

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 15 DECEMBER 2016

COUNCIL CHAMBER - BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors West (Chair), Marsh (Deputy Chair), Allen, Atkinson, Barford, Barnett, Bell, Bennett, Bewick, Brown, Cattell, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gilbey, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Hyde, Inkpin-Leissner, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morgan, Morris, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Page, Peltzer Dunn, Penn, Phillips, Robins, Russell-Moyle, Simson, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls and Yates

PART ONE

41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 41.1 Councillor Mitchell declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 56 (c), Notice of Motion concerning NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan, as she was employed by the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust. However she had been granted dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to speak and vote on the item.
- 41.2 Councillor Yates declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 56 (c), Notice of Motion concerning NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan, as he worked for the Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. However he had been granted dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to speak and vote on the item.
- 41.3 Councillor Barford declared a personal interest in Item 56 (c), Notice of Motion concerning NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan, as she worked for St. Peter's & St James Hospice & Continuing Care Centre. However she had been granted dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to speak and vote on the item.
- 41.4 Councillor Atkinson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 56 (c), Notice of Motion concerning NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan, as he worked for the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and had been involved in meetings regarding the STP. He would therefore leave the chamber and take no part in the discussion or voting on the item.
- 41.5 Councillor Horan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 56 (c), Notice of Motion concerning NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan, as she worked for Here

a not for profit enterprise and NHS organisation. However she had been granted dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to speak and vote on the item.

- 41.6 Councillor Inkpin-Leissner declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 56 (c), Notice of Motion concerning NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan, as he. However he had been granted dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to speak and vote on the item.
- 41.7 No other declarations of interests in matters appearing on the agenda were made.

42 MINUTES

- 42.1 The minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on the 20th October 2016 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings, subject to noting that a revised voting record for item 39(f) Community Pharmacy Support had been circulated prior to the meeting and had been updated in the minutes.

43 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

- 43.1 The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that in the run up to Christmas he had been enjoying invitations to a number of Christmas lunches and dinners – all of which have been wonderful celebrations bringing people together. Yesterday he was delighted to help serve up lunch at Fairlight school and today joined older people at Thursday Lunch Club at St Richard's, Hangleton, for their Christmas lunch.
- 43.2 He noted that there was also a lot of excellent Carol singing to enjoy too, and last night he had a double bill with the University of Brighton Carol Service at St Laurence, Falmer quickly followed by the Sussex Beacon Carol Service in St Paul's West Street.
- 43.3 He stated that Members would be aware that there were a number of seasonal engagements coming up, and he hoped many of you will be able to attend. Tomorrow evening he was hosting the Mayor's Christmas Reception in The Brighthelm Centre at 7pm. We have entertainment lined up, and there will be some food, a pay bar and a charity raffle and silent auction. The hall has a bigger capacity than the Pavilion, so it has been possible to extend the guest list to include my chosen charities and many other members of the community. I hope it will be an enjoyable evening for everyone attending.
- 43.4 The Mayor stated that on Sunday he hoped councillors would be able to join him at the Annual Civic Carol Service at St Nicholas, the Parish Church of Brighton, starting at 6.30pm. This popular service was of course open to the public, but seating was at a premium so do be prompt. He also hoped that councillors would be able to attend the Civic Service on Monday in the Unitarian Church at 5.30pm. This service would be led by the Rev Jeff Jones with my Chaplain Rev Anthea Ballam.
- 43.5 He noted that on Wednesday 21st December there would be the annual Burning of the Clocks solstice celebration. This was always a spectacular event not to be missed and he hoped there would be good weather for it. While the event is free, Same Sky do have

to raise the considerable amount of funding it takes to put this on, so he would be there with a collection bucket seeking generous support from those enjoying the occasion.

- 43.6 Sticking with the festive theme, the Mayor stated that he would like to give a plug to the Impetus "No-One Should Be Lonely in Brighton and Hove" Christmas campaign. Impetus was one of his chosen charities and focused on addressing loneliness. Members would have received details about the campaign, including the scale and impact loneliness is having on people and society as a whole, and how to support their volunteer befriending and other schemes. In a similar vein One Church were co-ordinating 22 community partners supporting the Know Your Neighbour Christmas Card Campaign. Last year over 3,000 cards were distributed in the city through this project; helping neighbours bring a little cheer to someone who in their street they know may be on their own this Christmas. He stated that Cards were freely available and encouraged Members to check out the campaign website.
- 43.7 Finally, the Mayor stated that he wished to end on a celebratory note in congratulating the Martlets with the success of their Snowdogs-by-sea scheme, which has raised over £300,000 at auction and through donations, and also significantly raised awareness of The Martlets particularly with the younger generation. Well done to all who have worked so very hard on this tremendous achievement.

44 TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.

- 44.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from councillors and members of the public. He reminded the Council that petitions would be referred to the appropriate decision-making body without debate and the person presenting the petition would be invited to attend the meeting to which the petition was referred.
- 44.2 Mr. Hillier presented a petition signed by 204 people calling for a zebra or pelican crossing to be installed at Lovers Walk across the A23 and Preston Road.
- 44.3 Ms. Scales presented an e-petition signed by 165 people, concerning the provision of a memorial for the Battle of Boars Head.

45 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- 45.1 The Mayor reported that 5 written questions had been received from members of the public and invited Ms. Pepper to come forward and address the council.
- 45.2 Ms. Pepper asked the following question; "We are to see very deep, damaging cuts in this budget. The loss of the city's Youth Service being a prime example of a cut that in the long term will end up costing the city a lot more both financially and sociably.

What the residents of the city want to know is what is the Council actually doing to demand back the funding from Central Government? There must be a plan, or our city will bleed. Reassure us that you are doing everything possible. You must say no, as it is not enough to just 'make the sums fit'!"

- 45.3 Councillor Morgan replied; "I would like to reassure you that I do take every opportunity to speak up for our residents, their services, their council. I've made the case for the

government to change course on a number of occasions in recent weeks; on BBC Sussex, on Juice 107, in the Argus, in Brighton and Hove Independent, Meridian TV, Latest TV, Brighton and Hove City News and will again do so this weekend on BBC Sunday Politics. In addition I have written numerous blogs and articles for my own site and sites like Labour List. I've worked with colleagues on the LGA Labour executive and in turn with council colleagues from across the political spectrum in our representative body in making a united call for a better settlement. I've taken up the case with the shadow DCLG team on Labour front bench which includes former council leaders such as Jim McMarne the MP for Oldham. I've spoken directly with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and I've started a petition, with almost 1000 signatures so far, calling on the Government to reverse the £33 billion in tax cuts for the highest earners and the biggest multinationals companies which I would urge everyone to sign. In the New Year I will be making further representations directly to government ahead of the budget and I look forward to support from across this chamber and across this city and across politics in securing a better future for our local services."

