

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**  
**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**4.00pm 18 MARCH 2021**

**VIRTUAL**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor Mac Cafferty (Chair) Druitt (Joint Deputy Chair), Gibson (Joint Deputy Chair), Platts (Opposition Spokesperson), Allcock, Clare, Miller, Simson, Wilkinson and Yates.

**Also present:** Dr Anusree Biswas Sasidharan, Standing Invitee.

**PART ONE**

**152 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**(a) Declarations of Substitutes**

152.1 Councillors Simson and Wilkinson declared that they were was attending the meeting as substitutes for Councillors Bell and Moonan respectively.

**(b) Declarations of Interest**

152.2 Councillor Platts declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Item 170 Sea Lanes as a colleague at Campaign Collective had worked on the account. For transparency she would leave the meeting for that item.

152.3 Councillor Druitt declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Item 168, 2021/22 Local Transport Plan Capital Programme as he was the CFO for the Big Lemon Bus Company and a Director of Community Transport. He had applied and been granted dispensation to speak and vote on the matter by the Monitoring Officer.

152.4 Councillor Miller declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Item 163, Central Youth Hub as he was a Trustee of Impact Initiative.

152.5 There were no other declarations of interests in matters listed on the agenda.

**(c) Exclusion of Press and Public**

152.6 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any of the items listed on the agenda.

152.7 **RESOLVED:** That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting.

**153 MINUTES**

153.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on the 11 February 2021 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings; and

153.2 The minutes of the Urgency Sub-Committee meeting held on the 4 February 2021 were noted.

#### **154 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

154.1 The Chair gave the following communications, firstly, that he intended to alter the agenda slightly and to take item 175 A, Procurement of Services Social Value and Community Wealth Building immediately after the petition relating to RISE. He would also bring forward items 174, Council's Constitution and 175, Members Allowances and take them before Item 157 Items Referred from Council.

154.2 Before I begin I want to acknowledge the number of people who have come here today and in particular after what I know has been a highly intense period of time for women who have been repeatedly confronted with reminders of the reality of misogyny and hate, gendered violence and safety. Leaders of all political groups have come together, publishing a statement asserting that we share the outrage at the senseless and violent death of Sarah Everard and families of the many women and survivors who face the unacceptable consequences of gender-based violence and street harassment. We have jointly added our support to the growing calls for police to further investigate the death of Blessing OLUeEgun. In reflection of recent events and to raise awareness, we lowered the flags at Hove Town Hall and Brighton Town Hall in memory of all survivors of violence against women and girls and to commemorate those who have tragically died.

154.3 I affirm what was said in the statement. That so many women and girls have, in the wake of Sarah's death, shared their traumatic and distressing experiences of harassment and violent physical assaults on social media platforms and in the mainstream press, shows clearly how society has repeatedly failed. I want to update on a number of follow up actions that my colleagues and I have been pushing on this.

- in Oct 2020 we joined with Labour to ask all councillors to support the work of the anti-harassment club in Brighton & Hove who have through powerful work highlighted the sheer scale of the problem in our city.
- Our equalities portfolio is ably led by my colleague Steph Powell and alongside my deputies Hannah Clare and Sue Shanks further work is now also being started to pick up on the anti-harassment notice of motion from October. Greens also want to be clear this is more than just a conversation about streetlights. TECC committee, responsible for community safety and equalities, will prepare a report on the issues and the opportunities to improve safety in the city and address root causes of gendered based violence. We also want to invite more representatives from the police force to this meeting to address concerns.

154.4 The council and my colleagues on Children, Young People & Skills committee have also reported on how personal, social and health education in our local schools covers gender stereotyping, gender equality, sexist and sexual bullying and harassment, consent and healthy relationships. There is also work ongoing within the council to

address the consequences of hate and violence. But to truly honour all of those who have spoken out we want to take a stronger lead on this. On top of this people will of course be aware that challenging violence against women and girls was the precise objective of the commission set up in 2018. This commission was set up before the Green administration, back in June 2018. but as far as I am concerned that does not mean that we cannot now push for answers, to get to the bottom of what has happened to the commission process, to make sure that lessons are learned. We have met with both Rise and campaigners and we are resolutely focused on the way forward supporting Rise and also ensuring a smooth and non-disruptive transition for new services that will exist in the city to continue supporting people who are facing DV. We also want to make sure that cross party member oversight, that did NOT happen back in 2018 under the then Chair, happens now.

- 154.5 Having met with campaigners and Rise we knew already that people needed more detail sooner, not later. So, we pushed officers to provide a report to TECC committee last week and we have also brought this report here today to help keep members informed and ensure informed debate and information is shared. Our proposals today for a members working group also now come also with a terms of reference that includes survivor voice as we know we need to learn from the experiences of survivors. I would ask us all today to consider how much emotional labour has gone into sharing the experiences of this week and I thank campaigners for their voice. This item will be moved earlier on in the agenda so that survivors do not have to sit through the rest of the committee.
- 154.6 Today's committee of course also includes additional items that cover support for children, families and young people affected by continued economic insecurity throughout the pandemic; Further to other reports on education capital I also wanted people to know that the conversations that have of course started on school places will be heard at full council. In terms of support for our young people what this committee will cover today will be plans to progress our side of advancing a youth zone to support young people who have experienced serious turbulence in the past year. Plans to acknowledge the contributions of our co-optees and the experience they bring to our council on diversity and equalities.
- 154.7 On issues of recovery and resilience for our city, I also want to touch more on the pandemic. With the next stage of the government 'roadmap' the 29th March, planning continues to ensure our city continues to safely manage the pandemic. Preparations continue for what a government easing of restrictions may mean with a plan being published next week to cautiously begin re-opening. While the Easter break is on the horizon, some key restrictions are still in place including self-contained holiday accommodation which won't open until 12th April at the earliest.
- 154.8 Though Boris Johnson referred to 'data, not dates,' which was followed by a flurry of dates, I am clear that we have to prepare responsibly and stay alert to how the Covid-19 situation in the UK may yet change unpredictably. To fail to do this would be to let down all of those who have fought hard to stop the spread of Covid-19 in our city. Our brilliant public health officials are watching the local data like a hawk.
- 154.9 While the roadmap may set out the government's aspirations, without public health being front and centre, the best laid plans could go astray. However, preparing for the

future doesn't mean we are out of the pandemic. Our focus remains on how we re-open the city in a safe and managed way, to support our tourism, events and hospitality industry but also keep residents and visitors protected from new infection. All of us are keen that Brighton and Hove thrives again and want to welcome visitors that treat where we live with care.

