



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

# **COUNCIL ADDENDUM**

**4.30PM, THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2019**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**



## **ADDENDUM**

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**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 Council.

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 question has been received from a member of the public.

**1. QUESTION From: Christopher Hawtree**

As we know that a Budget Amendment this year brought £121,000 back into the Libraries service, would Councillor Knight please tell us how this money is being allocated?

**Councillor Knight, Chair of the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee will reply.**

**2. QUESTION From: Nigel Furness**

Councillor Childs, you recently tweeted about the Department for Education's "fetish for privatisation." Could you please elaborate on this terminology by informing us of this Administration's position on the privatisation of our schools?

**Councillor Childs, Chair of the Children, Young People & Skill Committee will reply.**

**3. QUESTION From: Valerie Paynter**

Our newly elected Labour Administration has 10, almost all new, councillors representing Hove & Portslade wards - not one of which sits on Planning. It is the first time no Hove or Portslade representative has been put on it that I recall. Can you confirm that not one of them sought a place on the 10-Member Planning Committee?

**Councillor Platts, Leader of the Council will reply.**

**4. QUESTION From: Gillian Foote**

Will Brighton & Hove City Council follow the lead of Glastonbury & Frome Council & adopt the Precautionary Principle regarding 5G masts & associated infrastructure due to the detrimental effect EMF is having on not only human life, but bees, insects & plants as I'm sure they want to protect the public & environment from exposure to harm?

**Councillor Moonan, Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board will reply.**

**5. QUESTION From: Michael Jenkins**

The Council, The Landlord, owe the Duty of Knowledge and the Duty of Care, for The Landlord's Own Property, Stanmer Heights. Stanmer Heights has been falling into Chronic Disrepairs, for more than twenty months:

holes in the roofs,  
cables dangling from the walls,  
derelict satellite dishes,  
an aerial down on the roof,  
a derelict bin in a bin area,

The Gathering Place's gas meters' cabinet doors falling off, and much more.  
Please will The Chair of The Housing Committee, formally create, an All-Encompassing Care Plan for Stanmer Heights, please?

**Councillor Allcock, Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee will reply.**

**6. QUESTION From: Jacqui Levene**

Can Brighton & Hove Council assure its citizens that they will be safe & insured once the roll out/deployment of 5G takes place.

In the event of harm to wildlife, insects, bees, trees, children, adults & elderly. Will the council be accountable for any harm that results and be responsible for any health & housing needs that follow, should 5G bring harm to humans or damage to any other organic life or property in our City?

**Councillor Moonan, Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board will reply.**

**DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of depositions from members of the public. Each deposition may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which one Member of the Council, nominated by the Mayor, may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the Mayor and voted on without discussion that the spokesperson for the deposition be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification of four Deputations has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

**(1) Deputation concerning Mental Health Pledge****Spokesperson Talia Fogelman**

Supported by:  
Frida Gustafsson  
John Lewry  
Olivia Canham  
Caroline Davis  
Martin Poole

**Ward affected: All**

Councillor Moonan, Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board will reply.

**(2) Deputation concerning the need for affordable housing is NO EXCUSE to devastate wildlife on the 'urban fringe.'****Spokesperson Becky Hobbs**

Supported by:  
Denise Friend,  
Philip Baker,  
Maria Krassowska,  
Rachel Murphy  
Will Baker

**Ward affected: All**

Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee will reply.

**(3) Deputation concerning the provision of a Night Shelter**

**Spokesperson Jim Deans**

Supported by:

Abi Kolliari

Kevin Woodhams

Archbishop Jerome Lloyd

Richard High

Alex Cadogan

Dale Hanbury

Tom Duddek

John Beard

Ann Hallam

**Ward affected: All**

Councillor Brennan, Deputy Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee will reply.

**(4) Deputation concerning Youth Strike Action**

**Spokesperson Uma Krieger**

Supported by:

Roseanne Steffen,

Annapurna Marley,

Mary-Jane Farrell,

Aisling Murray,

Joe Evershed

**Ward affected: All**

Councillor Platts, Leader of the Council will reply.



**(1) Deputation concerning Mental Health Pledge**

Our deputation is a request to Council to commit to collaborating with us to create a pledge to young people in Brighton and Hove, that will outline the experience they can expect when engaging with Mental Health Services in our city.

We are asking for this issue to be referred to the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board, which would allow us to start a working relationship with the relevant health organisations that would allow us to create this pledge.

*What should the Pledge look like?*

The pledge will be a document of accountability of Mental Health Services in our city. It will aim to ensure a consistent and person-centered approach is offered to young people at every point of access and set a minimum standard to be adhered to when engaging with young people around mental health.

The pledge will be Young Person Centred and designed by listening to the voices of young people of Brighton and Hove, and written in conjunction with the CCG, Primary Care Trust, local mental health charities and other relevant health authorities.

*How will the Pledge be created?*

The pledge will be created in partnership with service providers and lead by the young people of our city. This will involve focus group sessions with schools, youth groups, after school clubs and the universities. In working in conjunction with health organisations and the young people of our city we can ensure that the pledge is practical, informed by real lived experiences and can be implemented by relevant health services.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Spokesperson**

Talia Fogelman, Student at Sussex University

## Supporting Information



10% of children and young people in the UK have a clinically diagnosable mental health problem, yet 70% of children and adolescents who experience mental health problems have not had appropriate interventions at a sufficiently early age. Imagine if you had a health problem and it took years to get the help you needed. You would think it was unacceptable, and that something had to change. And you'd be right.

Brighton and Hove Citizens is an independent membership alliance of civil society institutions acting together for the common good of our city. Our membership organisations reach over 25,000 of Brighton and Hove's citizens - pupils, teachers, parents, students and workers of all faiths and none.

In the spring of 2019 our membership organisations held listening campaigns across our city to understand what key issues affect people living in Brighton and Hove. Speaking to the young people of our city the message was loud and clear: we need better, consistent and early access to support for mental health needs.

In April 2019 we held an Assembly with over 200 members of our community and the three leaders of the Labour, Conservative and Green groups in Brighton and Hove Council. At this assembly a young person and a parent spoke about their personal experience manoeuvring the mental health services in Brighton and Hove, and their fight to access the support they needed.

The leaders of Labour, Conservative and Green groups at the assembly all agreed to work with us to tackle this and improve the support for young people in our city. We now ask Council to begin working with us to tackle this issue and create a mental health pledge that sets out what young people can expect when in need of support.

This work will be comprehensive and inclusive and involve relevant mental health services and charities across our city. Crucially, the work will be led by young people from across Brighton and Hove. As an alliance we build and support people in our city to change issues that matter. In creating this pledge, we will support the young people of our city to lead the change and improvement of mental health services.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/statistics/mental-health-statistics-children-and-young-people>

**(2) Deputation concerning the need for affordable housing is NO EXCUSE to devastate wildlife on the 'urban fringe.'****Spokesperson – Becky Hobbs**

The balance between nature and humans envisioned in city plan part 1 is not being adhered to in the list of housing allocations in city plan part 2 as it currently stands. Yes, the Conservative government says we must build but we can choose where is sensible for Brighton. There is no need to build on wildlife in order to make affordable homes, we can make affordable homes elsewhere on already concreted areas and converting empty buildings and brownfield sites, etc, and that is why it is completely unacceptable to build on the green 'urban fringe.' Moreover 'mitigation measures' very often do not work in practice, so do not think they make new buildings less damaging to wildlife! The decision by planning committee members on 10th July to approve seven storey blocks of 242 flats obliterating Coldean Wildlife, was not about whether or not to build affordable homes, but whether or not to needlessly devastate essential wildlife habitat and local green space and make money for Hyde. There are alternative, already concreted sites within the city's boundaries where the Joint Venture Partnership could build instead, such as at Brighton General Hospital, where they could build 800 flats!

Please take steps to ensure Coldean wildlife to the east of Coldean Lane is not built on and /or revoke the planning decision to devastate precious wildlife and local green space at Coldean. Moreover please see petition text in the supplementary pages of this deputation, signed by over 965 people (even though it was only started a short time ago) which asks the council to remove this Coldean site from the list of allocated sites in the Urban Fringe allocations in the City Plan Part 2, and instead designate it a Local Nature Reserve and Local Green Space (the land fulfils the criteria for the latter, as described in the National Planning Policy Framework 2019, page 29) as soon as possible, so it remains protected wildlife habitat, now and for future generations. The wonderful land at Coldean should never have been put on a list of allocated housing. This is part of a number of wildlife habitats and green spaces which have needlessly and wrongly ended up on the list of housing allocation sites on city plan part 2. City plan part 2 is now in the soundness stage where it can be changed with evidence. There is abundant evidence why wildlife habitat and green spaces should be removed from the list of housing allocations in city plan part 2 and instead the council can look again, more creatively and wilfully, at making affordable housing within the city's boundaries on already concreted areas, empty/derelict buildings and brownfield sites. We will be providing evidence. Please, Save Coldean Wildlife, and also save **all** the other wildlife and green spaces on the 'urban fringe' by removing them from the list of allocated housing, and instead think more creatively how to add to the list already concreted sites and empty buildings within the city's boundaries. Please see (in the supplementary pages of this deputation) the list so far (still in early stages, will be added to) of potential alternative sites where the council could build affordable housing *without* building on wildlife habitat and local green spaces. There are lots, which could easily cover more than enough of the affordable homes the council has been told it must build. Let's take off the green spaces and wildlife from City Plan Part 2 and instead make the needed affordable housing by focusing more, and more creatively, on the many potentially suitable sites within the city's boundaries. then the council can ask the government to re-approve it, so we would still have an approved city plan and could therefore, hold any developers to account for any proposed developments, and retain control.