- 45.4 Ms. Pepper asked the following supplementary question; "I'd like to know how you expect young people to continue to support local politics and get involved if you keep discrediting us and leaving us out of the picture?"
- 45.5 Councillor Morgan replied; "It certainly isn't the case that we are excluding or ignoring young people. I've got a long experience of working with young people through working with the Crewe club in my own ward and if nothing else, this example of the cuts being imposed on central government ought to encourage young people to speak up, to find their voice and fight these kind of cuts and to make representations directly to their Members of Parliament and to government to say these cuts are directly impacting us. There are no cuts left that this council can make which don't have an impact. If it's not youth services it would be one of the other 700 services that we provide. I've been saying in the representations to media that I've made over the last few weeks that we now face a situation where our social care bill is £150 million and that's £25 million more than we get in our total intake from council tax. So the situation now is desperate, the situation now is critical and I would welcome young people and indeed I will be inviting young people to participate in steps that I'll take in the new year to speak up to government."
- 45.6 The Mayor thanked Ms. Pepper for her questions and invited Mr. Furness to come forward and address the council.
- 45.7 Mr. Furness asked the following question; "Now that Hove Town Hall is once again able to host full Council and Committee meetings, can you please explain to us why, without any apparent warning, members of the public appear to have been excluded from the democratic process unless they have rung up the town hall the previous day and asked for a ticket of admittance?"
- 45.8 Councillor Hamilton replied; "Thank you for your question Mr. Furness and I'm pleased that you are happy to see Hove Town Hall being used for council meetings. You might be aware of the recent and unprecedented events that have raised concerns about the safety of public servants and as such it was felt appropriate to consider the safety of councillors, officers and those attending meetings in Hove Town Hall.

To this end, we are undertaking risk assessments for each council meeting and based on the information gathered will determine whether those members of the public wishing to attend and watch a meeting can be accommodated in the rear of the council chamber or directed to the public gallery and whether tickets will be issued.

I would point out that no decision has been taken to exclude members of the public from partaking in the democratic process; anyone wishing to ask a question or present a deputation can do so as long as they have met the required deadlines. The gallery is fully accessible and does have a flat access area to accommodate wheelchairs and free standing seating. The Council also allows for those members of the public with disabilities that would prevent them from using the public gallery to sit in the rear of the Council Chamber.”

- 45.9 Mr. Furness asked the following supplementary question; “I’m delighted to hear that Councillor Hamilton has said that disabled people will be able to sit at the rear of the council chamber but I cannot see what the difference is between Hove Town Hall and Brighton Town Hall. There have been spontaneous demonstrations outside today. People will be able to come in half an hour before and obtain tickets off the security. What has happened at Hove Town Hall is different, it denies the spontaneity of democracy in other words people hear that something is happening; I’m going to go along and see what’s happening there, they are not able to. I’d just like to conclude by saying I hope this is nothing to do with the very nasty rumours that the current Labour administration is looking forward to excluding the hoi polloi by having a cosy cabinet system.”
- 45.10 Councillor Hamilton replied; “As far as I’m aware and obviously I’m not a member of the ‘Leaders Group’ but my understanding is that tickets will only be required on very few rare occasions and that for most of our meetings that the public will still be able to come along in the usual manor and it’s only if the council feel that there is going to be a large demonstration or something of that sort that there will be the requirement or possibility of tickets. By all means when we have meetings at Hove Town Hall come along and I’m sure some of your colleagues will come along and on the majority of occasions, as far as I understand it, there will not be the need for contacting anybody for getting a ticket; you will need to just come in. I will get a complete clarification on the ticketing policy and send it to you.”
- 45.11 The Mayor thanked Mr. Furness for his questions and invited Mr. Jones to come forward and address the council.
- 45.12 Mr. Jones asked the following question; “While I am aware of the financial straightjacket the Government has placed upon this Administration, it beggars belief that funds cannot be found for Cityclean to sweep up the Autumn leaves on the pavements of key roads such as Somerhill Road in Hove, a road with two schools, a heavily over-subscribed medical centre, a home for the elderly and the entrance to a very busy park.

Can I ask Councillor Mitchell whether spending our scant resources on safeguarding vulnerable residents is more important than frittering them away on wholly unnecessary vanity projects such as the Stanmer Park and Valley Gardens?”

- 45.13 Councillor Mitchell replied; “The council has invested in four new additional mechanical sweepers that were introduced during the autumn they’re small and lightweight in design and are used to great effect on foot paths. In recent weeks Somerhill Road has been attended to by one of these new mechanical sweepers on the 9 November, 16 November, 29 November and 8 December. This area is also cleaned manually at least once a week by a member of the street cleansing team. Our street cleansing operatives work very hard keeping our streets as clean and tidy as possible for us. From 5am through to 10pm, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. It costs each household around £1/ week for the whole street cleansing service and performance levels compare very well with those of other councils across the country and to this effect our work force recently won the national award in recognition of the excellent service they provide and the challenges they face in relation to the Stanmer Park and Valley Gardens projects both which underwent a very rigorous bidding process and assessment to be awarded the money.”
- 45.14 The Mayor thanked Mr. Jones for his question and noted that Ms. Woodcock was unable to attend the meeting and therefore invited Councillor Bewick to send a written response to her.
- 45.15 The Mayor then invited Mr. Lowe to come forward and address the council.
- 45.16 Mr. Lowe asked the following question, “I would like to ask a question concerning proposal 2a of the 2017-18 budget proposal draft: The Financial Recovery Plan proposes a saving of £0.65m by reducing the spend on the Learning Disabilities Community Care Budget.

The detail of these savings is unclear and therefore the impact on people with learning disabilities is uncertain. There seems to be a commitment to provide services to those people with the most complex needs. What assurances can you give us that those of us with mild to moderate learning disabilities will not lose all of our support?”

- 45.17 Councillor Barford replied; “We continue to have commitment to provide support to eligible service users who have mild or moderate learning disabilities this is also a statutory requirement for us under the Care Act (2014) for all people with learning disabilities with eligible needs as you know we are facing a huge budget situation at present and have to do this differently whilst continuing to meet the needs of people that we have a duty to support. This will mean that there will be changes to some people’s current arrangements but we will work with them and support them through any change. We want to reassure eligible people with mild to moderate learning difficulties that they will definitely not lose all of their support but the support might look different in the future. It will have more of a focus on meeting our shared vision in the city and enabling people to lead independent and fulfilling lives and more details of this can be found in the four year council strategy published in 2015 ‘A Good, Happy and Healthy Life’ which, I think, you are familiar with but we can provide you with a copy if you would like one. We want to enable greater choice and independence and will encourage eligible service users to manage their direct payments wherever appropriate to provide support in the community. We know that as a council we can’t do this alone so we will work closely with the service user but also our partners in the city to enable people to meet their desired outcomes. This includes social and better activities as well as supporting and empowering people to gain access to work opportunities such as apprenticeships,

internships and other jobs. We are also assisting people with learning difficulties to live as independently as possible and we have piloted a project to support 'Move on' which has enabled a small number of people to access more independent housing and support. This has resulted in a significant financial saving but more importantly high levels of satisfaction from people with learning difficulties and their families involved. We are working with health colleagues and GPs to make sure that it's easier for people with learning difficulties to access the right health care for them and to have their needs better understood which we know is an issue for many people.

To summarise there will be a change to current provision for many people with mild to moderate learning difficulties but we remain committed to supporting them to live a happy, healthy and fulfilling life."