154.10 We have always been clear we see recovery from the pandemic as a key way to help play our part for the environment too. So I'm also proud on behalf of all of Green Cllrs and cross party work to share the first report on how we lower carbon emissions by 2030. This is intensive work required in the next three years, so the plan covers community engagement, education and skills, plans to reduce waste and create jobs. Within it are opportunities to reduce fuel poverty, address housing conditions, improve access to lower cost energy and protect communities from the worst of climate change impacts. With warnings from scientists clear, we must stay on course with a plan to reduce toxic emissions in the city.

## 155 CALL OVER

155.1 The following items were reserved for discussion:

- Item 160 Next Steps – Rough Sleeping and Accommodation During Covid-19 Pandemic and Recovery;
- Item 161 Carbon Neutral Programme
- Item 162 Moulsecoomb Neighbourhood Hub & Housing Scheme Update;
- Item 163 Central Youth Hub;
- Item 164 Pay Policy Statement 2021/22;
- Item 165 Corporate Debt Policy;
- Item 173 Self-Managed Sports Facilities;
- Item 174 Review of the Council's Constitution;
- Item 175 Members' Allowances;
- Item 175(A) Procurement of Services Social Value and Community Wealth Building.

155.2 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that Items 160 – 165 and 173 – 175(A) had been reserved for discussion, and the items listed below had been their recommendations therein approved:

- Item 159 Covid-19 Winter Grant Scheme Extension;
- Item 166 Schools Information Management System (SIMS);
- Item 167 Annual Planned Maintenance Budget and Asset Management Fund Allocations 2021-22 for the Council's Operational Buildings;
- Item 168 2020/21 Local Transport Plan Capital Programme
- Item 169 Off-Street Car Park and Transport Control Centre Equipment Replacement Amendment
- Item 170 Former Peter Pan Site Madeira Drive – Sea Lanes
- Item 171 Procurement of Arboricultural Services
- Item 172 Playground Refurbishment Programme
- Item 176 Educational Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme 2021/22
- Item 177 Introduction of a Charging Policy for Children Who Are Accommodated at the Request of Their Parents Under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

**156 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT****(a) Petitions**

- 156.1 The Chair welcomed Ms Bengel to the meeting and invited her to address the committee and present the petition. He also stated that in view of the importance of the matter raised by the petition and the level of interest he would extend the time to outline the reasons for the petition to 5 minutes.
- 156.2 The Chair also noted that he would take Item 175 (A) which was the report on the Procurement of Social Value and Community Wealth building immediately after the consideration of the petition.
- 156.3 Ms Bengel thanked the Chair and outlined the reasons for the petition and the cause for concern that had arisen following the decision not to award the contract to RISE.
- 156.4 The Chair thanked Nicola for outlining the reasons for the petition regarding the re-commissioning of Domestic Abuse, Domestic Violence and Sexual Services in the city. He stated that, as you are no doubt aware a report on this issue was considered by the Tourism, Equalities Culture & Communities committee last week. A further report is on the agenda for decision at this Committee which recommends the setting up of a cross party members working group to explore the background and issues regarding this procurement and to recommend any improvements required for future procurement exercises, including consideration of social value and community wealth building as part of those processes. Services will continue in the City to support people experiencing domestic abuse.

The Victim Support team who were successful in winning the bid to provide client-based casework services is Sussex-based and supported by over 79 Sussex resident volunteers. Victim Support will be offering a 24/7 helpline which is above what was requested in the specification and webchat service along with online support tools 1-2-1, group and peer support. The service will include a programme of education, training, and community activities to promote safe and healthy relationships and the wider support services available.

Stonewater Ltd who will be providing refuge provision, deliver services in Brighton & Hove and across the UK and are a provider of commissioned housing and support services. The service provides added value with move-on social housing options for refuge residents. They evidenced track record of working with survivors of domestic abuse, including those with multiple complex needs. They are also the providers of an industry leading LGBTQ+ Safe Space that provides accommodation and support for people who identify as LGBTQ+ and have experienced domestic abuse and/or hate crime.

Concern has been raised that services specifically for women will be affected by the new contract. This is not the case. BHCC is aware that domestic abuse disproportionately affects women and women with children, and we have commissioned services that prioritise women's safety as the highest group of people affected.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank RISE for the work they have done over several years to support survivors of Domestic Abuse in the City and following the council's budget meeting 25<sup>th</sup> February funding is being made available to Rise to assist with the impact of the commissioning decision.

- 156.5 Members of the Committee thanked Ms Bengel for bringing the petition to the meeting and her work in raising the issues that concerned all those affected by the change in provision and the need to support RISE as an organisation in the City going forward. Members agreed that there was a need to examine the procurement process and to take lessons learnt on board for future tendering exercises. Tribute was also paid to the survivors and it was acknowledged that a debt of gratitude was owed to them for their openness and courage to speak on the issue at the recent TECC committee meeting.
- 156.6 Councillor Miller stated that the Conservative Group had concerns about the procurement process and felt that the two questions in the petition should be addressed and proposed that a report be brought back to the committee on this matter.
- 156.7 Councillor Simson formally seconded the proposal and stated that she would like to sit on the Working Group should it be agreed to establish it.
- 156.8 The Chair noted the comments and asked the Executive Lead Officer for Strategy & Governance to outline the position for the Council.
- 156.9 The Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law stated that a procurement process had been followed and the new contractor had a legitimate expectation for it to be honoured. It was possible for the Working Group to review matters and make recommendations, although the contractual obligations would need to be adhered to.
- 156.10 The Chair stated that he felt the petition should be considered by the Working Group and a report on the two questions could then come back to committee. He therefore proposed that the petition should be noted and referred to the first meeting of the Working Group, should it be established, to be considered as part of its review and a report brought back to the Committee.
- 156.11 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the petition be noted; and
  - (2) That subject to the establishment of the Working Group, the petition be referred to its first meeting and the Working Group consider whether a report on the questions should come back to committee ahead of its full review of the procurement process.
- 156.12 The Chair then stated that he would take item 175 (A) and invited the Executive Director to introduce the report.

**175 (A) PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES SOCIAL VALUE AND COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING**

Note: The report had been accepted by the Chair as an urgent item due to the need to consider the matter and progress actions which could not be delayed until the next meeting and due to the fact that a proper appraisal of the issues raised and evaluation of the options could not be completed in time for the report to be published with the agenda.