We do NOT have to choose between wildlife and affordable housing! We must take care of both! The council thankfully listened to the local community who opposed the plan to build housing on Whitehawk Hill Nature Reserve; do the right thing for Coldean Wildlife too!

## Supporting Information:

List of alternative potential sites to make affordable homes without devastating wildlife on the 'urban fringe':

-at Brighton General Hospital, space for 800 flats.

- 4000 empty homes in Brighton (<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/16373633.more-than-4000-brighton-homes-are-empty-despite-housing-crisis/>)

-the old Argus building by Asda in hollingbury; the old gas works in Kemptown (although this may take time as the land may be contaminated) and next to that a site which the council are using as a dumping ground for old iron bits from Madeira drive and the sea front); -site to the west of Portland Street (near North Street, in Brighton centre); a site next to Preston Park, London road, on the left as you go out of Brighton, which has been empty for years, and Hyde housing years ago seemed to be going to do something with it but nothing has happened.

-Lots of empty homes on top of shops around Brighton;

-building up, i.e. many more houses on the same amount of land, so long as this will not put birds at risk of crashing into the buildings.

-there are areas of expansive and privileged housing in several areas of Brighton and Hove which are really spread, out with a lot of space, low number of inhabitants compared to the number of bedrooms, and lots of private garden space and lots of shared communal spaces between houses. The council could buy some of the private property in this area from those that are willing, intensify use of the space, and turn it into very many more council houses (there are precedents for this, e.g. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/burchills-move-stirs-up-the-neighbours-217180970.html>),

### Petition text

Petition to council: Please protect wildlife at Coldean!

We object to the approval of the planning application for buildings which would devastate wildlife at Coldean, and we wish to safeguard this essential wildlife habitat and local green space at Coldean, now and for future generations.

We the undersigned petition Brighton and Hove City Council to remove the Coldean site from the list of allocated sites in the Urban Fringe allocations in the City Plan Part 2, and instead designate it a Local Nature Reserve and Local Green Space (as described in the National Planning Policy Framework) as soon as possible, so it remains protected wildlife habitat, now and for future generations.

There are alternative large empty buildings around Brighton (e.g. at Brighton General Hospital) which the council could turn into affordable homes (800 in the case of Brighton General Hospital) therefore it's clear that to make affordable homes it is completely unnecessary to build on the green space and wildlife. The land was notified as a Local Wildlife Site in 2017 in recognition of its woodland and grassland habitats. The proposal would mean destroying woodland and felling trees to build a new entrance road which would split the strip of woodland that runs parallel to Coldean Lane in two, with devastating effects on the wildlife. It would also mean building on the field, obliterating lots of wildlife, their homes and foraging ground. The woodland and field include many plant species and are essential habitat for wildlife sandwiched between Varley Halls and very busy, fast roads, many of whom are legally and policy protected species, such as bats, hedgehogs, lizards, slow worms, badgers, foxes, rabbits, butterflies, lots of invertebrates who massively contribute to the environment, and many different birds, including owls, and others. Some of the birds breed and make nests in the trees and on the ground, and 3 (song thrush, tawny owl and dunnoek) are listed as having severe red and amber conservation status. The woodland is Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland and provides critical habitat for wildlife. Splitting the woodland in two would cut vital connectivity and put the wildlife at very high, frequent risk of road traffic accidents.

Localised areas of the field (about 1 hectare of it) have an affinity with Calcareous Grassland, and there is 'good potential to create new areas of native species rich calcareous grassland where chalk substrates can be exposed and seeded' (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, PJC, 2018). Lowland Calcareous Grassland is a Habitat of Principal Importance and classified as Priority Sussex Habitat. Within Sussex, this type of habitat is mostly found within the South Downs; it has reduced rapidly in recent years and is now only an estimated 3% of the South Downs. The Sussex Biodiversity Partnership aims to maintain and expand the range of Lowland Calcareous Grassland in Sussex. Moreover 'there is an area of lowland calcareous grassland immediately north of the site' and 'any development of this site would also likely result in adverse impacts on any areas of lowland calcareous grassland habitat adjacent to the site, e.g. through increased surface run-off and increased disturbance/trampling/littering from potential increases in recreational use of the area' (PJC, 2018). So, the proposed development would destroy not only Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland but also be likely to negatively impact the Lowland Calcareous Grassland (i.e. Habitat of Principal Importance and a Sussex Priority Habitat) on next door land.

Increased vehicle movement and parking on local roads would be expected, and traffic on Coldean Lane would get substantially more clogged up, polluting the air even more and putting human residents, especially school children, at risk. It is well documented that green space is vital for people's physical and mental health. The visual impact of the proposed buildings would be unpleasant as they would replace a green view of nature with high blocks of flats and concrete.

Today, wildlife in this very densely urbanised area of the U.K. are increasingly endangered by destruction of their habitats. Globally, land mammal mass is made up of 96% humans and the farmed animals (Attenborough, 2019), and insects and ecosystems who we rely on are massively threatened by climate change, so we must stand up for wildlife now or there will be none left. If we do not, soon it may be many human lives in the UK imperilled due to climate change and because we have not protected wildlife there will no longer be an ecosystem left that can support us. At present, the land provides precious sanctuary for wildlife - this is a space to cherish, protect and stand by.



**(3) Deputation concerning the provision of a Night Shelter  
Spokesperson Jim Deans**

On 26 January 2017 Councillor Tom Druit put a motion to full council, all councillors voted 100% to give the community an empty council building to run as a night shelter this was in response to John Hadman's petition and huge support from public. a number of buildings were found empty in the two years but on every occasion some excuse was given to fob off the public. Another recently was suggested, and we were told it's not suitable. No building arrives suitable for a night shelter it is made suitable then inspected and any changes made to comply with health and safety. This has to happen, and councillors need to support this deputation fully this time and see this through. The total sum spent by council using the Brighton Centre which is Council Owned is in excess of £250,000 this could have been avoided had council engaged with public. I now ask for a vote of confidence and support taking this forward.

Charities, organisations and individuals joined together creating Brighton & Hove Housing Coalition with clear plans to help solve the homeless crisis they have produced a Homeless Bill of Rights as you will hear today Charities like the one I represent Sussex Homeless Support and others have stepped up to deliver a lifesaving service at a time with many dying in the streets and even more in Emergency accommodation. Whatever it takes to turn the tide on this homeless crisis we are prepared to do but we need the support of our councillors, many believe they voted you into a position to lead us, some believe to represent us, but I and even many more want you to fight for us, we will support you regardless of political party and hopefully together work towards a solution. I therefore ask again to support the original motion and allow Homeless Charities access to empty buildings.





**(4) Deputation concerning Youth Strike Action  
Spokesperson Uma Krieger – Youth Strike Climate Change**

Youth Strike would like to do this to raise awareness of the strikes and ask for the council to support the demands of the youth strikers and students.

These are our demands...

DEMAND 1 - SAVE THE FUTURE- The Government declare a climate emergency and implement a Green New Deal to achieve Climate Justice.

DEMAND 2 - TEACH THE FUTURE- The national curriculum is reformed to address the ecological crisis as an educational priority

DEMAND 3 - TELL THE FUTURE- The Government communicate the severity of the ecological crisis and the necessity to act now to the general public.

DEMAND 4 - EMPOWER THE FUTURE- The Government recognise that young people have the biggest stake in our future, by incorporating youth views into policy making and bringing the voting age down to 16.



**JOINT GREEN GROUP & LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT****STOP THE THEFT OF BRIGHTON GENERAL HOSPITAL SITE: KEEP IT PUBLIC!****PETITION FOR DEBATE**

To add the recommendations below as shown in *bold italics*;

***2.2 That Policy & Resources Committee be requested to commission a report to explore the options to buy the general hospital site, including obtaining preferred buyer status, subject to OJEU regulations;***

***2.3 That this report seek to consider:***

- ***how to embed the acquisition of the site under the departmental Plans detailed in the forthcoming corporate strategy; and***
- ***how to maximise the amount of council housing at the site, available at the lowest possible rents, once health provision needs have been fully addressed.***

Proposed by: Cllr Gibson

Seconded by: Cllr Platts

Recommendation if carried to read:

2.1 That the petition is noted and referred to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

2.2 That Policy & Resources Committee be requested to commission a report to explore the options to buy the general hospital site, including obtaining preferred buyer status, subject to OJEU regulations;

2.3 That this report seek to consider:

- how to embed the acquisition of the site under the departmental Plans detailed in the forthcoming corporate strategy; and
- how to maximise the amount of council housing at the site, available at the lowest possible rents, once health provision needs have been fully addressed.



