

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL****COUNCIL****4.30pm 17 JULY 2014****COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors Fitch (Chair), Barnett, Bowden, Buckley, Carden, Cobb (Deputy Chair), Cox, Davey, Duncan, Farrow, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hawtree, Hyde, Janio, Jarrett, Jones, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Lepper, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, A Norman, K Norman, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Pidgeon, Pissaridou, Randall, Robins, Rufus, Shanks, Simson, Smith, Summers, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wakefield, Wealls, Wells, West and Wilson.

**PART ONE****11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

11.1 There were declarations of interest in items appearing on the agenda.

**12 MINUTES**

12.1 The minutes of (a) the last ordinary meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings, and (b) the minutes of the annual meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings subject to the breakdown of committee sizes being checked and amended accordingly.

**13 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.**

13.1 The Mayor stated that he would like to congratulate all those involved in the Trans Equality Scrutiny Panel on winning a national Centre for Public Scrutiny Award for Involvement, Insight and Impact. He noted that there were a number of people present to receive the award, as well as Councillor Mac Cafferty who chaired the Panel, and invited them to come forward to receive the award.

13.2 The Mayor then offered his congratulations to the Planning Projects Team on winning a national RTPi planning excellence award as part of The Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Joint Strategic Planning Board. The award was in the category Innovative Planning Practice in Plan Making and was awarded for the preparation of a Local Strategic Statement and he invited Councillor Mac Cafferty as Chair of Planning and Mike Holford from Strategic Planning to come forward to receive the award.

- 13.3 The Mayor then stated that he wished to offer the Council's congratulations to the Children's Services as Brighton & Hove City Council had been named the top local authority in the country for tackling homophobic and biphobic bullying in schools. He noted that Stonewall had put the council in first place in their 2014 Education Equality Index. The Council had worked in an effective partnership with schools and Allsorts Youth Project to achieve this recognition. He then invited officers and representatives from local schools to come forward to collect the award.
- 13.4 The Mayor stated that he wished to offer the Council's congratulations to the Chief Executive and all those involved in working with young people, following the Council being awarded the City Achiever's Award for Outstanding Employer Contribution. He invited Lance Richard, Sue Moorman and Carla Butler from the Human Resources Team to come forward and receive the award.
- 13.5 The Mayor then stated that he wished to call on Councillor Duncan to address the Council.
- 13.6 Councillor Duncan thanked the Mayor and stated that he wished to offer his apologies to Councillor Mears for his tweet at the last council meeting and to extend that apology to anyone who may have been offended by that.
- 13.7 The Mayor noted the statement from Councillor Duncan.
- 13.8 The Mayor then stated that he believed Members would be aware that the council, along with the rest of the country, had organised a series of events to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the First World War. However, parallel to these events the Royal Sussex Regimental Association had commissioned the construction of a Monument to be unveiled at Priez (Preee-ezz) in the Val-de-Marne Department of France on 10th September 2014 to commemorate the Regiment's first losses on the 10th September 1914 and also provide a memorial to the 7,302 officers and men who lost their lives in the Great War of 1914 - 1919.

He stated that the council had been approached to support its construction and had made a donation of a thousand pounds alongside others from the city. He stated that given the sacrifices made, the impact on local families and the importance to our local history he believed it was a just investment and he would urge other bodies in the city to support this campaign.

#### **14 TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.**

- 14.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from councillors and members of the public. He reminded the Council that petitions would be referred to the appropriate decision-making body without debate and the person presenting the petition would be invited to attend the meeting to which the petition was referred.
- 14.2 Councillor K. Norman presented a petition signed by 375+ residents of Matlock Road concerning controlled parking in Zone E.

- 14.3 Councillor Meadows presented a petition signed by 150 residents requesting the resurfacing of Coombe Road.
- 14.4 Councillor Marsh presented a petition signed by 27 residents regarding the use of Article 4 Directions for Houses of Multiple Occupation.
- 14.5 Councillor Simson presented a petition signed by 72 residents requesting the management of traffic in Warren Road.
- 14.6 Councillor Wells presented a petition signed by 108 residents requesting a road crossing in Freshfield Road.
- 14.7 Councillor A. Kitcat presented a petition signed by 12 business owners in Regency Square requesting that anti-social behaviour in the square be addressed.
- 14.8 The Mayor noted that there were no other petitions to be presented.

## **15 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

- 15.1 The Mayor reported that two written questions had been received from members of the public and invited Mr. Morris to come forward and address the council.
- 15.2 Mr. Morris thanked the Mayor and asked the following question;

“The successful funding of £1.5 million from the heritage lottery fund for the Volks Railway is welcome news to the regeneration for this historic and much loved tourist attraction which has long been neglected. However, could the Green council explain how this will impact on future lottery fund bids for the city?”

- 15.3 Councillor Bowden replied;

“I actually don't like to start by correcting you, we haven't won £1.5 million, all we've been awarded is the first part of a lottery bid, as you will know from the past, they come in two phases, we've been awarded £96,000 for the Volks Railway, as I always highlight to tell Councillor Davey, a rapid transit screen, to work up a bid. If successful, we will hopefully get £1.5 million. I have to say in response; you will recall, as I seem to remember you opposed it, that we won £2.2 million for the very successful Level. The heritage lottery fund recognises cities such as Brighton, which is rich in heritage and does not set a cap for specific locations. Each application is judged on its merits and that's what's expected. We have a very productive and ongoing dialogue with the Heritage Lottery Fund officers exploring future plans across the city.”

- 15.4 Mr. Morris asked the following supplementary question;

“I would actually just like to make one correction before I issue my supplementary. It is totally untrue that I opposed the lottery funding on the Level. This in fact, we had over 3000 signatures and we were merely, as friends of the Level, actually supporting local residents. We did not oppose that funding.

My supplementary is, the residents of Queens Park are deeply concerned about the deterioration of their park which urgently needs repairs and regeneration. With the park failing to have green flag status, it's appreciated that a consultation is being carried out and results will be published after closure on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, ready for an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Many other projects are already in the queue for HLF funding, including the Dome complex proposal for a number of smaller bids for £5 million each. For nearly 3 years, this green council has promised restoration of the park, in Queens Park, when will the plans finally go ahead and an application to be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund?"

