

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 19 JULY 2018

HOVE TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER - HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

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

PART ONE

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- 11.1 Councillor Sykes declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Item 23(7), Notice of Motion concerning Sussex IFCA: Inshore Trawling & Fishing; as he was a member of Sussex IFCA and represented the Council on the organisation.
- 11.2 No other declarations of interest in matters appearing on the agenda were made.

12 MINUTES

- 12.1 The minutes of (a) the last ordinary meeting held on the 19 April, 2018 and (b) the Annual Council Meeting held on the 17 May, 2018 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

13 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

- 13.1 The Mayor stated that she had hit the ground running since taking office in May and had already been to a number of interesting places and met hundreds of people. She was looking forward to getting through full council meetings and productively and harmoniously as possible during the year and was keen to ensure that debates were managed within good time.
- 13.2 The Mayor then drew councillors' attention to her first charity fundraiser which was to be a Caribbean night on the 1st August. She stated that there were a number of events planned for the year ahead and she hoped that councillors would support as many as possible.

- 13.3 The Mayor then stated that she wished to congratulate the Communications team on winning the Innovation in Communications category national MJ award, for the successful engagement and promotion of the crowdfunding campaign to raise £420,000 to restore three of the Madeira Terraces arches. The campaign raised more than £460,000 in just four months last year and demonstrated people power beyond any doubt with 2095 separate backers pledging before the target was met and with more supporters wanting to donate after the deadline. I would like to invite members of the Comms team to come forward along with Councillor Yates to accept the award.
- 13.4 The Mayor noted that the report concerning the City Environmental Management Modernisation Programme Update had been referred to the Council meeting from last week's Policy, Resources & Growth Committee for information and was listed in the addendum papers as Item 22 (A) on pages 25-38.

14 TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.

- 14.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from councillors and members of the public. She 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.
- 14.2 Councillor Wares presented a petition signed by 169 residents concerning missed bins collections on behalf of Mr. Rickson.
- 14.3 Councillor Barnett presented a petition signed by 153 residents, concerning the Housing Estate Development Budget.
- 14.4 Councillor Sykes presented a petition signed by 208 residents, concerning communal bins in Palmeira Square.
- 14.5 Councillor Wealls presented a petition signed by 113 residents, on behalf of Mr. Hawtree concerning the need to repair the mural in George Street.

15 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- 15.1 The Mayor reported that 5 written questions had been received from members of the public and invited Ms. Montgomery to come forward and address the council.
- 15.2 Ms. Montgomery asked the following question; "Can the council tell us the number of private rented properties in Brighton & Hove at Local Housing Allowance for this current year for the following?
 - One bedroom and bedsits
 - Two Bedroom
 - Three Bedroom
 - Four BedroomPlease include new private developments where an allocation of so called Affordable rents are charged. The National Planning Policy Framework states that Affordable rent

can be up to 80% of the local market rent which allows for rents between 60 % and 80%".

- 15.3 Councillor Meadows replied; "A grand total of 7750 is a source from Revenues and Benefits department. Within the above numbers it should be noted that some households may need to top up the LHA they receive when it does not cover the whole rent. The above properties do not include affordable housing provided by Registered Providers. Brighton & Hove City Council operates an Affordable Housing Development Partnership with selected Registered Providers. One of the conditions of Registered Providers being included within this is that they agree to cap rents at LHA levels (including Service Charges). Therefore affordable rent units provided by Registered Provider partners in the city are provided at this rate. Between months April 2015 to March 2018, Registered Providers let 127 homes in the city.

In addition, since the launch of the council's New Homes for Neighbourhoods programme in 2015 until the end of March 2018, 127 properties have been built with rents capped at LHA levels. The council continues to support the provision of affordable housing in the city. As well as the direct provision by registered providers and through the New Homes for Neighbourhoods programme the council has:

- Entered into a **Living Wage Joint Venture** with Hyde to deliver 1,000 new lower cost homes for rental and sale. We have identified the following priority sites to contribute towards 1,000 new homes for lower income working households in the City through our Living Wage Joint Venture, Homes for Brighton & Hove: For Whitehawk Urban Fringe - c. 150 homes; Coldean Urban Fringe - c. 120 homes; Belgrave centre - c. 100 homes and further site review work continues. But we also provided council owned temporary accommodation: Stonehurst Court conversion which has delivered 10 family homes, opened in May this year. Housing Committee have also agreed the purchase of a property from Orbit Housing Association and the conversion of the former Oxford Street Housing Office, both of which are underway.
- Created new homes through the 'Hidden Homes Programme' - we aim to make sure we make best use of our Housing Revenue Account assets through conversions / refurbishment of under used or under occupied spaces within our existing stock into new homes.
- Completed 9 new homes including the conversion of two redundant store rooms at Norman Hurst on the Albion Hill Estate into two four bedroom flats, completed earlier this year. We are currently working on Hidden Homes delivery at: Swallow Court, Whitehawk, conversion of a former community office into two one bedroom flats and one two bedroom flat at Woods house, Sackville Road to convert the former public toilets into a community room and then convert the existing Jones Court

IT shows that there is a lot of work on affordable homes in the city, for example the Home Purchase Policy where we have delivered our first two purchases under our new buy back policy and we have improved supply through best use of existing HRA assets.”

- 15.4 Ms. Montgomery asked the following supplementary question; “According to the City Plan 2016, the city population could be expected to grow by 10.2% to around 299k people. If targets were to address the housing needs of Brighton & Hove and to provide housing that meets all communities in the city, a mix of housing types that are affordable, accessible and designed to a high standard for more sustainable communities and the reduction of inequalities between neighbourhoods in Brighton & Hove. The housing needs of Brighton and Hove also need to tackle the issues of homelessness, overcrowded households and to make substantial progress in meeting housing needs and demand.

Around 15k people in the city can't afford anything other than social housing, so given that the City Plan Two is on its way, how successful do the council think City Plan One has been in dealing with housing crisis, the lack of truly affordable housing, homelessness and inequality?”

- 15.5 Councillor Meadows stated that she would send Ms. Montgomery a written response as it would be detailed but noted that the council had a joint venture with Hyde Housing Association to provide 500 new homes at 37.5% of market rent;
- 15.6 The Mayor thanked Ms. Montgomery for attending the council meeting and her questions and invited Mr. Hawtree to come forward and address the council.
- 15.7 Mr. Hawtree thanked the Mayor and asked the following question, “Would Councillor Daniel please tell us why, at the public meeting in Hove's Carnegie Library on June 1st, there was no answer to the fundamental question of how much it costs each year to run this purportedly 'expensive' Library?”
- 15.8 Councillor Daniel replied, “The clearest reason that it wasn't answered during the course of the meeting was that the purpose of the public meeting was to inform the public of the changes taking place and give them the opportunity to hear from the library service and the new tenants about what that change would look like in practice. It wasn't a consultation nor was it a debate on how expensive the library is or isn't. Those debates were had by council with representations from the community, including yourself, many months ago now. This was an opportunity to look at the specific designs and meet the providers. Officers did make efforts to try and answer the question then and there; however they weren't able to provide the figure on the evening because there wasn't one simple figure in the accounts that gives the full cost. This is because various costs are spread over a number of budgets, Corporate Landlords, Jubilee Library PFI and the staffing costs. Therefore the full cost has to be calculated from multiple sources and as promised in the meeting we were both at and, as you will see, as promised, all the answers to any questions that were left unresolved at that meeting were put online soon afterwards.”
- 15.9 Mr. Hawtree asked the following supplementary question, “In light of what you have outlined, and I thank you for that, in the meanwhile would you please outline for us the

advertisement and the selection, interview and decision processes for the next Head of Libraries and however that job title might be re-cast.”

- 15.10 Councillor Daniel replied, “That is a matter for our Head of Service.”
- 15.11 The Mayor thanked Mr. Hawtree for attending the council meeting and his questions and invited Mr. Furness to come forward and address the council.
- 15.12 Mr. Furness thanked the Mayor and asked the following question, “Now that the hoped for grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the Madeira Arches has fallen through, Councillor Yates, could you please enlighten us all with the details of your administration's Plan B?”
- 15.13 Councillor Yates replied; “Thank you for asking this question. It is right to say this isn't about a Plan B this is about a Plan A plus and a Plan A*. If you saw earlier the work that our Comms team did around supporting some of the important crowd funding initiatives that actually provided additional support and revenue into delivering an improvement and a future for Madeira Arches has been recognized nationally as innovative and excellent, so Plan B it is not.

I can let you know that the meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) had been held this week, that allows officers to plan the next steps with regards to a revised submission. The HLF were very complimentary about our bid and stated that the lack of success was due to a lack of available funds not the quality or content of the bid. A bid is likely to be made again in August and if necessary further bids will be made next year. Work is also on-going to attract interest from Philanthropic investors. A Peer Group has been established to help advise on the funding strategy and the council are also taking advice from GVA both locally and nationally.

