

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT CABINET MEMBER MEETING**

4.00pm 27 JANUARY 2009

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor G Theobald (Cabinet Member)

Also in attendance: Councillor Mitchell (Opposition Spokesperson)

Other Members present: Councillors Bennett and Pidgeon

PART ONE

86. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

86a Declarations of Interests

86.1 There were none.

86b Exclusion of Press and Public

86.2 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Cabinet Member for Environment] 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 nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press or public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100I(1) of the Act).

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

87. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

87.1 **RESOLVED** – The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2008 were approved and signed by the Cabinet Member as a correct record.

88. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS**Urban Characterisation Study**

- 88.1 The Cabinet Member announced that the Urban Characterisation Study for the city had been published in its final form and could be accessed via the council's website.
- 88.2 The Cabinet Member explained that the study provided an excellent analysis of the city as a whole and had been very well received within professional planning circles. He added that he had requested that the study be submitted for the year's Planning Awards.

2 St George's Place

- 88.3 The Cabinet Member updated the meeting on progress in respect of works to the vacant listed building at 2 St George's Place.
- 88.4 As approved at the Cabinet Member Meeting in December, the formal Urgent Works Notice had been issued on 8 January and the period allowed for voluntary compliance had expired on 26 January.
- 88.5 The Cabinet Member informed the meeting that, as the majority of the urgent works remained outstanding, the council's chosen contractor had been instructed to commence the works on 2 February.
- 88.6 The works were expected to take three days to complete and the council would seek to reclaim the costs from the owner of the building.

89. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

- 89.1 **RESOLVED** – That with the exception of the items reserved (and marked with an asterisk), the recommendations and resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted without debate.

90. PETITIONS**90(i) Petition – Parking in Stanford Ward**

- 90.1 Councillor Bennett presented a petition signed by 425 people concerning parking issues in Stanford Ward.
- 90.2 The Cabinet Member stated that a report would be presented to the Cabinet on 12 February 2009, which would include all the consultation results and recommendations for the way forward. The public consultation period had ended on 12 December 2008 and all petitions would be included in the Cabinet report.
- 90.3 **RESOLVED** – That the petition be noted.

90(ii) Parking in Shirley Drive

90.4 Councillor Bennett presented a petition signed by 72 people concerning parking issues in Shirley Drive.

90.5 The Cabinet Member referred to his response to the previous petition.

90.6 **RESOLVED** – That the petition be noted.

90(iii) Petition – A23/A27 new road layout

90.7 Councillor Pidgeon presented a petition signed by 338 people concerning the new road layout at the junction of the A23 and A27 in Patcham.

90.8 The Cabinet Member stated that the problem had arisen because the Highways Agency had not consulted council officers on the scheme, however, officers had now requested that they be consulted in future on any scheme affecting the city. The Cabinet Member confirmed that the changes had now been implemented to make the scheme safe.

90.9 **RESOLVED** – That the petition be noted.

91. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**91(i) Public Question – Mr C Hawtree**

91.1 Mr Hawtree asked the following question:

"Would Councillor Theobald please tell us how many more of the new street signs will be erected in this authority's area?"

91.2 The Cabinet Member stated that, in accordance with council policy, new street signs would be replaced as and when they were needed. The council did not have a set number of replacements per year.

91.3 Mr Hawtree asked the following supplementary question:

"Given that the news signs are made from plastic and deteriorate quicker, and that new signs have been put up in front of some of the older marble signs, could discussions take place around the materials used and the aesthetic nature of the signs, with particular reference made to the green corporate logo?"

91.4 The Cabinet stated that the council now used signs that were made from recycled materials and to a specific design standard. He added that the council was not able to replace like for like with ceramic tiles that existed in certain streets in the city as the council did not have any suppliers for these types of signs. Such signs costed more to make and maintain, and the council's resources were already fully committed to providing for all the essential signage across the city.

91.5 The Director of Environment added that the addition of the council's logo to the street signs was a corporate communications strategy, but that any comments could be fed back to the Communications Team and considered when a review took place.