45.18 The Mayor thanked Mr. Lowe for his question and noted that concluded the item.

46 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- 46.1 The Mayor reported that one deputation had been received from members of the public and invited Mr. Hawtree as the spokesperson for the deputation to come forward and address the council.
- 46.2 Mr. Hawtree thanked the Mayor and stated that, "As you suggested Mr. Mayor, so this is Christmas but don't worry I shall not sing but it is another year over and what have we done? In Hove as you know it's been a horrible time for the Carnegie Library through a long winter and spring again but we have done something. Meanwhile Waterstones and City Books tell me business is splendid and people are clamouring for books. Shelves are full of tasty titles and people want to have them all but nobody can do that but in fact they can. Public libraries should be making these available and now during those 8 months many Carnegie readers and at the branch libraries remark that so often the books they want turn out to be in Brighton and have to be summoned at £1 a go. The Carnegie is no longer afford the status it once had but how simple it would be to introduce substantial shelves labelled new books – a real draw. Meanwhile though there is also dismay at the way in which the standard of Carnegie's fiction shelves have fallen. Browsers naturally have dropped as prospects for delivery faulted there. Moreover, readers are now told to order or suggest new books online but if one makes a suggestion that way one is not altered when a book arrives. This happen to me with Fiona Stafford's great book 'On the Long, Long Life of Trees' and Alan Benett's Diaries which contain much on libraries and he points out they should be local not an expedition. Indeed Fiona Stafford's book had not been bought back in March by the libraries. Book selection is now made by the wholesaler Bertrams. There is no longer local connection with book choice and this demoralised many of the staff so much so that they felt undervalued and took redundancy this year. They have been increasingly dismayed to open the boxes from Bertrams at the Carnegie and find the books allocated to it and they know readers do want books, these are always top of survey's and Carnegie's figures will increase if and I hope when the stock improves as it used to be. Another example Bertrams recently asserted that Gerard Reve's 'The Evenings' was not yet published but this great Dutch novel now translated after 70 years is indeed published and receiving much attention. So Bertrams told about this relied to say supermarkets get books first, not them. Well it would be a very different world if that Dutch novel were to appear in supermarkets here, we can but hope perhaps. There has

also been the matter of missed catalogue books which have had to be redone and compensation sought from Bertram and similarly the surreal case to faded inoperable barcodes being applied by them and also needing to be redone. Now all this is happening amidst a budget which posits a 25% cut in the book fund something which mysteriously is now longer ring fenced as part of the PFI deal and so with all these considerations in mind we the deputation ask that a report be brought to the January committee to set out the way in which book selection has been allowed to slip from this authorities grasp and to consider bringing it back in house as a very real way of helping to meet budget targets. Crucially this would also improve librarian and reader moral and let us emphasise once again the great work done by librarians and lament what is being taken out of their hands. So Mister Mayor if good books do become regularly available at the Carnegie and the branch libraries we could meet another seasonal hope that of 'I wish it could be Christmas everyday' again Mister Mayor I shall not sing but I should like to say that in the next fortnight after all we have been put through this past year that we are forming a constituted friends of the Carnegie group during the coming holiday fortnight and although we were denigrated by this administration we've been inspired by Radio Sussex's commendation in its recent community heroes awards and so Mister Mayor perhaps this friends group could prove to be the gift that keeps on giving. All I need to say now Mister Mayor and I'm sure that you'll agree that books should be and can be so easily be the vital beating heart of our libraries and like the heart they do their work for themselves they continue to work down the years."

46.3 Councillor Robins replied, "There are approximately 400,000 items in our libraries in stock across Brighton and Hove City Libraries and 370,000 of these are books. This is above average for comparable groups in library authorities across all libraries 90% of the stock is book stock. In the 2014 to 2015 survey 78% of respondents at the Jubilee library and 77% of respondents at Hove Library and 84% of respondents at the community libraries said the book stock was good or very good. Latest comparative information with the nearest neighbours published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy just this week on 12 December found Brighton and Hove City Council Libraries spent above average on new books and other library materials £2281/thousand population compared with an average of £1437/thousand population. Spend above average on new books and other materials as a percentage of the gross expenditure; 10.6% compared with an average of 8.7%. Purchased 203 new items of new stock per thousand population compared with an average of 142 making us the 2nd highest in the survey. Has above average number of books in stock per thousand population 1457 compared with an average 1338 making us 6 out of 15 and an above average number of audio, visual and electrical items in stock; 45,362 compared with an average of 30, 993. Has above average issue of books per annum 982,869 compared with an average of 895, 810. So although there is always room for improvement but according to these figures we don't do too badly at all."

46.4 The Mayor thanked Mr. Hawtree for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. He explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Economic Development & Culture for consideration. The persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action to be taken or proposed in relation to the matter set out in the deputation. The Mayor noted that this concluded the item.

47 TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS FOR THE DEPUTY MAYOR-ELECT FOR 2017-18

- 47.1 The Mayor sought nominations for the Deputy Mayor-elect for the municipal year 2017/18; and called on Councillor G. Theobald.
- 47.2 Councillor G. Theobald nominated Councillor Dee Simson to be the Deputy Mayor-elect for 2017/18.
- 47.3 Councillor Wealls formally seconded the nomination.
- 47.4 The Mayor noted that there were no other nominations and therefore put the motion that Councillor Simson be the Deputy Mayor-elect for 2017/18 to the vote which was carried unanimously.
- 47.5 The motion was **agreed**.

48 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- 48.1 The Mayor reminded Council that written questions from Members and the replies from the appropriate Councillor were taken as read by reference to the list included in the addendum which had been circulated as detailed below:

(a) Councillor Miller

- 48.2 “Will Cllr Moonan endeavour to investigate innovative ways Scandinavian cities such as Copenhagen help rough sleepers into homes, work and a healthier way of life, for example by promoting recycling collection: and will she explore how such methods or best practice parts of them could be transposed to Brighton and Hove in order to help our rough sleepers?”

Reply from Councillor Moonan – Lead Member for Rough Sleeping

- 48.3 “Thank you for your question and interest in rough sleeping. In the summer of this year a new city wide Rough Sleeping Strategy was published. It was developed by a city wide partnership between Brighton and Hove City Council, Sussex Police, local NHS organisation, Brighton Housing Trust, St Mungo’s, Equinox and YMCA Downlink. This strategy was informed by the best and most effective practice we could find from across the city, the wider country and beyond.

The priorities of the strategy are:

1. Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping
2. Rapid Assessment and reconnection
3. Improving health
4. A Safe city
5. Pathways to Independence

We are happy to look into any additional innovative ways to help reduce rough sleeping, including those from Scandinavian cities and incorporate them into implementation of the strategy.”

(b) Councillor K. Norman

- 48.4 “World Autism Awareness Week takes place from 27th March to 2nd April 2017 so what plans does the Council have to promote and support this event and what will the Council be doing within schools to use the packs the National Autistic Society has created to raise awareness of autism so that as many people as possible learn and understand autism?”

Reply from Councillor Bewick – Chair of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee

- 48.5 “As part of our ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of children, young people and adults with autistic spectrum conditions (ASC) in the city and to promote World Autism Awareness Week we will be offering a range of events, talks and exhibitions for parents, carers and professionals. These will take place in venues across the city. You may recall that we also facilitated such events last year.

In addition, as part of our support to schools, we will be encouraging schools to use a range of materials to offer fun, imaginative lessons, activities and assemblies to raise children and young people’s awareness of autism, developing their understanding and promoting acceptance.”

(c) Councillor G. Theobald

- 48.6 “How can Cllr. Morgan justify launching a petition to Government, on behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council, when he runs a minority Administration and has no authority to do so under the Council’s Constitution?”

Reply from Councillor Morgan – Leader of the Council

- 48.7 “There is no constitutional bar to me setting up a petition in my own name.”

(d) Councillor G. Theobald

- 48.8 “In October 2012, P&R Committee agreed to purchase and install Automatic Meter Reading equipment for water, gas, electricity and heat metered supplies in schools, housing blocks and other corporate property. In the light of recent concerns raised about water leakages on Council-owned allotments, will the Lead Member for Finance & Resources confirm whether or not energy and water usage, and hence running costs, have reduced as a result of the contract?”