**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answer as detailed below:

**(1) Councillor: Ebel**

The council is currently replacing the old seafront bins with new ones. After the transition period, what is the council intending to do with the old seafront bins? Can the old bins be re-purposed and placed across the city in places where there is a need for additional bins? Is there any consultation planned for the future use of the old seafront bins that the public and the councillors can engage in?

Given that there are many overflowing bins across the city and that many residents have to walk long distances to reach their nearest bin, it would be a positive step to re-allocate the old seafront bins quickly to ease one of the city's most pressing issues.

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

The bins that are to be removed from the seafront will be reused elsewhere. Only bins that are unusable i.e. beyond repair will be thrown away. For additional bins, we would need to consider the locations of where they are to be placed to ensure they can be incorporated into existing routes for emptying.

We are not intending to carry out a consultation on the future use of seafront bins. If residents and councillors have suggestions, we welcome their ideas. Litter bins are provided at regular intervals depending on the footfall in an area. If residents and councillors have suggestions, we welcome their ideas.

For the concrete bins on the seafront, these will be repurposed as flower pots as we cannot move them.

**(2) Councillor Ebel**

In the last few months we have been contacted by several residents who are concerned about the welfare of the animals used for racing at the Brighton and Hove Greyhound Stadium.

How many incidents where animals were injured or have died as a result of the sport have occurred at the Brighton and Hove Greyhound Stadium in the last year?

**Reply from Councillor Robins – Chair of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee.**

The local authority does not have responsibility for the care or welfare of greyhounds at Corals stadium. Racing tracks are monitored by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain. They write the guidelines for the industry nationally and ensure welfare standards.

As the regulator for greyhound racing in Great Britain, they are responsible for the welfare of all registered racing greyhounds – from registration to retirement.

Each year they publish national injury and retirement data for licensed stadia, of which Brighton and Hove is one. They advise that injury rates continue to be the lowest independently verified figures in the world and, they state on their website ‘through our Greyhound Commitment, which was launched in 2018, we are determined to reduce these still further.’

They also state that independent Veterinary Surgeons are present at all GBGB licensed tracks to check the health and wellbeing of every greyhound both before and after racing, and to provide emergency care in the event that any dog needs it.

Data from their website states that in 2018 426,139 runs and of these 4,963 were injured and 242 were fatalities. However the data available is not broken down to specific tracks.

### **(3) Councillor Hills**

My residents want to know answers to the following:

- (a) When improvements to recycling in the city will be made.
- (b) When will the range of items collected be widened to include recyclable plastics other than bottles?
- (c) When might their recycling be collected weekly?
- (d) When will the waiting list for food waste collections be reduced?

#### **Reply from Councillor Pissaridou, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

##### **(a) When improvements to recycling in the city will be made.**

The council has established an Increasing Recycling Project. This includes increasing awareness of reducing, reusing and recycling for residents across Brighton & Hove.

An A-Z has been published on the council website to advise residents on how to reduce, reuse, recycle or dispose of almost 180 different materials. This is a live resource which will be amended as more opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle become available. Videos to support how to reduce, reuse and recycle are being developed and posted on social media.

New on-the-go street waste and recycling bins are being rolled-out along the sea front from Hove Lagoon to Saltdean. This new bin will enable beach and seafront users to recycle plastic, cans and glass. The bins will have distinct colours that will become our recycling colour coding system across the city in

the future. This should help to increase recycling rates and reduce levels of contamination by avoiding confusion. If these bins are well received and successful in helping us to recycle more we could look to extend their roll out across the city and in parks as funds allow. The rollout of recycling wheelie bins has started following the wheelie bin audit and it is hoped this will increase the capacity for residents to recycle more.

**(b) When will the range of items collected be widened to include recyclable plastics other than bottles?**

In Brighton & Hove we recycle all plastic bottles and it is not currently known when or whether other plastics will be collected. Other plastics, commonly known as PTTs, such as Pots and Tubs and Trays are made from a much cheaper grade plastic than bottles including PET (polyethylene terephthalate), PP (polypropylene), PS (polystyrene) and PVC (polyvinyl chloride). There is currently a market for PP and this makes up about 22% of PTTs. However, there are no clear end-markets for the remaining 78% of these types of plastics.

Developing the capacity to sort these different materials into marketable and non-marketable would require considerable investment at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Hollingdean.

Further to this, there is a risk that once collected and sorted, exported plastics are being diverted to landfill elsewhere in the world. Although we may not collect PTTs to recycle and our recycling rate is fairly low at 30%, we know for sure where all the plastics we collect go, and we know they do not end up in landfill here or in a poor country.

**(c) When might their recycling be collected weekly?**

We are currently starting a review of the service and assessing the structure of collection rounds. The frequency of collections will be developed as part of this piece of work and recommendations will be made to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee, for approval.

It is acknowledged, there are positive reasons to move to weekly recycling, such as improving the city's recycling rates and initial research indicates councils across the country have moved to this model. However, the review will determine the options to be proposed, with a report being presented to committee early next year.

**(d) When will the waiting list for food waste collections be reduced?**

We do not offer a food waste collection service but fruit, vegetable peelings and coffee grounds can be included in garden waste bins.

We are currently working to increase capacity of garden waste collections, however do not have a defined timescale for when this is likely, due to current service pressures.

The council encourages residents to compost at home and provides subsidised compost bins and food waste composters. Since 2007, over 20,000 compost

bins have been sold through the council's scheme, further information of which is on the [council's website](#). The council also funds 37 community composting schemes in the city in partnership with Brighton & Hove Food Partnership.

**(4) Councillor Davis**

Since its introduction to our city the 20mph limit has helped to reduce fatalities and accidents but it could have a much bigger effect. Car ownership increases every month and with that drivers are using our rat run side streets like race tracks. I receive regular complaints from residents in my ward about the dangers and problems caused by speeding motorists.

What work is the Administration pursuing with Sussex Police to ensure 20mph is enforced?

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

Brighton & Hove City Council worked closely with Sussex Police during the implementation of the city wide 20mph limit and only implemented the limits where it was supported by them however, it was on the understanding that there would be no expectation of further enforcement of those limits over and above what was already being done. This is still the case so there is a reliance on the Council continuing to influence further enforcement through its role as a member of the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and on the general public to help report incidents of anti- social driving generally through a Police website [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org)

If it is found that via this medium there are repeat offenders then they will be targeted by Sussex Police and ultimately could have their vehicle destroyed.

**(5) Councillor Hugh-Jones**

I understand the Council recently awarded its Public Toilet Cleansing and Maintenance Contract to a new contractor, Healthmatic Limited. A ward resident has raised a number of issues specifically about the toilets in Blakers Park, i.e. that they:

1. Are frequently closed during the winter months (resulting in children defecating in the nearby bushes)
2. Staff who do visit are not reporting problems (including damage to the fabric of the building)
3. Contain offensive graffiti (including a swastika) and tags
4. Are filthy.

Given these concerns could you tell me

(a) What system is in place to manage and monitor the performance of the new contractor and

(b) Whether the level of service has been deliberately cut out of financial considerations?



## **Reply from Councillor Pissaridou, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

The new public toilet contract commenced in 2017. Blakers Park toilets are not open during the winter months; they are open from Good Friday to 30 September as per the contract. Cleaning staff visit twice a day and it is inspected twice a month. We are not aware of any particular issues. The Contract Manager recently made a spot visit and the site was in a clean condition.

We have reported the graffiti to the graffiti removal team and will have it removed as soon as possible. I am sorry that you found these toilets in a poor state. We will be raising this with the contractor and will be carrying out further inspections.

The service level is managed via monthly contract meetings and ad hoc inspections. The level of service has not been cut recently.

### **(6) Councillor Clare**

Would the Administration like to congratulate Love George Street and the Red Box Project Brighton on their successful roll out of 'red boxes' to all schools in Brighton and Hove?

## **Reply from Councillor Childs, Chair of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee.**

I would like to thank Councillor Clare for giving me the opportunity to express the Administration's thanks and appreciation for the work that has been carried out by Red Box and its sponsors, one of whom is 'Love George Street'.

By way of background, The Red Box Project is a community-based, not-for-profit initiative, which aims to support young people throughout their periods by providing red boxes filled with free period products to local schools. 'One child in ten cannot afford sanitary products and situation that has worsened as a result of central government policy to impose austerity on our poorest communities. Lack of access to sanitary products can lead to a loss of education, loss of confidence, loss of dignity and the loss of self respect'. Research shows that girls miss school because they do not have access to sanitary products.

Love George Street is among those organisations who have supported the campaign by hosting red 'donation Boxes' at locations in the area.

This initiative was discussed at the Full Council meeting in July 2018, when the administration lent its support to the initiation of the Red Box scheme in Brighton & Hove. Since then we have been delighted to see the growth of this scheme and we are very pleased that we now have donation boxes across the city and a Red Box in every school in Brighton & Hove. Work has also been going on at a national level and the government has pledged to supply sanitary products to all Primary and Secondary schools across the UK in early 2020.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this important scheme that makes such a difference to young people in our city.

**(7) Councillor Clare**

The road layout around the floral clock roundabout leading into St Johns Road is at an angle which is dangerous to both pedestrians and road users alike due to the angle of entry. In addition, the business owners by the entrance would like some additional space for outdoor seating and for the location of the recycling point to be moved.