The full restoration of the first three arches will begin this year and completed by summer 2019. The Property and Design Team have commenced work on this with the regeneration team already. The appointment of a design team and more detailed advice from cast iron specialists is however required to progress the project. The design team will need to progress the project consultation and start the process of a planning application for the whole terrace. This is subject to final agreement from councillors with regard to resourcing and I hope all councillors will come together to support this, certainly more than 2000 people supported the crowd funding and so we know the city is fully behind it. The restoration of Marine Terrace is the repurposing of them. Some of this might be made available from previously identified match funding for the HLF bid, but the council do not want to weaken the bid for HLF funds by reducing the amount of match funding beyond certain limits. None of the crowd funding monies will be used to pay for this.

The Madeira Restoration Fund is now set up and receiving regular contributions including most recently from the newly brewed Madeira Beer and the Madeira Terraces Raffle. The Brighton Bier Company are also looking to fundraise directly in order to be able to take on a set of arches for themselves by bridging the gap from the conservation deficit. Also, of course just to note, that this week we also heard the positive news from the HLF that there was funding released for Saltdean Lido, another important asset to

the city that this council is very grateful to the people working hard to support the repurposing and the re-opening of the Lido building.”

- 15.14 Mr. Furness asked the following supplementary question, “Previous administrations of all colours have allowed the heritage of the entire sea front to fall to bits. Now the bandstand has been restored that I raised question on the very first place; do you think the fact that the Heritage Lottery Fund is rather loathe to provide funding for anything other than the Lido on the sea front could just have something to do with the chronic failure of the so called West Pier Trust to allow the pier to crumble as have all our sea front railings. Councillors who represent sea front wards would I think agree with me on this. If we can’t put our own house in order first, frankly how dare we expect national funding because of our incompetence, what would you say?”
- 15.15 Councillor Yates replied, I think it is worth to recognise as custodians of some of the most important heritage objects in this city and indeed in Sussex. We all need to recognise the part that has been played over decades in failing to deal with problems when they could have been dealt with. Failing to provide resources and sometimes failing to find solutions for some of our important heritage assets. But that is not the position of this Administration and we have been working really hard to secure funding from both within the limited council’s resources and of the limited resources that the HLF have. It is certainly not fair to say that the HLF are only interested in Saltdean Lido, bear in mind the HLF funding going into the Royal Pavilion and the funding that has been spent in Shelter Hall and on the Volks railway. Those are more of our seafront heritage that I know Madam Mayor is absolutely committed to as she stated when she was first elected. We will take action, we will get this done, we are not disheartened and Madeira Terraces will become another part of the ‘jewel in the sea front’ of our great city.”
- 15.16 The Mayor thanked Mr. Furness for attending the council meeting and his questions and invited Ms. Paynter to come forward and address the council.
- 15.17 Ms. Paynter asked the following question, “I thought we would have had the King Alfred redevelopment before PRG and Council before the summer break for Councillors and we don’t have a council meeting now until October. In lieu of that may I ask you please for a quick update today to give us an idea of what the hold-up is about?”
- 15.18 Councillor Yates replied, “I agree with you I would have liked to have this up and running and making more progress than we currently have. As you will be aware, in September 2017, the Council, alongside Crest Nicholson, its preferred development partner, submitted a £15.2m bid to the then newly launched Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). We were delighted by February's announcement that the bid had been successful; the second largest marginal viability award in the country. Since that time we have been working with Homes England as part of their due diligence process and we hope to receive confirmation of the funding award and the contractual terms shortly, there lays the delay.

HIF funding is critical to the projects viability and the terms of the HIF funding will allow the Development Agreement (DA), something that is at an advanced stage, to be completed. We hope to be able to report to committee at the end of the summer.”

15.19 Ms. Paynter asked the following supplementary question, "So by the end of the summer you have the HIF decision assigned, but I wonder about public consultation. Are there any dates in view as I know from Rob Star himself that he has already been up to London interviewing planning agents a couple of months ago now so by now there must be a date in the wind?"

15.20 Councillor Yates replied, "The developer will begin the public consultation process as soon as the Development Agreement is concluded i.e. late summer/Autumn of this year and then hope the planning application will be submitted in the second half of 2019 and construction commence in the second half of 2020."

15.21 The Mayor thanked Ms. Paynter for attending the council meeting and her questions and invited Mr. Shepherd to come forward and address the council.

15.22 The Mayor noted that Mr. Shepherd was not present and therefore a written response would be sent to Mr. Shepherd and noted that concluded the item.

16 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

16.1 The Mayor reported that one deputation had been received from members of the public and invited Ms. Fowler as the spokesperson for the deputation to come forward and address the council.

16.2 Ms. Fowler thanked the Mayor and stated that: "The mass release of balloons and sky lanterns released in Britain are killing birds and sea life here and across the North Sea. Beaches in Europe are littered with thousands of deflated balloons – many from this country. So far more than 50 local councils have agreed to prevent the release of balloons and lanterns and I urge Brighton and Hove City Council to do the same. In the last few years it has grown in fashion to release balloons and sky lanterns at special event, funerals and memorials. In Brighton a number of schools and nursery's release balloons in parks at the end of the school year. The Marine Conservation Society has said that more than 53% of balloon related litter has been found on our beaches this year than in 2015.

The release of balloons is intended to be beautiful and positive but, the reality is when the balloons make their way back down to earth or water, there are serious consequences. The only way to describe them is as litter. Unfortunately, plastic pollution is a real problem and balloons only add to this problem. Balloons are made up of two types of materials:

1. Mylar balloons are composed of synthetic nylon with metallic coating and are non-biodegradable.
2. Latex is widely considered a safe option; however, decomposition can take anywhere from 6 months to 4 years giving plenty of time to cause harm.

Both marine and terrestrial animals mistake balloons as food. Whales, dolphins and seals often eat them as they look like food. Once ingested balloons cause stomach or intestinal blockages, leading to starvation. Last year a whale that washed up in Norway had plastic waste in its stomach, some of which originated from the UK that had caused

it to starve to death. Also, recently a pilot whale was found dying that had over 70 plastic bags in its stomach. The strings attached to balloons can be just as dangerous. Birds become entangled and sea creatures such as seals and dolphins have flippers and fins that get snared and restrict their movement and ability to feed. These entanglements can cause infections, amputations, starvation, drowning and death. The plight of a 3-year-old horse that died after choking on a balloon string was featured on BBC, and there was also a case where 2 swans were entangled together.

On Dutch coastlines campaigners say about 13,000 balloons are washing up every week. Many appear to have come from the U.K, with logos on the balloons which have included the charity bike ride in Birmingham, a hospice in London and a car dealership in Southport, and thousands of McDonalds balloons which are given away daily.

The RSPCA and Civil aviation authority have also spoken out against the release of sky lanterns and balloons and the National Farmers Union have also been calling for a ban on sky lanterns for quite some time.

- 16.3 Councillor Yates thanked Ms Fowler for the deputation and welcomed the opportunity to give further consideration to the matter of how plastics were harming the environment. He stated that a report was due to come to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee in the autumn and he would ensure that the concerns raised in the deputation were taken into account within the report.
- 16.4 The Mayor thanked Ms. Fowler for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. She explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee 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.

17 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

- 17.1 The Mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the council meeting. She had been made aware of 3 such petitions. However, since the publication of the agenda the first petition relating to recycling in the city had been withdrawn. She also noted that there was an amendment to the covering report's recommendation for Item 17(2), Regency Square and the i360 from the Green Group.
- 17.2 The Mayor then invited Mr. Rosborough to come forward and present the first petition.

Regency Square & i360

- 17.3 Mr. Rosborough thanked the Mayor and stated that the petition resulted from the impact of visitors to the i360 which had led to increased parking of motorcycles in Regency Square and highlighted the need to review parking arrangements and improve the frontage of the square. He acknowledged that some changes had been made by officers but felt that further action was warranted and hoped that the petition with over 1500 signatures showed the level of support for these changes to be considered.

