



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

**CABINET
ADDENDUM**

4.00PM, THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2012

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

ADDENDUM

ITEM	Page
182. PETITIONS	
(a) Notification of the following petitions to be presented at the meeting :	
(i) Proposed cuts to RNIB Talking Books service – Lead petitioner Ms. D. Marks;	
(ii) Save Brighton and Hove Mobile Library – Lead petitioner Mr. H. Spillman;	
(iii) Brighton and Hove Mobile Library – Ms. S. Rull-Usano.	
183. PUBLIC QUESTIONS	1 - 2
Question from Ms. Valerie Paynter (copy attached).	
188. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2012/13	3 – 4
Extract from the proceedings of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on the 31 st January 2012 (copy attached).	

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority at each ordinary meeting of the Cabinet.

Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public.

(a) Ms Valerie Paynter

"Thinking of the recent Tweetarama between Lord Bassam and Cllr Jason Kitcat concerning the upcoming Council Budget and rumblings around press releases centring around Council business from MP's, I wonder if BHCC would be interested or consider it appropriate to give local Lords and MP's co-opted seats at Budget Council and Full Council meetings?"

Councillor Randall, Leader of the Council, will reply.

9th February 2012

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	General Fund Revenue Budget – Council Tax 2012/13 – Extract from the Overview & Scrutiny Commission Meeting held on the 31st January 2012		
Date of Meeting:	9 February 2012		
Report of:	Strategic Director: Resources		
Cabinet Member Responsible:	Councillor J. Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 29-1006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mitchell (Chair); Janio (Deputy Chair), Brown, Follett, Morgan, K Norman, Rufus, Summers, Sykes and MacCafferty

PART ONE

69. BUDGET SCRUTINY PANEL

- 69.1 Councillor Ken Norman Chair of the Budget Scrutiny Panel introduced the report of the review. He had enjoyed the process. He thanked the Members serving on the Panel – Councillors Mary Mears, Gill Mitchell, Anne Pissaridou, Christina Summers and Ollie Sykes and was pleased that Joanna Martindale had also been an active member as the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum co-optee.
- 69.2 This had been a challenging review and a more detailed budget scrutiny than before. The Panel had heard from all the Cabinet Members and had asked a wide range of questions in a series of five meetings. Councillor Norman thanked all the witnesses for providing information and for sending written replies afterwards where necessary.
- 69.3 The Panel had made 13 recommendations to refer to Cabinet; these related more to organisational issues for the future rather than to specific budget areas in this year's proposals. Councillor Norman looked forward to budget Council and meanwhile asked that the Commission approve the Panel's report.
- 69.4 Councillor Gill Mitchell, Chair of OSC and a Member of the Panel, said this had been the best budget scrutiny yet. It had focussed on individual areas of the budget as well as the general approach to the proposals.
- 69.5 Councillor Janio commented that the budget scrutiny process had been open and handled much better than previously. It was helpful that the Panel was able to question

Cabinet Members directly, for example. This approach should be used for future budget scrutiny he said.

- 69.6 Members felt that the Budget Panel had been an effective in-depth method of scrutiny, allowing consistent cross-party challenge and more constructive than previous alternatives (i.e. the whole budget presented to OSC; or relevant sections of the budget considered separately by each Overview and Scrutiny Committee). It was helpful that the papers had been published well in advance.
- 69.7 The background to recommendation 8 (funding to the third sector) and recommendation 9 (partnership approach) was discussed by the Commission. Councillor Norman explained that proposals to transfer public health funding to the Council had, in the event, been unavailable for scrutiny comment. He hoped there would be wider involvement and more information from health and other public sector partners to enable closer examination of proposals in future.
- 69.8 Councillor Morgan asked how proposals for savings via joint commissioning would be coordinated. He said that the process needed to be clear and timescales should be agreed in good time to meet future budget deadlines. [Richard Tuset] told Members a cross-partnership group had been set up by the PSB and an update on this work would be provided for OSC Members.
- 69.9 On behalf of the Commission, Councillor Mitchell put on record thanks to Cabinet Members and officers for giving information and answering questions and to Councillor Norman and the other Panel Members for their work on the scrutiny review.
- 69.10 RESOLVED:** that the Budget Scrutiny Panel report be endorsed and referred to the Cabinet.