

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

9 MARCH 2005 AT 5.00 PM

COMMITTEE ROOM 1, JUBILEE LIBRARY

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Edmond Smith (Convenor), Councillors Cobb, Davidson, Kemble, Mallender, Meadows, Pidgeon, Mrs Theobald (OS) and Tonks.

Also present: Erica Gray, Environment Agency; Mark Strong; Chris Todd.

PART ONE

48. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

48a Declarations of Substitutes

48.1	<u>Substitute</u>	<u>For</u>
	Councillor Pidgeon	Councillor Oxley
	Erica Gray	Alan Hopkins

48.2 Councillor Paskins declared that Councillor Mallender had been delayed and that she would substitute for him if necessary. However he arrived during item 51 and took over the Green Party seat.

48b Declarations of Interest

48.2 There were no declarations of interest.

48c Exclusion of Press and Public

48.3 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.

48.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of item 59 on the agenda.

49. MINUTES

49.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2005 be approved and signed by the Convenor subject to deleting "OS" after Councillor Tonks' name at the top and replacing the words "Head of Woking Borough Council" with "Alan Jones" in paragraph 44.1.

50. CONVENOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

50.1 The Convenor referred to Securing the Future, the government's new strategy for promoting sustainable development. The Local Government Association had produced a useful briefing on the impact on local authorities, which includes a commitment to having sustainable development as part of the CPA process in the future. The Convenor stated that Brighton & Hove was already meeting many objectives. It was agreed that the LGA briefing should be circulated to Commission members and that the Head of Sustainability should prepare a report for the Commission on Securing the Future with a view to taking it to Policy and Resources.

50.2 The Convenor offered members the opportunity to attend a presentation on The Transport Strategy by officers from the Assistant Director Transport's team. She suggested some dates for this and asked members to let her know which they preferred.

50.3 The Head of Sustainability and Environmental Policy stated that he had taken the action set out in minute 39.3 of the 19 January meeting. Brighton & Hove Buses had advised that vehicles with visual display notices were gradually replacing older buses. The Council was awaiting government guidance on installing audio equipment at bus stops. On board audio was not being pursued, balancing the needs of visually impaired people being met by drivers, and other peoples' objection to environmental noise. He stated that the bus company managers take complaints about drivers leaving engines running when stationary very seriously, as drivers are instructed not to do this.

51. TOUR OF THE JUBILEE LIBRARY

51.1 Nick Lomax, Architect, led a tour of the new library building highlighting the sustainability aspects, which include heating & cooling, lighting and use of rainwater. The building has achieved a BREEAM "excellent" rating.

51.2 Mr Lomax responded to questions. He advised that the building is good value for money: incorporating sustainability does not mean undue expenditure. He explained that going through the PFI process was a complicated procedure and it had not been possible to incorporate solar panels. They could be installed later if finance became available. Some members were concerned that it had been difficult to find cycle racks when arriving for the meeting.

52. THE SOUTH EAST PLAN

52.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment on the content of South East Plan produced by the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) (see minute book). The Commission was also given a presentation by David Payne of SEERA as part of the consultation on the South East Plan.

52.2 This was followed by a discussion. The Team Leader, Strategic Planning and Monitoring, stated that he would report the Commission's concerns to the Environment and Policy & Resources Committees. Issues that arose during debate were:- the implications of new housing; transportation issues; the desirability of new rail links; protecting the countryside, the landscape and new National Park; the need for quality, standards and monitoring, climate change and biodiversity. Ms Bruce of the Hanover Community Association considered that the sustainability appraisals in the draft plan were not satisfactory. Ms Walters of the South East Forum for Sustainability requested that the forthcoming public meeting should be well advertised to ensure the public was aware it was taking place. The following suggestions were made:

- It was felt that the plan was weak on providing the context for the South Downs National Park designation, reflecting a wider lack of inclusion of countryside policy and protection or land management issues in the Plan, and no indicators or monitoring proposed.
- It was felt that sustainable development, and in particular Climate Change drivers, were not central enough to the Plan, nor was enhancing bio-diversity given enough prominence.
- There was some discussion of the new homes target but it was felt that these might better be discussed within the time frame of the extended consultation period.
- Transport issues were touched upon and improved and new rail links were called for as part of the plan, in particular the Uckfield to Lewes link.

