

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**NEIGHBOURHOODS, INCLUSION, COMMUNITIES & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE**

**4.00pm 8 OCTOBER 2018**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors Daniel (Chair), Marsh (Deputy Chair), Nemeth (Opposition Spokesperson), West (Group Spokesperson), Cattell, Moonan, A Norman, K Norman, Peltzer Dunn and Phillips

**Also in Attendance :** Superintendent Geoff Riley, Sussex Police, Joanna Martindale, Hangleton and Knoll Project, Anusree Biswas Sasidharan, Community Works, Ethnic and Cultural Minorities Representative

**PART ONE**

**13 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**13a Declaration of Substitutes**

13.1 There were none.

**13b Declarations of Interest**

13.2 Councillors Cattell and A Norman declared an in interest in, Item 21 on the agenda, "Domestic and Sexual Abuse: Future Commissioning Options" by virtue of their work as volunteer caseworkers with RISE. Neither had any involvement with the management of that organisation and both confirmed that they were of a neutral mind in considering the report, did not therefore have a prejudicial interest and would remain present at the meeting during the discussion and decision making process

**13c Exclusion of Press and Public**

13.3 In accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ("The Act"), the Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the

business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, that there would be disclosure to them of confidential information, (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information as defined in section 100(1) of the Act).

- 1.4 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be excluded during consideration of and discussion of the contents of Appendix 4 of Item 21/26 – “Options for Commission of Domestic Violence and Abuse and Sexual Violence Services” – Exempt Category 3.

## **14 MINUTES**

- 14.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **15 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS**

- 15.1 The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

### **Recent Appointments**

- 15.2 The new VVE co-ordinator Tim Read had started in post and the new joint strategic commissioner for DVA and SV services Lindsay Adams has also started and was in attendance at the meeting. The first tranche of the new field officers had started to operate in the city. Recruitment had taken longer than expected, which meant that the team would start with four officers operating a service from 12 noon to 8pm, seven days a week. The Team Manager and remaining Field Officers had been interviewed and their start dates will be confirmed soon. The new team members would spend their first months working alongside the Field Officers already in post, training, shadowing and meeting council teams, residents, community groups and partners. The aim was to have the service running at full capacity and launched to the public from the beginning of December. For the first few months, the team would focus on enforcement functions and making referrals across the service areas.

### **Rainbow Hub**

- 15.3 The Rainbow Hub had opened on St James St, and whilst fully funded by the Rainbow Fund for the next three years, it is a discreet and separate organisation, it was a fully accessible community space in the heart of the Gay Village with information on where to access LGBT+ specific services in the city, a home for The LGBT Community Safety Forum’s outreach service, and a resource for service providers and organisations to hold drop in sessions. It was also open to any of the cities communities who might care to use the space.
- 15.4 The city’s hate crime vigil is being held in St James St at 7pm on October 17<sup>th</sup> as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week, with a candle lit reception in the Rainbow Hub beforehand hosted by BHCC & the LGBT C Safety Forum for community, third sector and public bodies to meet & share the various campaigns and projects happening in and around hate crime awareness week.

- 15.5 The Mayor of Brighton & Hove would be holding a reception to celebrate all the good work done this year in Brighton & Hove to further inclusion, promote positive narratives and understand for Trans and Non-Binary communities in the city, honouring the work done by many of the cities prominent activists and organisations.
- 15.6 During hate crime awareness week (week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> October) the council would be launching a hate crime campaign to raise awareness and encourage reporting, with the key message that all hate incidents were serious enough to report. The campaign was being led by Brighton and Hove Buses in partnership with the Council and Sussex Police and would include having posters on buses on an ongoing basis. Positive messaging would also be posted on social media throughout hate crime awareness week.
- 15.7 The city was taking at least three more Syrian families on the government's refugee resettlement programme this autumn. One of these families arrived last week. Many thanks to the landlords who are offering their private rented properties at an affordable rent so that the local authority can continue to offer sanctuary to these vulnerable families. We continue to look for properties for the scheme (particularly two bed properties at the moment). The contact details for the scheme are [refugeehelp@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:refugeehelp@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or 01273 291248.
- 15.8 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the Chair's Communications be received and noted.

