

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
FINANCE CABINET MEMBER MEETING
4.00pm, 29 JUNE 2009
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, HOVE TOWN HALL
MINUTES

Present: Councillor Young (Cabinet Member)

Also in attendance: Councillor Hamilton (Opposition Spokesperson, Labour)

Other Members present: Councillors Fallon-Khan and Harmer-Strange

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1a Declarations of Interest

1.1 Councillor Harmer-Strange declared a personal, but non-prejudicial interest in Item 11 in so far as he was a member of the National Adjudicator Panel.

1b Exclusion of Press and Public

1.2 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Cabinet Member for Finance considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press or public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100I(1) of the Act).

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

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February be approved and signed by the Cabinet Member as a correct record.

3. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 There were none.

4. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 All items were reserved by the Cabinet Member.

5. PETITIONS

5.1 There were none.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

6.1 There were none.

7. DEPUTATIONS

7.1 There were none.

8. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

8.1 There were none.

9. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

9.1 There were none.

10. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

10.1 There were none.

11. INCOME COLLECTION & RECOVERY 2008/09 - QUARTER 4

11.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Finance & Resources, which updated the Member on the income collection and recovery performance as at quarter 4 (March 2009) and highlighted the continuing improvement and best practice actions (for copy see minute book).

11.2 The Cabinet Member noted that the performance on debts recovery and the direct debts take up had been positive. She pointed out that this had benefits for both the council and the customers. She also noted the challenges for 2010-11.

11.3 The Opposition Spokesperson, Labour Group, referred to the parking operations and noted the difficulty in getting income return from this area. He reported that commercial vehicles were often parked on double-lines and nothing seemed to happen to deter them from this practice. He noted the examples of such practice in parts of Vale Road and St Nicholas Junior School, both in the Portslade area, and enquired about the measures in place to deal with this matter. He considered that more enforcement was required and thought that it would be more valuable if the council officers in charge of the enforcement turned up at the problematic areas unexpected.

11.4 The Opposition Spokesperson further indicated that he was pleased with the results provided in the report, in light of the difficult economic situation. He also noted his

disappointment about the fact that there was only one item on the agenda for this Cabinet Member meeting.

- 11.5 The Cabinet Member noted that enforcement might be the way forward to dealing with such practices, even though it was recognised that it would be difficult to have enforcement officers available on every school. The Cabinet Member requested that the parking officers present looked into this matter and reported back to her with any information. She also acknowledged the Opposition Spokesperson's concerns about the topics for discussion and agreed to look into this matter for future meetings.
- 11.6 Councillor Fallon-Khan referred to the housing benefits. He indicated he had written to the Secretary of State, proposing an analysis of the current means of recovery, but he had not yet received a response. He felt that it was important to work to improving the relationship with the DWP and recognised that the team in place was doing an excellent work in terms of forging that relationship.
- 11.7 **RESOLVED** - That the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 4.20pm

Signed

Cabinet Member

Dated this day of