52.3 **RESOLVED** – That the Sustainability Commission notes the report and that the Commission's suggestions for the council's response to SEERA on the South East Plan be reflected in reports to the Environment and Policy & Resources

Committees.

53. CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

53.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment setting out the City Council's commitments for action on Climate Change and the process by which it will prepare an action plan with the local community to address the causes and effects of climate change (see minute book).

53.2 A co-opted member stated that the council should prioritise the repair of school heating systems; he was aware that several across the city had broken down in the recent cold weather.

53.3 The wording of recommendation 3 in the report was amended as set out in the resolution below.

53.4 **RESOLVED** - (1) To recommend that the Policy and Resources Committee endorse the commitments made by the Council as a signatory of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, specifically:

- To work with central government to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the UK climate change programme.
- To prepare a plan with the local community by November 1, 2005 to address both the causes and effects of climate change.
- To publicise commitments within the plan to achieve significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions from the authority's own operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal, and procurement.
- To encourage all sectors in the City to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions.
- To work with key service providers, including health and business sectors, and development organisations, to assess the potential effect of climate change on our communities and to identify ways in which we can adapt to change.
- To provide opportunities for the development of renewable energy generation within our area.
- To monitor progress against the plan against the actions needed, and publish the results.

(2) That the Assistant Director, Property & Design be instructed to explore putting savings achieved through an energy campaign across all council offices into an "Energy Fund" for use on renewables, improving energy conservation and efficient heating systems, so further reducing CO2 emissions.

(3) That the Assistant Director, Property & Design explore the possibility of applying for the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme, a free service run by the independent Carbon Trust, or a similar energy programme.

54. CONSULTATION ON PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 10: PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

54.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment that provided an outline of the key proposed changes in draft Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS10) on Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (see minute book). The report also set out for member endorsement the officer response to the consultation paper proposed in the report, which was sent to the OPDM to meet the 11 March 2005 deadline.

54.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) To note the key changes proposed in the draft PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management.

(2) To endorse the officer response to the consultation document sent to the OPDM set out in Appendix 3 to the report

55. BRIEFING ON SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

55.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment that provided an update and progress note on two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) that the City Council is preparing (see minute book).

55.2 It was agreed to e-mail the scoping report to members, when it arrived.

55.3 **RESOLVED** – That the information contained in the report be noted.

56. INTERNAL REVIEW OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION: TERMS OF REFERENCE

56.1 The Commission considered a report of the Director of Environment that outlined the proposed terms of reference for an internal review of the Sustainability Commission (see minute book).

56.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the original terms of reference should be the basis for the review;

(2) That the review be conducted by surveying present and past members of the commission and the Council's Sustainability Team on a set list of questions relating to the original TOR and asking how these have squared with their experience of the Commission.

(3) That in addition, the Sustainability Team reviews and reports on the items considered by the Commission, referred to Policy & Resources or other committees, and the outcome of these considerations and referrals.

(4) It is further proposed:

To recommend to Policy and Resources Committee that Article 6 of the Brighton & Hove City Council Constitution be amended to state that the Sustainability Commission have "up to 3 co-optees nominated by the Sustainability Commission or the Local Strategic Partnership".

57. ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION: THE JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (NAEE)

57.1 The Commission received an oral update from Kim Jackson about the NAEE journal, which is used for educational purposes. She circulated copies of the Spring 2005 issue and drew attention to articles about St Luke's School and the Farmers Market. The Convenor congratulated Ms Jackson on her work in co-ordinating the journal.

58. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

58.1 The Commission received an oral report from Simon Newell about the latest activities of the LSP. The Convenor stated that all residents should be advised about the Public Service Board and its role.

PART 2

59. PART 2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2005 – EXEMPT CATEGORY 11

59.1 The Head of Sustainability and Environmental Policy informed members that the Draft Staff Travel Plan had been considered at the meeting of Policy & Resources Committee on 23 February 2005 and the matter would be taken forward by a cross-departmental working group and in consultation with the Trades Unions.

59.2 **RESOLVED** - That the Part 2 minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2005 be approved and signed by the Convenor.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this day of 2005