What could be done to make this area safer and more friendly to all who need to access it?

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

A site visit was carried out earlier this year with colleagues from Cityclean joining a member of our Road Safety Team to discuss the issue of the communal bins at this location. At this time a Restaurateur also joined in who owned one of the restaurants adjacent to the communal bins.

At this meeting the issue of the number of bins was brought up and also the siting of them was discussed. Our colleagues from Cityclean explained that there was a need for all the bins as they not only take waste but also recycling. It was felt that putting the bins on the centre island was not appropriate as anyone using them would have to cross a busy carriageway and not everyone has the necessary road sense to do so safely whereas it has to be assumed that anyone taking a hire bike would have. The location itself was purpose built quite a long time ago and over this period, from a road safety and cleansing view, has worked very well.

It is further understood that the proprietor of the restaurant would also like the parking reviewed and he has been advised to contact colleagues in Parking Infrastructure to look into this.

The issue of the physical layout of the entrance has also been looked at but, as you are probably aware, we have very limited budgets now available to us so we have to prioritise where we spend our funds. At the moment we have a high risk site ranking system where we prioritise spending based on the number and severity of collisions around junctions. I am pleased to say that this junction does not feature on this list as there have been no injury causing collisions in the past three years, however, because it has such a good record I am afraid that we cannot allocate any of our scarce resources at this time.

I realise this is not the answers that your constituents would want but trust that it does explain why there is little that we can do.

**(8) Councillor Mac Cafferty - Community safety**

Will the Administration lead for community safety write to the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner asking:

- when the precept increase from council tax bills this year will be used to recruit police and PCSOs, as promised, and
- will we have PCSOs attending community Local Action Team meetings as routine once again?

**Reply from Councillor Knight, Chair of the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee**

Thank you for your question. As you probably know, on 08 February 2019 the Police and Crime Panel agreed the proposals of the PCC to increase the council tax precept for 2019/20 by £24 (14.47%) on a band D property. This increase is within the referendum limits set by Government.

The PCC report states that this will provide more funding to support more officers and a better policing service and the additional resource will enable:

- 100 more Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) - to prevent and respond to crime, including more named PCSOs to ensure a consistent point of contact for local communities. This additional resource to enable:
- 50% more PCSOs out in communities, increasing visible policing support, including in rural areas.
- Greater capacity to work with partners and leverage their support to address local issues.
- Better engagement through social media with dedicated 'digital' PCSOs keeping vulnerable people safe online.
- More capacity to support vulnerable people and minority communities—addressing hidden crime.
- Improvement in local police/public relations and an increased capability to gather community intelligence.
- Improved ability to solve problems – deterring crime and tackling anti-social behaviour.
- 50 More Police Officers and 50 more specialist staff to be deployed as follows:
- To prevent more deaths and serious injuries on our roads, through recruiting additional roads policing officers and collision investigators.

- To improve the first point of contact with the public. Investing in more Contact Centre and social media engagement staff to improve its service for both 101 and 999 calls, as well as online engagement; and
- specialist police investigators for public protection, serious violence, high harm and digital crime.

As over 5 months has now elapsed, it would be very good to know what progress has been made with recruiting these additional (and vital) staff. I am happy to write to the PCC to ask how many officers have already been recruited and/or deployed and the anticipated timetable for completing the process.

I will also ask – as I would also like to know - if this additional resourcing will mean that there will be a commitment to routinely having a police presence at community Local Action Team meetings, once again.

**(9) Councillor Mac Cafferty - Preston Twin elms**

Given the significant loss to the city's elm collection with the necessary destruction of one of the 'Preston Twin' elms, when will the Administration be reinstating online reporting forms for the public to report elms suffering Dutch Elm disease? When a resident in my ward reported a suspected elm with the disease just weeks ago on Brunswick Road, the facility to report wasn't possible at the time. This still isn't available. Brunswick Road has now lost four elms in quick succession. What evidence is there that the Dutch Elm disease has struck harder this year than last and for the past five years?

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

We have over 300 online forms across the council. IT&D and the digital communications team are currently auditing all of these forms. We are aiming to rationalise and combine similar forms so they are easier for us to manage, and re-design all forms so they are user friendly and more accessible to people with disabilities.

In the meantime, we've included an email address to allow residents to report elm trees suffering Dutch Elm disease on the webpage.

We have already recorded more infection sites this year than the average for the previous 4 years and we anticipate that by the end of the season infection sites will be significantly higher than any of these years.

- 2015 – 95 sites
- 2016 – 89 sites
- 2017 – 84 sites
- 2018 – 120 sites
- 2019 – 108 sites (so far)

**(10) Councillor Mac Cafferty - Construction projects**

Further to the shock news that the construction firm performing the works at the restored Corn Exchange has folded, how is the council ensuring that any replacement firm isn't given carte blanche to finish the works at significantly increased cost to the council and public purse. What internal auditing is the council conducting in its other construction projects to ensure we minimise similar problems.

**Reply from Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee**

The council has reacted quickly to this situation in order to put steps in place to ensure that the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange is delivered successfully.

The site has been secured and the Design Team are currently undertaking a review of works that have been completed to date and are thoroughly documenting the project. This will inform any specification of works that will be required to complete the project and will be carefully costed by the Quantity Surveyor in order to ensure any future costs are controlled. Specialist support with experience of dealing with this type of situation has also been appointed to advise the council.

The council is keen to avoid this type of situation. It is routine procedure to undertake financial checks on the financial standing of potential contractors as part of the procurement process. In addition, where a company is contracted to deliver large and/or high-risk projects, the financial status of that company is regularly monitored. Checks are carried out by appropriately trained officers and by use of external credit check agencies.

**(11) Councillor Theobald**

When is the dreadful state of the carpark opposite Hove Town hall going to be tidied up?

The piece of land in front of the car park is overgrown and full of weeds. Also grass and weeds are growing along the walls and paths.

**Reply from Councillor Pissaridou – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

Officers in Parking Services have arranged for a contractor to remove the weeds and will be ensuring these areas are included as part of our specification for the cleaning contract that we shall be going out to tender for later in the year.

**(12) Councillor Theobald**

When will the children's playgrounds in the City that are in need of refurbishing and upgrading going to be improved? Equipment in Hove Park and Patcham has been out of order for some time. Is there not a rolling programme for children's playgrounds?

Section 106 money is infrequent, and action needs to be taken now.

**Reply from Councillor Pissaridou – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

There is not a rolling programme for children's' playgrounds and has not been for a long time due to the budget available for this work.

The council has been dependant on external funding or funding transferred from underspends elsewhere to replace playground equipment. The equipment replaced with funding from the government's Playbuilder scheme is now coming to the end of its life.

Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee has recently approved additional one-off funding for playgrounds which, coupled with external funding, will go a long way to alleviate the immediate problems but as we will continue to be dependent on budget top ups from other sources the issue is likely to reoccur.

**(13) Councillor Druitt - Pesticides:**

The council's recent commitment to phase out the use of pesticides within three years is to be welcomed wholeheartedly. However, in the council's press release of 27 June Cllr Pissaridou is quoted saying "we should achieve in excess of 95 per cent reduction in the use of glyphosate by the council this year as compared to last year".

If this is the case, why can't we go all the way and reduce it by 100%? What is the 5% that will still be treated with glyphosate and why can't it be managed any other way?

**Reply from Councillor Pissaridou – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

It is a big step for the council to stop using Glyphosate although there are plenty of examples of small-scale pesticide free areas it is not an approach that is common for Highway Authorities. We will be using a variety of techniques to keep weeds down, but we may still have problem weeds in some areas. There are no specific plans to use Glyphosate on any areas however we are keen to ensure that we do not misinform the public so with an element of doubt the option to use a small amount of Glyphosate has been kept open. We are happy to provide details on when and where any Glyphosate is used should this prove necessary.

**(14) Councillor Druitt - 5G**

Due to the public interest in 5G and a number of concerns raised by residents that that there may be health risks associated with the technology can the council satisfy councillors that the science of 5G is well understood and the technology does not pose any health risks to residents?

## **Reply from Councillor Moonan – Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board**

In our role as the body who promotes Economic Development in the city, the Council is always striving for ways to improve digital connectivity. This is particularly important given the fact our economy has such a strong specialism in the Creative, Digital and IT sectors. This means looking to promote the most up to date and effective mobile and wireless technologies as well as for trying to achieve as much fibre connectivity into homes and work premises as we can achieve.

Public Health England takes the lead and provides the expert advice on public health matters associated with radiofrequency electromagnetic fields, or radio waves, used in telecommunications.

Therefore, in response to this question, the Council's Public Health team has liaised with Public Health England to obtain the latest information and guidance and to seek their advice on whether there are any health risks for the public.

Public Health England advise that there are now many 2G, 3G and 4G base stations installed throughout the environment providing services to users of mobile phones and other devices. Measurements show that exposures of the general public to radio waves are well within the international health-related guideline levels that are used in the UK. These guidelines are from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and underpin health protection policies at UK and European levels.

In relation to the implementation of 5G user devices and networks, this technology is at an early stage. The highest frequencies being discussed for future use by 5G are around ten times higher than those used by current network technologies, up to a few tens of GHz. Current technical standards that draw on the ICNIRP guidelines will apply to the products that are developed and the UK network operators are already committed to complying with the ICNIRP guidelines.