- 175.1 The Executive Director for Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities introduced the report which concerned the re-commissioning of Domestic Abuse, Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence services in the city and across East Sussex. The report had been requested by the Joint Chair of the Tourism, Equalities, Communities & Culture Committee (TECC) and its recommendations were detailed in the report. The Executive Director stated that officers had met with the lead petitioner and were planning to meet again to discuss how various points that had been raised could be taken forward.
- 175.2 The Head of Safer Communities stated that the Policy & Resources Committee were being asked to approve the establishment of a Member Working Group to review the process and bring forward recommendations in regard to domestic violence services and drew attention to the proposed terms of reference in appendix 3 to the report and the extract from the TECC committee meeting held on the 11 March in appendix 2.
- 175.3 Members of the committee welcomed the report and sought assurances that the Working Group could look at all aspects of the contract that affected Brighton & Hove and also why the initial procurement process had not been reported to the Procurement Advisory Board (PAB). It was also recognised that the decommissioning of the current service had been and would be very difficult for women across the city and that consideration needed to be given as to how RISE could be supported going forward.
- 175.4 The Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law confirmed that the Working Group would have a wide remit and be able to bring recommendations forward to the committee which could affect other bodies such as PAB and aspects of financial regulations etc. which would need full Council approval.
- 175.5 The Chair noted the comments and put the recommendations to the vote which were carried.
- 175.6 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the recommendations of TECC Committee on 11th March 2021, as set out at paragraph 3.4 in the report be noted;
  - (2) That the establishment of a Cross Party Member Working Group be agreed to:
    - (i) Carry out a thorough investigation into the events leading to changes to Domestic Abuse, Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence service arrangements.

(ii) Review the Council's policy and practice regarding social value and community wealth-building from a commissioning and procurement perspective including the above-mentioned services; and

(iii) Recommend any necessary changes and actions for improvement

(3) That the proposed Terms of Reference for the Members Working Group attached at Appendix 3 to the report be agreed.

175.7 The Chair then called a short adjournment at 6.02pm before reconvening the meeting at 6.12pm.

### **(b) Public Questions**

156.13 The Chair welcomed Susan Goodwin and invited her to put her question to the meeting.

156.14 Ms Goodwin thanked the Chair and asked the following question, setting procurement conditions has been a key way of the Council engaging their contractors fully in equalities laws. Carbon Neutral by 2030 conditions should and could be added to these:

Will BHCC only issue contracts with businesses that have a carbon neutral plan and that can show that they are using renewable materials and carbon neutral transport to deliver these?

This would make a significant transformation to the carbon footprint in Brighton and Hove.

156.15 The Chair replied, thank you for your question, and for highlighting the important role that public sector procurement can play in driving a reduction in carbon emissions and tackling the climate emergency.

While adhering to the conditions of the Equalities Act is legislative requirement, there is currently no legislation requiring businesses to adopt only renewable materials or carbon neutral transport.

The council has adopted a [Sustainable Procurement policy](#) which sets out how sustainability will be embedded into every procurement process or purchasing decision. The Procurement Team have progressively increased quality scoring criteria in in the different tenders. All current, relevant, procurements can expect a minimum of 10% to be included in the tender. This is in addition to 10% for Social Value.

Working with our suppliers is key to delivering the aims of this policy. As such we monitor and measure their performance, encourage them to conduct their operations in line with the council's commitments and embrace continuous improvements as well. The Council commits, through training and inclusion of Key Performance Indicators, to establish and embed a corporate approach to contract management and contract monitoring to ensure that sustainability-related promises, made by suppliers, are delivered upon through the lifetime of a contract.

I am also pleased that the recruitment will begin shortly for a new Social Value and Sustainability Procurement Manager. This role will manage and monitor;

- a requirement for CO2 reduction into the specification of contracts, where appropriate.
- transport requirements associated with relevant contracts and how these may be minimised, whilst encouraging suppliers to minimise the negative impact of their transport operations
- reporting from suppliers to demonstrate they are minimising the environmental impacts of their supply chain, choosing more sustainable and high-quality products and/or services.
- Suppliers' commitment to mitigating its impact on climate change through supply chain carbon reduction initiatives.

Lastly you will see that later on the agenda this afternoon we will be considering the draft Carbon Neutral Investment Programme – which is the initial set of projects that will support the city to transition to carbon neutral by 2030. The draft programme document has a specific section on procurement in recognition that cross cutting themes of the investment programme in recognition of the important role that procurement plays in our efforts to transition the city to carbon neutrality.

156.16 The Chair noted that Ms Goodwin did not have a supplementary question.

156.17 The Chair welcomed Sarah Gorton and invited her to put her question to the meeting.

156.18 Ms Gorton asked the following question, The council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency in December 2018. Bio-diversity is just as crucial. Biodiversity provides functioning ecosystems that supply oxygen, clean air and water, pollination of plants, pest control, wastewater treatment and many ecosystem services. This programme is all about carbon neutral- Brighton and Hove is unique and fortunate in owning much of the farmland around the city. Can we expect another programme on bio- diversity? If so when will this be available? If not can bio-diversity targets be incorporated into this programme?

156.19 The Chair replied, thank you for your question. Biodiversity is also facing a crisis, as you rightly note and as the council acknowledged when declaring both emergencies in 2018. Many of the projects coming out of the Carbon Neutral Programme will have beneficial impacts on biodiversity. The Nature and Environment Priority Topic and the Carbon Offsetting Cross Cutting Theme in particular will have beneficial impacts on biodiversity as well as climate. In addition, we are preparing the City Downland Estate Plan. Natural systems (including Biodiversity) is one of the 'Key Themes' which that plan will address. There will also be a new planning guidance being prepared on Biodiversity, to ensure that we are securing the new 'Biodiversity Net Gain' that is required by planning rules.

However, whilst these are all important activities, your question rightly asks about whether there is an overall programme or plan for biodiversity. The city is part of the Brighton & Lewes Downs UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, and it is this status that provides the governance of how we manage the natural environment of the city,

surrounding downland and the marine environment. In September this year ETS Committee endorsed a refreshed management strategy for the Biosphere for the next five years. One of the core objectives of that plan is 'conservation of nature and culture,' and within that objective there are two strategic themes of 'urban greening' and 'strengthening our natural capital.' Both of these themes will focus on protecting and enhancing biodiversity. A further programme on biodiversity would duplicate the excellent work the Biosphere Delivery Board is doing, but I can assure you that the council works closely with the Biosphere, including being the lead partner and having seats on the Delivery Board, so we are very close to this programme of work.

156.20 Ms Gorton then asked a supplementary question relating to the Downland Estate and the need to ensure that it was protected and would be included in bio-diversity programmes going forward.

156.21 The Chair stated that the council was putting resources into essential work to tackle the climate crisis and improve biodiversity, such as tree planting and creating wild-flower reserves. He was happy to ensure that officers provided more detail in a written reply.

156.22 The Chair welcomed Tash Fairbanks and invited her to put her question to the meeting.

156.23 Ms Fairbanks asked the following question,

Could the Council please clarify how they will:

- a) Communicate the urgent need for rapid progress on carbon reduction to the people of Brighton and Hove? There needs to be a comprehensive communication strategy, involving, for instance, social media, bus stop and bus side advertising, billboard and poster campaigns, inclusion of the issues in all local government communications, leaflets etc. There could be competitions in schools, colleges and in the general community for the best words and images that sum up the issue. Our house is burning, so we have to let people know!
- b) Engage citizens and incentivise residents to play their part in reducing their own carbon footprint, e.g. through using green energy companies.

