy).
- 17.2 The Committee welcomed the proposals and requested that consideration be given to the promotion of the resident's scheme.
- 17.3 **RESOLVED** –
- 1) That the proposal to extend the Brighton and Hove residents' scheme from winter only to the whole year commencing in March 2008 be approved.

- 2) That the increases to admission charges, as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved, and the proposed reductions for children, the retired, those on benefits, students and the special rates for group visits be noted.
- 3) That price setting for a three year period for 2008-11 to improve advance publicity and customer service in particular for group business clients and to bring this in line with three year budget planning be approved.

## **18. LIBRARIES FEES AND CHARGES**

- 18.1 The Committee considered the report of the Acting Director of Cultural Services, which set out and sought approval for the proposed new fees and charges for Libraries for 2008-09 (see minute book for copy).
- 18.2 The Committee welcomed the report and requested that the team be congratulated on its content. However, members sought clarification such as the differential in reservation charges for interlibrary loans from WEBSLINK authorities (East Sussex, West Sussex, and Surrey) and other sources; the large increase in room hire charges for Jubilee Library and the introduction of a reservation charge for Brighton & Hove Stock. The Committee was concerned that these charges would deter the public and might be inappropriate for a public library.
- 18.3 The Head of Libraries and Information Services explained that these increments would mean an increase of income, which would, in turn, be used to support other services and facilities. She explained that Jubilee room hire charges are still cheaper than equivalent commercial facilities in the city. In comparison with other council facilities, the library fees are either cheaper or, if more expensive, are of superior quality and inclusive of all facilities, e.g. equipment.
- 18.4 On the matter of previous differential reservation charges relating to WEBSLINK authorities, the Head of Libraries and Information explained that there was now a need for these to be in line the charges for interlibrary loans from other authorities, as we are changing into a broader regional consortium than just the WEBSLINK authorities. Finally, on the issue of reservation fees, she also clarified that reservation fees are common practice and they are used in most other authorities in the south east region. Until 2004, Brighton & Hove Libraries charged a 70p reservation fee for our own stock, and the reintroduction of this fee is at the lower level of 50p. She agreed to bring a report to Committee, if

Sally  
McMahon

thought necessary, assessing the impact of such fees on the services provided.

18.5 **RESOLVED -**

- 1) That the proposed fees and charges for Libraries for 2008-09 be approved.
- 2) That a report be brought back to Committee six months after the new fees and charges have been introduced, to monitor the impact of the increases on room hire and reservations.
- 3) That the allocation of the additional income generated to support the delivery of Library services in the city on, for example but not exclusively, the delivery of children's services and increasing the book stock be approved.

**19. BRISTOL ESTATE CREATIVE STUDIOS PROJECT**

- 19.1 The Committee considered the report of the Acting Director of Cultural Services that sought to describe and gain approval for the Bristol Estate Creative Studios project. This aimed to convert four disused drying areas on Bristol Estate into seven artist's studios in partnership with the Bristol Estate Community Association (see minute book for copy).
- 19.2 It was clarified that the proposal had been before the Housing Management Sub-Committee, where it had been approved with added comments, and that it would follow to the Policy and Resources Committee for the final agreement due to the project's financial implications.
- 19.3 The Committee sought clarification about who would be responsible for the maintenance of these studios and the policy on letting the spaces.
- 19.4 The Head of Arts and Creative Industries explained that maintenance would be financed by the rental stream and the lease arrangements would cover the issues of how the spaces were used.
- 19.5 The Committee very much welcomed the proposals. Members were pleased to note that local based estate artist would be given rental preference. The proposal had already attracted significant external funding into the city and the studio spaces would be affordable. The Committee noted that there was great enthusiasm from various parties and the estate residents for

this project and thanked Ray Freeman, Chair of the Bristol Estate Community Association for attending to answer questions. They hoped that in the future the project might provide a model that could be replicated elsewhere.

**RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the development and vision of the Bristol Estate Creative Studios Project be noted, with comments, as made at the Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee, added to the report to be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee on 27th September 2007.
- 2) That approval of the Bristol Estate Creative Studios Project be recommended to the Policy & Resources Committee.

**20. THE KEEP: BUSINESS OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

- 20.1 The Committee considered the report of the Acting Director of Cultural Services that sought to present Members the site location and give an update on the options appraisal of the Keep, the proposed new historical record office and resource centre (see minute book for copy).
- 20.2 The Committee noted that no appraisal information was available at this stage. The Head of Royal Pavilion and Museums explained that she was waiting for further information on various fronts, but hoped to get this information as soon as possible.
- 20.3 The Committee highlighted the need for an art gallery in the city.
- 20.4 The Acting Director of Cultural Services indicated that he hoped that, in the future, a bank of funds would be available for heritage and the visual arts, as planning officers are trying to develop a strategy to put this in place.

20.4 **RESOLVED –**

- 1) That it be agreed to support East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) preferred location of The Keep at Woollards Field and that the released land at Falmer Academy be maintained as the reserve option.
- 2) That the audit of the on-site storage as detailed in Appendix A of this report be noted.
- 3) That it be requested that further reports be submitted to this Committee, detailing the full financial options appraisal prior to the City Council entering into any future contractual

relationships on the project.

- 4) That it be agreed that a progress report on the project be issued to a future meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee.

**21. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL**

21.1 No items were referred to Council.

The meeting concluded at 6.40 pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated this day of

2007