15.5 Councillor Bowden replied;

"Had you come to the party in the park Adrian, you would have seen that we were continuing the consultation. I was serving ice creams as one of the team working with the Friends of Queens Park, who I have been working with very closely on getting this consultation going for some time. So the bid will go in once the consultation has informed that bid and that is coming to a conclusion very shortly. I have been tweeting and talking about it for some time, many years, not just since candidates were announced for Queens Park. But in terms of saying, "what is the Council been doing for the last three years?" I do have to tell you that over the last three years, the Heritage Lottery Fund is not the only pot of gold in town, or in the country, we've actually been successful in bidding for nearly £54 million worth of funding from various pots, and that has actually helped finance a lot of projects across the city, not just parks – Valley Gardens has just been announced. So there are a lot of things going on and as soon as the consultation is over, which I hope you have fed into, I have certainly fed into it and I've been actively getting people to feed in, then the bid will go in and let's hope it's successful.

You mentioned the Dome, and we weren't successful on that occasion, we had some very positive feedback and on this occasion, we weren't successful. But I can remind you that we lost out to Canterbury Cathedral, who were also unsuccessful on their first bid, they had some very positive feedback and they were successful on their second attempt. So watch this space for the Royal Pavilion Estate."

15.6 The Mayor thanked Mr. Morris for attending the meeting and asking his questions and invited Mr. Waugh to come forward and address the council.

15.7 Mr. Waugh thanked the Mayor and asked the following question:

"Following the implementation of Controlled Parking Zone E, the Post Office, Thai Café/Coffee Shop, General Store, Post Office, Pharmacy and a few other businesses on Matlock Road have seen a catastrophic drop in business from the exact day the paid parking outside the shops was implemented.

Disastrously, at least three of the businesses will fail in the very short term unless immediate action is taken. It is critical the new parking scheme is modified to allow limited short term free parking outside the shops as in Richardson Road, both areas enjoyed by their local communities.

Please could I have confirmation immediate action will be undertaken to avoid the completely unnecessary destruction of our businesses?"

15.8 Councillor Davey replied;

"There was a full consultation and it's really unfortunate that these points weren't raised during that consultation as we could have hopefully arrived at a solution much sooner. Officers have considered this carefully and I know there have been meetings on site with yourself and Ward Councillors. Free parking within a full resident parking scheme would be a diversion from policy at the Council and this is unlike Richardson Road which is a light touch scheme and it would require a change to that policy and would need to be agreed by members at the committee.

Other changes to hours of operation would require a full traffic order to be advertised and consulted upon and any suspension of parking would not be appropriate as this will encourage all day parking and abandoned vehicles to user's spaces which will be of no help to local businesses.

However the Council could consider a change to the tariffs under a legal notice advertised for 21 days allowing the tariff to be reduced soon after this. This is the first time I've been involved in this but I know officers have met with you so their recommendation is the new extra low tariff within area E to help businesses and visitors on the basis that this new parking scheme is a residential area quite a way from the city centre with a number of small businesses located in close proximity.

So the tariffs they're proposing to you are 50p for 1 hour, £1 for 2 hours and £2 for 4 hours which is half of the current prices in that area and that should mean that, it being the wish of the traders there and the Councillors, be pursued in the shortest time scale possible."

15.9 Mr. Waugh asked the following supplementary question;

"I'd like to point out that when the parking was implemented it was highly controversial, my life savings are in that business and to change it from £1 to 50p isn't going to make the slightest bit of difference, we had no idea that the area of Matlock Road would turn in to a ghost town during the day and I find it really quite extraordinary that, rather can keep policy, you're happy to see our businesses go bankrupt and I think that's just not on.

It's not a major change, the Council decided to move the cycle bay which took 2 men and a bulldozer an entire week to move a cycle bay from outside my shop to about 30 yards up the road and all we're asking for is a change of a lamp post and removal of a parking machine. The Councillor replied subsequently, in other words the notices are up, they've already done the work so it could be done as a matter of urgency. I can't believe anybody in this room would want to see our businesses go bankrupt so that the policy of the Council is upheld.

One of the Council officials came up to the shop with Sue Shanks which I very much appreciate and he made it quite clear that the problem with and why he wants to have 50p is because it's hard to administer the parking area and it's not good for your

contractors who do it and there is a precedent on Richardson Road, I went there myself and spoke to all the shop owners and 2 of them have given me letters of support stating that without the, you call it a soft touch, it's 2 hours free no return within one hour outside the shops and that's all we're asking for, so there is a precedent.

Time is critical, if you're telling me that you would rather have your policies put through and my business and 2 other businesses go bust so that you don't have to administer the area and it doesn't meet with whatever your reasons are, I find that appalling and I'm asking you to take that in to consideration so you can do what you want but I go bust. Please explain to me why you would want to do that?"

15.10 Councillor Davey replied;

"This is the first time there's been any engagement between you and I on this, free parking is not an ideal option, you talk about Richardson Road, I live very close in fact I've visited there twice this morning and there were no parking spaces available in the free parking areas and that is one of the downsides of providing free parking so I am more than happy, and I will ask officers to look at this again and I will meet with the Ward Councillors and I will ask officers to outline exactly what the options are here, but there are timescales involved it is not just a question of changing signs whatever way forward was agreed it is a legal traffic regulation orders that has to be advertised, they have to be prepared they have to go in newspapers for 21 days, that is not of our making that is not of my making that is the law.

There are rules and laws which have to be adhered to, that is not my choice, that is the law, traffic regulations have to be advertised and published in newspapers, they have to be prepared and then there can be objections, if there are, they have to go to committee for decision; that is unfortunately how it is. So we've been through that process to put the scheme in and I would wish to repeat such a lengthy process for any changes in this area. I'm perfectly amenable to looking at what is the best solution so I will ask officers to look at this again and I will meet with Ward Councillors to discuss what they officers suggest."

15.11 The Mayor thanked Mr. Waugh for attending the meeting and asking his questions 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. Hill as the spokesperson for the deputation to come forward and address the council.

16.2 Ms. Hill thanked the Mayor and stated that:

16.3 "There is a flat on Brentwood Road which has the Queen's head on the living room wall. Maybe this doesn't sound too unusual but in this case, the Queen's head is a temporary feature caused by the shape of the mould, on a permanent damp patch which takes up around 4 square foot of the wall and there's a photograph of the Queen's head provided in the supporting information. It's a game that the parents play with their two children, both of whom are asthmatic. They clean off the mould on a regular basis, but it always

returns in a different shape. When it's been raining heavily, there is also running water down the wall. When the issue was raised with Mears, the residents were offered a dehumidifier, but they are concerned what this will do to their electricity bill. It is also a short term fix which will not make the problem go away and needlessly increases energy use. These tenants pay rent for their council property and have the right to a proper solution to be found for the extreme damp in their home.