156.24 The Chair replied, thank you for your question. You are right to identify that how we talk to the city about the climate crisis is important: The actions we can take as a council will only have a marginal impact on the levels of greenhouse gases the city emits. Behaviour change is fundamental to reducing our carbon impact as a city. The Carbon Neutral Programme on today's agenda acknowledges this. With this in mind, the council is in the process of employing a new Climate Change Communications and Engagement Officer to lead on this work. The post holder will be a communications professional who look at all methods for engaging the city on how we deal with the crisis. The type of measures you include in your question are the kind of things they will be looking at.

I also agree with you on the importance of engaging schools and young people in the programme to transition the city to carbon neutral by 2030. The council delivers a very popular schools environmental education programme supporting schools across the

city in delivering on the national Eco-Schools programme. Over the coming year the council will be developing an environmental education and youth engagement strategy for making environmental learning, curriculum resources, and youth engagement more aligned with supporting the city's climate ambition. This will be aimed at building capacity, knowledge and confidence of schools, Higher Education establishments and youth organisations in better understanding the challenges of climate change and actions they can take.

Lastly the council recognises the importance of engaging all communities in this effort. The council has a sustainability and carbon reduction community grants programme. In the last round £100k was distributed to over 20 community projects across the city, supporting initiatives aimed at delivering on the city's environmental, climate and circular ambitions and goals.

156.25 Ms Fairbanks asked a supplementary question and queried whether it would be possible to use bus stops, buses and billboards to promote the need for action to be taken.

156.26 The Chair stated that he would be happy to ask officers to explore all the options.

156.27 The Chair noted that Mr Newman was unable to attend the meeting and he would therefore receive a written reply as detailed below:

I completely agree that it is important that we engage our local business community in our programme to transition the city to Carbon Neutral by 2030. I've been so impressed with many of the initiatives that our local businesses are taking to express their commitment to carbon neutrality.

To ensure that the local business community are not missing from this conversation, I have been in touch with both the local Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Partnership to explore how we can better engage the local business community in the carbon neutral programme and how the business community can act as a critical friend to the council. I am wholly committed to making decisions where I can with local business especially where their commitments match our own around things like the circular economy but I'm also wary that I want to make decisions that are done with input or intelligence from local businesses.

156.28 The Chair welcomed Penny Bay and invited her to put her question to the meeting.

156.29 Ms Bay asked the following question, BHCC does not collect food waste which lots of other councils are managing to do very successfully. Food waste can be turned into high quality compost for local use. It is far better to use food waste for compost than to send it to the Newhaven incinerator.

When can we expect a food waste collection scheme to be implemented in Brighton and Hove?

156.30 The Chair replied, thank you for your question about this very important issue. The council is committed to promoting a reduction in food waste and we are actively exploring the introduction of a food waste domestic collection.

Officers are currently modelling options for the introduction of a food waste collections service and a report will be presented to Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee in the summer setting out the options and costs of introducing a new service.

The introduction of a food waste collection would present a substantial cost to the Local Authority. However, as part of the National Resources and Waste Strategy the government have said that they will provide funding to Local Authorities who do not yet have a food waste collection to assist them to introduce a collection. We are waiting for further announcements as to the funding package which has been promised to council's who need it.

What I can reassure you of is the fact that none of our domestic food waste goes to landfill. Less than 3% of all of our waste goes to landfill. This also means that our food waste is not generating the high levels of methane and carbon into the atmosphere through the process of landfill.

In the meantime, we would like to encourage residents to minimise their food waste production and compost any food waste they do generate if they are able to do so. The council works closely with Brighton and Hove Food Partnership who are an excellent organisation working to promote food waste reduction. There are many elements to their work, but they critically aim to ensure that excess food from supermarkets is distributed to those who most need it through foodbanks and community kitchens; they provide healthy eating and cooking classes and work on community food growing projects. The council has created a new Food Policy Officer post who has recently been recruited to work along-side B&H Food partnership and other organisations in the city.

In partnership with B&H Food partnership we provide around 40 community composting schemes. In addition to the council sells subsidised home composters and wormeries for those who have a garden. And if you already have a garden waste collection you can add your food waste to your brown bin.

156.31 The Chair noted that Ms Bay did not have a supplementary question and that concluded the questions.

### **(c) Deputations**

156.32 The Chair welcomed Boyd Darling to the meeting and invited him to present his deputation relating to the grazing on Beacon Hill Nature Reserve.

156.33 Mr Darling thanked the Chair and outlined the reasons for the deputation and the need to address the concerns raised in regard to the proposed changes to grazing arrangements and the erection of permanent fencing on Beacon Hill.

156.34 The Chair thanked Mr Darling for presenting the deputation and stated that firstly, he would like to reassure Mr Darling that the council is committed to the protection of wildlife and increasing biodiversity. Over 90% of the species rich grassland on the downs (like that on Beacon Hill) was lost in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The council as well as

Sussex Wildlife Trust, The National Trust and the South Downs National Park are all seeking to return grazing to sites like these as the best way to manage their biodiversity.

The council is continually seeking to work more efficiently and reduce the resources needed to carry out its day to day activities. Beacon Hill is one of the most resource intense of the conservation grazing sites to manage in terms of officer time.

A proposal for was therefore put to a meeting with the Beacon Hill Stewardship group to install permanent fencing down the eastern side of Beacon Hill to facilitate the grazing of the site. The fencing would be placed close to the scrub/woodland edge in order to limit its visual impact and have gates where all worn paths cross its line to allow continued public access. It would be industry standard stock fencing as used by the National Trust and other conservation organisations and is not expected to have any significant impact on wildlife; and I take your comments on board. The County Ecologist has been consulted regarding the impact on wildlife of this type of fencing and said , it's not something that she had ever been concerned about.

In seeking to best manage this site for biodiversity (in keeping with the council's declaration of a biodiversity emergency) the council is not seeking to reduce public access. Indeed, by incorporating the old pitch and putt course into the Local Nature Reserve the council has not only increased the area being managed for wildlife but also increased area of open space available to the public by 60%. This increase in area has however increased the time require to graze the site as a whole.

Installing this fence would also remove the need for a portable electric fence which has to be battery charged and checked daily. Removing an electric fence would bring benefits to walkers, wildlife and will be more environmentally friendly.

However at this point this is still a proposal and I would like to thank you for sharing your views and also reassure you that this will be taken into consideration in making a decision as to whether this project goes ahead. The Chair stated that he was happy to have further discussions outside of the meeting.

156.35 The Chair then proposed that the deputation should be noted.

156.36 **RESOLVED:** That the deputation be noted.

