

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

FINANCE MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

2PM – 21 SEPTEMBER 2007

COUNCIL CHAMBER
HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mrs Norman (Chairman), Simson (Deputy Chairman), Caulfield, Duncan, Elgood, Hamilton (OS), Lainchbury, Mitchell, Oxley and West

PART ONE

ACTION

9. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

9A Declarations of Substitutes

9.1 Councillor Caulfield declared that she was attending the meeting as a Substitute member for Councillor Fallon-Khan.

9B Declarations of Interest

9.2 There were none.

9C Exclusion of Press and Public

9.3 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).

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

10. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

10.1 The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Sub-Committee and said that she had received good feedback from the inaugural meeting in July.

11. CALLOVER

11.1 **RESOLVED** – That all items be called for discussion.

12. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

12.1 There were none.

13. MINUTES

13.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

14. CONFIRMATION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

14.1 **RESOLVED** – That Councillor Simson be confirmed as Deputy Chairman.

15. PRESENTATION ON LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE

15.1 The Sub-Committee considered a Presentation on the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) by the Head of Revenues & Benefits (presentation slides attached). Members were informed that Brighton & Hove had been pathfinder authority since February 2004. The national rollout for the allowance would be in April 2008. The Head of Revenues and Benefits answered questions and said she would be happy to have one to one meetings with councillors to explain the allowance further.

15.2 **RESOLVED** – That the presentation be noted.

16. FUTURE OF INITIATIVE FUNDING STREAMS

16.1 The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Director of Environment which informed Members of actions that were underway to address issues and mitigate the impact of the expected ending of a number of significant initiative funding streams, currently allocated to the city via the Local Area Agreement (LAA) (see minute book for copy).

16.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the possible implications of the ending of various initiative funding streams be noted, as set out in the report.

(2) That the actions underway to minimise the impact of changes

Judith
Macho

in funding provision be endorsed.

17. DEBT COLLECTION AND RECOVERY

17.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance & Resources, which informed Members of progress to date on the work of the Corporate Debt Management Group and income collection services to improve income collection and debt recovery practice and performance. The report also proposed a Corporate Debt Collection and Recovery Policy for Members' approval (see minute book for copy).

17.2 It was suggested that the policy should be clearer with regard to the amount of advice and support people received when they were getting into debt. The Director of Finance and Resources confirmed that she would take this comment on board and that the relevant part of the policy would be strengthened.

17.3 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the steps being taken to improve debt collection and recovery be noted.

(2) That the proposed Corporate Debt Collection and Recovery Policy be approved.

(3) That the policy be expanded to give a clearer explanation of the amount of advice and support people receive when they are getting into debt.

Catherine
Vaughan

The meeting concluded at 3.06pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated this day of

2007