

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 26 MAY 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Meadows (Chair), Wells (Deputy Chair), Barnett, Bowden, Buckley, Carden, Cobb, Davey, Deane, Farrow, Fitch, Follett, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hawtree, Hyde, Janio, Jarrett, Jones, Kennedy, J Kitcat, Lepper, Littman, MacCafferty, Marsh, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, A Norman, K Norman, Oxley, Peltzer Dunn, Pissaridou, Powell, Randall, Robins, Rufus, Shanks, Smith, Summers, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Turton, Wakefield, Wealls and West.

PART ONE

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1.1 The Mayor drew the Council's attention to Item No.3, Review of Members Allowances, on the agenda and stated that all councillors held a personal and prejudicial interest in the item. However, it was not practical to prevent them from voting on the matter and therefore all councillors had a general dispensation, in order to be able to consider and vote on the matter. She therefore sought agreement, which was given, to take the declaration of personal interests from all councillors as having been declared.
- 1.2 There were no other declarations of interest in matters appearing on the agenda.

2. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

- 2.1 The Mayor called for a minutes silence as a mark of respect for John Hutchinson who died the previous week and had been a former Honorary Alderman and Brighton Borough Councillor, representing Patcham Ward from 1979 to 1997.
- 2.2 The Mayor then reminded council that she expected all Members to adhere to Standing Orders and therefore expected them to use them accordingly when moving a motion or seeking a point of order.

3. REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

- 3.1 Councillor Littman introduced the report and stated that the Independent Remuneration Panel had recommended to the Governance Committee that the current Members' Allowances Scheme should be retained for 2011/12. He noted that the Panel intended

to undertake a further review once the decision-making structure was clear and stated that he wished to thank the Panel for their work to date.

- 3.2 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Littman on his maiden speech.
- 3.3 Councillor Randall stated that the Green Group fully supported the recommendations but wished to highlight three areas that it was hoped the Panel could take into account as part of their next review and with a view to reporting back to the council in the autumn. The three areas being:
- (i) the SRA's paid to deputy chairs of regulatory committees, i.e. Planning and Licensing which it was felt should attribute an SRA;
 - (ii) an urgent review of child care provision; and
 - (iii) support for carers.

He stated that the last two points were important as they affected current Members and a package needed to be identified which could form the basis for the future and thereby help to attract people into becoming councillors. He also wished to thank the Panel for their work and the officers involved, especially Angela Woodall, who supported the Panel and had brought the previous report to the council.

- 3.4 Councillor Peltzer Dunn stated that he believed the Panel did a very good job in reviewing the allowances and bringing forward recommendations. However, he was disappointed that the Panel did not support the payment of SRA's to deputy chairs, who he believed did undertake an important role and additional responsibilities which supported the payment of an SRA. He hoped that the panel would reconsider its recommendations in this respect.
- 3.5 Councillor Mitchell stated that the Labour Group supported the recommendations and looked forward to playing a full part in a further review.
- 3.6 Councillor Oxley welcomed Councillor Littman to the role of Chair of the Governance Committee and stated that as the outgoing Chairman he had been very well supported by officers. He believed it was important to look to the future and with a number of new Members to the council and to endeavour to develop an allowances scheme that could meet future needs. In regard to the role of deputy chairs, he felt that they provided an important role; they had to be able to take over at a meeting and ensure they were fully aware of various issues. He also felt that further consideration needed to be given to the formula proposed for setting the Leader's allowance; with the number of members in the group being taken into account it did not reflect the role of the Leader which remained constant whether there was a minority or majority administration.
- 3.7 The Mayor noted that there were no other speakers and that Councillor Littman did not wish to reply and therefore put the recommendations to the vote which were carried.
- 3.8 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That in view of the current economic climate the current Members' Allowances Scheme be retained and adopted for the 2011/12 municipal year with effect from the 20th May 2011; and

- (2) That the Panel's report be noted and a subsequent report be brought before the Council later in 2011/12 when the outcome of the Localism Bill would be known and a further review had been undertaken.

4. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

- 4.1 Councillor Davey introduced the report and stated that he welcomed the opportunity to speak as the Cabinet Member for Transport and Public Realm and to support the Local Transport Plan, which was a key strategic document. He wished to acknowledge the work to date in bringing the plan forward and hoped that the bids to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund would prove to be successful. However, he also wanted to ensure that there was an opportunity to debate fully the aspects of the plan and to enable a city-wide consultation and input into developing it for the benefit of the whole city.
- 4.2 Councillor Mitchell stated that the Labour Group supported the broad principles of the document but wanted to see an early and more detailed action plan for implementation. She felt that there had been a 4-year transport policy vacuum which needed to be addressed so that the public had a clear understanding of what was to be delivered and by when. She noted that the Green Group had not sought to amend the plan and would wait to see how matters were taken forward.
- 4.3 Councillor G Theobald welcomed the Cabinet Member's support for the plan which had been developed by the previous administration and questioned why at budget setting the Green Group had supported the removal of £1.1m funding from the plan for other projects. He stated that he would be watching carefully to see how the funding from Government would be spent on supporting transport projects across the city.
- 4.4 Councillor Davey noted the comments and stated that in reality there were aspects of the plan that everyone could support and others that there would be disagreements on. He hoped that as part of the transport policy review it would lead to an integrated plan for the future.
- 4.5 The Mayor then put the recommendations to the vote which were carried.
- 4.6 **RESOLVED:** That the draft of the Local Transport Plan as detailed in appendix 3 to the report be approved.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING

- 5.1 The Mayor then closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 5.05pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of