In another flat in Brentwood Road, a Mears home visit recorded damp levels off the scale in the tenants' bedroom, bathroom, living room and entrance hall. The proposed solution in this ground floor flat has been the removal of a brick above the damp course and new plaster board. But the underlying cause of the damp does not appear to be being addressed. This seems an expensive and short term measure, particularly if the problem is also affecting other flats in the block. This case has been queried with the repairs team of Mears for the last nine months and the resident is also asthmatic, with other health conditions affected by damp.

In spite of representations made by a ward councillor, the solutions offered to the related damp problems of both fail to resolve the problems for tenants and cost more money in the long term, both involving expenditure in the short term, while not fixing the underlying issue causing the damp. These cases also suggest there may be ongoing damp issues in these particular buildings, which would benefit from being investigated as a whole, rather than on a flat-by-flat basis in response to residents request. Will the Council acknowledge the failure in these cases to offer satisfactory solutions to these damp problems? Make inquiries with Mears as to why there has been such delays with these specific cases, requests that the possibility of a larger problem in these buildings which would be best be addressed as a whole, to be investigated and raise this issue in the next housing committee with a view to avoid a similar situations arising in the future.

There is currently no active tenants association on the Hollingdean estate. Will the council also undertake to support the continuation of tenants' associations when key residents move on in recognition that they serve an important purpose in highlighting maintenance issues and engaging tenants in the improvements of their homes and living environment."

16.4 Councillor Randall replied,

"I have a full answer which I'll send to you, but in the mean time I will say that the number 1 was inspected 10 July and the work will begin 28 July. Mears has not got this right and I apologise to the tenant for that, we have talked to Mears about it. In the question of 3 Brentwood Road, an inspection has taken place and the work will start on the 4<sup>th</sup> August.

As to your other questions about the larger issue of maintenance in our flats and houses, there is a watching brief on this all the time, you might or might not know that we have a tenants scrutiny panel, which was set up when we came into power and the next issue they're going to look at is the whole question of repairs, and you of course will be free to give evidence to that, like anybody else who has got an interest in housing.

There is a larger problem with some of our older blocks, many of them built at the same time, and they are all falling to pieces at the same time. We have an ongoing

maintenance program in all of them. We have £23 million this year in the Capital Works Program of which about £18 million will be devoted to this sort of work.

As to the tenants association, we support 55 tenants associations in the city and if they would like to talk to us about starting it again, we would be very happy to do that. I welcome your question because it gives me a chance to congratulate the labour party on renewing its interest in housing in this city. Its record in the past on this is not spectacular and indeed, when labour left power in 2007, only about 38% of housing in the city, council housing, met the decent home standard when the national average was about 65%. The conservative party, in their credit took this up with the will, and we finished it off. You are of course still committed to selling council houses and at that stage, you were not doing the repairs on the estates because you were committing then to handing the stock over to a housing association, which the tenants quite sensibly rejected.

I've also got the performance indicators for this year on repairs and maintenance, on the routine repairs, we have achieved a raise in the last quarter of 99.81, average time to complete routine, 17 days, emergency repairs 99.89 and the percentage of appointments kept 97.79 and tenants' satisfaction with repairs is 99.46. We do a huge amount of repairs, and I admit we don't get it right every time but we are working very hard to make sure these things are done properly and I'll welcome your interests and I hope you'll support us in doing it."

- 16.5 The Mayor thanked Ms. Hill for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. He explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Housing 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. The Mayor noted that there were no other deputations and that concluded the item.

## **17 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE**

- 17.1 The Mayor stated that the council's petition scheme provided that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at a Council meeting. He had been notified of one such petition which had sufficient signatures to warrant a debate and therefore would call on the lead petitioner to present their petition before opening the matter up for debate.
- 17.2 The Mayor also noted that there was an amendment from the Conservative Group to the recommendation contained in the covering report on the petition, which Councillor Ken Norman would move during the debate.
- 17.3 The Mayor then called on Mr. Wares to present the petition concerning the condition of the toilets in Preston Park.
- 17.4 Mr. Wares thanked the Mayor and stated that the petition signed by 1,888 people to date sought to secure the refurbishment of the public toilets in Preston Park. He stated that the improvement works to the toilets had been postponed for the last two years and whilst a council spokesperson had said works would be undertaken in the beginning of the year, nothing had yet materialised. He stated that in their current

condition they were unusable and unsafe and did nothing to encourage the use of the park by families, residents and visitors alike. He therefore sought assurances that the views of the petitioners would be listened to and action taken to improve the facilities and make them suitable for public use.

- 17.5 Councillor K. Norman then moved an amendment to the recommendation in the report, requesting that a report be brought to the next Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee meeting with fully costed options and a timetable for implementation for consideration. He suggested that the revenue from the local parking scheme could be ring-fenced to enable the necessary improvement works to be funded and carried out.
- 17.6 Councillor C. Theobald formally seconded the amendment and stated that in seeking to have a report to the committee in the autumn, it would provide sufficient time for options to be identified and reported to the meeting. She believed it was unacceptable to have poor quality facilities in such an important park and hoped that action could be taken to improve matters.
- 17.7 Councillor West thanked Mr. Wares for presenting the petition and noted the amendment that had been put forward. He stated that there were two public toilets in the park and these were attended and cleaned three times a week. He also noted that the lighting problems had been fixed and that the boiler was awaiting repair. New urinal had been installed in 2009 and a deep clean undertaken in 2013. There was an annual improvement programme for the public toilets in the city with ten sites a year being addressed and both sites in Preston Park were down for this year. He also noted that following consultations the parking income had been identified for fencing improvements. In regard to the proposed amendment, he could not support it as a city-wide review was being undertaken with a view to reporting to committee by January 2015 and therefore it would be better to wait for that report rather than have one specific report to the next meeting.
- 17.8 Councillor Mitchell stated that the Labour & Co-operative Group supported the amendment and believed that it would be beneficial to have a report to the next meeting of the committee.
- 17.9 Councillor West stated that he could not support the amendment and that a full report would be brought to the committee in November/January.
- 17.10 The Mayor noted that an amendment to the recommendation in the report had been moved and put it to the vote which was carried. He then put the recommendation as amended to the vote which was also carried.
- 17.11 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and that officers are requested to bring a report, with fully costed options and a timetable for implementation, to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

## 18 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.

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

**(a) Councillor Cox**

“How many prosecutions has the Council undertaken for fly tipping in Brighton and Hove each year from -

- 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012?
- 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013?
- 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014?”

**Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee.**

18.2. “1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012?      One  
1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013?      One  
1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014?      Nil.”

**(b) Councillor Hyde**

18.3. “Given the significant pressure for development on the city’s urban fringe, how many potential housing units across the city are there that currently have planning permission which have a) yet to start on site, and b) have started on site but have yet to be completed?”

