

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM CABINET MEMBER MEETING

4.00pm 15 JUNE 2010

COMMITTEE ROOM 3, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Smith (Cabinet Member)

Also in attendance: Councillor Davis (Opposition Spokesperson)

Other Members present: Councillor Kennedy

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1a Declarations of Interests

1.1 There were none.

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 Culture, Recreation and Tourism considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of 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 100(1) of the Act).

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

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Foredown Tower

2.1 Councillor Davis enquired regarding the current position in respect of Foredown Tower. The Cabinet Member confirmed that regrettably the Sea Cadets had withdrawn their interest in seeking to establish a Community Interest Company to be a signatory to a lease agreement on the Tower. This was disappointing as it followed a period of 18 months of intensive work by officers of the Council. The Council had sought to be very flexible in assisting this arrangement in coming to successful fruition. This matter was being carried forward however and alternative occupiers being actively sought.

- 2.2 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Culture, Recreation and Tourism Cabinet Member Meeting held on 23 March 2010 be agreed and signed by the Cabinet Member as a correct record.

3. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS

Visit Brighton Conference Wins

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member stated that he was delighted to be able to report that Visit Brighton had secured the British Arts Festival Association Annual Conference for the City. The BAFA was a vibrant membership organisation which included members from all types of arts festivals across a full range of art forms including music, dance, the visual arts, film, comedy and street arts. They would be holding their conference at the Brighton Dome 3–5 November 2010. It was anticipated that there would be over 150 delegates attending and it was estimated it would bring £140,000 of economic benefit to the city.
- 3.2 Visit Brighton had also secured an international meeting for RWE Supply and Trading one of Europe's leading energy companies and the No. 1 power producer in German, No.2 in the Netherlands and No.3 in the UK. The event would be held at the Brighton Thistle Hotel from 16-18 June 2010, it was expected that approximately 70 delegates would be in attendance bringing £60,000 of economic benefit to the city.

Indian Military Hospital

- 3.3 The Cabinet Member explained that on 26 March a new display had opened at the Royal Pavilion-Indian Military Hospital. Paintings, archive photographs, contemporary accounts and newsreel footage showed this remarkable and often forgotten story from Brighton's history, recalling the period the Pavilion had been used as a hospital for troops from the Indian Corps wounded on the Western Front in France and Flanders during World War 1. The Pavilion's visitor profile showed an increase of 2.1% in visits from Asian and Asian British visitors on the same period the previous year, this represented approximately 1,500 visitors over the past two months.

Filming at the Pavilion : Antiques Road Show

- 3.4 The Cabinet Member explained that on 2 June 2010 Fiona Bruce and the team from BBC1 Antiques Roadshow had been filmed at the Royal Pavilion. This had formed part of the main event which had been filmed at Brighton College and would be shown on TV during the Autumn. It would provide an excellent piece of publicity for the city.

Clare Twomey: A Dark Day in Paradise (8 June 2010–January 2011)

- 3.6 In a complete departure for the Pavilion, well known British Artist Clare Twomey, had been commissioned to install 3,000 black ceramic butterflies in the Banqueting Room, Great Kitchen and Entrance Hall of the Royal Pavilion. The butterflies would cluster on the banqueting table, across window panes, in roof lights, on mantelpieces and other surfaces. The Pavilion Team had worked in partnership with Museummaker, an ambitious partnership programme for museums, makers and audiences and supported by

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), Renaissance in the Regions Council, England. it was hoped that this would attract more visitors.

The Brighton Festival

- 3.7 The Cabinet Member explained that since the last Executive Member Meeting the Brighton Festival had taken place at which Andrew Comben, the Festival Director had informed the meeting about the programme of events. He wished to offer his congratulations to him and his team on another successful festival, in the current economic climate the festival was more important than ever to the City. He had himself attended an excellent event in the large tent near St Peter's Church. It had been great fun and had formed part of the fringe festival which had also been a great success.

4. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

- 4.1 **RESOLVED** – That all items be reserved for discussion.

5. PETITIONS E-PETITION REINSTATEMENT OF TEMPORARY CRAFT EXHIBITIONS AT HOVE MUSEUM

5a e-Petition – Reinstatement of Temporary Craft Exhibitions at Hove Museum

- 5.1 The Cabinet Member considered the following e- Petition submitted via the Council's website and signed by 25 people.

"We the undersigned petition the Council to reinstate temporary craft exhibitions at Hove Museum.

Hove Museum holds one of only three craft collections in the country. That temporary exhibitions are to cease at Hove is a great loss to the community and to a city with a strong cultural ethos. The exhibitions and related activities in spire creativity at a time when many people have increased leisure time, often against their will. Craft is one of the most accessible of the arts and can be challenging, beautiful and humorous. This issue needs to be addressed urgently in order to prevent the exhibition spaced falling into disuse."

- 5.2 The Cabinet Member responded as follows:

"The temporary exhibitions at Hove Museum have played host to a wide range of exhibitions over the years based on fine art, archaeology and local history as well as craft. The Craft programme comprising its temporary exhibitions and workshops has always been externally funded; for many years throughout the Arts Council and more recently through a two year grant from the Headley Trust. This funding has come to an end and therefore it has been necessary to review programming at Hove to ensure we can achieve programmes within available resources.