Exposure to radio waves is not new and health-related research has been conducted on this topic over several decades. In particular, a large amount of new scientific evidence has emerged over the past few years through dedicated national and international research programmes that have addressed concerns about rapidly proliferating wireless technologies.

The main focus of recent research studies has been on exposure to the types of radio signals used by current communications technologies and at the frequencies they use, up to a few GHz. Fewer studies have been carried out at higher frequencies but the biophysical mechanisms that govern the interaction between radio waves and body tissues are well understood at higher frequencies and are the basis of the present ICNIRP restrictions. The main change in using higher frequencies is that there is less penetration of radio waves into body tissues and absorption of the radio energy, and any consequent heating, becomes more confined to the body surface.

Public Health England advise that it is possible that there may be a small increase in overall exposure to radio waves when 5G is added to an existing network or in a new area; however, the overall exposure is expected to remain low relative to guidelines and as such there should be no consequences for public health.

Public Health England state that they are committed to monitoring the evidence applicable to this and other radio technologies, and to revising its advice, should that be necessary.

Within Brighton and Hove mobile operators are starting the process of rolling out new 5G infrastructure. Whilst local planning authorities do have some limited ability to influence the roll out of mobile technology those powers are limited by central government regulations. But the planning system does require that any new installations accord with the ICNIRP guidelines.

A fuller technical briefing note is available and will be sent round to all Councillors.

**(15) Councillor Druitt - Trees**

As we all know, urban trees have a huge number of benefits; they are crucial habitats for wildlife, they improve air quality and mental health and are critical assets in the fight against climate change. I'm delighted that the council is bidding for funding from the government's Urban Tree Challenge Fund to plant more trees in Brighton & Hove and wonder if the council can give more information on where these will go, how allocations will be made and whether this initiative can be accompanied by a comprehensive Tree strategy for the city?

**Reply from Councillor Pissaridou – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

The Administration does agree on the importance of urban trees and is committed to reversing the decline in our street trees.

The Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee recently agreed one-off additional funding of £200,000 into street tree planting. It is hoped that this, along with money being spent on trees as part of the Valley garden scheme, can be used to draw in external funding to plant even more urban trees.

We have also successfully negotiated significant sums for street tree planting from developers in the City.

**(16) Councillor Osborne**

Is there a charge levied to your phone network for calling the parking enforcement team? If so, how much is this charge?

**Reply from Councillor Pissaridou – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**



There isn't a charge levied on the parking enforcement telephone number. All numbers that start with 03 are charged at the same rate as standard landline numbers. If your phone tariff offers inclusive calls to landlines, calls to 0300 numbers will also be included.

**(17) Councillor Osborne**

When parking permits are started in an area is there a plan to protect those on low incomes/benefits that still require the use of their car? Has there been a consideration for a more gradual implementation to ease the transition or additional schemes to encourage the uptake of more sustainable forms of transport when the permits are brought in?

**Reply from Councillor Pissaridou – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

There are currently no plans to offer concessions to those on low incomes / benefits, however, parking permits can be bought in three month quarterly instalments rather than a yearly fee. The resident parking permits offer good value for those owning a vehicle to prioritise parking in areas where resident have voted in favour of a resident parking scheme. The parking surplus from parking schemes is used towards transport improvements such as improving other forms of sustainable transport which can be viewed in our award winning annual parking report.

**(18) Councillor Shanks**

What is the council doing to progress development on derelict sites in the city? In my ward alone, we have Buckingham Road and Portland road both are brownfield sites ideal for housing. Will the council look at using CPOs to acquire these sites and others like it throughout the city and develop them for social housing?

**Reply from Councillor Allcock – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee**

Improving housing supply, in particular the supply of low cost rented homes is a priority for the council. We continue to look at the range of initiatives available to deliver additional affordable housing in the city.

We make use of brownfield sites within our ownership to progress our New Homes for Neighbourhoods programme, which has delivered 184 homes to date. This includes the delivery this month of 12 new homes at Kensington Street on the site of a former car park in the heart of the North Laines.

A number of additional schemes are in progress including at Oxford Street, Buckley Close, Selsfield Drive and Victoria Road making use of valuable brownfield sites in the city.

The city council has a statutory requirement to prepare, produce and maintain a Brownfield Land Register which is updated annually. This register provides details of sites, its current planning status and whether the site is in public ownership or not.

A number of sites already have planning consent including the two sites mentioned 34 homes are due to be delivered at 76-79 & 80 Buckingham Road (Planning decision August 2018) with a further 12 homes at 123-129 Portland Road (Planning decision April 2017). Development of brownfields sites can be difficult with problems to overcome with many sites ranging from contamination to complex mixed ownership.

The council has a track record of using Compulsory Purchase Orders to bring empty property dwellings back into use, and there could be options to acquire sites subject to the council meeting the test for when an order should be used.

### **(19) Councillor Deane**

Will this Council sign-up to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration, which was launched on the 12<sup>th</sup> July?

#### **Reply from Councillor Platts – Leader of the Council**

I am pleased to support this initiative which would complement the council's commitment to maximising social value and sharing wealth in the city.

As stated in the declaration, paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn't be. Not when considered against the huge array of public services it helps fund – from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.

There is evidence that a significant proportion of public sector tenders are won by companies who seek to manage tax liabilities, for example by offshoring.

Action is needed, however, current law significantly restricts councils' ability to either penalise poor tax conduct or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.

By signing up to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration, the council would:

- lead by example on its own tax conduct.
- demand greater transparency from suppliers.
- call for more meaningful powers to tackle tax avoidance amongst suppliers when buying goods and services.
- Support calls for urgent reform of EU and UK law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.

The Procurement Advisory Board will be asked to consider the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration, and then a recommendation will be taken to Policy, Resources & Growth Committee.

**Subject:** **Review of the Constitution – July 2019** - Extract from the proceedings of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**Date of Meeting:** **25 July 2019**

**Report of:** **Executive Lead Strategy Governance & Law**

**Contact Officer:** Name: **Lisa Johnson** Tel: **01273 291228**  
E-mail: [lisa.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

**Wards Affected:** All

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE*****Actions Required of the Full Council***

To receive the item from the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee for decision:

**Recommendations:**

1. That the proposed changes to delegations to Planning Committee as set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.4 of the report be approved;
2. That the proposal to clarify the mechanism for responding to written questions from elected members at Council Committees (and sub-committees) set out in paragraph 4.5-4.7 of the report be agreed;
3. That the review of Committee functions as set out at paragraphs 4.11 to 4.13 including the establishment of a new Tourism, Equalities, Communities & Culture Committee and the discontinuation of the Orbis Joint Committee (as set out in paragraph 4.26) be agreed;
4. That the changes to Council Procedure Rules to reflect the approach to reporting by sub committees to parent committees as set out at paragraph 4.20 of the report be agreed;
5. That it be agreed to invite both East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and the Sussex Police and Crime Panel to present an Annual Report to Full Council asset out at paragraph 4.21 of the report;
6. That decisions to commit the Council to the principles or membership of alliances, charters and pledges should be reserved to Full Council and that this approach be kept under review and any impact on Council business assessed as set out at paragraph 4.22 of the report;
7. That the Council Procedure Rules be amended to ensure a consistent definition

of “Council meeting” as set out at paragraph 4.23 of the report.

8. That the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer be authorised to take all steps necessary or incidental to the implementation of the changes agreed by the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee and by Full Council, and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend and re-publish the Council’s constitutional documents to incorporate the changes;
9. That the proposed changes come into force immediately following their approval by Policy, Resources & Growth Committee or adoption by Full Council, as appropriate.

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**  
**POLICY RESOURCES & GROWTH COMMITTEE**

**11 JULY 2019**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Councillors: Platts (Chair), Yates (Deputy Chair), Mac Cafferty (Opposition Spokesperson), Wares (Group Spokesperson), Childs, Clare, Hugh-Jones, Mears, Pissaridou and Shanks.