Reply from Councillor Hamilton – Deputy Chair (Finance) of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

- 48.9 “Following Policy & Resources approval in 2012 a total of 760 electricity, gas and water AMRs (automatic meter reading equipment) have now been installed across the council’s operational portfolio which are actively monitored by the Property & Design Energy & Water team. Not all meters have been installed with AMRs as some site locations were subsequently found to be unsuitable due to poor signal levels. AMRs monitor energy or water consumption on a half hourly basis with a daily upload to the

council's monitoring software and have successfully contributed to a continuing reduction in our energy and water consumption.

Water AMR

Since installation of the water AMRs, the Energy & Water team have used the technology to identify several major long-standing water leaks many of which have been resolved and some of which are in the process of investigation and resolution. It should be noted that whilst AMRs will flag that a leak is present an investigation still has to take place to identify where the leak is occurring and to arrange the repair. On sites such as parks and allotments with potentially several hundred metres of pipe run and more than one leak this can be problematic and can involve specialist companies using gas detection techniques to find the leak. On sites with aged pipework disturbing the ground to repair one leak may in turn cause another to occur. Our annual property performance indicator results show a continuing reduction in water use of 21.8% in m³/m² of floor area.

Energy AMR

The benefit of AMRs to energy meters is more around monitoring consumption and detecting unusual consumption patterns for example heating systems operating when buildings are unoccupied. The Energy & Water team have been working with our mechanical team and with site managers to identify unusual patterns in the AMR data for specific high volume buildings and to carry out tests of the heating systems to determine a cause and value for money solution which is an on-going process. Our annual property performance indicator results show a continuing reduction in energy consumption of 29% in kWh/m² since 2012.

AMRs also assist the council in bill validation, improving the accuracy of bills and reducing our costs for example through the CRC Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme where the council is penalised for relying on estimated billing."

(e) Councillor Cobb

48.10 "How much money has the Council spent on paper and other stationery each year over the last 10 years or as far back as records go?"

Reply from Councillor Hamilton – Deputy Chair (Finance) of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

48.11 "I have set out below the information from our General Ledger system for the Detail Code 'Office Stationery'. I have included the last 10 years plus spend to date for the current year."

	Office Stationery (code DD030)
2005/06	889,009.72
2006/07	984,513.00
2007/08	848,901.37
2008/09	687,839.44

2009/10	632,630.10
2010/11	594,339.71
2011/12	438,563.23
2012/13	413,688.42
2013/14	369,745.24
2014/15	335,885.50
2015/16	304,403.13
2016/17 to date	<u>138,828.20</u>
Total Spend	<u>6,638,347.06</u>

49 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

49.1 The Mayor noted that nine oral questions had been received and that 30 minutes were set aside for the duration of the item. He also noted that Councillor Page had decided to withdraw his question.

(a) Council Budget and Government Funding

49.2 The Mayor then invited Councillor G. Theobald to put his question to the Leader of the Council.

49.3 Councillor G. Theobald asked the following question, "I'd like the Leader of the Council to explain how his Administration will identify a more reliable, transparent, timely and scientific approach to forecasting service pressures to assist with future budget development."

49.4 Councillor Morgan replied; "On a day when Councillor Theobald's government has delivered an axe to schools funding, offered nothing in terms of easing the cuts on services provided by this council and has applied less than a sicking plaster to the gaping wound of social care funding. So for him to ask me when we've had this last minutes announcement around funding to provide some kind of better forecast I'm really at a loss as to how to answer that."

49.5 Councillor G. Theobald asked the following supplementary question, "As Councillor Morgan knows full well there are three budget lines and generally speaking it's those three services which are over spent. I mean I could go on, I believe he has written answer there which he's waiting to put out to you all. I had a specific question and it was a sensible question which deserved a sensible answer and I would just remind Councillor Morgan that on a blog he sent out on the 5 August where gave 5 reasons Mr Corbyn would lead labour to defeat the councillor said 'I want to be part of a party that strives for the power to deliver a better city and a better country not a movement which shouts at a perpetual Conservative government in the town hall and in the Commons'. Well that is exactly what Councillor Morgan is doing, stop blaming everything on the government, get on with running the council and give me a straight forward answer to my question."

49.6 Councillor Morgan replied, "I am again slightly at a loss for words when Councillor Theobald must know unless he's deaf to what his Conservative council colleague

including Lord Porter the Conservative Head of the LGA is saying about the social care crisis which is affecting all top tier authorities in this country. He doesn't like to hear it about his own government but I'm going to tell him about his own government. It is this government that is wrecking social care that is wrecking council funding, local government funding, for Labour councils, for Conservative Councils a like up and down the country. If he cannot listen to commentators, to council leaders to chief executives, to people from the social care sector that something has to be done about the social care crisis in this country then I really despair at Councillor Theobald's attempts to try and score political points off of us here tonight. This is no longer a party political issue this is a serious issue about social care funding in this country and it needs to be addressed urgently."

(b) City Clean Performance

49.7 The Mayor noted that the question had been withdrawn.

(c) Support for Parents with Learning Difficulties

49.8 Councillor Wealls asked the following question, "Given the comprehensive set of positive response to the impetus work on highlighting the support needs and opportunities for parents with learning difficulties in the fairness commission response report we saw at Policy, Resources & Growth Committee last week and our commitment to bring our practises in line with the Department of Health good practice guide it was a really good positive response to those representations and my congratulations to the administration for that.

My question is what processes and steps does Councillor Bewick and colleagues intend to take to ensure that we're up to date in progress against these objectives and in particular noting how many people are awaiting assessment under the care act?"

49.9 Councillor Barford replied; "I'd like to thank Councillor Wealls for raising this issue today hopefully I can answer all of your questions but some were quite specific so if I can't a full response will obviously follow. I'd also like to thank the Fairness Commission for their work and highlighting this issue in the first place.

We're absolutely committed to offering the best possible support to our families where parents have learning disabilities to enable them to bring their children up successfully. Our aim is to reduce the number of parents with a learning disability who have looked after children. However we recognise that it can be necessary for a child to become looked after, as our absolute need is to ensure the wellbeing and safety of the child. The large majority of parents with a learning disability raise their children themselves sometimes with additional support and sometimes without. To give some background, figures of cases open at 31 March 2016, 39 of 436 looked after children in the city have a parental learning disability record as a factor in their assessment. This equates to just under 9% of all looked after children. Of the 188 who began to be looked after during the year ending 30 November 2016, 15 had parental learning disability recorded as a factor in their looked after child review this is nearly 8%. It is important to note that children classified as a looked after children do also include children that are residing in placement with their parents but despite the relative small number of parents with a learning disability whose children become looked after, we know we need to improve our

offer to them. As the proportion of families subject to escalating intervention increases slightly if the parent or parents have a learning disability so the provision of services may be able to help with but not always fully mitigate some of the multiple vulnerabilities experienced by people with a learning disability.

Following on from the Fairness Commission's report we are reviewing our current work practices. We recognise there are things we could do such as early support for example access to good sex education and contraceptive advice, parenting support and education, and clear and easily accessible communications regarding universal. Alongside this we're in the process of drafting a joint assessment protocol between adults and children as a point of statutory social work as it is necessary in assessing the safety of the child. We're also anticipating this as a joint protocol ready in spring 2017 and we're also doing more joined up working with the learning team coming together under a new directorate this November, Families, Children & Learning. We've also delivered training on good practice and we will continue to monitor data and information so we can evaluate the success of actions and adjust our approach accordingly"

49.10 Councillor Wealls asked the following supplementary question, "Thank you for that extremely comprehensive answer. I actually brought this up as I think we as a council have some very ambitious targets for parents with learning difficulties and I just wanted to make sure that everyone was aware of the work that was going on within the Fairness Commission. My question was really around processes for checking progress against those objectives. I appreciate you giving me lots of stats but what I'm interested in is how we keep a tab as politicians on what's going and the support that given to those parents."