## 157 ITEMS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

157.1 The Chair noted that three items had been referred from the last Council meeting to the committee for consideration. The first was a deputation concerning fossil fuels and climate change and the council's representation on the East Sussex Pension Committee. He proposed that the deputation should be noted and that the Chief Executive should write to the Pension Committee regarding the issues raised in the deputation.

157.2 **RESOLVED:** That the deputation be noted, and the Chief Executive be requested to write to the East Sussex Pension Committee highlighting the points raised in the deputation.

- 157.3 The Chair referred to the Notice of Motion on COP 26 & Wellbeing of Future Generations and proposed that it be noted, and officers be requested to bring a report to a future meeting.
- 157.4 **RESOLVED:** That the notice of motion be noted, and officers be requested to bring a report to a future meeting.
- 157.5 The Chair referred to the Notice of Motion concerning Support for Excluded UK and Those Excluded from Covid Support Schemes in the City. He stated that the council fully supported the ExcludedUK campaign but unfortunately there was a limit to what the council could do as this was bound up in national policy, which was precisely the point of the campaign. However, the council was fully aware of excluded groups and had provided as much information as possible on its web site for businesses and individuals of other potential support that may be available as follows:
- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) – help to pay furloughed employees' salaries
  - Bounce Back Loan Scheme for small businesses
  - Coronavirus Future Fund
  - Protections if you can't pay your commercial rent
  - Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS)
  - Full refund on statutory sick pay due to Covid-19
  - Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS)
  - Income Tax and VAT deferred for the self-employed
  - More time to pay Corporation Tax
  - Time to Pay coronavirus helpline
  - Benefits for self-employed workers during the coronavirus pandemic
  - Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
  - Relief from paying back loans and credit cards
  - Mortgage payment holidays

For individuals in short term hardship, the council also has a number of local welfare assistance services in operation as follows:

- Community Hub for signposting and assistance
- Local Discretionary Social Fund for crisis support
- Welfare Rights advice in terms of eligibility for benefits
- In terms of any council debts owed, an approach to sensitive and ethical debt recovery including referral to debt advice agencies
- Introduction nationally of the government's 'Breathing Space' initiative in May 2021 – a mechanism that puts a statutory hold on debts while the debtor engages with advice
- Maximising discretionary funds where there is entitlement to Council Tax Reduction or Universal Credit / Housing Benefit
- Support for Food Banks and emergency assistance and support for low income families through the Winter Grant package.

However, the council recognised that there were families who were 'just about managing' and who may be on the cusp of welfare benefit entitlement or other forms of

support. In this respect, remaining funds from the government Covid Hardship Fund were specifically targeted to groups within the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) caseload who might fall into this category, for example those whose CTR was reduced because their earnings are just sufficient to stop them from receiving maximum CTR. Although applicable to a relatively small caseload this had provided additional assistance.

The Chair stated that the council would continue to provide discretionary funds and signpost people and businesses to appropriate advice agencies to ensure they could get the best advice possible as well as support through temporary hardship. He then proposed that the notice of motion be noted.

157.6 **RESOLVED:** That the notice of motion be noted.

## 158 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

158.1 The Chair noted that there was one Member question for the current meeting and invited Councillor Fishleigh to put her question.

158.2 Councillor Fishleigh noted that a small plot of council-owned land in Roedean to the east of Marine Gate and the Gasworks has been identified for disposal. There are various covenants on the land restricting development to 16 homes no more than 30 ft high and preserving access rights and footpaths. 16 homes that sell for multi-millions will do nothing to solve the city's housing crisis.

She therefore asked if the council would consider keeping this land and using it for a development that we can all be proud of, for example, truly eco-homes for low income residents?

158.3 The Chair stated that the site referred to is fairly limited in what can be built on the site. He understood that there were restrictive covenants on the site which limited what could be built to just 16 detached private dwellings with a maximum height of 30 feet. The site had been assessed by our in-house development team that delivers our council house building programme and is considered to be a low priority site given it's potentially high value and the comparatively high cost of developing a small number of council homes on the site. The site has also been assessed as not suitable for development by the Home for Brighton & Hove joint venture that is building homes in the city at a living wage rent.

When sites are not suitable to develop ourselves, we consider selling them for development on the open market and are required to obtain the best price possible as this capital receipt will support the council's financial strategy and the delivery of future services. In this case, if we were to sell the site only the 16 homes could be developed on it. I do agree with your suggestion that the council should be seeking a development that delivers both low carbon homes and homes that are affordable and have asked officers to consider this and these aspects will be controlled through the LA planning system. Any decision to sell the land would need to come to this committee for consideration so that there is democratic oversight of the future of this important site in the east of our city.

- 158.4 Councillor Fishleigh then referred to the proposed development of a 50m swimming pool on the seafront and questioned whether the impact on the carbon footprint of such a development had been considered.
- 158.5 The Chair stated that with any such development a full environmental impact would be undertaken and noted that information was available on the project.

## **159 COVID WINTER GRANT SCHEME EXTENSION**

### **159.1 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the indicative additional allocation of Covid Winter Grant of £300,860 be noted;
- (2) That the anticipated underspend of previous Covid Winter Grant allocations of approximately £90,000 in unredeemed vouchers and unrealised allocations as outlined in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 be noted; and
- (3) That the proposals in the report to allocate both the underspend and the additional allocation of grant funding referred to in resolutions (1) and (2) above, in accordance with paragraphs 3.5 to 3.7 inclusive, by ensuring the provision of a £20 per child, per week supermarket food voucher over the Easter holidays 2021 to those families whose children are entitled to: free school meals, free childcare places for two-year olds, Early Years Pupil Premium, using the children centres' food bank or are in similar circumstances be approved.

## **160 NEXT STEPS - ROUGH SLEEPING AND ACCOMMODATION DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC AND RECOVERY**

- 160.1 The Committee considered an extract from the proceedings of the Housing Committee meeting held on the 17 March 2021, together with a report of the Executive Director for Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities, concerning the next steps to tackle rough sleeping and provide accommodation during the pandemic and recovery from it. The report also provided an update on the cold weather & protect funding, severe weather emergency protocol, government rough sleeping snapshot and the Homeless Bill of Rights.
- 160.2 The Executive Director for Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities noted that an amendment to the recommendations had been passed at the Housing Committee meeting the night before and was detailed in the extract from the proceedings.
- 160.3 Members of the committee welcomed the report and sought clarification on various points including the next round of government bidding for Housing First and the projections for future homelessness figures, use of emergency accommodation outside of the city and the maximum level of accommodation that was available in the city to meet homelessness figures. Members also thanked officers for the report and the work that had been undertaken to date.
- 160.4 The Assistant Director, Housing stated that it was hoped to reduce the use of emergency accommodation with the use of the 'move-on' process and reconnection for

rough sleepers. It was also hoped to provide more council owned emergency accommodation in the city. He also offered to provide further information in writing to the committee Members.