**Reply from Councillor Mac Cafferty, Chair of the Planning Committee.**

18.4. “As at 1.4.14, our residential monitoring data indicates that there were:

- a) 828 units with planning permission for housing but not yet started; and
- b) 1510 units with planning permission for housing which have commenced but not yet completed.

**(c) Councillor Simson**

18.5. “How much money has the ICT department spent on outside consultants/contractors in the last year and how much is this as a proportion of the whole ICT Budget? Can you list the consultants/contractors that the Council has used?”

**Reply from Councillor J. Kitcat, Leader of the Council.**

**18.6. “Outline of approach**

The ICT department has made use of consultants and contractors across a number of areas over the past year, this has included:

- **Agency staff/Contractors** to deal with skill and capacity gaps though increased workloads to support planned ICT Investment Fund projects, additional

unplanned demand from Public Service Network Code of Connection (PSN CoCo) security requirements and cover vacancies pending recruitment.

- **Consultants** to cover off specialist requirements
- **Third party contracts** for maintenance, support, licensing and services

The following is an outline of how these different approaches are used and relevant outline figures for the past year.

### **Agency Staff / Contractors**

Contractors are used by the ICT Department under the following conditions:

1. Where there is a vacancy and there is uncertainty pending the restructure how it will be used, this is in order to ensure that ICT does not recruit to a post and then put the new postholder at risk. Also to ensure that existing staff are protected from being out at risk through a restructure.
  - a. Example is Service Design Manager filled by Agency pending senior management restructure. Resulting role will be different and will be recruited to permanently.
2. Where there is a vacancy and the demand levels exceed what can be managed by remaining staff while recruitment takes place.
3. Where there is a temporary need through;
  - a. Project Work – e.g. Public Service Network/ Link Migration, Microsoft Windows 7 operating system and Microsoft Office 2010 rollout.
  - b. Unexpected temporary demand levels – e.g. ICT Service Desk saw significant increase in numbers of users contacting needing help during the height of PSN CoCo compliance changes
  - c. Demand for new skills – e.g. specialist contractor management and sourcing/supply chain management advice

Three sourcing approaches are used to acquire appropriate capacity and skills. This approach has been worked through in partnership with the HR Department.

1. Where there is clear 6-12 month minimum need and a reasonable (3-6 month) lead time, staff will be recruited to fixed term council contracts. For example ICT project managers.
2. Agency staff are recruited through the council's existing contract with "Carlisle/Guidant Group" for temporary need, particularly when start date is urgent and/or duration is expected to be short term.
3. On some occasions, a third party contract will be used in place of a vacancy (e.g. Training contract with "OLM" - software supplier of the main system used by children's and adult's social care services - for CareFirst core training used in place of staff vacancy)

The following shows the ICT Department spend on agency staff for 2013/14 and year to date 2014/15. All agency staff are sourced through the council corporate contract with Carlisle Group/Guidant Group.

### 2013/14

#### Agency Staff Spend

Security Spend	£46k
Core Revenue	£278k

### 2014/15 year to date

#### Agency Staff Spend

Investment	£142k
Core Revenue	£92k

### Consultants

Contracts for consultancy are used only in a very limited number of circumstances where there is a temporary need for a project to bring in specialist knowledge that is not otherwise available either through existing core support contracts or staff's knowledge. The examples to date in 13/14 and 14/15 are:

1. Specialist advice and consultancy from "PTS Consulting" to assist the procurement of Data Centre services.
  - 13/14 spend = £33,250
  - 14/15 spend = £30,960
2. Specialist advice from "Spinks Telecoms" for the redesign of the core Local Area Network to support PSN CoCo 2015, Telephony Migration and Data Centre projects
  - 13/14 spend = £2,644
3. Specialist advice and support from "Point to Point" consultants in: implementation of compliant remote access/home working technologies (two factor authentication, Citrix Netscalers) and drafting a specification for the replacement of the existing Citrix system, to be used in a procurement of services in its build and implementation.
  - 13/14 spend = £30,920
4. Specialist advice to support the awarding of a concession for public Wifi using council street furniture
  - 13/14 spend = £11,250
  - 14/15 spend = £19,200

### Third Party Contracts

Existing service contracts are also used to deliver both contracted core service and some planned investment activities.

For example the “SCC” Contract has been used in the delivery of both Windows 7 migration and security compliance investment activities and services

The following shows the ICT Department spend with Service Suppliers above £50k in 2013/14.

13/14	Total	capital	revenue	Notes
Specialist Computer Centres Plc (SCC)	£1,297,770	£377,054	£920,716	Mixed spend including Windows 7 migration and rollout, core maintenance of infrastructure equipment, desktop/laptop purchasing etc.
MDNX Enterprise Services Ltd	£1,005,402	£42,021	£963,381	Migration of Wide Area Network (WAN) lines across to new PSN Link network, high spend year as project in migration phase
Virgin Media Business Ltd	£520,176	£0	£520,176	Existing spend against both old data lines for WAN and significant analogue phone line costs
Altodigital Networks Ltd	£512,153	£0	£512,153	Provision of fully managed print/copy/Multi-Function Device (MFD) service across the council
Vodafone Corporate Ltd	£301,133	£0	£301,133	Provision of mobile telephony and blackberry
Virgin Media Ltd	£194,825	£0	£194,825	Existing spend against both old data lines for WAN and significant analogue phone line costs
OLM Systems Ltd	£164,419	£0	£164,419	Support, maintenance and licensing of care system in use by both Adult Social Care and Children's Services
IDOX Software Ltd	£130,562	£40,212	£90,350	Support, maintenance and licensing of environment systems and Electronic Document Management System (EDRM).

Business Web Software Ltd (Trading as Firmstep)	£134,875	£63,675	£71,200	Implementation costs and licensing/maintenance of Customer Experience Management (CEM) software.
Capita Business Services Ltd	£124,919	£0	£124,919	Licensing, maintenance and support of SIMS software management information system to all schools buying service from the council.