- 17.4 Councillor Mitchell thanked Mr. Rosborough for bringing the petition to the council meeting and noted that a review of the Regency Square parking permit arrangements was scheduled for the autumn and a report would come to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee. She was happy for this review to include other aspects of the parking arrangements in the Square and to put forward a bid to the Planned Maintenance Budget for 2019/20 for improvements to the Square's frontage.
- 17.5 Councillor Druitt moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group, which called for a report to the October meeting of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee detailing how the issues raised in the petition could be addressed. He also noted that Mr. Rosborough had collected all of the signatures by hand and congratulated him on his efforts. He hoped that the committee would be able to find a way to meet the petition's requests.
- 17.6 Councillor Phillips formally seconded the amendment.
- 17.7 Councillor Mitchell stated that she was happy to accept the amendment.
- 17.8 The Mayor thanked Mr. Rosborough for attending the meeting and presenting the petition, and noted that the Green Group's amendment had been accepted. She therefore put the recommendation as amended to the vote which was carried unanimously.
- 17.9 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and a report brought to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 9th October 2018; outlining options to address the issues raised in the petition and including:
That officers consult with the petitioners, the Regency Square Area Society and the stakeholders involved in the distribution of the 1% of the i360 ticket revenue earmarked for local regeneration, in any decisions over how the issues raised in the petition could be addressed.
- 17.10 The Mayor then invited Ms. Whittaker to come forward and present the second petition.

Distribution of Free Sanitary Products to Schools

- 17.11 Ms. Whittaker thanked the Mayor and stated that the petition had secured 1,528 signatures of support and called on the council to implement a policy for the distribution of free sanitary products to schools to counter period poverty. She stated that this was a national problem with 1 in 10 girls unable to afford sanitary ware. She hoped that the city could lead the way and ensure that all schools in the city were able to provide free products to all girls who were in need, thereby meeting the council's own objectives for child poverty and equality.
- 17.12 Councillor Daniel thanked Ms. Whittaker for presenting the petition and bringing the issue to the council's attention. She stated that the council was working with schools to provide products and noted that success of the Red box scheme that encouraged people to donate products for distribution within schools. It was a voluntary based scheme which meant that its success was dependant on those volunteers but she hoped that it would expand across other schools and noted that a collection box had

been set up in the reception of Hove Town Hall. She felt that it was an important issue and one that needed to be discussed further at the next NICE committee meeting.

- 17.13 Councillor Brown welcomed the petition and stated that the subject needed further consideration and access to products needed to be made less intrusive and more convenient.
- 17.14 Councillor Phillips also welcomed the petition and stated that the consequences of not providing these products should be noted i.e. increased levels of absenteeism; bullying and an impact on well-being. The products should be easily available and pupils should not have to ask but get them anonymously.
- 17.15 Councillor Daniel noted the comments and stated that she looked forward to considering the matter at the committee meeting in October.
- 17.16 The Mayor thanked Ms. Whittaker for attending the council meeting and presenting the petition. She noted that it was recommended to refer the petition to the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee and put the recommendation to the vote which was carried unanimously.
- 17.17 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be referred to the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee meeting on the 8th October, 2018 for consideration.

18 CALL OVER FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

(a) Callover

- 18.1 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that the following items on the agenda had been reserved for discussion:
 - Item 22 - Independent Review of Existing Partnering Contract for Housing Repairs, Maintenance, Planned and Major Works.
 - Item 22(A) - City Environmental Management Modernisation Programme Update.

(b) Receipt and/or Approval of Reports

- 18.2 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that the following report on the agenda with the recommendations as outlined in the extract from the committee proceedings had been approved and adopted:
 - Item 21 - Review of the Constitution

(c) Oral Questions from Members

- 18.3 The Mayor noted that there were no oral questions.

19 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.

19.1 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 prior to the meeting as detailed below:

(1) Councillor Gibson - Home Conversions:

19.2 Please can you provide:

- a) The total number of home conversions over the last 3 years
- b) The number expected to be completed by May 2019
- c) The Number of housing units that will be achieved by the conversion of 43 Manor Hill

Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

For the answer to this question, an assumption has been made that ‘conversion’ means the conversion of sheltered scheme studios to one bedroom flats and the conversion of redundant spaces in buildings and empty commercial space under the hidden homes programme only .

- a) The total number of home conversions over the last 3 years is 70 Units
- b) The number expected to be completed by May 2019 - by May 2019 we expect to complete an addition 7 units, bringing the total completed to 77 units
- c) The Number of housing units that will be achieved by the conversion of 43 Manor Hill – The conversion of 43 Manor Hill will achieve 3 units

(2) Councillor Gibson - Net costs of spot purchase and short term emergency accommodation:

19.3 Please can you provide a table setting out for the each years 2013/14 to 2017/8 net costs reported to housing and New Homes committee on 13th of June, a breakdown of each net cost of by each provider (i.e. Helgor, Baron, Colgate and Gray, spot purchase + any others used over these years) along with the number of places for households/individual placements offered by each provider?

Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

et costs of spot purchase and short term emergency accommodation:

Please can you provide a table setting out for the each years 2013/14 to 2017/8 net costs reported to housing and New Homes committee on 13th of June, a breakdown of each net cost of by each provider (ie Helgor, Baron, Colgate and Gray, spot purchase + any others used over these years) along with the number of places for households/individual placements offered by each provider?

<u>Net costs of spot purchase and short term emergency accommodation</u>	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Rent and Management fees					
Spot Purchase	345,687	1,002,115	1,321,921	1,793,228	890,966
Baron Homes	1,174,988	1,222,815	2,128,700	3,099,132	3,340,576
Brighton Housing Trust	29,343	0	0	0	0
Cinderella Hotel	22,860	0	0	0	0
Colgate & Gray	0	0	17,880	284,319	302,332
Helgor	566,205	708,239	912,574	875,522	936,685
Nigel Lindsay Kennedy	0	0	0	44,917	70,667
Smile2Live	331,376	347,821	281,781	0	0
Sussex Property LLP	0	0	0	21,600	64,800
Total Rent and Management Fees	2,470,459	3,280,991	4,662,855	6,118,718	5,606,026
Other Costs (such as security cost and removals & storage)	130,577	126,733	198,476	101,382	14,217
Income Collected	1,739,056	2,002,605	2,938,846	3,824,354	2,806,522
Net Costs	861,979	1,405,119	1,922,485	2,395,746	2,813,721
Net Income from other Departments for use of units*	-345,535	-365,263	-450,261	-456,994	-45,395
Allocation of New Flexible Homelessness Support Grant **					1,231,791
Net Costs*	516,444	1,039,856	1,472,224	1,938,752	1,536,535

The figures in these tables do not include the council staff time in managing and operating this service.

In 17/18 £0.570m budget was transferred from Families, Children & Learning (FC&L) and Health & Adult Social Care (HASC) Directorates. This replaces the recharge for these areas.

In 2017/18, the Government reduced the amount of HB payable by taking out £60 per week per property management fee replacing it with a grant. The allocation of the grant across the different accommodation types has been estimated based on the loss of housing benefits for each form of accommodation. The figure given at Housing Committee on 13th June excluded this grant figure.

(3) Councillor Gibson

19.4 For each of the years 2013/4, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 please can you provide a breakdown of the net costs/surplus (i.e. net HB income) along with the average number of placement properties provided by each category over each of the years for:

- a) Properties private sector leased for temporary accommodation (on leases of 10 years or less)
- b) Properties leased to Brighton and Hove Seaside Homes as temporary accommodation
- c) Bed and Breakfast

Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

For each of the years 2013/4, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 please can you provide a breakdown

the net costs/surplus (i.e. net HB income) along with the average number of placement properties provide each category over each of the years for:

Properties private sector leased for temporary accommodation (on leases of 10 years or less)

Properties leased to Brighton and Hove Seaside Homes as temporary accommodation

Bed and Breakfast

Private Sector Leased

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Base payments	11,093,952	11,478,170	11,583,950	11,139,348	11,006,360
Other costs such as maintenance and repairs	214,154	433,671	427,549	621,745	826,785
Income (100% Rents less bad debt provision & loss of benefit subsidy)	-12,521,921	12,302,707	12,594,854	11,740,994	-8,399,323
Net Costs	-1,213,816	-390,866	-583,355	20,100	3,433,822
Net Income from other Departments for lease of units*	-56,363	-145,402	-125,434	-23,886	0
Location of New Flexible Homelessness Support Grant **					-2,968,209
Private Sector Leased Net Costs*	-1,270,179	-536,268	-708,789	-3,786	465,613

Properties Leased to BHSCH

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Rents (Agreed 91% payment to BHSCH)	2,590,905	3,378,065	3,630,292	3,950,127	4,241,933
Other Costs (Staff time, repairs, leaseholder charges & Insurance)	357,488	668,155	754,033	894,098	1,066,702
Income (Tenant rents and service charges)	-2,512,838	-3,378,072	-3,628,963	-4,048,478	-4,364,094
Income (Management Fees)	-533,073	-704,476	-768,876	-859,478	-947,390
Net Revenue Costs	-97,517	-36,327	-13,514	-63,730	-2,850

The value of the long term debt as at 31/3/2018, which is repayable when BHSCH has available monies, is £2,053,874

Bed & Breakfast and Short Term Accommodation

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Total Rent and Management Fees	2,470,459	3,280,991	4,662,855	6,118,718	5,606,026
Other Costs (such as security cost and removals & storage)	130,577	126,733	198,476	101,382	14,217
Income Collected	-1,739,056	-2,002,605	-2,938,846	-3,824,354	-2,806,522
Net Costs	861,979	1,405,119	1,922,485	2,395,746	2,813,721
Net Income from other Departments for lease of units*	-345,535	-365,263	-450,261	-456,994	-45,395
Location of New Flexible Homelessness Support Grant **	0	0	0	0	-1,231,791
Net Costs*	516,444	1,039,856	1,472,224	1,938,752	1,536,535

No of households by type of TA as

31st March in each given year

Number of households accommodated on 31 st March from the return to Government	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Private sector leased	601	662	776	845	878
Bed and breakfast and other short term accommodation	294	363	386	331	313
Leisure Community Homes as at 31st March	394	416	456	479	499
Total	1289	1441	1618	1655	1690

The figures in these tables do not include the council staff time in managing and operating this service.