92. DEPUTATIONS

92.1 There were none.

93. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

93.1 There were none.

94. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

94.1 There were none.

95. NOTICES OF MOTION

95.1 There were none.

96. PEDESTRIAN SIGNING STRATEGY

96.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Environment concerning the proposed Pedestrian Signing Strategy (for copy see minute book).

96.2 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendation:

- (1) That the Pedestrian Signing Strategy be approved and implementation of the proposed implementation area be authorised.

97. PEDESTRIAN NETWORK - PHASE 1*

97.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Environment concerning the results of consultation on the Pedestrian Network Phase 1 proposals and implementation of the scheme (for copy see minute book).

97.2 The Cabinet Member explained that the first phase of the scheme would improve links between the city and the seafront, and that good accessibility between city centre retail, restaurants and the seafront was key to the city's economy.

97.3 The Opposition Spokesperson welcomed the report, and in particular the improvements proposed for the Black Lion Street area. She looked forward to seeing what would be included in the second phase of the scheme.

97.4 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendation:

- (1) That the Cabinet Member notes the consultation results and instructs Officers to begin implementation of the scheme.

98. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT - ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES*

98.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Environment concerning approval of a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Architectural Features, for the purposes of formal public consultation (for copy see minute book).

98.2 The Cabinet Member explained that the SPD aimed to provide detailed policy guidance on the repair, restoration and enhancement of the city's listed buildings. It focused on the original external features that gave the buildings their special character and which, cumulatively contributed to the street scene.

98.3 The Opposition Spokesperson stated that she intended on forwarding her comments on the SPD to officers in line with the consultation.

98.4 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendation:

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Environment approves the draft Supplementary Planning Document on Architectural Features for the purposes of formal public consultation.

99. BRUNSWICK ESTATE PAINT REVIEW*

99.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Environment concerning a review of the Brunswick Estate statutory redecoration scheme (for copy see minute book).

99.2 The Cabinet Member explained that the aim of the review had been to establish whether or not the five-year painting interval should be extended, as requested by local residents. The consultant had not recommended an extension to the next paint cycle, but consideration could be given to deferring the following redecoration programme if there was an improvement in the appearance of the front facades.

99.3 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendation:

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Environment agrees that the requirement for the Brunswick Estate properties to be redecorated in 2010 remain unaltered.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Environment agrees that the condition of the painting be monitored over the subsequent years, and if by summer 2013 the paint schemes on all properties are considered to be good, that the repainting cycle be extended.
- (3) That the Cabinet Member for Environment approves that a formal closely supervised trial be undertaken on one of the properties in Brunswick Terrace, in partnership between the Council, the property's owners and their agents in 2010.

100. SAVING OF WASTE LOCAL PLAN POLICIES

100.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Environment concerning saving of policies in the Waste Local Plan beyond the statutory minimum of three years (for copy see minute book).

100.2 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendation:

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Environment approves the saving of policies in the Waste Local Plan beyond the statutory minimum of three years (ie. beyond February 2009).

101. SHOREHAM HARBOUR INTERIM PLANNING GUIDANCE (IPG)*

101.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Environment concerning approval of Interim Planning Guidance (IPG) for Shoreham Harbour (for copy see minute book).

101.2 The Cabinet Member explained that the guidance had been produced jointly with Adur District and West Sussex County Councils, who would also be approving the document. The guidance provided short term guidance on development proposals prior to the production of a Joint Area Action Plan, and was necessary to avoid any development that would compromise the long term proposals for the Shoreham Harbour area, which were still emerging.

101.3 The Opposition Spokesperson commented that it had been prudent to produce interim guidance. She also supported the extension of the area from the A259 to the railway and looked forward to seeing the finalised Joint Area Action Plan.

101.4 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendation:

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Environment approves the Shoreham Harbour Interim Planning Guidance, subject to any minor grammatical and non-material text and illustrative alterations agreed by the Director of Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment.

The meeting concluded at 4.23pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of