**MINUTE EXTRACT**

**PART ONE**

**18. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION – JULY 2019**

- 18.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Lead Strategy Governance & Law, which set out the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution. The proposals set out in the report had been considered by the cross-party Constitutional Working Group and by the Leaders Group.
- 18.2 The Chair noted that an amendment to the recommendations had been put forward by the Green Group and asked Councillor Mac Cafferty to propose the amendment.
- 18.3 Councillor Mac Cafferty said that the Policy Resources & Growth Committee already had to consider a large amount of issues, which included detailed financial matters, and to take on additional work relating to major builds and environmental development issues was perhaps too much, and it would be better for the lower committees to scrutinise matters which related to its own areas of work first before coming to this committee. Councillor Mac Cafferty proposed the following amendment (changes in bold):

***Policy, Resources & Growth Committee:***

- 2.1 *That the proposal in paragraph 4.8 of the report that elected members be encouraged to provide sufficient detail so that the nature and parameters of oral questions to Full Council are clear be noted;*
- 2.2 *That the principles relating to elected member working groups as set out at paragraphs 4.9 to 4.10, the list of permanent working groups as set out in Appendix 1 and the Terms of Reference as set out at Appendix 2 be agreed;*
- 2.3 *That the amendments to officer delegations as set out at paragraphs 4.16-4.18 and the approach to the inclusion of Brexit implications as appropriate in committee reports as set out in paragraph 4.19 be agreed;*

- 2.4 That Full Council be recommended to approve the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution set out at paragraphs 4.1-4.4 (Planning Committee delegations); 4.5-4.7 (Written Questions); 4.11-4.13 (Committee Delegations); 4.20 (reporting by sub-committees to parent committees) 4.21 (External bodies reporting to Full Council); 4.22 (Alliances, Charters and Pledges); 4.23 (Council Procedure Rules – definition of Council meeting); and 4.26 (discontinuation of the Orbis Public Law Joint Committee.) **except that:**
- 4.11 and 4.12 are amended to retain the Economic Growth and Regeneration and Major Built Environment Projects portfolio within the remit of the new Tourism, Equalities, Communities and Culture committee and not pass these delegated functions to Policy and Resources Committee.**
- 2.5 That the Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law be authorised to agree necessary modifications to the inter-authority agreement between Brighton & Hove, East Sussex County Council, Surrey County Council and West Sussex County Council

### **Full Council**

- 2.6 That the proposed changes to delegations to Planning Committee as set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.4 of the report be approved;
- 2.7 That the proposal to clarify the mechanism for responding to written questions from elected members at Council Committees (and sub-committees) set out in paragraph 4.5-4.7 of the report be agreed;
- 2.8 That the review of Committee functions as set out at paragraphs 4.11 to 4.13 including the establishment of a new Tourism, Equalities, Communities & Culture Committee and the discontinuation of the Orbis Joint Committee (as set out in paragraph 4.26) be agreed;
- 2.9 That the changes to Council Procedure Rules to reflect the approach to reporting by sub committees to parent committees as set out at paragraph 4.20 of the report be agreed;
- 2.10 That it be agreed to invite both East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and the Sussex Police and Crime Panel to present an Annual Report to Full Council as set out at paragraph 4.21 of the report;
- 2.11 That decisions to commit the Council to the principles or membership of alliances, charters and pledges should be reserved to Full Council and that this approach be kept under review and any impact on Council business assessed as set out at paragraph 4.22 of the report;
- 2.12 That the Council Procedure Rules be amended to ensure a consistent definition of "Council meeting" as set out at paragraph 4.23 of the report.

### **Policy, Resources & Growth Committee and Full Council**

2.13 *That the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer be authorised to take all steps necessary or incidental to the implementation of the changes agreed by the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee and by Full Council, and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend and re-publish the Council's constitutional documents to incorporate the changes;*

2.14 *That the proposed changes come into force immediately following their approval by Policy, Resources & Growth Committee or adoption by Full Council, as appropriate.*

- 18.4 Councillor Clare seconded the proposed amendment.
- 18.5 Councillor Wares noted that the Constitutional Working Group had spent a considerable amount of time considering the changes and they had felt that the allocation of work was correct. He asked the Monitoring Office how seats would be allocated on the new Tourism, Equalities, Communities and Culture (TECC) Committee. The Monitoring Officer said that the report which would go to Full Council would have the seat allocation and said that it would be in line with the other committees, and would most likely be 4 for Labour Group, 3 for Green Group and 3 for Conservative Group.
- 18.6 Councillor Yates referred to Recommendation 2.8 and asked if it should refer to the 'discontinuation of the Orbis Public Law Joint Committee', and the Monitoring Officer confirmed it should. He said the proposals brought forward a number of positive changes, and that many of the development and environmental issues could still be considered at the new TECC Committee, and the intention was to avoid reports being referred to a number of committees before a decision could be made. Being able to separate some of the work into the different boards which would be set up, would enable members who were more local to those projects to engage better with them.
- 18.7 Councillor Hugh-Jones said that at the moment there wasn't enough clarity about the boards, how big a project would need to be to justify having its own board, who would sit on them etc. and until that was agreed it would be preferable for the committees to retain their current remit. The Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture said that currently the members of the Strategic Delivery Board which oversaw all the major projects from a strategic point were made up of members from this committee. In addition, the terms of reference allowed for specific cross-party project boards to be established to oversee major projects, and custom and practice was to allow local Ward Councillors to be on those boards.
- 18.8 Councillor Mears said that she was a member of the current TD&C Committee and felt that members on that committee did not always fully discuss those reports where they could not make a final decision, and it would therefore be preferable for those reports to come straight to this committee where a decision could be made, and so she would not be supporting the amendment.
- 18.9 The Chair said that she had been a member of TD&C and said it was rare to have a report on a major project as they always went straight to this committee, and TD&C only received an update at the end of its meeting with no full report. It was therefore felt that it would better to set up major project boards which could include local councillors.

18.10 Councillor Yates referred to Appendix 2 to the report, which set out the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Delivery Board.

18.11 The Committee voted on the proposed amendment, but it was not agreed.

**18.12 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the proposal in paragraph 4.8 of the report that elected members be encouraged to provide sufficient detail so that the nature and parameters of oral questions to Full Council are clear be noted;
- (2) That the principles relating to elected member working groups as set out at paragraphs 4.9 to 4.10, the list of permanent working groups as set out in Appendix 1 and the Terms of Reference as set out at Appendix 2 be agreed;
- (3) That the amendments to officer delegations as set out at paragraphs 4.16-4.18 and the approach to the inclusion of Brexit implications as appropriate in committee reports as set out in paragraph 4.19 be agreed;
- (4) That Full Council be recommended to approve the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution set out at paragraphs 4.1-4.4 (Planning Committee delegations); 4.5-4.7 (Written Questions); 4.11-4.13 (Committee Delegations); 4.20 (reporting by sub-committees to parent committees) 4.21 (External bodies reporting to Full Council); 4.22 (Alliances, Charters and Pledges); 4.23 (Council Procedure Rules – definition of Council meeting); and 4.26 (discontinuation of the Orbis Public Law Joint Committee.);
- (5) That the Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law be authorised to agree necessary modifications to the inter-authority agreement between Brighton & Hove, East Sussex County Council, Surrey County Council and West Sussex County Council;
- (6) That the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer be authorised to take all steps necessary or incidental to the implementation of the changes agreed by the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee and by Full Council, and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend and re-publish the Council's constitutional documents to incorporate the changes;
- (7) That the proposed changes come into force immediately following their approval by Policy, Resources & Growth Committee or adoption by Full Council, as appropriate.

**18.13 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

- (1) That the proposed changes to delegations to Planning Committee as set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.4 of the report be approved;
- (2) That the proposal to clarify the mechanism for responding to written questions from elected members at Council Committees (and sub-committees) set out in paragraph 4.5-4.7 of the report be agreed;



- (3) That the review of Committee functions as set out at paragraphs 4.11 to 4.13 including the establishment of a new Tourism, Equalities, Communities & Culture Committee and the discontinuation of the Orbis Joint Committee (as set out in paragraph 4.26) be agreed;
- (4) That the changes to Council Procedure Rules to reflect the approach to reporting by sub committees to parent committees as set out at paragraph 4.20 of the report be agreed;
- (5) That it be agreed to invite both East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and the Sussex Police and Crime Panel to present an Annual Report to Full Council as set out at paragraph 4.21 of the report;
- (6) That decisions to commit the Council to the principles or membership of alliances, charters and pledges should be reserved to Full Council and that this approach be kept under review and any impact on Council business assessed as set out at paragraph 4.22 of the report;
- (7) That the Council Procedure Rules be amended to ensure a consistent definition of "Council meeting" as set out at paragraph 4.23 of the report.
- (8) That the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer be authorised to take all steps necessary or incidental to the implementation of the changes agreed by the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee and by Full Council, and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend and re-publish the Council's constitutional documents to incorporate the changes;
- (9) That the proposed changes come into force immediately following their approval by Policy, Resources & Growth Committee or adoption by Full Council, as appropriate.



**REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION – JULY 2019****OFFICER AMENDMENT**

## Procedural Rule 14.3

To note that in relation to the following Working Groups approved by the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee at its meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> January, there is a need to update the terms of reference for the School Organisation Working Group and the Cross-Party Youth Group.

Revised terms of reference are listed with this amendment and the changes shown in bold italics below to the specific paragraphs. The full Council is asked to note the amendments as shown which the Monitoring Officer has enacted having been authorised to make any amendments and re-publish the constitution as necessary.

## 13. School Organisation Working Group – Terms of Reference

5. Membership of the Working Group will consist of ~~3~~ **6** elected members, nominated by group leaders.

## 15. Cross-Party Youth Group – Terms of Reference

4. Governance and decision making

The Children, Young People and Skills Committee is the council Committee which is responsible for education, children's health and social care services, public health for children and young people, including services to young people up to the age of 19 ***or in some cases the age of 25.***

7. The Working Group meetings are to be held every 3 months for 1.5 hours and will ***generally*** start at 5.30pm ***or as agreed.***

## **13. SCHOOL ORGANISATION WORKING GROUP - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **1. Name**

School Organisation Working Group

### **2. Purpose**

The purposes of the Cross-Party School Organisation Working Group will be:

- To keep under review pupil number projections for Brighton & Hove
- To consider actions required to ensure that the Council fulfils its duty to secure sufficient school places for children and young people and advise the Children and Young People & Skills Committee (CYPS) accordingly
- To advise the CYPS regarding the schools capital programme
- To comment on an annual five year School Organisation Plan for endorsement by the CYPS and approval by Full Council, as required.