- 160.5 Dr Sasidharan noted the recent court judgement and there being no recourse to public funds and asked what assistance would be made available to rough sleepers.
- 160.6 The Executive Director for Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities stated that it was a very complex situation and officers were currently looking at the implications and what could be done to assist people.
- 160.7 Councillor Gibson noted the amendment to the recommendations that had been agreed at the Housing Committee and stated that he hoped the full Council would support the aspiration to meet the Homeless Bill of Rights commitment.
- 160.8 The Chair thanked everyone for their comments and then put the recommendations to the vote.

160.9 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Executive Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities be granted delegated authority to secure accommodation up to the 31st October 2021, by entering into contracts to extend existing arrangements or alternative arrangements where necessary to extend the provision of shorter-term/interim accommodation acquired in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, including a building to deliver the No Second Night Out service up to the beginning of October 2021;
- (2) That it be agreed to continue to support people in the accommodation secured as para 2.9 which includes security, support and food where necessary estimated to cost £2.900m to 1st October 2021 and
- (3) That it be noted that if Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) funding is not available, this could create a service pressure of £2.043m.

160.10 **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

- (1) That the Homeless Bill of Rights (as referred to in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25) be adopted as an aspirational document and as the standard against which the Council and its partners judge its policies and practices and outcomes
- (2) That a copy of this resolution is signed by the Leader and sent to FEANTSA to mark its commitment to the international movement of solidarity with homeless people; and
- (3) That the full Council agrees to commit to a process of continuous commitment, improvement and engagement to uphold rights of homeless people.

161 **2030 CARBON NEUTRAL PROGRAMME**

- 161.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture, which outlined the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme that was a co-ordinated programme of projects that aimed to help the city address the climate crisis.
- 161.2 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture stated that the report sought approval for the programme which sought to achieve a carbon neutral city by 2030. He noted that there were five thematic areas which were supported by six cross-cutting themes and that engagement from organisations both within and outside of the city would be required if the objective was to be achieved.
- 161.3 Councillor Miller moved an amendment to the recommendations on behalf of the Conservative Group, which sought the deletion of recommendation 2.5. He stated that given the significant level of spend that would be required it was felt that the committee should have closer oversight and therefore regular reports to future meetings.
- 161.4 Councillor Simson formally seconded the amendment.
- 161.5 Members of the committee welcomed the report and sought clarification on various points including the impact on greenhouse emissions with the improvements to the built environment and the Warmer Homes programme. Members also queried whether there were sufficient resources to take the programme forward and noted the need to bring other organisations on board if the target of 2030 was to be achieved.
- 161.6 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture stated that there was an aim to reduce emissions and this was detailed under the energy theme rather than built environment, although it would cut across both themes. He also noted that there would be a new Key Performance Indicator (KPI) that would be reported on regularly and that all Directorate Plans incorporated the objective to achieve a carbon neutral city by 2030. The recent Budget Council meeting had also approved resources for additional posts to support the programme and these were being recruited to. In regard to the amendment he noted that no changes to the current arrangements were being proposed and that the Carbon 2030m Working Group would have oversight. However, if carried it would mean some reports having to come to committee for project approval which would add a potential delay and more work for officers.
- 161.7 The Chair thanked everyone for their comments and then put the amendment to the vote which was carried by 6 votes 3 with 1 abstention.
- 161.8 The Chair then put the recommendations as amended to the vote which were agreed,
- 161.9 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme be approved;
  - (2) That the oversight of the Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Investment Fund (SCRIF) is transferred from the cross-party SCRIF Member Oversight Group (MOG) to the cross-party 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group, and the SCRIF MOG is stood down;

- (3) That the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme which is attached in Appendix 1 be approved;
- (4) That the transfer of oversight of the Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Investment Fund from the cross-party SCRIF Member Oversight Group (MOG) to the cross-party 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group and the ending of the SCRIF MOG be approved;
- (5) That the updated draft Terms of Reference for the 2030 Carbon Neutral Member Working Group, which is attached in Appendix 2, and the ending of the SCRIF MOG be approved;
- (6) That the overall unallocated SCRIF resources to support the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme is £7.118m, of which £3.9m will be allocated alongside the Local Transport Plan investment programme and £3.218m will be allocated through the SCRIF be noted; and
- (7) That the establishment of the Climate Assembly Action Capital Investment Fund of £1.404m to support the 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme be noted.

161.10 The Chair then adjourned the meeting for a short break from 9.01pm to 9.11pm.

## **162 MOULSECOOMB NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB & HOUSING SCHEME UPDATE**

- 162.1 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture introduced the report, which provided an update on the Moulsecoomb Neighbourhood Hub and Housing Schemes initially presented to Housing committee on 29 April 2020 and Policy & Resources Committee on 30 April 2020. He also noted that an extract from the Housing Committee meeting held on the 17 March had been circulated in addendum 2.
- 162.2 Members of the Committee welcomed the report and thanked offices for the work that had been undertaken and noted that the scheme brought a number of benefits to the city.
- 162.3 The Chair then put the recommendations to the vote which were carried.
- 162.4 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the progress made on the Moulsecoomb Neighbourhood Hub & Housing Scheme and the rationale for high-level design changes to the masterplan be noted;
  - (2) That the impact that the coronavirus pandemic has had on the programme's delivery timeline be noted;
  - (3) That the current financial position of the project and the governance arrangements in place to monitor delivery be noted, and

- (4) That officers be authorised to progress the conditions on the change of use consent for the former Portslade Sixth Form site development as set out in paragraph 3.26 of the report.

### **163 CENTRAL YOUTH HUB**

- 163.1 The Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning introduced the report which provided details on the potential to form a partnership with OnSide and Brighton Youth Centre to bid for funding from the Government's Youth Investment Fund to develop a Youth Zone in the city. She noted that there was an extract from the Children, Young People & Skills Committee meeting held on the 8 March in support of the proposal. She noted that should the bid be successful then a further paper outlining how the project could be taken forward would be brought to committee.
- 163.2 Members of the Committee welcomed the report and noted that the proposal for a Youth Zone in the city was welcomed by young people and that there would be continued investment in the neighbourhood youth hubs across the city. It was felt that it would bring benefits to the city and for both the central and neighbourhood provision of youth services and it was hoped that the bid would be successful.
- 163.3 Councillors Simson and Miller expressed some concern over the proposal and its sustainability and accessibility for young people living in the outskirts of the city. There was a need to build stronger youth services across the city and it was difficult to gauge the impact a central provision would have on these. As such Councillor Simson stated that she would abstain from voting on the matter.
- 163.4 The Chair noted the comments and put the recommendations to the vote which were carried.
- 163.5 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That it be agreed that the Council can enter into a non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding with Brighton Youth Centre and OnSide as a basis to submit a funding application and to develop proposals for a Youth Zone in the centre of Brighton;
  - (2) That it be agreed to submit a joint funding application with OnSide and Brighton Youth Centre to the Youth Investment Fund; and
  - (3) That the revised funding arrangements as set out in the Central Youth Hub report and financial implications be approved.