In 2017/18 £0.570m budget was transferred from Families, Children & Learning (FC&L) and Health & Adult Social Care (HASC) Directorates. This replaces the recharge for these areas.

In 2017/18, the Government reduced the amount of HB payable by taking out £60 per week per property management fee replacing it with a grant. The allocation of the grant across the different accommodation types has been estimated based on the loss of housing benefits for each form of accommodation. The figure given at Housing Committee on 13th June excluded this grant figure.

(4) Councillor Wares

- 19.5 On 11th October 2016, ETS Committee approved item 30, Pedestrian Crossing Assessment Priority List. Table 1 identified 10 top locations (an 11th location was added) and in particular crossing 9, Mackie Avenue. The proposed actions stated “implement”, the funding source was identified as from the 2016/17 Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the project was noted as requiring no additional funding.

On 29th June 2018, 18 months after the crossing list was approved, the Chair of ETS Committee advised that only 4 of the 11 crossings had been completed and “work is ongoing to..... identify additional sources of funding”.

Please could the Chair of ETS confirm the following:-

1. What has happened to the funds allocated in the 2016/17 LTP budget not spent on crossing 3 and 4 on Table 1 and Marine Drive on Table 1A. Crossing 5 was to be funded from s106 monies.
2. Which position is correct, the financial data confirming the available LTP funds for crossing 9 not requiring additional funds upon which the Committee decision to accept the recommendations was made or the Chair of ETS’ advice that additional funding to undertake crossing 9 had yet to be found.
3. The timetable to implement crossing 9, Mackie Avenue.

Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

Thank you for your question in relation to pedestrian crossings. I will respond to your points above as follows:

1. The budget allocated within 16/17 for freestanding pedestrian crossings was £115,000, a proportion of this was utilised (£40,700) with the remaining balance allocated to future years. Since this report crossings 3 and 4 (Hangleton Link and Cromwell Road) have been delivered.
2. The budget allocated within 16/17 for freestanding pedestrian crossings was £115,000, a proportion of this was utilised (£40,700) with the remaining balance allocated to 18/19 budget which was £193,000. Of this budget £98,000 was utilised on scheme development and implementation. The budget for 18/19 is currently £151,000 which is intended to cover those schemes identified as priorities including Number 9, Mackie Avenue.
3. We are committed to delivering the Pedestrian Crossing Programme as agreed at ETS Committee within the available and profiled funding, including Mackie Avenue.

The design work for the pedestrian crossing facilities in Mackie Avenue near Ladies Mile Public House is currently underway and it is anticipated that the pedestrian crossing facilities in Mackie Avenue near Ladies Mile Public House will be implemented during the 2019/2020 financial year.

(5) Councillor Deane

- 19.6 Current work by Exeter University shows that effective action being taken against predatory species such as the Asian hornet, which presents a significant threat to our bee population, relies heavily on them being spotted and reported by members of the public. In view of Brighton & Hove's position on the south coast and proximity to Europe where they have become a major problem, what measures are being taken by BHCC along with partner agencies to enable residents to identify such species and to know where to report them..

Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

Given the location of Brighton & Hove, this is a potential landing point for the arrival of new colonising species from the continent, which is an increasingly significant phenomenon with climate change.

Some of these new species could have potentially negative impacts in terms of the environment, people and/or economy hence there is a need for vigilance to report species sightings and take possible action both by professionals and potentially the public too. All species records are actively encouraged from people, for example through The Living Coast Unesco Biosphere programme's website and other communications, to be collected by the council's service partner, the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre – ideally through records submitted using the 'iRecord' app for smartphones.

With regard to potentially problematic invasive species, there is a national 'GB non-native species secretariat' that oversees activity on 'alert species' of which there are 5 currently listed including 3 marine species as well as the Asian hornet. People are

asked to submit records through a smartphone app like iRecord or there are other specific apps too such as 'Asian Hornet Watch' for example.

As the main impact from Asian Hornets would be on the resident bee population, and hence our own fruit crops, response is led by Defra. If we have sightings in Brighton & Hove (here is the relevant page to help with ID

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/index.cfm?id=4>) . Defra would dispatch bee inspectors from APHA National Bee Unit. The bee inspectors would set up a monitoring zone with traps to trace the focus of the activity and destroy the nest when found.

Yes, our pest control officers are trained to identify but we wouldn't destroy as it's important that the response is nationally coordinated rather than dealt with on a local level.

(6) Councillor Mac Cafferty - Council Tax Protocol

- 19.7 In areas where UC has been rolled out, demand for food banks has increased by 52%; while of the 498 Households on Universal Credit in the city 68% are in rent arrears.

Universal Credit (UC) is now live in Brighton and Hove. A person on UC can also claim Council tax reduction separately, and CTR entitlement is based on their UC award. However the nature of some of the language used in council tax collection letters can leave some of our residents afraid of engagement with the Council.

Council tax arrears is now the most common debt issue Citizens Advice help people with. Citizens Advice is calling on councils to commit to fair and effective debt collection around Council Tax and has set up a council tax protocol with the Local Government Association.

The protocol is already signed by 56 councils around the country and asks that Councils implement a range of proposals, including that they:

- do not use enforcement agents where a resident receives council tax support;
- publish their policy on residents in vulnerable circumstances;

Would the Administration please consider signing up to the protocol also?

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Global/CitizensAdvice/campaigns/Council%20Tax/Citizens%20Advice%20Council%20Tax%20Protocol%202017.pdf>

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

We had previously considered signing the protocol as our Council Tax collection principles and processes closely aligned to the protocol's standard. However we held back pending the introduction of Universal Credit and a softening of some of the definitions around vulnerability which we could inhibit our approach to providing a full welfare support service. The recently updated protocol appears to go a considerable way towards addressing these concerns. It is being considered by the Corporate Debt

Board, an officer group that covers all areas of debt collection in the Council, as part of the work to update the council's debt policies.

The protocol actually states that councils should 'consider matters carefully and determine whether to pass to Enforcement Agents, based on individual circumstances of case'. This is in keeping with the current approach of the council tax service where Enforcement Action is very much a last resort, but ultimately it does on occasion take place.

20 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 20.1 The Mayor noted that 14 oral questions had been received including a late question that she had accepted from Councillor Hyde, and that 30 minutes were set aside for the duration of the item. She then invited Councillor Janio to put his question to Councillor Yates.

(1) Councillor Janio – City Governance

- 20.2 Councillor Janio asked the following question, "Councillor Yates you have been the Leader of the Council now for a couple of months, in that time have you formed any opinions on the committee system and its continuance with committee structures going forward any changes to the Neighbourhood Committee and finally can you also please commit 100% of your time and effort to propose measures through the cross-party committee system that will sort out the mess that the Administration has allowed to happen throughout the city i.e. failure to tackle difficult issues head on?"
- 20.3 Councillor Yates replied, "I can deal with the first part, and I could deal with the second part but actually it is up to Councillor Janio to ask a question that is of relevance and is of general policy, neither of those two questions that he raised are such; so all I can do is suggest that when Councillor Janio meets with me he ask what my opinion is on things."
- 20.4 Councillor Janio asked the following supplementary question, "When you were elected as a Member of the Council you were working in the NHS, does that mean that you have now given up your job in the NHS to commit to the Council 100% of your time?"
- 20.5 Councillor Yates replied, "I suggest that Councillor Janio reads procedural rule 9.9 which on page 12 of the Constitution that was published on 2 November 2017 clearly states that an oral question should be about policy matters."