## **16 CALL OVER**

- 16.1 All items appearing on the agenda were called for discussion with the exception of the following item which was agreed without discussion:

Item 23 – “St. James Court Public Space Protection Order – Consultation Summary.”

## **17 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

### **17a Petitions**

- 17.1 The Committee were asked to consider a petition which had been referred from Full Council requesting implementation of a policy for the distribution of free sanitary products to schools to counter period poverty.
- 17.2 The full wording of the petition and an extract of the minutes from the meeting of Council held on 19 July 2018 had been circulated with the agenda and are also set out below. Ms Whittaker the lead petitioner was invited forward by the Chair to speak in support of her petition:
- “We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to implement a policy for the distribution of free sanitary products to schools to counter period poverty. We see this as an integral part of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.”
- 17.3 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, responded in the following terms:

“I would like to thank Ms Whittaker for attending this building a second time to present a petition on an issue which affects a significant number of children in the city’s schools. The information provided in the petition has been noted, as has the request that the Council lead on ensuring the free distribution of sanitary products at schools do as to counteract period poverty. Steps are already being taken to mitigate the problem and its impact on girls and young women in the city in concert with the Red Box Project, implemented in a number of local authority areas whereby arrangements are in place whereby free tampons and pads are left in local schools.

Although this is already underway I propose that we seek a written report to consider ways in which the Council might additionally support work in this area. This will include any practical steps which might be taken as well as any funding implications which arise as a result.”

- 17.4 **RESOLVED** – That a report be brought forward to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee setting out ways in which the Council might additionally support work to seek to address period poverty.

**17b Written Questions**

- 17.5 There were none.

**17c Deputations**

- 17.6 There were none.

**18 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT**

**18a Petitions**

- 18.1 There were none.

**18b Written Questions**

- 18.2 There were none.

**18c Letters**

**Enforcement in George Street, Hove, of Byelaw Banning “Touting”**

- 18.3 The Committee considered a letter submitted by Councillor Wealls requesting enforcement in George Street of a Byelaw banning “touting”. A copy of the letter had been circulated with the agenda papers. Councillor Nemeth spoke in his capacity as Opposition Spokesperson on the Committee in Councillor Wealls absence.
- 18.4 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, stated that she was grateful that the issue had been raised and was of the view that it would be appropriate for a report detailing the powers available under existing Bye-Laws and setting out other options including their respective financial implications any to be brought forward to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

- 18.5 Councillor Nemeth stated that George Street was a busy shopping area and that the persistent behaviour of some of those collecting for charity was a nuisance and that some, such as elderly shoppers and residents found it intimidating. A number of complaints had been received by Local Ward Councillors.
- 18.6 Councillor West considered it was important to seek clarification of the different types of activity and at the implications arising from enforcement. Councillor Peltzer Dunn concurred. The Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing stated that a Bye-Law already existed in relation to activities taking place in George Street and as part of any assessment of future options it was important to look at how that had been drafted and how it could be reworded/better enforced. It was important to revisit that as a blanket ban on use of George Street would also preclude those selling poppies for example. Councillor Peltzer Dunn stated that he was grateful for the clarification which had been given and would welcome a report on this issue.
- 18.7 **RESOLVED** – That a further report be brought forward for consideration at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee detailing possible options to counter nuisance caused by charity chuggers in George Street, Hove.

**18d Notices of Motion**

- 18.8 There were none.