49.11 Councillor Barford replied, "It is absolutely important to officers and councillors alike, as well as the general public, that they do need to know how we are keeping up with progress so we are happy to bring a report to the Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee, due to the Fairness Commission coming through that process, but also to the Health and Wellbeing Board."

(d) Waste & Recycling

49.12 Councillor Deane asked the following question, "There appears to be a culture in the city that our communal waste and recycling facilities are a repository for large items of rubbish and usable household items and this can lead to perfectly usable items being taken unnecessarily to the incinerator. So my question to Councillor Mitchell is can you please tell me when we can expect to see signage on communal bins warning in large writing that fly tipping is illegal and for useable items directing residents to alternatives such as Freecycle sites?"

49.13 Councillor Mitchell replied; "Policy, Resources & Growth Committee last week gave permission for the purchase of a large number of new communal bins and this will give us the opportunity to place stickers on those bins warning about fly tipping but also I hope containing the type of information that you have suggested. We are already looking at recycling or helping to reuse some of the items which are tipped around the bins and this working is starting imminently."

49.14 Councillor Deane asked the following supplementary question, “Councillor Mitchell when residents contact the council and they ask for large items to be collected why is it that they are not asked questions around that such as are they moving house and whether they know about the Freecycle sites or charity shops and whether they have considered donating to charity or other alternatives?”

49.15 Councillor Mitchell replied, “When residents do contact the call centre to ask about how large items can be disposed of they usually want a quick answer which would direct them to our website which does indeed offer other options or they would be given advice as to cost and so on of disposal. I think residents should and do get advice as to other avenues to disposing of these items and I will ensure that that advice is being given.”

(e) Remembrance Day Parade

49.16 Councillor Barnett asked the following question, “Over the last few weeks so many people have got in touch with me expressing their disappointment at the decision not to stage a Remembrance Day parade in Hove this year. So many young men and women have fought in the wars right across the world and it is vitally important that we continue to remember them especially for their families and friends. Cllr Morgan as leader of the council will you promise to do everything you can to ensure that the parade returns to the streets of hove next year?”

49.17 Councillor Morgan replied; “I would remind Councillor Barnett that decisions on Remembrance events are taken not by the Administration but by the Leaders Group on which her leader sits and in conjunction with the Royal British Legion. We have discussed and agreed steps to address the reduction in available resources across the legion, the council and the police to safely organise the range of remembrance events which has grown in recent years but which now is not sustainable so those discussion will continue via the Leaders Group and with the Legion on what can be maintained for next year.”

49.18 Councillor Barnett asked the following supplementary question, “The local authority do organise the Remembrance services, you’re the Leader of the Council and you have the power to bang heads together and influence people, so I ask you again to do all you can to bring back the parade to Hove next year. I remind you that you are the Leader of the whole city council and I am afraid this is another example of Hove losing out to Brighton.”

49.19 Councillor Morgan replied, “This is dealt with in a cross-party way. I do hope that Councillor Barnett isn’t trying to make a party political issue from Remembrance events in whatever form they take we must continue to respect and mark the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in conflict and that should never be an opportunity to score party political points. This is something we took forward through officers with the Legion on an absolutely non-party basis.”

(f) Housing Maintenance

49.20 Councillor Mears asked the following question, “Will the Chair of Housing bring forward a cross party review of the housing management contract following on from the concerns she has raised publicly that the 10 year contract let under our Conservative

administration is in her words a 'light touch contract'. In my view a worrying statement and I'm sure something she would want to look into in more detail."

49.21 Councillor Meadows replied; "Councillor Mears you have thrown me as someone who did set this contract up, as a light touch contract. I am aware that it was some time ago and you may have forgotten. As you know the services for repairs and improvement are under a 10 year contract valued at around £20million per annum so I have no problem with the procurement board as a cross party group looking at this contract in its usual due course process."

49.22 Councillor Mears asked the following supplementary question, "I would just like to remind Councillor Meadows that I did actually do some very detailed checking when she started making these comments and I also checked with our previous Chair of Housing who was very concerned with the statements now being made and who is very clear that the details of the contract ensured that safeguards were put in place including that pre and post inspections would be undertaken by council surveyors not as it appears now by the contractor and I would hope the chair of housing would agree that all the elements now need to be looked at by Members including over payments."

49.23 Councillor Meadows replied, "I quite agree Councillor there have been a number of concerns around the Mears contract and I do know that when that contract is due the procurement cross party advisory board will be looking at that contact extremely closely."

(g) Tourism

49.24 Councillor Peltzer Dunn asked the following question, "Would the Chair of the Economic Development & Culture Committee advice the council how the city utilises visitor numbers data to introduce/ revise tourism policies?"

49.25 Councillor Robins replied;

"I am baffled by some of the data we get particularly about day visitors, I'm not 100% certain about how many day visitors we got and at present I am trying very best to pick it to pieces to find out how they do come up with the figures. I mean how do they know we had 10 million people in 2014 and 9.1 million people in 2015? The data is provided by Visit South East who tell me they use something called the Cambridge model which even when you see it is difficult to understand. I got a feeling they talk to coach operators and organised visitors and then multiply that up to say how many people we had visiting and if that's true we really need to understand the data and how it's provided to what we do to do to use that data to making it a better visitor offer. So at the moment I am quite like you a bit in the dark but I am doing my very best to try and find out."

49.26 Councillor Peltzer Dunn asked the following supplementary question, "On the 13 October Councillor Robins was advised by officers in this council 'we don't have a breakdown by season or month on the leisure side of tourism, I'm looking into whether we have business tourism data by month and will follow up with this information as soon as possible'. I think that is very important in having data unless we do something with it. Could I ask if Councillor Robins would please undertake within the next few months to come back with a detailed response and maybe a plan as to how we use the data?"

49.27 Councillor Robins replied, "I thought I did say that is what I was going to do. At the moment we are trying to analyse exactly what the data means because there is no point doing something if you don't know what you're doing. We are trying to fully understand the data so we can know how to best use it."

(h) Affordable Homes

49.28 Councillor Wares asked the following question, "Would the Chair of Housing & New Homes confirm that contrary to officer's comments yesterday commuted sums from developers will not be used to build the first 500 council homes promised by Labour during elections? For example the council yesterday agreed to take £1.2 million from Quest homes in lieu of them providing 8 affordable homes on their private development. Would it not therefore be reasonable for us to expect that we will now have 508 new council homes built being as the original 500 promised plus the 8 we are taking the cash for? Of course the more commuted sums we take the more Council homes over 500 we should expect."

49.29 Councillor Meadows replied; "I can confirm that the 266 that are in the pipeline at the moment towards our 500 council rented homes are not through commuted sums. However I understand that at planning yesterday –of which I am not a member- it was discussed the commuted sums could in the future be used on any development. So yes of course we could possibly use it and get 1508 homes with our new joint delivery vehicle as well."

49.30 Councillor Wares asked the following supplementary question, "I am grateful for the Chair for effectively confirming that in making its promise to build 500 council homes Labour clearly had no idea how it would do it and is now going to be relying on developers to pay this council cash to fund that original 500. Perhaps Councillor Meadows would be so kind as to confirm that in all honesty unless this council takes millions from developers in return for them not having to provide affordable homes the promise by Councillor Morgan to build 500 council homes cannot be met?"

49.31 Councillor Meadows replied, "The council have been using and borrowing money outside of the section 106 money on planning policy and we have had not had to use any commuted sums at all however we do want to continue with our wonderful building programme and if we can use that money effectively to build more council rented home of course we will do so."