(2) Councillor Mac Cafferty – Bins

- 20.6 Councillor Mac Cafferty asked the following question, "The key performance indicators for bin collections as printed at last week's PR&G Committee tell us on a 'city wide' scale what my residents have had to suffer for too long. Missed collections for recycling waste are up massively and are a disgrace. My residents are careful to separate their recycling and keep to their end of the bargain by disposing of waste responsibly and they need, and deserve a decent service. When is the Administration going to ensure that it keeps its end of the bargain and ensure timely and regular bin collections?"

- 20.7 Councillor Mitchell replied, "We do acknowledge that there have been problems in relation to waste and recycling collections. Since February we have been putting in additional support to stabilise the service and improve it as the report on this agenda exemplifies."
- 20.8 Councillor Mac Cafferty asked the following supplementary question, "The report we are seeing later today tells us nothing other than a crisis in City Clean as I warned many months ago, front line cuts have been too vast and too quick. We have a panic report from an administration knowing the clock is counting down to the days for the next Council elections, too much fanfare from the Administration claimed it would get the basics right when is it finally going to admit that it can't get the basics right?"
- 20.9 Councillor Mitchell replied, "We will not admit that, what we will do is to continue putting in the proper support to get this service performing as it should."

(3) Councillor Wealls – PSPOs

- 20.10 Councillor Wealls asked the following question, "Are the Public Space Protection Order protected Hove West Lawns a free campsite and car park after 5pm on a Friday night?"
- 20.11 Councillor Daniel replied, "No these are not a free car park, they are protected by a PSPO but we do not have the resources to enforce PSPOs over the weekend yet. That is due to Government cuts, what we have done is bring in the Field Officers posts and they will be able to do weekend calls. However, just because we can't enforce the PSPOs during the weekend hours that isn't the only method of dealing with unauthorised encampment over the weekend. We do have other powers and ways of dealing with it which are carried out over the weekend if they meet the tests which we carry out in partnership with the police who are actually the enforcing agency of those particular powers."
- 20.12 Councillor Wealls asked the following supplementary question, "As a member of the modernisation oversight group earlier this week we discussed the £1.28m that has been allocated to enforcement action over the next few years which we welcome, can I ask that some of that resource is directed to ensuring that the West Hove Lawns are not used as a free campsite and carpark over the weekend?"
- 20.13 Councillor Daniel replied, "I can assure Councillor Wealls that of course if there is an issue on Hove Lawns over the weekend and once the Field Officers are in place and operating they would deal with that. However I would also point out that there has been a reduction of 66% of unauthorised encampments throughout the city."

(4) Councillor Phillips – Walk-in Centre

- 20.14 Councillor Phillips asked the following question, "One of the key benefits of our Walk-in centres is that you can attend without the need for an appointment and that they are in a convenient location. How will transient and other vulnerable people be able to access these services without having a negative impact on A&E?"
- 20.15 Councillor Barford replied, "I can understand Councillor Phillips concerns and for background information the provider of the services at the walk-in centre, Care UK, has

served notice on the CCG of their wish to withdraw from delivering the service in future. The CCG are at the early stages of considering how these services will be re-provided and have committed to consult and engage with patients and other stakeholders. The walk-in centre is not funded by the Council and not currently part of any CCG and Council integrated service. So, whilst the Council has no power to dictate to the CCG on any changes the Council will expect to be part of that process. From CCG colleagues we understand that the initial plan is for the 3 elements of the service, that is; sexual health, walk-in, general walk-in and the registered list to be re-commissioned as follows: sexual health to be re-commissioned continuing applicant choice, general walk-in to be re-commissioned as part of the CCG's overall strategy to integrate urgent care by extended hours and additional capacity in primary care which will be supplemented and supported by the implementation of the urgent treatment centre and re-commissioned 111 service; registered general practice list to continue and consolidate on the newly refurbished North Street site. This is all expected to be achieved between April and October next year. As a city we do need to ensure that the relevant services are available and easily accessible, otherwise we will be setting ourselves up for further issues and costs further down the line and we do not wish for anyone to suffer avoidable negative consequences. On that note Councillor Phillips may wish to refer her concerns to the Health, Overview & Scrutiny Committee to seek further clarification from the CCG."

20.16 Councillor Phillips asked the following supplementary question, "This is really worrying, especially considering the history of sexual health in particular where it was closed at Sussex University. I am wondering the caveat around that are one of the reasons they are saying that is ok is because we have the walk-in centre and now that is being closed. We are going to have real problems in the city coping so what equality impact assessment has been done to ensure vulnerable groups are not negatively impacted resulting in worse health outcomes?"

20.17 Councillor Barford replied, "I previously mentioned it is a CCG funded and CCG commissioned service at the walk-in centre but absolutely public health commissioners have been in discussions with the CCG commissioners to develop a plan to re-allocate funding for the sexual health services currently provided by the walk-in centre and to commission provision of the sexual health services in other settings in Brighton & Hove in the future and an equalities impact assessment will be part of that. This plan has not yet been formalised and no decision reached, but I can assure you the council is doing what it can to ensure that the decisions made do not impact negatively on the general public of Brighton & Hove."

(5) Councillor Hyde – Women's Suffrage

20.18 Councillor Hyde asked the following question, "On 1 February this year I proposed and spoke to my Notice of Motion of celebrating the 100th anniversary of suffrage and votes for women adding that approximately half the Members of this council are women. At that point in time I had not been able to source any celebrations which were going to take place and organised by the city council in the city. Our Council unanimously resolved to bring a report to the next PR&G Committee with details of events planned in the city. I am told and therefore shocked to understand B&H City Council has planned absolutely nothing by way of celebrations and there are no listings on the council web

site. Other local authorities have many events planned. Why has this council not done the same?"

20.19 Councillor Daniel replied, "I do apologise that the report did not go to PR&G however, I can list events for Councillor Hyde, they are on our website under Museums & Libraries but I do take on board the point that perhaps labelling them all under Women's Suffrage might be useful to help find them. We have an exhibition in the Jubilee Library by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom 100 years on and that includes a reference to information about women's suffrage which is still open until 22 July. We had the Brighton Dome and Women's Centre annual event. In February the museum ran a program of events focused on suffragettes with talks and exhibitions and there were also further talks on women's fashion. There have been a number of proposals over the course of this year from different groups who have applied to get blue plaques for suffragettes in the city and there are about four under consideration. The blue plaque committee are meeting to discuss those on 24 August and the 'Our Visit Brighton' team have been assisting with those proposals. That is in addition to a plaque in Hove to mark the home of suffragette Victoria Lydiard. Schools across our city have been studying the anniversary in different ways, for example Westdene Primary School had this week a visit from the a local historian and sang suffragette songs and read poems."

20.20 Councillor Hyde asked the following supplementary question, "When I speak to residents in my ward and when I am out and about they know nothing about any of this. A lot of councils have had marches, publicity of major events taking place in their towns and cities and organised by the Administration and we knew nothing about this so what is the point for organising what are not mammoth events when as councillors and the Group who proposed a Notice of Motion knew nothing about it?"

20.21 Councillor Daniel replied, "What I will do is make sure an event like this, summarising what I have told you is certainly circulated to any residents and also support you personally in anything you come up with in terms of this subject."

(6) Councillor Gibson – Bes Use of Public Money for Housing

20.22 Councillor Gibson asked the following question, "This concerns the answer that I received at Housing & New Homes outlining the net costs of short term and temporary accommodation which showed that from 2013-14 when it was about half a million it has escalated to a drain on the council's resources of now £2.768 million. We are losing a huge amount of money to the private rental sector that is further exemplified by the answer in today's addendum on page 15. I would like to remind Councillor Meadows that we had a Notice of Motion passed in December which was a unanimous agreement to develop buying private rented accommodation for public use for short term and emergency accommodation. Other councils have been doing this, it makes sense it is an invest to save, benefit income will be coming to the council and if offers the prospect of cutting our costs and paying ourselves. When will this happen?"

20.23 Councillor Meadows replied, "As Councillor Gibson will know, because he is on the Estates Regeneration Board and H&NH Committee and various other Member boards, that we are already building council rented/ temporary accommodation. H&NH Committee also agreed to purchase property from Orbit Housing Association which will

be turned into council rented temporary accommodation, because we are aware costs are escalating and we are happy to use landlords like yourself for temporary accommodation and the conversion of the former Oxford St Housing office once again is a conversion that will be used for temporary council rented temporary accommodation. We are already doing this, we would like to do it faster but we need the other two parties to support that proposal."

- 20.24 Councillor Gibson asked the following supplementary question, I would point out that the accommodation referred to is longer term temporary accommodation my point is about short term temporary and emergency accommodation on which the costs continue to escalate. It is really important that the Chair of Housing understands the brief and understands what we are talking about. The Joint Venture that was referred to as charging 37.5% market rent. Do you agree as Chair of the Joint Venture Board that it is really important that you understand how the rents are set for the Board that is building these homes?