**19 PRESENTATION - WORK OF THE RACIAL HARASSMENT FORUM**

- 19.1 A presentation was given by Monika Richards and Mahir Chowdhury of the Racial Harassment Forum outlining their work and detailing the content of the Racial Harassment Forum Consultation report which had been circulated recently.
- 19.2 It was explained that in June 2016 the RHF had been formally constituted. Although the Council retained support for the RHF, the organisation was fully independent. The RHF was a community led membership organisation to support victims of hate crimes and incidents and representatives from Brighton and Hove's culturally and ethnically diverse communities were directors and formed its Executive Committee. The consultation process which had been carried out had been seen as a crucial step for RHF in its commitment to ensuring that it had the support and foundations for operating amongst the consensus of its membership and wider communities and that the consultation findings would provide the RHF with a mandate for work it should focus on in the short-mid and long term to create sustainability.
- 19.3 The aims and objectives of the RHF were outlined and it was stressed that at its core its aims were to ensure that those who believed they were victims of a hate crime or incident had an accessible, recognised and culturally sensitive organisation they could approach in order to seek support and address incident(s) in order to support their policies in ensuring there was zero tolerance of hate crimes or incidents across the city. Details of the methodology used and results received were also outlined as were the differences between on-line and hard copy questionnaire results which highlighted that varied approaches to engagement were required. Examples of individual comments/feedback received were given.

19.4 following the presentation members had the opportunity to ask questions. The Chair, Councillor Daniel commended the report, stating that the feedback received gave cause for concern and clearly illustrated that issues remained to be addressed, in the expectation that nothing would happen and that a number of young people did not report incidents in schools and colleges as they considered that nothing would happen to the perpetrators and that their situation could become less safe if they reported peers. Those concerns were echoed by Members of the Committee who also commended the report which they considered timely and which highlighted the importance of individuals feeling confident in reporting incidents and in knowing where to go.

19.5 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the presentation be noted and received.

## **20 COUNTER-EXTREMISM**

20.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing the purpose of which was to brief members on the work being undertaken under the local Counter Extremism (CE) strategy to challenge extremism in all its forms.

20.2 It was noted that the National Counter Extremism (CE) Strategy had been published in October 2016, and had set out the Government’s overarching approach to tackling extremism in all its forms. The strategy had defined extremism as “vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.” The CE Strategy recognised the wider harms of extremism, outside of terrorism and radicalisation which came under “Prevent.” These wider harms had been identified as hate incidents and hate crimes, less cohesive society, harmful practices (e.g., forced marriage) and rejection of democracy and the rule of law. The CE Strategy was therefore distinct and complimentary to the Prevent Strategy.

20.3 On 24 January 2018, the Home Office had announced the appointment of a new lead Commissioner for countering Extremism. The Commission had been engaging widely since that time in order to support communities and the public sector in confronting extremism where it existed. Nationally, the most significant risks in relating groups to extreme right-wing groups and Al-Qaida or Daesh inspired or affiliated extremism.

20.4 The Council’s Communities Coordinator had come into post with the council in July 2017, as a dedicated resource to embed the national CE strategy and to build capacity in countering extremism at a local level. This was a Home Office funded post in the Communities Equality and Third Sector Team and was funded until the end of March 2019. The local CE Strategy sat within the Community Safety and Crime reduction Strategy 2017-20 and an action plan had been developed in order to support the strategy.

20.5 Anusree Biswas Sasidharan, Community Works, Ethnic and Cultural Minorities representative referred to the need for on-going collaboration.

20.6 Councillor Marsh referred to the planned training day for Committee Members enquiring whether invitations to attend the event could be extended to other Councillors. It was

explained that the date and content of this event were yet to be finalised and details would be circulated to all Councillors at that time.

20.7 Councillor Nemeth stated whilst willing to support the report recommendations he proposed that the wording of recommendation 3 be amended (as set out in bold below) to take on board the broader remit of the training and feedback. The Committee concurred and the recommendations (as amended) were agreed unanimously and are set out below.

20.8 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee notes the contents of the report;

(2) Notes that the Committee has access to the national Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism (SIGCE), and is invited to nominate a lead from each political group on the committee to join SIGCE; and

(3) Notes that Committee Members are invited to attend the half day “Workshop on Countering Extremism” facilitated by the Communities Coordinator and **note that it is possible for Councillors** to feedback relevant concerns from constituents to the Communities Coordinator.

## 21 **OPTIONS FOR COMMISSION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES**

21.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing examining the options for the commission of domestic violence and abuse and sexual violence services and seeking Committee approval to the joint commission of specialist and community based services for victims/survivors of Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) and Sexual Violence (SV) for Brighton and Hove and East Sussex by Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) and East Sussex County Council (ESCC) which services are to commence on expiry of the current contract arrangements.