SecureData Europe Ltd	£99,909	£0	£99,909	implementation and maintenance/ support costs for a variety of core security appliances and services including firewalls, web filtering etc.
Northgate Information Solutions UK Ltd	£95,214	£0	£95,214	ICT Department costs for support maintenance and licensing for core housing and planning systems.
PAV I.T. Services Limited	£76,717	£0	£76,717	Licensing, maintenance and support of backup and de-duplication systems for all council data.
CIT Vendor Finance (UK) Limited	£72,559	£0	£72,559	MFD related leasing costs

### Departmental Budget

**As requested for context the following are the key figures for understanding the above in proportion to the ICT Department Revenue Budget**

2013/14 Starting Revenue Budget	£5.71 Million
2014/15 Starting Revenue Budget	£6.36 Million

**Within this overall budget profile are the following main areas**

### Staffing budget

The core staffing budget for the ICT department is

2013/14	£4.4 Million
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2014/15 £4.5 Million

**Supply & Services (Contracts) Budgets**

2013/14 £2.2 Million  
2014/15 £2.6 Million

**Investment Budget**

**2013/14 Capital Budget £1 Million**  
**2014/15 Capital Budget £2 Million**  
**2015/16 Capital Budget £2 Million**

This three year investment is also supported by a £1 Million revenue reserve.”

**(d) Councillor Simson**

- 18.7. “What has been done on the Scrutiny Panel’s recommendations regarding monitoring the service at CAMHs and Seaside View, and putting in place a transparent and comprehensive feedback system for children with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and their parents?”

**Reply from Councillor Shanks, Chair of the Children & Young People Committee.**

- 18.8. “A detailed report on progress to date in response to the Scrutiny Panel recommendations is going to the Health and Well-Being Board in July. The recommendations referred to in this question are being considered currently in depth as part of a wider review of disability and SEN services being undertaken by the council, which is going to consider and take forward all the recommendations in the Scrutiny Report as part of its work. The disability and SEN review is set to report by the early New Year 2015.

The council accepts the need for all services to improve their systems for monitoring and feedback and will work with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Sussex Partnership Trust (CAMHS) and the Sussex Community Trust (Seaside View) to achieve further improvements. These are complex services with a number of agencies and professional teams involved and therefore establishing secure and sustainable improvements will take some detailed planning between all agencies responsible.”

**(e) Councillor Wealls**

- 18.9. “Has the Autism Awareness Award in schools been implemented? What other efforts is the Council making to extend Autism Awareness and Training in the City’s schools?”

**Reply from Councillor Shanks, Chair of the Children & Young People Committee.**

“The ‘Autism Awareness Award’ accredited by Sussex University is being piloted at Downsview Special school and by the Autistic Spectrum Support Service. This award is undertaken over 2 terms to demonstrate awareness of autism and how this may impact on the pupils and families in the school. Following evaluation of the pilot this

award will be extended to more schools as appropriate. An alternative basic level accreditation from the AET (Autism Education Trust) was gained by Patcham House School around a year ago following 2 days training for all staff.

Considerable progress has been made on providing an extended and comprehensive 'tiered' training offer to schools and to parents. This offer is detailed on the council website now, ranging from universal training at tier 1 to very specialist training and support for those working with young people facing the greatest challenges at tier 3. The training will be delivered by Brighton and Hove professionals specialising in autism. Training from the Autism Education Trust (AET) will also be on offer. Training and support opportunities are being offered to parents explicitly also in this offer as well as to schools and plans are being discussed for some joint delivery of training between parents and professionals. In addition a major conference on autism is being planned for the Spring 2015."

**(f) Councillor Brown**

- 18.10. "The Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) Scrutiny recommended an Autism Champion to be appointed for the city to champion the interests of ASC children and their families, monitor implementations of the Scrutiny and ensure the appropriate strategies within and external to the Council are consistent and brought together. Has that someone been identified and will it be a remunerated post?"

**Reply from Councillor Shanks, Chair of the Children & Young People Committee.**

- 18.11. "There are a number of children and young people across the city who have a variety of additional needs. The Executive Director of Children's Services has a statutory role of being the champion for all children and this includes children with autism. This is a remunerated post."

**(g) Councillor G. Theobald**

- 18.12. "The Friends of Withdean Park spend an awful lot of their own time on the maintenance and upkeep of this wonderful park which, until recently, was home to the national Lilac collection. Unfortunately, a large group of Travellers broke into the park on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June causing damage and disruption to residents. Police eventually served notice for them to leave late on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June as a result of a number of reports from upset residents of anti-social behaviour. When did the Council initially ask the Police to use their powers to evict the travellers as I have been unable to obtain this information from officers?"

**Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee.**

- 18.13. "The Traveller Liaison team and the police carried out a joint visit to this encampment at 1pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June to assess the community impact and to conduct legally-required welfare checks. Earlier that day they had been dealing with an unauthorised encampment elsewhere in the city. At the time of the visit there were 11 households trespassing in the park. The Travellers were told that they were trespassing, that they were not authorised to stay there, and that they must leave.

On 27<sup>th</sup> June, in line with the council's agreed policy and obligations, a decision was made that the UAE did not meet the threshold a S61 eviction but that the correct course of action was for the council to apply to court for a possession order. The trespassers were advised that should there be any antisocial behaviour or damage caused by the encampment this would be likely to give rise to a S61 eviction.

It should be noted that while there is a collection of Lilacs in the park it is not a National Collection, having lost this status some years ago. The Lilacs are fenced off to protect them from rabbits, so the trespassers were not camped amongst them. However they did knock down part of the fence when they were in the park and this is now being reinstated. They did not cause any damage to the lilacs themselves.

The police continued to monitor the encampment over the weekend. They had a number of calls over the weekend about the presence of the encampment. They also had calls about quad bike use in the park. Police attended in plain clothes to assess whether there were any unreported behaviour issues. All caravans were issued with 'words of advice' about vehicles and public safety. The decision about whether the encampment warranted a S61 eviction was kept under review by the police all weekend. If the police consider an emergency eviction under S61 is required outside of normal office hours they are able to contact our security contractor, APS, who are authorised to act as the council's agent in these circumstances. Both the police and APS know how to contact the Head of Tenancy Services, the Head of Corporate Security and key senior personnel out of hours in an emergency.

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June the council and the police reviewed the situation together and determined that this now gave rise to the council requesting the police evict the encampment using S61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Disorder Act 1994. This decision was made on the basis that the number of households in the encampment had grown from 11 to 39 Households. In addition there was an event planned for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July time was needed to clean up the park. In light of the new circumstances the trespassers were directed to leave the encampment by the police by Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The group left voluntarily on the evening of Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June. Should the trespassers return within 3 months they can be arrested by the police. Our contractor cleared the park on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, which was the first day that he was available to do so. The gate was left unlocked to enable access for the contractor and re-secured when he had finished his work. City Parks are currently repairing some damage to the wooden posts around Withdean Park and obtaining quotes to repair the fencing."

## **19 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

19.1 The Mayor noted that notification of 9 oral questions had been received and that 30 minutes was set aside for the duration of the item. He then invited Councillor Janio to put his question to Councillor Bowden.

