

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM CABINET MEMBER MEETING

4.00pm 8 DECEMBER 2009

COMMITTEE ROOM 3, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Smith (Cabinet Member)

Also in attendance: Councillor Davis (Opposition Spokesperson – Labour Group)

PART ONE

40. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

40a Declarations of Interests

40.1 Councillor Davis declared a personal interest in Item 53 as she is a member of the board of the Brighton Carnival.

40b Exclusion of Press and Public

40.2 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (the Act), the Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Tourism 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 100(I) of the Act).

40.3 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

41. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

41.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the Culture, Recreation and Tourism Cabinet Member Meeting held on 15 September 2009 be agreed and signed by the Cabinet Member.

42. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS

Royal Pavilion & Museums - New Security Control Room

42.1 The Cabinet Member reported that the security control room on the Royal Pavilion Estate had been moved from the main entrance of the Pavilion to the North End and was officially opened on 12 October. The project was the result of the Royal Pavilion &

Museums Review of Customer Services in 2007 and was linked with the drive to upgrade the visitor experience and to improve customer care and facilities on the Royal Pavilion Estate. The new control room represented the first phase of security improvements and staff and contractors now had a separate entrance to visitors, which was in line with good practice. The new location freed up valuable space in the centre of the building. The main entrance could now be used for visitors only and the Pavilion could now provide 'buggy parking', as highlighted as a need in customer surveys.

Land Girls Private View

- 42.2 The Cabinet Member reported that *The Land Girls: Cinderellas of the Soil* exhibition Private View on 1 October at Brighton Museum welcomed many former Land Girls, plus Dame Vera Lynn. Over 700 guests attended. The exhibition tells the story of the 200,000 women who joined the Women's Land Army to feed the Country during two World Wars. *War Stories* exhibition at Hove Museum tells the story of the home front in Brighton & Hove during WW11.

Hove Tearoom - 5 Star rated 'scores on the doors'

- 42.3 The Tearoom at Hove Museum had been awarded five star status as part of 'Scores on the Doors' – a national campaign to promote the highest standards of catering. The top accolade of five stars is reserved for businesses with excellent health, hygiene and food preparation management systems in place.

VisitBrighton Conference Wins

- 42.4 The Cabinet Member was delighted to report that VisitBrighton had secured two further conferences. Firstly, the International Society for Fibrinolysis & Proteolysis Conference which was held every 2 years. This exciting news was the result of a long process involving the recruitment of a UK ambassador to head the bid - who had required much persuasion, encouragement and support from the VisitBrighton Team. The conference would be held at the Brighton Centre from 1-5 July 2012 and was estimated to attract 300+ visits with an economic benefit to the city of £700,000.
- 42.5 Secondly, the National HIV Nurses Association (NHIVNA) 12th Annual Conference. They expected to attract an estimated 200 delegates at The Grand Hotel from 28-30 June 2010 with an economic benefit to the city of £192k.

Royal Visit

- 42.6 The Cabinet Member reported that the city hosted a successful Royal Visit of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester in November. The Duke visited the Royal Pavilion, The Visitor Information Centre, The Land Girls Exhibition in the Brighton Museum and the Jubilee Library where he visited the Rare Books room.

South East Regional Olympic Project

- 42.7 The Cabinet Member was delighted to report that the South East Regional Olympic Project **Accentuate** – which focuses on disability – launched on 3 December in Brighton at the Brighton Dome. The South East was seen as the home of the Paralympics and the region was taking a leading role in disability work both in culture and sport and the launch of this large scale 2012 legacy project was a fantastic opportunity for the city.

Eurocities Annual Conference

- 42.8 The Cabinet Member was pleased to report that he attended the Eurocities Annual Conference in Stockholm on 25 – 28 November. Brighton & Hove received a warm welcome to the network of major European cities and he participated in a very interesting programme including workshops, networking and study visits on the theme of ‘Urban Challenges, Sustainable Solutions’.
- 42.9 The Cabinet Member contributed to a Mayors’ Debate on ‘Tackling poverty and social exclusion through sustainable urban development’. He spoke about the important role of culture in promoting social inclusion, and highlighted some of the city’s successful initiatives in this area such as the Children’s Parade, the public art programmes and work by the Youth Offending Team.
- 42.10 The Cabinet Member and officers participated in study visits on Stockholm’s creative cluster in design and fashion, and sustainable travelling in the city. A wealth of ideas and learning had been brought back that was being shared with colleagues and organisations across the city.
- 42.11 Finally, the Cabinet Member had met many senior politicians and officers from major cities across Europe and he and officers were already in contact with several cities to share best practice and potentially develop EU-funded joint initiatives to improve policy development and service delivery in the city.

43. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

- 43.1 **RESOLVED** – That all items be reserved for discussion.

44. PETITIONS

44(i) Petition – Request for a Mobile Library Facility for Bevendean

- 44.1 The Cabinet Member considered the following petition presented at Council on 8 October 2009 by Councillor Marsh and signed by 84 people:

“We, the undersigned request this Council/Cabinet undertake to provide a Mobile library facility as soon as possible for the residents of Bevendean, who currently have a long journey to access their nearest static library, Moulsecoomb on the opposite side of the Lewes Road.”

- 44.2 The Cabinet Member responded as follows: “I am pleased to announce that a new Mobile Library facility will stop on the green close to Bevendean School at the junction

of Auckland Drive with Heath Hill Avenue. This will make the Mobile easily accessible by the playgroup, Children's Centre, and Bevendean School, as well as local residents in the area. The new facility will be in operation from January 2010, and will take place fortnightly on Thursday mornings."

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

44(ii) Petition – Shelving at the Jubilee Library

44.4 The Cabinet Member considered the following petition presented at Council on 8 October 2009 by Councillor Kennedy and signed by 70 people:

"We, the undersigned again call upon the Council to replace the meagre, ad hoc shelving in Brighton Jubilee Library with that designed to make more of the stock available to a public hungry for good books and for this Council's administration to regard with more seriousness residents who have made clear that in a city such as this, there should be a greater concern for book stock."

44.5 The Cabinet Member responded as follows: "The shelving in Jubilee Library is neither 'meagre' nor ad-hoc'. It is standard good quality shelving used in a large number of other public and school libraries throughout the country. All of the Jubilee Library stock that is suitable for public access has already been put out on these shelves, and this is a significantly higher percentage of stock than was available in the old library. All of the stock kept in the local stores is older, more dilapidated material, or older editions, all of which are generally not in high demand, but are available if requested by the public.

44.6 There are over 170,000 items of stock in the library, with around 35,000 items on loan at any one time. According to the latest CIPFA statistics, Brighton and Hove Libraries have the third highest numbers of books per 1000 population compared with similar authorities, with 1,871 books per 1000 population, compared with an average of 1,577.

44.7 The Jubilee Library design included as many shelves as was needed to accommodate the stock, and to deliver the range of services required. The space between shelves and the height of the shelves are at the correct levels to meet accessibility standards, so that disabled people can move around the building easily and reach the stock on display."

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

45. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

45.1 There were none.

46. DEPUTATIONS

46.1 There were none.

47. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

47.1 There were none.

48. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

48.1 There were none.

49. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

49.1 There were none.

50. WHITEHAWK CO-LOCATION PROJECT

50.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Culture and Enterprise which explained that the project being proposed was for the co-location of the staff in the CYPT Schools & Community, Youth & Connexions, Social Work and Family Learning Teams into offices within the Whitehawk Primary School and for the Whitehawk Library to be moved to a site in the school grounds. The report informed the Cabinet Member of the outcome of the Co-Location bid and the processes to be undertaken to deliver the project. The recommendations were approved by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (for copy see minute book).

50.2 The Head of Libraries and Information Services reported that there had been a very positive response to the library relocation. The existing library would remain open until the new facility was opened in September 2011.

50.3 Councillor Davis welcomed the new facility but expressed concern about the future provision of the service from Whitehawk Youth Centre. The Head of Libraries and Information Services explained that the process of consultation had now begun and officers were ensuring that the existing provision was taken account of in the new development.

50.4 The Cabinet Member asked if there would be easy access between the GP's surgery and the other facilities. The Head of Libraries and Information Services explained that the GP's surgery would be near the library and other services. The re-location would improve access to the site.