21.2 The report was presented by The Head of Safer Communities, Jo Player and the newly appointed Joint Commissioner for DVA and SV, Lindsay Adams. It was noted that in July 2018, the NICE Committee had requested that officers provide options for the effective development of commissioned services for Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) and sexual Violence (SV) provision in the City. This paper reported on aspects of the current service known as “The Portal” and the proposal to involve service users and providers from all sectors in the co-production of a strategy to address the needs of those requiring support as a result of the DVA and SV which would inform the re-commissioning of services.

21.3 It was noted that SV and DV reporting had increased substantially. Using reporting to the Police as an example, between 2013/14 and 2016/17 there had been an increase of 28% in reporting of domestic violence incidents and crimes and an increase of 115% in sexual offences in Brighton and Hove. In 2016/17, 4,703 domestic violence incidents and crimes had been reported to the police and there had been 821 police recorded sexual offences in the city. Although this increase was substantial it was accepted that police recorded data was likely to under represent the scale of violence and abuse as it was considered that a numbers of instances of such crime went unreported. These

crime types had a significant impact on victims/survivors, their children and the wider community and also carried a significant financial cost.

- 21.3 The initial contract period for “The Portal” had been 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2018. The contract period had been extended in conformity with the contract for six months to 31 March 2019, to allow sufficient time for learning from the triage pilot funded by the OSPCC and other new initiatives to come forward in order to inform the redevelopment of the strategy and the design of a needs-led new commission. Within “The Portal” contract BHCC also contracted for refuge provision in Brighton and Hove. Therefore this was also currently due to end on 31 March 2019. The current contracts and provision and potential options going forward were set out in the report.
- 21.4 In conclusion it was considered that the council currently had one viable option (Option 1) which would provide additional security to contracted specialist service users during a period of review and service commissioning. Whilst this might not be an ideal scenario for commissioned services who wished to continue delivering the existing contract until September 2020, it offered the best outcome possible in an environment of necessary service and budget review. The officer view was that a joint commissioning process provided the council with a strong opportunity to maximise the benefit of its investment in the service so as to ensure high quality services were available for residents.
- 21.5 Councillor Marsh sought clarification of the options being placed before Committee and it was confirmed that of the two options which were being put forward, Option 1 was considered to represent the “best fit” within the timetable put forward for all parties. It was also confirmed that all funding had now been confirmed by partners in order to cover an extension until November 2019. That additional period would enable purchasing different elements on a bespoke basis to be explored. Councillor Marsh confirmed that she was happy to support the report recommendations.
- 21.6 Councillor Nemeth stated that following lengthy discussions of the issues to be explored at the previous meeting of the Committee he considered that the report now before Members had addressed his concerns and he would therefore support the report recommendations.
- 21.7 Councillor Peltzer Dunn concurred in that view stating that the additional information provided as helpful and that he did not feel the need to discuss any of the background information provided to members which fell within exempt category 3.
- 21.8 Councillor West stated that following deferral of consideration at the previous meeting of the Committee, the additional information he had requested had now been provided, he noted that other partners had agreed to the proposed extension and he was therefore happy to support the report recommendations.
- 21.9 A vote was taken and members voted unanimously to support the report recommendations.
- 21.10 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee notes the intended timescales and development plan as set out in Appendix 3 of the report for the redevelopment of the DVA and SV Strategy which will inform the recommission of DVA and SV services;

(2) That the Committee approves the extension of the current Portal until 30 November 2019;

(3) Grants delegated authority to the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing to participate in the joint commission of DVA and SV services in Brighton and Hove only, and including the procurement process and contract award with services to commence in December 2019;

(4) Agrees to establish a cross party member working group to provide oversight on the commission and request that the officers report to the working group at key stages throughout the procurement process.

**Note:** Having considered the report and its supporting appendices Members of the Committee did not feel the need to discuss any of the material contained in the appendix which was exempt under Category 3 of Part 1 of Scheduled 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The report was therefore considered and determined whilst the Public were present.

## **22 ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY UPDATE**

22.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Health and Adult Social Care which provided a progress update on implementation of the Rough Sleeping Strategy.