### **3. Status**

The Board shall be an advisory board to the Children and Young People & Skills Committee. The Board will not have sub-committee status and the political balance rules in section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 will not apply. However, it is expected that the Board will be established on a cross party basis.

### **4. Operating principles**

It is intended that the Working Group operate in partnership and its goal is to attempt to reach decisions by consensus

The Working Group may call upon specialist advice from legal, financial, property and other officers of the Council, and external consultants, as it sees fit

The Working Group will meet every six to eight weeks, with a schedule of meetings for the year agreed at the start of each school year. At the end of the year the Children & Young People & Skills Committee will determine if a further schedule of meetings is required.

Administration for the Working Group will be provided by Education & Skills. The agenda and accompanying papers will normally be circulated one week in advance of meetings, but additional material may be sent later or tabled where necessary. Papers and minutes of each meeting will be issued within seven days of the meeting and will be confidential; Members will decide at the end of the meeting those items which may be discussed more widely.

### **5. Membership and Chairing Arrangements**

Membership of the Working Group will consist of 6 elected members, nominated by group leaders.

The Working Group will be advised by the Assistant Director, Families, Children & Learning (Education & Skills), the Head of School Organisation, the Head of Education Capital (Property & Design) and other officers of the Council as may from time to time be required.

### **6. Review**

These terms of reference may be reviewed and amended by the Children & Young People & Skills Committee from time to time.

## **15. CROSS PARTY YOUTH GROUP - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **1. Name**

Cross-Party Youth Group

### **2. Purpose**

The purpose of the Cross-Party Working Group will be to gather the views of young people to feed into Councillors and the Director / Assistant Director of Families, Children and Learning to inform decisions.

### **3. Status**

The Group shall be an advisory board to the Children and Young People & Skills Committee and to the Health & Wellbeing Board. The Group will not have sub-committee status and the political balance rules in section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 will not apply. However, it is expected that the Board will be established on a cross party basis.

### **4. Governance and decision making**

The Children, Young People and Skills Committee is the council Committee which is responsible for education, children's health and social care services, public health for children and young people, including services to young people up to the age of 19 or in some cases the age of 25.

The full Council is the highest decision-making body for the Council and agrees the budget for the Council once a year.

Views and recommendations from the Youth Cross Party Working Group will be taken into account and will be represented at the Children, Young People and Skills Committee by the Councillors and Youth Council representative.

### **5. Membership and Chairing Arrangements**

Membership of the Working Group will include one Member from each of the three political groups in the council who attend the Children, Young People and Skills Committee, together with either the Executive Director or Assistant Director for Families Children & Learning.

The group will develop representation from young people from different areas, groups and youth services in the city. To start with this will include representatives from the Youth Council, Children in Care Council and the commissioned neighbourhood youth projects. The group will consider how to ensure the views of a wider range of young people can be gathered including whether representatives from other youth organisations should join the group

The meetings of the Working Group will be co-chaired by the chair of the Children, Young People and Skills Committee and by the Youth Council representatives on the Committee.

## **6. Operating Principles**

It is intended that the Working Group operate in partnership and its goal is to reach recommendations by agreement.

This Working Group will be the main way that young people can influence the Children, Young People and Skills Committee of the Council.

The Working Group may ask for advice from legal, financial, property and other officers of the Council, or external advice.

Any discussions and papers from this group will be open and transparent and can be shared.

## **7. Frequency of Meetings**

The Working Group meetings are to be held every 3 months for 1.5 hours and will generally start at 5.30pm or as agreed.

The frequency of the steering group is to be reviewed and increased or decreased, as required.

## **8. Administration**

Administration for the Working Group will be provided by the Early Years, Youth and Family Support service. The agenda and accompanying papers will normally be circulated one week in advance of meetings, but additional material may be sent later or tabled where necessary. The minutes of each meeting will be issued within ten days of the meeting.

Members will decide at the end of the meeting how the discussion of the group will be shared more widely.

## **9. Review**

These terms of reference may be reviewed and amended by the Children & Young People & Skills Committee from time to time.

**APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR, DEPUTY CHAIR AND OPPOSITION SPOKEPERSON  
AND PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF SEATS FOR THE TOURISM, EQUALITIES,  
COMMUNITIES & CULTURE COMMITTEE****OFFICER AMENDMENT**  
Procedural Rule 14.3

To note the change of names for the Policy, Resources & Growth and Housing and New Homes Committees with the insertion of an additional recommendation (3) as shown in bold italics below:

Note: The Group Leaders have been consulted and agree with the proposal for the change of committee names.

- (3) That the names of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee and Housing & New Homes Committee be amended to Policy & Resources Committee and Housing Committee with immediate effect.***

Recommendation if carried to read:

- (1) To appoint Members to the following roles and to the TECC Committee with nominations to be confirmed by the Group Leaders:
- Chair of the Tourism, Equalities, Communities & Culture Committee – Councillor Robins;
  - Deputy Chair of the Tourism, Equalities, Communities & Culture Committee – Councillor Grimshaw;
  - Opposition Spokesperson for the Tourism, Equalities, Communities & Culture Committee – Councillor Rainey
- (2) To confirm the allocation of seats to committees as detailed in the spreadsheet; and
- (3) That the names of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee and Housing & New Homes Committee be amended to Policy & Resources Committee and Housing Committee with immediate effect.





**Council**

25 July 2019

**Agenda Item 24**

Brighton &amp; Hove City Council

**Subject:** **Review of Members Allowances** – Extract from the proceedings of the Special Policy, Resources & Growth Committee meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**Date of Meeting:** **25 July 2019**

**Report of:** **Executive Lead Strategy Governance & Law**

**Contact Officer:** Name: **Lisa Johnson** Tel: **01273 291228**  
E-mail: [lisa.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

**Wards Affected:** All

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE*****Action Required of the Full Council:***

To receive the item from the Special Policy, Resources & Growth Committee for decision:

**Recommendations:**

- (1) That the Members Allowances Scheme be amended to provide that for those councillors opting to take a car park pass for Norton Road and the Lanes car parks, a monthly contribution equivalent to that applied for councillors taking a bus pass (currently £23.09 for 2019/20), be deducted from their monthly Basic Allowance payment;
- (2) That the car park permit issued to councillors for Norton Road should be for Mondays – Fridays only;
- (3) That the intention of the Independent Remuneration Panel to undertake a review on the establishment of maternity/paternity/adoption leave policy for councillors (in so far as it relates to allowances) and to report back in the autumn be noted.

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL POLICY RESOURCES & GROWTH COMMITTEE**

**18 JULY 2019**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Councillors: Platts (Chair), Yates (Deputy Chair), Mac Cafferty (Opposition Spokesperson), Bell (Group Spokesperson), Childs, Clare, Janio, Osborne, Robbins and Shanks.

**MINUTE EXTRACT**

**PART ONE**

**34 REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

34.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Lead Strategy & Governance which set out the recommendations of the Independent remuneration Panel, following its review of the decision taken at the Budget Council meeting to 'Remove the subsidy to Councillor's parking at car parks at Norton Road, Hove and The Lanes, Brighton, releasing £0.038m in recurrent funding'.

34.2 The Chair noted that an amendment had been submitted by the Green Group, and asked Councillor Clare to introduce it.

34.3 Councillor Clare said that the Green Group agreed with most of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), however the amendment to require councillors to pay for car park passes was being proposed as a way to encourage sustainable travel and a way to set at good example to residents of the City. Councillor Clare proposed the following amendment (changes in bold):

*2.1 That the Members Allowances Scheme be amended to **require** councillors to **fully self-fund** a car park pass for Norton Road and the Lanes car parks*

~~*2.2 That the car park permit issued to councillors for Norton Road should be for Mondays-Fridays only, and*~~

*2.3 That the intention of the Independent Remuneration Panel to undertake a review on the establishment of maternity/paternity/adoption leave policy for councillors (in so far as it relates to allowances) and to report back in the autumn be noted.*

34.4 Councillor Osborne seconded the amendment and said that the priority should be the climate emergency and people should pay for the privilege of using a car.

34.5 The Chair noted that the Conservative Group had also submitted an amendment and asked Councillor Bell to introduce it.

34.6 Councillor Bell said he supported most of the IRP's recommendations but there was an equalities issue as bus passes could be used seven days a week, but car park passes could only be used on week days. Councillor Bell proposed the following amendment (changes in bold):

2.1 *That the Members Allowances Scheme be amended to provide that for those councillors opting to take a car park pass for Norton Road and the Lanes car parks, a monthly contribution equivalent to that applied for councillors taking a bus pass (currently £23.09 for 2019/20), be deducted from their monthly Basic Allowance payment;*

2.2 *That the car park permits issued to councillors for Norton Road **and the Lanes car parks** should be **valid for seven days a week so as, to be in line with bus passes which are for 7 days of the week***

2.3 *That the intention of the Independent Remuneration Panel to undertake a review on the establishment of maternity/paternity/adoption leave policy for councillors (in so far as it relates to allowances) and to report back in the autumn be noted.*

34.7 Councillor Janio seconded the amendment and said that some members needed to use their cars for safety reasons, and it was important to encourage people to be councillors and the amendment would do that.