(i) Major Works

49.32 Councillor Bell asked the following question, "Would the Chair of Housing confirm that following on from real concerns from lease holders right across the city at the excessive charges that are expected to be paid to the council for major works that she will call for a full and transparent review of major works?"

49.33 Councillor Meadows replied; "We have major works that are billed to lease holders that are subject to a higher level of scrutiny by quantity surveyors both in Mears and in house than responsive repairs and any contractor employed in subject to a quotation system where they are assessed for value for money. Costs and final accounts are scrutinised

by quantity surveyors before recharging lease holders. The council operates transparently when it comes to billing lease holders. The interim charge is solely for repair for the year ahead and does not include provision for future capital costs. This ensures that the interim charge is low and stable rather than variable as you may know when major works are planned a fully compliant consultation process is carried out and lease holders are notified of the estimated charge to them for that work separately. It is for the lease holders to put money aside if they wish to do so and not give it to the council in advance however we have in place flexible payment options for resident lease holders who have difficulty in paying for high cost works for the major works process the council asset team provides an initial brief for a major works project and requests a quotation from consultants for a feasibility report. The initial brief and the request for the quotation is then sent to the Brighton & Hove City Council's specified consultant. Once received this quotation is forwarded to both the council's asset team and the quantity surveyors for approval, if approved the consultant will then write and submit a feasibility report. If the feasibility report is approved and the project as a whole is approved they then hand it over to the housing contract compliance team for management. Once a quotation has been confirmed and approved work on the specification begins with the council's quantity surveyors. Once the specification is approved it is also used to tender works prior to an agreement of an agreed maximum price and a section 20 lease holder consultation. Once a section 20 lease holder consultation is completed a task order is authorised and pre-start resident meetings are arranged and works are quality managed at every stage and costs are reviewed monthly.

I'm not sure what extra could be added to that process Councillor Bell"

49.34 Councillor Bell asked the following supplementary question, "If the answer I have just been given was actually implemented then we wouldn't have the issues or the problems we have throughout the city. These are only a sample of the emails which Councillor Meadows has received. I've had complaints about the way lease holders are being treated, about works being carried out, inspected and signed off by Mears which are either incomplete or not of a satisfactory standard and this is throughout the city.

I would be very interested to know if the Chair of Housing is prepared to set up a group just to look at major works or perhaps even via the Chief Executive that this should be done to take a delegation from us to discuss this. These are our city tenants and tax payers who are being abused. I would like a report on this and would Councillor Meadows please answer the emails which she has been receiving."

49.35 Councillor Meadows replied, "There is a very clear and equally thorough complaints process and those people could also go to a tribunal. There are processes in place for each and every stage of their complaints."

50 CALL OVER FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

(a) Callover

50.1 The following items on the agenda were reserved for discussion:

- Item 51 - Council Tax Reduction Review
- Item 52 - Review of the Code of Conduct for Members

- Item 55 - Housing Delivery Options – Living Wage Joint Venture
- Item 57 - Housing Delivery Options – Living Wage Joint Venture – Exempt Category 3

(b) Receipt and/or Approval of Reports

50.2 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that Items 51, 52, 55 and 57 had been reserved for discussion;

50.3 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that the following reports on the agenda with the recommendations therein had been approved and adopted:

- Item 53 - Gambling Act 2005 – Revised Policy 2016
- Item 54 - Customer Feedback Report

(c) Oral Questions from Members

50.4 The Mayor noted that there were no oral questions relating to those items that had not been called.

51 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION REVIEW

51.1 Councillor Hamilton introduced the report which detailed the outcome of a review of the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme for 2017/18 as required by legislation. He noted that in the current financial year the council was absorbing approximately £2.468m of the scheme costs within the General Fund. He also stated that he wished to move an amendment to the recommendations of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee which were detailed in the extract included with the addendum papers. The amendment was intended to clarify the position for 2017/18 so that all claimants were treated equally.

51.2 Councillor Mitchell formally seconded the amendment.

51.3 Councillor Sykes stated that the Green Group had abstained from voting at the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee meeting, and he had hoped that the means to support those in need could be found. However, as things stood he could not support the recommendations as a significant number of households remained affected. He noted that there was a discretionary fund available and hoped that those affected would be directed to that. He also felt that there was an increased risk of more people becoming homeless.

51.4 Councillor Wealls stated that it was a difficult decision and that the council needed to look at service pressures across the board and consider the best way forward.

51.5 Councillor Page stated that he was uncomfortable about the scheme, there were a number of people on low incomes who were really struggling and they needed support. He was not sure that this was being provided.

51.6 Councillor Hamilton stated that the council was putting in £3.9m to help residents and that the amendment clarified the position for all claimants.

51.7 The Mayor noted that the recommendations of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee as amended had been moved and put them to the vote was carried by 23 votes to 20 with 10 abstentions as detailed below:

		For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
1	Allen	✓			Marsh	✓		
2	Atkinson	✓			Meadows	✓		
3	Barford	✓			Mears			Ab
4	Barnett			Ab	Miller			Ab
5	Bell			Ab	Mitchell	✓		
6	Bennett			Ab	Moonan	✓		
7	Bewick	✓			Morgan	✓		
8	Brown			Ab	Morris	✓		
9	Cattell	✓			Nemeth			Ab
10	Chapman	✓			Norman A			Ab
11	Cobb			Ab	Norman K			Ab
12	Daniel	✓			O'Quinn	✓		
13	Deane		X		Page		X	
14	Druitt		X		Peltzer Dunn			Ab
15	Gibson		X		Penn	✓		
16	Gilbey	✓			Phillips		X	
17	Greenbaum		X		Robins	✓		
18	Hamilton	✓			Russell-Moyle	✓		
19	Hill	✓			Simson			Ab
20	Horan	✓			Sykes		X	
21	Hyde			Ab	Taylor			Ab
22	Inkpin-Leissner	✓			Theobald C			Ab
23	Janio			Ab	Theobald G			Ab
24	Knight	Not Present			Wares			Ab
25	Lewry			Ab	Wealls			Ab
26	Littman		X		West		X	

27	Mac Cafferty		X		Yates	✓		
					Total	23	10	20

51.8 RESOLVED:

- (1) That it be noted that the Council undertook formal consultation as a part of this review and that as part of the formal consultation a draft scheme was published and people were invited to give their views on that scheme;
- (2) That the outcome of that consultation (appendix 1) which has been summarised in section 5.4 of the report be noted;
- (3) That it be noted that an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) (appendix 2) has been undertaken on the proposed changes in the draft scheme and the recommendations in this report. It should further note that, to meet their Public Sector Equality Duty, Members must give conscientious consideration to the findings of this assessment when making a decision on the recommendations in 2.9.1 to 2.9.6 [5.1 – 5.6 below]. The actions which will be undertaken as a result of this EIA are set out in section 7.13;
- (4) That the Executive Director of Finance and Resources be authorised to amend the council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Persons who are not Pensioners) (Brighton and Hove City Council) 2013 to reflect the changes at 2.9 to 2.9.6 of the report [5 - 5.6 below] and to take all steps necessary and incidental to the introduction of the revised scheme.