### **(a) Sports Facilities – Rugby Clubs**

19.2 Councillor Janio asked:

“With the Rugby World Cup due to take place in just over a year’s time and as we know there are matches taking place at the AMEX Community Stadium here at Brighton and Hove, will Councillor West ensure that the Council does everything it possibly can to take advantage of this unique opportunity by supporting local rugby clubs and rugby played in schools in the run up to the World Cup and beyond?”

19.3 Councillor Bowden replied:

“The answer is yes and your supplementary is?”

19.4 Councillor Janio asked the following supplementary question:

“Hove Rugby Club who play on pitches at the Hove Recreation Ground have recently been told by the Rugby Football Union that the 2 pitches on the Southern end of Hove Rec are not fit for purpose following the site survey they had carried out. The estimate cost of the remedial works runs to over £180,000 which the RFU has suggested they may be able to meet at least in part if the Council agrees to various conditions.

The club are extremely concerned and I share their concern that the loss of one or both of these pitches will lead them to financial disaster and force them to close. For that to happen in World Cup year would do serious damage to the City’s reputation as a top sporting venue. Given that it was the Council that forced Hove Rugby Club to move to Hove Rec from Hove Park in the first place, will Councillor Bowden agree to meet with them and officers to discuss how this can be best taken forward?”

19.5 Councillor Bowden replied:

“Equally brief, yes.”

### **(b) Open Market**

19.6 Councillor Meadows asked:

“My residents are very pleased to see the open market is open of sorts but my question is when will the open market in the London Road be fully operational?”

19.7 Councillor Davey replied:

“Following years of terminal decline I’m delighted to announce the official opening of the market will be this coming Saturday between 1 and 5pm so I hope as many councillors as possible will be able to be there to hear the opening speeches from the members of the CIC, some of the traders, the Lord Lieutenant and of course Councillor Jason Kitcat to welcome this great new achievement for London Road.

So we’re going to see a new market with 45 permanent new stalls, around 30 temporary stalls, 12 workshop units and significantly, 85 affordable homes. These are changes which have been a very long time coming but they are contributing to an exciting new future for London which is going through a massive reversal of what I

think is 30 years of decline, it really is very vibrant and the local market is a big part of that.”

19.8 Councillor Meadows asked the following supplementary question:

“I do use London Road quite a lot, well I did until my bank closed down there and I have found that the open market and residents have commented on this as it is the most local town centre to them, is that there are not many traders in the open market and it has a rather ghostly feel as you walk through.

It is not a crowded bustling market as you would expect, so my question Mr Mayor is how affordable are the stalls for stall holders so that we can make sure that this market is the bustling market that everyone hopes to see?”

19.9 Councillor Davey replied:

“The markets are very affordable and the only reason that it is not full at this moment is that we’ve only recent taken completion of it from the developers and that took place about 3 or 4 weeks ago and since then 40 of the 45 stalls have been taken and traders are now working on fitting out their units and I’m sure most of them will be ready to open on Saturday but many more still to come.

The 30 or so temporary stalls, I think are available for £20 a day so I think it is very affordable and we will see it being fully populated over the next few months and I’m very confident about that.”

### **(c) Travellers**

19.10 Councillor Summers asked:

While in view of the increasing difficulties and challenges we’re having with the traveller incursions and have had recently, in particular, certainly in my ward and the public outcry as a result of that, I’m sure you’ve seen a lot of the reporting on it. I am really quite surprised and disappointed that an email I sent to all Councillors and MPs in the city yielded zero response with a suggestion of a way forward, zero response from anyone, apart from, to your credit, Councillor Bowden. And to an MP, I’ll leave you to guess who that might have been. So apart from those two, you did zero response, not even an acknowledgement and it was a request or suggestion I put out that had the backing of a lot of residents too. I wonder why perhaps from your own point of view, you didn’t feel able to even respond to that.”

19.11 Councillor J. Kitcat replied:

“Well because it was an email sent to all Councillors, we working as a group agreed who would respond on our behalf, and you received that approach and response on our collective behalf. I get copied into a lot of emails and if I personally respond to all of them, I would never get away from the PC. In terms of the wider issues you’ve raised, yes it has been an issue of concern but I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers of the Council and the police, who I think work incredibly hard, every hour of every day to deal with what is a very challenging situation in the warmer months of the

year and I'm very pleased that the secretary of state has withdrawn the threat of calling in the planning commission and now we are progressing towards developing the permanent site, which is long overdue.

We are one of the few places without permanent traveller provision in our area and it will certainly help with the situation and I'm also pleased that with the partnership working with the police has enabled us to move forward with a number of options like being able to do partial section 62's of groups and also looking at a more regional way of working with colleague local authorities and I'm assured that in our conversations with the Police and Crime Commissioner that Sussex police are being consistent across both east and west Sussex and Brighton and Hove and how they deal with requests for sections 61s and 62s. So I acknowledge your concerns but I would also recognise the huge amount of work that goes into addressing this problem, which will only be fully ameliorated with proper provision for transit and permanent sites, not only just in the Brighton and Hove area, but across the South East."

19.12 Councillor Summers asked the following supplementary question:

"I recognise as Leader of the Council, you're inundated Jason, but it is rather a pressing issue, so I think it would have warranted a response from you. I acknowledge we have a permanent site in the making but that will be in a good 18 months down the line. In the meantime, residents and businesses are very fearful of what's to lie ahead between now and then and they don't get the impression that the politicians here are really talking to each other and doing much about it. I absolutely acknowledge the work of officers, absolutely I do, but the impression to the public is that they've been abandoned.

So I would ask you and actually the leaders of the groups here, and the MPs again, would you be prepared to join in some sort of discussion or meeting to really tackle all the possible things we could do in the interim. I believe from good authority, that the Argus is looking to table a meeting of this sort and so I ask you and the leaders of the groups, would you be willing to meet together, with them and the police, to see a way forward over the next 18 months?"

19.13 Councillor J. Kitcat replied:

"So I think first of all, I don't accept some of your characterisations about the situation and in fact, if you look at the total numbers of unauthorised encampments, we've had higher numbers four or five years ago, so I think we need to put this into context. We also know the average time taken to evict an unauthorised encampment had dropped from 26 days to 14 days; I'm just putting it into context. I'm very happy to meet and I have met with the police, both Nev Kemp and the Police and Crime Commissioner, I'm happy to meet with other parties and we have discussed it at leaders group. I'm happy to do that again.

