

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

19 JANUARY 2005 AT 5.00 PM

COMMITTEE ROOM 1, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Edmond Smith (Convenor), Councillors Cobb, Forester, Kemble, Mallender, Meegan, Oxley, Pidgeon and Tonks.

Also present: Chris Todd and Mark Strong

Apologies: Simon Newell, Local Strategic Partnership and Sue Moorman, Brighton & Hove Council Human Resources

PART ONE

38. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

38a Declarations of Substitutes

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|------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 38.1 | <u>Substitute Councillor</u> | <u>For Councillor</u> |
| | Forester | Meadows |
| | Pidgeon | Mrs Theobald |

38b Declarations of Interest

38.2 The following personal interests were expressed in respect of Item 43, Draft Staff Travel Plan: Councillor Oxley stated that he holds a bus pass and a rail pass, Councillor Kemble that he is a bus pass holder and a taxi driver, Councillors Edmond Smith, Mallender, Pidgeon and Tonks that they all have bus passes and co-opted member Mark Strong that he is a trustee of an organisation that provides cycle training.

38c Exclusion of Press and Public

38.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

38.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting

during consideration of item 43 on the agenda.

39. MINUTES

39.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2004 be approved and signed by the Convenor.

39A. SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

39.2 The Head of Sustainability and Environmental Policy referred to paragraph 36.3 of the minutes and advised that he had contacted Brighton & Hove Buses. He reported Roger French's reply. It was noted that the Equalities Forum had contacted Mr French separately and members requested that the council take a corporate approach in future. Members were only partially satisfied with Mr French's reply. They wished to have next-stop visual and audible indicators on all buses, talking bus stops, and for drivers to turn their engines off when not actually setting down or picking up. The Convenor suggested that officers undertake a costing exercise to ascertain how much city-wide visual and audible indicators on all buses and at all stops would cost.

39.3 **RESOLVED** – That the Head of Sustainability and Environmental Policy liaise with the Head of Performance and Equalities and the council's Public Transport Officer and ensure that a corporate approach to resolve outstanding issues is made to Brighton & Hove Buses and the reply reported back.

40. CONVENOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

40.1 There were none.

41. LINKING COMMUNITY SAFETY & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

41.1 The Commission considered a report of the Research Officer in the Community Safety Team concerning the Community Safety Strategy for 2005-2008 (see minute book). The report listed the priorities contained in the strategy and recommended that one or two separate paragraphs be added setting out sustainability aspects of the strategy.

41.2 The Convenor stated that she had no objection to a separate paragraph referring to sustainability, as long as sustainability aspects were incorporated throughout the framework of the strategy. Members agreed that the Head of Sustainability and Environmental Policy should advise the Community Safety Team that the categories 'physical environment and quality of life' and 'vehicle crime' had sustainability implications. Members considered that public perception of danger was a key issue, for example, fear of using public transport could mean more cars on the road and uprooting greenery, which might hide muggers, actually made the physical environment less sustainable.

41.3 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Commission has no objection to one or two separate paragraphs in the Community Safety Strategy concerning

sustainability.

(2) That the Head of Sustainability and Environmental Policy contact the Head of Community Safety to inform her of the sustainability implications.

42. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: TIMETABLING AND LINKAGES

42.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment outlining the process and timetable for preparation of local development documents that make up the local development framework (see minute book). The report also proposed the role of the Sustainability Commission in this. The Convenor stressed the need to start public consultation early and to ensure that all relevant groups are encouraged to respond.

42.2 The Acting Local Development Team Manager stated that SEERA had approved the draft Regional Spatial Strategy and were preparing press releases to encourage interested parties to participate in consultation on it. It was agreed that the Sustainability Commission would wish to participate and make its views known by inviting a representative of SEERA and also Councillor Turner (the council's representative on SEERA) to the next meeting on 9 March.

42.3 A member commented that the timetable in the Appendix to the report did not show dates for the key stages of the sustainability appraisal. Officers advised that a more detailed timetable was being drawn up and that reports would come before the Commission at all key stages.

42.4 **RESOLVED** – (1) To note the proposed timetable for preparing local development documents.

(2) To agree the proposed role of the Sustainability Commission in the preparation of local development documents.

(3) To invite a representative of SEERA and Councillor Turner to attend the next meeting.

44. SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE - 27 APRIL 2005

44.1 The Commission discussed the Sustainability Conference due to take place on 27 April 2005 at Hove Town Hall on the theme of Climate Change. The Head of Sustainability and Environmental Policy stated that feedback from the previous year's delegates should be taken into account. He outlined his proposals for the day and asked for members' comments. Members generally approved the programme and the main aim of drafting a climate action plan for the city. Suggested topics for consideration were: renewable energy, disaster handling, local farmers and local produce, pollution, changes to flora and fauna, coral reefs, ice caps, rainforests. John Patmore offered to provide names of potential speakers. It was also suggested that the former Head of Woking Borough Council be invited.

45. FINDINGS OF A SURVEY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

45.1 The Commission considered a report of the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy informing of the findings of the survey of Local Authority Approaches to Sustainable Development and their relevance to Brighton & Hove City Council (see minute book).

45.2 The Convenor suggested that the Commission should review its work within its terms of reference. It was agreed that this should be an internal review.

45.3 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the findings be noted.

(2) That the Head of Sustainability & Environmental Policy report back outlining terms of reference for an internal review of the Sustainability Commission.

46. BRIGHTON & HOVE FOOD STRATEGY CONSULTATION

46.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment setting out the timetable for consultation on the Brighton and Hove Food Strategy (see minute book).

46.2 A member enquired about the vacancy for one councillor to serve on the organising committee of the Food Partnership. The Convenor confirmed that the normal procedure for appointing a councillor to an outside body would be followed.

46.3 **RESOLVED** – To note the information in the report.

47. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

47.1 It was noted that Simon Newell was unable to attend. Members asked the Head of Sustainability and Environmental Policy to request the LSP to send a substitute when he was unable to be present. Chris Todd briefly updated members. He referred to a Public Service Board to bring services together, a Transport Day at the end of January and the Strategic Housing Partnership.

47.2 **RESOLVED** – To request the Partnership to send a representative to every meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

PART 2 SUMMARY**43. DRAFT STAFF TRAVEL PLAN – EXEMPT CATEGORY 11**

Members considered the Draft Staff Travel Plan which was before them for consultation. The Head of Sustainability and Environmental Policy reported that the Director of Human Resources had commenced consultation with the trades unions.

The Commission's recommendations will be placed before the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee due to take place on 23 February 2005.

The meeting concluded at 7.00 pm