- 20.25 Councillor Meadows replied, "I do understand."

(7) Councillor Mears – Local Businesses

- 20.26 Councillor Mears asked the following question, In 2008 the country went into a national recession many blamed Tony Blair for his handlings of the banks. As we all know high streets and small businesses are the backbone of our country. As the then Leader of the Council our Administration introduced a number of initiatives including 'Be local – Buy Local' supporting businesses and the economy in the city. By encouraging shoppers to buy local and not travel to other areas which offered cheaper parking in modern shopping centres. Can the Leader of the Council inform us what steps the Administration are taking to protect the city's high streets and the local economy following on from the loss of businesses due to the rise of online shopping?

- 20.27 Councillor Yates replied, "In terms of action and what the Council is doing, it is still working with the Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce; it is developing a new economic strategy and supporting what is going on around Brighton & Hove Connected and the Bid. Digital Catapult Centre in Brighton including 5G test measuring and it is the first 5G test bed outside of a university campus in the country. We are also then moving on to develop the Immersive Tech laboratory and there has been £70K secured for Immersive Tech to be part of Digital Catapult. Small Business Saturday was fantastic last year and we managed to get the National Small Business Saturday bus on Friday 24 November in Ship Street for a four hour period to raise the profile of local businesses and we are hoping to do the same again this year.

The Living Wage Campaign, something that we are working alongside the Chamber to deliver. I am really proud to be Leader of a Labour Group who has signed up themselves with their first employee to be a living wage employer because we believe not just in saying the right things or having the right policy but actually following it up with action something that Councillor Daniel has just pointed out. In terms of retailers specifically, we are working on the retail vacancy survey and that will be hopefully updated from the Bid. I can give some up to date figures from last year. In the city centre shop vacancy rates were just under 6%, in the bid area slightly over 6% and nationally at 12%. We could say that sounds good our retail vacancy rates are low but if

you look at what is going on in terms of where we sit in terms of the LEP area we have some significant issues about vacancy rates that are not positive and not about take up but capacity. They are actually saying that we don't have sufficient capacity for growth and that we are stagnating and causing problems in our economy by not having sufficient capacity for people to move into and that is shown up by the number of small and medium businesses compared to micro businesses. We have high levels of micro businesses in the city but it looks very much like they are struggling to find spaces to grow and if we are not going to grow the city's economy to provide better jobs to provide the money that people need to see the housing developments that people need in this city then we will be failing that is why it is really good that the LEP is demonstrating that we have done that sort of engagement, that we have looked at the issues and that we want to take that forward to the Government and say to them "you told us about this Brexit bonus, about the benefits of getting the Structural Fund back; so give us the benefits of that Structural Fund back. Allow us to be investing in proper business infrastructure in proper business support in the city. A piece of good news is the Amex development in Edward Street being delivered, with significant pieces of business space being delivered. We need more, yet at the same time just outside our city's boundaries but not outside our city's economy IKEA, unable to reach a decision. I am proud of our Planning Committee being able to reach decisions and I welcome the role that all councillors across the political spectrum played in making those decisions."

- 20.28 Councillor Mears asked the following supplementary question, "It is interesting re the reference to the Old Amex site in Edward Street as one of their Members in charge of Economic Development voted against that actual Planning Application. I am sure the Leader of the Council will be delighted to know that local businesses are actually going to bring forward their own 'Be Local Buy Local' because it was so successful in the City. Can the Leader of the Council confirm to the city he does not support the Labour Shadow Chancellor or when defending his support for socialist Venezuela has repeatedly on record promised to pursue the overthrow of capitalism? What can the Administration offer our hard working entrepreneurs who are striving to succeed in their city and as the Leader of the Council could he state his Administration will do everything it can to help and support the city's economy."

- 20.29 Councillor Yates replied, "Yes because without an economy you live in anarchy and none of us here believe in anarchy."

(8) Councillor Littman – 3GS

- 20.30 Councillor Littman asked the following question, "In March 2016 taking out the 3G Contract, Councillor Mitchell was quoted as saying "We are often asked to take the tougher stance around anti-social behaviour, such as dropping litter, fly posting and dog fouling and graffiti," this new scheme along with the publicity and education programme will tackle the problem head on and send out a strong message that deliberate anti-social behaviour which blights our city will not be tolerated. After nearly two and a half years of this new scheme taken together the amount of litter, fly posting, dog mess and in particular graffiti in the city is as bad as I can remember it in 56 years; does Councillor Mitchell still believe that the 3GS contract has successfully tackled the problem head on?"

- 20.31 Councillor Mitchell replied, "Yes I do believe that, I think it has sent out a very strong message that we will not tolerate despoiling and littering in the city and in particular fly tipping."
- 20.32 Councillor Littman asked the following supplementary question, "We obviously disagree on this. Given what I consider to be the abject failure of the outsourcing of enforcement to a private firm, together with the fact that many councillors in-boxes are full of complaints from residents about the heavy handiness of issuing fines when small businesses make minimal errors when recycling their waste and given that the contract runs out in 2019 may I ask what research has gone on or is envisaged to go on regarding bringing the service in-house with zero net costs for the Council and hopefully becoming an income generator for the council?"
- 20.33 Councillor Mitchell replied, "A decision on re-procuring and enforcement contract will take place this autumn and an enforcement policy is being drafted and will be brought to ETS Committee in October. This will provide the basis for re-procuring the contract should Councillors wish to do so and I have already asked officers to work up an in-house option as part of this process."
- (9) Councillor Barnett – Trespass at St Helen's Green**
- 20.34 Councillor Barnett asked the following question, "Across our great city from St Helen's Green to Preston Park we have all experienced the negative impact of the travellers descending on our Wards. Tax paying residents of B&H get a fine for fly tipping waste, illegal parking and other anti-social behaviour. Please can you tell us why this Administration has failed to fine the inhabitants of illegal encampments for their inconsiderate and unacceptable behaviour?"
- 20.35 Councillor Daniel replied, "The number of unauthorised encampments on park and open spaces has reduced from 113 when we took office to 49 last year. Partly due to PSPOs, we have sent out 217 PSPOs breach warnings since the introduction of the orders in April 2017 of which 75 have been issued in this financial year. I would like to make a further comment that given those facts and figures, St Helen's had a 2-hour incursion as far as I can see do you not think it is irresponsible to characterise travellers as descending on the city and likely to stoke fear and tension within our communities?"
- 20.36 Councillor Barnett asked the following supplementary question, "As we see the roll out of Field Officers, please can the Administration assure us that the rapid response unit will be on standby 24/7 so that people who are tempted to establish illegal encampments are moved on before having the chance to leave waste and destruction which needs sorting out at tax payers expense. Your response did not give me the answer I needed about costs and fines for travellers that leave the mess that tax payers have to pay."
- 20.37 Councillor Daniel replied, "I do understand Councillor Barnett was at the time on the NICE Committee when we went through what the Field Officers would be doing and their hours and she has Members of her Group who have been voting through this policy and if she wanted a 24/7 service she should have made sure that was in the budget to pay for it. It is not 24/7 there was a 2-hour incursion as far as I know."

(10) Councillor Page – Recycling Collection Standards

- 20.38 Councillor Page asked the following question, “When I brought my black boxes in from the street recently the transparent bag of batteries was left on top there was a large squashed cardboard box still in the bottom of one of my boxes, the lids were strewn across the street. Is this more to do with the new expensive agency staff or is it poor standard of service due to the chronic low morale of the permanent staff associated with high sickness rates?”
- 20.39 Councillor Mitchell replied, “All I can say is that I do not have the answer to Councillor Page’s own personal recycling issues but I am very happy to look into them.”
- 20.40 Councillor Page asked the following supplementary question, “What I said wasn’t really about me, it was about the poor standard of the service and Councillor Mitchell said earlier that she won’t admit that the Administration is not getting the basics right on this but would she agree that time is running out to get the basics right and the residents will shortly have an opportunity to judge that statement?