### **164 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/22**

- 164.1 The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development, concerning the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/2022 which needed to be approved by the full Council before the start of the financial year. She noted that there were no proposed changes to the policy for the coming year and that it was recommended for approval by the full Council.

- 164.2 Dr Sasidharan asked whether it was possible to share the equalities impact assessment that related to the policy.
- 164.3 The Assistant Director stated that she would ensure a copy was sent to Dr Sasidharan.
- 164.4 Councillor Yates welcomed the report and noted that further reports on the BAME and Gender pay gaps were due to come to the committee later in the year.
- 164.5 The Chair then put the recommendations to the vote.
- 164.6 **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** That the pay policy statement for 2021/22 attached at Appendix 1 to the report be recommended to the full Council for adoption.

## 165 CORPORATE DEBT POLICY

- 165.1 The Acting Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which detailed the annual review of the Council's Corporate Debt Policy. He also noted that a Bill was progressing through Parliament which would result in a more holistic approach being taken towards debt management and recovery to help people from spiralling into debt.
- 165.2 Members of the Committee welcomed the report and referred to the Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) which it was felt was a good example of what needed to be included in such a document.
- 165.3 The Chair thanked officers for the report and put the recommendations to the vote which were carried.
- 165.4 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That it be noted that the proposed policy commits the council to ending the use of committal proceedings to enforce Council Tax collection, in all but the most exceptional of circumstances
  - (2) That the Equality Impact Assessment at Appendix 2 to the report be noted; and
  - (3) That the revised policy at Appendix 1 to the report be approved and that it be put into practice with effect from 1 April 2021, subject to having due regard to any necessary consultation and engagement processes.

## 166 SCHOOLS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SIMS)

- 166.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Acting Chief Finance Officer be granted delegated authority to take all necessary steps to:
- (i) Procure and award a contract for pupil management software licenses for an initial term of three (3) years and an option to extend for up to a further period of two (2) years;
  - (ii) Grant the optional extension referred to in (i) above, subject to the satisfactory performance of the licensor and the software.

**167 ANNUAL PLANNED MAINTENANCE BUDGET AND ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND ALLOCATIONS 2021-22 FOR THE COUNCIL'S OPERATIONAL BUILDINGS'****167.1 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the annual programme of planned maintenance works for the Planned Maintenance Budget as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3, at a total estimated cost of £3,631,190 be approved;
- (2) That the Asset Management Fund allocation for 2021-22 totalling £1,000,000, as detailed in paragraph 3.4.2 of this report be approved; and
- (3) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture to procure the Planned Maintenance Budget and Asset Management Fund improvement works and award contracts within these budgets, as required, in accordance with the council's Contract Standing Orders.

**168 2021/2022 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

168.1 **RESOLVED:** That the 2021/22 Local Transport Plan capital programme budget allocation of £4.538 million, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.

**169 OFF-STREET CAR PARK AND TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT AMENDMENT**

169.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture be granted delegated authority to increase the value of the contract by £400,000, giving a new total contract value of £1.4m.

**170 FORMER PETER PAN SITE MADEIRA DRIVE - SEA LANES****170.1 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Policy & Resources Committee agree to the grant of a 25-year Agreement for Lease to Sea Lanes Brighton Limited.
- (2) That delegated powers be given to the Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Culture, Assistant Director Property & Design and Head of Legal Services to agree terms and take any necessary steps to facilitate this recommendation.

**171 PROCUREMENT OF ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES**

171.1 **RESOLVED:** That the committee delegates authority to the Executive Director of Economy Environment and Culture to take all necessary steps to:

- (i) Procure and award an arboricultural contract for up to £2 million for an initial term of three [ 3] years and a possible extension of up to 24 months; and

- (ii) Grant the optional extension to the contract referred to in 2.1 [i] subject to satisfactory performance of the contractor.

## **172 PLAYGROUND REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME**

### **172.1 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the playground refurbishment programme set out in appendix 1 be approved;
- (2) That borrowing of up to £0.539m to contribute to the refurbishment of playgrounds be approved;
- (3) That the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture be granted delegated authority to procure and award contracts for up to £3m for playground refurbishment over a period of up to 4 years; and
- (4) That it be agreed that the refurbishment programme is informed by consultation with disability groups in order to improve disability access to local playgrounds.

## **173 SELF MANAGED SPORT FACILITIES**

173.1 The Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture introduced the report which outlined the approach taken to transferring sports facilities in parks to sports clubs and user groups in order to ensure the future sustainability of the facilities. He noted that an extract from the proceedings of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> January had also been included in the papers and that the committee was asked to approve the additional criteria to be considered when a transfer was proposed which was detailed in appendix two the report. He stated that lessons had been learnt from earlier transfers and it was hoped that the revised process would prove to be more effective.

173.2 The Committee welcomed the report and the revision to the criteria following lessons learnt with earlier transfers. Members noted that oversight of any transfer would be managed through the lease agreement and thanked officers for their work. Members also welcomed the intention to support community groups and those on low incomes and asked if the provision could be reviewed to see if it could be strengthened.

173.3 The Chair noted the comments and put the recommendations to the vote which were carried.

### **173.4 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the additional criteria which are to be considered in determining the transfer of outdoor sports facilities in parks to community organisations as set out in appendix 2 and that they are added to the CATP as an appendix be approved;
- (2) That a further condition of transfer which will allow the use of the facilities by local residents on low incomes at a reduced rate be approved; and

- (3) That that consultation with the community and its representatives takes place before any lease or license is granted be approved.

#### **174 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION**

- 174.1 **RESOLVED:** That the item be deferred for consideration at the next committee meeting on the 13 May 2021.