22.2 It was explained that the “Rough Sleeping Strategy (2016-2020)” had been approved by the Local Authority and its partners and had been signed up to by Brighton and Hove Connected in June 2016. The issue of rough sleeping remained acute with a visible presence on the streets and with an impact not only on the life chances and well-being of an individual but also the city’s reputation with costs incurred to public services and businesses. It was estimated that there were currently around 10 new arrivals to the city each week who were either already rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping. In consequence local agencies had to work effectively together with over 1000 individuals per year; of those there was a 50-50 split between those who came from outside the city and those who had a local connection. The vast majority of individuals had complex needs, often relating to substance misuse and mental health issues connected with their vulnerability. The strategy which had been approved unanimously by all agencies was now in the process of being closely monitored and actively reviewed to seek to ensure that the most effective outcomes were achieved for rough sleepers and for the city as a whole with the strategy having been broken down into 5 priorities and 12 goals.

22.3 Councillor Phillips stated that this was a big issue for residents in her ward and was often mentioned when she spoke to them, whilst the strategies referred to were laudable, in practical terms this problems was becoming worse year on year. This was a horrific situation and was getting worse.

22.4 Councillor Peltzer Dunn stated that reference made to updates which had been made to the document, it was unclear however when the document had been updated and what amendments had been made. It was difficult in his view to extrapolate the information provided in a meaningful way as presented. The Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing explained that the figures were updated on a quarterly on the

basis of information provided by all partners. The points raised were noted and would be incorporated into future update reports.

- 22.5 Councillor A Norman referred to ex-military personnel some of whom were vulnerable in consequence of trauma due to their work and asked regarding any measures in place to identify and assist this group. It was explained that liaison with SAFFA took place on a regular basis and individuals were directed towards appropriate pathways.
- 22.6 Councillor Moonan stated that the report provided a picture of the cross-cutting work which had been undertaken and was continuing to be undertaken with partners. In reality the problem had worsened due exacerbated by the on-going housing crisis and shrinking resources.
- 22.7 Councillor Nemeth stated that in his view a more robust approach was required to provide assistance into employment and to assess the manner in which the current night shelter arrangements were provided. The current strategy in his view was not working at all and would not work, it was in shreds and needed to be looked at anew with a different approach adopted. In some instances “tough love rather than “warm words was required. He did not support the existing strategy.
- 22.8 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, stated that her group certainly would not support an approach which could result in the vulnerable being vilified. Government policy at national level made a huge impact locally and the strategies in place sought to address the problem against a backdrop of diminishing resources. It should be noted that this strategy had been signed up to by the Council at Cross-Party level and that the report before the Committee that day was an update report for noting.
- 22.9 Councillor West stated that whilst he had no wish to victimise the victims he was agreement that the current processes/strategies in place were not working. In his view an entirely new approach was needed and as he could not support the existing strategy he was unable to support the report recommendation, albeit that it was to note. Councillor Phillips concurred with that view.
- 22.10 Councillor K Norman stated that he was very disappointed that consideration of the report had descended to a political level as he considered all parties should be working together to seek solutions. Councillor Peltzer Dunn agreed, stating that clearly this was an issue about which Members were passionate.
- 22.11 The Chair noted all that had been said re-iterating that work with partners was on-going, problems were compounded in consequence of national policies and the existing strategy which continued to evolve had been signed up to by the majority of Members Cross-Party. The report before the Committee that day provided a snapshot of the work undertaken to date and current position. Councillor Moonan re-iterated that, that was the case and that she was the Lead Councillor on this issue and that there was a willingness to receive input and enter into dialogue with all Members.
- 22.12 Councillor West noted what had been said but stated that no one had been in possession of a crystal ball when the Strategy had been signed up to originally. In his view current arrangements were not working, a different approach to collaboration was needed and he could not support the existing strategy going forward. Councillor Phillips

agreed stating that the available resources needed to be used to provide housing, the focus needed to be different.

22.13 Councillor A Norman considered that whatever strategies were in place it was important to have awareness that many rough sleepers were on the street through no fault of their own and that there was a need to work together to find long term solutions.

22.14 A vote was taken and 4 Members voted to receive and note the contents of the report, 1 Member abstained from voting and 5 Members voted not to accept the recommendation that the report be received and noted.