I don't think it's fair to say that the residents have been abandoned, I think it's completely unfair to say that and I think that would suggest that there hasn't been excellent work by the police, by council officers and the private landowners that have been involved. I think what we have seen is because of the increased offenses and the speed of eviction, we have seen some unauthorised encampments on more

sensitive sites and we'll see a waste at the bottom. If we don't step back to look again at the strategy, not just city wide but regionally, and I'm pleased that there have been conversations in the past between the lead members on that, between West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove and I am seeking to bring this to the next meeting with the South East Seven leaders, which the leaders of the seven principle authorities.

So I do think there are significant things being done there, but you have to recognise that in the South East something like more than 10% of the traveller provision is in Brighton and Hove already, so we have a challenge to work regionally on this. I'm pleased that Chichester are moving forward with adding provision and I hope that we continue to encourage other areas to do that. If there is a meeting to be had, I would welcome those conversations but there are no easy answers on this matter and we have to recognise that some of the development we did in the city many, many years ago, actually pushed traveller communities out of their previous places, such as the Market Gardens in the Carden area and we need to provide the permanent provision to help the locally connected families, so they can school their children and so on. And we also need to help residents understand, limits of the powers the police operate under, and the Council. So I think there has been excellent work done and we need to keep communicating that to everyone and I would urge all members of this council to be supportive in communicating the good work Council and police officers do this, and that when they can they do use their legal powers, if not they have to go to court and wait the machinations of the court system for a rights of eviction and it is not a simple matter of just banning people. It is not something as simple as that, and I think we should seek to support our officers in that work."

#### **(d) Licensing**

19.14 Councillor Simson stated:

"In actual fact, it's been conceded, because it was actually in relation to a political statement by Councillor Duncan that was made following a recent licensing panel decision. I had read in the press recently that Councillor Duncan is no longer a member of the Green Group, although I don't think it's been made official, but I do see him sitting away from the Green Group today, so I assume that is the case. So I think it would be unfair to ask the Chair of the Licensing Committee to actually comment on anything that he has said and wish to withdraw my question."

#### **(e) Pot Holes – Coombe Road**

19.15 Councillor Marsh asked:

"My subject is pot holes, we have a theme here as you can see, which Councillor Meadows started by giving you a petition. I believe there has been some government money given to councils locally, so that they can repair pot holes and other road surface issues within the area, and I wonder if Councillor West can confirm, and I understand that Brighton & Hove are receiving roughly quarter million, could Councillor West confirm that I've got the sums right and that the money is coming or indeed the money is in our coffers and ready to be used?"

19.16 Councillor Davey replied:

“Yes, the city council did successful apply for just over £500,000 of government pot hole and flood damage funding, which will be used when needed across the city in identified locations.”

19.17 Councillor Marsh asked the following supplementary question:

“I heard the figure of £500,000 which is excellent, I don’t know how that is divided between floods and pot holes but my question is very simple. Councillor Meadows has already presented the petition from over 100 residents in Coombe Road, where the road surface is in an atrocious state. So I would like Councillor Davey to confirm to me when Coombe Road will be properly, thoroughly resurfaced, not patched and not bits and bobs, but properly and thoroughly resurfaced. So that pedestrians and cyclists, and bus users, and people with buggies and people with Zimmer frames and cars, lorries and delivery vehicles can access that road and use it safely without the risk of incidents either or in road traffic conditions or to your person as you bump up and down the very, very poor surface.”

19.18 Councillor Davey replied:

“I’m afraid I’m not party to when exactly, but there are 1000 kilometres of pavement and 624 kilometres of roads and cycle ways in the city, so I don’t know how much of that Coombe Road that counts. But quite a lot because I’m sure it’s quite a long road and I’m not sure that actually the money available would even cover that work on Coombe Road, you would be surprised how much it costs to resurface roads, particularly to the standard you mentioned. We will be using this money to rebuild road surfaces when possible and implement long standing repairs. I will have to ask officers to get back to you with the latest reports for Coombe Road because it will be inspected on a regular basis so I will ask officers to let you know what the result of that latest inspection was.”

#### **(f) Autistic Spectrum Condition**

19.19 Councillor Wealls asked:

“I’ve actually changed my question just on the bases of a heart rending question I got from a resident this week who has a 15 year old son with Asperger’s syndrome, who is incredibly isolated, has no useful services they can attend and has no way of making friends without that service. So my question is, has an assessment been done on the needs of autistic spectrum condition young people with respect to youth work and in particular, social activities, such as youth clubs? That was one of the recommendations in the scrutiny report, if so what is happening and if not, when?”

19.20 Councillor Shanks replied:

“Yes, I think it’s very important actually, in terms of young people particularly isolated young people. I used to do some work like this myself, a long time ago, but I do think it’s very important and as you say, it’s coming to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 29<sup>th</sup> July. We’re looking at all the recommendations; the problem is with these questions, if you asked specific ones beforehand, we would be able to give you

specific answer. I think you have the papers for the Health and Wellbeing Board; we obviously are reviewing what we're doing in that way and whether we can find resources to do it. We're having a big review of all the special educational needs, services we provide to make sure we're doing the right thing and having the right impact on young people and there are a lot of voluntary organisations who work with young people in this way. So we are reviewing that, we are concerned. We've had a very good scrutiny report, a lot of what was reported to scrutiny, we already obviously knew about because parents talk to our services as well but it is ongoing work, so thank you for your support for it."

### **(g) Universal Credit & Housing**

19.21 Councillor Wilson asked:

"Regulations currently state that help with housing costs for those living in exempt accommodation, will sit outside universal credit and is instead paid through housing benefit and is excluded from the benefit cap. Concerns that the definition of exempt accommodation in use excluded high numbers of supported housing services, placing them at significant risk, led to an additional category of specified accommodation been included in updated housing benefit and universal credit guidance earlier this year.

However it now falls to the local authorities to identify all exempt and specified accommodation before the deadline of October 2014. Can you confirm where we are in terms of identifying supported accommodation in Brighton and Hove which meets the criteria? Who's involved in making this decision and the process being used?"

19.22 Councillor Sykes replied:

"I believe you are referring to the housing benefit universal credit regulations 2014, which came in obviously earlier this year, and these amend previous housing benefit regs 2006 and the universal credit regs 2013 to ensure that more tenants in supported housing are protected from unintended consequences of welfare reform and basically they expand the definition of supported exempt accommodation, it's now called specified accommodation and this falls under four classes. The exempt accommodation was previously identified in situations where carers are provided by a landlord or on their behalf and then you've also got managed properties where care isn't provided by a landlord or on their behalf and then thirdly, social sector refuges from domestic violence or other violence, fourthly, hostels for higher needs individuals including local authority hostels.