#### **175 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

- 175.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law, concerning the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). relating to changes to the Members Allowances Scheme. The Executive Lead Officer noted that the Chair of the IRP was in attendance and he wished to thank the Panel for their work. He also noted that whilst the Panel made recommendations to full Council on the level of allowances attributable to each post, the numbers of committees, Chairs and roles was determined by the Council. He stated that following a change in Administration in July 2020, the option for various roles to be job-shared was taken up and this followed from reports to TECC and P&R on the Fawcett Society Report and the objective to encourage more people to become councillors and offer opportunities to a wider group of Members. The current Scheme restricted the ability to claim only claim one SRA and therefore did not reflect the ability to job-share more than one role.
- 175.2 The Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law stated that the IRP had received the views of Members and met with councillors to consider the possibility of amending the Members Allowances Scheme and their recommendations were reflected in the report. He also noted that an amendment from the Labour and Conservative Groups was due to be considered and in his capacity as the Monitoring Officer he needed to draw to the committee's attention that should the amendment be carried, he would need to submit a report to the full Council to ensure that it also received and considered the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 175.3 The Chair noted the comments and invited Councillor Platts to move the joint amendment on behalf of the Labour and Conservative Groups.
- 175.4 Councillor Platts stated that both the Labour and Conservative Groups had concerns about how the job-sharing of Chairs' roles was working and felt that the Administration had not been clear about how the new arrangements would enable effective management of the decision-making process. She stated that the ability to job-share was supported by both Groups as it provided flexibility and recognition of time commitments that might prevent someone from undertaking a role full-time. However, it was felt that greater clarity was required where more than one role was being job-shared and others not, but part of the special responsibility allowance was being sought. It was therefore proposed that further discussion was required and further consideration by the IRP before any changes were made.
- 175.5 The Chair noted that the amendment had been moved and invited the Chair of the IRP to comment.

- 175.6 The Chair of the IRP thanked the Chair and stated that the Panel had recommended a Scheme for Members Allowances ahead of the last elections which would then last for the duration of the Council. He noted that the Panel had reserved the right to review the Scheme annually and to make any additional recommendations in light of any changes during the term of the Council. In this regard, it had considered the question of job-sharing of roles and had sought the views of Members before reaching its conclusions. He also noted that the amendment referred to the saving that had been agreed at the Budget Council meeting and stated that the Panel were minded to accept the decision as the overall budget was for the Council to determine and the Panel's role was to look at the impact on the Allowances Scheme. Whilst Members had previously contributed towards the cost of having a parking permit, the decision of Council meant that the Scheme should be amended to reflect that permits would no longer be given to Members.
- 175.7 The Chair thanked Mr. Childerhouse and the Panel for their work to date.
- 175.8 Councillor Miller formally seconded the amendment and stated that the Conservative Group had expressed reservations about the intention to job-share roles and how that would work effectively. There was also concern of the potential for any additional special responsibility allowances that were attributable to be back-dated at this point when further clarity was required on how they would operate and further consideration of how the overall Scheme should apply was required.
- 175.9 Members of the Committee noted that a budget saving had been approved at Budget Council which resulted in a potential £25k saving from additional parking revenue for Norton Road with the removal of permits for councillors. The IRP had been asked to consider this in light of the need to amend the Allowances Scheme to reflect the decision as those councillors who had previously opted for a permit had also been required to make a contribution towards the cost of the permit. The Committee noted that it did not prevent councillors from using the car park, it would just be that there was no guarantee of a space and it would be at their personal cost.
- 175.10 Members of the Committee felt that the job-sharing of roles had worked well and referred to the document that had been circulated at the council meeting in July which outlined how they would operate. It was suggested that the introduction of job-sharing had enabled more Members to gain experience and understanding of senior roles which would not have been open to them. However, other Members argued that opposition roles were not recognised within the Scheme and those spokespersons also undertook a greater level of workload and responsibility. It was felt that there was a need for greater clarity on job-sharing could work and what roles would be suitable for such an arrangement and therefore more time was required before changes were made to the Scheme.
- 175.11 Councillor Clare noted that any delay in changing the Scheme would result in the option to back-date payments would be lost for the current year. She noted that the current Scheme required the Deputy Leader of the Council to Chair a policy committee. However, this meant that as she and Councillor Shanks job-shared the role, they also had to Chair a committee and therefore were only in receipt of 50% of the Deputy Leader's SRA. They believed that it was appropriate to be able to receive 50% of the

Chair's SRA and thereby equate to a full SRA which was not possible under the current Scheme. She also referred to the Fawcett Society's report and the need to improve opportunities for women and others to take up positions of responsibility within local government as councillors and had hoped that the Council would take this forward rather than sit back. She also felt that the level of allowances for councillors were not sufficient and that it had become a full-time role and should be recognised as such.

175.12 Dr Sasidharan stated that she wished to echo the comments and agreed that the Basic Allowance for councillors needed to be reviewed and increased to recognise the value the role of councillor brought to both a local authority and its community. She believed that the ability to job-share was an important point of principal and should be recognised for the flexibility and equality that it offered.

175.13 Councillor Platts reaffirmed the Labour Group's support for job-sharing but felt that there was a need to address the confusion that had so far resulted and for greater clarity to the Scheme to be determined before changes were made.

175.14 Councillor Gibson stated that he hoped further dialogue could be held before full Council on the 25 March and that an equal payment for each role undertaken on a job-share basis could be recognised and any back-dated payments implemented as these roles had been fulfilled for the last year.

175.15 The Chair noted the comments and reiterated that the IRP were an independent panel of people which made recommendations to the full Council. He had not been made aware of the confusion caused from roles being job-shared and felt that it was a progressive way of working that should be favoured and supported by all Members. However, he noted that an amendment had moved and therefore put it to vote which was carried by 6 votes to 4.

175.16 The Chair then put the recommendations as amended to the vote which was carried by 6 votes to 4.

175.17 **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

- (1) That the comments of the IRP regarding their encouragement to the Council to consider further information being shared regarding the nature and practical implementation of job share roles for Councillors be noted;
- (2) That a report be brought to the next meeting of Policy & Resources Committee to detail which jobs could be job shared in any revisions to the Scheme; and
- (3) That an Options Paper be brought to the next meeting of Policy & Resources Committee to decide on any revisions to the Members Allowances Scheme with regards to car parking passes, and for the options to include; separating the two car park concessions and reducing them, for permits to be limited in number per political group, choosing to have permits for one site only, allowing Councillors to make a larger monthly contribution for both car parks near the Town Halls or other suggestions which the IPR believe relevant.

**A                    PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES SOCIAL VALUE AND COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING**

Note: The minute relating to the item is detailed at Item 156 in the minutes, having been taken in conjunction with the petition on RISE.

**176            EDUCATION CAPITAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2021/22****176.1 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the allocation of funding as shown in Appendices 2 and 3 for inclusion within the Council's Capital Investment Programme 2021/22 be agreed; and
- (2) That Assistant Director of Property & Design be granted delegated authority to procure the capital maintenance and basic need works and enter into contracts within these budgets, as required, in accordance with Contract Standing Orders in respect of the entire Education Capital Programme.

**177            INTRODUCTION OF A CHARGING POLICY FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE ACCOMMODATED AT THE REQUEST OF THEIR PARENTS UNDER SECTION 20 OF THE CHILDREN ACT 1989**

177.1 **RESOLVED:** That the introduction of the Charging Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report to seek to recoup partial costs in defined circumstances when a child becomes Looked After at the request of parents be approved.

**178            ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL**

178.1 **RESOLVED:** That item 161, 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme be referred to the full Council meeting for information.

The meeting concluded at 10.20pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of