20.41 Councillor Mitchell replied, “No not particularly.”

(11) Councillor Nemeth – Crime on Hove Seafront

- 20.42 Councillor Nemeth asked the following question, “A recent theme has emerged of highly regular vandalism, criminal damage, trespass, theft and drug taking on Hove seafront. Each of these activities has a number of severe negative effects on a variety of council enterprises whether it be the repair of seafront shelters, the licensing of beach huts or the letting of council property. Would a Member of the Administration please give me a brief list of concrete actions to date, including dedicated meetings with police and victims, letters to police chiefs, policy changes to address the situation and CCTV checks?”
- 20.43 Councillor Marsh replied, “Most of what you have actually commented on is the responsibility of the police as they are acts of crime. I checked with the Seafront Office and the only incident we are aware of in relation to our responsibilities is the theft of the Hove Plinth display case. We are also aware of the vandalism of the beach huts. They are a police matter and we work very closely with police colleagues about incidents but we are limited in relation to any action that we the council can take.”
- 20.44 Councillor Nemeth asked the following supplementary question, “I would like to hear a list of simple actions, the sort of crimes I am speaking about are the theft of items from Hove Lagoon, the beach huts being smashed up, the theft of the Hove Plinth display. Councillor Yates mentioned what he sees as the failure of successive Administrations to get a grip on a variety of seafront issues, so my question is should the current Administration be nipping this problem in the bud as it is a fairly new one, so it is not left for a future Administration to fix it?”
- 20.45 Councillor Marsh replied, “I agree that we want to nip all these things in the bud. As I said previously most of the criminal acts that you refer to are the responsibility of the police who I liaise with on a regular basis and I go through and take some of the specific things that you are mentioning and that I don’t know, being new to my post, how we

have responded as a Council to the vandalism of the beach huts, but that is a criminal thing and I think it will be a police responsibility. However, I will provide you with a full and detailed written answer."

(12) Councillor West – George Street Hove

- 20.46 Councillor West asked the following question, "At the ETS Cttee in June a number of issues were raised about George St by the Ward councillors. Councillor Moonan first of all was supporting a call for bollards to be introduced to protect pedestrians from drivers, and then Councillor Wealls called for banning juggernauts from the street. Both issues have been exacerbated by the increasing number of hours that cars and other vehicles are allowed into the street rather than just pedestrians. Councillor Wealls again called for the removal of the very popular bike hub and had that put at Tesco to send the customers there instead. With all the interest and concern being expressed in the wish to help George St, would Councillor Mitchell agree that it is high time that we had a positive vision for George St as a thriving destination, as a welcoming environment for people not cars, a place where people want to spend more time rather than hurrying through?"
- 20.47 Councillor Mitchell replied, "We have had very many good debates and discussions around George St and it has been a pleasure to welcome the two ward councillors along and to listen to their ideas and the view was expressed at committee. We are always keen to help them improve the road where we can and where resources allow."

- 20.48 Councillor West asked the following supplementary question, "My actual question wasn't answered and that was that does Councillor Mitchell agree that it is about time that we actually had a proper vision for George St, will you charge officers to take this forward?"

- 20.49 Councillor Mitchell replied, "I would refer Councillor West to my previous answer which is that we will continue a dialogue with ward councillors who both fully understand George St, its needs and those of everyone that uses it and we will be guided by them."

(13) Councillor Druitt – Broadband

- 20.50 Councillor Druitt asked the following question, "In a press release of 18 March 2013 the council celebrated a recent grant of £3m from the Government to upgrade the city's internet capacity, judging that it would boost business and create a thousand new jobs and 135 new companies. It was expected that the money would help fund enhanced fibre optic connections and make wireless broadband available in buildings and outdoors on mobile devices. Can I ask what five years later has been the impact of this funding and why parts of the city centre regularly suffer from speeds of less than 2 megabits per second required by Ofcom a far cry from 80 megabits per second advertised in the press release?"
- 20.51 Councillor Yates replied, This is not about policy but is about matters that are of concern to us. The roll out of broadband is determined by market forces, with two main providers rolling out being Openreach and Virgin Media. They have traditionally dominated the market.

Councils have limited powers to be able to deal directly in that market because of State Aid laws so we are unable to play our part as fully as we could do if these laws didn't exist. So we can't deal with specific locations that aren't well served by broadband. However, bear in mind that Brighton & Hove as a city has the fourth best provision of ultra-broadband (faster than 100 megabits per second) in the UK.

We may have people that are badly served but, they are being badly served by the broadband market. It is important to recognise 5G that I mentioned earlier can help to play its part in this. One of the things that we have been doing, as Board member of the LEP is actually looking at other ways to roll out fibre and is actually working on getting money out of the Government, i.e. that much talked about BREXIT bonus that we were all promised. Maybe some of that structural fund money can get invested by the LEP and actually come to us so we have a 5G ring around the city not only is that going to help residents but our important creative and digital industries, that help to support our economy.

- 20.52 Councillor Druitt asked the following supplementary question, "Openreach say that the junction box outside Brighton Town Hall isn't planned to be upgraded and Virgin Media meanwhile says that the Council won't allow it to dig up the road to lay the cables. Can Councillor Yates assure me that he will work with the Chief Executive to break the impasse and allow the broadband firm to do whatever they need to do to bring the broadband in this digital city up to 21st Century speeds?"
- 20.53 Councillor Yates replied, "It is a matter of policy and it is a requirement in my role as Leader to give the Chief Executive political instruction and direction. So I give direction to the Chief Executive to make the necessary arrangements."
- 20.54 Prior to the final question being taken, Councillor Yates queried whether it was appropriate to take the question in view of the fact that Councillor Hyde had already asked one question and council procedural rules restricted Members to one oral question per meeting.
- 20.55 The Mayor noted the query and having consulted with the Monitoring Officer noted that one question per Member was the usual practice; however on this occasion, having already extended the time for questions, she was minded to allow Councillor Hyde to ask the question.

(14) Councillor Hyde – Planning Service

- 20.56 Councillor Hyde asked the following question, "Despite previous promises of an improvement plan for the planning process in Brighton & Hove which by any standards are poor we have yet another idea to improve this failing service. I seek assurances for proposals of planning officers dealing with individual planning applications not being permitted to answer the phone to residents or developers for the next three months. Will this proposal result in a guaranteed improvement to the service? The Administration's decisions in the past have all failed; I wish to make it very clear that I do not blame the individual officers working within the planning service for the problems.

20.57 Councillor Yates replied, "I will answer Madam Mayor. It is not a question of policy, it is an operational matter determined by officers. It is not urgent and it is not a matter of policy."

20.58 The Mayor noted that Councillor Hyde did not have a supplementary question and therefore brought the item to an end.

21 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

21.1 RESOLVED:

- (1) That the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution, recommended in paragraph 2.2 of the report be approved and adopted and come into immediate effect;
- (2) That the changes proposed in paragraph 4.2 to 4.8 and Appendix 2 to the report come into force once Field Officers have been formally appointed and have completed their induction and relevant training;
- (3) That the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution set out at paragraphs 4.9 and appendix 3 (Council Procedure Rules but without the changes to paragraph 9.9, this being referred back to the Constitutional Working Group for consideration) and paragraphs 4.11 to 4.12 and appendix 4 (Code of Conduct for Employees), as well as those in paras 4.13 to 4.15 and appendix 5 (Terms of Reference of the Conservation Advisory Group) to the report be approved; and
- (4) That the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer be authorised to take all steps necessary or incidental to the implementation of the changes agreed by full Council, and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend and re-publish the Council's constitutional documents to incorporate the changes.

22 INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF EXISTING PARTNERING CONTRACT FOR HOUSING REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, PLANNED AND MAJOR WORKS

- 22.1 Councillor Gibson stated that he had asked for the report to be referred to the Council to ensure that all Members were aware of the crucially important decision that was due to be taken regarding the repairs contract for housing stock. He urged all Members to read the report and to give due consideration to the implications for council given that the current partnership contract had failed to meet its objectives.
- 22.2 Councillor Mears noted that the contract had been let under the previous Conservative Administration and had followed the failed stock transfer ballot. It had been the right approach at the time and the current problems were a result of the council's management of the contract rather than the performance of the contractor. She welcomed the report being brought to all Members' attention and encouraged them to read it. There were lessons to be learnt and a need to move forward.
- 22.3 Councillor Meadows noted the comments and stated that it had been a snap-shot review looking back in time and the report had been discussed in depth at the Housing & New Homes Committee meeting. There were a number of positives that could be taken from

the report although she also accepted that there were some negative points that the council could learn from.

22.4 The Mayor noted that the report had been referred for information and therefore moved that it be noted.

22.5 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

CITY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT MODERNISATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

22.6 The Mayor noted that the report had been referred for information and that Item 23(4), Notice of Motion concerning City Clean also related to the subject matter. She was therefore inclined to take both items together in one debate.

22.7 Councillor Yates stated that given the number of questions, petitions and motions concerning City Clean, it was evident that the service was crucial to the city. The report sought to provide an update on the projects being undertaken as part of the City Environmental Management (CEM) Modernisation Programme and he felt it would be helpful for all Members to be aware of the actions and outcome of debate at the recent Policy, Resources & Growth Committee meeting.