36.8 Councillor Shanks said that we lived in a city with a great bus service, and therefore needed to encourage people to use alternatives to the car.

36.9 The Monitoring Officer said that if the Green Group amendment were carried, it would be necessary to consult on how that payment would be made.

36.10 The Committee voted on the Green Group amendment, and it was not agreed.

36.11 The Committee voted on the Conservative Group amendment, and it was not agreed.

#### 36.12 **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

(1) That the Members Allowances Scheme be amended to provide that for those councillors opting to take a car park pass for Norton Road and the Lanes car parks, a monthly contribution equivalent to that applied for councillors taking a bus pass (currently £23.09 for 2019/20), be deducted from their monthly Basic Allowance payment;

(2) That the car park permit issued to councillors for Norton Road should be for Mondays – Fridays only;

(3) That the intention of the Independent Remuneration Panel to undertake a review on the establishment of maternity/paternity/adoption leave policy for councillors (in so far as it relates to allowances) and to report back in the autumn be noted.



**GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT****REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

2.1 That the Members Allowances Scheme be amended to ***remove the facility for car parking for councillors so that councillors opting to drive to meetings pay the normal public tariff to provide that for those councillors opting to take a car park pass for Norton Road and the Lanes car parks, a monthly contribution equivalent to that applied for councillors taking a bus pass (currently £23.09 for 2019/20), be deducted from their monthly Basic Allowance payment;***

~~***2.2 That the car park permit issued to councillors for Norton Road should be for Mondays–Fridays only, and***~~

2.3 That the intention of the Independent Remuneration Panel to undertake a review on the establishment of maternity/paternity/adoption leave policy for councillors (in so far as it relates to allowances) and to report back in the autumn be noted.

Proposed by: Cllr Davis

Seconded by: Cllr Hills

Recommendation if carried to read:

2.1 That the Members Allowances Scheme be amended to remove the facility for car parking for councillors so that councillors opting to drive to meetings pay the normal public tariff

2.2 That the intention of the Independent Remuneration Panel to undertake a review on the establishment of maternity/paternity/adoption leave policy for councillors (in so far as it relates to allowances) and to report back in the autumn be noted.



**Subject:** **Greater Brighton Economic Board – Admission of New Member to the Board** – Extract from the proceedings of the Special Policy, Resources & Growth Committee meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**Date of Meeting:** **25 July 2019**

**Report of:** **Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture**

**Contact Officer:** Name: **Lisa Johnson** Tel: **01273 291228**  
E-mail: [lisa.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

**Wards Affected:** All

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE*****Action Required of the Full Council***

To receive the item from the Special Policy, Resources & Growth Committee for decision:

**Recommendations:**

- (1) That it be agreed Arun District Council joins the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee;
- (2) That the other changes within the Greater Brighton Economic Board Heads of Terms as detailed in paragraph 3.9 of the report be agreed;
- (3) That it be noted these changes to the membership and Heads of Terms are dependent on the decision of all the local authorities represented on the Joint Committee agreeing that the new members be appointed, and the Board taking a formal decision that the new members are appointed; and
- (4) That it be agreed to amend the Board's Heads of Terms and to instruct the Monitoring Officer to amend the Council's constitution to reflect these amendments once they have been formally approved by all the constituent authorities and the Greater Brighton Economic Board.

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL POLICY RESOURCES & GROWTH COMMITTEE**  
**18 JULY 2019**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Councillors: Platts (Chair), Yates (Deputy Chair), Mac Cafferty (Opposition Spokesperson), Bell (Group Spokesperson), Childs, Clare, Janio, Osborne, Robbins and Shanks.

**MINUTE EXTRACT**

**PART ONE**

**33 GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD – ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBER TO THE BOARD**

33.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture, which sought approval to enable Arun District Council to become a member of the Greater Brighton Economic Board. The item was agreed without discussion.

**33.2 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

- (1) That Arun District Council joins the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee, subject to formal agreement of Arun District Council;
- (2) That it be agreed to the other changes within the Greater Brighton Economic Board Heads of Terms as detailed in paragraph 3.9 of the report;
- (3) That it be noted these changes to the membership and Heads of Terms are dependent on the decision of Full Council, all the local authorities represented on the Joint Committee agreeing that the new members be appointed, and the Board taking a formal decision that the new members are appointed; and
- (4) That it be agreed to amend the Board's Heads of Terms and to it instruct the Monitoring Officer to amend the Council's constitution to reflect these amendments once they have been formally approved by all the constituent authorities and the Greater Brighton Economic Board.



**Council**

25 July 2019

**Agenda Item 27**

Brighton &amp; Hove City Council

**Subject:** **Purchase Options for Short-Term Temporary Accommodation** - Extract from the proceedings of the Housing & New Homes Committee meeting held on the 19 June 2019

**Date of Meeting:** **25 July 2019**

**Report of:** **Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law**

**Contact Officer:** Name: **Shaun Hughes** Tel: **01273 290569**  
E-mail: [shaun.hughes@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:shaun.hughes@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

**Wards Affected:** All

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE*****Action Required of the Full Council:***

To receive the item referred from the Housing & New Homes Committee for information:

**Recommendation:** That the report be noted.

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**HOUSING & NEW HOMES COMMITTEE**

**4.00pm 19 JUNE 2019**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL,**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor Allcock (Chair), Brennan (Deputy Chair), Gibson (Opposition Spokesperson, Mears (Spokesperson), Atkinson, Barnett, Fowler, Heley, Hugh-Jones and Osborne.

**PART ONE**

**12. PURCHASE OPTIONS FOR SHORT-TERM TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION**

- 12.1. The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Neighbourhoods, Communications & Housing that sought to improve housing supply in the city, in particular the supply of affordable homes for rent which is a key element of the citywide Housing Strategy and the commitment to provide more council owned temporary accommodation. The report sets out options and considerations to achieve the delivery of short-term accommodation by the council.
- 12.2. Following questions Councillor Mears was informed that short-term accommodation was not good for people. It was stated that suitable new homes that can be used ongoing as permanent accommodation in the future are needed and emergency accommodation needs to be reduced. The strategy is to reduce the use of temporary accommodation through early intervention, increased use of private rented accommodation and moving people on through the Housing Allocation policy. It was also noted that the model is to have less short term / emergency accommodation and more long-term accommodation. It was noted that appendix of the report outlined the modelled number of units in April 2019 and showed the planned reduction over the year to March 2020.
- 12.3. Councillor Allcock stated that there was a national housing crisis and there was a need to build as many new homes as possible. It was considered a positive that temporary accommodation could be flexible.
- 12.4. Councillor Heley was informed that the purchase of accommodation was only within and not outside the city and there were no plans to change the policy at this time
- 12.5. Councillor Atkinson noted the 1.2m from 2015/16 to 2.8m in 2018/19 due to the increased demand for temporary accommodation. It was also considered that under revenue costs – staffing, regular checks by security on properties out-of-hours and ‘to be called in an emergency’ was a positive way forward.

- 12.6. Councillor Gibson welcomed the report and agreed that replacing costly providers was a positive as the Authority would own the assets at the end and agreed that the modelling was very good.
- 12.7. Councillor Gibson was informed following questions that income assumptions on average to external providers was £282.00 per property per week, with an average income of £157.00 giving a net cost to the general fund of £125.00 per property per week. It was also noted that the current average repair time is five months.
- 12.8. Councillor Brennan was informed that Wi-Fi could be supplied to Brighton and Hove City Council accommodation at additional cost.
- 12.9. The Chair noted the comments and welcomed the report and the financial implications set out in the report.
- 12.10. **RESOLVED:** That it be noted the contents of the report and the business case will be developed to assess available properties as being potentially suitable for Short-term Temporary Accommodation for consideration at a future committee.

#### **14. ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION**

- 14.1 **RESOLVED:** That report relating to Item 12 on the agenda, Purchase Options for Short-term Temporary Accommodation be referred to the council meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> July for information.



**GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT****A 'SAFE HOME' CAMPAIGN**

That the following amendments be included as shown below in ***bold italics***

This council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities;

- Expressing the council's support for the "A Safe Home" campaign;
- Requesting that the Domestic Abuse Bill be amended to include a requirement that all domestic abuse survivors presenting as homeless should automatically be considered as in priority need, and that councils are fully funded to meet this new responsibility when enacted.

***Further, that this council resolves to ask that Policy & Resources Committee to explore ways to protect per capita funding for local Violence Against Women and Girls programmes.***

Proposed by: Cllr Clare

Seconded by: Cllr Shanks

Recommendation if carried to read:

This council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities;

- Expressing the council's support for the "A Safe Home" campaign;
- Requesting that the Domestic Abuse Bill be amended to include a requirement that all domestic abuse survivors presenting as homeless should automatically be considered as in priority need, and that councils are fully funded to meet this new responsibility when enacted.

***Further, that this council resolves to ask that Policy & Resources Committee to explore ways to protect per capita funding for local Violence Against Women and Girls programmes.***