As you identified it falls to the local authority to identify specified accommodation, so there is not a double counting of housing benefit payments and housing costs under universal credit and that work is ongoing. I think the specified accommodation list has got to be with the DWP by November this year and in order to do that work, the councils work and the Benefits Service is working closely with Supporting People providers and they're all working together with supported housing providers. I think basically the Benefits Service will put together the list, they will put that list passed supported people providers and they'll work together with supported housing providers to make sure we've got full identification of specified accommodation properties."

19.23 Councillor Wilson asked the following supplementary question:

Is any of our supported housing provision in the city at risk as a result of the way we interpret and reply the definitions of exempt and specified accommodation? And if so, we will be able to offer any additional support to protect much valued services that fall outside the definitions?"

19.24 Councillor Sykes replied:

That's getting a little too technical for me there Councillor Wilson. I may have to ask for the help of the officers in getting you a written response to your supplementary."

#### **(h) Autistic Spectrum Condition**

19.25 Councillor Hyde asked:

"When education, care and health plans are rolled out in September, families will need to transition from statements of special educational needs. What support is being planned for families of children with autistic spectrum condition generally to inform them of the new plans and process around their own educational and health care plans development and help them transition?"

19.26 Councillor Shanks replied:

"I know because I attended briefings on this, that there has been a lot of support given to people. It is quite an important change because it does mean we're integrating the health needs and the education needs into one plan. So there is stirring committee for SEN. In terms of specifically around autism, I would need to check that. The review, in terms of my answer previously to Councillor Wealls, the review that's happening with special educational needs is obviously encompassing a lot of this, in terms of how we work with young people with autism. But I do know that parents are getting a lot of support through AMAZE which we support as a council and through officers in terms of how these educational plans, the joint plans, will work. I'm confident that that work is being done."

#### **(i) Unauthorised Traveller Encampments**

19.27 Councillor Barnett asked:

"Last year I was taken to the standards board and censored for suggesting an unauthorised traveller encampment should move to Queen's Park. Last month the Leader of the Council suggested that travellers should be allowed to stay on Hangleton bottom, could Councillor West please tell me what the difference is between the Leader of the Council and myself?"

19.28 Councillor West replied:

“We have a lack of provision for travellers in the City as Councillor Kitcat has outlined and within the South East generally. He was suggesting that we look for areas that may be less sensitive that may be able to accommodate travellers on a temporary basis and that was a very pragmatic answer to a position that we’ve been put in; in part by the Government and the petitioning of the Government by the Conservative Group to resist the development of a permanent site without proper provision which is nonsense when we have to put up with so much comment from them scaring people off who are rightly understandably and concerned about the impact on their communities but I don’t see what the Conservative Group are doing.

To address the actual question, they’ve been so unsupportive over the years. The position that the City is in is that many of the traditional stopping places have become less accessible and that is why we’re seeing travellers increasingly on sensitive sites in our parks and that leads to a lot of evictions.

We’ve also, unfortunately, had a reduction on the availability of pitches up the transit site because we’ve had problems with the drainage and we’re awaiting the development of the permanent site now that we’re able to get on with it thanks to Mr Pickles ‘pulling his finger out’. So yes we are looking at other places including Hangleton Bottom as potential temporary places that travellers might go especially in the interim while we are developing a permanent site.”

Councillor Barnett asked the following supplementary question:

“What is the difference between the Leader of the Council and myself ending up in the standards board?”

Councillor West replied:

“I would have been happy to answer the question originally if it had been directed at me. The difference is very straight forward. First of all it is not the role of the Council to direct a particular unauthorised encampment; which is what Councillor Barnett sought to do which fetters the legal position of the Council and secondly I did not direct any encampments, I started a long overdue debate about how we seek to manage unauthorised encampments in this city I was not directing anyone.

Thirdly I’d like to point out that we had a Conservative Administration who won funding from Government to build a permanent site and were more than happy to build it when it was not in one of their wards; when it was in East Brighton Ward, ‘build, build, build’. As soon as it moved to being proposed in Patcham they did everything they could possible think of to stop it from happening including pleading to their mates in Government, so I think they should back off on this.”

## **20 CALL OVER FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.**

### **(a) Callover**

- 20.1 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that no items had been reserved for discussion;

**(b) Receipt and/or Approval of Reports**

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

Item 21 Audit & Standards Committee Annual Report

**(c) Oral Questions from Members**

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

**21 AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

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

**22 NOTICES OF MOTION.****(a) Blood Donations**

- 22.1. The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Phillips on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Jones.

- 22.2. The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

“This Council resolves:

To request the Chief Executive to write to the Health Minister asking that he review the current blood donor guidelines advising men who have sex with men (MSM) not to donate blood for 1 year (after a risk) on the basis that the window period for HIV testing and most other blood-borne infections is 3 months and for Hepatitis C is 6 months. Therefore the ban of a year for men who have sex with men to donate blood does not accord with current testing guidelines.”

- 22.3. The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **carried**.

**(b) Rail Season Tickets**

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

- 22.5. The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

“This council acknowledges the growing number of Brighton and Hove residents who now commute to London or other destinations outside of the City on a part time basis due the growth in working from home and who find themselves financially disadvantaged by the current structure of rail season tickets.

This Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, Rt. Hon Patrick McLoughlin, urging him to ensure train operating companies such as Southern introduce rail season tickets that reflect flexible working patterns.”

22.6. The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **carried**.

**(c) Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

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

22.8. The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

“This Council resolves to request the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business and Skills expressing its deep concern at the developing TTIP, the secretiveness of its processes and its potential impact on public services, social and environmental protection, financial regulation and basic democratic oversight. Council is particularly concerned about the potential implications of TTIP with respect to the city of Brighton and Hove, regarding social and environmental effects, and across the spectrum of public services.

Further to this, Council requests assurances from the Secretary of State that the Government will seek full openness to TTIP position texts and that he will endeavour to ensure access to TTIP documentation and development by the UK public including concerned residents of Brighton and Hove.”

22.9. The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **carried**.

**(d) Support for A27 Action**

22.10. 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 Cox.

22.11. The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

*“In order further to promote business investment and economic growth in the Greater Brighton area this Council resolves to pledge its support to the newly-formed A27 Action campaign.”*

22.12. The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **lost**.

**(e) Centenary Fields**

22.13. The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor A. Norman on behalf of the Conservative Group and seconded by Councillor Janio.

22.14. The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

“This Council supports the Fields in Trust & Royal British Legion Centenary Fields campaign and requests that a report be brought to the next meeting of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee with a view to nominating specific suitable sites in Brighton & Hove.”

22.15. The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **carried**.

**23 CLOSE OF MEETING**

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

The meeting concluded at 7.45pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

October 2014