- 5.3 The Hove Museum programme in the ground floor galleries from October will built on recent projects in particular using the city's extensive collections to creatively engage and inspire our audiences: whether involving them in developing shows, allowing greater interaction with the exhibits, and/or improving the museum experience for

younger visitors. Running October 2010-February 2011, we will show more work from Brighton & Hove Museums' Fine Art Collection, developing a thematic exhibition narrative and lively programme of events.

- 5.4 Programming at Hove is part of the wider programming context of the Royal Pavilion and Museum Service. Currently we have craft installations at Preston Manor and the Royal Pavilion and there are plans to work with the Permanent Gallery in Hove and renowned maker Neil Brownsword using our nationally significant Willett Collection of Staffordshire Pottery as inspiration. This means that craft continues to be at the core of the city's cultural offer. As with these very exciting developments the service will continue to programme craft activity as it is able to secure funding. There are two permanent galleries of contemporary craft at Hove Museum housing a large proportion of the craft collection-some 300 pieces. Craft forms a part of the Museums decorative art collections spanning design, furniture and applied arts-more than 16,000 objects. There are no plans to remove the collections in these galleries from display. They will continue to, along with other collections in the city council's holdings, be used to inspire and inform programming. The craft council web site lists some 38 museum/galleries showing craft across the UK.

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. ROYAL PAVILION GARDEN STRATEGY

- 11.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Housing, Culture and Enterprise presenting an updated Royal Garden Management and Maintenance Plan. It was noted that the Plan had been developed to also assist in the achievement of a Green Flag award in the future.

- 11.2 Councillor Davis welcomed the report and in recognising the need to strike a balance between high end and other events in the gardens, she considered it was important to adopt the holistic approach suggested in terms of marketing both the Royal Pavilion building and gardens.
- 11.3 Councillor Kennedy also welcomed approach being adopted and referred to her involvement in the scrutiny workshop which she considered had been valuable. She was considered that it was important however to pursue sustainable uses.
- 11.4 **RESOLVED** (1) – That the Cabinet Member to note the Garden Management & Maintenance Plan.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member approves the Events Policy for the Royal Pavilion Garden (see Appendix 1 of the attached Management & Maintenance Plan) ; and
- (3) That the Cabinet Member to note the vision and aims for the management of the Garden (see 3.5 and 3.6 below and Section 5 of the attached Management & Maintenance Plan).

12. LIBRARIES CONSULTATION RESULTS

- 12.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Housing, Culture and Enterprise providing an update on the results of recent library user consultation and to agree the action plans arising there from.
- 12.2 The Cabinet Member was pleased to note the excellent results achieved and the areas which had been highlighted.
- 12.3 Councillor Davis also welcomed the report, noting that CIPFA plus surveys would be discontinued in future enquired how it was intended to carry forward the actions highlighted. The Head of the Libraries and Information Service confirmed that in depth user surveys would continue to be carried out, as they were a valuable tool. Other local authorities had been consulted and it was intended that future surveys would incorporate the “best” from the CIPFA Surveys and established best practice.
- 12.4 Councillor Kennedy was pleased to note the improved stock provision and the fact that equal weighting was given to digital and stock elements. The fact that use of the internet remained free and that longer use of the system could now be booked for those seeking work, this had been provided in direct response to the survey responses received and was welcomed.
- 12.5 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Cabinet Member notes levels of public satisfaction with Libraries Services provided by Brighton & Hove City Council and
- (2) Approves the actions to improve services as outlined in sections 3.1.11 and 3.2.9 of the report.

13. FUTURE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS OF COUNCIL'S SPORTS FACILITIES

- 13.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report requiring a key decision in respect of future management arrangements of Council sports facilities. Although a key decision it had only recently been added to the Council's Forward Plan. Given the tight procurement timetable involved with the tender, it would not have been possible to defer this decision until the next Cabinet Member Meeting.
- 13.2 Councillor Davis enquired regarding the situation in relation to the King Alfred Leisure Centre enquiring whether it would be possible for some improvements to be made whilst/if the buildings were on the open market. The Cabinet Member explained that no definitive decision had been made in respect of the King Alfred and the Principal Solicitor explained that the primary element of the contract would be for works as opposed to services. Any long term development for the King Alfred site would be separately procured. This point would be made clear within the tender documentation. Councillor Davis also asked and received questions in relation to the means by which any break clause would operate.
- 13.3 Councillor Kennedy welcomed the proposed process noting the position in relation to the fact that as there had been significant increases in the cost of utilities that this was likely to be reflected in the tender submissions. The fact that potential increases to the contract fee might be able to be balanced in the event that the preferred operator had social enterprise trust status was also noted.
- 13.4 The Principal Solicitor to circulated report which tied down the procurement process to a timetable which was now under review. It was therefore proposed to make a minor change to the recommendations. The Cabinet Member agreed to the proposed amendment and this is incorporated in the minute set out below.
- 13.5 **RESOLVED** – (1) That approval be given by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Tourism that the council should prepare tender documents and carry out a procurement process with a view to re letting the leisure management contract with effect from 01 April 2011.
- (2) That approval be given by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Tourism that the council should include the King Alfred Leisure Centre in the procurement process and invite bids as a separately priced element of the wider contract.

The meeting concluded at 4.50pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of