22.8 The Mayor then invited Councillor Wares to move the Notice of Motion.

22.9 Councillor Wares proposed the Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda on behalf of the Conservative Group and noted that the earlier petition showed the level of concern residents had with the regard to the situation in the city. He stated that there was a consistent failure for collections to be completed and streets were becoming bin stores across the city. He questioned whether the report actually dealt with the issue or offered any solutions to the problems faced by the Service and suggested it only added to the pressure on the staff concerned. He was therefore calling for a report to address the situation and reassure staff that action would be taken to enable them to provide the level of service that was required.

22.10 Councillor Bell formally seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

22.11 Councillor Mitchell stated that she was happy to support the motion but noted that a vast majority of the actions requested had already been taken forward. She also noted that previous proposals to provide additional resources for the Service had been out voted and that had resulted on the need to find ways to bring in income which could be used to support and maintain vital services. She wished to pay tribute to the crews and staff who were delivering the services.

22.12 Councillor West stated that residents were suffering and there was a need to address the situation and to provide service that was expected by tax payers in the city. He hoped that action would be taken to resolve the problems that currently existed.

22.13 Councillor Littman stated that it was clear across the city that residents were suffering and that there was no apparent solution being offered. There had been mistakes made which had not been rectified and there was a clear need to take action to ensure that an effective Service could be provided for all residents.

- 22.14 Councillor Wealls invited Councillor Mitchell to join him and visit a number of households in his Ward where collections had been missed so that she could see the extent of the problem.
- 22.15 Councillor Druitt stated that he like all other councillors received a constant number of emails regarding the problems with City Clean and overflowing bins etc. He hoped that action would be taken to resolve this as soon as possible.
- 22.16 Councillor G. Theobald stated that changes to the Service and the introduction of wheelie bins had not been planned properly and had led to the problems that were being encountered. It was not the fault of the staff but that of the decision-makers and they needed to acknowledge that and take appropriate action to rectify the situation.
- 22.17 Councillor Mac Cafferty stated that he believed residents had had enough and that cuts to front-line services had been to severe and had left the operative in a difficult positon which was no fault of theirs. He stated that action needed to be taken and hoped that the forthcoming report would address the concerns that had been raised.
- 22.18 Councillor Bell stated that the notice of motion resulted from the distress and frustration faced by residents in regard to a service that should be provided as a matter of course. He stated that the workforce should be applauded and thanked for their efforts when they knew that they could not fulfil the requirements of the service. There was a need to find a solution and to clear up the city so that visitors and residents alike could enjoy it.
- 22.19 The Mayor noted that the report had been referred for information and before calling on Councillor Wares to responds to the debate moved that it be noted.
- 22.20 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.
- 22.21 Councillor Wares thanked everyone for their comments and stated that there was a need to recognise how residents felt about the situation and to take action to resolve the situation. He therefore hoped that the motion would be supported and a resolution found.
- 22.22 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:
- This Council resolves to request the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Culture to:
- a. Produce a report for the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee that details precisely the sustainable solutions to enable refuse, recycling and green waste collections occurring on the published days.
 - b. That the report include actual measures to deal with other issues that were sent to Policy, Resources and Growth Committee on 12th July 2018 (agenda item 11) as well as detailing the constraints and restrictions that prevent modernisation;
 - c. That the report further include financial and performance analysis of the commercial waste and garden waste services against their respective previously approved business plans and financial forecasts.

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

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

(1) Post Adoption Support and Interagency Adoption Fees

23.1 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Wealls on behalf of the Conservative, Labour & Co-operative and Green Groups; along with a slight amendment to the wording to take into account recent announcements in relation to the matter. Councillors Chapman and Knight seconded the motion as amended.

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

This council resolves that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Education, requesting that the government:

- Recognises the value of the Adoption Support Fund, and confirms the long-term future and arrangements for this vital post-adoption support for children and their adoptive families, so that effective planning can take place and maximum benefit can be achieved;
- Intervenes with the Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies to reverse the recent implementation of a 15% increase in inter-agency fees, or offsets the impact of this increase on local authority budgets.

23.3 The Mayor confirmed that the motion as amended had been carried unanimously.

(2) Unpaid Trial Shifts

23.4 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Platts on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative and seconded by Councillor Horan.

23.5 Councillor Druitt moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group which was seconded by Councillor Mac Cafferty.

23.6 Councillor Bell moved an amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group which was seconded by Councillor Peltzer Dunn.

23.7 The Mayor noted that both amendments had been accepted by Councillor Platts and put the following motion to the vote:

This Council resolves:

- (1) To request that the Chief Executive asks officers to work in collaboration with the Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership, Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Alliance, local traders associations, trade unions and organisations representing young people, to gain information and understanding of the scale and nature of unpaid trial shifts in the City of Brighton and Hove and bring a report to an appropriate meeting of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee outlining options

to end the practice in the city. The report should include a proposal for a wide consultation across all private, public and voluntary sector organisations.

- (2) To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, requesting that the Government seek to end the practice of unpaid trial shifts.

23.8 The Mayor confirmed that the motion as amended had been carried unanimously.

(3) Charter Against Modern Slavery

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

23.10 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

This council resolves to ask for a report to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee detailing:

- (1) The implications of signing up to the Charter Against Modern Slavery, which will commit the council to 10 action points, including to:
- Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
 - Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery
 - Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
- (2) How to ensure staff are made aware and trained as appropriate in identifying possible instances of modern slavery.

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

(4) City Clean

Note:

23.12 The item was taken in conjunction with Item 22(a) and the resolution is detailed above.

(5) Preston Park Station

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

23.14 Councillor Littman moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group which was seconded by Councillor West.

23.15 The Mayor noted that the amendment had been accepted by Councillor Theobald and put the following motion to the vote:

This Council resolves to:

- (1) Request the Chief Executive write to Patrick Verwer (COO Govia Thameslink Railway), Jo Johnson MP (Minister of State for Transport) and John Halsall (Route Managing Director Network Rail South East) calling for immediate action to provide the following:
 - Detail the process by which they assess passenger numbers using Preston Park Station. The decision making process that has led to a reduction in services and clarification about the changes to the levels of service / number of trains that stop at Preston Park Station compared to the timetable prior to 20th May 2018.
 - Implement a timetable that enables commuters to travel frequently, and without extraordinarily long journey / waiting times between Preston Park Station and London; including consideration of reinstating the previous levels of Preston Park services as a minimum – and further, no gaps of more than 15 minutes in peak time services; 4 Gatwick Express trains per hour to Victoria; off peak/weekend service minimum half hourly, and other measures to improve the service as set out by Preston Park Train Campaign.
 - Increased investment at Preston Park Station to provide first class facilities to ensure passenger safety, comfort and convenience.
 - A further analysis of usage at all the city's railway stations, with the view to ensuring sufficient services are provided.
 - A further assurance that Govia Thameslink will ensure swift compensation for passengers affected by recent disruption.
- (2) Request the Chief Executive write to Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport to urge the Government to strip GTR of its Thameslink and Southern franchises, bring these into transparent and accountable public hands, and take immediate steps to restore services, reduce overcrowding and improve reliability.

23.16 The Mayor confirmed that the motion as amended had been carried unanimously.

(6) Truly Affordable Housing at the Brighton General Site

23.17 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Druitt on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Gibson.

23.18 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

This Council notes that the Brighton General Hospital site is a public asset, and as such should be used for public good; prioritising NHS use first and foremost with any spare land used for truly affordable housing.

This Council therefore requests:

1. A report to be provided to Housing & New Homes Committee, detailing the availability of land at the site and the most appropriate ways in which to develop it

for truly affordable housing, including options for development by the Joint Venture, B&H Community Land Trust, directly by the Council, or a combination.

2. That the Chief Executive writes to partners at Sussex Community NHS Trust, to communicate the will of the Council expressed in this Notice of Motion, so that all parties can conduct negotiations with this in mind.

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

(7) Sussex IFCA: Inshore Trawling and Fishing

23.20 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Sykes on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Littman.

23.21 Councillor Nemeth moved an amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group which was seconded by Councillor Bell.

23.22 The Mayor noted that the amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group had not been accepted by Councillor Sykes and put it to the vote which was lost by 19 votes to 30.

23.23 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

This Council notes the importance of the marine environment to the city and to the city's tourism economy, and is very concerned at the damage that the fishing method of 'netting' and trawling causes to our marine environment, contributing to a decline in fish and the ecosystem present in Sussex waters.

As part of our commitment to maintain a 'Living Coast' and UNESCO Biosphere, this Council resolves to request the Chief Executive to write to the SIFCA Chief Fisheries and Conservation Officer, asking for:

- (a) changes to trawling management that respond positively to suggestions in the SIFCA consultation paper, including creating trawling exclusion areas in nearshore waters of Sussex;
- (b) changes to how 'netting' is managed, in line with the suggestions of SIFCA, including netting controls all year round and the of fisheries 'zones'

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

24 CLOSE OF MEETING

24.1 The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.20pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2017