Proposed changes to scheme from 1st April 2017

- (5) That the changes set out in 2.9.1 – 2.9.4 of the report [5.1 - 5.6 below] are made to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Persons who are not Pensioners) (Brighton & Hove City Council) 2013 to take effect from 1 April 2017. (These changes are set out in more detail in 4.3 of the report).
 - 5.(1) Change the taper rate from 20p to 25p.
 - 5.(2) To limit maximum CTR to the equivalent available for Band D property.
 - 5.(3) Change the minimum CTR payable to £5.00 per week.
 - 5.(4) Between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018 transitional protection will be applied so that no one will be worse off by more than £10 per week as a result of the provision in 2.9.2. This transitional protection will be reviewed and consideration given whether to extend it beyond 31st March 2018 when the CTR scheme is next reviewed in 2017.
 - 5.(5) As per the four year budget plan previously agreed at February 2016 Budget Council and presented in the three year saving plan on this agenda the

permanent budget funding used to support the Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Scheme to be set at a £0.055m for 2017/18. A further £0.095m will be set aside from the Welfare Reform reserve to provide £0.150m discretionary funds overall.

- 5.(6) Amend the Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Brighton & Hove City Council) 2016 so that people who would otherwise qualify for council tax reduction were it not for the provision in 2.9.3 [5.3 above] (£5.00 minimum CTR) can apply for Discretionary Council Tax Reduction.

52 REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

- 52.1 Councillor A. Norman introduced the report which detailed a range of proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct for Members. She stated that the proposals had been developed by a cross-party working group and were endorsed by the Audit & Standards Committee. She hoped that Members would take these on board and that the changes would make it simpler for them in regard to their roles and responsibilities. She noted that the proposed changes also gave a greater discretion to the Monitoring Officer in regard to standards complaints and investigations and clarified the position of Members, which she hoped they would find helpful.
- 52.2 Councillor Sykes welcomed the report and the revised code of conduct.
- 52.3 Councillor Moonan stated that the Code of Conduct was a very important document in regard to upholding public office. She hoped that it would help to set the tone of debate, whereby there could be disagreement without people being disagreeable. She welcomed the work of the cross-party working group and hoped that all Members would adhere to the revised scheme.
- 52.4 Councillor Robins welcomed the report and drew attention to the helpful flow-charts relating to declarations of interest and recommended the training courses put on by officers to all Members.
- 52.5 Councillor Page also welcomed the report and the work undertaken by the cross-party working group and noted that there had been a number of declarations of interest earlier in the meeting in relation to one particular item. As such he hoped that the revised Code of Conduct took account of the nature of public service and the need for independence as part of the role in decision-making.
- 52.6 Councillor A. Norman noted the comments and thanked the contributors to the debate. She stated that the changes were not intended to control Members but to make the process as simple as possible to ensure that Members could abide by the Code of Conduct.
- 52.7 The Mayor noted that the recommendations of the Audit & Standard Committee had been moved and put them to the vote, which was agreed.
- 52.8 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the draft revised Code of Conduct for Members referred by Audit and Standards Committee, be approved for implementation with immediate effect and;
- (2) That delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer to take appropriate measures to implement the revised Code and to assist existing and new Members with understanding and applying it, including via training.

53 GAMBLING ACT 2005 - REVISED POLICY 2016

- 53.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Revised Gambling Policy (as appended to the report and as agreed at the meeting of the Licensing Committee) be approved and adopted.

54 CUSTOMER FEEDBACK REPORT

- 54.1 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

55 HOUSING DELIVERY OPTIONS - LIVING WAGE JOINT VENTURE

- 55.1 Councillor Meadows introduced the report which detailed the proposal from Hyde Housing Association to develop a Living Wage Joint Venture with the council to acquire land and develop new homes for lower cost rental and sale for low income working households in the city. She thanked Councillor Gibson for referring the report to the council and stated that it was intended to work in partnership with a reputable Housing Association to provide much needed homes in the city. She also noted that it would create a number of jobs and apprenticeships and hoped that councillors would support the venture.
- 55.2 Councillor Druitt stated that there was a need to consider the affordability of the homes and noted that consideration would need to be given to rent levels if they were to directly help those in the city on low incomes.
- 55.3 Councillor Wealls stated that he had questioned the need for the information contained in the part 2 report at the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee meeting to remain confidential. He was not sure that it was commercially sensitive, and hoped that there would be sufficient challenge to ensure the scheme was the appropriate way forward.
- 55.4 The Mayor asked the Monitoring Officer to clarify the position with regard the part 2 appendix that had been circulated with the agenda papers.
- 55.5 The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that the information contained in the appendix related to the financial business of the company and as such came under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. He stated that the Chief Executive had consulted with the company's chief executive with regard to the information being made public; however he had confirmed that it was their intellectual property and as such he wished that it remained confidential.
- 55.6 Councillor Penn referred to her own family's experience in terms of housing and noted the city was facing a housing crisis and anything that could be done to address that should be as people were faced with unaffordable rent levels. She therefore welcomed

the work that Councillor Hill had undertaken to bring forward the joint venture and hoped that it would come to fruition and provide needed homes for people in the city.

- 55.7 Councillor Mears stated that she had been concerned to see a pink paper on the council agenda and noted that when the report had been considered at the Housing & New Homes Committee, the part two appendix had not been debated. She believed that the Council should remain open to the public.
- 55.8 Councillor Miller stated that there was a need for affordable housing, however the question remained as to whether it was appropriate to undertake a joint venture with one organisation or whether there was an opportunity to explore options with other partners or organisations in the city. There was a concern about the oversight of the joint venture and Member involvement which he hoped could be given consideration.
- 55.9 The Mayor noted the points and asked if Members wished to move into closed session.
- 55.10 Councillor G. Theobald stated that Members of his Group had made their concerns known and he did not wish to move into closed session.
- 55.11 Councillor Meadows noted the comments and stated that Councillor Hill had worked very hard under her housing remit to bring the scheme forward and hoped that it would be supported.
- 55.12 The Mayor stated that the report had been referred for information and moved that it be noted.
- 55.13 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

56 THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF MOTION HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS FOR CONSIDERATION:

(a) COMMERCIAL LEISURE ACCOMMODATION

- 56.1 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Morris on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group and seconded by Councillor Cattell.
- 56.2 The Mayor then put the following motion as listed to the vote:

“This Council resolves to request the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to introduce government legislation to licence and regulate 'Commercial Leisure Accommodation' (commonly known as 'Party Houses').

- To incorporate such premises into Planning law, Class C1 (use as a hotel, boarding or guest house, or as a hostel).
- Premises to be subject to current health and safety regulations applying to UK overnight accommodation providers.
- All premises operating prior to the proposed legislation to be required to register once legislation has passed into law.”

56.3 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been carried unanimously.

56.4 The motion was **carried**.

(b) FAIR TAX

56.5 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Daniel on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group and seconded by Councillor Meadows.

56.6 Councillor Wealls moved an amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group, which was seconded by Councillor Bell.

56.7 The Mayor noted that the amendment had been accepted by Councillor Daniel and put the following motion as amended to the vote:

“This council resolves to ask the council’s Procurement Board to produce a report for consideration by Policy, Resources & Growth Committee examining the ways in which council procurement policies might be able to require or request that companies bidding for service contracts worth more than £173,000 and for works contracts worth more than £4m (or appropriate sums as agreed by Policy, Resources & Growth Committee) answer the more detailed tax compliance questions within PPN 03/14 guidance, as this guidance is currently optional for public bodies including councils.”

56.8 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been carried unanimously.

56.9 The motion was **carried**.

(c) NHS SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION PLAN

56.10 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Page on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Mac Cafferty.

56.11 Councillor Allen moved an amendment on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group, which was seconded by Councillor Marsh.

