

Extraordinary Council Meeting

Date: **2 March 2023**

Time: **4.00pm**

Venue: **Council Chamber, Brighton Town Hall**

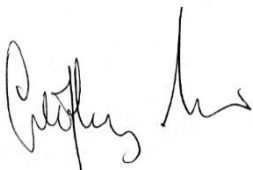
Members: **Councillors:** Deane (Chair), O'Quinn (Deputy Chair), Allcock, Appich, Atkinson, Bagaeen, Barnett, Bell, Brennan, Brown, Childs, Allbrooke, Davis, Druitt, Ebel, Evans, Fishleigh, Fowler, Gibson, Grimshaw, Hamilton, Heley, Henry, Hills, Hugh-Jones, Janio, John, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Lloyd, Meadows, Mears, Mac Cafferty, Mcintosh, McNair, Moonan, Nemeth, Nield, Osborne, Phillips, Pissaridou, Platts, Powell, Rainey, Robins, Sankey, Shanks, Simson, C Theobald, West, Wilkinson, Williams and Yates.

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Chief Executive
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove BN3 3BQ

Date of Publication - Wednesday, 22 February 2023

AGENDA

Part One

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1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests;
- (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
- (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services Officer preferably before the meeting.

2 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

To receive communications from the Mayor.

3 URGENT ACTION TO SAFEGUARD UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN SEEKING ASYLUM

7 - 8

Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Sankey on behalf of the Labour Group.

4 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor will move a closure motion under Procedure Rule 17 to terminate the meeting 4 hours after the beginning of the meeting (excluding any breaks/adjournments).

Note:

1. *The Mayor will put the motion to the vote and if it is carried will then:-*
 - (a) *Call on the Member who had moved the item under discussion to give their right of reply, before then putting the matter to the vote, taking into account the need to put any amendments that have been moved to the vote first;*
 - (b) *Each remaining item on the agenda that has not been dealt with will then be taken in the order they appear on the agenda and put to the vote without debate.*

The Member responsible for moving each item will be given the opportunity by the Mayor to withdraw the item or to have it voted on. If there are any amendments that have been submitted, these will be taken and voted on first in the order that they were received.

- (c) *Following completion of the outstanding items, the Mayor will then close the meeting.*
2. *If the motion moved by the Mayor is **not carried** the meeting will continue in the normal way, with each item being moved and debated and voted on.*
 3. *Any Member will still have the opportunity to move a closure motion should they so wish. If such a motion is moved and seconded, then the same procedure as outlined above will be followed.*

Once all the remaining items have been dealt with the Mayor will close the meeting.

FOR INFORMATION

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fourth working day before the meeting.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

Infra-red hearing aids are available for use during the meeting. If you require any further information or assistance, please contact the receptionist on arrival.

Webcasting notice

This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 1998. Data collected during this web cast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

Therefore, by entering the meeting room and using the seats in the chamber you are deemed to be consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for the purpose of web casting and/or Member training. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured, they should sit in the public gallery area.

Access notice

The Public Gallery is situated on the second floor of the Town Hall and is limited in size but does have 3 spaces designated for wheelchair users. There is an accessible lift to the second floor and an automatic door and ramped access to the public gallery. There is a wheelchair accessible WC close by. The seated spaces available in the public gallery can be used by disabled people who are not wheelchair users, but able to use bench style seating.

Fire & emergency evacuation procedure

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions:

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move some distance away and await further instructions; and
- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so

The Town Hall has a specially designed lift that can be used in the event of an emergency evacuation. The size of the refuge areas (in the fire protected areas where people unable to use the stairs will wait to be assisted from the building via the lift), will accommodate 2 wheelchair users and several standing users.

Further information

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Anthony Soyinka, (01273 291006, email anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Brighton & Hove City Council

Extraordinary Council

Agenda Item 3

Subject: Urgent action to safeguard unaccompanied children seeking asylum

Date of meeting: 2 March 2023

Proposer: Councillor Sankey
Seconder: Councillor O'Quinn

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Labour Group

Council notes that:

1. At least 136 children, equivalent to five classrooms, have gone missing from Brighton & Hove since July 2021;
2. 76 of these children remain unaccounted for;
3. The national press have reported whistle-blower and child protection testimony stating that serious organised crime have targeted these children, kidnapping them from the hotel where they have been abandoned;
4. This catastrophic break-down in child safeguarding shames our great City and undermines our status as a City of Sanctuary.

Therefore, this Council calls for an urgent officer report to a Special P&R Committee meeting as soon as reasonably practicable, which addresses the following requests:

5. That the Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services immediately instructs external legal counsel, expert in public, immigration, asylum and human rights law, on Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC)'s obligations under the Children Act 1989 and the legal options available to BHCC to ultimately:
 - 5.1 Close down the hotel to unaccompanied children seeking asylum;
 - 5.2 Prevent the Home Secretary moving any more unaccompanied children into the City outside of the statutory National Transfer Scheme;
 - 5.3 Achieve the immediate placement of children accommodated at the hotel into local authority care placements across the country through the NTS.
6. That this legal advice is made available, in confidence, to all Group Leaders within a week of this meeting taking place.
7. That the Chief Executive refers BHCC to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to investigate the role of BHCC in the disappearances of these children, including all safeguarding acts and omissions.

