

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CULTURE & TOURISM SUB-COMMITTEE

5PM – 2 FEBRUARY 2006

**COMMITTEE ROOM 3
HOVE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Present: Councillor John (Chair), Councillors Allen, Battle (DC), Mrs Brown, Davidson, Kemble, Morgan, Older, Randall, Smith (OS)

PART ONE

ACTION

33 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

33A Declarations of Substitutes

33.1 <u>Councillor</u> Kemble Allen	<u>for Councillor</u> Mrs Theobald Hawkes
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33B Declarations of Interest

33.2 Councillor Randall declared a personal interest in Item 40, Commemorative Plaques, relating to his membership of the Southern Housing Group.

33C Exclusion of Press and Public

33.3 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.

33.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items on the agenda.

34. MINUTES

34.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 10

November 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair.

35. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

35.1 The Chair updated the Sub-Committee on the building works taking place at Hove Library and the alternatives, including a temporary facility at Hove Town Hall. Information on progress would be posted regularly on the library service website.

36. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

36.1 No public questions were asked.

37. ROTTINGDEAN & SALTDEAN LIBRARIES

37.1 The Sub-Committee received a petition, which had been presented by Councillor Hyde at Council on 24 November 2005, containing 124 signatures, as follows:

"We, the undersigned, call upon the council to open each of Rottingdean and Saltdean libraries for another 2 days a week, increasing the stock accordingly, and without detriment to other libraries – and bring back the photocopier."

37.2 Councillor Tonks stated that he would speak in support of the petition as Councillor Hyde was unable to attend (see paragraph 38.2).

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

38. MOULSECOOMB LIBRARY

38.1 The Sub-Committee received a petition presented by Councillor Tonks at Council on 24 November 2005 containing 100 signatures, as follows:

"We urge that Moulsecoomb Library's future must be safeguarded, and its opening hours increased so that residents can benefit from all the enjoyment and possibilities in life which books can bring."

38.2 Councillor Tonks spoke in support of both petitions stating that the council must maintain all suburban libraries as a valuable resource for the community and particularly for the elderly and people without cars. He stated that libraries are essential to quality of life. He also supported the request for the return of the photocopier.

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

39. QUARTER 2 BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2005/6

39.1 The Sub-Committee considered an extract from the meeting of

the Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 7 December 2005 together with a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance concerning the second quarter, July-September 2005, performance indicator results from the statutory Best Value Performance Indicator suite (see minute book).

39.2 Members asked whether the department had data about other areas of performance. The Director of Cultural Services advised that the performance indicators shown in the report were the national Best Value indicators. His department did monitor other areas of work and it was agreed that information should come before the sub-committee along with the results of the Audit Commission Inspection.

Tony Miller

39.3 **RESOLVED** – That the extract and report be noted.

40. IMPLEMENTING THE TOURISM STRATEGY: COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

40.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services concerning proposals to create a Commemorative Plaque Panel to provide a new scheme for supporting and delivering Commemorative Plaques in the city (see minute book). This progresses section 1.3 of the 2004 Tourism Strategy.

40.2 The Head of Tourism advised that the timetable of action by English Heritage set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report might be curtailed.

40.3 It was agreed that Councillor Older should be the Culture & Tourism Sub-Committee representative on the Commemorative Plaque Panel.

40.4 The Chair thanked the Regency Society for their help in this matter.

40.5 **RESOLVED** – That the proposals be noted and the Director of Cultural Services instructed to proceed with the formation of the Commemorative Plaque Panel and to implement the scheme with the proposals highlighted under section 4 of the report.

41. IMPLEMENTING THE TOURISM STRATEGY: MODERNISING SUBVENTION

41.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services concerning changes and trends in the meetings industry that are affecting VisitBrighton's ability to sell the city as a meetings destination (see minute book).

41.2 The Head of Marketing for VisitBrighton stated that the proposals set out in Appendix A to the report were short to medium term

proposals and that further changes might be recommended once the council had decided on the future of the Brighton Centre.

41.3 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the criteria that an event has to meet to be eligible for subvention be amended to allow decisions to be based on the city's current and future economic needs, to support a flexible conference sales strategy and thereby ensure that the city generates the greatest possible return from the investment it makes.

(2) That subvention policy enable the Brighton Centre to lever more commercial revenue from events that will benefit both the venue's income and the city's economy.

42. LIBRARIES FORWARD STRATEGY

42.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services concerning the Libraries Forward Strategy and the consultation process (see minute book).

42.2 The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 19, Access to Information Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the 1972 Local Government Act as amended (items not to be considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that the development of the strategy in Appendix 2 could not take place until after the Members Meeting on 16 January.

42.3 The Sub-Committee approved the draft strategy for consultation. Questions were raised about the finances available to implement it and a member suggested that the businesses, which were opening around the Jubilee Library, might contribute under the LABGI scheme. The Director agreed to look into this.

42.4 Members requested that statistical information be provided to the next meeting.

Pauline Scott-Garrett

42.5 **RESOLVED** – That the Libraries Forward Strategy be agreed and that officers develop a programme of action in consultation with stakeholders, partners and users.

The meeting concluded at 6.15 pm

Signed

Chair