50.5 **RESOLVED** – Having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendations.

(1) That the content of the report and the processes that will be undertaken to bring the project forward be noted.

(2) That the recommendations agreed by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People be noted.

(3) That progress reports be received as the project progresses.

51. VISITBRIGHTON CONTACT CENTRE REVIEW

- 51.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Culture and Enterprise which set out the options for the future of the VisitBrighton Contact Centre service, as identified as a work stream in the Visitor Services Strategy 2006 (for copy see minute book).
- 51.2 The Cabinet Member further considered an extract of the proceedings of the Culture, Tourism & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 23 November 2009.
- 51.3 **RESOLVED** – Having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendations.
- (1) That the VisitBrighton Contact Centre Review set out in the appendix to this report, and the recommendation section following consultation with stakeholders, be noted.
 - (2) That the feedback given by the Culture, Tourism & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted.
 - (3) That the relocation of the contact centre to the Royal Pavilion and introduction of a new, local rate enquiry number be approved.

52. FEES AND CHARGES 2010/11: BEACH CHALETS, BEACH HUTS, FISHING LOCKERS AND BOAT LICENCES, OUTDOOR EVENTS AND VOLKS RAILWAY

- 52.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Environment which set out the proposed increase of the annual rent levied by the council for beach chalets at Ovingdean, Rottingdean, Saltdean, Madeira Drive and Hove Seafront. The report also set out the proposed rent increase in relation to the annual ground rent for beach huts along Hove seafront and for fishing lockers and boat licences on both Brighton and Hove beaches, fees and charges to passengers using Volks Railway and charges made to the organisers of outdoor events (for copy see minute book).
- 52.2 **RESOLVED** – Having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendation.
- (1) That the fees and charges as set out in this report be approved.

53. EVENTS PROGRAMME IN PARKS AND OPEN SPACES 2010

- 53.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Environment which set out the proposed programme of special events for Parks and Open Spaces in 2010 and sought landlord's consent for these events (for copy see minute book).
- 53.2 The Principal Solicitor explained that the legal implications in the report were incorrect. Brighton & Hove City Council was empowered to use each park and open space for up to 28 days a year in order to facilitate the staging of major outdoor events, by terms of a general development order, not by the East Sussex Act.

- 53.3 The Head of Sport and Leisure explained that the special events were subject to change. There would be full consultation with the police and other agencies.
- 53.4 **RESOLVED** – Having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendations.
- (1) That the events listed in Appendix 1 be granted consent.
 - (2) That officers be authorised to enter into formal agreements with event organisers to determine conditions, fees and levels of support as appropriate.
 - (3) That the Director of Environment be authorised after consultation with the Cabinet Member to make any alterations to the events programme as necessary.
- 54. SPECIAL EVENTS - MADEIRA DRIVE CLOSURES 2010**
- 54.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Environment which set out the proposed programme of special events on Madeira Drive in 2010 and sought approval of the associated road closures (for copy see minute book).
- 54.2 Councillor Davis noted that there seemed to be an increasing number of events associated with cars and the use of petrol. She had expressed concern in the past about the pollution associated with some events.
- 54.3 The Head of Sport and Leisure explained that the Brighton & Hove Buses event would be a one off event to celebrate 75 years of service. Officers were continuing to work on sustainable event guidelines and there would be an update on this matter in due course.
- 54.4 The Service Improvement and 2012 Legacy Manager, explained that officers would be looking at implementing the British Standards in relation to indoor and outdoor events. Officers were currently seeing what measures could be taken to limit the impact of pollution such as stopping cars from running engines. Organisations would be monitored in relation to sustainability.
- 54.5 **RESOLVED** – Having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendations.
- (1) That consent be granted for the 2010 programme for special events on Madeira Drive and the associated road closures as listed in Appendix 1.
 - (2) That officers be authorised to enter into formal agreements with event organisers to determine conditions, fees and levels of support as appropriate.
 - (3) That the Director of Environment be authorised, after consultation with the Cabinet Member to make any alterations to the events programme as necessary.

The meeting concluded at 4.40pm

Signed

Cabinet Member

Dated this

day of