56.12 The Mayor noted that the Labour & Co-operative amendment had not been accepted and put it to the vote, which was carried by 42 votes to 9 as detailed below:

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Allen	✓			Marsh	✓		
Atkinson	Not Present			Meadows	✓		
Barford	✓			Mears	✓		
Barnett	✓			Miller	✓		
Bell	✓			Mitchell	✓		
Bennett	✓			Moonan	✓		

Bewick	✓			Morgan	✓		
Brown	✓			Morris	✓		
Cattell	✓			Nemeth	✓		
Chapman	✓			Norman A	✓		
Cobb	✓			Norman K	✓		
Daniel	✓			O'Quinn	✓		
Deane		X		Page		X	
Druitt		X		Peltzer Dunn	✓		
Gibson	Not Present			Penn	✓		
Gilbey	✓			Phillips		X	
Greenbaum		X		Robins	✓		
Hamilton	✓			Russell-Moyle	✓		
Hill	✓			Simson	✓		
Horan	✓			Sykes		X	
Hyde	✓			Taylor	✓		
Inkpin-Leissner	✓			Theobald C	✓		
Janio	✓			Theobald G	✓		
Knight	Not Present			Wares	✓		
Lewry	✓			Wealls	✓		
Littman		X		West		X	
Mac Cafferty		X		Yates	✓		
				Total	42	9	0

56.13 The Mayor then put the following motion as amended to the vote:

“This Council requests the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Health & wellbeing Board to inform National Health Service England Sustainable Transformation Plans (STP) leaders:

- Of our concerns regarding the STP and in particular the adequacy of public engagement and transparency of the process;
- That on behalf of our local communities, the council with our local health and social care partners, will work to ensure that funding for Health and Social Care is sufficient to meet the needs and requirements of the city;

- That the council will aim to ensure greater transparency of the planning process and fuller engagement with our local communities;
- That the council will seek to ensure that Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is able to review the results of public consultations and fully understand the changes proposed; and
- That the council will continue to work with our fellow local authorities across the region and within the Local Government Association (LGA) to secure cross-party consensus.

56.14 The Mayor confirmed that the motion as amended had been carried by 42 votes to 9 as detailed below.

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Allen	✓			Marsh	✓		
Atkinson	Not Present			Meadows	✓		
Barford	✓			Mears	✓		
Barnett	✓			Miller	✓		
Bell	✓			Mitchell	✓		
Bennett	✓			Moonan	✓		
Bewick	✓			Morgan	✓		
Brown	✓			Morris	✓		
Cattell	✓			Nemeth	✓		
Chapman	✓			Norman A	✓		
Cobb	✓			Norman K	✓		
Daniel	✓			O'Quinn	✓		
Deane		X		Page		X	
Druitt		X		Peltzer Dunn	✓		
Gibson	Not Present			Penn	✓		
Gilbey	✓			Phillips		X	
Greenbaum		X		Robins	✓		
Hamilton	✓			Russell-Moyle	✓		
Hill	✓			Simson	✓		
Horan	✓			Sykes		X	

Hyde	✓			Taylor	✓		
Inkpin-Leissner	✓			Theobald C	✓		
Janio	✓			Theobald G	✓		
Knight	Not Present			Wares	✓		
Lewry	✓			Wealls	✓		
Littman		X		West		X	
Mac Cafferty		X		Yates	✓		
				Total	42	9	0

56.15 The motion was **carried**.

Note: Having declared a prejudicial interest in the item, Councillor Atkinson left the Chamber and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon in relation to the item above.

(d) ASSET MANAGEMENT PANEL

56.16 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Miller on behalf of the Conservative Group and seconded by Councillor G. Theobald.

56.17 The Mayor then put the following motion as listed to the vote:

“This Council requests that In light of the predicted £51.2 million budget gap over the next 3 years, and public concern about the future of the Council’s downland assets, the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee gives consideration to the reconvening of the cross-party Asset Management Panel at the earliest opportunity, with a remit including, but not restricted to:

- (a) allowing greater Member oversight of the management of the Council’s commercial and agricultural assets;
- (b) yielding a return figure closer to that of the private sector;
- (c) assisting in reducing the budget gap; and
- (d) promoting regeneration in the city.”

56.18 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been carried unanimously.

56.19 The motion was **carried**.

(e) CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

56.20 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Bell on behalf of the Conservative Group and seconded by Councillor C. Theobald.

56.21 Councillor DrUITT moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group, which was seconded by Councillor Mac Cafferty.

56.22 The Mayor noted that the Green Group's amendment had not been accepted and put it to the vote, which was lost by 9 votes to 41 as detailed below:

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Allen		X		Marsh		X	
Atkinson	Not Present			Meadows		X	
Barford		X		Mears		X	
Barnett		X		Miller		X	
Bell		X		Mitchell		X	
Bennett	Not Present			Moonan		X	
Bewick		X		Morgan		X	
Brown		X		Morris		X	
Cattell		X		Nemeth		X	
Chapman		X		Norman A		X	
Cobb		X		Norman K		X	
Daniel		X		O'Quinn		X	
Deane	✓			Page	✓		
Druitt	✓			Peltzer Dunn		X	
Gibson	Not Present			Penn		X	
Gilbey		X		Phillips	✓		
Greenbaum	✓			Robins		X	
Hamilton		X		Russell-Moyle		X	
Hill		X		Simson		X	
Horan		X		Sykes	✓		
Hyde		X		Taylor		X	
Inkpin-Leissner		X		Theobald C		X	
Janio		X		Theobald G		X	
Knight	Not Present			Wares		X	
Lewry		X		Wealls		X	
Littman	✓			West	✓		
Mac Cafferty	✓			Yates		X	

						Total	9	41	0

56.23 The Mayor then put the following motion as listed to the vote:

“This Council,

- (i) requests that the Chief Executive make contact with HM Treasury at the earliest opportunity in order to make the case for Brighton & Hove accessing the Government’s new £2.3 billion Housing Infrastructure Fund and;
- (ii) requests the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee to put infrastructure provision at the heart of the emerging City Plan Part 2.”

56.24 The Mayor confirmed that the motion as listed had been carried unanimously as detailed below:

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Allen	✓			Marsh	✓		
Atkinson	Not Present			Meadows	✓		
Barford	✓			Mears	✓		
Barnett	✓			Miller	✓		
Bell	✓			Mitchell	✓		
Bennett	Not Present			Moonan	✓		
Bewick	✓			Morgan	✓		
Brown	✓			Morris	✓		
Cattell	✓			Nemeth	✓		
Chapman	✓			Norman A	✓		
Cobb	✓			Norman K	✓		
Daniel	✓			O’Quinn	✓		
Deane	✓			Page	✓		
Druitt	✓			Peltzer Dunn	✓		
Gibson	Not Present			Penn	✓		
Gilbey	✓			Phillips	✓		
Greenbaum	✓			Robins	✓		
Hamilton	✓			Russell-Moyle	✓		
Hill	✓			Simson	✓		

Horan	✓				Sykes	✓		
Hyde	✓				Taylor	✓		
Inkpin-Leissner	✓				Theobald C	✓		
Janio	✓				Theobald G	✓		
Knight	Not Present				Wares	✓		
Lewry	✓				Wealls	✓		
Littman	✓				West	✓		
Mac Cafferty	✓				Yates	✓		
					Total	50	0	0

56.25 The motion was **carried**.

Part Two Summary

57 HOUSING DELIVERY OPTIONS - LIVING WAGE JOINT VENTURE - EXEMPT CATEGORY 3

57.1 **RESOLVED:** That the appendix to the report listed at Item 55 on the agenda be noted remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

58 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting concluded at 9.35pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2017