22.15- **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be received and noted.

### **23 ST JAMES COURT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER - CONSULTATION SUMMARY**

23.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods and Communities and Housing which provided feedback on the statutory consultation which had been carried out regarding the proposed St. James' Court Public Space Protection Order.

23.2 It was noted that using powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 a local authority could make a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) as a measure to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. PSPO's required or prohibited certain activities from taking place in certain places in order to prevent or prohibit certain activities from taking place in certain places in order to prevent or reduce the impact of those activities on local people. The following criteria must be met in relation to the behaviour being restricted:

- having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality;
- be persistent or continuous;
- be unreasonable; and
- justify the restrictions being imposed

23.3 During the consultation period, no responses had been received from the public because those directly affected (occupants of nearby properties), had already provided supportive testimony as part of the pre-consultation process; no views in opposition to the proposal were received. Alternative interventions – aside from access restriction had been considered, but, because of the nature of the activities taking place, and the role that that alleyway had in that, no other approach had been identified which would resolve matters effectively and it was therefore recommended that a Protection Order be granted.

23.4 **RESOLVED** - That the Committee gives approval to the grant of the proposed St James' Court Public Space Protection Order as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

### **24 BRIGHTON AND HOVE FAITH COVENANT**

24.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities and Equalities seeking approval for the council to sign up to a

covenant with the faith communities of Brighton and Hove which committed both the council and the communities to working together in an open, respectful and collaborative manner for the benefit of the city.

- 24.2 The Head of Communities and Equality, Emma Mc Dermott presented the report and was accompanied by Mr Rik Child, Chair of the faith covenant group. It was noted that the covenant set out practical commitments within the partnership with the common goal of helping more people and communities in the city to flourish and meet their full potential. Birmingham City Council had been the first local authority to respond to the call from the All Party Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society for all local authorities across the UK to sign up to the newly developed Faith Covenant, since which time eleven other local authorities had signed up to a faith covenant for their area.
- 24.3 Representatives from the Brighton and Hove Faith Council including its co-ordinator and chair had worked together with officers from the Council's Communities, Equality and Third Sector Team to develop the covenant as set out in appendix 1 to the report. During August and September the co-ordinator had recirculated the covenant to all faith groups in the city asking if any objected to signing off of the final text. Representatives from forty one faith groups, including the Anglican Bishop of Lewes had said that they had no objections and wished to proceed; no faith groups had raised any objection and those who managed the faith council which was made up of Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist representatives had given the text their unanimous support.
- 24.4 Joanne Martindale, Hangleton & Knoll Project stated that it was encouraging to note the hard work which had taken place in order to build up the network of relations across the various organisations involved. Councillor Cattell concurred stating that the positive approach which had been adopted by all was welcomed.
- 24.5 Councillor West whilst citing the valuable collaborative work which had been undertaken considered that it was also very important that groups also recognised their differences. Mr Child responded stated that recognition and respect for differences was very much the ethos of the covenant which it was hoped would build a positive bridge across diverse communities. Though an umbrella organisation it was diverse in its make-up whilst about 30 % of its representation came from those of the Christian faith many other faith groups were included.
- 24.6 Councillor Nemeth was pleased to note the comprehensive nature of this group and the work which had been undertaken. Councillors Peltzer Dunn and K Norman concurred also noting that there were a number of people who had no faith hoping that their input could also be included.
- 24.7 Councillor Marsh stated that as someone of no faith she had been overwhelmed by the volume of positive work which she become aware of during her recent year in office as Mayor.
- 24.8 Councillor Moonan stated that the work which under pinned the report provided a valuable contribution and the Chair, Councillor Daniel, commended it to Members and sought their approval to the recommendations.

24.9 **RESOLVED** – That on behalf of the council, the Committee approves the Brighton and Hove Faith Covenant as set out in appendix 1 to the report.

**25 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL**

25.1 There were none.

**26 OPTIONS FOR COMMISSION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AND  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES - EXEMPT CATEGORY 3**

26.1 This item was discussed and the recommendations contained within it agreed without the necessity to exclude the press and public from the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7.15pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

